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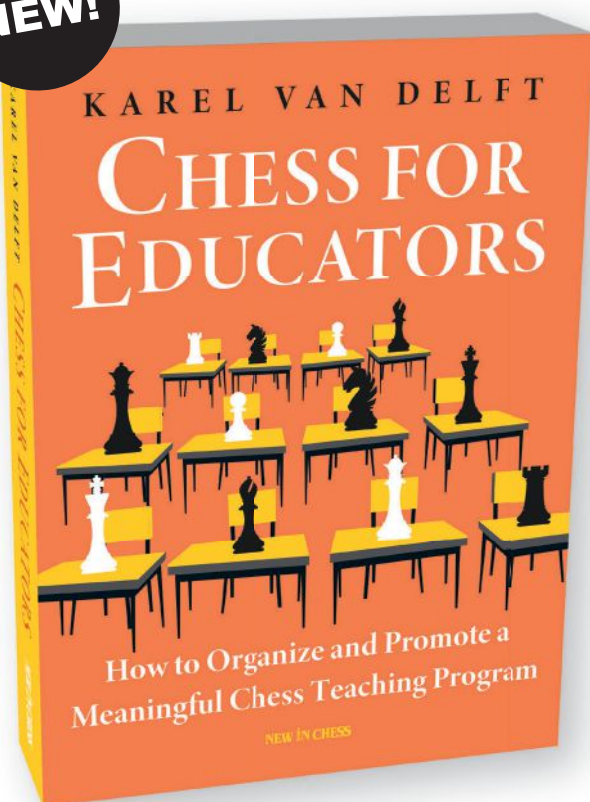


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IM Herman Grooten, Schaaksite

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HELLO KORY!

This issue is the first helmed by our new Art Director, Kory Kennedy. He joined US Chess on March 31, 2021.

Kory has an extensive history in the design industry, having worked for such publications as *Entertainment Weekly*, *Runner's World*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Rolling Stone*. He has a BFA in Communication Design from Parsons School of Design in New York City.

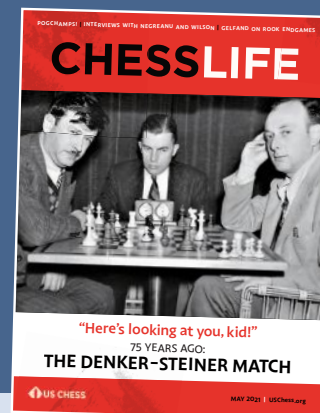
Welcome aboard, Kory!

ON THE COVER

When we saw this photo of Herman Steiner, Weaver Adams, and Arnold Denker... well, we knew it was our cover.

With visual cues from classic *Chess Life* and *Chess Review* issues, our new Art Director Kory Kennedy has hit the ground running.

PHOTO COURTESY BRUCE MONSON



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May 2021

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BY TAYLOR KINGSTON

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PHOTO: US CHESS ARCHIVES

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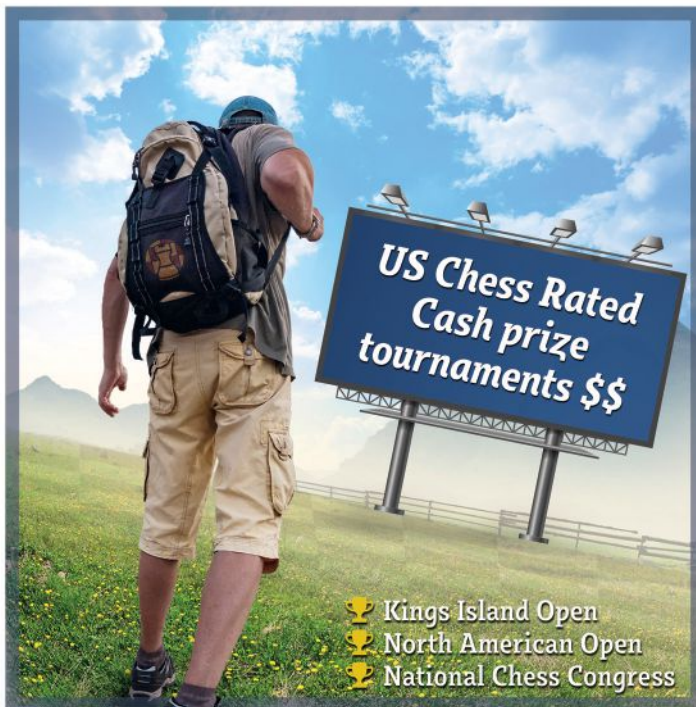
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CHESS LIFE ONLINE (CLO) is our news page. Here you'll find the latest information about US Chess events, tournaments both large and small, and features like Wednesday Workouts and our series of podcasts. www.uschess.org/news



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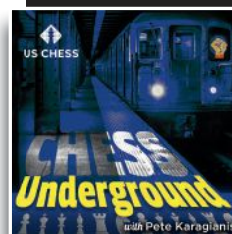


YOUTUBE Our YouTube presence is one of our new areas of emphasis. We're ramping up our content production with interviews with America's top players, and introducing new series like Jen Shahade's "Class is in Session" recordings and John Hartmann's "Leveling Up" instructive videos. youtube.com/USChessFederation

Is it Tuesday?

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Letters: *Memories...*

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

When I glimpsed the third position (Balashov-Penrose) on page 48 of the March issue of *Chess Life*, I exclaimed, “Just a minute — that’s MY game!” Indeed, a year earlier, Addison-Saidy had seen that very position, when I got surprised with a pawn sac. (The movie *Pawn Sacrifice* also surprised me, and not in a good way, but I digress.)

If anyone deserves the two exclams, it is my late colleague Bill Addison, not the well-studied Balashov. Penrose deviated from my 14. ... Nf6. (Jonathan, what does the knight do on c5?) Addison also played Nd1 — on the same 23rd move! — keeping up the pressure, and finally regaining the pawn on move 52. He promoted four moves later, and I resigned.

IM Anthony Saidy
via email

Here’s that game. ~ed.

KING’S INDIAN DEFENSE (E93)

William Addison
Anthony Saidy
USA-ch (4), New York, 1965

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. Nf3 e5 7. d5 Nbd7 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Nh5 11. h4 Nxg3 12. fxg3 gxh4 13. Nxh4 Qg5 14. Bg4 Nf6 15. Bxc8 Qxg3+ 16. Kf1 Rfxc8 17. Nf5 Qf4+ 18. Qf3 Qxf3+ 19. gxf3 Kh7 20. Ke2 Rg8 21. Rag1 Bf8 22. Rxg8 Nxg8 23. Nd1 Be7 24. Nf2 b6 25. Kd3 Bg5 26. Nh3 Bf6 27. Nf2 Bg5 28. Nh3 Bf6 29. Nf2 Rf8 30. b4 Rb8 31. c5 bxc5 32. bxc5 dxc5 33. Ng4 Bg7 34. Nxg7 Kxg7 35. Nxe5 Nf6 36. Rg1+ Kf8 37. Kc3 a6 38. a3 Rb6 39. Kc4 Rb5 40. a4 Rb4+ 41. Kxc5 Rxa4 42. Kc6 Ne8 43. Kd7 Rb4 44. Rh1 h5 45. Kc8 f6 46. Nc6 Rb3 47. Rxh5 Rxf3 48. Rh8+ Kf7 49. e5 Ng7 50. e6+ Kg6 51. e7 a5 52. Kxc7 a4 53. Rg8 Re3 54. d6 a3 55. d7 a2 56. e8=Q+, Black resigned.

PROS AND CONS

Two more points on descriptive vs. algebraic:

Advantage: algebraic. In the 1970s there was *stagflation*, a stagnant economy caused by soaring energy costs, yet inflation continued to be rampant. Batsford Publishing, Ltd. led the way in cutting publishing costs when it changed to short algebraic, realizing that such notation uses fewer characters. Thus, a book could be published on less paper at lower cost.

Advantage: descriptive. When the bloody pigs (doubled rooks on the seventh rank) grunt out check, there’s no doubt in descriptive, from either side of the board. From Black’s point of view, algebraic users must borrow the term *seventh rank* from descriptive, awkwardly count up seven ranks, or make up a term like the 2-rank.

Scenes we’d like to see: a publisher’s plastering *20th Century Edition!* on the cover of books still published in descriptive.

Eric Levin, grateful Life Member
via email

REMEMBERING KAVALEK

I was saddened to read of the passing of Lubomir “Lubosh” Kavalek in your recent issue. When I was just getting into the world of tournament chess, he was among the GMs I became aware of through the pages of *Chess Life*. When I read he was going to be holding a simultaneous exhibition within reasonable driving distance, I talked my father into taking me. (I was probably 14 or 15 at the time.)

I can still visualize the room, with Kavalek moving quickly around the inside of the circle of tables. There were about 25 of us facing him. If I recall right, there were no wins and three, maybe four draws, against him. I was one of the last four boards to finish, which felt pretty good from my 1500-something rating. I remember that when I tipped my king and extended my hand, he looked at me, then at the board, then back at me with an expression of faint surprise on his face. Did he see some defensive resource for me that I missed?

It’s still one of the highlights of my (now mostly-dormant) chess career.

Paul Montague
via email

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The Ghana-Chicago Chess Exchange

Building trans-Atlantic friendships and understanding

By **MATTHEW KEARNEY AND LEE LAZAR**



The Chicago Chess Foundation (CCF) and two partner organizations in Accra, Ghana have launched the Ghana-Chicago Chess Exchange, an online chess league uniting elementary and high school students on two continents for friendly competition and cross-cultural fellowship.

“Our goal as an organization is to offer children free opportunities to play chess and learn the important lessons this game teaches, including critical thinking, creativity, and social-emotional development,” said CCF executive director Lee Lazar. “Our exchange initiative in Ghana broadens our goals, giving our Chicago girls and boys a chance to form friendships with children in another culture through a common affection for a game

appreciated around the world for 1,500 years.”

CCF’s partners in the cross-Atlantic exchange include Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving International (BASICS), a community-based program in Ghana that promotes literacy, economic empowerment, public health, and social inclusion. Students from the Ghana International School (GIS), an English language school with 1,400 students from more than 50 countries, are also participating in the Ghana-Chicago Chess Exchange.

“Chess isn’t just a game, it’s a language,” said Patricia Wilkins, executive director of BASICS. “Our partnership demonstrates the power chess has to break down the barriers of age, race, culture and gender — and a gap of 6,000

miles — to forge harmony and respect across the globe.”

“We are blowing up the traditional classroom model,” said GIS chess coach and student counselor Lennard Lartey. “Our students may be separated due to geography and a global pandemic, but we are proving chess and a series of new technologies can nurture in-person learning, respect and understanding.”

Matt Kearney, CCF’s director of programming, convened a pilot tournament on February 13 to orient students to the Lichess and Zoom platforms, and to test the systems for technical hiccups.

“CCF has had to adapt to an online competitive model during the COVID-19

pandemic, so I was optimistic about an online event with our international partners,” Kearney said. “We had to cope with a six-hour time difference and some internet connectivity issues, but the pilot demonstrated we could host a robust tournament together with a framework for cross-cultural goodwill.”

This preliminary work paid off with the successful completion of the first cross-Atlantic competition on March 20. Forty players from Chicago and Accra came together to participate in the inaugural event. Chicago youth came from five southside schools: George Washington High School, Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep, Marist High School, Gallistel Elementary, and St. Ethelreda. The Ghanaian contingent was drawn from players representing BASICS and GIS.

The tournament featured five rounds of G/5+3 blitz games. First place was taken by

a young woman from Chicago, while second went to a young man from Ghana.

But blitz wasn’t the only activity on tap. Between rounds three and four, the students were split into four Zoom breakout rooms to converse and get to know one another. Discussion topics included foods, language, popular music, and of course, chess itself!

The 15 minutes spent sharing and learning about each other’s cultures were a highlight of the day. One Chicago student said afterwards that they were “glad that [they] were able to participate and communicate with people of different cultures.”

The next Ghana-Chicago Chess Exchange event is scheduled for April 10, with monthly tournaments to follow.

For more on the Chicago Chess Foundation, visit their website at chicagochessfoundation.org. ♠

FACES ACROSS THE BOARD

By AL LAWRENCE



DAAIM SHABAZZ, PH.D.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

thechessdrum.net

“The Chess Drum, The Original Pan-African Chess Website,” beats out compelling news and history you won’t find anywhere else. I’ve been chess surfing since my screammy “AOL Online” modem would set our dogs to howling. Yet I find something new on *Drum* with every click. Vintage photos bring the text to life.

The site’s impresario, Dr. Daaim Shabazz, a tenured professor of international business at Florida A&M University, celebrated his creation’s 20th anniversary this year. But the idea started years before he created the first dozen web pages of what has become more than 30,000 and growing.

In the late 1980s, Shabazz began wondering: “Where are the Black players? How come I don’t know more than a handful?” He searched for material. “There was hardly any info on African chess players.” He connected with the late New Yorker Jerry Bibuld, who shared photographs. “I planned a quarterly magazine and even used the idea for my MBA project.” But by the time he finished graduate school and had a chance to work on his plan, a website was the logical choice.

“I wanted to provide a platform for chess played by descendants of the African diaspora. At the same time, I wanted to make ‘casual’ players around the globe aware of the world of ‘official’ chess and its stars.” Accordingly, his articles give you vivid glimpses into chess cultures not covered by our mainstream news, while other pieces feature top players — world champions and chess celebs of all ethnicities.

Daaim gathers much of his information first-hand. He’s been to six Olympiads, visited chess communities throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North and South America. Being on the spot allows him to deliver dramatic scoops and candid interviews.

“GM Pontus Carlsson of Sweden is someone whose story I especially admire. A Black man born in Colombia and adopted by Swedes is an awe-inspiring story!”



THIS PAGE AND FACING: THE GHANAN SIDE OF THE GHANA-CHICAGO CHESS EXCHANGE TAKES PART IN TRANS-ATLANTIC ACTIVITIES. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY JOHN SULLIVAN.

Natural Moves

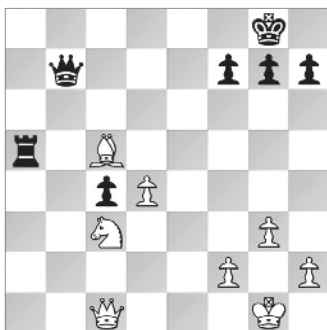
What makes a move “natural?”

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

“IT’S A VERY NATURAL MOVE BUT ONE that loses,” Magnus Carlsen said of a decisive moment in one of the big-money games of last year.

NATURE BOY

GM Ding Liren
GM Magnus Carlsen
Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals,
08.12.2020



WHITE TO MOVE

White’s winning chances evaporated after **32. h4??**. Better was 32. Ba3 or 32. Qe1.

Carlsen shot back **32. ... Qa8!**. He saw a queen-winning pin (33. ... Ra1) as well as a mating pattern (33. Qe3 Ra1+ 34. Kh2 Qh1 mate).

He eventually won after **33. Qb2 Ra1+ 34. Kh2 c3!**.

Carlsen’s candor is remarkable. He is the first world champion to regularly admit when he’s been lucky.

But many of the on-line spectators who heard his post-game comment must have been puzzled: Why in the world is 32. h4 “very natural”?

Masters regularly give the confusing advice that some moves are natural and therefore good but others are natural and bad. One of the first to teach this was a Russian revolutionary, Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky. In his 1928 article, “The Psychology of the Chess Mistake,” he identified eight basic types of blunder, including careless “natural moves.” He cited a game of his that went 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nd7 4. Bc4 Be7 5. Nc3 Ngf6 6. Be3 0-0 7. Qe2 c6 8. 0-0-0 b5?.



WHITE TO MOVE

Black’s move was natural because it launched an attack on White’s castled position, he explained. But Black overlooked 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. Nxe5!, e.g. 10. ... bxc4? 11. Nxc6 Qe8 12. e5 with advantage.

He neglected to point out that 8. 0-0-0? was also natural — and bad. It allowed 8. ... Ng4!, intending ... Ng4xe3. If 9. Bd2, then 9. ... b5! is excellent for Black.

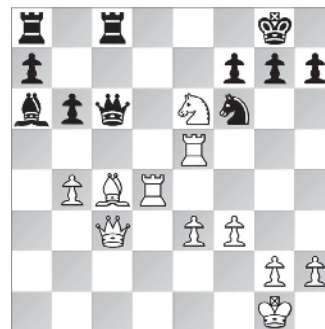
Scroll ahead more than four decades and another Russian, Alexander Kotov, came up with a new term. His book *Think Like a Grandmaster* opened with a highly detailed explanation of how to calculate. After 40 pages Kotov cautioned: Before you calculate, you

have to figure what to calculate. You must make a list of all of the “candidate moves” and then analyze them one by one.

You would think that Kotov would explain what a candidate move is. Naturally, he didn’t.

CANDIDATES

Salo Flohr
Reuben Fine
Hastings, 12.27.1935



WHITE TO MOVE

Instead, he gave this example. White chose **24. Nd8?**, based on 24. ... Rxd8 25 Bxf7+ and Qxc6. He lost after **24. ... Qc7 25. Rg4 Qxd8!**.

White would have won if he had correctly analyzed one of the candidates, 24. b5, Kotov wrote. Among the many variations he gave was 24. ... Bxb5 25. Nxb5! Kxg7 26. Rg5+. Then 26. ... Kf8 allows 27. Qa3+, thanks to the a3-f8 diagonal opened by 24. b5. [Note that 26. ... Kh8 leads to complicated but balanced play. ~ed.]

But why would you think 24. b5 is worth analyzing? It would occur to a master — but after he had analyzed 24. Nxb5 and then tried to improve on it. (In fact, 24. Nxb5! is the best

QUIZ FOR MAY

Chess has lost many of its budding stars at early ages. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the premature death, at 28, of Gyula Breyer of Hungary. At his peak he was one of the world's top ten players and one of the founders of Hypermodernism. In each of the six diagram you are asked to find the fastest winning lines of play in a Breyer game. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. Solutions on Page 59.

PROBLEM I.
Emanuel Lasker
Gyula Breyer



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM II.
Gyula Breyer
Oppenheimer



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM III.
Frederick Yates
Gyula Breyer



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM IV.
Gyula Breyer
Zoltan van Balla



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM V.
Gyula Breyer
Karoly Sterk



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM VI.
Gyula Breyer
Fritz Glund



WHITE TO MOVE

to improve on it. (In fact, 24. Nxg7! is the best move.)

Kotov's book became a standard instructional text, thanks to praise from masters. They didn't mind the new jargon because already knew what a natural move was.

Intuition tells a master to consider all of his possible moves that make captures or threats. In the Carlsen example, 32. Qe1 was a candidate because it threatened Qe1-e8 mate. In other situations, a natural move is one endorsed by general principles, such as moving a rook to an open file.

But that still doesn't explain why 32. h4 was "very natural" in the Carlsen position. You might figure out that White's king will be safer after 33. Kh2 — and that 32. h3 is somehow not as "natural."

There was once a great debate about how to define and use natural moves. It was an argument between computer programmers. One group built programs that tried to analyze every legal move in a position. The other side wanted to save the program's brainpower for the moves that really mattered. They designed a "Plausible Move Generator" that used "Move Merit Analysis" to choose candidates.

American tournament players first became aware of this when programming pioneer Richard Greenblatt entered his MacHack VI in Boston-area tournaments in the late 1960s.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B21)

MacHack VI
Ben Landey
Massachusetts State Championship 1967

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. Qxd4 Nc6 4. Qd3 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Nf3 d6 7. Bf4 e5 8. Bg3 a6 9. O-O-O b5 10. a4 Bh6+ 11. Kb1 b4 12. Qxd6 Bd7 13. Bh4 Bg7 14. Nd5 Nxe4 15. Nc7+ Qxc7 16. Qxc7 Nc5 17. Qd6 Bf8 18. Qd5 Rc8 19. Nxe5 Be6



Greenblatt and his colleagues watched the game remotely, in a computer lab, while their representative made MacHack's moves on a board at the tournament site. Larry Kaufman, a member of the team, suddenly realized MacHack could force mate with a sacrifice. The scientists rushed to the computer's line printer to see what MacHack was thinking.

It was spewing out a priority list of candidate moves, beginning with the most "plausible." The queen sacrifice was dead last. It seemed highly unlikely that MacHack would look at 20. Qxc6+ once it saw 20. ... Rxc6.

After an unusually long pause, it evaluated 21. Rd8 as "plus infinity." That is, checkmate. But Greenblatt wondered why the program even considered the least-plausible move.

"And then it hit him," his colleague, Lawrence Krakauer recalled. When MacHack was being designed, Greenblatt remembered the ancient adage "When in doubt, check." So MacHack was required to include every possible check on its plausible list.

The Plausible Move Generator disappeared from strong programs soon after this, only to reappear decades later to reduce the workload at the end of a long variation. Kaufman, who became a grandmaster, said this helped computers make their biggest Elo rating gains of the 21st century.

Kaufman also remembers that when he showed the final combination, as a "White to play and win" quiz, no one rated below 2200 could solve it. Masters would say that is, well, natural. ♠

Did you know you could read archival copies of "Chess to Enjoy" (and all columns and features)? Go to uschess.org, click on "Chess Life Magazine," and then "Archives."

US CHESS AFFAIRS

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION

Candidates' statements will appear in the April, May, and June issues of *Chess Life*. They are listed in a random order determined by an online random list generator during a video conference call conducted by the Executive Director and observed by an Election Committee member. Ballots with the candidates listed in the same order will be distributed to all registered voting members whose US Chess membership is current as of May 5, 2021 and expires on or after June 30, 2021. The deadline to register to vote is May 1, 2021.

To check if you are currently a registered voter, search for your name among the list of registered voters on the Link to new Registered Voters page (<https://new.uschess.org/registered-voters>). Learn more about being a voting member on this page: <https://new.uschess.org/us-chess-voter-registration>.

To register to vote or alter an existing voter status, log in to *new.uschess.org*. On your profile dashboard under your membership expiration date you will see an invitation to register to vote in the form of a button or you will see that your status is "Active" and whether you have chosen to vote by mail or online. If you would

like to change your voting method, click the "Update Registration" button.

Email governance@uschess.org if you have any questions. ~ Ken Ballou, US Chess Election committee chair

Youth category

Any Youth category member who wants the May candidates' statements may receive them on request since they do not receive the May issue of *Chess Life*. This applies only to Youth members who will be age 16 or older by June 30, 2021, since otherwise the Youth member will not be receiving a ballot. See the contact information below for Jennifer Pearson.

Call for ADMs

Advance delegate motions (ADMs) for the delegates' meeting at this year's U.S. Open are due before May 24, 2021. They can be faxed to (931) 787-1200; mailed to Jennifer Pearson, c/o US Chess, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557; or e-mailed to governance@uschess.org.

NEW MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE COMING TO US CHESS JUNE 1, 2021

During the Special Delegates Meeting in August 2020, US Chess Delegates adopted a simplified membership structure to reflect changing member preferences and for ease of administration. Before adopting these changes, which take effect on June 1, 2021, US Chess offered more than 25 distinct membership types. After the changes are implemented, the number of membership types will be reduced to 17, which includes options for one- and two-year memberships.

The US Chess Delegates approved a structure that recognizes the following age-level memberships:

- Adult (25 – 64 years)
- Young Adult (19 – 24 years)
- Youth (≤ 18 years)
- Senior (65 years and older)

US Chess Executive Board Secretary Ryan Velez sees the changes in a positive light. He notes, "The simplification of our membership structure is important to attracting first time members."

In addition, printed copies of *Chess Life* or *Chess Life Kids* will be an add-on to any Adult, Young Adult, or Youth membership. Your membership entitles you to purchase one or both at the member rate, set at no more than 105% of printing and mailing costs. For the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2021, the annual subscription cost for *Chess Life* is \$9.35/year (12 issues) and for *Chess Life Kids*, \$4.75/year (six issues). Current premium members will continue to receive their print magazines; only when you renew your membership will you need to select the add-on option to continue receiving your print magazine.

The digital versions of both magazines remain available to all members at no additional cost. With changing preferences for how members access published content, the Executive Board and delegates affirmed those preferences with the new membership structure. Only Life Memberships continue to come with a printed magazine, unless the member has elected otherwise.

According to Mike Hoffpauir, US Chess president, "Having run many tournaments over the years, a more simple membership structure helps with the administration of selling memberships at tournament sites. The 'pay-as-you-go' approach for the magazine will give us good data to see who 'really' wants the magazine." Memberships processed before June 1, 2021 will remain with the terms under which they were sold until their date of expiration. That is, all premium memberships sold will continue to receive the printed magazine until that membership expires.

New membership rates are as follows:

- Adult: \$45/one year; \$87/two years
- Young Adult: \$27/one year; \$51/two years
- Youth: \$20/one year; \$37/two years
- Family Plan 1 (parents and children under age 19, may include college age students up to age 24): \$85/one year
- Family Plan 2 (all children, under age 19 living in a household at same address): \$55/one year

Join or renew your US Chess membership today (<https://new.uschess.org/become-member>).

INTRODUCING THE 2021 ALL-AMERICA CHESS TEAM

US Chess is pleased to announce the 2021 All-America Chess Team, one of the highest national honors attainable by a young chess player. The All-America team was created in 1987 to honor the very best players ages 18 and under, selecting players on the basis of age, rating, and chess activity during that year, similar to the selection process of “all-conference” teams in other sports.

This year’s candidates were selected based on their age as of January 1, 2020 and their peak post-tournament rating from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Since this award is a “post-season” selection, the minimum rating limits in each age group are reviewed annually by US Chess staff and the US Chess Scholastic Council.

US Chess wishes to congratulate each of the 43 members of the 2021 All-America Chess Team for receiving this prestigious award. Each of the team members will receive team jackets and plaques by mail courtesy of Trophies Plus, the sponsor of the All-America Team for 2021.

MEET THE TEAM

Age 18 (min. rating 2500)

John Michael Burke (NJ)

Nicolas De T Checa (NY)

Ruifeng Li (TX)

Age 17 (min. rating 2475)

Praveen Balakrishnan (VA)

David Brodsky (NY)

Ben Li (MI)

Age 16 (min. rating 2450)

Awonder Liang (WI)

Brandon Jacobson (NJ)

Hans Niemann (CT)

Carissa Shiwen Yip (MA)

Josiah Stearman (CA)

Age 15 (min. rating 2425)

Andrew Hong (CA)

Wesley Wang (NY)

Nikhil Kumar (FL)

Age 14 (min. rating 2400)

Justin Wang (TX)

Robert Shlyakhtenko (CA)

Anthony Bi He (WA)

Maximillian Lu (CT)

Balaji Daggupati (CA)

Vincent Tsay (NY)

Age 13 (min. rating 2350)

Christopher Woojin Yoo (CA)

Arthur Guo (GA)

Jason Wang (OH)

Nico Werner Chasin (NY)

Age 12 (min. rating 2300)

Jason Liang (NY)

Eric Yuhan Li (CA)

Evan Park (PA)

Age 11 (min. rating 2225)

Liran Zhou (NY)

Dimitar Mardov (IL)

Liam Henry Putnam (NY)

Erick Zhao (FL)

Age 10 (min. rating 2150)

Abhimanyu Mishra (NJ)

Brewington Hardaway (NY)

Bryan Xie (CA)

Alice Teresa Lee (MN)

Age 9 (min. rating 2050)

Ryo Wenyu Chen (TX)

Andy Austin Woodward (TX)

Alexander J Wang (NJ)

Andrew Jiang (GA)

Tanitoluwa Adewumi (NY)

Yuvraj Rudra Chennareddy (IL)

Age 8 & Under (min. rating 1950)

Ryan Sun (MA)

Lucas Jiang (CA)



JOHN BURKE



NICOLAS CHECA



RUIFENG LI



Randy Bauer

When I was first elected to the Executive Board, the US Chess finances were a mess — bills couldn't be paid, obligations to our members and staff were endangered, and mission-critical systems had been neglected.

I ran and was elected with a plan to fix our finances — using professional revenue forecasting and budgeting techniques, and always making 'the tough call' to get us back on track. I knew how to accomplish this because of my experience: I have spent over 30 years in leadership roles in budgeting and finance, including as a state budget director and now as a director of a management and budget consulting practice for a national financial management consulting firm.

The voters have put their trust in me by electing me five times — and, on each occasion, the overall financial condition of US Chess has benefited. I have provided leadership that led to proven results:

- Cleaned up the US Chess finances and ensured sound budget practices.
- Lined up the sponsor for the highly successful U.S. and women's chess championships.
- Secured US Chess non-profit tax status.
- Built and maintained over a \$1 million Rainy Day Fund — which allowed US Chess to weather the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Created a capital budget process to upgrade the US Chess website and core infrastructure.

US Chess, like the country as a whole, has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Board quickly worked to develop online alternatives until we can return to over-the-board play. When many non-profits went bankrupt, our strong finances and quick responses have kept us in decent financial shape. That is a testament to the financial policies I helped institute.

Currently, four of the seven board members are serving their first term. While turnover is good, so is experience that has helped us through the hard times of the past. As a board member, I will continue to provide leadership to make good choices with an eye on maintaining our strong finances — a proven result that ensures a continued bright future for US Chess.

A successful Executive Board member must continually adapt to our needs and resources. I only make promises I can keep — and I have. Going forward, I will focus on the getting us back to over-the-board chess and keeping our finances fundamentally strong — so that US Chess will outlive us all.



John C. Fernandez

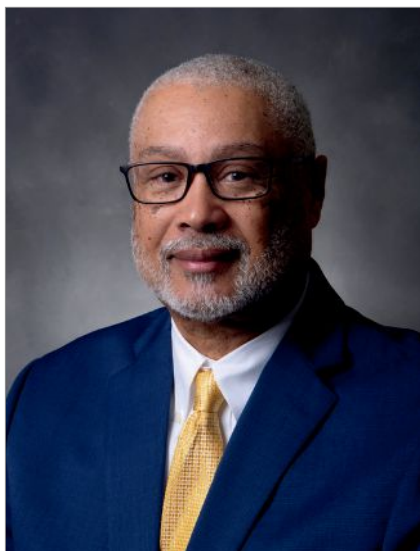
Chess has always had significant moments of attention from the American public. Bobby Fischer launched the first boom nearly 50 years ago, making a mark on the game that is still visible today. The movie *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, two decades later, heralded the next boom, which I was fortunate enough to get swept up in as a high school student. Since that moment when I first walked into the world-famous Manhattan Chess Club, I have dedicated myself to promoting chess in any way I can.

When my studies took me out of New York City's historic clubs, I turned to the internet, specifically the brand-new Internet Chess Club, and honed my skills there. I became an administrator, helping members, organizing events, and eventually joined as the full-time head of public relations. My first initiative was to create a win-win relationship with US Chess that would increase membership for both parties and lead to the first-ever online US Chess-rated chess tournament in 2000. (Full disclosure: I still own a fraction of a percent of the ICC and would recuse myself from any decisions that could pose a conflict of interest if elected.) Even after moving my career to the tech world, I stayed in the game, organizing events such as the New York Masters and three Garry Kasparov events, one of which was broadcasted live on ESPN to an international audience.

We find ourselves at the beginning of yet another boom, with "The Queen's Gambit," chess streamers, and online events on our cell phones, computers, and televisions. The numbers of viewers, subscribers, and watchers of these chess events are awe-inspiring. The beneficiaries of this boom cannot only be the internet sites and Netflix, however.

As life comes back to normal, we must ensure that over-the-board chess returns in a safe, successful, and sustainable manner. We need our clubs to be thriving at the centers of our communities. From local quads to prestigious national championship events, we need tournaments to return and thrive. My goal is ensuring that every American player, teacher, organizer, and fan can enjoy chess to the fullest degree.

Why do I feel passionate about chess and want to help it grow and prosper across the United States? Because I know that chess is one of those very few endeavors that teaches invaluable lessons for a lifetime, in any arena, even beyond the 64 squares. More on that next issue.



Kevin Pryor

Dear Chess Friends,

This year's election involves filling a new eighth board position with prospective board members identified as part of a new candidate qualifying process. Why did they recommend me? I have proven leadership skills, coupled with unrelenting goal drive, and have made a difference for chess in a comparatively short span of time.

Like many, I learned the game as a pre-teen in the late '60s. I was a "magazine" member in the '80s with only a Fidelity computer as my chess buddy. In 2014, I attended an over-the-board tournament in Jacksonville and enjoyed the five rounds of play. Seeing a 16-player turnout, I asked the event organizer if he needed any help to increase participants. Consequently, I went from being a Chess Player to Chess Doer almost immediately. I ended up revitalizing a defunct Jacksonville Chess Club into 257 paid members, 100-player events, 130-scholastic student academy, a team of 20 tournament directors, 10 paid coaches, five meet-up locations, and Florida's best-attended weeknight meet-up in five years of dedicated work. Last year we finished 11th in new memberships within US Chess.

Now, Northeast Florida was on the chess map in one of the fastest growing states in the country. Until then, chess leaders had considered anything north of Orlando as not very active. Then the Florida Chess Association President asked me to run for the board and later appointed

me a delegate to the Norfolk U.S. Open and chess possibilities changed for me. I received a larger vision of what could be done in our state. I attended every workshop, took pages of notes, asked questions of committee chairs, and gawked at chess celebrity players and doers from my magazine years. I came back with a new passion for expanding chess and my involvement locally and within the state.

After attending another delegates meeting in Wisconsin and gaining more ideas for improvements, the Florida board unanimously appointed me as president after a hearty endorsement by the outgoing president. Our board then embarked upon the most strategically-focused organizational initiatives in Florida's documented chess history. You can find the list of initiatives and accomplishments our board has delivered on my campaign website: KP4EB.org.

I firmly believe my Executive Board involvement will yield very positive results for US Chess, its members, and the chess community at-large. I respectfully ask for your vote.



Ryan Velez

The pandemic has presented US Chess with many challenges. It has also exposed different areas where US Chess struggles. For example, membership revenue is critical to the survival of US Chess. It is noticeably clear that when membership wanes, US Chess wanes, too. The reserve fund has been critical for our survival as an organization during the global pandemic and we have been blessed to secure PPP loans from the government. Thus, it remains extremely clear to me that membership is critical to the survival of US Chess.

One of the lessons learned from the pandemic is the benefit of organized chess, online. While we all agree online chess has issues, I do believe it is fertile ground to expand our ranks. While many of you reading this may never participate in an online event or bother organizing such events, there are people out there who only want to organize online events. In my opinion, we need to improve US Chess' online presence, on all fronts.

I am not suggesting some brazen push to suddenly offer a buffet of online services. What I mean is we need to leverage our position as the premier chess power in the country. I feel our presence in over-the-board chess is felt across the country, and sometimes across the world with our excellent players. But this presence has not been developed online and I feel this is the direction we need to be working toward.

How do I propose we do this? I think online events, for those that want them, is the first step. I think connecting people with chess clubs and tournaments is another way. I also think *Chess Life* can have a bigger role online, too. Imagine articles with games you can play through, a tactics database consisting of every *Chess Life* puzzle ever published, and other similar ideas. Imagine how powerful it would be for organizers to be able to push their tournament advertisements to the phones on a US Chess app.

The point is, there are many directions we can go. I think we need to grow our internet presence to create new memberships because it is fertile ground and I think the global pandemic has also created a lot of pent-up demand for over-the-board chess. We need to capitalize on this opportunity before it escapes us.

Correspondence Chess

Revised US Chess event offerings

By **IA CHRIS BIRD**

At the end of January, the US Chess Executive Board approved the formation of the Correspondence Chess Working Group (CCWG) to assess the US Chess Correspondence Chess (CC) program with regards to possible improvements, tournament formats, and rules as well as look at up-to-date CC venues.

Today's correspondence chess world has moved predominantly to electronic formats such as email and chess servers because of the automation, efficiency, and cost savings they provide. Players in some US Chess CC events were also waiting too long to receive pairings, caused by a multitude of factors including:

- A lower number of active correspondence players than in the past
- Multiple offerings of the same type watering down the player pools
- Rigid class rating limits not allowing players to be paired with each other
- Incarcerated players not being able to be paired with each other due to rules that do not allow them to correspond with each other

With the above in mind, thanks to the expeditious work of the CCWG, US Chess is very excited to announce that we are revising our CC offerings to the following events:

7-Player Knights Championship Events

The Golden Knights (postal) and Electronic Knights (email) are the two main U.S. Championship CC events we have organized for many years. These events, for our more serious CC players, are now the sole cash prize CC events offered by US Chess. The \$25 entry fee pairs you into a six-game preliminary round, with possible advancement to the semi-final and final rounds based on performance. The prize fund is \$2300 (based on 200 entries) and prizes are paid to the top 10 players who make the finals, based on their weighted scores over the three rounds. Players not advancing from the preliminary round receive a \$10 CC gift certificate.

7-Player Victor Palciauskas ICCF Round Robin

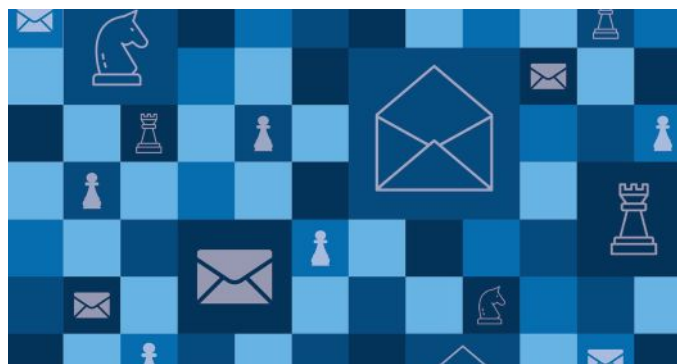
Our new Victor Palciauskas International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) Round Robin is an entry level event serving as an introduction to US Chess CC rated events and CC servers. For just \$5, you can play six games against a variety of opponents, receive a US Chess CC rating and winners will receive a commemorative certificate signed by former ICCF World Champion, Correspondence GM Victor Palciauskas.

4-Player Quads

The John W. Collins Quads (postal) and Walter Muir E-Quads (ICCF) are our semi-serious quad class events where you play two games against each opponent for a total of six games. The entry fee is \$10 and the winner receives a \$25 CC gift certificate and a signed commemorative certificate.

2-Player Matches

Either six-game or two-game matches against the same opponent, via



postal or email. The entry fee is \$5 per player and matches will be assigned against players of a similar rating, or you can name your own opponent.

Rating Classes for Quads and Palciauskas Round Robins

The following rating classes will be used for pairing the Quads and Palciauskas RR events. Note that some classes overlap in rating to allow for maximum flexibility in coming up with pairings:

- Class A: 1800 and above
- Class B: 1500-1999
- Class C: 1200-1699
- Class D: 1399 and below

General Event Information

US Chess membership throughout the entire time an event is in progress is required to participate in all US Chess CC events. Postal events are open only to US Chess members who reside on the contiguous USA, Alaska, Hawaii or have an APO/FPO postal address. All events are US Chess CC rated. ICCF events are not ICCF rated and require an ICCF account, which is free to obtain at iccf.com.

Note: You cannot use computer programs or chess playing algorithms to evaluate a move in US Chess CC rated events, but you may use computers for record keeping and databases.

Discontinued Events

Three events have been removed from our offerings:

- The Trophy Quads (postal)
- Victor Palciauskas Class Tournaments (postal)
- Swift Quads (email)

All the above discontinued events currently paired and progressing will be allowed to finish, and prizes awarded per the regulations in place at the time of entry.

While the CCWG was sad to reduce the number of offerings, it is hoped this more simplistic list of events and revised class structure will provide our CC players with the ability to take advantage of new technology and receive pairings in a timelier manner, therefore leading to more correspondence chess being played.

For further information about US Chess CC, including the ability to enter any of the tournaments mentioned above, please see our Entry Form on Page 58 or visit our dedicated page at new.uschess.org/correspondence-chess. [↗](#)

2021 Chess Journalists of America Awards

By **JOSHUA ANDERSON**

The Chess Journalists of America once again sends out a call for nominations for the annual Chess Journalists of America (CJA) awards. The CJA awards recognize the best in all facets of chess journalism, both print and online. The best chess articles, columns, photojournalism, layout, and online writing are honored within their respective categories. Recognized annually by their peers, the public, and members of CJA, the prestigious awards showcase American works published in English between June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. Submissions must be made by June 18, 2021.



CJA is a not-for-profit organization that encourages and promotes chess journalism. Membership is open to everyone at an annual membership fee of \$10 (foreign membership is \$15 per year). Award winners will be presented with online certificates that can be printed or copied and will be acknowledged in CJA's newsletter, *The Chess Journalist*, as well as a permanent listing on the CJA website and social media.

CJA's Annual chess journalism awards are open to anyone. There is an entry fee of \$15 for the first entry (this includes membership or renewal to CJA) and an \$8 fee for each subsequent entry. State organizations may

TOP THREE CATEGORIES

(Open to print or online)

Chess Journalist of the Year
Best Story of the Year
Best Column

BEST CHESS BOOK

Best Book - Instruction
Best Book - Other
Best Self-Published Book

BEST VISUAL ARTS

Best Photojournalism Article
Best Single Chess Photo
Best Art
Best Single Chess Magazine Cover
Best Cartoon

BEST PRINT ARTICLES

(Open only to publications)

Best Regular Newspaper Column
Best Single Article of Local Interest
Best Overall Magazine
Best Feature Article
Best Interview
Best Tournament Report - National / International
Best Tournament Report - State / Local
Best Club Newsletter
Best Instructive Lesson
Best Review
Best Analysis
Best Historical Article
Best Humorous Contribution
Best Personal Narrative
Best Coverage by Mainstream Publication *(free entry)*

BEST ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS AND FEATURES

Best Interview
Best Feature Article
Best Podcast

Best Single Podcast Episode
Best Tournament Report - National/ International
Best Tournament Report - State/Local
Best News
Best Club Newsletter
Best Instruction Lesson
Best Analysis
Best Humorous Contribution
Best Historical Article
Best Personal Narrative
Best Overall Chess Website
Best Overall Website Small Organization *(website for group of less than 500)*
Best Online Blog
Best Educational Lesson
Best Online Review
Best Non-Instructive Chess Video
Best Twitter Feed
Best Coverage by Mainstream Publication *(free entry)*
Best Twitch Channel
Best Instagram Feed

JUNIOR

(Under 18)

Best Print Article by a Junior
Best Online Article by a Junior
Best Personal Narrative by a Junior

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT CRAMER AWARDS

Best State Championship Report
Best State Tournament Coverage
Best Scholastic Coverage in State
Best Overall State Website
Best State Magazine/Newsletter - Print
Best State Magazine/Newsletter - Online
Best Personal Narrative
Best Photography
Best Overall State Website
Best State Chapter Website

enter two entries in the Cramer Awards for free. Additional award details can be found online at chessjournalism.org. Interested parties can also contact CJA Awards Committee Chairman Joshua Anderson at [joshuamiltonanderson@](mailto:joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com)

[gmail.com](mailto:joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com).

Awards will be announced at the annual CJA meeting during the U.S. Open, followed shortly by a complete listing on the CJA website. [📍](#)

IN THE NEWS

by JOHN HARTMANN

LENDERMAN WINS US CHESS / ICC RAPIDS

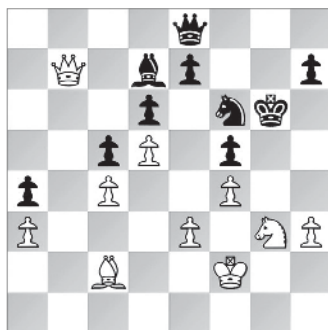


GM ALEKSANDR LENDERMAN

Grandmaster Aleksandr Lenderman was the dominant winner of the 2021 US Chess / ICC Rapids, held at online at *chessclub.com* on February 6-7, 2021. Lenderman defeated two GMs on the way to his 5½/6 score in the Open section, ceding just a draw to Ruiyang Yan in round two. Second place was shared by GM Gadir Guseinov and FM Vincent Tsay, a full point behind Lenderman at 4½/6.

A DIFFICULT POSITION

GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2561)
GM Gadir Guseinov (2431)
US Chess / ICC Rapids (5), 02.07.2021



BLACK TO MOVE

46. ... h5?

Already Black's position is surprisingly difficult. He could try 46. ... Qd8 47. Bxf5+ Bxf5 48. Nxf5 Ne4+ (48. ... Kxf5 49. Qb1+) 49. Kf3 Nd2+ 50. Ke2 Kxf5 51. Kxd2 Kf6 52. Qb2+ Kf7 when White has a decent advantage, but

converting this will be difficult. The best move, surprisingly, is 46. ... Nh5 47. Nxh5 Kxh5 48. Qb2 Kh4!? (48. ... Qf7 49. Qb7 Qe8) 49. Qg7 Qg6 50. Qxe7+ Kxh3 with equality.

After the game continuation White finds a neat shot.

47. Nxf5! Bxf5 48. Bxf5+ Kxf5 49. Qb1+!

The point is that the black king lacks safe squares, so he must interpose with the knight and lose it.

49. ... Ne4+ 50. Kf3 Qg8 51. Qxe4+ Kf6 52. Kf2 h4 53. Kf1? Qd8?

Doubtless Guseinov was in time pressure, but he misses his chance to get back into the game. He could have held with the precise 53. ... Qc8! attacking the h3-pawn and denying White the check on e6: 54. Kg2 Qg8+ 55. Kh2 (55. Kf1 Qc8!; 55. Kh1 Qc8!) 55. ... Qg3+ 56. Kh1 Qxh3+ and the game should be drawn.

54. Qe6+ Kg7 55. Ke2 Qc7 56. Kf3 Qb7 57. Kg4 Kf8 58. Kg5 Qb2 59. Kg6 Qg7+ 60. Kh5 Qc3 61. f5 Qxa3 62. f6

It's mate in two after 62. Kg6! but the game continuation also works.

62. ... exf6 63. Qxf6+ Ke8 64. Qe6+ Kd8 65. Qxd6+ Kc8 66. Qc6+ Kb8 67. Qb6+ Ka8 68. d6 Qxe3 69. Qd8+ Kb7 70. Qc7+ Ka6 71. Qc6+ Ka7 72. d7 Qe5+ 73. Kg6 Qg3+ 74. Kf7 Qf4+ 75. Ke7 Qe5+ 76. Qe6 Qg7+ 77. Kd6 Qd4+ 78. Kc7 Qf4+ 79. Qd6, Black lost on time.

Theo Slade was the only player to score a perfect 6/6 in the event, although his triumph in the U2200 section was not without a bit of luck. Witness this very close call in his round five win over Michael Lei Wang.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Michael Lei Wang (1946)
Theo Slade (1810)
US Chess / ICC Rapids U2200 (5),
02.07.2021

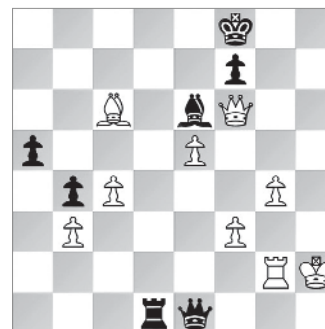
(see diagram top of next column)

52. Qh8+ Ke7 53. Qf6+?

Of course 53. Qe8 is mate.

53. ... Kf8 54. g5??

White still had 54. Qh8+ Ke7 55. Qe8 mate.



54. ... Qh4 mate.

THE RETURN OF BIG SWISSES

With vaccines becoming more and more available, and with the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" now shining, over-the-board chess is beginning to make a return in earnest. True, it never fully ceased — some clubs, particularly in Texas, continued to run rated OTB events even during the depths of the pandemic — but now we are seeing the return of bigger, multi-day Swiss events nationwide.



TIANQI WANG

Tianqi Wang took first at the 2021 Charlotte Spring Classic (Charlotte, NC; March 26-28, 2021) with a score of 4½/5, ahead of three players at 4/5: IMs Dean Ippolito and Prasanna Rao, along with FM Jason Liang.

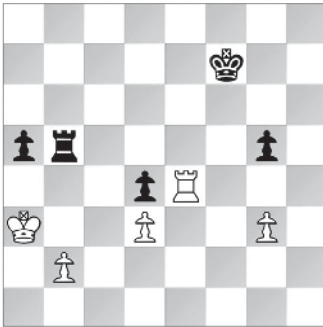
Wang's road to victory included this key final round win against Ippolito:

MOBILITY

Tianqi Wang (2414)

IM Dean Ippolito (2494)

Charlotte Spring Classic (5.1), 03.28.2021



BLACK TO MOVE

The key to this position is the lack of mobility for the white king. A draw should be in the offing after 41. ... Kf6 42. Rxd4 Ke5, or even 41. ... Rb6 42. Rxd4 Rf6! with counterplay against the g3-pawn. But Black made an entirely natural looking move, for which he was punished.

41. ... Rd5? 42. b4!

Now the king will run free.

42. ... axb4+ 43. Kxb4 Kf6 44. Kc4 Rd8 45. Rxd4

Wang brings home the point with impeccable technique.

45. ... Rc8+ 46. Kd5 Rd8+ 47. Ke4 Re8+ 48. Kf3 Re6 49. Rd5 Re1 50. Kg4 Re3 51. Rf5+ Ke6 52. Rf3 Re5 53. Kh5 Rd5 54. g4 Ke7 55. Rf5 Rxd3 56. Kxg5 Rd8 57. Kh6 Ke6 58. Rf2 Rh8+ 59. Kg7 Rh1 60. Re2+ Kd7 61. g5 Rh3 62. g6 Rh1 63. Kf7 Rf1+ 64. Kg8 Rh1 65. g7 Rh3 66. Re4 Rh1 67. Kf7 Rf1+ 68. Kg6 Rg1+ 69. Kh6 Kd6 70. Rh4 Ke7 71. Kh7, Black resigned.

Other winners in Charlotte: U2000: Peter Liotino (5/5); U1600: Sampath Kumar, Ritvik Maridi (4½/5). Blitz Championship: GMs Alex Fishbein and Mackenzie Molner, FM Nico Chasin, and Tianqi Wang (5/6); Blitz U1600: Triyakshari Venkataraja (5½/6).

With 157 players across five sections, the Spring Classic was directed by FA Peter Giannatos and IA Grant Oen for the Charlotte Chess Center and Scholastic Academy.

Held the following weekend, the **2nd Colonial Open** (Dulles, VA; April 2-4, 2021) featured 138 players in four sections under the directorship of NA Robert Getty, who was assisted by organizer and IA Anand Dommalapati for Capital Area Chess. Third-ranked FM Justin Paul took top honors in the Open section with 4½/5. Three players shared second place at 4/5: Nathaniel Philip Moor, Hersh Singh, and David Zhurbinsky.

Paul had to survive a tough position against Rao, turning the tables and defeating the top-rated IM in the penultimate round.

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK (A45)

IM Prasanna Rao (2509)

FM Justin Paul (2389)

2nd Colonial Open (4.1), 04.04.2021

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. c3 e6 6. Bd3 Qb6 7. Rb1 Bd7 8. Ngf3 cxd4 9. exd4 Bd6 10. O-O Qc7 11. Re1 h6 12. Bh4 Nh5 13. Bb5 g5 14. Bg3 Nxc3 15. hxg3 O-O-O 16. c4 Kb8 17. c5 Be7 18. b4 f6 19. a4 Ka8 20. Re3 Rb8 21. Reb3 e5 22. Bxc6 bxc6 23. b5 Bc8 24. dxe5 fxe5 25. b6 axb6 26. cxb6

It looks like White is just crashing through here, but Paul hangs tough and survives the initial assault. How soon the tables turn!

26. ... Qd6 27. Qe2 e4 28. Ne1 Kb7 29. Rd1 Qf6 30. Rc1 Ra8 31. Rbc3 Bd7 32. Qd1 Qd4 33. Re3 Rhd8 34. a5 Bb4 35. Nb3 Qxd1 36. Rxd1 Bxa5 37. Nxa5+ Rxa5 38. f3 exf3 39. Nxf3 Bg4 40. Rb1 Rb5 41. Rxb5 cxb5 42. Ne5 d4 43. Rb3 Be6 44. Rf3 Bc4 45. Rf6 d3 46. Nc6 Re8 47. Rd6 Kxb6, White resigned.

Class winners included: U2100: Mark Hyland (4½/5); U1700: Charles Leamon Compton, Aleks Fetlyaev, Ameya Haldankar, and Stephen James Scala (4/5); U1300: Thomas Joseph Randolph (5½/6).

SHANKAR GETS SIXTH IM NORM IN CHARLOTTE

FM GAURI SHANKAR

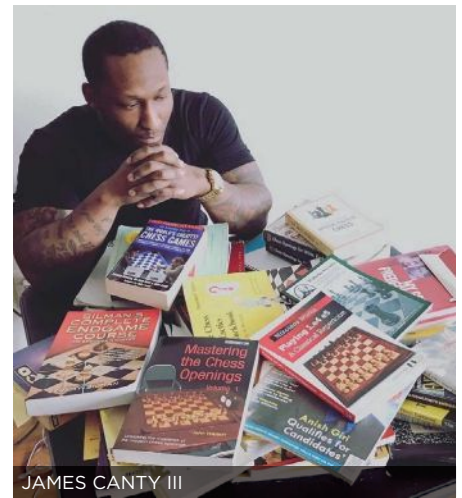
The Charlotte Chess Center and Scholastic Academy (CCCSA) continues to run its regular series of round robin events for those seeking both IM and GM norms. After a pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the norm tournaments restarted in August — see the October 2020 issue for a report on that event by FM Robert Shlyakhtenko — with the sixth in the renewed series held from March 17-21, 2021.

The GM section was won by GM Vladimir Belous and IM Abhimanyu Mishra with scores of 5½/9. The subject of our October 2020 cover story, Mishra gained 37.6 FIDE rating points for his effort, but no norm. Only FM Gauri

Shankar “did the deed,” scoring 5/9 to earn an IM norm in the GM section.

This was Shankar’s sixth (!) IM norm, so one suspects that the pickup of 32 FIDE rating points — pushing him to 2385 on the April list, just 15 points away from the required 2400 rating — was of more immediate concern. He will try to grab those final remaining rating points in the upcoming CCCSA GM/IM Memorial Day Norm Invitational, scheduled for May 27-31.

IM Nikolay Andrianov and Tianqi Wang tied for first place in the IM section at 5½/9. Well-known streamer James Canty III, newly signed by the esports organization Noble, struggled a bit in his first norm tournament, but he at least had the pleasure of winning this miniature against IM Alexander Matros.



JAMES CANTY III

PHILIDOR’S DEFENSE (BY TRANSPOSITION) (B07)

James Canty III (2317)

IM Alexander Matros (2407)

CCCSA Spring IM-Norm (5.1), 03.19.2021

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 4. a4 e5 5. Nf3 Nbd7 6. Bc4 Be7 7. O-O Qc7 8. Re1 h6 9. Nh4 g6 10. f4!? exf4 11. e5 dxe5 12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Qd4 Nfd7?

White has a slight edge after 13. ... Nxc4 14. Qxf6 Rf8 15. Bxf4. Here it seems that 15. ... Qb6+ 16. Kh1 Be6 17. Rxe6 fxe6 18. Qxg6+ Rf7 19. Rf1 Qd4 is more or less forced, with a very messy position.

14. Bxf4 O-O

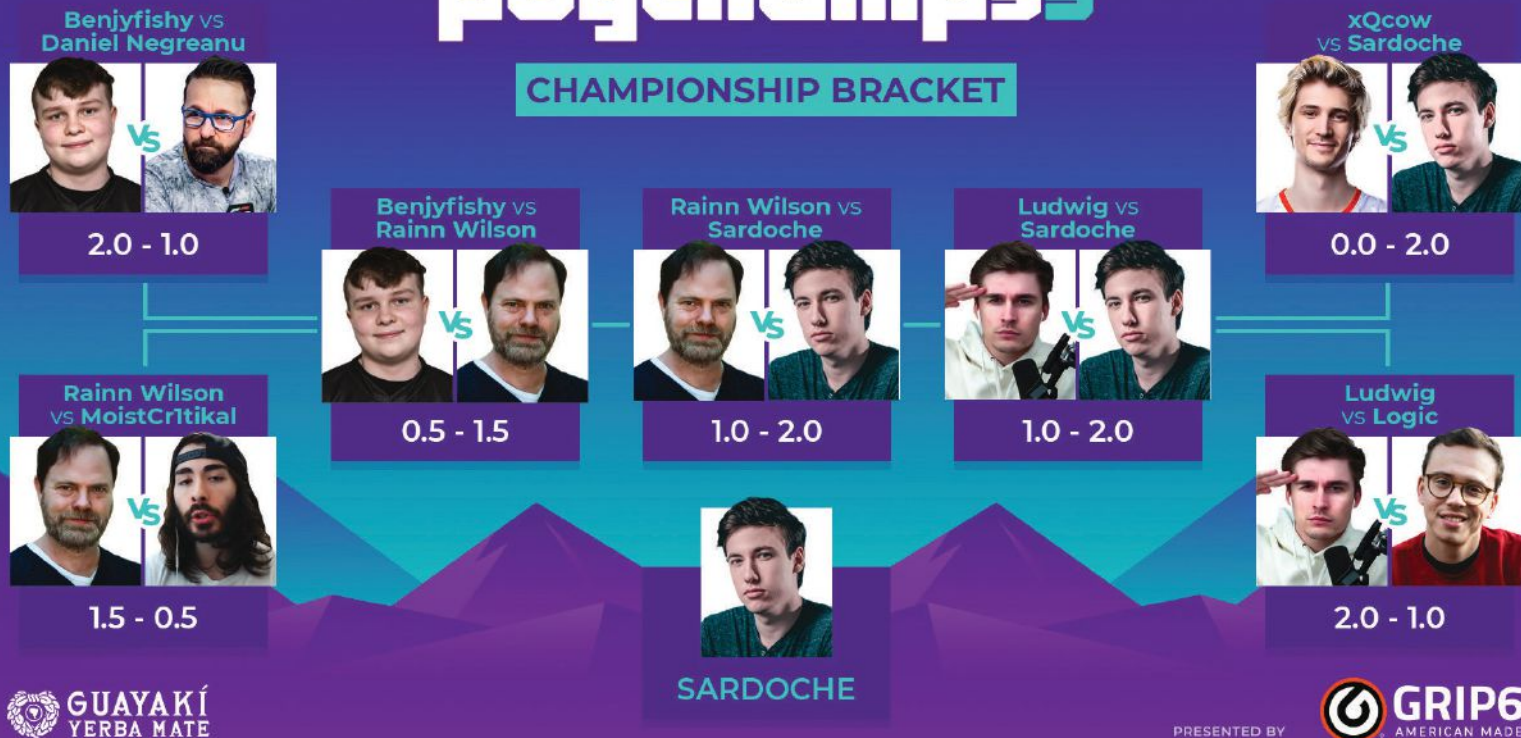
Not 14. ... Bxh4 15. Bxe5 Nxe5 16. Rxe5+ Kf8 17. Re4 with a winning position for White.

15. Rxe5! Bxh4 16. Rg5! Qb6 17. Rxc6+ Kh7 18. Rxc6+, Black resigns. ♠

For up-to-date chess news, check out Chess Life Online at uschess.org/clo on a regular basis.

pogchamps

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET



The French Defense

Sardoche wins PogChamps 3.
BY PATRICIO ROBAYO

What is a Pog, and how does one become a champion of it?

In the Twitch world, Pog stands for “play of the game,” and combined with the word “champion,” it becomes “play of the game champion” — or PogChamps.

Hosted on and sponsored by *Chess.com*, the PogChamps series of tournaments feature contests between top Twitch and Youtube streamers, and include play-by-play coaching and commentary from grandmasters and international masters.

Most, if not all, of the PogChamps players had little chess experience before joining up. But what they lacked in chess knowledge, they made up for with their animated presence and their faithful followers.

The first PogChamps, livestreamed on Twitch in June 2020, spawned a viral video that featured MoistCr1tikal (2.5 million followers) defeating xQc (7.7 million followers) in six moves. Suddenly chess was one of the top channels on Twitch and creators of all stripes were trying it.

The most recent edition, PogChamps 3, was held over two weeks in February. It was a smash success, boasting an impressive and diverse roster of players that underscored its growing influence in the esports world.

PHOTOS:
THIS PAGE: “C’EST SI BON:” FRENCH LANGUAGE STREAMER SARDOCHE’S PATH TO VICTORY. **FACING PAGE:** POGCHAMPS COACHES BOTEZ, NAKAMURA, AND RENSCH. BOTH IMAGES COURTESY CHESS.COM.

Online chess has seen a boom in viewership since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With rolling quarantines and restrictions on public movement in countries around the world, many chess enthusiasts rediscovered the game or found themselves with more time to play. Because the game adapts well to a two-dimensional board, chess became an early and surprising success story in an otherwise dark time.

GM Hikaru Nakamura (GMHikaru), a five-time national chess champion, was one of the first beneficiaries of this “new chess boom,” gaining thousands of followers and becoming one of Twitch’s top streamers. [See our August 2020 cover story on Nakamura and the new chess boom. ~ed.] Nakamura was one of the first PogChamps coaches, along with WFM Alexandra Botez (BotezLive), a streaming powerhouse in her own right. Later, IM Levy Rozman (GothamChess) and IM Anna Rudolf (Anna_Chess) became involved, both with PogChamps and with guest appearances on Nakamura’s channel, growing their own audience base in the process.

Driven in part by the PogChamps phenomenon, chess is rapidly becoming recognized as a true esports. Nakamura, who recently gained his one millionth follower on Twitch, signed on with esports franchise Team SoloMid (TSM). Botez, along with her sister and streaming partner Andrea Botez, has nearly 700,000 followers, resulting in their signing with the esports franchise Envy Gaming. Rozman — who recently gained worldwide attention for his unwitting participation in the “Dewa Kipas” cheating scandal — continues to grow his channel, reaching the 300,000 follower mark, while Rudolf’s followers now number more than 200,000.

In some ways, Twitch has become the new chess hangout spot. New Yorkers used to be able to hop on the subway and head downtown to the Village Chess Shop, renting a chess clock and passing the time as they got lost in endless games. Now everyone with an internet connection can experience something similar. Communities arise in each streamer’s chat, where fans excited swap memes and catchphrases — a high-tech version of the age-old tradition of kibitzing at the club.

Chess content is now being streamed 24/7 on Twitch and YouTube, with seemingly unlimited access to renowned players and games. Although each channel is different, providing viewers with different types of information and game analysis, there is still a strong sense of camaraderie and respect for the game across the streaming community.

The Queen’s Gambit

Many of the PogChamps 3 players stated they became interested in chess because of the popular Netflix limited series, “The Queen’s Gambit.” Based on Walter Tevis’s 1983 novel of the same name, “The Queen’s Gambit” was one of the biggest hits of the year, stirring up massive global interest in chess. With Anya Taylor-Joy’s breakout portrayal of Beth Harmon, a chess prodigy who was able to overcome her demons and rise to the top of the chess world, the show spoke to audiences around the world and showed them how enthralling chess could be.

Taken together with the “new chess boom” seen early in the COVID-19 pandemic, chess became a real growth industry after the release of “The Queen’s Gambit.” Nick Barton, director of business development for *Chess.com*, told CNN that in the past year they added more than 12.2 million new members. Once “The Queen’s Gambit” debuted in October 2020, the site saw an additional boost of more than three million new subscribers.

And it wasn’t just the online chess sites that felt this seismic shift. Chess equipment businesses, like *uscsales.com*, reported huge spikes in sales. Sets and boards were backordered everywhere, and what was once seen as the staid pastime of old men was suddenly the hot new thing that everyone was talking about.

Game On

PogChamps 3 aired from February 14 to February 28, 2021, and according to IM Daniel Rensch, co-host and a PogChamps coach, this tournament became the most viewed chess event in history.

For the first time, PogChamps 3 had a well-known celebrity among its roster of players. The actor Rainn Wilson, best known for playing Dwight Schrute in the NBC hit sitcom, “The Office,” took part, bringing a whole new set of eyeballs to the event from outside the streaming world.

Seeing the popularity of the previous two PogChamps events, more stars joined this third incarnation, including Logic, a prominent rapper, and Michelle Khare, a Youtuber and host of HBO Max’s “Karma.” Twitch mega-streamers xQc and Ludwig, two break-out stars from the first PogChamps, also joined the roster.

Other participants included Pokimane, one of the most globally prominent female streamers, and MrBeast, a Youtube celebrity who has

Chess.com

Begins
February 14

youtube.com/chess
twitch.tv/chess

/botezlive

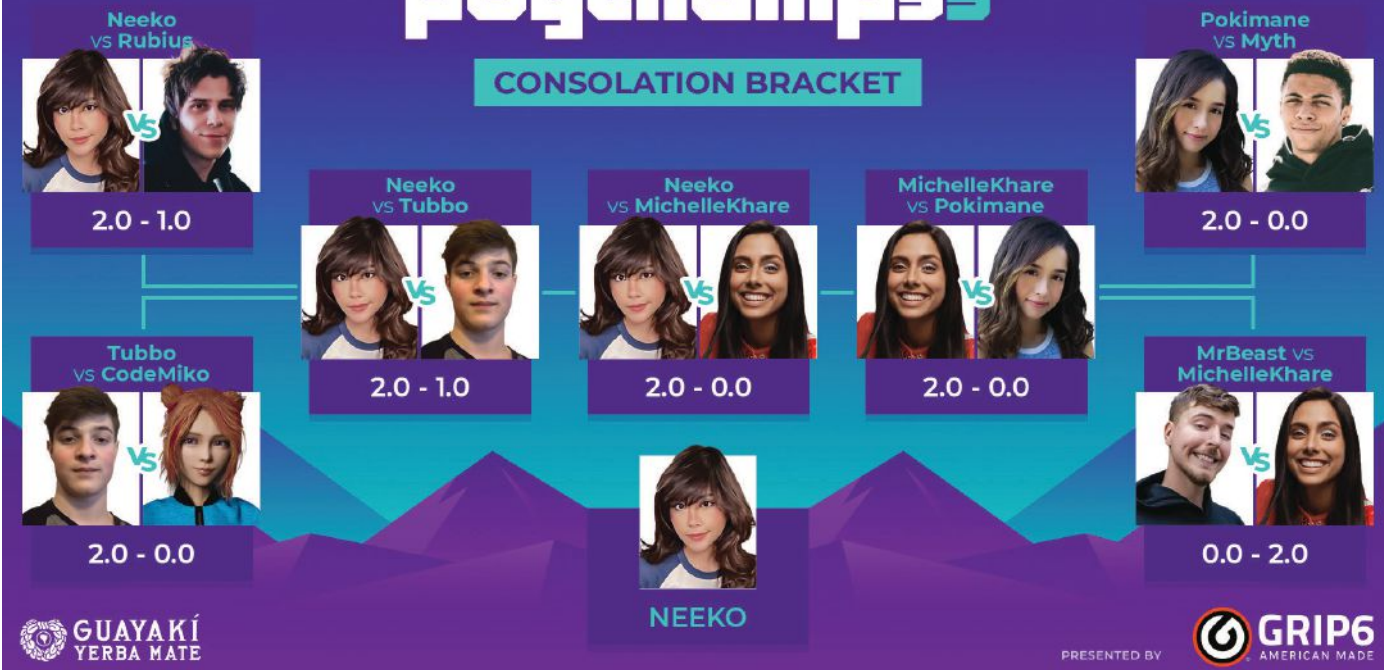
/gmhikaru

/danielrensch

pogchamps 3

pogchamps

CONSOLATION BRACKET



PHOTOS: "OK, BOOMER" — NEEKO DANCED HER WAY TO A CONSOLATION BRACKET VICTORY. IMAGE COURTESY CHESS.COM.

over 75 million followers across all of his channels.

The first part of the tournament was played in a group format that resembled the World Cup. Players were broken down into four groups, from which they advanced to Champions or Consolation brackets. The time control for each game was 10 minutes with a five-second increment, while ties were settled with Armageddon blitz games. White had five minutes on the clock; Black had four, but also had draw odds, meaning that White had to win to advance.

While the competition was lighthearted, PogChamps3 wasn't all fun and games. A total prize fund of \$100,000 was at stake, with contestants playing for their favorite charity, and with Chess.com matching the donated portions of their winnings.

Group Stage

In the group stage, match wins earned the victor three group points. The winner of the Armageddon blitz games earned two points, with one point going to the Armageddon loser for their efforts in regulation play. No points were awarded for clean match losses.

Benjyfishy and Sardoche advanced from Group A, and Group B saw xQc and Daniel Negreanu move to the next stage as well. Benjyfishy and xQc each earned the maximum nine points in group play, while Sardoche and Negreanu finished with six, dropping individual matches to their respective Group winners.

Rainn Wilson and Logic tied for the top of Group C with seven points each, with Wilson winning two Armageddon games along the way. And Ludwig (eight points) and MoistCr1tikal (seven points) advanced from Group D, rounding out the Championship Bracket.

One nice feature of the PogChamps framework is that even those who failed to advance to the Championship were seeded into a Consolation bracket, which ran parallel to the Championship

events. Fans of Neeko (3 points in Group play), Myth (0), Pokimane (3), Rubius (0), Tubbo (3), Michelle Khare (1), MrBeast (3) and CodeMiko (0) all got to keep watching their favorite PogChamps competitors push (mouse-click) pawns and receive coaching.

Quarter-Finals

Sardoche was able to beat returning "PogChamp" xQc after checkmating the player with a pair of rooks. Benjyfishy was able to advance to the semi-finals by outplaying poker player Daniel Negreanu in a nail-biting blitz playoff game, winning with only a second remaining on his clock.

On the other side of the bracket, Wilson took on MoistCr1tikal, advancing to the semi-final with a win and a draw. Ludwig, on the other hand, held his own against Logic, advancing to the next round by winning by a narrow margin in the Armageddon playoff.

Pokimane advanced to the semi-finals in the Consolation bracket after defeating Myth, and MrBeast crashed out against Khare. Neeko beat out Rubius after tiebreaks, while Tubbo beat out CodeMiko to advance.

Semi-Finals

Wilson, who wore a trucker hat that read "Chess Wars" written in the style of the Star Wars logo, faced off with Benjyfishy in the first semi-final, advancing after a win and a draw.

After the game, Wilson commented, "It was a solid game ... [I] just wasn't used to the way the center was locked. I lost track in my head and [was] seeing forks, but the forks weren't real. My brain just shut down in the middle of the game."

PogChamps veteran Ludwig took on the French streamer Sardoche, but was defeated after a blunder in the tiebreak round, sending Sardoche to the Championship finals.

In the Consolation bracket, Neeko defeated Tubbo following a pre-move error in the tiebreaking

PogChamps 3 | GROUP A

Player	1	2	3	4	Score
1 Benjyfishy	3	3	3	3	9
2 Sardoche	0	3	3	3	6
3 Neeko	0	0	3	3	3
4 Myth	0	0	0	0	0

PogChamps 3 | GROUP B

Player	1	2	3	4	Score
1 XQcOW	3	3	3	3	9
2 Dnegspoker	0	3	3	3	6
3 Pokimane	0	0	3	3	3
4 Rubius	0	0	0	0	0

PogChamps 3 | GROUP C

Player	1	2	3	4	Score
1 RainnWilson	2	3	2	2	7
2 Logic	1	3	3	3	7
3 Tubbo	0	0	3	3	3
4 MichelleKhare	1	0	0	0	1

PogChamps 3 | GROUP D

Player	1	2	3	4	Score
1 Ludwig	2	3	3	3	8
2 MoistCr1tikal	1	3	3	3	7
3 MrBeast6000	0	0	3	3	3
4 CodeMiko	0	0	0	0	0

blitz game, thus punching her ticket to the finals. But Michelle Khare stole the show during the semis, checkmating MrBeast and defeating Pokimane on the same day to reach the Consolation finals.

Popcorn

Not everyone seemed to enjoy the new attention on chess that PogChamps brings. Russian GM and World Championship Candidate Ian Nepomniachtchi tweeted that the tournament was just “popcorn stuff.” He went on to say that it was “displacing any real chess content and this is just terrifying.”

Nakamura reacted to Nepomniachtchi during a live-stream, stating that “[t]his is disappointing to see from someone like Ian. I literally can’t believe that someone like Ian would say something like this.” He argued that PogChamps was doing a tremendous job promoting chess and bringing more interest to the game. “People seem not to understand that when there’s interest, and all the boats are rising, good things happen across the board,” said Nakamura.

Other top players joined the Twitter debate. GM Magnus Carlsen called PogChamps a “good initiative” and said that “the event is doing a great job in brining [sic] chess to more people.” He continued, jokingly, “I’d never stoop as low as to watch it myself though. If I did watch, I’d probably be rooting for Ludwig.”

Perhaps chastened by the reaction of the Twitterati, Nepomniachtchi backtracked a bit, clarifying his thoughts by saying that “I’m obviously happy more and more people are getting involved in chess. Although I’m not the biggest fan of PogChamps, the show is easy and fun to watch. And indeed, it serves the aforementioned purpose.”

Still, Nepomniachtchi reiterated his core concern; namely, that the success of PogChamps might set a new viewing standard for chess, one where chess excellence is not valorized, and he was not sure if it would end up overtaking other tournament formats.

The Finals

PogChamps 3 ended on a Sunday with a fitting conclusion to one of the most-watched online chess events in history. After TikTok and Twitch star Neeko defeated MichelleKhare 2-0 in the Consolation final, the showdown between Rainn Wilson and Sardoche was set to decide the PogChamps 3 Championship.

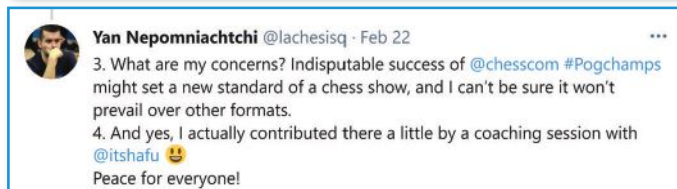
Over 80,000 viewers tuned in to watch The Office alum and the French streaming celebrity on Twitch, with another roughly 30,000 watching live on YouTube.

In the first championship game, both players came out with strong openings; however, time pressure caused Sardoche to blunder, resulting in Wilson taking the victory. For the second game, Sardoche took control of the center and took the game, equalizing the match after his blunder, and sending the championship into tiebreaks.

Wilson appeared to be on the winning path in the first tiebreak game, but after a fatal move with his king as the clocks ticked down, Sardoche took the game and the PogChamps 3 title with an amazing knight, bishop, and rook checkmate, one which (as he admitted afterwards) he wasn’t even sure was mate until he made the key move.

Victory in hand, Sardoche leaped out of his chair, seemingly wiping tears from his eyes as he realized that he had won the tournament. He told viewers that it had been a two-month process of discovering chess and becoming obsessed with it, leading him to play the game almost non-stop leading up to the match. Moreover, he went on to say that out of all the esports tournaments he has won, PogChamps 3 had been one of the best: “I never felt something like this [before.]”

For his part, Wilson said that because of PogChamps, he was able to dive in and freshly re-examine chess and have fun doing it. “[I was] really excited for the money we made for our non-profit. I played some great players along the way and had a great experience.” [See our



interview with Wilson on page 26. ~ed.]

Both players’ charities were also winners in the end, with Sardoche raising about \$22,000 for his charity, Secours Populaire. Wilson raised \$11,500 for LIDÉ Haiti, a charity that he founded with his wife and a friend.

Is PogChamps the future of chess? It’s a future, if nothing else, one where the democratization of the game helps reach out to new audiences and potential players. No one will mistake the PogChamps 3 games for those played in the Magnus Carlsen Invitational Series, but — and this is critical to understand — even the attempted comparison misses the point of the event.

PogChamps 3 was a celebration of the pleasure of chess, and of those first moments every player experiences when trying to learn the game. The joy in victory is only matched by the frustration of blunder and defeat. PogChamps was a feast of human emotion, a reminder of the viscerality of our game, and it was a lot of fun to watch.

Maybe they’re looking for a *Chess Life* reporter to round out the field for PogChamps 4? 📍

“It’s Been Really Great to Dabble in This Chess World”



*In conversation with
professional poker player
Daniel Negreanu*

BY JOHN HARTMANN



CHES LIFE: You have played almost 2,400 rated games on *Chess.com*, which I think made you one of the more experienced players in PogChamps 3. When did you start playing chess and what got you hooked?

DANIEL NEGREANU: I started about two or three years ago. I've always enjoyed games, and I was playing another game called *Hearthstone* and spending way too much time on it. I thought, "Well, you know what, I need to quit." I did, but then I was jonesing to play something new, and I thought, "Well, let's dabble in chess." I never played chess as a kid. I had no idea what I was doing ... just kind of figuring it out on my own. It was a personal challenge — I just hoped to get to a 1200 rating [in rapid games] or something along those lines. Then I played sporadically going into PogChamps, but that [the tournament] was my first time actually trying seriously, with everything I've got ...

How did you get hooked up with PogChamps? Did they come to you? Did you approach them?

Hikaru [Nakamura] sent me a DM [direct message ~ed.] on Twitter, and mentioned that they're doing this tournament, and I said, "I'm not very good." He replied, "Don't worry, you're not going to be playing against grandmasters. It's like Twitch streamers and other people like that." He actually said that I'd be in the top half of the bracket, so I said, "Oh, okay. I'll give it a shot." The time commitment was minimal as far as playing was concerned, but study was pretty intense for me.

How did that work? Did you get coaching from any of the streamers or were you working on it on your own?

I did two lessons. One I did with Hikaru where we talked about the Danish Gambit, which is my favorite opening.

I looked at a bunch of your games getting ready to talk to you. I downloaded them all to ChessBase. It's the PokerTracker of chess, if you're not familiar with it.

Wow.

[So] I had the lesson with Hikaru who gave me some pointers on the Danish Gambit, which is great. Then I had another one with GothamChess [IM Levy Rozman]. We worked on Black defenses and stuff because I'm typically a Sicilian player, and I really like the Sicilian. He gave me an option against 1. d4, which I'd never heard of, called the Englund Gambit.

I'd noticed you've been playing that quite a bit.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: NEGREANU FACES OFF WITH GAMER / STREAMER POKIMANE. **FACING PAGE:** PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL NEGREANU. PLAYER CARD COURTESY CHESS.COM.

It works. At my level, it works, because people are like, "What the heck is this?" They often either blunder their bishop and just forget to protect it, or I'm able to get some stuff going where I get a quick, early knockout.

What I realized — and this was really cool to me — after my first couple matches, when IM Anna Rudolf coached my first two opponents, and they played me perfectly out of the open ... and I'm like, "How are they doing that?" I never thought of the concept of preparation!

I have these tricky openings, the Danish Gambit and the Englund, but once you know how to defend against them... I was pretty

"It really kind of made me fall in love a little bit with the idea of tournament chess."

screwed, so it actually taught me the element of bluffing, or the psychology of, "What are they going to open with?"

Then for the match against Benjyfish, a friend of mine from Edmonton who's a very good chess player ... he's looking through the [Opening] Explorer, and he's like, "This is exactly what Benjy will do in the opening." I was shocked because the first 12 moves were exactly what he said [Benjy would play]!

He was [playing] the French Defense, and I got into a position where apparently Benjy loses 56% of games. I was opened up to this

fascinating world where you can study your opponent's tendencies. I never thought chess was about that. I didn't think it mattered. Who cares what their tendencies are? Are they better than me? That's all that matters! I didn't know that there was ... if they open with this, here's the best defense against that. I didn't know that was a thing, so that was a real eye-opener. It really kind of made me fall in love a little bit with the idea of tournament chess.

I was going to save this for the last question, but I might as well ask you now. A couple of years ago we had Allen Cunningham [a well-known poker player ~ed.] show up at the U.S. Open. Is there any chance that we might see you come out to a U.S. Open or a big national event like that?

I'm not good enough.

Of course you are. Anybody can play.

I feel like I need to get better. Right now, I'm around 1250 in 10-minute games. I feel like I should get to 1400 or 1500 before I could travel for anything like that, and it's very difficult [to get there]. One of the dangerous things, I think, with where I'm at [rating-wise] is plateauing. I've got to get better at puzzles, but how do you do that? Just by doing them, right?

I will say — and this won't be necessarily part of the interview — but looking at your openings, and the way you're playing them, I think you're doing exactly the right thing to improve.

At your level, as I'm sure you've figured out, tactics are really what decides games. If you can get to positions where you have to be tactical, and you get to practice your tactics,



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: IT'S DNEGS AGAINST xQc IN A GROUP B SHOWDOWN. FACING PAGE: PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL NEGREANU.

long-term, that's going to benefit you more than anything else. The Danish Gambit, that's all it is — you get an open position and just blast away.

I purposely forced myself to learn the Danish Gambit because when I started playing chess, the only concern I had was to be ahead in material and then trade, trade, trade, and try to get to the endgame and win there. I never thought of a sacrifice — it was the scariest thing. It's almost like running a big bluff in poker. It's like, I'm bluffing. I don't have a hand, but what if I screw this up?

The Danish Gambit forced me to think, "All right, if you're going to give up two pawns, you're going to have to find tactical ways to get those back or otherwise get the advantage," so it forced me to be comfortable with the idea of being down in material. Before, if I was down a knight, I thought it was game over. Now I've learned to come back in spots. It's been really great to dabble in this chess world and realize how much information is available to learn and get better.

You finished in second place in your group, in group B, and then you fell in a very memorable matchup with Benjyfish in the quarterfinals. What do you think of your performance?

Overall, I was happy with how I did. The one that really upset me — and I don't know if you go through this or whatever — but I just had brain fog when I played xQc. I woke up that day and I'm like, "I'm dead. I can't think straight." It just was very sloppy, and I ended up losing both games to him, so I was determined to do better against Benjy, who is a much better player.

I ended up winning the first game against Benjy, thanks to some help from some opening prep, and then in the second game, I made a mistake where he made a pawn push, his bishop was attacking my queen, and I just

missed it. It was a big deal because I was actually ahead in that match, too.

I added that to my tactics file to show to students. It was a tough thing to see quickly.

In the third game ... I just assumed there were increments for some reason, even though it [the tournament regulations] said there weren't. I was in a losing position, and I thought, "All right, I still have the increment, so I can just play fast and I'll hopefully dig my way out." I didn't realize that there [were] no

"... I will definitely do my best to win. At the end of the day, if I play as well as I think I can, I'm happy."

increments, so what I should have done was just instantly run with my king. I ended up losing by one and a half seconds.

I was losing the game anyway, but that's one of the cool aspects of chess that I really enjoy, and that I'd like to see happen in poker — the idea that you can be winning, but if you run out of time, no matter how far ahead you were, if you didn't close, you lose. That's exciting.

I saw you had a tweet, I think on February 22, where you talked about how PogChamps had given you some ideas for the poker world and for poker tournaments, and I'm guessing this might be one of them, but what are the ideas and how do you think that the two could

work together?

Imagine a poker game where two guys are playing heads-up, and one guy is way ahead on chips, but his clock has only six seconds. All of a sudden, your opponent has a way to win, and it's really cool. I think it levels the playing field. I think chess and poker both face an issue, right? If you allow unlimited amount of time to make a decision, it destroys the game.

In poker we've seen, as the game has progressed as well, people are playing slower and slower and slower. We have a shot clock, but it's not as effective because we give people 30 seconds to make a decision, but 30 seconds is still very, very slow. Acting quickly, with increments...

I thought PogChamps did everything right — they're killing it! They get all these streamers who — ok, some I'd never heard of, but they have 80 million followers. What better way to showcase your game to a new audience than have somebody from outside of your world bring people in?

I was going to ask you about that because there was some pushback from some leading chess players. GM Ian Nepomniachtchi, one of the top players in the world, was pretty vociferous on Twitter that this was not the way to promote chess.

He couldn't possibly be more wrong. It's a little bit of an elitist attitude to certain degree. The chess on PogChamps was relatable to the average person, like the mistakes, the blunders that they all make. No one's claiming that the PogChamps players are better, or even more interesting, but what it does, it brings new eyeballs to the game. I'd never watched a chess tournament before. I will now because I was part of one, so you can count me as one person who's a chess fan who wasn't before, and it was directly related to PogChamps.

If these events completely replaced the [top tournaments] that would be a problem, but that's not what happened here. It was a new style of event that showcased chess at a reasonable level, where people who don't spend 15 hours a day on chess could actually relate to the mistakes. The games are super exciting, because at any moment, somebody could just blunder the queen.

You don't see that as often with great players, and similarly with poker. In poker, at the highest levels, it's somewhat solved to a certain degree and there are fewer big blunders. Whereas in the mid-stakes games, you see some blunder and you think, "Wow, what the heck did he just do?" That is how you sell

the game. [Nepomniachtchi] is a great chess player, clearly, but as far as a marketer, I think he lacks an understanding of what works.

I did want to ask you about the One Drop Foundation, the charity you were playing for. What you can tell me about them and why you chose them?

Yeah. Guy Laliberté is famous for creating Cirque de Soleil, and he's also a poker player. What the One Drop Foundation does — and they raise a lot of money for this — is there are many parts of the world where access to water is non-existent. Without water, there are no crops, there's no food, there's starvation. A big part of what One Drop does is equip [communities] with the ability to cultivate crops and do all these things on their own by locating water wells, digging and installing them, and doing that in parts of the world where drought and a lack of water is the number one crisis issue.

A whole section of the economy is eliminated when you don't have access to clean running water and drinking water, so I couldn't think of a more important issue. I also do work with St. Jude. Somebody else was playing for St. Jude, so I thought, "Okay, well, I'll give One Drop some love here."

One more question: What's next for you in the chess world? I saw you were involved with another Hikaru-involved venture.

He's doing what's called "Joker's Gambit," featuring a bunch of poker players. I don't know the format yet. It could be a Swiss, it could be arena-style ... I'm not sure how many players we've got. I'm on a Discord channel with a lot of the players, and everyone seems really interested in doing this in the poker community. There are some guys in there that are [rated] 1500 or 1600, so I don't expect to win it, but I will definitely do my best to prepare.

At the end of the day, if I play as well as I think that I can, I'm happy. I was very disappointed with my match against xQc, but very happy with the loss against Benjy, because I was like, "You know what? I lost, but it wasn't like I completely blew it." I made a blunder, but what are you going to do? I'm a 1250. We do stuff like that.

Good luck with this next step in your chess career. I really do hope we see you at a U.S. Open someday because it's always good to see people who excel in their fields, like you do, taking a step into ours and beginning to excel there.

All right. I have to get better first.

I tell myself that every day. ♠



“The First Place I Turn Is *Chess Life*”

In conversation with actor Rainn Wilson

BY JOHN HARTMANN



CHES LIFE: So, Rainn, thank you for taking the time to talk to *Chess Life*. I wanted to begin by asking about your secret *Chess.com* account. I won't give the name away in the magazine, but I did notice that you played nearly 1,600 games on that account and there might be others that I don't know about. So how did you start playing chess and what drew you in?

RAINN WILSON: Yeah, my secret account that has leaked by the way, because people tracked it down. When I was playing the young gentleman from France, whose name I'm now forgetting ...

That would be Sardoche.

Yeah, Sardoche, who bested me in our games. His French fans did some sleuthing and figured out what my secret account was, so they were studying my games, as if there was anything [there] to study!

My dad taught me chess when I was a kid. I always enjoyed it, and I was always intrigued by the fact that, just when you got a little bit better, you realized, “Oh, there's a whole other

level of better I need to get.” And then you get that level of better, and you're like, “Oh, there's actually a whole other level of better you need to get.” And it's just peeling an onion.

I imagine it goes on and on and on. After his recent defeats, even Magnus Carlsen is probably [thinking], “Wow, there's another level I need to reach for if I want to maintain my superiority.” So that always fascinated me.

In junior high, I went by the chess club and played some games. I was playing a lot of Dungeons and Dragons at the time, and I knew some of the chess players were playing “D and D.” And then I started kind of regularly working out with them, and there were these two great chess players... If [jokingly ~ed.] you had cared to do your [expletive deleted] research, you might have read my book, *The Bassoon King*, and I have a little chapter in there on my chess playing years.

That was actually going to come up. My wife was thrilled when your book came out because she played the bassoon,

and she's convinced that the bassoon does not get nearly enough good press. So when you big-upped it, as the young people say ...

Yeah — big-up the bassoon. I've got one right here in the corner. [turns camera to corner, where there is indeed a bassoon. ~ed.]

That is elite level. I'm going to tell my wife and she's going to love you even more.

Only the chess nerd writer would marry a bassoon player.

[She's] a librarian to boot, [and] I was an [academic] philosopher in my previous life. It's a real nerd fest here.

Fantastic. No one ever really stops being a philosopher.

So I started working there with these two great young chess players, we called them the Hsu/Shue brothers, Terry Hsu, H-S-U, who was Chinese, and Jeff Shue, S-H-U-E, a



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: RAPPER LOGIC USES THE “DWIGHT SCHRUTE COSTUME” STRATEGY TO NO AVAIL AGAINST WILSON IN GROUP C ACTION. FACING PAGE: PHOTO COURTESY RAINN WILSON. PLAYER CARD COURTESY CHESS.COM.

German ... but the exact same pronunciation. They were first and second board. And they were great because they took everyone under their wings and they were very supportive. They gave lessons and taught us traps and openings. And they were really terrific guys.

I was on the chess team for two years, and then I moved high schools to this giant, fancy high school in Chicago and they had a meeting of the chess club. And I went in and I think I played like their second or third board and just demolished him. But no one said, “Hey, you’re pretty good. You should join the team or you should play more often.” They just kind of like shuffled around and ... I don’t know, they were just all awkward and nerdy. And so I was like, “Eh, screw them. I’m going to go be a drama nerd.”

You’re not a streamer, as most of your competitors in PogChamps 3 were. How did you get roped into being involved in this?

IM Daniel Rensch, who is one of the managers at *Chess.com* ... through the years I had been in touch with them here and there, and he’s the one who pitched me on doing PogChamps.

Did you get any of the coaching before the event and if so, who did you get to work with?

He [Daniel Rensch] was my coach as well. I did four or five lessons with him, worked on some openings, and prepared a little bit for some of the players and some of the openings they were using. I’m not sure how much it helped me, but it was interesting.

I like studying chess. I want to do it more, if I can find the time to do more lessons. Because what happened for me, back in sophomore year of high school — I was fourth board on

our team and we had a good team. We won the state and we did pretty well. And I did very well in inter-league play, but I went to [something] like three tournaments and I did terribly. I don’t know why — the pressure, it’s really hard to focus, there’s people around — and I just bungled a lot and blundered. I did very, very poorly there but I did well in league play.

But you get to a certain point, back in the day, and maybe it’s still true today, where you can get to a certain level, but until you start learning openings you kind of hit this wall.

“... all of a sudden it’s like, oh, wait, we’re on Twitch. There’s like 50,000 people watching me right now!”

And if you’ve learned openings, you’ve got to commit a whole lot of time: “I’m going to now commit 10 hours of my time to learn how to play against the Sicilian, and I’m going to practice it over and over.” And then you’ve got to do the Caro-Kann and Ruy Lopez, and you’ve got to kind of learn what you’re going to do against players who are playing in this way. I just didn’t have the time to do it.

You finished first in Group C, where you defeated MichelleKhare and Logic [by scores of] two to one. And you blanked Tubbo by a two-nil score. Talk a little bit about the group [stage]. Did you feel pressure to win it, given that you’d been playing for so long?

I know a lot of people were very new to the

game and I had been playing for a long time, although that doesn’t really matter. I mean, if you have a natural instinct for the game, you can start playing and in a couple months you can easily [have] a 1300 or 1400 rating. I knew that I was kind of a favorite there and I also knew there were some pretty decent players.

But I was surprised how nervous I got! I wasn’t nervous at all going in, and then all of a sudden it’s like, “Oh, wait, we’re on Twitch. There’s like 50,000 people watching me right now!” That’s crazy. They’re watching me [play] a sport that I’m only mediocre at. It’s one thing if you’re really good and people are watching you, but it’s [another] thing if I’m only passable and they’re all watching ... they’re watching every mistake and every blunder.

Combine that with the [time control] ... it might’ve been different if it was regular tournament play. I got kind of nervy and made a lot of mistakes throughout the tournament, but I got better as it went along, and I calmed down and evened out as play progressed.

You did make it to the finals, after you defeated MoistCr1tikal, a PogChamps veteran, and of course, Benjyfishy. (I feel very strange calling these people by their Twitch names, but so it goes.) And then you met the Frenchman, Sardoche.

Yes.

Talk a little bit about the path to the final match and your feelings about how it all shook out.

I don’t really remember the games specifically. I remember some were tougher than others, some were pretty easy. Everyone played pretty smart. Some people did not use their clock very well, and that played to my advantage. Although I did not use my clock very well in the [final] five-minute game...

The regular games, they were 10-minute games?

They were G/10+5 or G/10+3. It’s a weird thing [this time control] because it’s slow, and then it’s very fast, but you can’t really beat someone on time [with the increment]. [Moving to blitz was] a weird adjustment.

You were competing for a charity that I’d not heard of, but after reading about the work it does, it sounds rather important. Can you tell us a little bit about LIDÈ Haiti and why you chose them?

LIDÈ Haiti is a nonprofit that I started with my wife and with another friend. We had visited Haiti right before the 2010 earthquake, and then two months later, the earthquake killed 200,000 to 300,000 people in a matter of minutes. It was one of the worst disasters in human history.



We knew we wanted to do something. We wanted to give back to that beautiful country and [its] amazing culture. We started a nonprofit for girls' education in remote Haiti, where we do arts and literacy. We also do scholarships and we do mobile tutoring. We have a mobile computer lab, we provide healthcare, and we have a food program. We're working with 900 girls in 13 locations right now. It's been going gangbusters for about seven years — it was founded before that, but it's really been running [full-blast] for seven years.

That's where the PogChamps money went.

This wasn't your first event with Chess.com, as you alluded to a little earlier. You got to play against Magnus Carlsen in 2014 in an online simultaneous exhibition. And you also had Magnus as a guest on your web series, the "Soul Pancake Metaphysical Milkshake Show." I have a lot of questions about that. First of all, was it a real van?

It is a real van. In fact, I just sold it.

What was it like meeting Magnus Carlsen and then getting to play him?

He's a hero of mine. I mean, a hero of mine in the sense that I'm astounded at his success at such a young age. It's not like I study his games, or really know enough about chess to be able to look at one of his games ... and go, "How did he win that? Or how did he draw that?"

I was really intrigued by someone who had such great mastery at such a young age — he's kind of like the Tiger Woods of chess. It was a pleasure to get to know him a little bit and talk to him. He's pretty guarded. He doesn't reveal a whole lot, but I think you have to be [that way] if you've been in the spotlight since age 17 and you're an international celebrity.

It was a lot of fun. And he could probably beat me without his queen.

He can beat most people, I think, without his queen. I think probably most of us are in that boat.

We did talk a little bit about your autobiography, but I did want to ask the question that you asked Magnus in that [Soul Pancake] interview. What would

PHOTOS: ABOVE: WILSON SPEAKS TO RENSCH AND NAKAMURA AFTER HIS LOSS TO SARDOCHE. BELOW: SCREENSHOT FROM CARLSEN'S 2013 APPEARANCE ON "SOUL PANCAKE."



the title of your autobiography be, if you were to write a new one, and what would its first sentence say?

Oh, wow. Well, I guess I'm going to have to go with *The Chess King*. And the first sentence would be... Boy, I don't know... what a weird way to put me on the spot.

That was my one goal for this interview.

Well done. Well played. [thinking] So... "The first half of my life is over with." Period.

Yeah. I know that feeling well.

You can relate.

Do you follow top-level chess? Do you watch things like Titled Tuesday, or do you watch the Champions Chess Tour from time to time?

Sometimes I'll read about the matches and stuff like that, but I rarely sit down and watch them [live].

Any chance you read about them... in Chess Life?

Of course, the first place I turn is *Chess Life*.

Thank you.

I mostly start with the naughty ads at the back of the magazine.

It's just like The New York Review of Books in that respect.

Yes. Yes.

Everyone knows you for your famous portrayal of Dwight Schrute on "The Office." I do have to ask: Who would the Dunder-Mifflin office chess champion be?

I've got to go with Dwight. I mean, who would even come close? Jim wouldn't care enough. Maybe Andy, because of his Cornell education, might be a number two. But I think Dwight's diligence, persistence, and determination would overcome all challengers.

I did a little straw poll with people before [we started] and that was exactly the answer we all came up with.

Right on.

When I was looking at your IMDB page, I noticed you have gotten to play a lot of really iconic roles in your career. You've been on "Star Trek." You did the voice of Lex Luther, and of course, you have played Gargamel, which, as a kid from the 80s ... that was kind of a big thing when I saw that.

I wanted to ask if there was a character that you haven't gotten to play [yet], that would be a real

"bucket list" kind of role for you?

That's a great question. I haven't gotten to play a super villain. I mean, yes, I've voiced Lex Luther in the animated series, but I haven't gotten to really act like a Marvel villain, and I hope that one day that could be in the cards. That would be super fun. I don't know who that would even be. Probably some villain with a gigantic head.

Did you get to watch "The Queen's Gambit?" If so, what did you think of it?

I loved it. I watched it early on, just days after it dropped, and I was the one telling everyone, "You've got to watch this." I thought it was wonderful.

It was about chess, but it wasn't really about chess. It was really about genius and addiction, [and] I think that's why it worked. She could have been a world champion badminton player or a flautist, but she happened to play chess and it was great.

I actually was a big Walter Tevis fan from way back. As a nerdy kid, I'd read a lot of his books, including *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, which is one of my favorite books of all time, and which is also about addiction. I also loved [a science-fiction novel] he wrote called *Mockingbird*. It was really cool.

All right. Rainn, thank you for taking the time to talk to Chess Life, and I really hope we see you at the board one day.

Thanks. ♠



MAKE YOUR MOVE!

MAY 2021 | FM CARSTEN HANSEN

This month's puzzles are this month are back to being exclusively from online events.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. It is worth noting that "easy" is a relative term: if you are lower-rated or new to the game, the "easy" ones can also represent a challenge.

Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in one to two weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles, as you will only cheat yourself out of improving your game.

TACTIC I.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC II.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC III.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC IV.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC V.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VI.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC VII.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VIII.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC IX.



BLACK TO MOVE

POSITION 1: Welcome visitor
POSITION 2: Geometric moves
POSITION 3: Out of breathing holes

POSITION 4: Many loose pieces
POSITION 5: Surprisingly vulnerable
POSITION 6: Take away the guardians

POSITION 7: Finding a way through
POSITION 8: Weaknesses on all fronts
POSITION 9: Structural deficiencies



DENKER, JOE REINHARDT, AND STEINER MUG FOR THE CAMERA. PHOTO BY NANCY ROOS, COURTESY BRUCE MONSON.



DENKER DOES THE DOUBLE!

A look back at the **DENKER-STEINER MATCH** of 1946

IN MAY 1946 — 75 YEARS AGO — A MATCH FOR the U.S. Championship took place in Los Angeles, California. Combatants were the incumbent champion, 32-year-old New Yorker Arnold Denker and 41-year-old Herman Steiner of Hollywood.

Though they lived on opposite coasts, both players had started their chess careers in New York. Denker had been born into an Orthodox Jewish family in the Bronx in 1914, while Steiner, born 1905 in what was then Austria-Hungary, came to the USA at age 16. In their teens, both had been amateur boxers. Steiner was in the top ranks of American chess players by the late 1920s, playing on the 1928, 1930, and 1931 Olympiad teams. After they tied for 11th place in the first modern U.S. Championship tournament in 1936, each continued to rise, Denker placing equal sixth in 1940, equal third in 1942, and finally first in 1944, while Steiner finished fifth in 1942 and tied for third place in 1944.

Steiner had moved west in 1932, becoming chess editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, and turning the then “chess desert” of southern California into an oasis by founding the Hollywood Chess Group, which counted stars of stage and screen among its members. Their backing was instrumental in raising the \$5,000 Steiner needed to challenge Denker (nearly \$70,000 in today’s money).

While Denker won the 1944 championship with a formidable, undefeated 15½-1½ score, beating his closest rival, Reuben Fine, in their individual game,

By **TAYLOR KINGSTON**

some found his domination of a relatively weak wartime field unconvincing. Absent were Samuel Reshevsky and Isaac Kashdan, plus other contenders; instead, also-rans like Irving Chernev, who was better at writing about chess than playing it, and violinist Louis Persinger (who scored ½-16½), filled the slots. Denker was lucky to salvage wins against Weaver Adams and Aaron Rothman.

And Denker's post-1944 results were uneven. He was completely outclassed on board one in the 1945 USA-USSR radio match, losing twice to Mikhail Botvinnik, while Steiner scored 1½-½ on sixth board against Igor Bondarevsky. At Hastings 1945-46, the two, who roomed together at London's Savoy Hotel, had tied with Max Euwe for shared third place (7-4) behind Savielly Tartakower and Folke Ekstrom. Soon after, in a two-section London event, Steiner won his group 9-2 over Ossip Bernstein, Tartakower, Karel Opocensky, Harry Golombek *et al*, while Denker at 7-4 had finished only third in his, behind Euwe and Martin Christoffel. So, despite their career score so far being 3½-½ in Denker's favor, Steiner was optimistic going into the 10-game match on May 4, 1946. But that feeling was quickly shaken.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D35)

Herman Steiner
Arnold Denker
U.S. Ch match (1), Los Angeles, 1946

Notes in quotes here are by Denker, from his memoir *The Bobby Fischer I Knew and Other Stories*. Others are by the author, assisted by Stockfish.

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 e6 5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. cxd5 exd5 7. e3 Be7 8. Bd3

"More precise is 8. Qc2. The text move allows Black to free his game immediately."

8. ... Ne4 9. Bf4

The alternative 9. Bxe7 Qxe7 10. 0-0 offers only equality, as does 9. Bxe4 Bxg5 (and of course not 9. Nxe4?? dxe4). With his queen on c2 White could have played 9. Nxe4! dxe4 10. Qxe4.

9. ... Ndf6 10. Qc2 0-0!



Arnold Denker
Herman Steiner
Reuben Fine
Hoover Adams

Denker, Champion

Virtually a new-comer to the field of International Chess Masters, Arnold Denker achieved his first honors in New York, where he won the 1938 Championship; in 1942 he placed third in the United States title event, and in 1944 topped a field including such Masters as Reuben Fine, I. A. Horowitz, and Herman Steiner to win the United States Championship.

At the Hastings (England) Master's Tournament last year he placed third with Steiner and Dr. Euwe, former World's Champion; and at the London International Victory Tournament this year he placed third in his section. Born 1914 in New York City, Denker played his first game of chess against his older brothers in the lunchroom of Bronx Public School 78.

The current biography of Denker reveals his personality to be of extraordinary depth and structure. Subsequent to leaving New York University in his junior year, Denker "won three successive Golden Glove bouts by knockouts and a fourth by decision before he was out-pointed by George Brothers, "one of the greatest amateurs of the era" (Paul Gardner, New York City sports writer). Denker amply demonstrates achievement as an athlete and as an intellectual. Denker's rating as an amateur philologist is the more enlightening discovery of a boxer, a football player, a Chess Master, and a philologist all combined in a single personality.

At present Denker owns and operates a successful New York City exporting firm. Denker and his wife, Nina, live in Forest Hills with their five year old boy, Richard. Mrs. Denker is the former stage, screen and radio protegee of the Marx Brothers.

Photo by Murray Roth

"On this move and the next, Black offers a pawn sacrifice that cannot be accepted." Denker gives 11. Bxe4 Nxe4 12. Nxe4 dxe4 13. Qxe4 Qa5+ 14. Nd2 Bb4 15. Qc2 c5 16. dxc5 b6, "when Black gets a powerful attack no matter how White wiggles." The pawn sac should indeed not be accepted, but Denker's analysis has errors.

Here, White does wiggle out with 17. 0-0! Bxd2 18. a3 Qxc5 19. Qxd2. And back a move, better than 16. dxc5 is 16. d5! Rd8 17. e4 Qa6 18. f3. To refute the pawn grab, Black must vary earlier, with 13. ... g5! 14. Be5 f6 15. Bg3 f5 16. Qe5 f4 17. exf4 g4 18. Nd2 Bf6 19. Qh5 Qxd4 20. Rd1 Qd3 and White, with his king stuck in the middle and his queenside vulnerable, is in serious trouble.

11. 0-0 Bd6 12. Bxd6 Nxd6 13. Ne5 g6 14. Rae1

"Herman opts for a kingside demonstration, whereas he ought to try a minority attack with b2-b4, a2-a4 and an eventual b4-b5." But the text is decent if followed up properly.

14. ... Bf5 15. Ne2?!

More consistent would be 15. Bxf5 Nxf5 16. f3 (intending 17. g4), when the hoped-for kingside demonstration would get under way.

15. ... Bxd3 16. Qxd3 Nd7 17. Ng3 Re8 18. f4?!

"Herman heeds the injunction about never striking at the king unless intending to kill him. In this position, however, he ought to leave the King alone and attend to the Queenside where the game will be decided." True!

18. ... f5 19. Qb3 Kg7

Preventing 20. e4.

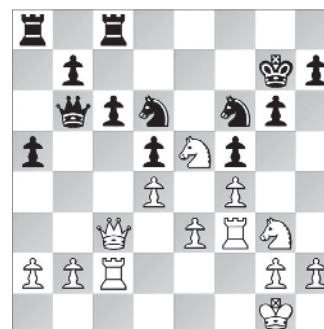
20. Re2 Nf6 21. Rf3?!

In his memoir, Denker wrote, "Herman probably holds the all-time record for playing Rook lifts to the third rank with the intention of sliding the piece over to the kingside. Most of us understood what he had in mind and countered victoriously on the queenside."

21. ... Qb6! 22. Qc3

If 22. Qxb6? axb6 23. a3 Ra5 intending ... Rb5-b3 with a lasting bind and pressure.

22. ... Rec8 23. Rc2 a5



24. Nf1?

Wrong square! Correct was 24. Ne2, when if Black continues as in the game with 24. ... Nde4 25. Qe1 c5 26. dxc5 Rxc5 27. Rxc5 Qxc5, then 28. Nd4! with equality.

24. ... Nde4 25. Qe1?

From bad to worse. 25. Qa3 was the least evil.

25. ... c5!

Steiner, Challenger

An International Tournament player since 1928, Herman Steiner won in 1929 the New York State Championship, the Hastings (England) Tournament; in 1931 top honors at Berlin; and tied first place in Mexico City (1935) and the National Open at Dallas (1942).

Steiner rescued the 1945 American Chess Team from complete defeat at the hands of the Russians, and this year captured top honors at the London International Victory Tournament.

One of the world's leading International Masters, Dr. S. G. Tartakover, characterized Steiner as a "devil-may-care opponent". In reporting his brilliant play against the Russians, the national chess magazine, *CHESS REVIEW*, described Steiner as "fun-loving, jovial, gregarious".

Born in Czechoslovakia, April 15, 1905, Steiner played his first game of chess in New York at the age of six years.

Steiner has been Chess Editor of the Los Angeles *TIMES* fourteen years. He is Vice-President of the United States Chess Federation, Vice-President and Treasurer of the California State Chess Association and holder of the 1946 California State Championship. At present Steiner is professionally engaged in teaching chess at his Hollywood Studio, utilizing a specialized visual method synthesized from twenty-two years as a Chess Master.

Steiner is married to the former concert pianist, Selma Siegelman of Los Angeles and is father of two boys, Eugene eight and Armin twelve years of age.

Photo by Nancy Roos



THE PROGRAM FOR THE 1946 MATCH, SEEN HERE, FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHS BY NANCY ROOS OF BOTH THE CHAMPION AND THE CHALLENGER. THIS VERSION, USED COURTESY OF CHESSDRYAD.COM, FEATURES SIGNATURES OF THE PLAYERS, MATCH REFEREE REUBEN FINE, AND WEAVER ADAMS. SEEN ABOVE IS ACTRESS LILLI PALMER.

"The decisive line-opening. White's King Rook will be sorely missed from the real scene of operations."

26. dxc5 Rxc5 27. Rxc5 Qxc5 28. Qh4?

Hope springs eternal, but this should only hasten the end.

28. ... d4

Strongest was 28. ... Qc1!, threatening both 29. ... Qxb2 or 29. ... Re8 and 30. ... Nd2.

29. exd4?

Relatively best was 29. Qe1, but Steiner doubtless was loath to reverse himself.

29. ... Qxd4+ 30. Kh1 Rc8

Again not best. Crushing was 30. ... Qd1! 31. Kg1 Rc8 32. Rd3 Qe2 33. Re3 Qxb2 etc.

31. Nd3 Rc2?

This almost lets White back into the game. Better was 31. ... Qa4! when the queenside cannot be defended, *i.e.* 32. a3? Qd1.

32. Qe1! Ng4 33. h3 Ngf2+ 34. Nxf2 Rxf2



35. Rb3

Probably best was 35. Rxf2, when Black must avoid 35. ... Nxf2+? 36. Kh2 Qxf4+ 37. g3 Qd4 38. Qe7+ Kh6 39. Qf8+ with a draw. If instead 35. ... Qxf2 36. Qc1 h5 Stockfish indicates Black can probably win, but the process will be long and difficult.

35. ... b6 36. Qc1??

The losing move. Least bad was 36. Ng3 Nxc3+ 37. Rxc3 Qxf4 38. Kh2 with slim drawing chances.

36. ... a4! 37. Ra3 b5! 38. Kh2 Qxb2 39. Qc7+ Kh6 40. Qe7 Rxc2+ 41. Kh1 Qf2, White resigned.

This hard-fought game was followed by a fiasco:

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D64)

Arnold Denker
Herman Steiner

U.S. Ch match (2), Los Angeles, 1946

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 Be7 5. Bg5 0-0 6. e3 Nbd7 7. Rc1 c6 8. Qc2 a6

Somewhat unusual. Capablanca used to play 8. ... dxc4 9. Bxc4 Nd5 10. Bxe7 Qxe7 with equality.

9. Bd3 b5?!

Extremely unusual; in fact, ChessBase shows no other game with this move. Better 9. ... dxc4 10. Bxc4 b5 11. Bd3 Bb7 intending 12. ... c5.



10. cxd5 cxd5

Worse is 10. ... exd5, leaving the c-pawn backward on an open file. And of course not 10. ... Nxd5? 11. Bxe7 Qxe7 12. Bxh7+.

11. a4 b4 12. Ne2 h6 13. Bf4



13. ... Ne8??

A terrible blunder, cutting off the f8-rook from defense of the c8-bishop. Instead 13. ... Qb6 was fairly even.

14. Qc6!

If now 14. ... Ra7 15. Qxc8. Steiner could

have resigned here, but played on another 17 futile moves.

14. ... e5 15. Qxa8 Nb6 16. Rxc8 Nxc8 17. Nxe5 Nc7 18. Qc6 Bd6 19. Qd7 Qxd7 20. Nxd7 Rd8 21. Bxd6 Nxd6 22. Nc5 a5 23. b3 f5 24. h4 g6 25. Nf4 Kf7 26. g4 Ne4 27. gxf5 gxf5 28. Bxe4 dxe4 29. Rg1 Rd6 30. h5 Rd8 31. Nb7, Black resigned.

After a draw in game three, Steiner once again courted disaster in the opening. Introducing this game in the June-July 1946 *Chess Review*, Fred Reinfeld wrote, "Eager to improve his score, Steiner plays very aggressively against Denker's craftily chosen Reti Opening. This ultra-positional line of play completely nullifies Black's feverish efforts. Denker easily wards off the complications, consolidates his position and remains a healthy pawn to the good."

RÉTI OPENING (A14)

Arnold Denker
Herman Steiner
U.S. Ch match (4), Los Angeles, 1946

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 Be7 4. Bg2 0-0 5. b3 d5 6. Bb2 a5

As in Levenfish-Bogolyubov, Moscow 1924; Rabinovich-Marshall, Moscow 1925; and by Steiner himself against Fine in a 1932 match. Black scored two wins and a draw in those games, but I suspect Denker had prepared.

7. 0-0 a4 8. bxa4

As in Rabinovich-Marshall. Levenfish played 8. d3, Fine 8. d4.

8. ... Bd7?!

Another Steiner novelty never seen before or since. Marshall played the much better 8.

... Nbd7, eventually recovering his pawn and winning. The text misplaces the bishop and leaves Black vulnerable on the a8-h1 diagonal.

9. Nc3 Ne4?

Already Black had no good move. The least evil was perhaps 9. ... dxc4 10. Ne5 Nd5.

10. cxd5 Nxc3 11. Bxc3



11. ... Bxa4

If 11. ... exd5 12. Qb1 and either 12. ... Ra7 13. Qb2 g6 14. a5 retaining the a-pawn with positional superiority, or 12. ... b6 13. a5 bxa5 14. Qb2 f6 15. Nd4 c6 16. Qb7 Ra6 17. Rab1 and Black is tied up in knots.

12. Qb1 exd5 13. Qxb7 Nc6 14. Ne5 Qd6

No better is 14. ... Nxe5 15. Bxe5 c6 16. Qb2.

15. Nxc6 Bxc6

If 15. ... Qxc6? 16. Bxd5.

16. Qb1

The dust has settled with White up a passed a-pawn, but a lot of work lies ahead to secure a win.

16. ... Ra4 17. e3 Rfa8 18. Qb2 f6 19. Rf1 Qe6?

Better 19. ... Qd8 20. Qb3 Ra3 21. Qb1 Be8 22. Bb4 Bxb4 23. Qxb4 c6.

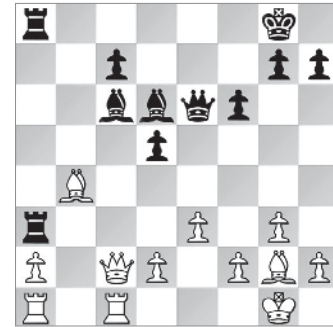
20. Qb3!

Threatening 21. Be5! R4a5 (if 21. ... fxe5?? 22. Rxc6 Qxc6 23. Bxd5+) 22. Bxc7.

20. ... Ra3 21. Qc2 Bd6

Or 21. ... Ba4 22. Qd3 c6 23. Rcb1.

22. Bb4!



22. ... R3a6?

Relatively best was 22. ... Bxb4 23. Qxc6 Qxc6 24. Rxc6 Kf8 25. Bxd5, when with opposite-color bishops and all rooks still on board, Black might have drawing chances.

23. Qb3!

Now serious material loss is unavoidable.

23. ... Bxb4

Alternatives are no better: if 23. ... Kf8 24. Rxc6 Rxc6 25. Bxd5 wins, or if 23. ... Bb7 24. Bxd6 Qxd6 25. Qxb7 wins, or 23. ... Ba4 24. Qxd5 Qxd5 25. Bxd5+ and wins.

24. Rxc6! Qe7 25. Bxd5+ Kh8 26. Rxc7

Not strongest (26. a4!), but a reasonable way to simplify.

26. ... Qxc7 27. Bxa8 Bxd2 28. Bd5 g6??

Any remaining hope lay in 28. ... Rb6.

29. Qd3

Attacking rook and bishop.

29. ... Qa5

If 29. ... Bc3 30. Rc1 Ra3 31. Bb3.

30. Qe4 Qd8 31. Rd1 Qc7 32. Qd3, Black resigned.

This put Denker up 3½-½. Steiner did manage a laborious win in game five, but the rest were drawn. Thus Denker kept his title with a score of +3 -1 =6. However, he held it only about six months longer. Reshevsky utterly dominated the 1946 Championship with a fantastic score of 16-2, ending three and



DENKER'S 1946 ADVERTISEMENT FOR CAMEL CIGARETTES, SHOWN HERE FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES ONLY. COURTESY "TARTAJUBOW."



DENKER AT HOME.
PHOTOGRAPH BY HENRY
FISCHNER, FROM THE US
CHESS ARCHIVES.

a half point ahead of the field. Denker finished in shared fifth place, and Steiner took seventh.

Around this time, Kenneth Harkness glowingly described Denker as “Tall, athletic, talkative, friendly, brimful of energy and radiating good health, eminently photogenic ... the answer to a press agent’s prayer,” but those attributes somehow did not translate into financial success in post-World War II America. Winning the U.S. title brought Denker “a barrage of unusual business offers ... One of the strangest was to become president of the Southern Nevada Disposal Service, a beautifully named garbage company.” He declined on learning it was Mafia-controlled. “Another proposal came from a chicken farmer ... There were other offers and endorsements ... [but] all came to naught.” Not quite all — Denker did lend himself to a magazine ad for Camel cigarettes!

In August 1946, both Denker and Steiner went to Groningen, Holland, as the U.S. representatives in the first great post-World War II tournament. Botvinnik, soon to be World Champion, finished first, just ahead of former champion Euwe, followed by Vasily Smyslov, Miguel Najdorf, László Szabó, Salo Flohr, Isaac Boleslavsky, and 13 others. The Americans finished well back, Denker sharing 11th place with Tartakower (though he did draw with Botvinnik), and Steiner in 18th. But there may have been extra-curricular reasons for Denker’s poor showing.

Before leaving, Denker had been contacted

by a Mr. Koback, a Russian émigré from Tuapse who claimed to have helped aristocrats flee the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. In the process, Koback had amassed a cache of gold and jewels that he had hurriedly abandoned when the Communists found him out. Knowing Denker would soon go to Moscow for another USA-USSR team match, Koback asked his help in recovering the treasure. Denker agreed, but says that in Holland, “All I could think about was how to approach the Soviets with my secret.”

Enter Salo Flohr, by then a Soviet citizen,

**“All I could think
about was **HOW**
TO APPROACH
THE SOVIETS WITH
MY SECRET.”**

whom Denker befriended at Groningen. He writes, “It soon seemed natural that I should reveal the secret to Salo. To my astonishment, he was not even slightly surprised and acted as if the matter were routine. He promised to arrange a meeting in Moscow with the relevant government people.”

To make a long story short, Denker left matters in Flohr’s hands and departed Moscow after the match (won by the USSR 12½-7½, with Denker going 0-2 vs. Smyslov and

Steiner ½-1½ vs. Flohr). But Flohr later cabled that the quest failed. Denker never saw one kopek. “Such a sad ending to what promised to be a pot of gold at the end of my personal rainbow! Still, I soon got used to idea of working for a living and forgot about the crushing episode.” Denker later suspected Flohr actually had recovered some treasure, concocting an elaborate ruse to hide the fact. But that tale is outside our scope; interested readers are referred to Denker’s memoir.

After 1946 Denker and Steiner had variable results. Steiner finally won the U.S. Championship in 1948, a half-point ahead of Kashdan; absent were perennial contenders Reshevsky, Fine, Israel Horowitz, Albert Pinkus, and Denker. Steiner’s best international results were shared fifth at Venice 1950, equal second at Madrid 1951, second place at Reggio Emilia 1951, and third at

Hollywood 1952. That year he mounted one last match challenge for the U.S. title, but lost badly to Larry Evans by a score of +2 -8 =2. He did score a respectable 50% in the 1952 Interzonal, including draws against five of the top seven: GMs Alexander Kotov, Tigran Petrosian, Efim Geller, Gideon Stahlberg, and Szabó. He remained popular with the Hollywood glitterati, kept promoting chess, and enjoyed life. But that life was cut short by a heart attack in 1955.

Denker fared badly in 1948, ending nearly last at Mar del Plata, seven points behind winner Erich Eliskases, and a winless ninth out of 10 at New York, six points behind Fine, the only consolation being that Steiner was a half-point behind him. Still, based on earlier accomplishments, both he and Steiner were among the first recipients of the FIDE International Master title in 1950.

After 1948, Denker withdrew from high-level chess for several years, concentrating on his business career as an executive in a friend’s meat-packing company. He was quite successful, taking it from \$900,000 per year in sales to \$38 million by the time he left in 1974. Though he had missed out on the pot of Russian gold, he created his own by honest hard work, and retired a wealthy man.

This gave him the leisure and means to return to chess, not just as a player, but also as an organizer, administrator, teacher, promoter, sponsor, and benefactor. He became manager of the Manhattan Chess Club in 1972. He served as a member of the board of directors

A chess expert, standing in the company of a heavy-handed, knock-out old professional who gets all tangled up with colorful as he works out mathematical formulas he never loses over each move. To right chess, Arnold Denker is a chess master. CHESS REVIEW, under the pen name Paul Gardner, whose articles have appeared in *Laborer*, *The World*, *Weekly*, *New York Times Magazine* and other publications, in interview Arnold Denker and present the substance of the new U.S. Chess Champion.



Denker makes with the eyes as she poses with her famous husband.

The free-swinging gait, the powerful body, the fair-haired exuberance of Arnold Sheldon Denker might lead the casual onlooker to judge him for anything but what he is—chess champion of the United States. If you see him jabbing the heavy bag you would say that this man had some boxing; if you watched him high jumping you would declare that he had escaped in track and field; and if you spotted him swinging a bat you would remark that Denker had played good baseball. And you would be right in all these things well. And he can also play chess—the moment, better than anybody in the United States.

There have been gifted American champions—the brilliant, short-lived Morphy, astute Frank Marshall, Samuel Rosenthal, non-defending professor of Denker's—no question, some of the outstanding protagonists. But in appearance they were mere representative of chess, in the common conception, than Denker. If



Denker swings a mean baseball bat, once aspired to be a Babe Ruth. He has a passion for all sports, was three successive Golden Glove batters by knockouts, played fullback on class team at NYU.

he has a passion for all sports, he once aspired to be a Babe Ruth, he was a crackjack fullback on a class team at New York University, and—oh well, he wound up as the chess champion of the United States. Arnold Denker, born in New York City in 1914, attended P. S. 70 in the Bronx where, as a center, his athletic proficiencies merited him a place on the varsity basketball team. He went to Theodore Roosevelt High School and the first thing you know he was pitching for the fall team. There came a glorious disappointment. Other fellows were being scouted by major league baseball clubs and Denker was overlooked. He wanted to be selected in a hurry. In a dejected mood he wandered into the Theodore Roosevelt High School lunch room one afternoon and spied two boys playing chess. New Denker had learned the moves of chess by remote control. At the age of eight he had observed his older brothers playing, day in and day out. Although shunted aside by chess, Denker had seen enough to know the rudiments. Thus he challenged the pair in the lunch room to a game, was wagering a huge nickel on the outcome. Denker lost. But out he determined future champion came in lack for more. By the close of the term, he never had to worry about earning his caffeine. After graduation from Theodore Roosevelt High School, Denker worked for Paramount Publicity in New York University. He left N. Y. and U. in his junior year to go into business. While working in the Paramount office, Denker had tried his hand at amateur boxing. He won three successive Golden Glove bouts by knockouts and a fourth by decision before he was outboxed by George Brothers, one of the greatest amateurs of the era. The next season Denker was actually managing and refereeing an amateur welter-weight. You still could not force in him the future American chess champion, could you? But Arnold was now a chess enthusiast of the first water. As far back as in 1922, Denker achieved many excellent victories. He had joined the Manhattan Chess Club and employed with vigor. His game was all too dynamic for character. Initially, Denker pulled no punches. He missed for heavy early attacks and all-out offensives in the middle but, and, all too often, he had not provided for the niceties of the endgame. It was only when Denker, 200, or a lack of wind, Normal human beings play chess and many more are joining the parade to the game which has been called "the game of war" for its mental challenge. He would like to spread the gospel of the game everywhere. His name, Denker, means thinker. And that is what he is, as stoic-hearted rivals like Fina, Horowitz and other chess masters will attest. But Denker is more than a mere thinker. He is the kind of a guy to have on your side in a brawl, especially when the going gets tough. The presence of Denker would certainly be an advertisement for the game anywhere. Versatile, all-around athlete that he is, he loves chess both for its recreational value and for its mental challenge. He would like to spread the gospel of the game everywhere. His name, Denker, means thinker. And that is what he is, as stoic-hearted rivals like Fina, Horowitz and other chess masters will attest. But Denker is more than a mere thinker. He is the kind of a guy to have on your side in a brawl, especially when the going gets tough. The presence of Denker would certainly be an advertisement for the game anywhere. Versatile, all-around athlete that he is, he loves chess both for its recreational value and for its mental challenge. He would like to spread the gospel of the game everywhere. His name, Denker, means thinker. And that is what he is, as stoic-hearted rivals like Fina, Horowitz and other chess masters will attest. But Denker is more than a mere thinker. He is the kind of a guy to have on your side in a brawl, especially when the going gets tough. 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The presence of Denker would certainly be an advertisement for the

THE NEW CHAMP WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN AMAZING PHOTO SHOOT AS PART OF THIS 1944 PROFILE BY PAUL GARDNER IN CHESS REVIEW.



Denker loves chess, plays it with gusto and enthusiasm, has been his own audience in his own ability. Here he poses with a trophy presented to him by H. A. Dittmer of Salt Lake City.

MEET ARNOLD DENKER

A profile of the United States Chess Champion
by PAUL GARDNER
with exclusive photographs by George Miller

for US Chess, and as the USA's FIDE Zonal president from 1983-1991. He was heavily involved in teaching chess to children. In 1984, he began the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, an annual invitational event bringing together teen state champions from all over the country. It continues to this day, probably his most lasting legacy. [Today the tournament is called the GM Arnold Denker Tournament of High School State Champions. ~ed.]

Denker played little from 1949 to 1968. In the 1955 Manhattan Chess Club Championship he scored 10-5 to finish fourth. In the 1957 U.S. Championship he shared sixth place with Arthur Feuerstein and Edmar Mednis, behind Fischer (his first U.S. Championship win), Reshevsky, James Sherwin, William Lombardy and Hans Berliner. In the 1959-60 event, though, he finished second-to-last, and again he withdrew from chess for almost 10 years.

But starting in 1969, Denker became very active, playing, as Larry Parr put it in the March 2005 *Chess Life*, "like a congenial, though competitive country squire riding to hounds." He entered major open tournaments all over the USA, including the prestigious masters-only Lone Pine events. He also participated in several international events: the Hoogovens B-section at Wijk aan Zee in 1971 and '72, Gausdal 1984, Baleares 1989, and, in 1996, a Golden Anniversary reunion of all the surviving players from Groningen 1946: GM Daniel Yanofsky (age 71), IM Martin Christoffel (73), Smyslov (75), Szabó (79), Denker (82), GM Carlos Guimard (83), and Najdorf (86). Denker scored 1½-1½, losing to Najdorf but drawing with Smyslov and beating Yanofsky.

Denker displayed more than an academic interest in the results at Belmont. Yes, here was a new American chess champion of diversified talents indeed. If the many-sidedness of Denker were better known, America would boast of more than the 3,000,000 chess players who are at present. For this 200-pound New Yorker, who once reached the quarter-finals of the Bronx Golden Gloves, is the antithesis of the public fancy of a chess player. He is not a greybeard, he is not myopic, knock-kneed or

Denker's book, *The Bobby Fischer I Knew and Other Stories* (Hypermodern Press, 1995), co-written with Parr, ranks as perhaps the most engaging, informative, colorful, and entertaining book ever written about chess players. Major and minor figures, from grandmasters to street hustlers, come to vivid life in its 359 pages. Denker was awarded an honorary GM title in 1981. He was inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 1992, and in 2004, the year before his death, he became only the third person (after Hermann Helms and George Koltanowski) to be named "Dean of American Chess." Truly, a life well lived, and of great benefit to chess. We conclude with one of his later games:

BENONI DEFENSE (A75)

GM Arnold Denker (2295)
Maurice Ashley (2415)
New York Open 1989

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. d5 e6 4. c4 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6

Of course not 6. ... Nxe4?? 7. Qa4+.

7. Nc3 Bg7 8. Be2 0-0 9. 0-0 a6 10. a4 Bg4 11. Nd2 Bxe2 12. Qxe2 Nbd7 13. Nc4 Nb6 14. Ne3 Re8 15. a5 Nbd7 16. Nc4

Denker knows latter-day theory. This position first occurred in Ivkov-Hug, Sao Paulo 1973. Black now varies from most earlier games.

16. ... Qc7 17. Bf4 Bf8 18. Qf3 Nh5 19. Bd2 Ne5 20. Nxe5 Rxe5 21. g4 Ng7 22. Na4 Rae8 23. Rfe1 Qe7 24. Nc3 f5 25. exf5 gxf5 26. Rxe5 Qxe5 27. Ra4!

Beginning a Steiner-style rook lift to the kingside!

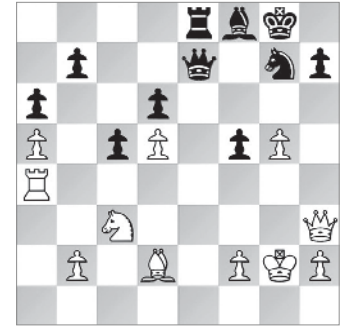
27. ... Re7

Good if followed up correctly. Not 27. ... fxf4? 28. Rxf4 with a winning attack.

28. g5 Re7?

Black reverses himself. Consistent and logical was 28. ... Rf7.

29. Kg2 Qe7 30. Qh3!



30. ... Qd7??

Cracking under the pressure. Any remaining hope lay in 30. ... Qd8, and if 31. Rh4 Be7 32. Qg3 (32. Rxf7?? Bxf7 is equal) 32. ... Rf8 33. Ne2 Rf7, with some chance of survival.

31. Rh4! Kf7 32. Rxf7 Ke7 33. Ne2

One of many ways to win.

33. ... Kd8 34. Nf4 Qa4 35. Qc3 Kc8 36. Rxf7 Bxf7 37. Qxf7 Kb8 38. Qf6 Qd1 39. Qc3, Black resigned.

A fine victory over a future grandmaster. ♠



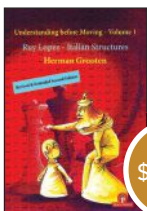
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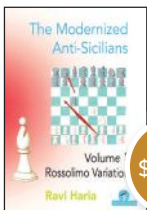


by Herman Grooten

If you play either the Ruy Lopez (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5) or the Italian Game (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5) and you sometimes struggle to understand the pawn structure and find good plans, this book is for you! The book breaks down both openings, discusses the fundamental ideas, pawn structures, and provides thorough overviews of both openings using plenty of explanations and model games. In this new edition, the author has added exercises and solutions to boost the understanding.

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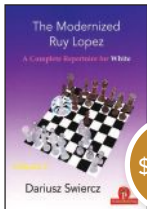


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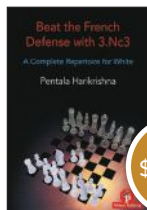


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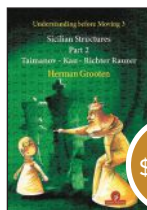


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by Herman Grooten

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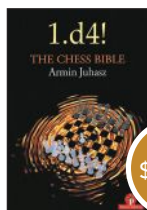


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In this book, the author aims to provide a complete 1.d4 repertoire against five of Black's main openings: King's Indian Defense, Grünfeld Defense, Slav Defense, Benoni Defense, and Catalan Opening. The book offers analysis of classical games, covers typical tactical motifs to enhance the understanding of the associated middlegames. Finally, one chapter dives into typical endgames that can arise from White's repertoire choices.

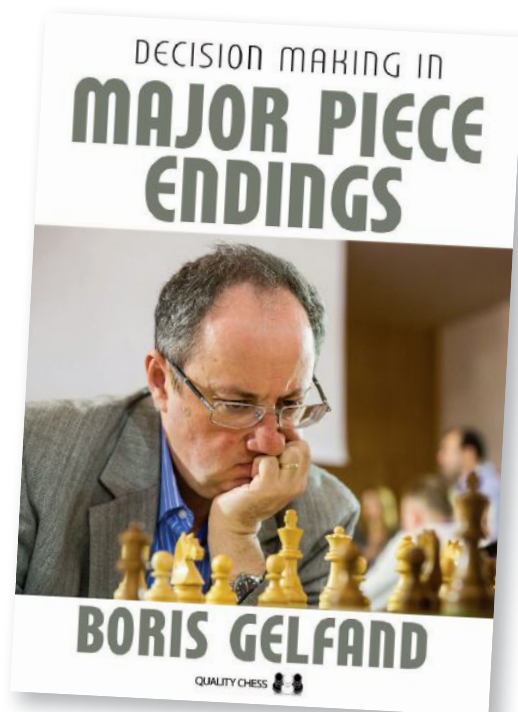
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Nuances in Rook Endgames

A deep dive into endgame theory with one of the world's elite

By **GM BORIS GELFAND** with assistance from GM Daniele Vocaturo & GM Jacob Aagaard



<p>TABIYA 1</p> <p>DRAW WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>	<p>TABIYA 2</p> <p>WHITE WINS WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>	<p>TABIYA 3</p> <p>DRAW WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>	<p>TABIYA 4</p> <p>WHITE WINS WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>
<p>TABIYA 5</p> <p>MUTUAL ZUGZWANG</p>	<p>TABIYA 6</p> <p>WHITE WINS WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>	<p>TABIYA 7</p> <p>DRAW WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>	<p>TABIYA 8</p> <p>WHITE WINS WHOEVER IS TO MOVE</p>

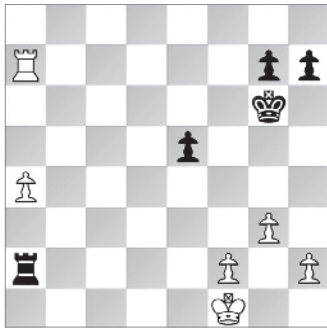
Above: This article is based around a number of connected “Tabiya” positions. “Tabiyas” are specific positions with special theoretical relevance in openings or endgames. The eight positions above are referenced in the text of the article, and are given here for ease of reference. ~ed.

Last year, I published two books, written together with GM Jacob Aagaard, discussing decision making in the endgame. The core of the books is drawn from my own games and especially the nuances that emerged when analyzing the games deeply. Some readers have found the depth of the analysis a bit overwhelming, which is to be expected from such complex material. Why did we go into such detail? It was unavoidable: the nuances in the positions are what we found the most interesting and helpful. In place of an abstract approach to decision making in endings, where small nuances will make all the difference, we wanted to show how these nuances occur and work in games at the highest level.

At the end of the second book, *Decision Making in Major Piece Endings*, we included twelve rook endgame exercises. One of them was from the following game:

THE KEY POSITION

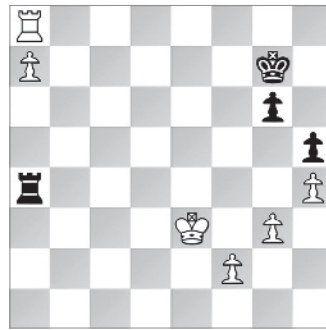
IM Vladimir Belov
GM Mikhail Kobalia
St. Petersburg, 2001



WHITE TO MOVE

The game continued:

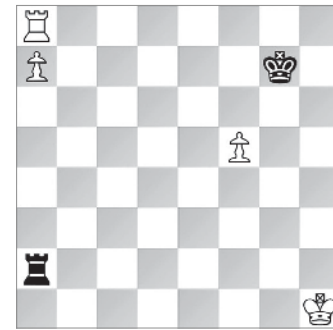
45. h4 h5 46. a5 Kf6 47. a6 e4 48. Ra8 g6
49. a7 Kg7 50. Ke1 Ra5 51. Kd2 Ra3 52.
Kc2 Ra5 53. Kc3 Ra1 54. Kd4 Ra4+ 55.
Ke3 Kh7 56. Kf4 e3+ 57. Kxe3 Kg7



Belov tried for about 30 moves before giving his opponent the draw.

For sake of reference, let's call this position **Tabiya 1**, so we shall remember it for later. **The position is entirely drawn.** The problem is that White can only create a second passed position on the g-file or the h-file.

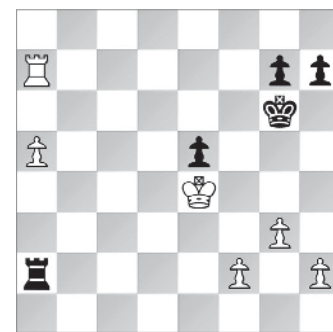
The main method to win the endgame when the a-pawn has advanced to a7 is to give a check with a passed f-pawn, as can be seen in **Tabiya 2**.



WHITE TO MOVE

White is entirely winning, as the f-pawn will advance up the board and check the black king. The black rook cannot leave the a-file, as Ra8-b8 would win on the spot. And once 1. f6+ comes, Black will either be checked on the eighth rank after 1. ... Kxf6 2. Rf8+ and the extra tempo allows White to queen the pawn. Or after 1. ... Kf7 there is 2. Rh8! Rxa7 3. Rh7+ and 4. Rxa7, a classic trick.

Returning to the first diagram, the start of Belov – Kobalia, in *Decision Making in Major Piece Endings*, we gave the following line: 45. a5 Ra1+ 46. Ke2 Ra2+ 47. Ke3 Ra3+ 48. Ke4 Ra2 leading to the instructive exercise.



WHITE TO MOVE AND WIN!

If you want to see the solution, you either have to work it out yourself, check things with a computer, or — my recommendation — buy the book!

While the exercise is fully correct, Black's checks from moves 45-47 do nothing to help his defensive prospects, as pointed out by Italian GM Daniele Vocaturo. The following analysis of this endgame is based on his excellent analysis.

In the book we failed to look at 45. ... e4!, which is clearly the best move from a practical consideration. This leads us to our starting position of the analysis. For measures of simplicity, we shall “restart the clock” so to speak, by starting on move one and approaching this position as the starting point of a purely theoretical investigation.

LEFT: GM BORIS GELFAND AT THE LEVITOV CHESS WEEK EVENT IN AMSTERDAM (2019). PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES.



LEFT: GM DANIELE VOCATURO AT THE 2019 SUNWAY SITGES TOURNAMENT IN BARCELONA, SPAIN. PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES.

resigned. N. Kosintseva – Kosteniuk, Kazan 2012.

10. Kc3 Ra4 11. Kb3 Ra1 12. Kc4 Ra5 13. Kd4 Ra4+ 14. Kd5 Kg6 15. Ke6 Ra5

15. ... Ra6+? would lose, but 15. ... Ra3 transposes.

16. h4

It is quite a committal decision to advance the h-pawn, but inevitably, making progress is difficult for White.

16. Kd6!? could be a decent try. Black has only three moves that hold the draw, all centered on preparing for White's main threats.



(a) **16. ... Ra1? 17. Ke5! Ra4 18. Kf4!** This is an important *zugzwang* position. If Black plays **18. ... h5**, we return to our main line. And after **18. ... Kh7 19. Kf5 Ra2 20. Kxe4**

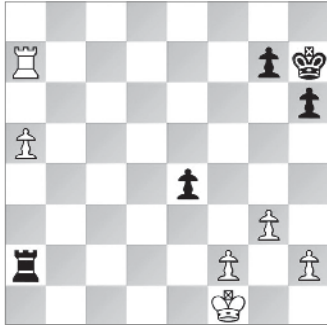


White is winning. There is no defense against the idea of f2-f4, g3-g4, f4-f5 (after ... Kg6-h7), h3-h4, g4-g5 and inevitably, g5-g6+. Creating a passed f-pawn also wins. If the white h-pawn was on h4, Black would make the draw with ... h6-h5.

(b) **16. ... Kh7? 17. Kc6! Ra1 18. Kd5 Ra4 19. Ke5** transposes to 16. ... Ra1?.

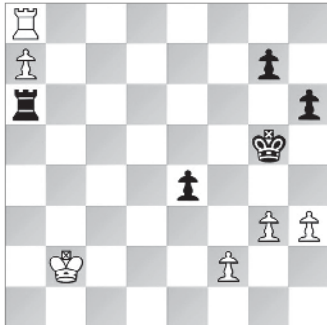
(c) Black can hold with **16. ... Ra4**, the very mysterious **16. ... Kh5**, which no one would play, and the natural **16. ... Ra3**, with the idea that **17. Ke5** is met with **17. ... e3!**. And after **17. Kd5 Ra4 18. Ke5 Kg5!**

PAWNS ON g3 AND h2



WHITE TO MOVE

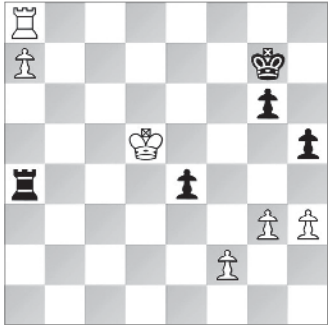
1. h3 Kg6 2. a6 Kf6 3. Ra8 Kg5 4. a7!? Kh5 5. Ke1 Kg5 6. Kd1 Kh5 7. Kc1 Kg5 8. Kb1 Ra6 9. Kb2



9. ... Kh5!

A good waiting move. It is important to know that **Black should not weaken his pawn structure prematurely:**

9. ... h5? 10. Kc3 Ra4 transposes into a game between two of the strongest female grandmasters of all time. As usual White wins the e-pawn. **11. Kb3 Ra1 12. Kc4 Ra4+ 13. Kc5 Ra1 14. Kd5 Ra4 15. Ke5 Kg6 16. Kf4 Kh7 17. Kf5 g6+ 18. Ke5 Kg7 19. Kd5**

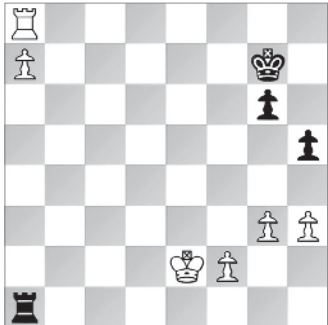


This is **Tabiya 4**. Black is in *zugzwang*, but it is not mutual *zugzwang*, as White can always triangulate with the king.

19. ... Ra1

(Kosteniuk gave up the e-pawn, rather than playing **19. ... Kh7**, when the direct way to win after **20. Kc6 Ra1 21. Rd8! Rxa7 22. Rd7+ Rxd7 23. Kxd7 Kg7 24. Ke6** is one we shall see a number of times below.)

20. Kxe4 Re1+ 21. Kd3 Rd1+ 22. Ke2 Ra1



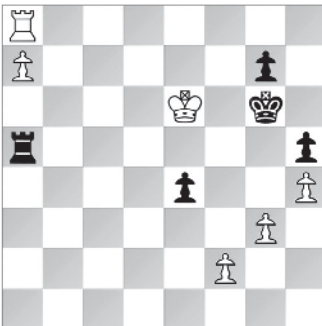
Because the h-pawn is on h3, White is able to create a passed pawn on the f-file, and win with f5-f6+ as we have seen in **Tabiya 2**.

23. f4 Ra3 24. g4 h4 25. f5 Ra2+ 26. Kd3 Ra3+ 27. Kc4 gxf5 28. gxf5 Ra4+, Black



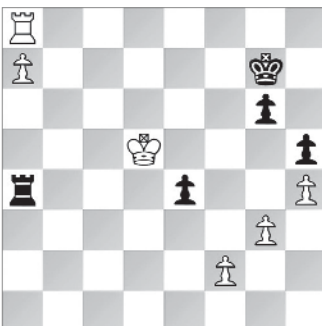
Black makes the draw by preventing White from accessing the f4-square. This position is **Tabiya 5**. The interesting thing about it is that it is mutual *zugzwang*. Neither player can keep the harmony of the position if forced to make a move. Here, as it is White to play, Black draws: **19. h4+ Kg4!** and so on.

16. ... h5!



Daniele calls this the Morozevich position. We shall call it **Tabiya 3**. Black holds.

17. Kd6 Kh7 18. Kc6 Ra2 19. Kd5 Ra4 20. Ke5 Kg6 21. Kf4 Kh7 22. Kf5 g6+ 23. Ke5 Kg7 24. Kd5



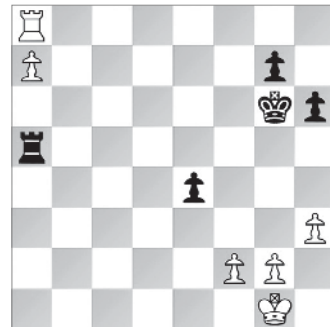
24. ... Ra5+!

After **24. ... Kh7?** **25. Kc6!** **Ra1** **26. Rd8 Rxa7 27. Rd7+ Black** resigned in Grodzensky – Muttoni, corr. 1999. After **27. ... Rxd7 28. Kxd7**, if the black king were on g7, he would make a draw with **28. ... Kf6!** **29. Kd6 g5!** as a later **... e4-e3!** will weaken the g-pawn and lead to a draw.

25. Kd6 Ra6+ 26. Ke5 Ra5+ 27. Kxe4 Ra4+

We have returned to **Tabiya 1**. After another 35 moves, a draw was agreed in Knazovcik – Svanda, Moravia 2003.

THE PAWN IS ON g2



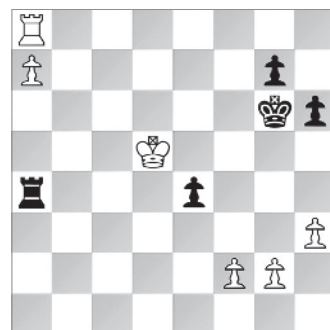
Daniele took the analysis a step further, as any true seeker would do, by retreating the g-pawn to g2. This is a natural thought experiment once you see the importance of the position of the h-pawn. After this several wins emerge.

1. Kf1!

Obviously, this is the only move anyone would play.

But it is worth observing that if it was Black to play, he could make an immediate draw with **1. ... Ra1+!** **2. Kh2 Ra3**. White would be unable to get the king into the game without making an unwanted pawn move. Below we shall see why this is important.

1. ... Ra2 2. Ke1 Kg5 3. Kd1 Kh4 4. Kc1 Kg5 5. Kb1 Ra6 6. Kb2 Kh5 7. Kb3 Kg5 8. Kc4 Kh5 9. Kd4 Ra4+ 10. Kd5 Kg6



11. Ke5!

I both like the simplicity and the logic of this winning method, but for means of clarity, I want to include Daniele's winning idea as well. It is quite beautiful, but it relies on the same mutual *zugzwang* idea in certain lines as our main line, so it is less theoretically significant:

11. Ke6 Ra5

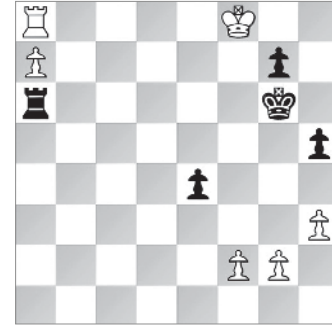
White cannot force the idea through. After:

12. Ke7 Ra6

After **12. ... Kh7**, White is able to return to the mutual *zugzwang* position of **Tabiya 5** to win. Thus, it is the main line.

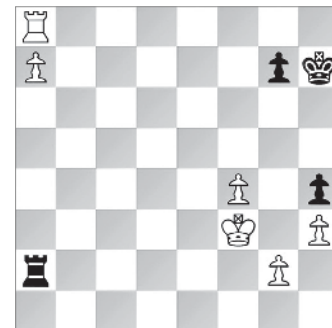
13. Kf8!? Ra2

Black has an interesting defensive try in: **13. ... h5!**



(a) **14. Kg8? h4!** Black draws by keeping the white king captive: **15. Kf8 Kf6! 16. Ke8 Ke6! 17. Kd8 Kd6** and so on.

(b) Instead, **14. Ke7!** wins. The variation is very long, but quite easy to understand, so rather than being accused of offering long computer variations, let's make it abstract. White will *zugzwang* Black with triangulations. The e4-pawn will fall. Soon we will get this position:

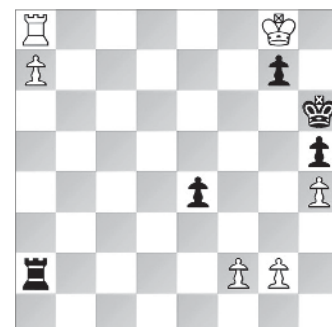


White will play **Kg4** and Black will reply ... **Rxg2+**. White will grab the h-pawn with **Kxh4**. We will get to a **Tabiya 6** type of structure. The f4-pawn advances to f5, and the h-pawn is advanced to the sixth rank. We arrive at the **Tabiya 6** position, and White wins.

14. Kg8

White is threatening **g2-g4** followed by **h4-h5+**, winning the g7-pawn.

14. ... h5 15. h4! Kh6



16. f4!!

This was Daniele's point. With the pawn on g3, this obviously does not work.



ABOVE: GM JACOB AAGAARD (L) AND IM EESHA KARAVADE (R) AT THE 2018 OLYMPIAD IN BATUMI. PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES.

16. ... e3 17. f5 e2 18. Re8 Rxa7 19. Re6+

With mate on the next move.

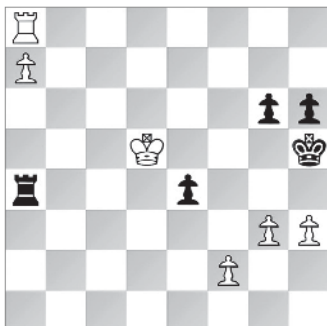
11. ... Kg5 12. g3!

We have returned to the mutual *zugzwang* of **Tabiya 5**. This time it is Black to play and he will have to weaken his position. After this, White wins with nice triangulation maneuvers with the king.

12. ... g6

12. ... h5 is met with a more trivial triangulation: 13. Ke6 Kg6 14. Kd5 Kg5 15. Ke5 Kg6 16. Kf4 Kh7 17. Kf5 etc. Note that 12. ... Kg6 13. Kf4 Kh5 14. Kf5 also wins.

13. Kd5 Kh5



14. Kc5

Threatening 15. Kb6, forcing the black rook to keep its distance.

14. ... Ra2 15. Kd4 Ra4+ 16. Kd5! Kg5 17. Ke5

Black is in *zugzwang* once again.

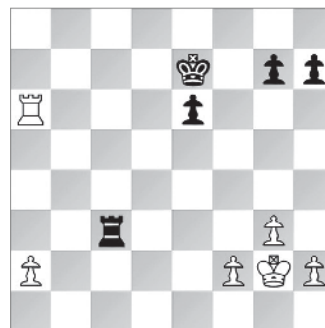
17. ... Kh5 18. Kf4 g5+ 19. Ke3

It is time for Black to resign.

You can literally continue these investigations for (more or less) all perpetuity.

For example, **Tabiya 7** is a simple draw for Black. The e6-pawn is easy to defend and Black is not going to be in *zugzwang*. White can transpose to a 3 vs. 2 endgame, but it will not be enough to win. If you wish, you can look up Svane - Ragger, Germany 2018, as an example.

Tabiya 8 is a win for White, as Daniele pointed out. The difference is that Black cannot defend the e6-pawn because ... Kf7 is always met by Rh8-h7+. Once that falls, White will play h2-h3, g3-g4, and f4-f5, getting us back to **Tabiya 1**.



WHITE TO MOVE

31. Ra8 Kf7 32. a4 Ra3 33. a5 e5 34. a6 Kg6 35. a7!?

This creates the threat of 36. f3!, when the e-pawn would be lost to *zugzwang* once the white king is placed on e6. After it falls, White has full flexibility on the kingside to advance the pawns.

35. ... e4!

On that basis, this is the only move.

36. Kf1 Kg5 37. h3 Ra2 38. Ke1 h5?

This looks like a very natural move. But as we know now, this is a fatal weakening of the black position.

39. Kd1 Kg6 40. h4?

This also looks very logical, but now White cannot create a passed f-pawn.

We know the winning method already, but it is nice to see the moves in print too. 40. Kc1 Ra3 41. Kb2 Ra6 42. Kc3 Ra4 43. Kb3 Ra1 44. Kc4 Ra2 45. Kd5 Ra4 46. Ke5 Kg5 and it's time for triangulation. (Note that with the pawn

APPLYING OUR KNOWLEDGE TO ANALYSIS AND PLAY

On the basis of the investigations we have made, it is very easy to understand endgames with this structure. The following endgame no longer needs long analysis. The narrative should be easy to follow, placing the building blocks together.

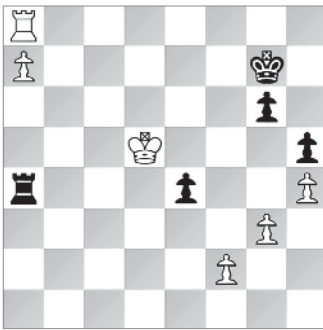
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Valeriy Astralov
Luis Andrade
Gangneung, 1977

(see diagram top of next column)

on h6, we would have **Tabiya 5**.) Play might continue 47. Kd6 Ra2 48. Kd5 Ra4 49. Ke5 Kg6 50. Kf4 and 51. Kf5, winning.

40. ... Kh7 41. Kc1 Kg6 42. Kb1 Ra6 43. Kb2 Kh7 44. Kb3 g6 45. Kc4 Kg7 46. Kc5 Ra2 47. Kd4 Ra4+ 48. Kd5



48. ... Kh7?

Black succumbs to the temptation to hold on to the pawn. Something basic like 48. ... Ra1 would draw without any issues at all.

49. Kc6!

Threatening 50. Kb6 Rb4+ 51. Ka5, winning.

49. ... Ra2 50. Rd8 Rxa7 51. Rd7+ Rxd7 52. Kxd7 g5 53. Ke6, Black resigned.

WARP 2.0

If we return to our starting position, we will see that White can try a subtle prophylactic move. The idea is to dominate the black king for a bit, before initiating a race.



1. Ra6! Kg8!

Maybe you are surprised to learn that this is the only move?

Let's look at the alternatives:

(a) 1. ... h5? looks harmless, but this is a decisive weakening. White wins after 2. Ra8! Kg6 3. a6, as you will see.

(b) 1. ... Kh8? is not something anyone would ever play. But it is useful to know that 2. g4! Kh7 3. h4 Kg8 4. Ra7 is winning for White. One funny line is: 4. ... Kf8 5. h5 Kg8 6. a6 Kf8 7. Ra8+ Kf7 8. a7 and Black is going to be in *zugzwang* again and again. White wins the e-pawn and plays f2-f4, g4-g5, and g5-g6+, winning.

(c) 1. ... Ra3? 2. Ke2 Kg8 3. g4 is at its core no different than 1. ... Kh8?.

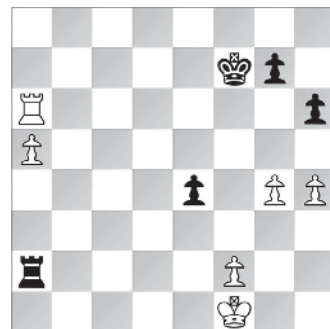
2. g4

White can of course try 2. Ra7, but Black will probably find the repetition with 2. ... Kh7!.

2. ... Kf7!

2. ... Ra3? 3. Ke2 Kf7 4. h4 transposes, but with Black to play.

3. h4

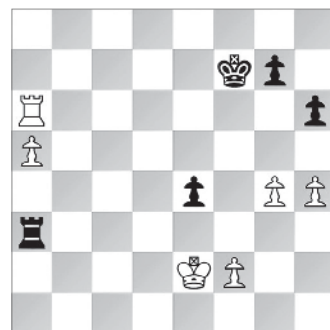


3. ... Ra4!

Note that 3. ... Ra1+ transposes.

4. Ke2 Ra3!!

I know that we have looked at some mind-bending stuff, progressing from the basic nature of **Tabiya 1** and **Tabiya 2**, through triangulations and tribulations. But *nothing* will compare to this position. This is mutual *zugzwang*. As far as we know, this has not occurred in any games.



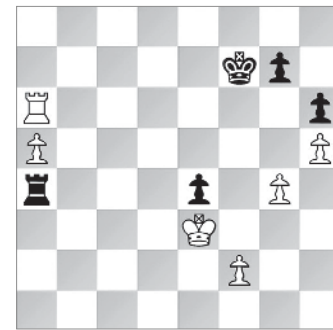
5. Ra8

White is releasing the tension and makes a run for it with the a-pawn. Black is only just in time to hold on.

Other ideas: 5. Kd2 Rf3 6. Ke2 Ra3 just repeats. Also, 5. Ke1 Ra2! is no improvement, while 5. h5 Ra2+! 6. Ke3 Ra4 leads to another mutual *zugzwang* position:

(see diagram top of next column)

Here Black needs to keep the king on f7. If it was Black to move, then ... Kf7-e7 would lose to Ra6-g6! and a5-a6. White can then play Ke3-f4-e5-f5, winning.



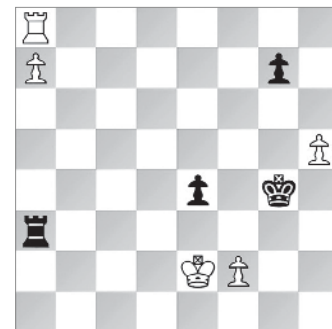
After (a) 7. Ra8 Kf6 8. a6 Kg5 Black is exactly in time and easily makes the draw from here. (b) 7. Kf4 e3+! is also fine for Black.

With the same logic, White can try 5. Ra7+! as a small trap, pointed out by Daniele, as after 5. ... Kg6? 6. Ra8! Black is in *zugzwang* again. Instead, Black should play 5. ... Kf6!, when after 6. Ra8 Ke5 Black is fine. For example: 7. Rf8 g6 8. h5 gxh5 9. Rf5+ Kd4 10. Rxb5 Ra2+ 11. Kf1 e3 with an easy draw.

5. ... Kg6! 6. a6 h5

Without this counterplay, Black is lost.

7. gxh5+ Kxh5 8. a7 Kg4! 9. h5



9. ... Kh4!

The black king finds shelter behind the white pawn. No matter where the black king is on the h-line, Black will not lose. Of course 9. ... Kg5? loses to 10. h6 Kg6 11. Rg8 Rxa7 12. Rxb7+ when the pawn ending is winning.

10. Kd2 Rd3+ 11. Kc2 Rd7! 12. Kc3 Re7 13. Kd4 Kh3 14. Kd5 Kh4 15. Kd6 Rb7 16. Ke6 Kh3! 17. Kf5 Re7 18. Kg5 Kg2! 19. Kh4 Kh2, and Black draws.

CONCLUSION

There is always more to learn when looking at complex positions. What I always find important is that the key thing is not to make outlandish connections, but to combine various elementary concepts and find out how they affect each other. With the knowledge of the drawn status of **Tabiya 1** and the winning method in **Tabiya 2**, we are able to understand the logic of more advanced positions. This is the way top players go from the simple to the complex in their decision making in the endgame. ♠

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Round 2

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Rest Day

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Round 3

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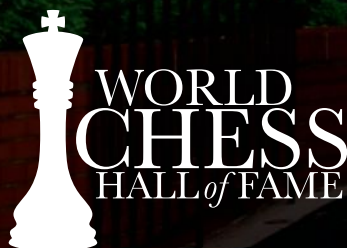


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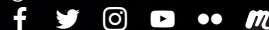
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Stupendous Studies

Two new collections by Lakdawala and van der Heijden

by **IM JOHN WATSON**

Harald van der Heijden is a giant figure in the world of chess studies. He is a composer himself, with over 130 published studies, but also the author of two books about endgame studies and a longstanding International Judge of Chess Composition for studies. He is chief editor of the international magazine *EG* and has been writing articles about studies for over 45 years.

Van der Heijden's study database is the essential resource for anyone who loves studies, and by far the most comprehensive and accurate collection of endgame studies in the world. Van der Heijden has just released the sixth edition of his database (HHdBvi) after five years, and it was entirely worth the wait.

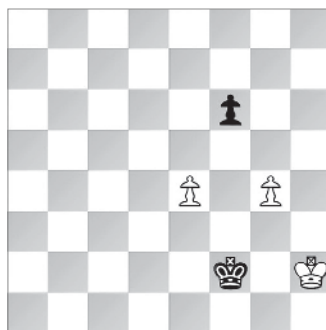
HHdBvi includes 93,839 studies, and as in the previous editions beginning in 1991, the solutions to thousands of studies are corrected and updated. The database is in PGN format and can be quickly searched in a wide variety of ways: by the initial position and the solution (including sublines or analysis), name of the composer, the place and date of the primary source, etc. With ChessBase, you can of course find specific positions, piece placements, and moves. For advanced users, Chess Query Language (CQL) can be used to find complex patterns and themes.

For those unfamiliar with the genres, the easiest way to think about the difference between a study and a problem is that a study has the stipulation White to move or White to draw, whereas a problem has a requirement such as White to mate in a stipulated number of moves. A study must be a position which could have arisen in a game, with only one solution, and in practice the best studies look as though they might have arisen in a real game. By contrast, the initial position of problems will often look artificial or even silly, and one side may have an overwhelming material advantage and hundreds of ways to win, but only one within the prescribed number of moves. Both forms have their fans. I much prefer studies and believe that they are

better for improving one's chess strength, but respectable experts differ on the subject.

Most studies are good for developing one's chess imagination, but some can serve purely as instructive exercises. The following study by van der Heijden (the analysis is his) is not terribly complex or surprising, but it is noteworthy for two reasons: (a) by the time he came up with it, few people thought that there could be anything this new and elegant in any king-and-pawn ending with such reduced material; (b) it's a perfect exercise to give a student and can be solved by pure calculation:

HARALD VAN DER HEIJDEN
Algemeen Dagblad, 2003



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

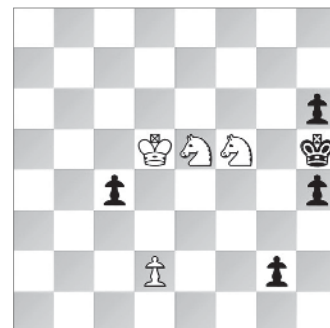
White will sacrifice one pawn, and run with the other. But this is not possible immediately, because after 1. g5 fxg5, Black saves himself (and even wins) with a check on g3, and after 1. e5? fxe5, both sides promote. 1. Kh3 Kf3! 2. e5 also leads to mutual promotions and a draw, while 2. g5 is again losing.

1. Kh1! however, puts Black in *Zugzwang*. If he plays his King to the e-file, then after 2. e5 fxe5 3. g5, it is in the way of his e-pawn. After 1. ... Kg3 2. e5 fxe5 3. g5, White promotes with check, and 1. ... Kf3 loses to 2. e5 (not 2. g5? fxg5 3. e5? Kf2! and White is mated) 2. ... fxe5 3. g5 e4 4. Kg1! e3 5. Kf1 etc. Black's best try, and the variation that gives this composition its charm, is **1. ... Kf1 2. e5! fxe5 3. g5 e4**

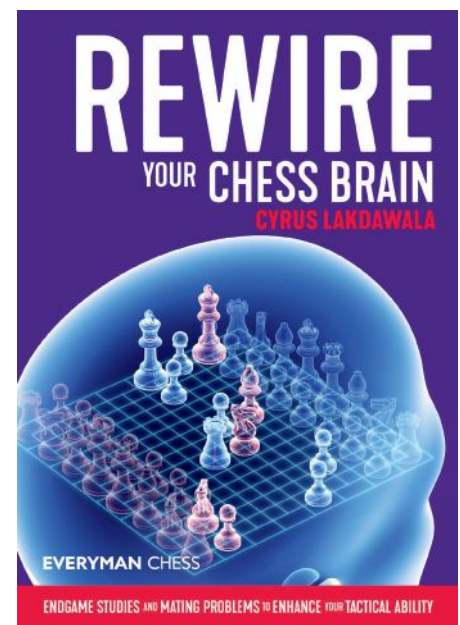
4. g6 e3 5. g7 e2 6. g8=Q e1=Q. Both have queened again, but now **7. Qg2** is a nice mate.

One of the famous older studies van der Heijden has researched and defended against refutations ("cooks") is particularly amazing when you consider that there were no computers around to verify its accuracy.

CARL BEHTING
Bohemia #114, 1906



WHITE TO MOVE AND DRAW

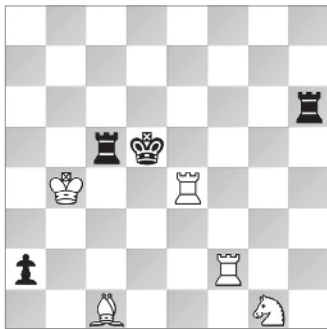


1. Kc6!! Only move! 1. Nxb4? Kxh4 2. Nf3+ Kg3 3. Ng1 fails to 3...h5!; no better is 1. Nf3? h3 2. N5h4 h2 3. Nxb2 h1=Q 4. Ngh4 Qf1 5. Ke4 Qf2 6. Kd5 Qe2 7. Kd4 Kg4 8. Kd5 h5 9. Kd4 Qxf3. 1. Ng7+?! leads to the amazing line 1. ... Kg5 2. Nf3+ Kg4 3. Ke4 h3 4. Nf5 g1=Q 5. Nxb1 h2 6. Nxb6+ Kh5 7. Nf3 h1=Q 8. Nf5 Kg4 9. Ne3+ Kg3 10. Nf5+ Kf2 11. N5d4 Qh7+ 12. Kd5 Qg8+ 13. Kc5 Qc8+ 14. Kd5 Qc7 15. Ne5 Qa5+ 16. Ke4 Qc5 17. Nef3 c3 18. dxc3 Qxc3. The analysis stops here, claiming a win for Black. I checked this with the tables, and amazingly, after 19. Ne5 Qe1+! (all other moves draw!) 20. Kf5, every move draws except 20. ... Qf1!!, and even then Black takes 50 more moves to mate. How much of this did Behting work out? Anyway, there's still no cook after all these years! **1. ... g1=Q** 1. ... h3 2. Ng3+ Kh4 3. Ne2 h2 4. Nf3+ Kh3 5. Nxb2 Kxh2 6. Kc5; 1. ... Kg5 2. Nf3+ Kxf5 3. Nxb4+ Kg4 4. Nxb2 **2. Nxb4! Qh1+** 2. ... Kxh4 3. Nf3+; 2. ... Kg5 3. Nef3+ **3. Nhf3!** And that's it! Black king can't move and his queen alone can't make any progress, so the game is drawn.

Van der Heijden considers the modern Russian composition Grandmaster Oleg Pervakov one of the best composers of all time, and his study database has 241 compositions by Pervakov, along with other collaborative studies. Here's his favorite study since 2010, which was submitted for an event commemorating van der Heijden's 50th birthday, and which includes his notes:

OLEG PERVAKOV

Van der Heijden-50 JT, 2011



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

White has to make a choice between two checks by the e4-rook. The first thematic try is 1. Re5+? Kxe5 2. Bxh6 a1=Q 3. Bg7+ Ke4 4. Bxa1 Rc1 5. Rf4+ Ke3 and White is unable to save all of his three threatened pieces. Therefore: **1. Rd4+! Kxd4** **2. Bb2+ Ke3**, and White again has to make a choice for the right check by the rook. The second thematic try is 3. Re2+? Kd3 4. Kxc5 Rh5+ 5. Kb4 a1=Q 6. Bxa1 Rb5+ 7. Kxb5 with a (new!) midboard ideal stalemate! Therefore: **3. Rf3+! Ke4** **4. Kxc5 a1=Q** **5. Bxa1 Rc6+** and now 6. Kxc6? echoes the previous ideal

stalemate. After **6. Kb5 Rc1** **7. Rf4+ Ke3** there is a tiny difference with the position diagrammed in the first thematic try: the white king is at b5 instead of b4. This allows the decisive **8. Ra4! Rxb1** **9. Bd4+** with a decisive x-ray and win.

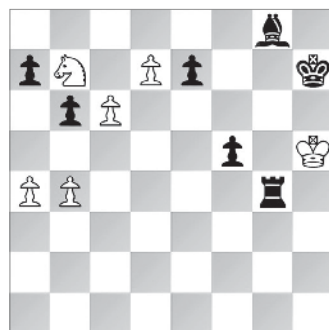
IM Cyrus Lakdawala's *Rewire Your Chess Brain*, published last year by Everyman Chess, is an annotated collection of 326 compositions. Whereas HHdBvi consists solely of studies, Lakdawala's selection is split fairly evenly between studies and problems, with a small number of tournament game excerpts that contain study-like ideas. The collection can't compete with van der Heijden's database in terms of quantity or sophistication, of course, but many players like to read books instead of computer screens, and others will undoubtedly prefer verbal notes to purely analytical ones.

Lakdawala keeps a light tone and walks the reader through the solutions with enthusiastic appreciation for the beauty of the examples. He explicitly points out recurring themes and personalizes the solving process. Especially for those just learning about studies, this guidance can make the world of compositions more exciting and fun, and periodic tips might help a player in other situations that he or she might encounter over-the-board. On the other hand, from a training/improvement point-of-view, such directed study requires less thought and creative work from the student, much like a tactics book full of hints provides a crutch for the solver. If the goal is to improve one's thinking skills, it may be best to combine a book like this with unannotated studies.

Lakdawala introduces the reader to many famous classical studies, but he also reaches into contemporary practice. He includes a short, fun, chapter devoted to the studies of American IM Christopher Yoo, who was only 13 at the time this book was being written. Here is one of Yoo's first award-winners, with selected comments by Lakdawala.

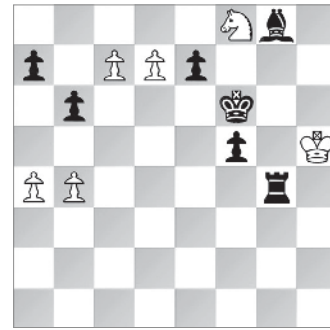
CHRISTOPHER YOO

4th Youth Chess Composing Challenge 2019



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

White is about to promote, but first things first. Black's mate threat on f7 must be dealt with. **1. Nd8!** 1. d8=Q? Bf7 mate; 1. d8=N? Rc4 **1. ... Kg7** 1. ... Rc4 2. Kg5 Kg7 3. Kxf5 Bh7+ 4 Kg5 Bg8 5. Nb7 **2. c7 Bh7!** **3. Ne6+** White breaks the mating threat, while clearing the way for the d-pawn once more. 3. c8=Q? Bg6 mate **3. ... Kf6** **4. Nf8!** 4. d8=Q? Bg6+ 5. Kh6 Rh4 mate **4. ... Bg8!**



5. d8=N! 5. d8=Q? Bf7+ 6. Kh6 Rh4 mate **5. ... Bf7+** Not 5. ... Rc4? 6. Nd7+ Kg7 7. Nc5! (interference) and White forces promotion. **6. Nxf7 Rc4** **7. Nd6!!** 7. Nd7+? Ke6 8. Nc5+ Rxc5 9. bxc5 Kd7 10. Nd6 Kxc7! (10. ... exd6? 11. cxd6) **7. ... exd6** **8. Nd7+ Ke7** **9. Nc5!** Interference. "A second knight sac!" **9. ... Rxc5** Here 9. ... dxc5 10 c8=Q and wins was Christopher's main line **10. bxc5 Kd7** **11. cxd6 a6** **12. Kg5 b5** **13. axb5 a5** White's king is now unable to catch the passed pawn, yet he doesn't need to, since his own will promote first. **14. b6 Kc8** **15. Kxf5 a4** **16. Ke6 a3** **17. d7+** and White wins.

These are two great products. Players with a long career in front of them really should have a copy of van der Heijden's database, in the same way that they should have an endings reference book. It can provide years of enjoyment, and they can always pick up other study and problems collections according to their level of interest. Lakdawala's book will be enjoyed by players of all strengths, but is particularly suited for casual fans who like to solve puzzles for enjoyment, and is excellent for those who want a user-friendly introduction to the world of compositions. ♠

van der Heijden, Harald. Harald van der Heijden Endgame Study Database, 6th Edition. Self-published, 2020. See his website www.hhdbvi.nl for information and ordering details.

Lakdawala, Cyrus. *Rewire Your Chess Brain: Endgame Studies and Mating Problems to Enhance Your Tactical Ability*. Everyman Chess, 2020. ISBN Paperback: 978-1781945698, 528 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com; product code B0532EM, \$32.95)

What's Old is New Again

A gem from Fischer's 1964 tour

By **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON OF 1963-64, Bobby Fischer had perhaps the greatest result in an American chess championship of all time, going a perfect 11-0. Where does one go from there? Naturally, one goes on tour, and that is exactly what Fischer did, giving exhibition upon exhibition across North America. In these public performances, Bobby unleashed a barrage of oldtime gambits, which he had been analytically exploring in the interim. This month's game was performed in Davis, California on April 16, 1964 in a 10-board clock simul. Fischer's opponent, Ojars Celle (Black) tried to fend off the champion's persistent attack, but to no avail. The contest began as an Evans Gambit:

GIUOCO PIANO, EVANS GAMBIT (C51)

Bobby Fischer

Ojars Celle

Simultaneous Exhibition, Davis, California, 1964

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Be7



Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess

it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that White's move is on the next line.**

6. d4 **Par Score 4**

This advance is standard. White tries to open the center and build an initiative. Accept *full credit* for 6. 0-0.

6. ... **d6**

Exchanging center pawns, 6. ... exd4, is also possible. The text opens up for the queen-bishop, while keeping an obstructive pawn on c3.**

7. dxe5 **Par Score 4**

Accept *full credit* for 7. Qb3. Whites opens the center, with some interesting tactical possibilities on the horizon.

7. ... **Nxe5**

The edge now clearly shifts to White. In reply to 7. ... dxe5, White has 8. Qb3, putting the f7-square under immediate fire.**

8. Nxe5 **Par Score 4**

By trading knights, White creates a target at e5 and increases his advantage.

8. ... **dxe5****

9. Qh5 **Par Score 5**

This intrusion is stronger than 9. Qb3. Both the e5- and f7-squares are now under direct assault.

9. ... **g6**

Black decides to stop the more serious threat.**

10. Qxe5 **Par Score 4**

Fischer has gotten his pawn back. Black's rook is now hanging.

10. ... **Nf6**

On 10. ... f6, play might have continued 11. Qb5+ c6 12. Qb3, with a menacing attack.**

11. Ba3 **Par Score 5**

Fischer prevents Black from castling. Once again, he had a choice, 11. Ba3 or 11. Bh6. The text is stronger, and it denies Black the option of 11. ... Qd6.

11. ... **Rf8**

Even after 11. ... Bd7, Black's chances are looking dim. After the game move, Black can move his knight, since it's no longer pinned.**

12. 0-0 **Par Score 4**

White's king is now safe and the king-rook is ready for action. There's just one more minor piece to get out.

12. ... **Ng4**

Black drives away White's queen, while trying to extricate himself from being pinned on the e-file.**

13. Qg3 **Par Score 4**

This retreat retains flexibility, keeping attacking chances alive. But Black is still in the game, thanks to White's undeveloped knight.

13. ... **Bxa3**

But this solves White's problem. Fischer now gets to clear his home rank.**

14. Nxa3 **Par Score 4**

14. ... **Qe7**

Black attacks the a3-knight and removes his queen from the open d-file, where it could be attacked by a rook. From e7, the queen also guards e5, in case his knight needs to retreat.**

ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 59.

May Exercise: Here's an exercise you possibly haven't tried recently. Play through a short game, say 20-25 moves in length. As you're doing so, try to understand the ideas behind the moves. Take a deep breath once you reach the end. Then head the other way, back to move one. That is, work backwards, retracting each move in sequence, aiming to arrive back at the opening position. Naturally, as you retrace your steps, you should lean on logic, making sure the moves make sense and you get back to where you're supposed to be. Do it perfectly, and you're ready to play over another game.

PROBLEM I. Mating net



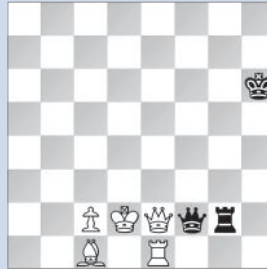
PROBLEM II. Mating net



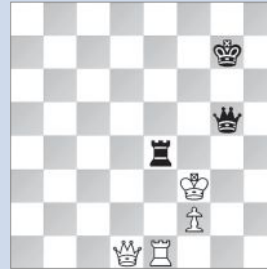
PROBLEM III. Mating net



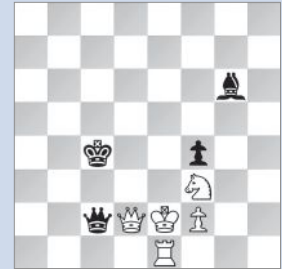
PROBLEM IV. Mating net



PROBLEM V. Mating net



PROBLEM VI. Mating net



15. **Bb5+** **Par Score 5**

A strong move, but you may accept *full credit* for 15. Nb5, also a strong move.

15. ... **c6**

The check is blocked, but the d6-square now becomes inviting.**

16. **Nc4** **Par Score 5**

Fischer zeroes in on the d6-weakness. The once useless knight has become a valuable weapon.

16. ... **Qe6**

On 16. ... cxb5, White has 17. Nd6+ Kd7 18. Rfd1 with threats to the king.**

17. **Rad1** **Par Score 5**

Fischer has an idea or two in mind. Nevertheless, you may accept *full credit* for 17. Nd6+.

17. ... **cxb5**

It's hard to look a gift bishop in the mouth. Black chooses to bite.**

18. **Qc7** **Par Score 6**

Obviously, Black can't take White's knight. Two different mates in one are threatened.

18. ... **Bd7**

This develops a piece and stops both mates.**

19. **Nd6+** **Par Score 5**

The invasion has been coming for several moves. Black must move his king.

19. ... **Ke7****

20. **Nf5+** **Par Score 6**

A winning check. White is on the verge of gaining Black's queen.

20. ... **gxf5**

Black didn't have anything better. If 20. ... Kf6, then 21. Rd6. If 20. ... Ke8, then 21. Ng7+.**

21. **exf5** **Par Score 5**

The e-file is open. Black's days are numbered.

21. ... **Rac8**

Black tries to get some counterplay. It doesn't quite work.**

22. **Rxd7+** **Par Score 5**

White's shot wins the black queen.

22. ... **Qxd7****

23. **f6+** **Par Score 5**

This is a little stronger than 23. Re1+.

23. ... **Nxf6**

On 23. ... Ke6, there would follow 24. Re1+, when 24. ... Ne5 is met by 25. Qxe5 mate.**

24. **Re1+** **Par Score 4**

The rook check is crushing.

24. ... **Ne4**

A forced jettison.**

25. **Rxe4+** **Par Score 4**

25. ... **Kf6****

26. **Qxd7** **Par Score 4**

Black could resign. The rest is mere inertia.

26. ... **Rfd8****

27. **Qg4** **Par Score 4**

27. ... **Black resigns.**

With the d1-square covered, it's just a matter of mopping up. Black can only delay inevitable mate. A very nice attack by Fischer indeed. ♠

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-94	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through May 31, 2021 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "XXXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHESS.ORG Effective with the November 2020 Chess Life, we have removed the National Events and Bids page that has traditionally been part of our TLA section. This information continues to be available here: <https://new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar>

Nationals

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2021 U.S. Women's Open

JUNE 16-17, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
5SS, G/90, +30. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. **\$33,500** Based on 35 entries, \$1000-600-400, U2000 \$350-200, U1800 \$250-150, U1600 \$200-100, U1400 \$150-100. **EF** \$99 by 5/31, \$125 later. **REG** 8:30-9 a.m. **RDS** 9:30-2:30-7, 9:30-2:00. Half point bye available in any round (limit 2). **HR** \$71 (\$99 Friday and Saturday nights) (800) 732-7117 ask for the **CHESS** rates. This event kicks off the **LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL** on Wednesday before the National Open. **ENT** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or online at www.VegasChessFestival.com. **FIDE** NS W

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2021 National Open

JUNE 16-20, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
Open Section June 16-20: 9-SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30. GM & IM norms possible. **Under Sections** June 17-20, 18-20, or 19-20: 7-SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30 (3-day rounds 1-2 G/60, +10, 2-day rounds 1-4 G/30, +5). **Beginners Sections** June 18, 19, and 20: 6-SS G/30, +5. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. \$100,000 Prize Fund based on 600 paid entries! In 8 sections, top 3 FIDE rated. **Open:** \$8,000-4,000-2,000-1,000-600-500-400-300-300-300, top under 2500 \$2,500, top under 2400 \$2,400, **Extra** \$2,500 divided among GMs, WGMs and foreign IMs winning less than \$250 and playing 9 rounds. The winner of the Open section also receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup. **Under 2300:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 2100:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 1900:** \$5,000-2500-1250-600-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 1700:** \$4,000-2,000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250-250-250. **Under 1500:** 3000-1500-700-350-300-250-250-250-250. **Under 1300:** \$2000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250, top under 1000 (no provisional) \$900. Provisionally rated players may not win an amount greater than 40% of top prize in any under section; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **Beginners** (unrated or provisionally rated 1300 or lower): 3 schedules with 6 rounds per day \$200-125-75 each day plus \$300 overall (best 2 results). Unrated players may play only in Beginners or Open Section. **Plus-Score Bonus:** (\$12,000 guaranteed) in addition to any other prizes, every player with a plus score wins a \$50 gift certificate. Plus score certificates will be awarded on site only. **Mixed Doubles:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$1,500-750-350-250-150. Average rating below 2200, teammates may play in different sections, only rounds 1-7 count for Open Section or best day for Beginners. **The Freddie:** Players age 14 and under are eligible for best game prizes including the Freddie Award and \$400 in cash prizes (donated by Fred Gruenberg). **June FIDE ratings** used in Open section, June US Chess ratings in all other sections. CCA minimum ratings or other ratings may be used if higher. **EF** Open: \$239 by 4/30, \$259 by 5/31, \$279 later. \$150 more for players not rated 2200 or above. GM, WGM & foreign IM free. \$80 less for IM or WIM. **Under sections:** \$239 by 4/30, \$259 by 5/31, \$279 later. **Beginners:** \$129 1 day, \$189 2 days, \$229 3 days. \$30 more after 5/31. **Senior** (over 65) \$40 less by 5/31; \$21 more on site. **5-day schedule:** **Reg** Wednesday 4-5 p.m. **Rds** 6:30, 12-6:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. **4-day schedule:** **Reg** Thursday 2-5 p.m. **Rds** 6:30, 12-6:30, 10-

4:30, 10-4:30. 3-day schedule: **Reg** Friday 9-10:30 a.m. **Rds** 11:30-2:30 then merge with 4-day in round 3 at 6:30. **2-day schedule:** **Reg** Saturday 8-8:30 a.m. **Rds** 9:30-11-2:30 then merge with 4-day in round 5 at 4:30. Half point byes available in any round if requested at least 2 hours in advance; Sunday byes must be requested before the start of round 4 and may not be cancelled. Chess sets and boards provided for tournament play only, not for skillies. Please bring digital chess clocks! **THE LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL** features the National Open, the U.S. Women's Open, the International Youth Championship, and other events. **Many free extras and surprises!** Free parking. Free raffles with great prizes. **Free GM Lectures.** Free GM analysis of your games. **Grandmaster Simuls and Chess Camp** for all ages on Thursday. **U.S. Women's Open** Wednesday and Thursday. **Walter Browne Memorial Blitz** Sunday 10:30 p.m. **Action Quads** Thursday. **Blitz Sectionals** Friday & Saturday. **Poker Tournament** Monday Morning. **Don't be shut out** - make your reservations early and be sure to ask for the **CHESS** group (SVCF1R) rates. **Cutoff for special hotel rate is May 25;** after that rates will increase significantly and there may not be any rooms available. (800) 732-7117 or www.VegasChessFestival.com/hotel. **ENT** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, online at www.VegasChessFestival.com. **Info:** (702) 930-9550. **FIDE** NS W

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

121st Annual U.S. Open

JULY 31-AUGUST 8, AUGUST 3-8, OR AUGUST 5-8, NEW JERSEY

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
Includes Traditional one game per day schedule (9 days), a 6-day slow time control option, and 4-day option. 9SS, 40/100, SD/30, +30 increment from move one (4-day option, Rds. 1-6, G/60 d5; then 40/100, SD/30, +30). **Crowne Plaza Philadelphia - Cherry Hill, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill NJ 08002, HR:** \$119, Call (856) 665-6666, mention "U.S. Open Chess Championship." See tournament website for online reservation link: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2021/usopen/>. Reserve by June 29 or rate may increase. **\$50,000** in prizes based on 500 paid entries, else proportional, **\$40,000** (80% of each prize) minimum guaranteed. A one-section tournament with Class prizes. Top U.S. player not otherwise qualified qualifies for 2022 U.S. Championship. **Choice of three schedules:** **Traditional:** 40/100, SD/30, +30. One round daily at 7 PM, except Rd. 9, 3 PM 8/8. **6-Day Option:** 40/100, SD/30, +30. 7 PM 8/3, 12 NOON & 7 PM 8/4-8/6, 7 PM 8/7, 3 PM 8/8. **4-Day Option:** Rds. 1-6: G/60 d5; then 40/100, SD/30, +30. 12 NOON, 3 PM, 7 PM, 10 PM 8/5; 12 NOON, 3 PM, 7 PM 8/6; 7 PM 8/7; 3 PM 8/8. All schedules merge after Round 6 & compete for same prizes. **Projected prizes:** Top places \$8000-4000-2000-1500-1000-800-600-500, clear or playoff winner \$200 bonus. If tie for first, top two on tiebreak play Armageddon game for bonus and title. (Separate Armageddon game for U.S. Championship qualifier, if necessary.) Armageddon gamets) will be G/10, no delay. Armageddon players will bid on start time with Black. Low bid gets requested start time and draw odds. **Class Prizes:** Top Master (2200-2399) \$2500-1250-800-500, Expert (2000-2199) \$2500-1250-800-500, Class A (1800-1999) \$2500-1250-800-500, Class B (1600-1799) \$2500-1250-800-500, Class C (1400-1599) \$2000-1000-600-400, Class D (1200-1399) \$1500-700-500-300, Class E or below (under 1200) \$1500-700-500-300, Unrated \$800-400-200. **Mixed Doubles prizes** in various categories (see website for details). **Mixed doubles teams:** sign up at Chess Control on site. **Half-Point Byes:** must commit before Round 4; up to 3 byes allowed for 2000+; up to 2 byes for 1400-1999, one bye for Under 1400/Unr. Limit 1 bye in last two rounds. Zero-point byes are always available in any round if requested at least

two hours before the round(s) in question. **Entry Fee:** Online, \$155 by 6/27, \$175 by 7/11, \$195 after 7/25. By mail, \$177 postmarked by 7/11, \$197 postmarked after 7/11, do not mail after 7/23! By phone, \$175 by 6/27, \$195 after 7/11, \$215 after. No phone entries after 5PM Central 7/30 (close of business at the US Chess Office)! At site, all \$200; Free entry for GMs and WGMs for main event only. All entries must be made at least two (2) hours prior to the player's first game. Current US Chess membership required. **July 2021 Rating Supplement** used for U.S. Open and all other associated events; unofficial ratings (at least four games) used if otherwise unrated. CCA ratings used if above US Chess. Foreign player ratings: usually 100 points added to FIDE or FQE, 200+ added to most foreign national ratings, no points added to CFC. Highest of multiple ratings generally used. **Entries:** US Chess, ATTN: 2021 U.S. Open, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. **ONLINE ENTRY STRONGLY ENCOURAGED,** see website. **Phone entry:** 800.903.8723. **Not FIDE rated, No cell phones.** Bring a clock -- none supplied. Sets/boards supplied for tournament but not for skillies. Many meetings, workshops and seminars, including: **US Chess Committee Meetings** 8/4-8/6, **US Chess Awards Reception, US Chess Delegates Meeting** 8/7-8. Many side events and other championships, including: **U.S. National Blitz Championship** 7SS Double, G/5 d0, Rd. 1 at 12 NOON 8/7; **U.S. National G/15 Championship** 5SS, G/15 d5, Rd. 1 at 12 NOON 8/3; **U.S. Open Weekend Swiss** 5SS, G/60 d5, 12-3 Sat 7/31, 10-12:30-3 Sun 8/1; **U.S. Open Scholastic** (see separate TLA for the Scholastic event); **Mon-Wed-Thu-Fri Aug. 1, 3, 4, 5 U.S. Open Quads** (one-day events) G/30 d5. **Entry fee \$20.** Registration 9:30-11:30 a.m., Rounds at noon, 1:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. \$50 to first in each quad. **Tue Aug. 2 U.S. Open Quads** (Tuesday Quads Only) G/60 d5. **Entry Fee \$20.** Registration 9 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Rounds at 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. \$50 to first in each quad. **U.S. Open Bughouse** Sat. 10:30 AM 7/31. **U.S. Open Tennis Tournament** (see tournament website for details). In addition, five other championships will also take place: the **Denker Tournament of HS Champions** (see website for participants' list), the **Barber Tournament of MS Champions** (see website for participants' list), the **Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions** (see website for participants' list), the **Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary State Champions** (see website for participants' list), and the **Irwin Tournament of Senior State Champions** (see website for participants' list). **Entering or attending this event constitutes acceptance of the US Chess COVID policy** (see link on tournament website). Plans are subject to change based on federal, state, and municipal policy/guidelines in effect at the time of the event. US Chess will update website as needed to reflect such changes. **Please check the U.S. Open website often for updates, new information and corrections and other useful documents!** <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2021/usopen/>

an unintended consequence of a coding change in our new membership database that launched on July 10, 2020. As a result of this coding change, points had been incorrectly given to players who finished lower in the event standings, as the correct players had been skipped. Due to the lack of Grand Prix events after July 7, this error was not immediately identified.

Once this coding error was identified in December 2020, manual re-calculations for all 2020 Grand Prix events were undertaken to ensure the accuracy of the standings. As a result of this, some players had points added compared to previously published standings, whereas a few players had points removed. We are confident that these final standings reflect the correct allotment of Grand Prix points as stated in program regulations.

US Chess congratulates all prize winners for their successful performances in what was a unique 2020 season. Also, US Chess thanks all the players who participated in last year's Grand Prix events.

Name	State	Pts
1. IM ZURABI JAVAKHADZE	TX	80.00
2. IM JOHN DANIEL BRYANT	CA	66.50
3. FM ROBERT SHLYAKHTENKO	CA	58.50
4. GM ALEXANDER SHABALOV	PA	57.50
5. IM AARON GRABINSKY	OR	48.60
6. GM FRANCESCO RAMBALDI	MO	44.00
7. GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ	MA	42.00
8. GM HANS NIEMANN	CT	39.43
9-10. IM PRAVEEN BALAKRISHNAN	VJ	38.00
9-10. GM BRANDON JACOBSON	NJ	38.00

2020 AWARDS

\$12,500 in cash prizes
First Prize: \$5,000

2nd: \$2,500	3rd: \$1,000
4th: \$900	5th: \$800
6th: \$700	7th: \$600
8th: \$500	9th: \$300
10th: \$200	

GRAND PRIX
Missouri Grand Championship - \$10,000

MAY 5-9, MISSOURI
US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40
The Missouri Grand Championship will be open to all players regardless of residency. \$10,000 will be awarded in prizes based on 120 fully paid entries. 2 Sections- Major and Amateur. **Major Section** (May 5th-9th) - 9 Rounds, 40/90, SD30, +30. USCF and FIDE Rated. **Schedule:** 5/5, 6:00pm. 6/5, 9:00am, 4:00pm. 7/5, 9:00am, 4:00pm. 8/5, 9:00am, 4:00pm. 9/5, 9:00am, 4:00pm. **FIDE** Norms can be won in this section. Players must be hit at least 2200 USCF or 2000 FIDE once before to be eligible to play in this section. GM's, IM's, and WGM's receive free entry. **Amateur Section** (May 7th-9th) - 7 Rounds, G90/+30. USCF Rated. **Schedule:** 7/5, 2:00pm. 8/5, 9:00am, 2:00pm. 9/5, 9:00am, 2:00pm. This section is for U2300 USCF players strictly. This event is closed to the first 140 players registered, make sure to register early to secure a spot. All players must bring a board and clock. **Event Location:** Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center; 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203. **Nearby Airport:** Columbia Regional Airport. **To book**

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix point totals reflect all rated event information as of March 23, 2021 for the 2020 Grand Prix.

2020 GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

We apologize for any confusion regarding the Grand Prix standings. The final standings here have inconsistencies when compared to the standings published in the January 2021 Chess Life, which covered events through December 1, 2020. What follows is an explanation for those inconsistencies.

The system that has calculated Grand Prix standings for many years failed to credit players for certain membership categories with the points they earned in Grand Prix events ending after July 7, 2020. This was

a hotel go to, <https://reservations.travelclick.com/109226#guestsandrooms>. From there, select your dates (any night between 05/05/21 - 05/09/21). Select the "Add Code" drop down then select "Group Attendee". In the box below, enter the block code "BMANCHES" then select "Add". Then choose "Select & Go To The Next Step". Re-select your dates then choose "Confirm Dates of Stay". From there, continue your booking as normal. **Covid Precautions:** To ensure safety we will require all players to wear a mask at all times. Masks will be provided but we encourage you to bring your own. We will also be providing gloves to anyone who wants them. After each round the boards will be sanitized. **Extra Information:** Full event information is located on our website, BlakemanChess.com. Simply click on "Tournaments", and "Missouri Grand Championship." **Registration & Entry:** Registration is available on our website, BlakemanChess.com. An updated entry list is also posted on the tournament page.

GRAND PRIX**West Houston Chess Open I**

MAY 7-9, TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

Weekend Long 5 Round Swiss. OTB Chess is Back in Houston! Come join us at the first major H-town over-the-board rated chess tournament since the pandemic started. **There will be a mask requirement in place. Register by midnight on Friday, April 23rd for the lowest entry fee.** \$3,500 Prize Fund (based on 100 entries, \$1,750 guaranteed) Main Event: 2-day or 3-day schedule available. Friday May 7th - Sun, May 9th 2021. G/120;d5, 5 round Swiss. Early EF \$97, Late registration EF \$112. Championship (\$840-630-420), Top U1900 \$210, Amateur (\$560-420-280), Top U1400 \$140. Championship (USCF 1700 +), Amateur (USCF 1699 and below) (You can opt to "play up" if your OTB rating has been at least 1650 within the time frame of 10/1/2020 - 05/01/2021). **Scholastic Tournament:** One day event, Saturday, May 8th 2021. G/25;d5, 5 round Swiss. Early EF \$35, Late registration EF \$40. **Trophies awarded** to top performers, no cash prizes. Recommended for Novice Kids who are unrated or rated below 1200 USCF. ****Space is limited - register now to guarantee your spot. Don't wait till the deadline to register.** We may run out of spots. The hotel ballroom is currently undergoing renovations and we will have a beautiful almost 4,000 sq ft space to play in. **Email:** thechessrefinery@gmail.com. For**

more details, visit: <http://www.thechessrefinery.org/westhouston.html>

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**Circle City Open (FIDE)**

MAY 14-16 OR MAY 15-16, INDIANA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

Presented by Moonshot Games. Delta Hotels by Marriott, 5860 Fortune Cir W, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Free WiFi, Free Airport Shuttle, Free Parking, Restaurant on site. **FREE Game Analysis with GM Alex Lenderman on Saturday!** \$8,250 b/120 paid entries! 5SS; 3 or 2 Day Option, Premier \$1200, \$800, \$500; U2300 \$600; U2100 \$500. (\$100 bonus for clear 1st in Premier) (Must be 1901 or above FIDE or USCF) (FIDE + USCF rated, uses FIDE rules, USCF may published ratings used for pairings and prize purposes) Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID before the first round. USA players without a FIDE ID must agree to represent USA in international competition in order to play and must provide necessary information to receive a FIDE ID. Default late forfeiture time is 1 hour. TD may extend at TD's discretion. No electronic notation devices allowed in the Premier section. Players must use provided score sheets and submit copies each round. DGT boards used for top boards. Approved notation devices ok in other sections. **Reserve (1601-1900) \$700, \$400, \$250; U1750 \$200 Novice (1301-1600) \$700, \$400, \$250; U1450 \$200 Apprentice (unrated-1300) \$700, \$400; \$250 U1000 \$200.** Bonus: Engraved metal trophies to all prize winners in Reserve, Novice and Apprentice! (USCF standard tiebreaks used for trophies) **Schedule All Sections: 3-Day: All rounds G90 + 30. Fri: 7PM / Sat: 10:30 am 4:30 pm / Sun: 10:30 am 4:30 pm 2-Day: Rd 1 & 2 G45 + 5 on Sat 10:30 am and 1 pm; then merge with 3 day at 4:30 pm. First two rounds of 2-day Premier section not FIDE rated. **Byes:** Up to two ½ point byes available if requested before the end of round 2, cannot be changed. TD reserves the right to combine sections based on turnout. Unrated may play up at TD's discretion. Bring boards, sets and clocks, supplies are limited. **Entry Fees:** \$125 by 5/8, \$150 after, \$160 on site. **Discounts:** \$10 discount to Seniors (55+). **Re-entry:** \$60. **Re-entry** not allowed in the Premier Section. Players may play up ONE section for a \$25 fee. Minimum USCF rating to play up in the Premier Section is 1800, no exceptions. **GM + WGM + IM Free** if committed before 5/8, no deduction!, if committed after 5/8 then \$100 from prize. Restrictions apply, please email TD at bcchessclubindy@gmail.com or call / text 317-**

286-6183 to register. **Paypal:** <https://www.paypal.me/BCChess> Please Include your USCF ID, FIDE ID (if applicable), published regular rating, schedule, and best contact info to send entry confirmation. Add \$3 for PayPal fee / per player. Credit Card by phone ok until 5/13, player pays cc fees. PayPal or cash at site, no checks. Please join / renew USCF membership at least 24 hours before the tournament. Maximum player capacity is 130 due to social distancing. **Early registration is highly encouraged. (The last event sold out!) Sign up early and guarantee your spot! On site registration:** Friday: 4:30 to 5:45 pm. Saturday: 8 am to 9:30 am. Face coverings mandatory. Sanitizer provided/One game per table. **NO CELL PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** Subject to disqualification. Metal Detectors will be used. **Hotel Rate:** \$99 by 5/4. Call 317-247-9700 or see online Link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1615912020922&key=GRP&app=resvlink>. **FREE GAME ANALYSIS WITH GM Alex Lenderman! Saturday from 11am to 3pm & 5 to 9pm! Blitz Side Event: 7 SS Open double round (14 games); Sat: 9:30 pm, USCF blitz rated, G3 +2, EF: \$25 \$275, \$175, \$125, U1800 \$100, U1500 \$75, based on 45 paid entries. May Published USCF Blitz ratings used. Questions:** Please email B C Chess Club at: bcchessclubindy@gmail.com or call / text 317-286-6183. Please go to our Facebook Page: B C Chess Club for more updates, photos and details.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX**8th Cherry Blossom Classic (Over the Board - Norms Possible)**

MAY 27-31 OR 28-29-31, VIRGINIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED) **NOTE: COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDER BY VIRGINIA GOVERNOR COULD IMPACT THE #OF PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED TO PLAY. WITH CURRENT RESTRICTIONS, MAXIMUM PLAYERS ALLOWED WILL BE 194 IN MAIN EVENT AND 24 IN EACH OF THE SIDE EVENTS. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO REGISTER EARLY.** Open Section GM/IM Norms possible (FIDE). 9-SS G/120;+30inc. U2300 - U1400; May 28-31 or 29-31, 7-SS (4-day: All rounds G/120;+30inc; 3-day: Rd1-2 G/45;+15, Rds3-7 G/120;+30inc). **Prizes:** Open (FIDE/Norms Possible): \$3200-1800-1200-900-600-400-300-200 U2400 \$400-200. **Appearance fee** for GM/IM/WGM/WIM titled players who register by 4/30 and play all 9 games with no byes (Contact Organizer/Check website for more details). Limited double shared accom-

modation available for 4-nights to the first 10 GMs/IMs who register/commit by Apr 30th 2021. Min Rating USCF/FIDE 2200 in **Open** except Foreign FIDE, else pay \$150 more. **U2300 (FIDE):** \$1600-900-600-300-200. **U2100 \$400-200. U2000 (FIDE):** \$1100-700-400-200. **U1800 \$200-100.** Min Rating enforcement in U2300 Section (Min USCF/FIDE 1900) and U2000 Section (Min USCF/FIDE 1600) else pay \$100 more. **U1700:** \$900-500-300-200. **U1500 \$100. U1400:** \$600-300-200-100. **U1200: \$100.** **Entry Fees:** Open: Early Bird \$225 by 4/30, \$250 by 5/12, \$275 by 5/26, \$300 later and onsite. **GMs/Foreign IMs/WGMs Free.** No prize deduction if registering by 4/30, else \$150 deducted from prize. **US IMs/WGMs & Foreign FIDE Players \$125 less, \$100 deducted from prize. U2300 to U1400:** Early Bird \$140 by 4/30, \$155 by 5/12, \$170 by 5/27, \$185 later and onsite. **Re-entry \$60, no re-entry in Open/U2300/U2000. Rounds: Open 5-day (Thu 7pm; Fri 12pm-7pm; Sat/Sun 11am-5pm, Mon 10am-4pm). U2300 to U1400 4-day: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, Rds. Fri 7pm, Sat/Sun/Mon same as Open. 3-day: Reg. ends Sat 10am, Rds. 1-3 Sat 11am-2pm, Rds. 3-7 follows 4-day. **Byes:** limit 3 in Open (limit 1 bye in last 2 rounds), limit 2 in U2300 to U1400, must commit bye requests 1hr before Rd 4, norm not possible in Open if taking bye. **HR: \$104/night** by May 13th. Reservations Call Washington Dulles Airport Marriott 703-471-9500 OR online <http://tinyurl.com/2vzhkx6>, mention chess tournament. More tournament information/Online registration: <http://www.cherryblossomchess.com>. Mail checks to/payable to: Capital Area Chess, 5116 Bebe Ct, Centreville, VA 20120. Email info only: Anand Dommalanapati, cbc2021@capitalareachess.com. Boards and sets provided in ALL sections. Clocks supplied only in the Open, U2300 and U2000 sections. **Side Events: U1100 (2 separate 1-day events - Sat and Sun):** Each day prizes \$200-100-50; Trophies to Top 5; Top U800, U600, Unrated. 4-SS G/45;d5. **EF: \$40 by 5/12, \$55 by 5/28, \$70 later and onsite. Rounds. 11am-1:15pm-3:30pm-5:45pm. Limit 1 bye in last 2 rounds. U1100 limit 1 bye. May 28th Fri Night Open Rapid 4-SS G/15;d10. May 29th Sat Night FIDE Open Blitz 5-Round Double Swiss.****

30th annual Chicago Open

MAY 27-31, 28-31, OR 29-31, ILLINOIS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED) **Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling IL 60090** (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north; from Milwaukee, I-94 east to Lake Cook Rd to US-45 south.) Free parking. **Masks**

30th annual CHICAGO OPEN

May 27-31 (GM/IM norms possible), 28-31 or 29-31, Memorial Day weekend
7 sections, \$100,000 projected prizes, \$50,000 minimum guaranteed!

Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling IL - free parking, \$109 special room rates

Projected prizes based on 800 paid entries (GMs, IMs, WGMs, seniors, re-entries count as half entries, minimum 50% each prize guaranteed). Entries may be limited.

Masks required, no spectators, no eating in tmnt area.

Open section: 5/27-31: 9 rds, G/100+30. FIDE rated.
U2300, U2100, U1900 sections: 5/28-31 or 29-31: 7 rounds, G/100+30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). G/100 games in U2300 & U2100 Sections are FIDE rated.
U1700, U1500, U1200 sections: 7 rds, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10).

All 4-day & 3-day schedules merge & play for same prizes.

Open: \$8000-4000-2000-1000-800-700-600-500-400-400, clear/tiebreak first \$300 bonus, top FIDE U2400/unr \$2500-1200. Foreign GM prize pool: \$5000 split among all foreign GMs who play 9 games with no byes, Minimum prize \$300 to US GMs & foreign IMs/WGMs who play 9 games with no byes.

U2300, U2100, U1900, U1700: Each \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300.

U1500: \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-400-300-300-300, top Under 1350 \$1000-500.

U1200: \$2500-1500-1000-700-500-400-400-300-300-300, top U1000 \$800-400.

No unrated in U1900, U1700 or U1500 Sections.

FIDE ratings used for Open, May official USCF for others. Unofficial or Online Regular usually used if otherwise unrated.

Prize limits: Limits based on past rating, Online Regular rating, or number of games. See TLA or prizelimits.com.

Mixed Doubles: \$2000-1000-600-500-400. Must average under 2200. See TLA or chesssevents.us.

Entry fee: \$222 at chessaction.com by 5/26, \$250 until 2 hrs before rd 1 or at site 1 hr before. Open Section \$100 more if not rated 2200/over USCF or 2100/over FIDE. Senior 65/up \$100 less. Titled players or mailed entry: see TLA or chesssevents.us.

5-day schedule (Open only): Enter Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat-Mon 10 & 4.

4-day schedule (U2300 to U1900): Enter Fri to 6 pm, rds Fri 7, Sat-Mon 10 & 4.

3-day schedule (U2300 to U1900): Enter Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 1 & 4, merges with 4-day at 4 pm.

4-day schedule (U1700 to U1200): Enter Fri to 6:30 pm, rds Fri 7:30, Sat-Mon 10:30 & 4:30.

3-day schedule (U1700 to U1200): Enter Sat to 9:30 am, rds Sat 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, merges with 4-day at 4:30.

Half point byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 last 4 rds); must commit before rd 3.

Hotel: 1-4/rm \$109, 800-937-8461, reserve by 5/8.

USCF mem required: Special rate at chessaction.com.

Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

required, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. Due to Covid conditions, it is possible the tournament is limited to fewer players. Prizes \$100,000 projected based on 800 paid entries (GMs, IMs, WGMs, seniors, re-entries count as half entries, scholastic prize free entries not counted); \$50,000 (50% each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections (unrated allowed only in Open, U2300, U2100 and U1200). **Open Section, May 27-31:** 9SS, G/100+30, GM & IM norms possible, FIDE rated. **Under 2300 and Under 1900 Sections, May 28-31 or 29-31:** 7SS, G/100+30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). U2300 & U2100 are FIDE rated except rds 1-2 of 3-day. **Under 1700, Under 1500 & Under 1200 Sections, May 28-31 or 29-31:** 7SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). **Open:** Open to all who are rated 2200/over by USCF, 2100/over by FIDE (2000/over if foreign) or pay \$100 extra (see peakrating.us). \$8000-4000-2000-1000-800-700-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak winner bonus \$300, top FIDE Under 2400/Unr \$2500-1200. **Foreign GM bonus prize pool:** \$5000 projected divided evenly among all foreign GMs who play all 9 games with no byes. **Minimum prize \$300 to US GMs and foreign IMs/WGMs who play all 9 games with no byes.** **Under 2300:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 2100:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1900:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1700:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1500:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300, top Under 1350 \$1000-500. **Under 1200:** \$2500-1500-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300, top Under 1000 \$800-400. **Prize limits:** 1) If any post-event regular OTB rating posted 1/1/20-5/25/21 was more than 50 points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$1000. 2) If any current Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$1000. 3) Under 26 lifetime OTB regular rated games as of May 2021 official list limited to \$500 in U1200, \$1000 U1500, \$1500 U1700, \$2000 U1900, 4) Unrated limits \$1000 in U2100, \$400 in U1200, 5) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$2000-1000-600-500-400. For Open Section, only rounds 1-7 counted towards doubles. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teams including an unrated limited to \$500. **Foreign player ratings:** see foreignratings.com. **US player ratings:** Official May ratings used; May FIDE ratings used for Open Section. **Unofficial or Online Regular USCF ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Entry fee:** \$222 online at chessaction.com by 5/26, \$250 online until 2 hours before round 1 or at site until 1 hour before. 5-day \$225, 4-day \$224, 3-day \$223 mailed by 5/17; do not mail entry after 5/17. **GMs & foreign IMs/WGMs** \$50 at chessaction.com by 5/17, \$100 after 5/17 or at site. **US IMs/WGMs, foreign FMs** \$100 at chessaction.com by 5/17, \$150 after 5/17 or at site. **EF \$100 less to seniors age 65/over.** No checks at site, credit cards OK. **Online EF \$5 less to ICA members;** join at il-chess.org. **ICA Tour event, Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, \$40, \$25 & \$17. **Re-entry:** \$100, no Open to Open. **5-day schedule (Open only):** Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 noon-7 pm, Sat-Mon 10 am & 4 pm. **4-day schedule (U2300 to U1900):** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, Rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat-Mon 10 am & 4 pm. **3-day schedule (U2300 to U1900):** Reg. ends Sat 9 am, Rds. Sat 10, 1 & 4, merges with 4-day at 4. **4-day schedule (U1700 to U1200):** Reg. ends Fri 6:30 pm, Rds Fri 7:30 pm, Sat-Mon 10:30 am & 4:30 pm, 3-day schedule (U1700 to U1200): Reg. ends 9:30 am, Rds. Sat 10:30, 1:30 & 4:30, merges with 4-day at 4:30. **4-day & 3-day schedules** compete for same prizes. **Byes:** OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rds), must commit by rd 3. **Hotel rates:** \$109-109-109-109, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by 5/8 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chessour.com. **Foreign player ratings:** see foreignratings.com. **US player ratings:** May official regular OTB ratings used; FIDE used for Open Section. **Unofficial or online uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Electronic devices:** See devicerules.com. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal (may take a few weeks). **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. **Questions:** Director@ChessUS, if no net access 347-201-2269, leave message. **Refunds,** \$15 service charge. **Entries** posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entry). **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied. **Invitations:** Go@chess.us.

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

76th Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships
MAY 28-31, TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)
 Championship: 7SS, G/90 with 30 sec increment. This section is FIDE rated and uses FIDE rules. The tournament will use USCF ratings for pairings and prize purposes.

Must be rated 2000 or above OTB regular (not quick, blitz or rapid nor online) by either USCF or Fide to play in this section or have had a provable 2000 or higher regular rating in the past. Defending Texas State Amateur Champion may also play in this section. Defending Texas Scholastic High School Champions may also play in this section. Foreign unrateds may play in this section and at TDs discretion may be required to play in Championship section. G/90 with 30 sec. increment. Players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play in Championship section. If no FIDE id, players must agree to represent USA in FIDE or else acquire the FIDEs id number from their host federation before round 1. \$800-400-200, 2200-2399 \$500, U2200 \$500. **Amateur:** 7SS, G/90 with 30 sec increment. U2000 & unrated. USCF rated only. See Website for prizes. Reentry allowed for a fee of \$67 (counts 60% toward base) **Both:** 4-day: Friday 5/28 - Monday or 3-day Saturday - Monday. Texas Chess Association membership required. Other states accepted. EF: \$96 if received by 5/17, else \$109. \$88 Junior (U19) if received by 5/17 else \$92 (counts 90% toward base), senior (over 65)/Handicapped/Full time college student/additional family participant \$62 if receive by 5/17 else \$67 (Counts 60% toward base.) Add \$5 for CC phone entries; pre-reg. requires pre-payment. After 5/27 all registration and changes online only; all changes including withdrawals, \$10 after 5/26. 4 day: Rds. Friday: 7:16 pm, Sat.: 2:45 pm - 7:30, Sun: 11:30 am - 5:15 pm, Mon: 9:30 am - 2:16 pm. 3 day: Rds. 1 on Saturday at 9:30 am then merge with 4 day. Foreign Unrated must play in Championship section. Registrations that do not indicate 4-day or 3-day schedule will be put in the 3-day. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. HR: \$89/89/89/89, 817-358-1700 reserve by 5/14 and ask for Dallas Chess Club rate. Free Parking. Up to two 1/2 point byes available if requested before end of rd. 2 and before receiving full point byes, but byes for both rounds 6 AND 7 is not permitted. Note that unless TD rules otherwise on a case by case basis, withdrawals and last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Note that face coverings must be worn. Other Covid-19 measures will be in place. Check dallaschess.com Onsite registration very limited. Online registration strongly recommended. **Info:** Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. **Info:** Barb Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com www.dallaschess.com NS. NC. W. FIDE. JGP

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

10th annual Chicago Open Blitz
MAY 30, ILLINOIS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
 5SS, G/3d2, double round, 10 games, Westin North Shore Hotel (see Chicago Open). Masks required, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **\$2000 guaranteed prizes.** In 2 sections. **Open:** \$300-200-100, 2100-2299 \$180-90, U2100/Unr \$180-90. **Under 1900/Unr:** \$200-120-70, U1700/Unr \$140-70, U1500 \$120-60, U1300 \$80. **EF:** \$40 online at chessaction.com by 5/29, \$50 online by 9 pm 5/30, \$60 at site 5/27-30. **GMs** \$40 from prize. **Reg. ends 9 pm 5/30, play begins 10 pm, then ASAP, should end by 1 am.** Half point bye available (1 point out of 2), must commit before rd 2. **Blitz rated** (will not affect regular ratings), higher of regular or Blitz used for pairings & prizes. If Online Regular or Online Blitz rating is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$80. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal. **Refunds:** \$15 service charge. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Cleveland Open

JUNE 11-13 OR 12-13, OHIO
 US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)
 5SS, Major & Under 2100 sections G/100+30, other sections 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in all, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport, 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130. Free parking, free airport shuttle, restaurants within walking distance. **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$14,000** based on 200 paid entries (re-entries, Gms count half), \$7000 (50% each prize) minimum guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. In 5 sections. **Major:** Open to 1900/above. \$1500-700-500-300, clear/tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top USCF U2300 \$600-300. **FIDE. Under 2100:** \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1900/Unr \$400-200. **FIDE. Under 1800:** \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1600 (no Unr) \$400-200. **Under 1500:** \$800-450-300-200, top Under 1300 (no Unr) \$300-150. **Under 1200:** \$600-400-200-100, top Under 1000 (no Unr) \$200-100. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 6/12. **Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$100, U1500 \$200, U1800 \$300. **Playing up** in Major: see peakrating.us. **Top 5 sections EF:** \$118 online at chessaction.com by 6/9, 3-day, \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 6/1, all \$130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hrs before round 1. **GMs**

\$100 from prize. **U1200 Section EF:** all \$20 less than above. **Online EF \$5 less to OCA members.** **Unofficial or online regular uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If online regular rating is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum,** prize limit \$200. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com by 5/30, Adult or Senior \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. After 5/30, \$40, \$25 & \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. **Re-entry \$50;** no Major to Major. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **All:** Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 2. **HR:** \$99-99, 800-227-6963, 440-243-4040, request chess rate, reserve by 5/28 or rate may increase. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chessour.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** Director@Chess.US. **Entries** posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm. Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

2021 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

JUNE 16-17, NEVADA
 US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
 See Nationals.

2021 NATIONAL OPEN

JUNE 16-20, NEVADA
 US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
 See Nationals.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2021 Carolinas Classic

JUNE 18-20, 2021, NORTH CAROLINA
 US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)
 5SS, G/90, inc/30 for Championship, G/120, inc/5 other sections. Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J.M. Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262 (704) 547-7444, mention chess for \$103 rate (\$10 off entry fee if staying at hotel). \$10,000 guaranteed in 4 sections. **Championship:** \$1200+plaque-700-400-200, top U2200 \$400-200. **FIDE Rated. Under 2000:** \$1000+plaque-600-300, top U1850 \$300-200. **Under 1700:** \$900+plaque-500-300, top U1550 \$300-200. **Under 1400/UNR:** \$900+plaque-500-300, top U1200 \$300-200. **Rated players** may play up if within 100 points of next section, unrated players (0-3 rated games) must enter Under 1400 and are only eligible for place prizes. **EF:** \$125 if received by June 7, \$139 by June 16, \$150 after June 16. **GM/IM free,** none deducted from prize if committed by June 7, \$100 from prize after. All registration closes June 17 11:59pm EDT - **No On-Site Registration.** **Rounds:** 3-day schedule Friday 6:30pm, Sat 11am-4:30pm, Sun 10am-3:30pm. 2-day schedule Sat 11:00am - 1:30pm (G/45, inc 5) 2-day merge. Two half-point byes allowed, request by rd 2. **Boards, sets, and clocks provided.** **Covid-19 Measures:** Masks Mandatory, Temp Checks, 1-Board Per Table, Must Use Our Equipment. Register: www.charlottechesscenter.org or mail to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226. (980) 265 1156. info@charlottechesscenter.org

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2021 International Youth Championship
JUNE 19-20, NEVADA

6-SS, G/60 d5. Westgate Las Vegas Resort. In 4 Sections by age: 14 & Under Premier (under 1800), 14 & Under Reserve (under 1000), 9 & Under Premier (under 1800), 9 & Under Reserve (under 800). **Trophies** to top 10 and tied for 10th in each section plus class and team trophies. 1st Place in each section wins a Computer loaded with valuable Chess Software and hundreds of Videos, 2nd-4th win chess prizes valued at 250-150-100. Unrated players may not win 1st in Reserve sections. **EF** \$89 by 4/30, \$99 by 5/31, \$120 later. Half point bye in any round (limit 2) if requested in advance. **Reg:** 8:30-9 a.m. **Rds** 10-1-3:30, 10-1-3:30. **Youth Blitz** 6/17 6:30 p.m. (\$30 by 5/31 \$40 later). **HR** \$71, \$99 Friday and Saturday (800) 732-7117. **ENT** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or www.VegasChess-Festival.com.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship
JUNE 20, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
 6 D-SS (12 games), G/3, +2. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. \$3,600 based on 80 paid entries. **Open:** \$700-350-200. U2400 200, U2300 190,

U2200 180, U2100 170, U2000 160. **Reserve (U1900):** \$350-200-150, U1800 150, U1700 140, U1600 130, U1500 120, U1400 110, U1200 100. **Open section FIDE Blitz** rated. Must be 3 players eligible for each prize awarded. **Unrated** eligible for under prizes in open section only. **EF** \$50 by 5/31, \$60 later. **REG** by 9:45 p.m. Rd 1 at 10:30 p.m. www.VegasChessFestival.com FIDE

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th annual Philadelphia Open
JUNE 25-27 OR 26-27, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)
 5SS, Major & Under 2100 sections G/100+30, other sections 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in all, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open for location, rates, parking), **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$14,000** based on 200 paid entries (re-entries, GMs, scholastic reduced prize entries count as half entries, scholastic prize free entries not counted). \$7000 (50% each prize) minimum guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. In 5 sections. **Major:** Open to 1900/above. \$1500-700-500-300, clear/tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top USCF U2300 \$600-300. **FIDE. Under 2100:** \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1900/Unr \$400-200. **FIDE. Under 1800:** \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1600 (no Unr) \$400-200. **Under 1500:** \$800-450-300-200, top Under 1300 (no Unr) \$300-150. **Under 1200:** \$600-400-200-100, top Under 1000 (no Unr) \$200-100. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 6/26. **Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$100, U1500 \$200, U1800 \$300. **Playing up** in Major: see peakrating.us. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$118 online at chessaction.com by 6/23, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 6/15, all \$130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hrs before round 1. **GMs** \$100 from prize. **U1200 Section EF:** all \$20 less than above. **Unofficial or Online Regular uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If online regular rating 50 or more points over section or prize maximum,** prize limit \$200. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com by 5/30, Adult or Senior \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. After 5/30, \$40, \$25 & \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. **Re-entry \$50;** no Major to Major. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **All:** Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 2. **HR:** See World Open. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chessour.com. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** Director@Chess.US. **Entries** posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm. Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2021 DFW FIDE Premier 5
JUNE 26-27, TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
 The Westin Galleria Dallas, 13334 Dallas Parkway, Dallas, TX 75240. **Hotel rates:** \$99. Reserve at 972-934-9494 mention DFW DCC or use reservation link at www.dallaschess.com tournament page. **Tournament** has two Sections. **Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play.** USA players without FIDE ids must represent USA in international competition in order to play. **Premier Section:** Open to players rated 1800 or above. The highest finishing player who is otherwise non-qualified by rating from the DFW FIDE 4 Reserve section may also play in this section. **EF:** \$90 + \$5 non DCC Membership fee if applicable and if received by 6/20, else \$109 with \$10 non DCC Membership fee if applicable. **EF** for Senior/Handicap/Additional family participant/birthday during tournament: \$60 + \$5 non DCC Membership fee if applicable by 6/20 else \$79 + \$5 non DCC Membership fee if applicable. **EF** for Senior/Handicap/Additional family participant/birthday during tournament: \$36 + \$5 non DCC Membership fee if applicable by 6/20 else \$49 + \$5 non DCC Membership fee if applicable. \$3 at least 25% of Reserve entry fees. **Arbiter** will post prize list before the fourth round. **Both:** 5SS, G/90; 30 second increment. **Rds.** Sat 6:26: 9:40 am, 2:16 pm, 7:16 pm, Sun: 9:40 am - 2:16 pm. **Both** sections are FIDE rated and uses FIDE playing rules. **USCF**

rules/ratings used for awarding prizes. USCF ratings used for pairing purposes. May use US Chess pairing rules. Players not at the board within 60 minutes of the scheduled start of the round will forfeit game unless arbiter decides to extend it to 90 minutes on a game by game basis. (Note that player's clock will keep running.) Except for approved Electronic scorekeeping devices, no electronics are allowed in the playing area during the round. This includes rest rooms by the playing area. This rule applies to players, parents, coaches. Note that the Playing area will be closed to non-players during the round. Every player must turn in a copy of their games. Other Covid-19 rules will be in effect. See www.dallaschess.com. Note that entry must be done online at www.dallaschess.com. Note that entries may be limited due to any special distancing rules in effect during the dates of the tournament. **INFO:** Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Barb Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com, dallaschess.com. NS. NC. W. FIDE.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th annual Philadelphia International

JUNE 26-30, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)
9SS, G/100+30, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open for location, rates, parking). Masks required, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. \$22,000 guaranteed prizes. In 2 sections. Both are FIDE rated; Premier uses FIDE ratings for pairings & prizes, Expert section uses USCF ratings (or converted FIDE for foreign players if higher). **Premier:** open to FIDE 2000/over, USCF 2100/over (see peakratings.us) or invites. GM & IM norms possible. Prizes \$3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400, clear or tiebreak bonus \$100, top FIDE under 2300/Unr \$1600-800. **Premier foreign GM prize pool:** \$5000 divided evenly among foreign GMs who play all 9 games with no byes. **Expert:** Open to USCF Under 2200 (foreign players, see foreignratings.com). Prizes \$2000-1000-700-600-400-300-200, top USCF under 2000/Unr \$1000-500. If Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over prize maximum in Expert section, prize limit \$500. **Premier minimum prize guarantees:** \$300 to US GMs & foreign IMs/WGMs (must play all 9 games with no byes). **Nonresident aliens:** see US tax laws at chessaction.org. **Premier EF:** GMs, IMs, WGMs: \$50 online at chessaction.com by 5/18, \$75 by 6/23, \$100 at site. **Foreign FIDE rated players:** \$150 online at chessaction.com by 5/18, \$175 by 6/23, \$200 at site. **US FIDE Masters:** \$200 online by 5/18, \$225 by 6/23, \$250 at site. **US players FIDE rated 2100/up or USCF 2200/up:** \$300 online by 5/18, \$325 by 6/23, \$350 at site. **Other US players:** \$400 online by 5/18, \$425 by 6/23, \$450 at site. **Expert Section EF:** \$250 online by 5/18, \$275 by 6/23, \$300 at site. **All:** Mailed entry all \$10 more; do not mail entry after 6/14. No checks at site, credit cards OK. **Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine:** see World Open Schedule. **Late reg. ends Sat 5 am, rds. Sat-Tue 11 am & 5 pm, Wed 11 am.** Two half point byes available; must commit before rd 3; FIDE norm in Premier not possible if taking bye. **HR:** see World Open. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** Director@Chess.us. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Invitations:** Go@Chess.us. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

10th annual World Open Women's Championship

JUNE 28-29, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
5SS, G/90 d10, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open for location, rates, parking). Open to all females. **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$2100** based on 25 entries, \$1050 (50% each prize) minimum. \$700-500-300, top U2000 \$250, U1700/Unr \$200, U1400 \$150, plaques to top U1200/Unr, U900. If current Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over prize maximum, prize limit \$100. **EF:** \$88 at chessaction.com by 6/26, \$92 mailed by 6/15, \$100 at site, or online until 8 am 6/28. **WGMs & WIMs \$80** from prize. **Reg. ends 9 am 6/28, rds. Mon 10, 2 & 6, Tue 10 & 2.** Half point byes OK all rds, limit 2 byes (limit 1 bye if U1400), must commit before rd 2. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. **Refunds:** \$15 service charge. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. **Entries posted at** chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

13th annual World Open Under 13 Championship

JUNE 28-29, PENNSYLVANIA

6SS, G/60 d10, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open for location, rates, parking). Open to all born after 6/29/08. **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. In 4 sections. **Open Section:** Plaques to top 7, top 2 Under 1700/Unr; free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/21-12/31/21 to 1st. **Under 1500 Section:** Plaques to top 7, top 2 Under 1300/Unr, free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/21-10/31/21 to 1st. **Under 1100 Section:** Plaque to top 7, top 2 Under 900/Unr, free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/21-9/30/21 to 1st. **Under 700 Section:** Plaques to top 7, top 2 Under 500, top 2 Unrated; free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/21-9/30/21 to 1st. **EF:** \$48 online at chessaction.com by 6/26, \$52 mailed by 6/15, \$60 at site. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Late reg. 6/28 to 10 am, rounds. 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm each day.** Up to 3 half point byes allowed, must commit before rd 3. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. **Questions:** director@chess.us, \$15 service charge for refunds. **Entries posted at** chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual World Open Action Championship

JUNE 30, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)
5SS, G/30 d5, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open for location, rates, parking). **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament room. **Prizes \$3000** based on 55 entries, \$1500 min. (50% each prize) guaranteed. 2 sections. **Open,** open to all: \$600-400-200, 2000-2199 \$200-100, U2000/Unr \$200-100. **Under 1800/Unr:** \$400-200-100, U1600 (no Unr) \$180-90, U1400 (no Unr) \$150-80. **EF:** \$73 online at chessaction.com by 6/28, \$90 online by 9 am 6/30 or at site. **GMs \$70** from prize. **Unofficial or online regular ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If Online Regular rating is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum,** prize limit \$100. **Reg. ends 10 am 6/30, rounds 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00.** Half-point bye OK any round, limit 1 bye, must commit before rd 2. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Entries posted at** chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Bring set, board & clock if possible-** none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

10th annual World Open G/7 Blitz Championship

JULY 1, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
5-SS, double round (10 games), G/7 d2, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open). **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$1500** guaranteed: \$400-220-130, U2200 \$200-100, U1900 \$160-80, U1600 \$140-70. **EF:** \$40 online at chessaction.com by 6/30, \$50 online 7/1 to 10 am, \$60 at site 6/25-7/1. **GMs \$40** from prize. **Reg. ends 10 am, rds. 11, 12, 1, 2, 3.** One pair of 1/2 pt byes available, must commit before rd 2. **Blitz rated** (will not affect regular ratings), higher of regular or Blitz used for pairings & prizes. **If Online Regular or Online Blitz rating is 50 or more points over prize maximum,** prize limit \$80. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Refunds:** \$15 service charge. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

49th annual World Open

JULY 1-5, 2-5, OR 3-5, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300 (ENHANCED)
9SS, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, 201 North 17th Street, Philadelphia PA 19103. **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$225,000** projected based on 1200 paid entries (GMs, IMs, WGMs, U1100 Section, seniors, re-entries, scholastic prize reduced prize entries count as half entries, scholastic prize free entries not counted); minimum 50% each prize guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. In 7 sections; unrated may enter only Open, U2200, U2000 or U1100. **Open Section,** July 1-5 only: G/100+30. Open to all who are rated 2200/over USCF, 2100/over FIDE, or pay \$150 more. **Under 2200/Unr & Under 2000/Unr Sections,** July 1-5 or 2-5: G/100+30 (4-day option), rds 1-2 G/60 d10, G/100 games are FIDE rated. **Under 1800, Under 1600, Under 1400 Sections,** July 1-5 or 2-5: 40/100, SD/30

d10 (4-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). **Under 1100/Unr Section,** July 3-5 only: G/60 d10. **Open:** \$20000-10000-5000-3000-2000-1500-1000-800-700-600, clear winner bonus \$500, top FIDE 2300-2449 \$5000-2500-1500, top FIDE 2200-2299 \$5000-2500-1500, top FIDE U2200/Unr \$5000-2500-1500. If tie for first, top 2 on tiebreak play speed game 10 pm 7/5 for title & bonus prize. **Under 2200/Unr:** \$12000-6000-3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U2100 (no Unr) \$2000-1000, unrated limit \$2000. **Under 2000/Unr:** \$12000-6000-3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1900 (no unr) \$2000-1000. **Under 1800:** \$12000-6000-3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1700 \$2000-1000. **Under 1600:** \$10000-5000-2500-1600-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1500 \$2000-1000. **Under 1400:** \$8000-4000-2000-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top U1250 \$1600-800. **Under 1100/Unr:** \$3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300-300, top U900 \$1000-500. **Prize limits:** 1) If any post-event rating posted 1/1/20-6/28/21 was more than 50 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1500. 2) If any current Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$1500. 3) Under 26 lifetime OTB regular rated games as of July 2021 official list, prize limit \$1000 in U1100, \$2000 U1400, \$3000 U1600 through U2000. Games rated too late for July official list not counted toward 26 game total. 4) Unrated limits \$2000 in U2200, \$1000 in U2000, \$400 in U1100 Unrated limits \$2000 in U2200, \$1000 in U2000, \$400 in U1100. 5) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$3000-1500-700-500-300. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teams including an unrated limited to \$500. **Foreign player ratings:** See foreignratings.com. **US player ratings:** Official July USCF ratings used; July FIDE ratings used for Open Section. **Unofficial or Online Regular uscf.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Entry fee** for U1400 & up sections: **Online at** chessaction.com: \$318 by 5/18, \$328 by 6/25, \$350 at site until 1.5 hours before round 1, or online until 2 hrs before. **Mailed by 5/18:** 5-day \$325, 4-day \$324, 3-day \$323. **Mailed by 6/15:** all \$10 more. **All \$150 more** for Open Section if not rated 2200/over by USCF or 2100/over by FIDE (see peakratings.us). **Do not mail entry** after 6/15. No checks at site, credit cards OK. **GMs free:** \$200 from prize. **IMs, WGMs in Open:** EF \$100 less, \$100 from prize. **Under 1100 Section EF:** all \$100 less than above. **Seniors 65/up:** all EF \$100 less in U1400 or above sections. **Greater NY Scholastics reduced EF winners:** U1400/up \$150 less, U1100 \$100 less, email director@chess.us for entry instructions. **No checks at site;** credit cards OK. **Re-entry:** \$160, no re-entry from Open to Open. **\$20 fee for switching section** after 6/30. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: **Online at** chessaction.com by 5/30, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. **After 5/30, \$40, \$25 & \$18.** Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. **5-day Open, U2200, U2000 schedule:** Thu 7 pm, Fri-Mon 10 am & 4 pm. **5-day U1800, U1600, U1400 schedule:** Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Mon 10:30 am & 4:30 pm. **4-day U2200, U2000 schedule:** Fri 10 am, 1 pm & 4 pm, merges with other schedules at 4 pm. **4-day U1800, U1600, U1400 schedule:** Fri 10:30 am, 1:30 pm & 4:30 pm, merges with other schedules at 4:30 pm. **U1100 Section schedule:** Sat-Mon 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm each day. **5-day & 4-day schedules merge & compete for same prizes.** **Half point byes OK** all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rds); must commit by round 3. **Entries, re-entries** close 90 minutes before round 1. **HR:** \$135-135-155, deluxe rooms \$145-145-165, club rooms \$165-165-185, junior suites \$265-265-285, premium suites \$299-299-319. 50 free rollaway beds available; if taken, rollaways are \$30/day. **Under 18** free in parents room using existing bedding. 215-448-2000, reserve early, chess block may sell out by early June. **Parking:** Sheraton valet parking is about \$45/day- one block from the hotel is Gateway Garage, 1540 Spring Street, which is about \$25/day weekdays, \$9/day Sat & Sun. **Special car rental rates:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesshour.com. **Special rules:** Players may not possess cellphones during play; see deviceurules.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. **Questions:** Director@Chess.us, if no internet access leave message at 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Entries posted at** chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal (may take a few weeks). **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied. **Invitations:** Go@chess.us.

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

29th annual World Open G/10 Championship

JULY 4, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)
5SS, G/10 d2, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open). **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. \$2200 guaranteed prizes. In 2 sections: **Open:** \$400-200-100, top 2100-2299 \$160-80, U2100/Unr \$160-80. **Under 1900:** \$300-

150-80, top U1800/Unr \$140-70, U1600 \$120-60, U1400 \$100, unrated limit \$150. **EF:** \$40 online at chessaction.com by 7/3, \$50 online by 9 pm 7/4, \$60 at site 6/25-7/4. **GMs \$40** from prize. **Reg. ends 9 pm,** play begins 10 pm, then ASAP, should end by 1 am. Half point bye available (1 point out of 2); must commit before rd 2. **Quick rated** (will not affect regular ratings); higher of regular or Quick used for pairings & prizes. **If Online Regular or Online Quick rating is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum,** prize limit \$100. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Refunds:** \$15 service charge. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

32nd annual World Open Blitz Championship

JULY 5, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)
5SS, G/3 d2 (double round, 10 games), Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open). **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. \$2700 guaranteed prizes. In 2 sections: **Open:** \$500-260-130, top 2200-2399 \$200-100, U2200/Unr \$200-100. **Under 2000:** \$300-200-100, top U1800/Unr \$180-90, U1600 \$160-80, U1400 \$100, unrated limit \$200. **EF:** \$40 online at chessaction.com by 7/4, \$50 online by 9 pm 7/5, \$60 at site 6/25-7/5. **GMs \$40** from prize. **Reg. ends 9 pm,** play begins 10 pm, then ASAP, should end by 1 am. **Half point bye** available (1 point out of 2); must commit before rd 2. **Blitz rated** (will not affect regular ratings); higher of regular or Blitz rated used for pairings & prizes. **If Online Regular or Online Blitz rating is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum,** prize limit \$100. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Refunds:** \$15 service charge. **Awards:** paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th annual Chicago Class

JULY 16-18 OR 17-18, ILLINOIS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)
5SS, Master & Expert G/100+30, other sections 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in all, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north; from Milwaukee, I-94 to Lake Cook Rd to US-45 south). Free parking. **Masks required,** no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$30,000** based on 350 paid entries (Class E, re-entries, GMs count half), \$15,000 (50% each prize) minimum guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. In 7 sections: **Master** (2100/up): \$3000-1500-800-500, clear/tiebreak win \$100, top USCF U2400 \$1200-600. **FIDE Expert** (1900-2199): \$2000-1000-600-400. **FIDE Class A** (1700-1999/Unr): \$2000-1000-600-400. **Class B** (1500-1799/Unr): \$2000-1000-600-400. **Class C** (1300-1599/Unr): \$1700-900-500-300. **Class D** (1100-1399/Unr): \$1400-700-500-300. **Class E** (Under 1200/Unr): \$800-400-300-200, trophies to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, Unrated. **Playing up:** not allowed, except see www.peakratings.us. **Prize limits:** Unrated limit \$100 in E, \$200 in D, \$300 in C, \$400 in B or \$500 in A. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-600-400-300. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register by 2 pm 7/17. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$128 at chessaction.com by 7/14, 3-day \$133, 2-day \$132 mailed by 7/6, all \$150 at site, or online until 2 hrs before round 1. **GMs \$120** from prize. **Class E Section EF:** all \$50 less than above. **All:** No checks at site, credit cards OK. **Online EF \$5** less to ICA members; joinrenew@il-chess.org, ICA Tour event. **Unofficial or Online Regular uscf.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If Online Regular rating is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum,** prize limit \$400. **Special 1 year USCF** with magazine if paid with entry. **Online at** chessaction.com, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. **Re-entry** (no Master to Master) \$60. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Bye:** all, limit 2; must commit before rd 3. **HR:** \$119-119-119-119, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by 7/2 or rate may increase. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or PayPal. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** Director@Chess.us. **Entries posted at** chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament Sat 9:30 pm,** enter by 9:15 pm. **Bring set, board, clock if possible-** none supplied.

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

29th annual Southern Open

JULY 23-25 OR 24-25, FLORIDA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)

5SS, Major and Under 2100 sections G/100+30, other sections 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in all, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Drive, Orlando 32819. Free parking. **Masks required**, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$18,000** based on 230 paid entries (U1200 Section, re-entries, Gms count half), \$9000 (50% each prize) minimum guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. In 5 sections. **Major:** Open to 1900/over (see peakrating.us). \$2000-1000-600-400, clear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, top USCF U2300 \$800-400. **FIDE:** Under 2100: \$1400-700-400-200, top U1900 \$600-300. **FIDE:** Under 1800: \$1400-700-400-200, top U1600 (no unr) \$500-250. **Under 1500:** \$1200-600-300-200, top U1300 (no unr) \$400-200. **Under 1200:** \$800-400-200-150. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player combined score among all sections: \$600-400-200. Must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 7/24. **Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$100, U1500 \$200, U1800 \$400. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$118 online at chessaction.com by 7/21, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 7/13, all \$140 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. **GMs, IMs & WGMs:** \$120 from prize. **U1200 Section EF:** all \$40 less than above. **Unofficial or Online Regular uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If Online Regular rating** is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$200. **Special 1 year USCF with magazine**, paid with entry - online at chessaction.com, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. **Re-entry \$60;** no Major to Major. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **All:** Half point byes OK, all limit 2, must commit before rd 3. **HR:** #121-121 (no resort fee), includes resort fee benefits (free wireless & entertainment in resort, use of fitness center, etc). Use reservation link at chessevents.us or 1-800-421-8001, 407-351-2420; reserve by 7/9 or rate may increase. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesscour.com. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. **Refunds,** \$15 service charge. **Questions:** Director@Chess.US. **Entries posted at chessaction.com** (click "entry list" after entry). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm. **Bring set, board, clock if possible - none supplied.**

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

25th annual Pacific Coast Open

JULY 23-25 OR 24-25, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED) 6SS, Premier and Under 2100 G/100+30, other sections 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in all, rds 1-3 G/35 d10), Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406. Parking \$8/daytime, \$12 including overnight. Flyaway bus from LAX to Van Nuys about \$10 each way; free shuttle to bus and train station. Free wireless, indoor pool, gym; restaurants within walking distance. **Masks required**, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$25,000** based on 260 paid entries (U1200 Section, re-entries, GMs count half), \$15,000 (60% each prize) minimum guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. **6 sections;** Premier and Under 2100 are FIDE rated, except G/45 games. **Premier:** Open to 2000/over (see peakrating.us). \$3000-1500-1000-500, clear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, top USCF U2300 \$1200-600. **Under 2100, Under 1900:** Each \$2000-1000-500-300. **Under 1700, Under 1500:** Each \$1600-800-400-200. **Under 1200:** \$800-400-200-100. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-500-300-200. Must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2. **Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$150, U1500 \$300, U1700 \$450, U1900 \$600; balance to next player(s) in line. **Top 5 sections EF:** \$138 at chessaction.com by 7/21, 3-day \$143, 2-day \$142 mailed by 7/13, \$160 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hrs before rd 1. **GMs \$130** from prize. **Under 1200 Section EF:** All \$50 less than top 5 sections entry fees. **Online EF \$5 less** to SCOF members; join/renew at schess.com. **Re-entry** (no Premier to Premier) \$70. **Unofficial or Online Regular uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If Online Regular Rating** is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$300. **Special 1 yr USCF with magazine** if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or paid at site, \$40, \$25 & \$17. **3-day schedule:** Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 6, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12:30, 2:45 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes OK** all rounds, limit 2, Premier must commit before rd 2, other sections before rd 4. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal. **HR:** #114-114, 818-997-7676, request chess rate, reserve by 7/9 or may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham

NY 10803. **Refunds,** \$15 service charge. **Questions:** Director@Chess.US. **Entries posted at chessaction.com** (click "entry list" after entry). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm. **Bring set, board, clock if possible - none supplied.**

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

22nd annual Pittsburgh Open

JULY 23-25 OR 24-25, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)

5SS, Major & Under 2100 sections G/100+30, other sections 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in all, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Doubletree Green Tree, 500 Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh 15205. Free parking, free airport shuttle. **Masks required**, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. **Prizes \$13,000** based on 180 paid entries (re-entries, GMs count half), \$6500 (50% each prize) minimum guaranteed. Due to Covid conditions it is possible the tournament may be limited to fewer players. In 5 sections. **Major:** Open to 1900/above. \$1200-600-400-300, clear/tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top USCF U2300 \$500-250. **FIDE:** Under 2100: \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1900/Unr \$400-200. **FIDE:** Under 1800: \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1600 (no Unr) \$360-180. **Under 1500:** \$800-400-300-200, top Under 1300 (no Unr) \$300-150. **Under 1200:** \$500-300-200-100, top Under 1000 (no Unr) \$170-90. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. Must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 7/24. **Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$100, U1500 \$200, U1800 \$300. **Playing up in Major:** see peakrating.us. **Top 5 sections EF:** \$118 online at chessaction.com by 7/21, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 7/13, all \$130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hrs before round 1. **GMs \$100** from prize. **U1200 Section EF:** all \$20 less than above. **Unofficial or Online Regular uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **If Online Regular Rating** is 50 or more points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$200. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult or Senior \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. **Re-entry \$50;** no Major to Major. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **All:** Half point byes OK, all limit 2, must commit before rd 2. **HR:** #99-99, 866-238-4218, 412-922-8400, request chess rate, reserve by 7/9 or rate may increase. **Awards:** Paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesscour.com. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. **Refunds,** \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** Director@Chess.US. **Entries posted at chessaction.com** (click "entry list" after entry). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm. **Bring set, board, clock if possible - none supplied.**

121ST ANNUAL U.S. OPEN

JULY 31-AUGUST 8, NEW JERSEY

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

See Nationals.

Online

HERITAGE EVENT

28th annual New York State Open

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

5-SS, G/45+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$4000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle); see ccazoom.com. In 4 sections. **Major Section:** Open to 1900/over: \$500-300-200-100, top U2200 \$240-120. **Under 2000/Unr Section:** \$350-200-120-80, U1800 (no Unr) \$180-90. **Under 1700/Unr Section:** \$300-180-120-60, top U1500 (no Unr) \$140-70, unrated limit \$150. **Under 1400/Unr Section:** \$200-150-100-50, U1200 (no Unr) \$100-50; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee \$68** at chessaction.com by 5/13: \$85 by 12:30 pm EDT 5/15, must take round 1 bye after 10 am EDT 5/15. **New players** (first CCA event on ICC) enter by 5/13 or risk not being paired for round 1. **EF discounts:** \$15 less to New York State residents, \$7 less to NYSCA members (may join with entry for \$12). **GMs \$50** from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin** EDT 11 am, 1:30 pm, 4 pm, 6:30 pm, 9 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

CCA May Open

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

5-SS, G/40+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$2000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle); see ccazoom.com. In 3 sections. **Open Section:** Open to all, \$400-200-100, top U2200 \$140, U2000 \$120. **Under 1900/Unr Section:** \$250-130-70, top U1700 (no Unr) \$120. **Under 1500/Unr Section:** \$200-100-50, U1300 (no Unr) \$120; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee** at chessaction.com: \$48 by 5/14, \$65 by 11:30 am EDT 5/16, entry after 10 am EDT 5/16 must take half point bye in rd 1. **New players** (first CCA event on ICC) enter by 5/14 or risk not being paired for rd 1. **GMs \$40** from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game, **rounds begin** EDT 11 am, 1:15 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:45 pm, 8 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

North American Under 13 Championship (rescheduled from April 17-18)

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021 - SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

8SS, G/30+10, at Internet Chess Club. Open to residents of US, Canada, Mexico, Bahamas or Bermuda, born after 5/22/08. Must be on Zoom using real name to be eligible for prizes (see www.ccazoom.com). In 4 sections. **Open Section:** open to all. Plaque to top 5; top 2 each Under 1800, Under 1600. Free entry to all CCA tournaments 6/15/21-11/15/21 to 1st, 6/15/21-9/15/21 2nd-3rd, 6/15/21-8/15/21 4th-5th. **Under 1600 Section:** Plaque to top 5, top 2 each Under 1400, Under 1200. Free entry to all CCA tournaments 6/15/21-9/15/21 to 1st, 6/15/21-8/15/21 to 2nd & 3rd, 6/15/21-7/15/21 4th & 5th. **Under 1200 Section:** Plaque to top 5; top 2 each Under 1000, Under 800, Unrated. Free entry prizes: same as Under 1600 Section. **Under 800 Section:** Plaque to top 5, top 2 each Under 600, Under 400, Unrated. Free entry prizes: same as Under 1600 Section. **Entry fee** at chessaction.com: \$57 by 5/20, \$80 by 9 am EDT 5/22, must take rd 1 bye after 9 am EDT 5/22. **New players** (1st CCA event on ICC) register by 5/20 or risk not being paired for round 1. **Log in to playcca.com** 30 minutes before play begins; **rounds begin each day at:** EDT 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm. **Half point byes** available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings); **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes. USCF membership required; may join with entry. \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

US Amateur K-8 East Under 1200, Online at ICC

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021

5-SS, G/30 +5. In one section: Under 1200. Wooden Set in Leather Box to Top Three. Plastic set in Leather Bag to 4 - 10th place and top 2 U900 and top 2 U600. Registration: Online at www.njscf.org \$40 from 4/15/21 to 5/26/21. **NO ENTRIES AFTER 5/26/21.** **Rounds Sat (5/29): 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8pm.** One 1/2 point by allowed if requested WITH entry fee. All players must be on Zoom with at least a side view. See www.njscf.org for full rules and details during registration period. Email akiedes@gmail.com for more information. All Prizes Subject To Fair Play Analysis. **NO PHONE OR EMAIL ENTRIES.**

76th Annual Amateur East Individual (Online at ICC)

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 - SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021

6-SS, G/60 +10 In 3 sections: Championship (under 2200); Reserve (under 1800); Booster (under 1400). Prizes for each section: **Wooden Set with Leather Box** to top 3. Plastic set with leather bag to top Senior 55/over and Juniors under age 16 and age 13 (only qualify for lowest age prize). Additional Prizes - Championship Section: Plastic Set in Leather Bag to top Under 2000, Under 1900. Reserve Section: Plastic Set in Leather Bag to top Under 1600, Under 1500. Booster Section: Plastic Set in Leather Bag to top Under 1200, Under 1100, Under 1000, Under 900, Under 800. **EF:** \$50 online at www.njscf.org from 4/15/21 to 5/26/21. **Byes:** 3 half-point byes allowed in rounds 1-5 if requested WITH entry fee. **NO ENTRIES AFTER 5/26/21.** **Rounds Sat (5/29): 10, 12, and 6pm.** **Rounds Sun (5/30): 9, 1, and 5pm.** All players must be on Zoom with at least a side view. See www.njscf.org for full rules and details during registration period. Email akiedes@gmail.com for more information. All Prizes Subject To Fair Play Analysis. **NO PHONE OR EMAIL ENTRIES.**

2nd annual CCA June Open on ICC

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

5-SS, G/40+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$2000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle); see ccazoom.com. In 3 sections. **Open Section:** Open to all, \$400-200-100, top U2200 \$140, U2000 \$120. **Under 1900/Unr Section:** \$250-130-70, top U1700 (no Unr) \$120. **Under 1500/Unr Section:** \$200-100-50, U1300 (no Unr) \$120; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee** at chessaction.com: \$48 by 6/3, \$65 by 11:30 am EDT 6/5, entry after 10 am EDT 6/5 must take half point bye in rd 1. **New players** (first CCA event on ICC) enter by 6/3 or risk not being paired for rd 1. **GMs \$40** from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game, **rounds begin** EDT 11 am, 1:15 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:45 pm, 8 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

Regionals

ALABAMA

JUNE 5, 2021

Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships A State Championship Event! Location: Evangel Church, 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL. Trophies and Alabama titles to top Alabamian finishers. USCF and ACF membership required, other states accepted. Unrated players are only eligible for place prizes. Registration: Send name, USCF ID, section and entry fee (payable to "Evangel Church") to Doug Strout, 6000 Camelot Ct, Montgomery, AL 36117 (dststrout@bell-south.net). **QUICK CHAMPIONSHIP:** 5SS, Game/20 + 5-second increment. Round times: 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30. Two sections: **Open (\$SGTD):** 1st 150 + T, 2nd \$100, U1800 \$60, U1600 (\$SGTD): 1st 150 + T, 2nd \$100, U1200 \$60. **EF** (both sections): \$25 by June 1. \$30 thereafter or onsite (onsite registration 8:30-9:00AM) **BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP:** 5SS, Game/7, no delay, no increment Round times: 1st round 4:00, ASAP thereafter One section: (\$SGTD): 1st \$120 + T, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, U1600 \$40 **EF:** \$15

ARIZONA

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 17-18, 2021

Youth Trophy Tournament (NV)
See Nevada.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 20, 2021

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 23-25, 2021

25th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

CALIFORNIA

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 17-18, 2021

Youth Trophy Tournament
See Nevada.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 20, 2021

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz
Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

📍COLORADO**JUNE 16-17, 2021**

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

📍FLORIDA**JUNE 5, 2021**

Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships
(AL)
See Alabama.

📍GEORGIA**JUNE 5, 2021**

Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships
(AL)
See Alabama.

JULY 23-24, 2021

29th annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍HAWAII**JUNE 16-20, 2021**

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

📍IDAHO**JUNE 16-17, 2021**

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

📍ILLINOIS**JUNE 16-17, 2021**

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

📍INDIANA**MAY 14-16, 2021**

Circle City Open (FIDE) (IN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 27-31, 2021

30th annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MAY 30, 2021

10th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 16-18, 2021

14th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍MARYLAND**MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)**

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See www.MD-Chess.org for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, sign-up for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the \$48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

JUNE 30, 2021

9th annual World Open Action (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1-5, 2021

49th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍MASSACHUSETTS**JULY 1-5, 2021**

49th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍MISSISSIPPI**JUNE 5, 2021**

Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships
(AL)
See Alabama.

JUNE 11-13, 2021

Cleveland Open (OH)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍MISSOURI**MAY 5-9, MISSOURI**

Missouri Grand Championship (MO)
See Grand Prix.

📍NEVADA**JUNE 16-17, 2021**

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 17, 2021

National Open Action Quads
3-RR G/25, +5. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. \$80 in each section of 4. EF \$30. REG by 1:30 p.m. Rd 1 at 2:00 p.m. www.VegasChessFestival.com.

JUNE 17, 2021

National Open Beginner Quads
3-RR G/25, +5. For players not rated or provisionally rated under 1300. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. EF \$20, free for players playing in any National Open Beginners schedule. \$50 Gift certificate in each section of 4. EF \$30. REG by 5:30 p.m. Rd 1 at 6:30 p.m. www.VegasChessFestival.com.

JUNE 17-18, 2021

Youth Trophy Tournament
5-SS, G/25, d5. Westgate Las Vegas Resort. Open to players age 14 & under. 4 sections: U1800, U1100, U800, U500. Trophies top 5 in each section, top 2 in each 200-point rating group and unrated. Must be 3 players eligible for each prize to be awarded. EF \$40 by 4/30, \$50 by 5/31, \$60 later. Reg 8:30-9 a.m. Rds 10-11:30-1-2:15-3:30. Youth Blitz 6:30 p.m. (\$30 by 5/31 \$40 later). www.VegasChessFestival.com.

JUNE 18, 2021

National Open Friday Blitz Sectionals
7-RR G/3, +2. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. \$100-60 in each section of 8. EF \$30. REG

by 11:30 p.m. Rd 1 at midnight. www.VegasChessFestival.com.

JUNE 19, 2021

National Open Saturday Blitz Sectionals
RR G/3, +2. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. \$100-60, 40 second half in each section of 10-12. EF \$30. REG by 9:30 p.m. Rd 1 at 10:30 p.m. www.VegasChessFestival.com.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 20, 2021

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz
Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

📍NEW JERSEY**JUNE 16-17, 2021**

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 25-27, 2021

14th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-30, 2021

14th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

13th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

11th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

10th annual World Open Women's Championship
(PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30, 2021

9th annual World Open Action (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1-5, 2021

49th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍NEW MEXICO**JUNE 16-17, 2021**

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)
See Grand Prix.

📍NEW YORK**MAY 15, 2021**

29th Annual New York State Open
See Online.

MAY 22-23, 2021

North American Under 13 Championship
See Online.

JUNE 5, 2021

CCA June Open
See Online.

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)
See Nationals.

JUNE 25-27, 2021

14th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-30, 2021

14th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

13th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

11th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA).
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

10th annual World Open Women's Championship
(PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30, 2021

9th annual World Open Action (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1-5, 2021

49th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍NORTH CAROLINA**JUNE 18-20, 2021**

2021 Carolinas Classic
See Grand Prix.

CLEVELAND OPEN
June 11-13 or 12-13
Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport
\$14,000 projected prizes
See "Grand Prix" or chessevents.us.

OHIO

APRIL 25-OCTOBER 10, 2021

Sunday In The Park Series

2nd and 4th Sunday every month, April 25th through October 10th, 2021. Location: 1st shelter house at Griggs Dam Park, 2933 Riverside Drive Columbus Ohio 43221. Entry: \$20 at site, prizes no less than 75% of entry fees, 2 or more classes, top prize \$100 G. Registration 9:30 am, Tournament @ 10:00 am. Time control G/45, 5 sec. delay. Covid protocol observed. Info: Lou Friscoe 614-228-8111

JULY 23-25, 2021

22nd Annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OREGON

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix.

PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club

Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See www.northpennchessclub.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

JUNE 11-13, 2021

Cleveland Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2021

11th annual World Open Senior Amateur

5SS, G/90 d10, Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown (see World Open for location, rates, parking). Open to all born before 6/29/71 and rated under 2210 or unrated. Masks required, no spectators, no eating in tournament area. Prizes \$2400 based on 36 entries, \$1200 (half each prize) min. guarantee. Prizes: \$600-300-200, U2010/Unr \$300-150, U1810 \$280-140, U1610 \$220-110, U1410 \$100. If Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over prize maximum, prize limit \$100. EF: \$88 online at chessaction.com by 6/26, \$93 mailed by 6/15, \$100 at site, or online until 8 am 6/28. Do not mail entry after 6/15. Reg. ends 9 am 6/28, rds. Mon 10 am, 2 pm & 6 pm, Tue 10 am & 2 pm. Half point byes OK all rounds, limit 2 byes, must commit before rd 2. Special USCF dues: see World Open. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). Awards: paid electronically by Zelle or Paypal. Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

TENNESSEE

JUNE 5, 2021

Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships (AL)

See Alabama.

TEXAS

MAY 7-9, 2021

West Houston Chess Open I (TX)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 28-31, 2021

76th Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships (TX)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-27, TEXAS

2021 DFW FIDE Premier 5 (TX)

See Grand Prix.

UTAH

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 20, 2021

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA

MAY 27-31 OR 28/29-31

8th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30, 2021

9th annual World Open Action (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1-5, 2021

49th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

WASHINGTON

JUNE 16-20, 2021

2021 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

JUNE 19-20, 2021

2021 International Youth Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN

MAY 27-31, 2021

30th Annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MAY 30, 2021

10th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 16-18, 2021

14th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

WYOMING

JUNE 16-17, 2021

2021 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See Nationals.



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408-409-6596
ask@bayareachess.com
www.bayareachess.com

ChessNYC.com

1562 1st Ave #189
New York, NY 10128
212-475-8130
info@chessnyc.com
www.chessnyc.com

New Millennium Chess LLC

70 Pine Street, PH 5601
New York, NY 10005
212-475-8130
info@NewMillenniumChess.org
www.NewMillenniumChess.org

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis

4657 Maryland Avenue,
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-CHESS
info@saintlouischessclub.org
www.saintlouischessclub.org

Berkeley Chess School

2622 San Pablo Avenue,
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-843-0150
tournaments@berkeleychess
school.org
www.berkeleychessschool.org

Continental Chess Association

P.O. Box 8482
Pelham, NY 10803
201-347-2269
director@chess.us
www.chesstour.com

PaperClip Pairings

4 Jalapa Court
Brownsville, TX 78526
956-621-0377
rrferrari@bisd.us

San Diego Chess Club

2225 Sixth Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92101
619-752-4377
chucnglo@aol.com
www.sandiegochessclub.org

Capital Area Chess

Centreville VA
703-627-5314
info@capitalareachess.com
www.capitalareachess.com

Marshall Chess Club

23 West 10th Street,
New York, NY 10011
212-477-3716
admin@marshallchessclub.org
www.marshallchessclub.org

Sacred Heart University Chess Club

5151 Park Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06825
203-365-4827
clubchess@sacredheart.edu
www.sacredheartclubsports.
com/sports/Chess

WilliamsburgTutoring.com

60 Broadway
Brooklyn NY 11249
info@ChessNYC.com
www.WilliamsburgTutoring.com

Caveman Chess, LLC

27 Morris Street
Park Ridge, IL 60068
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www.chesscenter.cc

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littlehouseofchess.com

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www.OCFchess.org

En Passant Chess Club (TX)

td_edg@twc.com

Long Island Chess Nuts (NY)

516-739-3907

Rochester Chess Center (NY)

www.chessset.com

Evangel Chess Club (AL)

www.evangelchurch.me

Michigan Chess Association (MI)

www.michess.org

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)

www.spartachessclub.org

Jersey Shore HS Chess League (NJ)

shorehschessleague@yahoo.com

TLA CHESS (VA)

tla.chess.llc@gmail.com

For all information on becoming a Gold or Silver Affiliate, please visit www.uschess.org/content/view/7905/95.

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Check out these US Chess Rated Events!

7-Player Championship Events

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Solutions

Page 9 / CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM I. 21. ... Rxh2+! 22. Kxh2 Qh5+ 23. Kg3 Qg5+ and mates. **PROBLEM II.** 13. Qf6+! Nxf6 14. gxf6+ and 15. fxe7. **PROBLEM III.** 28. ... Nxe3 29. Qxe6 Ng4+! 30. Ke2 Rxe6+. **PROBLEM IV.** 28. Qd8+! Rxd8 29. Rxd8+ Be8 30. Bxe8 threatens Be8-g6 mate, e.g. 30. ... g6 31. Ne6+ Kg8 32. Bxg6 mate or even 31. Bxg6+ Kg7 32. Bb2 mate. **PROBLEM V.** 25. Rxd5! exd5 26. Ne7+ Kf7 27. Ne5+ and 28. Nxc8. **PROBLEM VI.** 19. Rd1! a6 20. Rxd5 axb5 21. Qxe7+! and Black resigns (21. ... Qxe7 22. Rd8 mate). Or 19. ... Be6 20. Qe5! Qc8 (20. ... Qxe5 21. Rd8 mate) 21. Bxe7+ Kxe7 22. Qg5+.

Page 29 / MAKE YOUR MOVE!

TACTIC I. 20. ... Rxf3+! Bang! White resigned as she would be mated after 20. ... Rxf3+ 21. gxf3 Bxh3 mate. Potapova – Terletsky, Titled Tuesday 2021. **TACTIC II.** 26. Nh5+! 26. Nf5+! works equally well, but the text move has the additional benefit that it wrecks Black's pawn structure. 26. ... gxf3 27. Qg3+! The point behind the previous move, the black king became exposed to additional checks and, as a result, the rook on d6 is now lost. 27. ... Rg4 Desperation, but White is winning after all other moves as well. 28. hxg4 Rxd1 29. gxh5+ and Black resigned. The rook on d1 will be captured on the next move. Frolyanov – Grigoriants, Titled Tuesday 2021. **TACTIC III.** 27. ... Rxe7! The sequence of moves is very important. Black doesn't achieve anything by giving a check on d1. 28. Qxe7 Rd1+ Now White's vulnerability becomes apparent because 29. Re1 is not possible on account of 29. ... Qxe7, exploiting the pin of the rook on e1. 29. Kh2 Qf4+ Ouch! The king is under attack. 30. g3 Qf3 and White resigned as there is no way to prevent the mate on h1, e.g., 31. Qe5+ Kh7 32. Qe4 Rh1 mate. Terry – Xiong, Titled Tuesday 2021. **TACTIC IV.** 21. ... Nxb4! Strictly speaking, Black could also have played 21. ... Nd6!, taking advantage of White's loose pieces, a possible continuation was 22. Qf3 Nxe4 23. Bxe4 (23. Rxe4 h6) 23. ... Qxc3 24. Qxc3 Nxc3 25. Rxd8 Rxd8 26. Bxb7 Bf6, threatening both ... Rd8-d1+ and ... Nc3-e2+ and Black is winning. 22. Rxd8 The c3-pawn is overburdened and c2-bishop is unprotected. White's position rapidly falls apart. Alternatively, 22. Rxc4 Qxc4 23. Bb3 Qe2 24. cxb4 Bxe4 also wins for Black. 22. ... Nxc2 This is another point behind the capture on b4, now the a1-rook is hanging and so is the e4-knight. 23. Rxf8+ Bxf8 24. Rb1 Bxe4 25. Nxe4 Qxe4 Here, White resigned, which could look a little premature but it doesn't make much sense to continue the battle against the world champion in such a position. A possible continuation could have been 25. ... Qxe4 26. f3 Qd3 27. Rxb7 Nd6 28. Rb8 Qd1+ 29. Kh2 Qxc1 and Black is, of course, easily winning. So – Carlsen, Magnus Carlsen Inv 2021. **TACTIC V.** 20. Bf4! Qxf4 21. Nxd5 Qd6 22. Nxe7+ Kh8 23. Bxg6 In the game, Nakamura played less accurately in this position, but was nevertheless soon rewarded with a full point away: 23. Re4? Nf6 24. Rh4+ Nh7 25. Qe1? (25. Rc4

Qxe7 26. Rcxd4 would have been marginally better for White) 25. ... Qf6?? (25. ... Nxf3! 26. gxf3 Qxd3+ 27. Ka1 g5 and Black has the upper hand) 26. Nd5 and Black resigned as he loses the knight on d4. Nakamura – Bluebaum, Titled Tuesday 2021. 23. ... fxf6 24. Re4 g5 25. Qxd4 and White has a decisive advantage. **TACTIC VI.** 24. ... h3! 25. Bh1 A much more challenging continuation is 25. Be4 which stops Black's ... Qe5xe3, but after the cool 25. ... c5!, taking the d4-square away from White's queen, White has no good way of meeting the threat of ... b7-b5, attacking the queen and thus removing the protection of the e4-bishop. The best continuation is 26. Bb1 Qxe3 27. Qe4 (creating a counterthreat of his own) 27. ... Qxd2 28. Qxg6+ Kh8 29. Qxe6 Rxf2 and Black is winning. 25. ... Qxe3! The point behind the previous move, the rook on f1 is now unprotected and, as a result, White cannot recapture on e3 because of ... Rf7xf1 mate. 26. Qxa5 b6 27. Qb4 c5 Now the queen is running out of squares to protect the d2-rook. 28. Qxg4 Bxg4 and White resigned in Kukhmazov – Novik, Titled Tuesday 2021. **TACTIC VII.** White has a massive lead in development and Black's king is clearly vulnerable, being stuck in the center, but how can White take advantage of it? 21. Rad1 White's threat is to play Nd4-b5, when both Nb5xc7 mate and Rd1-d8 mate are threatened. 21. ... Ne7 If 21. ... Be7 then 22. Bxe7 Nxe7 23. Rxc7 followed by Rd1-f1-f7 decides the game. Black will not be able to get his queenside pieces out in time to defend. 22. Rdf1! Now White threatens 23. Rxf8+ Kxf8 24. Bxe7+ Kxe7 25. Rxc7+ Kf8 26. Rf7+ Kg8 27. Nf6+ Kh8 28. Nxf5. 22. ... c5? Black collapses immediately. Nevertheless, after the better defense 22. ... Rh8 then White still wins, for instance, 23. Bxe7 Kxe7 24. Rf7+ Ke8 25. Re1 Rh6 (25. ... Bxe6 26. Rxc7) 26. Ref1 Rh8 27. Rxc7 c5 28. Nf5 Bxe6 29. Nxc7+ Bxc7 30. Nd6+ Kd8 31. Rxc7. A long variation, but in this case not wrong. Black is lost as White's two rooks and dominating knight easily decides the battle while Black's pieces are hopelessly tied up trying to defend the back rank and the d7-square. 23. Rxf8+ and Black resigned. After 23...Kxf8 24. Bxe7+ Kxe7 25. Rxc7+ Kf8 (or 25. ... Kd8 26. Nf6 c6 27. e7+ with mate to follow) 26. Rf7+ Kg8 27. Nf6+ Kh8 28. Nxf5 White wins easily. Nepomniachtchi – Nakamura, Magnus Carlsen Inv 2021. **TACTIC VIII.** 15. Bd3!! A very strong move that is White's only chance for an advantage. If Black defends accurately the advantage will be relatively small, but finding that path is not an easy task. 15. ... Bxd3 16. Bxa5! The obvious point behind the previous move, it threatens the queen but also gives White the opportunity to recapture on d3. 16. ... Rxa5 17. Qxd3 Kf7 The g6-knight has to be protected. 18. Nxa5 Qxa5? A natural recapture but also a major mistake. Black's best option was 18. ... g4! 19. Ne5+! (19. Nb3 gxf3 is better for Black) 19. ... Ndx5 20. dxe5 Bxe5 21. Nb3 Bxh2+ 22. Kh1 Qe5 23. Nd4 with a sharp position where White has the better chances, but things are far from decided. 19. Qf5! White approaches Black's vulnerable king to set in the decisive attack. 19. ... Qd8?! There are no good defenses but the text move allows White to finish

Black off in style. An objectively better try was 19. ... Ngf8 and now 20. Rae1 Qb4 21. h4 is a nightmare for Black, for instance, 21. ... Nxf6 22. hxg5 hxg5 23. Ne5+ Bxe5 24. dxe5 Qh4 25. Qxf6+ Ke8 26. f4 and White is winning. 20. Rae1 Ngf8 21. Re7+! Bang! 21. ... Bxe7 22. fxe7+ Kxe7 23. Re1+ Kd6 24. Ne5 Rh7? Of course, 24. ... Qb6 25. Nf7+ easily wins for White, but the text move is even worse. 25. Nxd7 Qxd7 26. Qe5 mate A nicely conducted attack by Wesley So. So – Firouzja, Magnus Carlsen Inv 2021. **TACTIC IX.** This looks like a perfectly normal position from the opening, but Alex Lenderman expertly demonstrates how vulnerable White's position is. In fact, the computer fully agrees, claiming that Black has a decisive advantage at this point! 11. ... c5 12. Rd1 Capturing on c5 is not an option for White: 12. dxc5 Qxc3+ 13. bxc3 bxc5 and White has a positional disaster on his hands while the c4-pawn is likely to fall shortly. 12. ... Rc8 Black could also capture on d4 first but after 12. ... cxd4 13. Rxd4 Rc8 14. Bg2, we would transpose back to the game continuation. 13. Bg2 cxd4 14. Rxd4 Bxf3 15. Bxf3 d5 The c4-pawn is under massive attack and defending it is a major problem. 16. b3 Nxb3! Bang! White's queen is overburdened. 17. Rd3 dxc4 18. Qxf6 gxf6 Black has won two pawns. White could have resigned at this point but carries on for a few more moves. 19. Rc3 Ke7 20. O-O b5 21. Rb1 a5 22. Bb7 Rb8 and White resigned. Effective and powerful by Lenderman who ended up winning the event. Tang – Lenderman, US CHESS/ICC Rapids 2021.

Page 49 / ABCs OF CHESS

PROBLEM I. Mating Net: Black mates in two: 1. ... Qh3+ 2. Rxh3 Bxh3 mate. **PROBLEM II. Mating Net:** Black mates with 1. ... Qd1 mate. **PROBLEM III. Mating net:** White is mated in one move: 1. ... Qxe4 mate. **PROBLEM IV. Mating net:** It is mate in one: 1. ... Qd4 mate. **PROBLEM V. Mating net:** Black mates in 1: 1. ... Qg4 mate. **PROBLEM VI. Mating net:** Black mates in one move with 1. ... Bd3 mate.

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MY BEST MOVE

IM Kostya Kavutskiy

Streamer, Teacher,
Author

My best move came after a period of several months of intense training, where my aim was to transform myself into a more tactical, dynamic player. Having read GM Alexei Shirov's classic, *Fire on Board*, I had set out to be more willing to sacrifice and take chances in my games. The following game was played in a 2012 IM-norm event in Los Angeles. My opponent, FM William Duckworth, had beaten me in our previous game. He excelled in closed positions, in my estimation, so my goal for this game was to keep the position open at any cost, and to be willing to sacrifice should the moment come.

Sure enough, it did! I noticed an interesting opportunity to sacrifice a piece and open up the center against my opponent's king. I took my chance and went in for the attack. My opponent defended in a critical way, forcing me to invest further and eventually turn the attack into a full-blown rook sacrifice. I ended up winning in beautiful style and, to top it all off, my play was (at that time) fully engine approved! Today, however, Stockfish 13 tells a different story ...

WILDFIRE

FM William Duckworth (2331)

FM Kostya Kavutskiy (2385)

22nd Metro Invitational (7), 10.13.2012



BLACK TO PLAY

13. ... Rc8!! 14. h5 Bxc2!

The point of 13. ... Rc8, which was MY BEST MOVE! Now I lure the white queen to a vulnerable square, and after ... Nbx5 and ... e5-e4, Black's pressure along the e- and c-files will be extremely dangerous.

15. g5! e4!?



*... my play was (at that time) fully engine approved!
Today, however, Stockfish 13 tells a different story ...*

Entering deeper into the crevasse. I also considered the objectively superior 15. ... Nfxd5 16. Nxd5 Nxd5 17. Qxd5 Bxg5 18. Bxg5 Qxg5 where Black has three pawns for the piece and White's king is staying in the center for the rest of the game.

16. f4

Stronger was 16. gxf6 Bxf6 and then 17. f4!. When I originally analyzed this game with the engines of the time, they all thought Black's play was completely sound! So much for my brilliancy.

16. ... Ng4 17. Bh3!?

17. Bxb6 was also possible, winning a piece, but at the cost of activating Black's queen.

17. ... Nxe3 18. Bxc8 Ng2+! 19. Kf1 Nxf4!

I'm pretty proud of this move as well, channeling my inner Shirov and completely dismantling White's position. The point is that after 20. Nxf4 Bxg5 I'm threatening 21. ... Qf6, with play against White's king and several of White's undefended pieces.

20. Bg4

A reasonable try, but still Black is able to get in on the dark squares.

20. ... Bxg5 21. Qxc2 Qf6! 22. Rh2 Nbx5!

Finally the b6-knight comes into play and lands the decisive blow, threatening ... Nd5-e3+.

23. Kg1 Nxe2+ 24. Bxe2 Nxc3 25. Rf1 Qe5 26. Kh1 Nxe2 27. Qxe2 d5

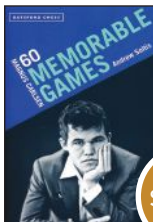
With four pawns for the Exchange, Black's position is now completely winning. It took me longer than I care to admit to actually finish the game, but the result was never in doubt!

28. Qg4 f6 29. h6 e3 30. Qd7 Qe4+ 31. Kg1 gxh6 32. Re2 Re7 33. Qc8+ Kg7 34. Rd1 d4 35. Qc4 Rd7 36. Qb5 Qg4+ 37. Kh1 a6 38. Qc4 Qh5+ 39. Kg1 Qg4+ 40. Kh1 Qf3+ 41. Kg1 Qd5 42. Qd3 Qb5 43. Qxb5 axb5 44. Rd3 Kg6 45. Kg2 Kf5 46. Kf3 Ke5 47. Rc2 Kd5 48. Rc1 Re7 49. Ke2 f5 50. Rc8 Re4 51. Rc7 Rh4 52. Rd7+ Ke5 53. Rd1 Rh2+ 54. Kd3 f4 55. Rf7 Bh4 56. Rxb7 f3 57. Rxb5+ Kf4, White resigned. ♠

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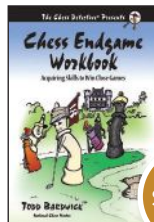


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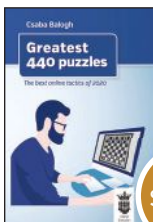


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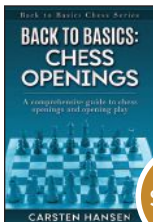


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by Carsten Hansen

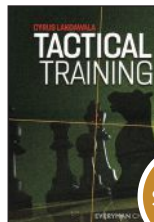


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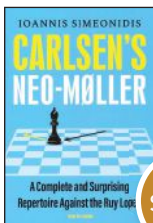


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B0245NIC **CARLSEN'S NEO-MOLLER**

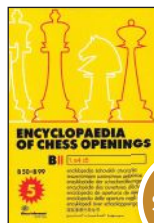
by Joannis Simeonidis



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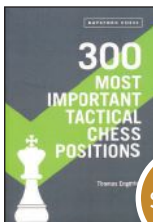


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by Thomas Engqvist

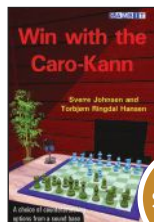


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by Johnsen & Hansen



\$24.95

The Caro-Kann is a rare beast among chess openings. While respected as a sound and safe way to start the game, it also avoids symmetry or simplification. This allows Black many ways to keep the game unbalanced and play for a win. Two Norwegian opening experts provide a set of options that take full advantage of this flexibility. In the main line, you are given a choice between the 4...Bf5 and the 5...exf6 systems – but both strictly in their modern dynamic forms! The other recommended systems for Black are also aggressive and very much the "21st-century Caro-Kann". It's 3...c5 against the Advance, in which Hansen is also an outstanding specialist.

World's biggest open tournament!

49th Annual WORLD OPEN

9 rounds, returning to 2012 location:
Philadelphia Downtown Sheraton
July 1-5, 2-5 or 3-5, 2021

\$225,000 projected prizes, GM & IM norms possible, mixed doubles prizes!

A HISTORIC SITE

The World Open is back at its old location, the Sheraton Downtown, which hosted this event between 2005 and 2012. Visit historic landmarks including Independence Hall, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Liberty Bell, and restaurants, theaters, museums, and shopping.

\$135 special room rate. See chessevents.us for parking info.

\$225,000 projected prizes based on 1200 full entries; else raised or lowered in proportion with 50% each prize minimum guaranteed.

Masks required, Based on Covid conditions at the time, it is possible the event may be limited to fewer than 1200 players.

Schedule options. Open plays 5-day only, U1100 3-day only, other sections offer choice between 5-day and 4-day.

FIDE ratings used in Open Section, **USCF ratings** in others.

Prize limits based on top post-event rating since 1/1/20, Online Regular rating, & unrated or provisional status. Unrated ineligible for U1400 through Under 1800..

Mixed Doubles: \$3000-1500-700-500-300 projected for male/female teams.

9 round International 6/26-30, \$22,000 guaranteed, FIDE rated Premier & Expert Sections. Many other side events.

\$225,000 PROJECTED PRIZES

OPEN SECTION: \$20000-10000-5000-3000-2000-1500-1000-800-700-600, clear win or top 2 playoff \$500 bonus, top FIDE 2300-2449 \$5000-2500-1500, top FIDE 2200-2299 \$5000-2500-1500, top FIDE Under 2200/Unr \$5000-2500-1500. FIDE rated, GM/IM norms possible.

UNDER 2200/unrated: \$12000-6000-3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U2100 (no unr) \$2000-1000. Unr prize limit \$2000.

UNDER 2000/unrated: \$12000-6000-3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1900 (no unr) \$2000-1000. Unr prize limit \$1000.

UNDER 1800 (no unrated): \$12000-6000-3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top Under 1700 \$2000-1000.

UNDER 1600 (no unrated): \$10000-5000-2500-1600-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top Under 1500 \$2000-1000.

UNDER 1400 (no unrated): \$8000-4000-2000-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top Under 1250 \$1600-800.

UNDER 1100/unrated: \$3000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400-300-300, top Under 900 (no unr) \$1000-500. Unr. Prize limit \$400.

MIXED DOUBLES: \$3000-1500-700-500-300. 2-player male/female teams, averaging under 2200, may be in different sections.

OTHER PRIZE LIMITS based on post-event rating since 1/1/20, Online Regular rating, under 26 games: see TLA or prizelimits.com.

PAST WINNERS

1973 Walter Browne 1974 Bent Larsen 1975 Pal Benko 1976 Anatoly Lein 1977 John Fedorowicz 1978 Peter Biyiasas 1979 Haukur Angantytsson 1980 Larry Christiansen 1981 Igor Ivanov 1982 Nick de Firmian 1983 Kevin Spraggett 1984 Joel Benjamin 1985 Maxim Dlugy 1986 N de Firmian 1987 Boris Gulko 1988 M Dlugy 1989 Mikhail Gurevich 1990 Igor Glek 1991 Gata Kamsky 1992 Gregory Kaidanov 1993 Alex Yermolinsky 1994 Artashes Minasian 1995 A Yermolinsky 1996 A Yermolinsky 1997 Alex Shabalov 1998 Alex Goldin 1999 Gregory Serper 2000 J Benjamin 2001 A Goldin 2002 Kamil Miton 2003 Jaan Ehlevest 2004 Varuzhan Akobian 2005 K Miton 2006 G Kamsky 2007 V Akobian 2008 Evgeny Najer 2009 E Najer 2010 Viktor Laznicka 2011 G Kamsky 2012 Ivan Sokolov 2013 V Akobian 2014 Ilya Smirin 2015 Aleks Lenderman 2016 Gabor Papp 2017 Tigran Petrosian 2018 Illia Nyzhnik 2019 Liem Quang Le 2020 P Iniyen

Reserve hotel room early! Special chess rate \$135-135-155, 215-448-2000 or use link at chessevents.us, may sell out by early June.

July official USCF ratings used (July FIDE in Open Section). Unofficial or Regular Online ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Foreign player ratings: see www.foreignratings.com.

Awards: paid electronically through Zelle or Paypal, may take a few weeks.

Open through U1400 entry fees: Online at chessaction.com, \$318 by 5/18, \$328 by 6/25, \$350 at site to 1 1/2 hrs before round 1 or online until 2 hrs before rd 1.

Open Section: All \$150 more if not rated 2200/over by USCF or 2100/over by FIDE.

U1100 Section entry fees: All \$100 less.

Seniors 65/up: entry fee \$100 less in U1400 & above.

GMs \$200 from prize, IMs, WGMs in Open \$100 less, \$100 from prize.

Mailed entries: see TLA or chessevents.us.

Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). \$15 service charge for refunds. Special USCF dues: see Tournament Life or chesstour.com.

Bring set, board, clock- not supplied.

5-day schedule (Open, U2200, U2000): Thu 7 pm, Fri-Mon 10 am & 4 pm.

5-day schedule (U1800, U1600, U1400): Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Mon 10:30 am & 4:30 pm.

4-day schedule (U2200, U2000): Fri 10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm; merges with 5-day at 4 pm.

4-day schedule (U1800, U1600, U1400): Fri 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm; merges with 5-day at 4:30 pm.

3-day schedule (U1100 only): Sat-Mon 11 am, 2 pm, 5 pm each day.

Half point byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Must commit before round 3.

Time controls: Open: G/100+30. **U2200, U2000:** G/100+30 (4-day rds 1-2 G/60 d10). **U1800, U1600, U1400:** 40/100, SD/30 d10 (4-day rds 1-2 G/60 d10). **U1100:** G/60 d10.