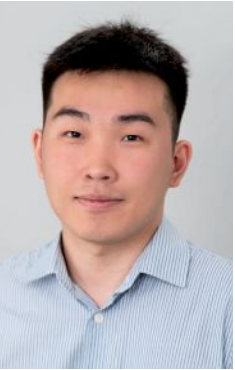


CHESS LIFE

June 2023 ■ USChess.org



@group A



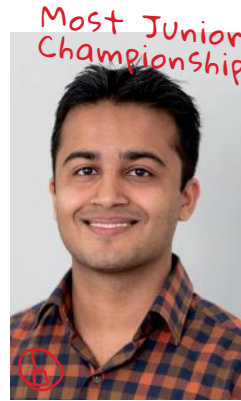
took first place



Best streamer *



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Most Junior Championships

2023'S SPRING CLASSIC

- DAMBASUREN BATSUREN
- FELIX BLOHBERGER
- BENJAMIN BOK
- LUKA BUDISAVLJEVIC
- AKSHAT CHANDRA



Most Likely to Win US Chess Grand Prix



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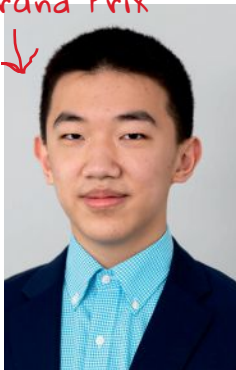


Most Likely to Write Opening Books



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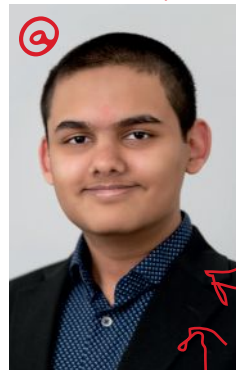
- BALAJI DAGGUPATI
- DANIEL DARDHA
- GLEB DUDIN
- KIRK GHAZARIAN
- BENJAMIN GLEDURA



↓



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- GERGELY KANTOR
- JASON LIANG
- VICTOR MIKHAILEVSKI
- ABHIMANYU MISHRA
- ILLIA NYZHNYK

Most Chessable Points



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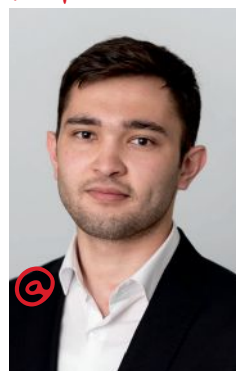


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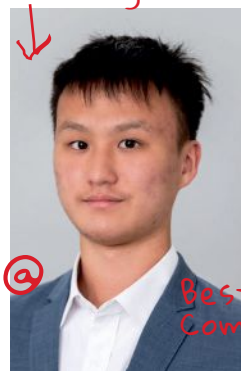


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Best Composer

- YASSER QUESADA PEREZ
- SAM SEVAN
- DARIUSZ SWIERCZ
- NODIRBEK YAKUBBOEV
- CHRISTOPHER YOO

played in the coolest game



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Beautiful Banff

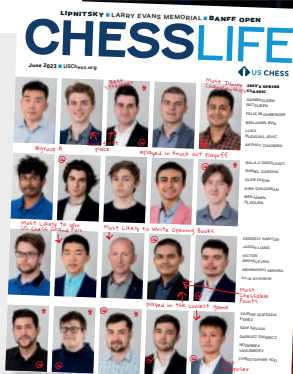
Chess and camaraderie at the 2022 Banff Open
BY NICK DE FIRMIAN



ON THE COVER

June is the season for graduations and yearbook signings. When we were looking at photos from the 2023 Spring Classic, we were struck by one image in particular: a contact sheet of headshots from the event. It looked just like something from a high school yearbook! And so our cover design was born.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE FULLERS



Spring Classic winners
Felix Blohberger (L)
and Benjamin Bok (R)



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BENJÁMIN GLEDURA (Cover Story) is a Hungarian grandmaster and currently (as of May) Hungary's top active player. The winner of the European U10 Championship in 2009 and

a veteran of multiple European and World Youth events, Gledura's signature result is perhaps his third place finish at the 2019 Tata Steel Challengers. A stalwart of the powerful Webster University chess team, he led Webster to its sixth President's Cup victory earlier this year.



MYKOLA FUZIK (Lipnitsky) is a chess player, arbiter, and author. He is the co-author (with Alexei Radchenko) of the book

Исаак Липницкий: звезды и тернии ("Isaac Lipnitsky: Stars and Thorns"), which appeared in 2018. This is his first article for *Chess Life*.



JIM TARJAN (Larry Evans Memorial) is a grandmaster who has represented the United States five times at the

Olympiad. One of the strongest players of his generation, he gave up active play in 1984 to become a librarian, only to return to the board at the 2014 U.S. Open after his retirement. Younger fans will recall his 2017 victory over GM Vladimir Kramnik at the Isle of Man Masters. He was inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 2022.



NICK DE FIRMIAN (Banff Open) is a grandmaster and three-time U.S. Champion. A veteran of international team play,

de Firmian is perhaps best known for his editorial work on the legendary *Modern Chess Openings*. He was the Grandmaster in Residence at San Francisco's Mechanics Institute from 2012-2022.



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EDITORIAL

CHESS LIFE/CLK EDITOR **John Hartmann** (john.hartmann@uschess.org)
ART DIRECTOR **Natasha Roberts**
MANAGING EDITOR **Melinda Matthews**
GRAPHICS ASSISTANT **Nicole Esaltare**
TECHNICAL EDITOR **IM Ron Burnett**
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION **Dan Lucas**

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MEMBER AT LARGE **David Day** (DavidChessDay@gmail.com)
MEMBER AT LARGE **John Fernandez** (john.fernandez@gmail.com)
MEMBER AT LARGE **David Hater** (dhater1@aol.com)
MEMBER AT LARGE **Mike Hoffpauir** (mhoffpauir@aol.com)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Carol Meyer** (cmeyer@uschess.org)

Contact membership@uschess.org or call 1-800-903-8723 for assistance

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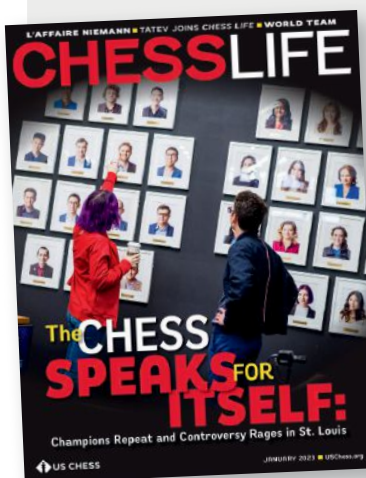
2022 Global Chess Champion

For more information on the good work of the US Chess Trust, please go to www.uschesstrust.org. Or contact us at info@uschesstrust.org.

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COUNTERPLAY



Wonderful

GM Awonder Liang's January article about the 2022 U.S. Championships was a good read. He has grown not only into a grandmaster, but also into a confident young man who expresses himself very well. I lost a game to Liang at the 2011 U.S. Open in Orlando, which wasn't really a surprise because even then he was rated far above me. I very much enjoyed seeing that he won World Youth later that same year. As I always tell people, "If you're going to lose to an 8-year-old, lose to the World Champion of 8-year-olds!"

One comment in the January article caught my attention. Liang said, "To be rewarded in such a glorious manner for such exceptional pragmatism made me feel incredibly guilty... and yet, I would probably do it all over again. After all, it is the result that matters!" I liked that because I play a very conservative, very drawish style myself, and I enjoy doing it. I'm a B/C class player with a number of draws against A-players and experts, including a 2178 who made national master that same year. Even when I get the full point, I feel like I am securing it a half-point at a time, and I don't see anything wrong with that.

Doug Strout
Via email

Right Lower Right

I appreciated Larry Snyder's letter in the April issue. I, too, look at chessboard setups on television and movies and point out to whoever is in the room with me that the board is set up incorrectly based on the corner-color square. Most of them just shrug their shoulders to indicate, "Who cares?" Alas.

As a retired magazine and newspaper editor, I distinctly recall looking at the cover of one of our sister publications and realizing the man featured on the cover had his shirt pocket on the right side of his shirt and the open side of his shirt's button flap facing to the left. When I asked my fellow editor why he flopped the photo, he asked me how I knew. Well...

Thank you for all you are doing to improve *Chess Life* issue to issue. It is noticed and appreciated.

John Koski
Via email

The Verdict

You published my letter in the March 2022 issue of *Chess Life* regarding publishing all games of the World Championship, even if some are without annotation. You replied that it would be considered.

After the close and exciting 2023 match, I hope that you do indeed publish all of the games.

Jeff Tobergte
Via email

John Hartmann responds:

We did consider this possibility, but given the depth of our online coverage, we have decided against printing bare game scores. You can find that coverage, including printable bulletins in pdf, at new.uschess.org/2023-FIDE-World-Championship.

Send your letters to letters@uschess.org. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.



Chess meets Career

How we created and grew a grassroots chess culture in a corporate environment. BY MARIETTE DE MELLION



HAVING HAD TO RESTART MY career from scratch at the age of 38, after no less than two inter-continental moves and being a stay-at-home mom to two kids, I was still very much at the bottom of the corporate

food chain when I first had the idea to organize a chess tournament at my place of work — Equifax, a large corporation in the financial industry with roughly 14,000 employees globally.

The environment was ripe for it. My colleagues Dave and Kelly had just successfully hosted a ping pong tournament, a round-robin event that saw people paired against each other every week for two months. Everyone loved it. There were daily laughs about who lost by a country mile and who lost by a mere point; whose competitive edges were showing at the seams; and who would clobber who with a ping pong paddle if only that was an acceptable way to show anger.

I emailed Kelly and asked her what she thought of the idea. She said to go for it, and that she could sign off on a \$300 budget: \$100 for prize money and \$200 to purchase food and drinks for a social event for the bigger team. Another colleague, Daniel, offered to be the co-organizer, and so the planning started on what would grow into an annual tournament reaching 262 participants in 2023.

In the first year, we had 35 entrants. We circulated information about the tournament to only a few teams located in our

Atlanta offices. In those halcyon pre-COVID days, many people still preferred to play their games over the board, so we purchased a few cheap chess sets and a clock on Amazon, and left these at various places around the office for people to access. We split the 35 players into “rookie” and “master” leagues, and kicked off a five-round rapid Swiss tournament.

As it turned out, chess proved no less dramatic than ping pong. Competitiveness reared its feisty head as teammates went toe-to-toe and junior employees took on senior managers. With blunders aplenty and rampant time pressure, leading to lucky breaks for some and crushing defeats for others, the complete range of emotions of those adrenaline rushes was on full display. Post-game war stories were loudly exchanged in the open-plan offices, where even non-chess players could not help but laugh about lost queens and missed mates in a game that they never suspected of being even remotely exciting.

The feedback from the tournament was positive, so the next year, we did it again. A senior leader in our organization offered to

Above: the competition was fierce but friendly at the inaugural Equifax chess tournament, held in-person in February 2020.

help us circulate sign-ups for the event, and we managed to get 75 entrants. By this time, the COVID-19 pandemic had emerged, so we needed to pivot to an online-only tournament. This was a blessing in disguise, as coming to terms with “online-only” allowed us also to embrace entries from offices across the globe. While we missed the in-person banter,

relationship-building and networking became even more prominent during this year.

There was consistent feedback in the post-tournament survey: getting to know new people outside of your immediate team of stakeholders was practically impossible in a time of remote work. Our chess tournament was seen as a wonderful opportunity to build relationships across the company.

Like most other players, I spent time chatting

with my opponents pre- and post-game through video calls. These were often people whose names I hadn't even heard before — people who worked in other departments, or



Mariette with CISO Jamil Farschi

on other levels of seniority. Over five weeks, my network grew. Even the one opponent who turned out to be a bit of a sore loser later forwarded me a resume of a friend when he saw I was hiring.

We were especially pleased when one of the company's senior executives signed up for the tournament. For any regular employee to have access to someone of his stature is rare, once again emphasizing how chess can be a great equalizer.

Our streaming the second-year championship playoffs live through Google Meet was a big hit as well, cementing the sense of community. We announced the final winners in various organizational newsletters and the company's social media team posted results on LinkedIn. Recognition grew. In short, we had become a brand.

(Please indulge a bit of a brag. I won the tournament in that second year, much to my teenage son's exasperation. "Mom!" he exclaimed, "You can't win your own tournament! That is just weird.")

"Well," I countered, "the only chance I ever had of winning any tournament at all was organizing my own..."

Our 2022 event grew again to a robust 126 entrants. Don't let the size of the tournament fool you, however: only three players out of 126 had a *Chess.com* rating above 1700, and the highest-rated player boasted an 1844 online rating. I was, to my knowledge, still the only player with a classical over-the-board rating, and a mediocre one at that.

We were not running an elite event, and I loved that about it. My key purpose, after all, was to give back to the chess community, and chess itself, by bringing more people to the board. If I could get even a few of these players more engaged in chess, or let them experience the thrill of over-the-board chess just once, it would be a win.

Our expectations for 2023 were high, but they were shattered when 262 players signed up! There were admittedly some growing pains, especially when so many were completely new to chess and had very little understanding of the rules. Communication was a significant time commitment, and I was grateful that we had created a chat room

benefited from so much over the years.

I even hosted a "Lunch and Learn" called Chess 101! The session was attended by around 100 employees, some of them playing in the rookie league, and some of them just wanting to learn more. Imagine being able to spend an hour of company time talking about your hobby! What could be better?



Mariette with Chief Data Officer Harald Schneider

where beginners could ask questions and where others could jump in to help answer.

We did most of our preparation over weekends: doing pairings, withdrawing players, and figuring out who forfeited. I didn't mind, though: I felt that we were building something that I was proud to associate my name with, something that provided me with an expanded network, something that contributed positively towards the corporate culture and employee engagement, but most importantly, something that made me feel good about giving back to a game that I had

So what's next for our tournament? How do we continue to grow?

I have so many ideas. Of course I would like to increase the number of participants. I would like to continue to build out our "brand" and become an ingrained part of our corporate identity. I would like to host an in-person tournament again next year, now that people are returning to the office. I hope to see more of my colleagues participate in over-the-board tournaments in and around Atlanta, and maybe even form a team to participate in the North American Corporate Chess League. I want to give more training sessions to our rookie players next year, to help them understand the game better, and to enjoy it more.

But mostly, I just want to play some chess.

2022 CHESS TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

- Champion** Arun Rajan
- 2nd Place** Harald Heitmann
- 3rd Place** Michael Ortiz
- 4th Place** Charlie Maroun
- 5th Place** Saurav Kunwar



TIPS, TRICKS, AND LESSONS LEARNED

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE TOURNAMENT?

We ran a five round rapid Swiss. No one around us knew what the words "Swiss" and "rapid" meant, so we kept it simple for our audience: "Play one 20-minute game per week for five weeks in a row. You play



all rounds (no elimination). You can play online or in person.”

Tip: *Most people know even less about chess than you think. Keep it simple.*

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE LOGISTICS?

We send out a Google Form through which people can sign up (name, email address, online username, rating, and office location). We share a Google Sheet with all participants’ details, plus a tab for each round where we post pairings. We indicate who has white or black and how to mark the result. We email the pairings out every Sunday evening and ask everyone to have a result in the spreadsheet by Friday at 6 p.m. Daniel uses free software, *SwissSystem.org*, to do the pairings.

Tip 1: *People are busy. They often don’t read. Keep the schedule predictable and simple.*

Tip 2: *Avoid setting up anything that will require manual intervention. Let players set up time with their opponent and enter results. This becomes more important as the number of participants grows.*

HOW DO WE GET THE WORD OUT?

In a company of roughly 14,000 employees, very few people can send out a global email. How do you reach people? This is a major challenge every year. Intranet and organizational newsletters? Maybe, but we found that not that many people read them. Our best bet was emailing various executive assistants with a request to circulate the information. Some will send it to the senior managers in their organization, and some of those managers will send it on to their teams. It is not a perfect system, but the longer we do this, and the more name recognition we have, the more others are willing to help spread the word.

HOW DO WE PROTECT BEGINNERS?

We realize that creating a safe space for beginners is very important, and we make sure to mention in the invitation that beginners are welcome and that they will be paired against other beginners.

We place beginners into a rookie league. With a significant number of people who do not play regularly enough to have an accurate rating or who have not ever played, this is an art more than a science, as we have discovered that people are incredibly poor at self-rating.

If you do ask for self-rating, make the scale descriptive. After a few years of trial and error, we asked people to assess themselves on a scale of one to ten, with these markers:

- 1 Only knows how the pieces move
- 3 Knows castles and promotion;
- 5 Knows basic opening principles and plays occasionally;
- 7 Knows some endgame and middlegame strategies or rapid rating >1200;
- 10 Think I can beat Mariette.

It’s not perfect, but it is simple to understand.

Tip: *Players new to the game lose morale after losing a few rounds and may want to quit, not understanding the subtleties of the Swiss system. Explain that the first few rounds are to “calibrate” and that everyone will play someone closer to their strength after a few rounds. Simple language is key.*

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACED?

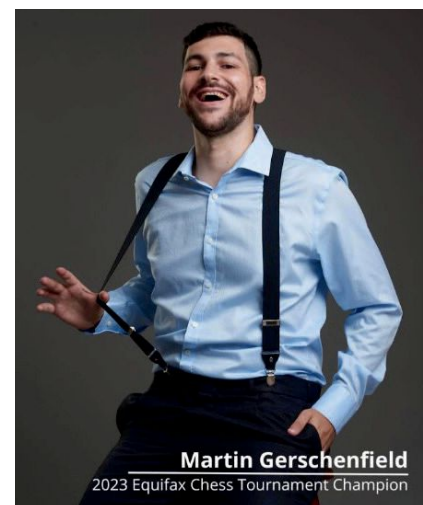
People go out on personal leave and don’t let us know. They get pulled into work emer-

gencies and are too busy to play, and — sad but true — work takes priority over playing chess. Time zone differences also make it difficult to arrange a time to play.

We implemented a rule up front: if you need a bye, let us know. If you don’t request a bye and your opponent hasn’t heard from you by Thursday, your opponent may claim the point. If you are a no-show twice, you are eliminated from the tournament. Our biggest complaint revolved around opponents not responding or not showing up for their games.

WHAT DOES THE WINNER GET?

Bragging rights! In the first and second years of the tournament, we gave trophies. Expanding globally made this impossible: mailing a \$15 chess trophy to Argentina or the UK would not be a wise financial choice. Instead, we now give Bravo! points (a reward system the company uses), and the winner also gets his or her very own LinkedIn post! Companies like to show employee engagement: it is good marketing for them. They love showing off the tournament on socials! ♠



PHOTOS: COURTESY AUTHOR (TOP), INSTAGRAM (BOTTOM)

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GM's Lenderman, Novikov, Mitkov

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FM, FT Kevin Bachler

Co-Director: Deb Socha

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- ✓ Caveman Medior Open
- ✓ US Junior Open (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ US Blind (Nat'l champ!)
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I N P A S S I N G

FM Orest Popovych

1933-2023

BY IM ANTHONY SAIDY



AMERICAN CHESS HAS LOST a leading player of the latter 20th century. And this writer has lost one of his oldest friends.

FIDE Master Orest Popovych passed away at home in Howell, New Jersey, on March 15, 2023 at the age of 90. He had a known heart disorder.

Orest was born in Lviv, now Ukraine, in 1933. He was in the path of the Nazi army, but his father spirited him away during the war and headed for the USA. He spent about three years in a displaced persons' camp in Germany, where he learned a bit of chess, before landing in New Jersey around age 14. There he added flawless English to his linguistic knowledge, but after graduating from Rutgers in 1955, his slight accent thwarted his ambition to be a journalist.

Professional chess in those days in the U.S. hardly existed. So, what else was a chess-lover to do than go to MIT for a doctorate in chemistry awarded in 1959? After a few years in the private sector, Popovych entered academia. He taught at Brooklyn College from 1963, was named full professor in 1971, and retired in 1993.

In those days, the vast majority of American masters were uncoached and self-taught, holding down regular jobs around which they sandwiched weekend Swiss-system events, as leisurely once-a-week club championships went out of style. We used vacations for longer, more civilized tournaments like the U.S. Open, and an occasional foray to Europe or Canada. The easier role of a salaried professional was for our rivals "over there."

In this way Orest managed to fill most of his spare time with chess. He was a relentless attacker with a bias for double-edged positions, eschewing draws. He studied how to attack the Dragon Variation, while

making a sharp weapon of both sides of the Najdorf. And you had to watch out for his King's Gambit too — he even risked it against Spassky. The queen's pawn openings were never to be played with White; with Black, they were met by a sharp King's Indian.

Popovych won the New Jersey Open four times in 23 attempts, and the New England title twice, including a 7-0 sweep in 1958. His warlike stance was shown in 1986, when accepting Senior Master Asa Hoffman's draw offer would have guaranteed his fourth New Jersey title. He declined and lost. The same rebuff befell him at the 1956 U.S. Open. Why take a draw from a mere 13-year-old from Brooklyn named Bobby something?

His chief literary productions were books in his native Ukrainian: one on his best games, including a few GM victims, and one on players of the diaspora (with chief author Bezpalko). But his greatest literary honor was for the highest skill in writing — translation of the poet Vasil Makhno into English. In the 21st century Orest turned away from chess, to the great benefit of the Ukrainian community. He served as president of the prestigious Shevchenko Scientific Society, and edited an encyclopedia of the diaspora. We had a long correspondence which started with his critiques of my games, and ended with my education in Ukrainian history.

While he was more conservative than I in domestic politics, we fully agreed on the dangers of Russian imperialism. In his honor I sent a donation to the St. Volodymir Foundation, started by a cousin in his native Lviv. It is now devoted to humanitarian aid of Ukrainian soldiers and their families. Channeled thru another cousin, checks can be sent to Maria Kvit-Flynn, P.O. Box 4503, Metuchen, NJ, 08840.

In Popovych, an affable and courteous person, breathed the Spirit of Attack. Here are two of his most memorable efforts, annotated by IM Jack Peters.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, DRAGON VARIATION (B77)

Orest Popovych
 Andy Soltis
 Marshall CC Ch, New York, 1964
 Annotations by IM Jack Peters

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6



5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 0-0 8. Bb3 d6 9. f3 Bd7 10. Qd2 Ne5 11. h4 Rc8

Later Soltis popularized 11. ... h5, now known as the Soltis variation.

12. h5 Nxh5 13. 0-0-0 Qa5 14. g4 Nxf3?

Thematic, clever, and... unsound. Black must settle for 14. ... Nf6 with equality.

15. Nxf3 Bxg4?

A little better is 15. ... Bxc3 16. bxc3 Bxg4, but Black is suffering after 17. Qf2 Nf6 18. Rdg1.

16. Qg2+- Bxf3

After 16. ... Rxc3 17. bxc3 Qxc3 18. Rd3 Qf6 19. Nd4, Black's four pawns won't save him, as White will attack relentlessly.

17. Qxf3 Bxc3 18. bxc3 Qxc3



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

19. Rxh5! gxh5 20. Rg1+ Kh8 21. Qf2 Qa1+ 22. Kd2 Qc3+ 23. Kd1 Qc7 24. Bd4+ f6 25. Be6!



Preventing ... e7-e5 and threatening 26. Qg2. The hasty 25. Qg3?! e5 allows more resistance.

25. ... Qd8 26. Qf4?!

White's only slip in a well-conducted attack. The knockout blow is 26. Be3!, planning 27. Bh6.

26. ... Qe8 27. Qh6 Rf7 28. Bxc8 Qxc8 29. Qxh5 Rg7 30. Rxg7 Kxg7 31. Be3!

Still eyeing Black's king. Black would get a bit of counterplay after the incorrect 31. Bxa7?! Qc3.

31. ... Qe6 32. Bh6+ Kh8 33. Qe8+ Qg8



34. Qf8!

The only way to win. Not 34. Qxe7?? because of 34. ... Qg1+ 35. Kd2 Qh2+ 36. Kd3 Qxh6 when Black survives.

34. ... Qxf8 35. Bxf8 e5 36. Bxd6 Kg7 37. Ke2 Kg6 38. Kf3

White has the "wrong" bishop for the a-pawn, and Black can trade off the pawn at e4, but he cannot draw. White will eliminate all the kingside pawns and win with the c-pawn.

38. ... Kg5 39. a4 h5 40. a5 h4

Against the tougher 40. ... a6, White brings his bishop to e3 or g3 to make Black's king

retreat. For example, 41. Bc7 h4 42. Bb6 h3 43. Kg3 h2 44. Be3+ Kh5 45. Kxh2 Kg4 46. Kg2 f5 47. exf5 Kxf5 48. Kf3 and wins.

41. a6 bxa6 42. c4 Kg6 43. c5 Kf7 44. c6 Ke8 45. Kg4, Black resigned.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, SOZIN VARIATION (B86)

Larry D. Evans

Orest Popovych

North Central Open, Milwaukee, 1970

Annotations by IM Jack Peters

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. a3 b5 8. Ba2 Bb7 9. Qe2 Nbd7 10. g4 Nc5?!

Black solves all his problems with 10. ... Rc8 (threatening 11. ... Rxc3) 11. f3 h6.

11. f3 Be7 12. Be3 0-0?!

Castling into White's attack.

13. g5 Nh5 14. Rg1 g6 15. 0-0-0 Qa5?

Stockfish suggests 15. ... Qc7 16. Kb1 Rfe8.

16. Qg2?

This is too slow. Instead White obtains a winning attack with 16. f4! b4 (and not 16. ... Bxe4? 17. Nxe4 Nxe4 18. Nxe6) 17. axb4 Qxb4 18. f5.

16. ... Rfc8 17. f4?

White's last chance to maintain equality is 17. Qd2 b4 18. Nce2 d5 19. exd5.

17. ... b4 18. axb4 Qxb4 19. f5

Also useless is 19. Qd2 Rab8.

19. ... Rab8!



A sensational counterattack.

20. fxe6 f5!!

White could tolerate 20. ... Nxe6? 21. Bb3.

21. Nxf5

Shielding the b2-square with 21. Nb3

would last longer, but Black gains a pawn by 21. ... Nxb3+ 22. Bxb3 Bxe4 23. Qf2 Bxc2! 24. Qxc2 Qxb3.

Against 21. Bd5, best appears 21. ... Bxd5 22. Nxd5 (forced) Qxb2+ 23. Kd2 Bxg5!.

21. ... gxf5 22. g6 h6



23. g7?!

Black handles 23. Rd4 Qb6 24. b4 convincingly by 24. ... Nb3+ 25. Bxb3 Rxc3 26. Qd2 Rxb3 27. cxb3 f4 28. Bf2 and soon ... Qb5-e5.

23. ... Bxe4 24. Qg6 Qxb2+ 25. Kd2 Qxc2+ 26. Ke1 Qxc3+ 27. Kf1

Or 27. Bd2 Bh4+.

27. ... Bd3+ 28. Rxd3 Qxd3+, White resigned.

After one of his games at the World Open, we sat down to analyze. This quaint search for truth before computers, far more enjoyable than a serious game, was called a post-mortem. Below is an English translation of the movements, expletives in several languages and elliptical comments.

OP: I should have won the game!

AFS: OK, show me where.

OP: Here! I sac a horse.

AFS: He swallows it and sidesteps.

OP: The devil! I must attack.

AFS: Steinitz said an attack is justified only if you have an advantage.

OP: Alekhine did not. The attack IS my advantage.

AFS: So, whaddya got?

OP: I push pawns toward his king.

AFS: Hey, your king is on same side. It may feel drafty.

OP: Why are you always defending?

AFS: Not always. I attack when I am up a rook. Patience. Why don't you just build up your position?

OP: No time to waste on that.

We all needed time. We wasted a lot of time. And now our time is running out. ♣

2023 Scholar-Chessplayer Winners Announced

The US Chess Federation (US Chess) and the U.S. Chess Trust, both independent 501(c)(3) organizations, are pleased to announce six recipients of the 2023 Scholar-Chessplayer Awards. This includes the winners of the new category introduced in 2022, Scholastic Chess Ambassador, which permits acknowledgement of lower-rated but deserving chess scholars. The Scholar-Chessplayer Awards recognize and encourage outstanding high school juniors and seniors who promote a positive image of chess, while excelling in academics and leadership. A total of \$9,000 in scholarship money is being awarded this year. Each recipient will receive \$1,500.

All Scholar-Chessplayer Awards are funded through the U.S. Chess Trust (USCT), with a significant contribution from the National Scholastic Chess Foundation (NSCF). The USCT's vision is that one day, every American, from schoolkid to senior citizen, will have the opportunity to learn chess and enjoy its many mental and social benefits.

Thank you also to the US Chess scholastic committee members who reviewed and evaluated all the applications.

2023 SCHOLAR-CHESSPLAYERS

IM Arthur Guo, 11th grade, Alpharetta, Georgia, 16 years old.

Aditya Gupta, 11th grade, Rolling Meadows, Illinois, 17 years old.

IM Maximillian Lu, 11th grade, Riverside, Connecticut, 17 years old.

FM Jason Wang, 11th grade, Mason, Ohio, 16 years old.

Eugene Yoo, 12th grade, New York, New York, 18 years old.

SCHOLASTIC CHESS AMBASSADORS

Gaayathri Binoj, 12th grade, Chesterfield, Missouri, 17 years old.

To qualify, applicants must be US Chess members who satisfy these requirements:

- Play at least 25 regular-rated US Chess or FIDE games during the current academic year
- Show outstanding achievement in academics and chess (Scholastic Chess Ambassadors are not required to be highly rated)
- Have completed at least one year of chess-related community service since starting the ninth grade
- Describe in an essay of 500 words how being selected as a 2023 Scholar-Chessplayer will enable the recipient to further their education, improve their chess, and allow them to continue contributing to the chess community.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 Scholar-Chessplayers!

For more information, please visit www.uschess.org, www.uschesstrust.org, and www.nscfchess.org. The US Chess Trust is a separate 501(c)(3) organization operating independently of US Chess.

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, 2023 and expires on or after June 30, 2023. The deadline to register to vote was May 1, 2023. *Please note that four seats on the board are at stake in this election.*

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. ~Mike Nietman, US Chess Election committee chair

YOUTH CATEGORY

Any Youth category member who wants a copy of 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, 2023, 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 were due before May 16, 2023. (Note this deadline has passed.) They can be mailed to Jennifer Pearson, c/o US Chess, P.O. Box 775308, St. Louis, MO 63177; or emailed to governance@uschess.org.



LAKSHMANA "VISH" VISWANATH

It is awesome that we have surpassed the pre-COVID-19 membership levels and have finally come to six digits (in membership). The interest in chess playing is always there. Even though US Chess is doing more these days with online chess, I believe we can still

do more. We could have a special membership category of online only membership. I am almost certain a million folks will easily sign up. Potential use of a database like that is anyone's imagination. Recruiting for OTB events will be much easier. We need to reach out to the next generation of players who are handheld savvy and want to play casual chess. We have been stagnant in the 90,000s for years and I am sure these online efforts can least double our regular membership in a few years.

Chess depends a lot on folks who have a passion to play, coach, organize, TD, and volunteer at various levels. We need to give all those folks a feeling of being wanted and help them grow into national committees and other governance areas. All committees need to have their charges re-evaluated regularly, leadership and membership changed often enough to remove dead wood, infuse new blood and ideas, and more importantly, give opportunities for everyone.

I will be the EB member that gives opportunities for all to be part of US Chess in helping it grow. My varied experiences and background bring a vast depth of educational, work, business, and other experiences to the table.

I believe with increased membership, bringing new blood in all levels of operations and governance, and new ideas, we can take US Chess to the next level. I humbly ask for one of the four votes that you will be casting in the next election. I do have the time, passion, and commitment with absolutely no self-interest. Thank you.



JOHN C. FERNANDEZ

The next four years will require us to make significant progress in the following three areas if we take advantage of the fantastic position US Chess finds itself in today, from our robust membership to rock-solid financial footing. With swift, decisive action on these three items, we can build on that

foundation to serve hundreds of thousands of members supported by tens of millions of dollars in funding:

- 1. Safety. No item right now is of more paramount importance than ensuring that our members are safe from any untoward acts. The recent shocking and horrible news of sexual assault should give us all pause. We've been way too tolerant of bad behavior by players at our tournaments, our clubs, and online, from on-the-board to off-the-board offenses. That stops now. Absolutely zero tolerance, lifetime bans, and improved training and resources, both preventative and investigatory, must be our absolute #1 priority. You can't enjoy chess if you can't feel safe at a chess tournament. We must ensure that every member, regardless of who they are, can enjoy every chess interaction without any concerns for their safety or well-being.
- 2. Infrastructure. The most critical business projects that will take place over the following years are long overdue and necessary. We are a service organization, and serving our member-

ship — from processing registrations, rating events, handling payments, and the website — are needed. The ongoing technology projects must succeed. As a software executive with 24 years of experience, I know what it takes to get that done and delivered.

- 3. Marketing. We can best serve our mission by promoting chess within our great nation. More work is being done to promote the game of chess from our state affiliates, organizers, gaming sites, and content creators than ever before. We need to grab a piece of that pie to continue to spread our mission and grow the game we all love and enjoy. I'm someone who has done that at the highest levels and will do for US Chess now and in the future.

I believe I'm uniquely qualified to support US Chess in these three areas over the next few years. As the youngest and highest rated player running for the board, I believe I have the energy, understanding, and passion to succeed in promoting our mission. I thank you for participating in the US Chess governance process and greatly appreciate your consideration as a candidate.



DAVID A. HATER

I don't know what the next four years hold, and future events will dictate priorities and directions, but to establish goals we can start with today and look toward the future.

Chess players focus on strategy and tactics. Current and past boards outlined strategic directions in mission and vision statements as well as goals and values: <https://new.uschess.org/mission-and-vision>. Growing

chess by expanding beyond our membership base while still growing members and providing outstanding service is where we should be striving to go as an organization.

Supporting that, I will continue from my last message: being a valued member of the governance team, bringing expertise as a tournament organizer/director, focusing on human resources, and representing U.S. interests internationally.

There are many goals to accomplish, but I will list three: modernizing IT infrastructure, setting optimal staffing levels, and setting standards of behavior for all members and holding accountable those who violate these standards.

Modernizing IT structure: We've made some progress, but there is still much work to do. We recently hired an IT professional and have allocated resources to this goal. We must accomplish this because this is one of the backbones of the office and is how we deliver services such as membership and ratings. This must be a focus area of the EB.

Setting correct staffing levels: One by-product of our unprecedented membership growth is more work for our professional employees! The EB must ensure the office has the necessary resources to

accomplish our mission. While the Executive Director proposes staffing levels, the EB must allocate the resources. I will fully support and encourage the right staffing levels, even if it means adding a position or two to respond to increased workloads.

Setting standards of behavior: This is an area I've been involved with for many years, but can't share specifics about due to privacy issues. I have personally been involved in hundreds of cases at the U.S. and world level dealing with players from beginner to grandmaster. These cases range from minor offenses to fair play issues all the way to criminal behavior. All members have a right to a safe playing environment. We must have clear standards of behavior and procedures for dealing with transgressions/misconduct. We've made improvements such as adopting Safe Play guidelines, and we have held members accountable for transgressions (even though most are never publicly known). This is one of my priorities — to protect our members and ensure all are treated with dignity and respect and have a safe and fair environment to play chess.

I look forward to serving you — our members — and I ask for your vote in this election.



LEILA A. D'AQUIN

Last month, I mentioned the expanding role of US Chess and the educational mission of our 501(c)(3) charter. I write my June statement while awaiting the arrival of young players in the Girls Club room at Middle School Nationals in Round Rock (TX). The setting is inspiring and informative as I try to explain why, in a field of good candidates, I'm the right choice.

My involvement in chess began as a chess mom. Though I didn't have a daughter playing, I recognized the challenges faced by parents helping girls navigate the world of scholastic chess. I joined the Women's Committee in 2016 to help found the Girls Club and managed the first one at High School Nationals that year. Since then, I've volunteered in most of the more than two dozen clubs, arranging demonstrations by titled women players, town hall meetings to share ideas, and opportunities for girls from around the country to connect.

My travels to scholastics are but one example of how showing up to do the work has been the hallmark of my participation as a delegate, committee member, and volunteer. I'm not in the chess business — I've been an attorney for 34 years. I'm part of the chess community because I love the game and see its educational and social value to tournament players as well as casual ones. I've organized almost 200 rated events and directed more than 700 sections, with all proceeds going to purchase equipment for schools, benefit the Louisiana Chess Association, or to a non-chess charity such as the Alzheimer's Association. I've organized small camps and group lessons locally.

Nationally, I've contributed to the Governance Task Force and the Bylaws, Senior, Conflict-of-Interest, Women's, and Programs committees.

I believe community chess is important and recognize that by growing community chess programs, we also develop future tournament players and US Chess members. The perspective I'll bring to the EB is that of a seasoned attorney, local TD, chess mom, business person, tournament player, long-time chess volunteer, and promoter of opportunities for youth and older adults. The Nominations Committee's recommendation reflects its conclusion that my experience, ideas, and work ethic will strengthen the board and its ability to serve the members and the mission of US Chess.

The job of leadership is to bring members together, involve more of them in the work of the Federation, and facilitate the sharing of ideas. That's the job I hope you'll elect me to do.



FUN FONG

Our meeting in St. Louis was a good meeting, “a strategic planning session” where we had plenty of time for brainstorming and reflecting on the many challenges US Chess faces. It’s important to put it into a grand perspective.

We developed Safe Play guidelines a few years ago and we need to continue to refine the guidelines on an ongoing basis. From

the full spectrum of the disruptive, unruly player to allegations of sexual misconduct and assault, we must always strive to provide a better environment for our players. We have higher expectations for good behavior in our playing ranks.

We need to think in terms of developing indexes for ongoing continuous quality improvement ranging anywhere from staff quality to player satisfaction. Collecting subjective comments is not enough for organizations in the information age.

My visits to the U.S. Amateur Team East and the Georgia Chess Association’s state championship impressed upon me that local nuances are reflective of national trends. We are seeing the pleasant appearance of young adult players within our ranks. I think this is the result of 1) “The Queen’s Gambit,” 2) over 100 million online chess players, 3) the impact of chess content creators, and 4) the audience created by the Sinquefeld sponsored elite tournaments. Most of us think we may understand our trends, but we need data analytics to verify what we only think we know and to fully understand the impact. We need to take advantage of this renewed interest in chess and find ways to retain our new players. US Chess needs to

be in touch with the trends of today’s chess.

US Chess needs to increase and strengthen its leadership cadre in the face of increasing membership. We should welcome new members into leadership roles who demonstrate an ability to lead, while also being able to work and play well with others. I would like US Chess to be more systematic and active in the training of its leadership at the state and the national level. I pledge to engage our national leaders and to remind them that we are ALL here for the betterment of chess, to increase our membership, and to implement its mission of improving lives through chess. If you send me back to the Executive Board, I will find a pathway that helps leadership and committees achieve successful outcomes.



DAVID T. DAY

Having discussed several general principles last time, let me now discuss some specific concepts and ideas.

We need to utilize our volunteers in new ways. For years much of the volunteer efforts either happened at the local level with minimal support from the national organization or happened at the delegate/committee level. We need to change both of those. Too many

areas in our federation don’t have enough local volunteers, and the volunteers that do exist often don’t have enough resources. We need to continue down the path of making more resources available to state affiliates, local clubs, and organizers and directors. At the national level, we have in the past often formed volunteer committees to do work that otherwise wouldn’t be done. We now have a hodgepodge of committees with roles and missions that have sometimes not been well-defined or recently updated. Too many of the committees feature too many of the same people while others in the federation wonder why they are never asked to help. We need to change this system.

We need to focus on safe play. Period. Our culture has tolerated too much bad behavior, both at the board and away from it, for too long. Some of our critics are not acting in good faith, but that is not an excuse for tolerating bad behavior and not creating an environment where all of our members feel safe.

Much of chess now happens online and several for-profit companies are making chess into a big business. This is candidly both an opportunity for and a threat to the US Chess Federation. I want it to be

an opportunity. We share many common goals with these groups, including a desire to grow the game. We each need to see the other parties as value-added partners and not as resources to be exploited.

US Chess is in good hands and our best days are ahead of us. Regardless of the election results, we will have a strong Executive Board composed of people who are each a net positive and a strong Executive Director. Please vote for the candidates who you think will do the best job. And after you vote, please go do something to help the game. Volunteer at a school or club. Sign up to be a director. Make a donation. Find your own way to make a difference. Grow the game.

The Guessing Game

How predicting is related to rating.

BY GM ANDY SOLTIS



LONG BEFORE A WISCONSIN physics professor named Arpad Elo tinkered with ratings, we had very rough, short-

hand ways of judging whether you were becoming a better player. One was:

The more often you can correctly predict your opponent's next move, the stronger you were getting.

Of course, this is a useful skill. But there is a second one that is often more important. Instead of guessing the move he ultimately plays, it is guessing the two or three he is considering playing.

We call them candidate moves. They are typically the ones most dangerous, such as checks, captures and threats. If your opponent plays a powerful move you didn't even look at, the outcome is often disastrous.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE, ADVANCE VARIATION (B12)

GM Magnus Carlsen

GM Daniel Naroditsky

Aimchess Rapid (Prelim), 08.28.2021

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. dxc5 e6 5. Qg4 Nd7 6. Nf3 Nxc5 7. Be2 Ne7 8.

O-O Nf5 9. c4 dxc4 10. Rd1 Bd7 11. Bxc4 Qb6 12. Nc3 Be7

Black believed he was doing well until he was surprised by...

13. Nd4!

Of course, he knew Nf3-d4 was possible. It just didn't seem that dangerous — until you see how strong a trade of knights, e.g. 13. ... Nxd4 14. Rxd4 Kf8 or 14. ... g6 followed by 15. Rb1 and 16. b4 or 16. Bg5.

14. ... h5 14. Qe2 Nxd4 15. Rxd4 Bc6 16. Be3 a5 17. Rad1 O-O 18. Qxh5 Qxb2? 19. Rg4!

"I completely overlooked Rd4-g4," Black said after the game.

He didn't mean the move was inconceivable. He was very aware of the attacking potential of the rook but felt secure because it couldn't safely go to h4 and prepare Qh5-h8 mate.

However, after 19. Rg4! it was clear that 19. ... Qxc3 20. Bh6! is lost after 20. ... g6 21. Rxg6+!. The same is true after 19. ... Rfd8 20. Bh6 Bf8 21. Bxg7! Bxg7 22. Qg5.

19. ... g6 20. Bh6 Be8 21. Nd5! exd5 22. Bxd5

White's last two moves were more obvious candidates. Anything else loses. Now White's next-move candidates (Qh5xg6+ or Rg4xg6+) were too powerful to resist.

22. ... Kh7 23. Qh3 Rh8 24. Bf8+ Kg8 25. Rxg6+ Kxf8 26. Qxh8, mate.

Unless you post-mortem a game with your opponent, you won't know which candidate moves he considered. And a much weaker opponent may consider playing some awful moves, so guessing them is meaningless.

But I suspect that when an expert is thinking about his next move, he can identify his opponent's likely replies about half of the time. The figure for grandmasters may be 90 percent. For class B players it may be 20 percent.

Naturally, the numbers are skewed when the opponent is reduced to "only moves," that is, forced replies.

ASSUMPTIONS

GM David Navara

GM Evgeny Najer

European Individual Ch, Jerusalem, 02.27.2015



WHITE TO MOVE

Black was puzzled when his opponent spent 20 minutes here. After all, anything but 17. Bb1 looked awful for White. And Black figured 17. ... f5! would then favor him after 18. exf6 e.p. Nxf6 19. Ng5 Qxd4 20. Nxh7! Qe4+!

But White played 17. Ng5!. "I was lucky that at this moment I wasn't sitting at the chair," Black recalled.

The point was 17. ... Bxg5 18. Bb1 f5 (forced) 19. exf6 e.p. Nxf6 and now 20. Bxg5.

But Black recovered, emotionally and tactically, with 20. ... Qxd4 21. Be3 Qe4 and drew soon after 22. Qxc5 Qxg2.

Logic says if you guess all of your opponent's candidates — while he is surprised by yours — you should win. Yet Vladimir Kramnik said he began losing his world championship title in the following game, even though "I saw all of his moves. That's what was painful."

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, MERAN VARIATION (D49)

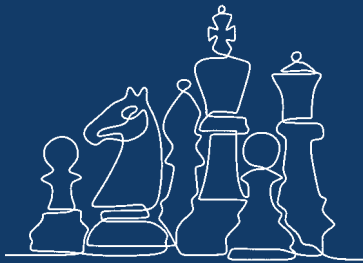
GM Vladimir Kramnik

GM Viswanathan Anand

World Championship (3), Bonn, 10.17.2008

QUIZ FOR JUNE

SHORT GAMES OFTEN provide the most instructive tactical lessons as well as the most entertaining finishes. This month's quiz features six positions from recent games that ended by move 16. Your task is to find the fastest decisive line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of at least a minor piece. For solutions, see page 63.



PROBLEM 1
IM Ahmad Ahmazada
GM Vasif Durarbayli



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2
Hussain Bukhalaf
FM Alshaebby Boshra



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3
Marcel Mannhart
Peter van den Brink



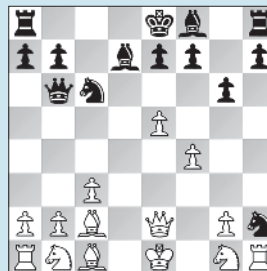
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4
FM Vid Dobrovolic
GM Andre Diamant



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5
GM John Emms
GM Daniel Gormally



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6
WFM Ellen Kakulidis
WCM Banda Natalie Katlo



WHITE TO MOVE

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3 Nbd7 6. Bd3 dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 a6 9. e4 c5 10. e5 cxd4 11. Nxb5 axb5 12. exf6 gxf6 13. O-O Qb6 14. Qe2 Bb7 15. Bxb5 Bd6 16. Rd1 Rg8 17. g3 Rg4 18. Bf4 Bxf4



"I had a huge choice practically at every move," Kramnik said of this phase, "but in essence he had none."

19. Nxd4 h5 20. Nxe6 fxe6 21. Rxd7 Kf8 22. Qd3

"I'm sure Anand missed my move 22. Qd3, judging by his face," the champion said. "For half a minute he didn't write the move down, he kept looking at the board." Anand

may have focused instead on 22. Rad1 Bxg3 23. hxg3 Rxd3+ 24. Kh2 Rg4.

22. ... Rg7 23. Rxd7 Kxg7 24. gxf4 Rd8!

After 24. ... Rg8 or 24. ... Kh6, White has the better side of things after 25. a4!. Anand "made moves to avoid a bad position — and got a won one," Kramnik said in the Russian magazine 64.

25. Qe2 Kh6! 26. Kf1 Rg8 27. a4 Bg2+ 28. Ke1 Bh3 29. Ra3? Rg1+ 30. Kd2 Qd4+ 31. Kc2 Bg4 32. f3 Bf5+ 33. Bd3 Bh3 34. a5 Rg2 35. a6 Rxe2+ 36. Bxe2 Bf5+ 37. Kb3 Qe3+ 38. Ka2 Qxe2 39. a7 Qc4+ 40. Ka1 Qf1+ 41. Ka2 Bb1+, White resigned.

When your opponent plays a move that seems to come out of nowhere you can feel relief rather than shock.

In one of Aron Nimzovich's most famous games, he said he "agonized" while calculating his next move. But his opponent played a surprise reply. Nimzovich realized it was bad and he had worried unnecessarily. "I had to laugh (inwardly of course, not out loud)," he said.

Some surprises are genuinely comical:

TOO BAD SO SAD

GM Peter Heine Nielsen
GM Sergey Karjakin
Wijk aan Zee, 01.29.2005



BLACK TO MOVE

After maneuvering, Black played 100. ... Kg5.

This was not among the moves White expected. He studied the position and realized 101. Bd6 would achieve little after 101. ... Ra4.

It took him some time to realize why Black's move was a surprise. The game ended with 101. Nxa1!, Black resigned. ♠

Playing Tournaments

Tips and tricks for maximizing performance at the board

BY **WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN**



WHETHER YOU ARE A SEASONED player or a newcomer, playing in over-the-board tournaments can be a

nerve-wracking experience. I particularly dislike those the few minutes before the rounds starts, when there is no more time to pace, and instead, I am required to sit still at the board. But once the game starts, my nerves calm down as my hand starts making moves.

Last month I discussed some ideas about preparing for a tournament. Now we take up the natural continuation — how to survive (and thrive!) at the board.

TAKE CARE OF LOGISTICS

It is not unusual for American swisses to be held in unfamiliar parts of town, and one common problem is limited access to food if games run late. Besides figuring out how long it takes to get to the playing hall, the parking situation, etc., make sure you check for nearby restaurants and learn how late they stay open. If your tournament falls on a holiday weekend, there is a good chance that everything will be closed, and you simply may not have access to food. So plan ahead and bring food and snacks accordingly.

It is always a good idea to have nuts and some fruit in your bag to snack on. While it is definitely considered poor etiquette to eat at the board, you can always step away for a few minutes. And don't forget to stay hydrated!

Once you're in the playing hall, make sure you know where the pairings are posted, how to find your board, and how far away the restroom is.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT SECTION

Most tournaments have a number of sections to choose from. I would recommend playing either in your rating category or at most one section higher. I don't see much benefit in playing up in a section that is 500 or more points higher than your rating, i.e., open sections for class players. While playing up can be a good challenge as well as an opportunity to learn, I don't see the point of subjecting oneself to a beat down.

FOLLOW GOOD ETIQUETTE

Try to arrive at the board several minutes before the start of the round. For most tournaments, you will need to bring your own set and clock, and as well as a pen and scoresheet to notate.

While you might be a friendly person, your opponent may not want to chat before the game. Always offer to shake hands before the start of the round and — regardless of what happens during the game — after the round.

About post-mortems: if you want to analyze the game with your opponent after a win, try to get a sense of how they feel before asking them. If they suffered a real heartbreaker, chances are they will want to be left alone, so if they are really suffering, don't impose. Remember that you are under no obligation to analyze with your opponent after the game, and it's fine to decline.

It is also poor sportsmanship to keep offering a draw, or otherwise make noise at the board. Familiarize yourself with US Chess rules about draw claims, the 50-move rule, etc., so you know how to make claims

if needed. If your opponent, or any other people around you, are bothering you, you have the right to complain to the director.

MENTAL PREPAREDNESS

Be ready for long, tough battles. Your previous tournaments are not necessarily indicative of how this one will unfold. Keep reminding yourself that every game can be a long, tumultuous battle. If you aren't as prepared as you would like to be, you will simply need to work harder at the board. Don't dwell on what you could have done better to prepare; instead, work to give your all at the board. If you win an easy game, don't assume that the rest of the tournament will be a cakewalk. Your opponents are going to do their best, and so should you.

SOLVE A PUZZLE BEFORE THE GAME

If you have time before the game, solve a couple of simple puzzles. These can be simple tactics — the idea is just to get your brain thinking about chess before you sit down to play. Ideally, your first game isn't the first time you are seeing chess that day.

PLAY THE POSITION IN FRONT OF YOU

Don't show up to a tournament with a rating target or point goal in mind. These days, it is hard to predict anyone's true strength, as many players are underrated. Some have not played over the board since the beginning of the pandemic, while others are sharpening their games online. If you think your lower-rated opponent will give you an easy game, you might be unpleasantly surprised!

Focus on the position in front of you, and not the ratings on the pairing sheets.

AVOID NEGATIVE SELF-TALK

Some time ago, GM Levon Aronian was showing me one of his favorite games, and sharing his thought process along the way. We reached a critical point where he thought he had a straightforward attack, but missed a resource by his opponent — a real “cold shower.” I asked him how he reacted, as I think that these drastic changes in the game are very difficult to cope with everyone.

Here’s what he reported he said to himself at the board: “O.K., you messed up, just get yourself together and start thinking of what to do because the game is not over.” And then, he continued (in his usual humorous way): “It’s easier for me because I know I am a great player, but at the same time, I know I can also be a fool. It doesn’t get me down because I have made zillions of mistakes in chess.”

Levon’s general advice: “Forgive yourself.” Of course, it is much easier for a top-10 GM to put up strong resistance, knowing that he is a great player, but the point remains: wasting precious time and energy beating yourself up during the game is not helpful.

DON’T RESIGN TOO EARLY

If you have made a big mistake, don’t give up — your opponents may very well make mistakes too! But you need to be both mentally and emotionally ready to both notice them and pounce when it happens. If in your mind the game is already over, and you are making moves purely out of inertia, then even a huge blunder by your opponent will go unpunished.

To forestall any criticism: I’m not talking about positions where your opponent is up a queen and completely carefree, but instead, those situations where you have erred but there is still fight left in the game. The key is not to allow one mistake to turn into 10, and to just keep the game going. Try not to let your position fall apart. Make moves that are uncomfortable for your opponent, and force them to work. The more decisions the person across the board has to make, the more chances they have to make a mistake!

As an example, I recently saw this game between two strong players:

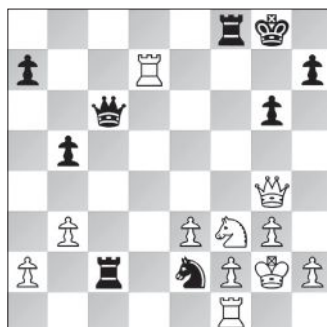
GRIT

IM Gleb Dudin (2475)

GM Balaji Daggupati (2505)

Spring Chess Classic B (5), St. Louis,

04.09.2023



WHITE TO MOVE

Here White played the very natural-looking **27. Rfd1??** but after **27. ... h5!** Dudin felt that “cold shower” — the queen cannot defend the f3-knight. But White kept his cool. **28. Qg5 Qxf3+ 29. Kh3 Qf5+?** A natural move, offering to exchange queens in light of the material advantage and Black’s vulnerable king. Looks pretty bad for White, right? **30. Qxf5 Rxf5 31. Rxa7 Rxf2 32. Rd8+ Rf8 33. Rxf8+! Kxf8 34. g4** White’s play might seem counterintuitive, as we’re taught not to exchange material when we’re down material. The point is that rook and knight versus rook endings are easy draws for experienced players. **34. ... Nc3 35. gxh5 gxh5 36. a4** Exchanging more pawns. I won’t show the rest of the game, but the game was drawn on move 91. Kudos to Dudin for keeping his head!

DON’T EASE UP

Yogi Berra said it best: “It ain’t over till it’s over.” Don’t let go of the tension even after your opponent blunders. Instead, be even more diligent. Take the time to double-check your lines if you think you have found the winning variations. If you relax too early, you might have to win the game all over again, while if you spend the extra 10-15 minutes confirming everything, your game will be over. After all, your opponent might also be reading this column, and stands ready to punish your possible mistakes!

RECOVER FROM LOSSES — AND WINS!

A devastating loss, or series of losses, can be a big blow to your confidence. During one U.S. Championship my coach instilled a one-hour rule — I had one hour where I was allowed to complain and feel bad as much as I wanted to about my game. After that, I was not allowed any negative talk.

Tournaments with brutal schedules of two or more rounds a day require an even faster recovery. You probably won’t have the luxury of dedicating an hour to complaining, so

give yourself 10-15 minutes to feel as bad as you need to about your game. Express your emotions, and then, be done with them.

Wins help us build our confidence, but they too can upset our emotional state. I recall many instances when, after a satisfying win against a higher rated player, my next game was an absolute disaster. The emotional high I would get from the win would completely imbalance me, hindering my rational thinking. Ideally, you want to avoid both ends of the spectrum — both the lows and the highs — and be somewhere in the middle. If you are on a hot streak, it’s o.k. to feel confident, but work to control your nerves.

ANNOTATE YOUR GAMES

We will discuss game annotations next month, but if you have time between the rounds, write quick notes on your score-sheet about what you thought were the key moments. Try to sketch out what you saw during the game, and note any emotions you felt at the board.

WHAT TO DO IF EVERYTHING IS GOING WRONG

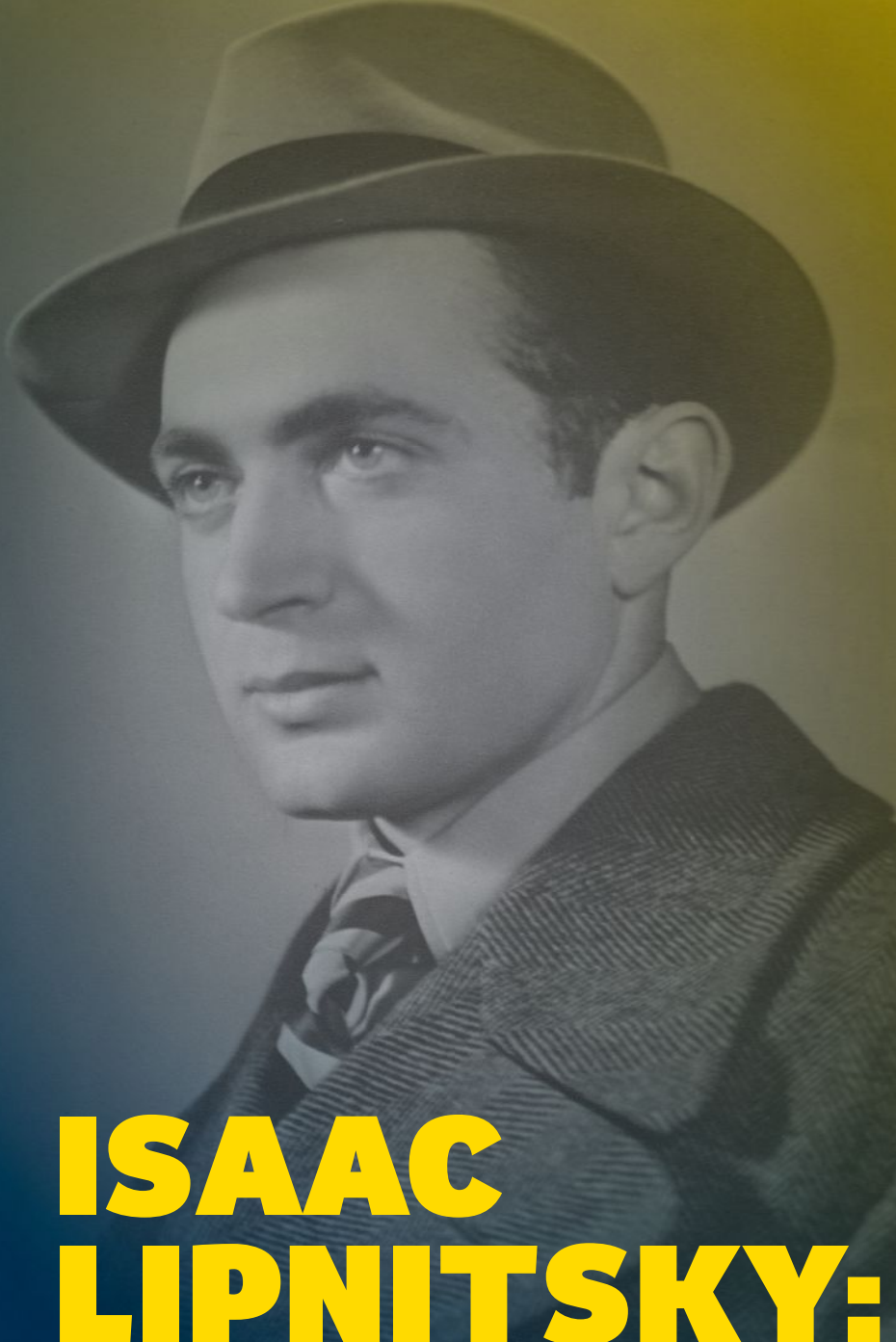
If nothing is going your way, it’s important to try to still find joy in playing chess. Perhaps you can set different goals; for example, improve your time management, or try out a new opening. Personally, I am not completely against withdrawing from open tournaments, but this should be a last resort. Withdrawing at the first sign of adversity won’t help you build your resilience or grow your fighting spirit. With the exception of health issues or other logistical problems, I would advise withdrawing only when your thinking isn’t clear and the thought of playing another game feels like absolute torture.

REST BETWEEN ROUNDS

If you have an hour or less between rounds, your priorities are rest and food. If you are feeling very emotional about the previous game, give yourself 5-10 minutes to get it out of your system. Then get some calories in, preferably healthy ones, and try to go for a walk, listen to some music, or anything else to calm your nerves and get ready for the next game.

SLEEP OVER EVERYTHING

Finally, if you don’t have time for preparation, nice walks, or any kind of meditation to calm your nerves, be sure to prioritize sleep. In my experience, feeling rested for the game can play a bigger factor than anything else. ♠



ISAAC LIPNITSKY: Chess Master

The second in a two-part series about a legend of Ukrainian chess — and Bobby Fischer’s favorite author

BY **MYKOLA FUZIK**
TRANSLATION BY **DOUGLAS GRIFFIN**

Editor’s Note: This article has been a long time coming.

We commissioned a translation of this article in the spring of 2022, during the first months of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and as part of our “Voices from Ukraine” series on *Chess Life Online*. Our purpose was two-fold: first, to let some of Ukraine’s top players and writers tell their stories, and second, to get some money into their hands when they could use it.

Mykola Fuzik sent us this article on Isaac Lipnitsky. It is a tight synopsis of his 2018 book on Lipnitsky’s life and works (co-authored with Alexei Radchenko), but it is also very long — much longer than our usual *Chess Life* fare.

We have been trying, and failing, to find page space to publish Fuzik’s work for the last few months, largely because it has presented some unusual challenges. Do we edit it down radically to make it fit? Do we simply put it online? Ultimately we have decided to split the article into two parts, leaving the vast majority of Fuzik’s text intact.

Our thanks to Douglas Griffin for his pro-bono translation, and to Mykola for his patience.

W

E PICK UP LIPNITSKY'S story with his final-round victory over Efim Geller in the 1950 USSR Cham-

pionship. This tournament, perhaps Lipnitsky's finest result, is recounted in our May issue. ~ed.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E71)

Issac Lipnitsky

Efim Geller

18th USSR Championship,

Moscow, 1950

Annotations by Lipnitsky

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 0-0 5. Bc2 d6 6. h3 e5 7. d5 c6

In reply to the crossing by the white pawn of the demarcation line Black carries out an exchange, opening the c-file for himself.

8. Bd3 Na6 9. Nge2 cxd5 10. cxd5 Nc5 11. Bc2 Nh5 12. 0-0

Probably more accurate was 12. Qd2, preventing the move of the black queen to h4 (in view of Be3-g5), and also ... h7-h6.

12. ... h6



White's plan foresees the full development of his forces and the later creation of an initiative on the queen's wing, where White has a spatial advantage. In such positions Black often develops counterplay on the kingside by means of ... f7-f5, but in this precise situation this advance is not disadvantageous for White, since he exchanges at f5 and (after ... g6xf5) plays f2-f4!

Taking account of this circumstance, Geller for the time being refrains from the advance ... f7-f5, and in place of this maneuverers on both the queenside and kingside. With the text move in he prepares the exit of his queen to h4.

13. Rc1

Later the rook is forced to return to a1, and

the move in the text proves to be a waste of time. Better was 13. Qd2. Deserving attention is 13. b4. It should be noted that had he wished to prevent this move, Black could have long ago played ... a7-a5.

13. ... a5 14. Kh2 Bd7 15. a4

It is essential to prevent ... b7-b5.

15. ... Kh7

Sooner or later a forced move. The advance ... f7-f5 now becomes unattractive, in view of the presence of the c2-bishop.

16. Qd2 Rc8 17. Ra1

White has two pieces tied to the defense of the a4-pawn. In returning the rook to a1, White not only creates an extra defender of the a4-pawn, but also intends to include the rook in operations on the third rank.

17. ... Qh4 18. Ra3

A useful move. Up to this point both sides have been consolidating their positions, not proceeding to decisive operations. But inevitably the first skirmishes must soon happen, and in this case the position of the rook on proves to be very appropriate. In passing the possible double attack by the c5-knight at b3 is prevented.

18. ... b6



19. Ng1

White wants to drive back the black queen with the move g2-g3, and for this it is necessary to defend the h3-square. Moreover, in freeing the e2-square, White is thinking of carrying out the maneuver Bc2-d1-e2-b5 with the exchange of the light-squared bishops, which would have permitted him to gradually go over to the capture of important squares on the queen-side and to attack the b6- and a5-pawns.

The position that has been created is very instructive: while Black experiences difficulty in finding a suitable plan of play that does not involve the advance ... f7-f5, White has clear play on the queenside. Geller, who

is not the type to patiently await the realization of the opponent's plan, resorts to the move ... f7-f5, from which he had long been refraining.

19. ... f5 20. g3

Had White first exchanged on f5 and then played g2-g3, the black queen could have moved away to c4.

20. ... Qe7 21. exf5 Bxf5

On 21. ... gxf5 there would have followed 22. Nge2 and then f2-f4 or g3-g4.

22. Nge2 Bxc2

Black could have delayed this exchange, since it helps White to take possession of the light squares. For the time being Black was not threatened with the continuation 23. Bxf5 gxf5 24. f4, since in this case he could have replied 24. ... exf4 25. Nxf4 Bxc2! followed by 26. ... Ne4.

23. Qxc2 Nf6

By now Black should have already tried to exploit the weakness of the d3- and f3-squares with the move 23. ... e4, since with his following move White prevents this advance.

24. f3 Qf7

Black deflects the white queen from the diagonal b1-h7. Also now 24. ... e4 25. f4 Nd3 led to very confused play. It must be noted, however, that Black was already experiencing time trouble.

25. Qd2 g5 26. g4!



An important moment! White is in time to occupy the central e4-square, which creates for him the later prospect of obtaining an advantageous ending with a knight on e4 against the bishop on g7.

26. ... Ng8

After 26. ... e4 White could have continued 27. f4 with an excellent game. For instance, 27. ... h5 28. Ng3 hgx4 29. fxxg5 etc.

27. Ng3 Ne7 28. Bxc5 bxc5

Naturally, not 28. ... Rxc5 29. Nge4 and 29. Nxd6.

29. Nge4 Rb8

Black does not fear the capture at d6 due to the possibility 30. ... Qf4+ 31. Qxf4 Rxb2+ and 32. ... exf4.

30. Rf2 Rfd8 31. Ra1 Qf4+ 32. Qxf4

Due to the presence for Black of the maneuver ... Ne7-g6-h4 White does not avoid taking the queen on f4, which opens up the black bishop. On 32. Kg1 there could have followed 32. ... Ng6! 33. Nb5 Nh4 34. Qxf4 (34. Raf1 Nxf3+ 35. Rxf3 Qxe4) 34. ... exf4 and impossible is 35. Nxd6 on account of 35. ... Rxd6! 36. Nxd6 Bd4! with the threats of 37. ... Rxb2, 37. ... Nxf3+ and 37. ... Rd8.

32. ... exf4 33. Re1 Ng6 34. Nb5 Ne5 35. Rd1 Rb6 36. b3 Kg6 37. Kg2

White cannot now prevent the move 37. ... c4, since on 37. Nd2 unpleasant is 37. ... Re8 with the threat of ... Ne5-d3.

37. ... Bf8

In serious time-trouble Geller likely could not calculate all the variations after the sharp 37. ... c4.

38. Rc2 Bg7 39. Kf2 Bf8 40. Kg2 Re8 41. Rc3



The sealed move. White has a definite advantage in view of the weakness of Black's a5- and d6-pawns, and also the presence of a bad bishop. If it were possible to remove from the board both pairs of rooks and the knights, Black would have a completely lost endgame. In many variations decisive would be the march of the white king from the d3-square along the itinerary d3-c4-b5, or d3-e4-f5.

41. ... Nf7 42. Rd2 Ne5

Were Black to now sacrifice the Exchange on e4 in order to consolidate by means of the transfer of the bishop to e5, White wins after carrying out the break h3-h4 on the kingside.

43. Re2 Nf7

Black is very restricted in his maneuvers. He must not only look after the d6-pawn, but also prevent the possible sacrifice on d6 followed by taking on e5 (in the case of the departure of the rook from e8), and also the maneuver Ne4-d2-c4!

44. Rcc2 Bg7

Or 44. ... Ne5 45. Nd2 Rbb8 46. Nc4! Nxc4 47. bxc4 Kf7 48. Re6! Rxe6 49. dxe6+ Ke7 (49. ... Kxe6) 50. Re2 Bg7 51. Na7!.

45. Kf1 Re5

Black is unable to avoid the exchange of rooks after the retreat of the knight from the e4-square.

46. Nec3 Rxe2 47. Nxe2 Rb7 48. Nc1 Re7 49. Re2 Ne5

Clearly, the exchange of rooks would only have hastened defeat. However, it's already impossible to save the game.

50. Re4

Clearly, 50. Nxd6 would have permitted Black to obtain counterplay after 50. ... Rd7.

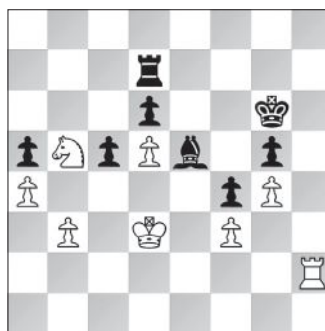
50. ... Rd7 51. Ke2 Bf6 52. Nd3 h5 53. Nxe5+ Bxe5

Of little comfort too is 53. ... dxe5 54. d6.

54. Kd3 hxg4 55. hxg4 Re7

Black cannot exploit the h-file. On 55. ... Rh7 there follows 56. Nxd6 Bxd6 57. Re6+ etc.

56. Re2 Rd7 57. Rh2



Since the white knight will be transferred to the c4-square, the occupation of the h-file by the black rook should be forestalled.

57. ... Rb7 58. Kc2 Re7 59. Na3 Bd4

A final attempt to obtain at least some counterplay.

60. Nc4 Re1 61. Nxd6 Re3 62. Ne4 Rxf3 63. d6 c4 64. bxc4 Re3 65. d7 Bb6 66. c5 Bc7 67. Nd6 Re7 68. Rh6+ Kxh6 69. Nf5+ Kg6

70. Nxe7+ Kf7 71. Nc6, Black resigned.

This brilliant — especially for a debutant — result became the apotheosis of Lipnitsky's entire chess career, although the Kyiv master still had some fairly high-profile successes ahead of him. He managed to get into the finals of the next two All-Union championships, and in 1956 he became the champion of Ukraine for the second time. But his results in the 19th and 20th USSR championships could not be compared with the triumph of the young master in 1950 — both times Lipnitsky occupied a place towards the bottom of the table.

Nevertheless, as before, he regularly produced excellent games. Lipnitsky himself especially liked the game against Furman, played in the semi-final of the 19th USSR Championship in Baku.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT, RAGOZIN DEFENSE (BY TRANSPOSITION) (E51)

Semion Furman

Issac Lipnitsky

19th USSR Ch (Semi-final), Baku, 1951

[Annotations by Lipnitsky](#)

Author's note: Lipnitsky annotated this game twice — first in the magazine *Chess in the USSR* (No. 2, 1952) and later in his book *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* (1956). The author of these lines has taken the liberty of combining the commentary of the maestro from both sources.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4

This encounter took place a few rounds before the end of the competition, when the masters Novotelnov, Taimanov and Kholmov had already made sure of the first three places. The nearest candidates for fourth place, which also gave the right to play in the final, were Furman and I, having the same number of points — so the result of our game had taken on decisive significance. But to prepare for this game proved exceptionally difficult.

Both opponents, having lived together in the same hotel room over the course of a month, had prepared for rounds and discussed a variety of variations together. To each of us the opening "script" of the other was more or less clear. I knew that in most cases Furman plays 1. d4, readily permitting the Nimzo-Indian Defense, in which he is one of the greatest experts. I decided to choose the Nimzo-Indian, but then transposed to the Ragozin Defense, which, as it

seemed to me, it would be less pleasant for Furman to play. That is the explanation for the order of the first six moves.

4. e3 0-0 5. Nf3 d5 6. Bd3 Nc6

Clearly, this move is not in the least inferior to 6. ... c5, 6. ... b6 or 6. ... Nbd7, after which the game would have remained in Nimzo-Indian channels. But we already know that the choice of one continuation or another is frequently a purely psychological matter.

7. 0-0 dxc4

Black reveals his intention to sacrifice a pawn. Otherwise he could have played 7. ... a6, so as to preliminarily defend the b5-square.

8. Bxc4 Bd6

The path chosen by Black is characteristic of the Ragozin Defense. Rejecting the advance of the c-pawn, he prepares counterplay in the center associated with the advance ... e6-e5.

9. Bb5



Furman tries to prevent ... e6-e5, threatening in turn to play e3-e4-e5.

9. ... e5!

All the same this move is possible! Black sacrifices a pawn, obtaining the two bishops and great freedom of operation. Moreover, White has still not developed his queenside. This pawn sacrifice is essentially a repeat of that carried out in a similar position by Ragozin in the game against Capablanca (Moscow, 1936).

Sacrificing a pawn in this position, I hoped that the “novelty” would take the opponent by surprise. But it transpired that I was deeply mistaken. Shortly before the tournament Furman had analyzed this position and, familiarizing himself with the resultant continuations, came to the conclusion that the whole variation is in White’s favor. Thus, the psychological effect of the novelty proved to be precisely zero. But during the game I did not know this, so that, playing the move 9. ... e5!, I was very happy.

10. Bxc6

In the case of 10. d5 Ne7 11. e4 Ng6 Black has quite good prospects on the kingside.

10. ... exd4 11. Bxb7

Possibly, Black’s task would have been more complicated after 11. Nxd4 bxc6 12. Nxc6. On 12. ... Qd7 White could have replied not 13. Nd4 (which would have led to the situation occurring in the game), but 13. Qa4, so as to parry 13. ... Bb7 by means of 14. Na5.

All the same, after 11. Nxd4 bxc6 12. Nxc6 Black has sufficient play; besides 12. ... Qd7 he also has available the move 12. ... Qe8.

11. ... Bxb7 12. Nxd4 Qd7

In this situation both sides were satisfied; White, because he has won a pawn, Black, because he had sacrificed it.

13. Ndb5

In the case of 13. Qa4 Black obtains a strong attack after 13. ... Qg4. It would have been interesting to test the immediate 13. f3! here.

13. ... Qc6 14. f3

Here Furman had analyzed 14. ... Bc5, believing that Black does not have sufficient compensation for the pawn. Indeed, after 15. Nd4! the black queen lacks a convenient square to move to; for example: a) 15. ... Qd6 16. Na4 (also good is 16. Nb3) and Black is unable to avoid the exchange of queens; b) 15. ... Qd7 16. Nb3 Bd6 17. e4. But Black has a way to retain the initiative.

14. ... Be5!



It transpires that here, on the central square e5, the bishop is excellently placed. Now on 15. Nd4 there follows 15. ... Qd6 with an attack on the h2-pawn. In this case bad for White (both now and subsequently) is 16. f4 on account of 16. ... Bxd4.

Some possible variations: a) 17. Qxd4 Qc6 18. Qd2 Rad8 19. Qf2 Rfe8; b) 17. exd4 Rfe8 followed by ... Ra8-d8 and ... Qd6-c6 or ... Qd6-b6, and Black’s pressure is very imposing.

15. Qc2 Rfd8 16. a4

If White had had time to play e3-e4 and Bc1-e3, Black would have been in trouble. But now 16. e4 will not do in view of the fact that after 16. ... Ba6 the white knight falls under a double pin and after 17. a4 Qb6+ followed by ... c7-c6 Black could have won the Exchange.

Besides the move in the game, meriting attention is 16. Nd4, so as to gain the advantage in the case of 16. ... Bxd4 17. exd4 Rxd4 18. Be3. But on 16. Nd4 Black has available the move 16. ... Qd6, and if 17. Nf5, then 17. ... Bxh2+ 18. Kh1 Qe5 19. f4 Qc5! 20. Kxh2 Be4 and Black, having regained the pawn, retains the pressure.

16. ... Qc4!

Black is unable to exploit his bishops to create a direct attack on the king — the white pawns on e3 and f3 prevent this. But on the other hand, it is still possible to further improve the position of the black pieces. After the move in the game Black threatens, as well as 17. ... Bxh2+ followed by taking on f1, the simple transfer of the

Below: Lipnitsky, deep in thought. This photograph, provided by Sergey Voronkov, is on the cover of Fuzik and Radchenko’s book.



queen to the h4-square. As before, f3-f4, uncovering Black's light-squared bishop, is unfavorable for White.

17. Qf2

White defends against both threats, but now the d3-square is weakened, and the black rook immediately occupies it.

17. ... Rd3 18. Kh1 Rad8 19. e4 a6 20. Na3 Qb3 21. Nxb1

Better was 21. Be3. In this case 21. ... Bxe4 is not dangerous on account of 22. Nxe4 Nxe4 (or 22. ... Rxe3 23. Nc5!) 23. fxe4 Rxe3 24. Nc4! with an attack on rook and bishop. Instead, for Black to regain the pawn after 21. Be3 Bxc3 would have lessened White's pressure.

21. ... Bd4! 22. Qe2 Bc5



From here the bishop exerts a strong effect on the diagonal g1-a7, simultaneously preventing the exit of the white rook at a3.

23. Re1 a5 24. Nd2

Of no help here is 24. Bg5 on account of

24. ... Ba6 and then:

- a) 25. e5 Re3 26. Nd2 Qe6 27. Qd1 Rxe5 with a large advantage for Black.
- b) 25. Nd5 R3xd5 26. Qxa6 Rxc6.
- c) 25. Bxf6 gxf6 26. Nd5 R3xd5 27. Qxa6 Rd1 28. Nc3 Rxa1 29. Rxa1 Qxb2 30. Rd1 Rxd1+ 31. Nxd1 Qd4 32. Qf1 Qxa4 and Black wins.

24. ... Qc2 25. Nf1

Or 25. Nc4 Rxc3 26. bxc3 Qxe2 27. Rxe2 Rd1+, mating.

In the case of 25. Rd1 Black can win in various ways, for example 25. ... Re3 or 25. ... Ba6.

25. ... Qxe2 26. Rxe2 Rd1 27. Nxd1 Rxd1 28. h3 Rxf1+ 29. Kh2 Bg1+ 30. Kg3 Nh5+ 31. Kg4 g6 32. b4 Bd4 33. Bb2 Bxb2 34. Rxf1 Bc8+ 35. Kg5 Bf6+ 36. Kh6 Bg7+ 37. Kg5 h6+ 38. Kh4 Bf6, mate.

This game gave me great satisfaction, because by systematically developing a strategic initiative I was able to demonstrate the possibility of sacrificing a pawn in this variation, even in the absence of an attack on the king.

From 1951 onwards, a severe malignant blood disease, one which is still a serious problem in clinical oncohematology today, began to make itself felt. In those years it was completely incurable (according to one version Lipnitsky had chronic myeloleukosis; according to another it was polycythemia vera).

The year 1956 was Lipnitsky's "swan song." At the start of the year he won the Kyiv championship for the first time, and then

won the Ukrainian championship for the second time, beating Anatoly Bannik in fierce competition. This success earned him the right to participate in one of the semi-finals for the 23rd USSR Championship. However, a month before the start, he was replaced by his compatriot Yuri Sakharov, who had just been released from the Gulag after a five-year sentence (his original sentence was 25 years, but after Stalin's death he and his family succeeded in having his conviction overturned and expunged). It was as though the Kyiv chess officials were trying to apologize to Sakharov for the years of his life taken from him.

Due to his worsening health, Lipnitsky did not play in any more tournaments. However, he did play one game in December 1958 against Yuri Sakharov in the Kyiv team championship. In this crucial match between the Spartak and Avangard teams, Lipnitsky not only won the game but also managed to annotate it. The annotated game was published in *Chess in the USSR* magazine (No. 7, 1959), next to his obituary.

NIMZO INDIAN DEFENSE (E42)

Yuri Sakharov
Issac Lipnitsky
Kyiv Team Championship, 1958
Annotations by Lipnitsky

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 0-0

On the fourth move Black has available a wide choice of continuations: 4. ... d5, 4. ... c5, 4. ... Nc6, 4. ... b6, 4. ... d6. Each of them to a significant extent determines the further direction of play. It is another matter after castling, which is all the same inevitable. Black as if says to the opponent: "Make a move, and only having seen it will I choose a reply accordingly."

For example, after 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Black has the possibility of directing the game along the lines of the comfortable variation 6. ... c5! 7. Bd3 Nc6 8. Ne2 b6 9. 0-0 Ba6 10. e4 Ne8!, in which he exposes the pawn at c4 to lasting pressure, while successfully opposing White's pressure in the center and on the kingside with a timely ... f7-f5.

5. Nge2

The idea of this continuation is simple: after the later a2-a3, White avoids the doubling of his pawns if there is an exchange on the c3-



Left: Lipnitsky at the board circa 1951. This photo comes from the archives of Lyubov Yakir in Kyiv via Sergey Voronkov.

square. Moreover, in a number of variations White intends to develop the king's bishop on g2, from where it will sweep an entire diagonal. A serious shortcoming of the move is the fact that the e2-knight, although temporarily, holds up the development of White's kingside all the same.

5. ... c5!

Here the reply 5. ... d5 is mainly employed. After 6. a3 Be7 7. cxd5 exd5 8. g3 Nbd7 9. Bg2 there is some initiative on the side of White, who can later play for the occupation of the center (f2-f3, e3-e4), or aim at an attack on the kingside (f2-f3, g3-g4, Ne2-g3 etc.)

Together with 5. ... d5, also encountered is 5. ... b6, but this attempt is unsuccessful on account of 6. a3 Be7 7. d5!, after which the development of the bishop on b7 loses its point.

6. a3

On the immediate 6. d5 there can follow 6. ... b5! 7. dxe6 fxe6 8. cxb5 d5 with initiative for the pawn.

6. ... cxd4 7. exd4

In the game Botvinnik – Najdorf (Alekhine Memorial, 1956) there was played: 7. axb4 dxc3 8. Nxc3 d5 9. cxd5 Nxd5 10. Nxd5 Qxd5 11. Qxd5 exd5 12. Bd2 Bf5 13. Bc3, and White has the advantage in the endgame: two bishops, the open a-file, domination of the d4-square. But Black is by no means obliged to adhere to such anemic tactic of simplification. He can choose a more complicated path, for example 9. ... exd5, and in this case it would have been significantly more difficult for White to bring the c1-bishop into the battle. Black, however, with open lines, has sufficient piece-play.

7. ... Be7 8. g3

Here 8. d5 is also employed. After 8. ... exd5 9. cxd5 d6 10. Nd4 Re8 11. Be2 White achieves the more comfortable game. But the question arises, can Black not play differently? That is, if instead of 9. ... d6 he replies 9. ... Re8, hindering the movement of the e2-knight? After all, White's kingside is held up.

8. ... d5!

(see diagram top of next column)

In chess, it is always favorable for the better developed player to enter contact with the opponent as soon as possible.

9. cxd5?



For White it was perhaps best of all to advance the c-pawn, in order to avoid the opening of lines, although it also entails a loss of time. In this case the struggle could unfold approximately as follows: 9. c5 b6 10. b4 a5 11. Na4 bxc5! 12. bxc5 (after 12. dxc5 axb4 13. axb4 Nc6 Black's initiative in the center is somewhat more dangerous than the opponent's threats on the flank; this was demonstrated, in particular, by the game Szabó – Gligorić, Helsinki 1952) 12. ... Nfd7 13. Bg2 Nc6 14. 0-0 Bf6 15. Be3 Ba6 16. Re1 Rb8, and Black has strategically clear prospects: pressure on the d4-square in combination with play on the b-file and the diagonal a6-f1.

9. ... Nxd5 10. Bg2 Nxc3!

An important moment! There is no point in waiting until White himself exchanges on d5, and creates a weak pawn that can later come under pressure. On the other hand, hardly justifiable would have been the retreat of the knight, which would only have got in the way of its own pieces.

11. bxc3

After 11. Nxc3 Bf6 12. Be3 (or 12. d5 exd5 13. Nxd5 Re8+) 12. ... Nc6 the d4-pawn would have become the source of constant worries for White. True, it can be reinforced with the move 13. Ne2, but this would have signified completely switching to defense, whereas Black could have strengthened the pressure with the moves 13. ... Qd7 and 14. ... Rd8. Also unlikely to secure equality is the paradoxical 13. Bxc6 (instead of 13. Ne2 or 13. d5) 13. ... bxc6 14. 0-0, despite the fact that for Black there has appeared a weak pawn on the c-file, while the white knight has at its disposition the important e4- and c5-squares. However, the capture on c3 with the pawn also leaves Black with the better game, so that ultimately the question of how to take on c3 is transformed into purely subjective one, which each will decide according to their taste.

If until now there had been only slight contact between the advanced detachments,

then in the next moves, when both sides have fully developed their forces, there already takes place a genuine skirmish, of which it is necessary to talk now. White's queenside is brittle and poorly secured: the a- and c-pawns are weak, and the whole complex of light squares — a4, c4, b3 — is vulnerable. Therefore Black's plan is clear — he aims as soon as possible to deliver a blow against the weak spot in the opponent's defenses.

11. ... Nc6 12. 0-0 Bd7 13. Nf4

The attempt to advance the backward c-pawn would have been unsuccessful, since after 13. ... Na5 it immediately becomes an object of attack.

13. ... Na5 14. Re1

After studying the position, the eye is caught by the harmonious position of Black's fighting force and of the disunited state of the white pieces. If the bishop stood on d3 (and not on g2), White could have created a dangerous attack on the king. But here such an idea does not have any chances of success.

14. ... Rc8 15. Rb1

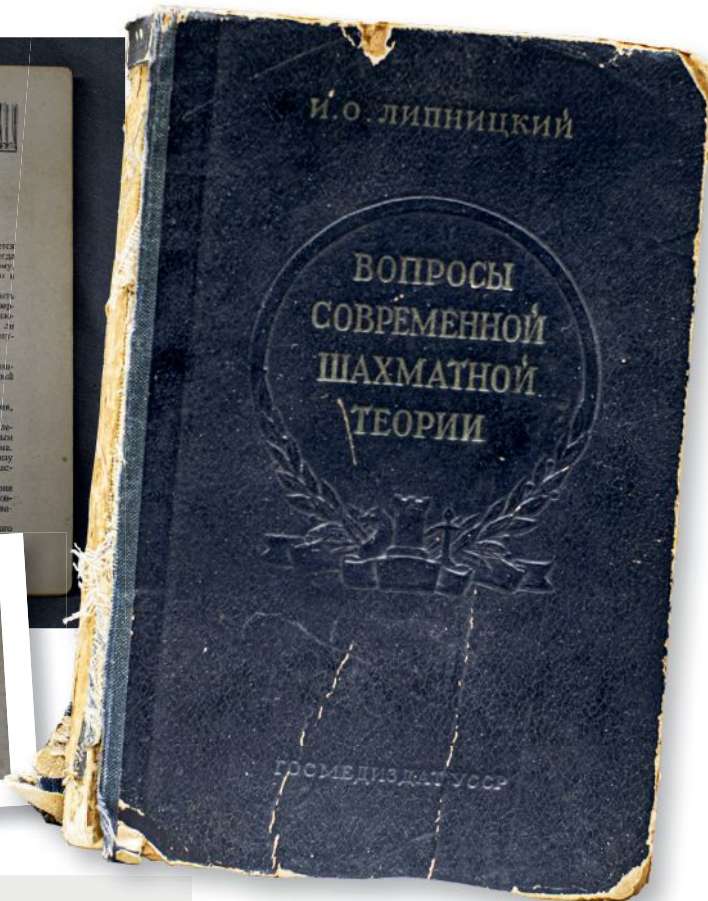
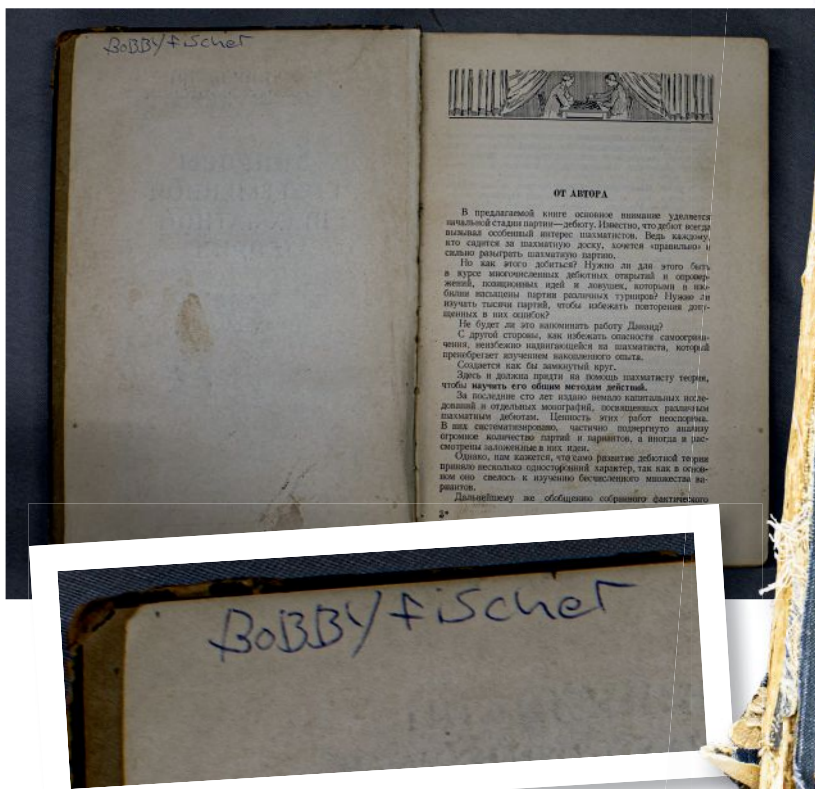
Obviously, going over to defense with 15. Bd2 would have been prospectless. This would have permitted Black to consolidate his positional advantage. For instance, 15. ... Bc6 16. Bxc6 (or 16. d5 exd5 17. Nxd5 Bxd5 18. Bxd5 Qxd5 19. Rxe7 Nb3 20. Ra2 Rcd8 with a clear advantage) 16. ... Rxc6, and after some preparation Black wins the weak c- and a-pawns.

15. ... Rxc3



Black meets the desires of the opponent, believing that the material advantage and well-placed pieces will permit him to look to a bright future. At the same time, this decision is in principle incorrect, since he risks losing the bird that he already has in his hand without catching the two in the bush.

He ought to have quietly continued 15. ... b6. After 16. d5 exd5 (also possible is 16. ... e5 17. Rxe5 Bf6 or 17. d6 Bf6 18. Nd5 Bc6



BOBBY'S BOOK

Lipnitsky's *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* was one of the young Bobby Fischer's favorite books; indeed, as Frank Brady reports in *Endgame*, Fischer was so eager to read it that he placed a special order through the Four Continents bookstore and then devoured it, improving his Russian in the process. At some point along the way, Fischer's copy (seen above) was sold to Walter Goldwater's University Place Bookshop, where a teenaged Bruce Pandolfini was working as a clerk. "I was able to purchase it for a mere two weeks of salary," Pandolfini says. "It was worth it."

19. Nxf6+ Qxf6, and White's advanced pawn is in danger) 17. Nxd5 Be6 18. Nxe7+ Qxe7 the tension in the center is discharged, and White would have had no compensation at all for the weakness of the c3- and a3-pawns.

16. d5!

With this blow White had correctly tied up all of his hopes.

16. ... Bxa3 17. Bd2

(see diagram top of next column)

What a transformation! Three moves ago everything appeared very quiet. Now, however, the battle recalls a skirmish over the abyss. A single false step and everything will be over. Such is the formidable dynamic of chess. We will take a closer look, however,



at the position that has arisen.

White has given up two pawns, and not without reason. The majority of the black pieces are hanging: the triangle a3-c3-a5 is highly vulnerable, in many variations the d7-bishop will be harassed, and the squares e6 and b7 are under attack. How is Black now to continue? Where is the rook to be

retreated to?

Bad is 17. ... Rc5 18. Ra1! Nc4 19. Rxa3! Nxa3 20. Bb4 Ra5 21. dxe6 fxe6 (or 21. ... Bxe6 22. Qxd8 Rxd8 23. Bxa5) 22. Bxf8, and White wins, since on 22. ... Kxf8 (22. ... Qxf8 23. Qxd7) there follows 23. Nxe6+.

Hardly attractive too is the other retreat 17. ... Rc8 18. dxe6 Bxe6 (or 18. ... fxe6 19. Bxa5 and 20. Qxd7) 19. Rxe6!! fxe6 20. Nxe6, and the black queen cannot move without leaving the a5-knight undefended. After 21. Nxf8 White wins at least a piece.

17. ... Rc4!!

The rook is left in the very thick of things and actively participates both in defense and in attack. Already now not dangerous is 18. dxe6 Bxe6, since on 19. Rxe6 Black disposes of the counter-blow 19. ... Rxf4, escaping from the dangerous raid of the opponent's cavalry, and if 20. Re5, then 20. ... Rd4.

Also colorful is another variation: 18. Bxa5 Qxa5 19. dxe6 Bxe6 20. Nxe6 fxe6 21. Rxe6 (not 21. Rxb7 Rc1) 21. ... Bc5 22. Bd5 Bxf2+ 23. Kg2 Rd4!, in which the threat of discovered check is opposed by Black by the problem-like idea of interference.

18. Ra1

The appetite, as they say, comes with eating. Sakharov undertakes an attempt at active play, but does not notice that in one of the variations he has committed an oversight. However, with limited time for thought, to examine all of the combinational possibilities is not easy.

Interestingly, the best decision would have been the purely positional 18. dxe6 Bxe6 19. Nxe6 fxe6 20. Qe2! Rc8 21. Qxe6+ Kh8 22. Be3! in order to regain one of the pawns and to retain an active position of his pieces.

18. ... Bb4 19. dxe6 fxe6

The only move! Losing a piece is 19. ... Bxe6 20. Bxb4 Rxb4 21. Qxd8 Rxd8 22. Rxa5.

20. Bxb4 Rxb4

The tactical peculiarities of the position do not permit White to exploit the “hanging” position of the black pieces. For example, 21. Rxa5 Qxa5 22. Qxd7 Rbxf4 23. Qxe6+ R4f7 24. Bd5 Kh8!, and White does not have time to take on f7, since his e1-rook is under attack.

21. Re4 Rxe4 22. Bxe4



White's stormy assault, beginning with the move 16. d5, proves to have been repulsed. Therefore, perhaps, best of all for him would have been to regain one of the sacrificed pawns and to seek salvation in an endgame.

Bringing the final reserves into the battle, Sakharov gives the attack a new direction. Already now danger hangs over the black king. 23. Qh5 is threatened. For example, 22. ... e5 23. Qh5 h6 24. Bd5+ Kh7 25. Qg6+ Kh8 26. Be4 etc.

22. ... Bc6

The attempt to retain both extra pawns could have led Black even to defeat. On the other hand, now he permanently liquidates White's initiative and in what follows only accurate technique is required.

23. Qc2

As previously, White cannot exploit the poor position of the a5-knight, since his bishop is

under attack. Possible are the variations: a) 23. Qh5 Bxe4 24. Nxe6 Qf6, and Black wins in view of the attacks on a1 and f2; or b) 23. Bxh7+ Kxh7 24. Qh5+ Kg8 25. Ng6 Nc4!, defending the e5-square, which deprives White of the attack with Qh5-h8+ and Ng6-e5+.

23. ... Bxe4 24. Qxe4 Nc6

The knight is drawn back to the center. Now 25. Nxe6 is not dangerous in view of 25. ... Qf6.

25. Rb1

(Author's note: According to Stockfish, this is in fact the decisive mistake, not noted by Lipnitsky. Hopes for a successful outcome for White were retained only by 25. Qxe6+.)

25. ... Qd7 26. h4

The lesser evil would have been transposition into an endgame with a pawn less.

26. ... e5 27. Nd3 Qf7 28. Rb2 Qf3 29.

Qc4+ Kh8 30. Nc5 Nd4 31. Nd7



White's last hope. If Black's rook now moves away, there follows 32. Nxe5!, winning. But Black had already prepared an annihilating blow.

31. ... Qe4! 32. Qc1 Nf3+ 33. Kf1 Qd3+

Also winning is 33. ... Nxh4.

34. Kg2 Qxd7, White resigned.

THE BOOK THAT OUTLIVED THE AUTHOR

During the '50s, Lipnitsky wrote two books. The first, *Selected Games of Ukrainian Chess-players* (in Ukrainian), was co-authored with Kyiv master Boris Ratner. Published in 1953, it has long since become a bibliographic rarity. For a long time, it shared its fate with Lipnitsky's second work, *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* (1956), which by Soviet

standards, had a miserable circulation of “only” 15 thousand copies, making it almost instantly a bibliographic rarity.

This book and its author suddenly came to public attention in the 21st century, when *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* was published several times in Russian (2007) and English (2008), the latter by Quality Chess Publishing. Most likely it was the English edition that provided the impetus for its further triumphant march across bookshelves worldwide — in 2009 it was published in German, and in 2012 in Spanish. And it seems the book has not reached the finish line yet.

Lipnitsky's recommendations attracted the attention of different world champions such as Mikhail Botvinnik and Robert Fischer. The American is even said to have learned Russian specifically to read his book. Fischer's acquaintance (if not more) with this book is evidenced by the mention of Lipnitsky's name in *My 60 Memorable Games*. American bibliophile Yakov Zusmanovich, in response to my request to find further evidence of “relations” between Fischer and Lipnitsky, tirelessly dug through his immense collection of biographical chess literature (more than 10 thousand books!) until he came across John Collins' memoirs *My Seven Chess Prodigies* (1975).

In the chapter on Fischer, Collins writes: “Bobby has probably read — more than ‘read,’ rather, chewed and digested — more chess books and magazines than anybody else. This was no task; it was a pleasure, and it has made him the most knowledgeable player in history. Language has been no barrier. From the beginning, with Regina's [author's note: Fischer's mother] help he has used books in Dutch, English, German, Russian, Spanish and Serbo-Croat. One of the first books, which he read and re-read and carried about with him was *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* by I. Lipnitsky, which contained a thorough analysis of the Ragozin System.”

Arne Moll, who wrote one of the most detailed and inspirational English reviews of the book, is certain that chess would look very different in the West today if an English translation of the book had seen the light of day a half a century earlier. But perhaps Soviet chess would be different, too, if that book had been widely available 50 years ago.

Shortly before his death, Lipnitsky began collecting materials for a new book about the chess machine of Hungarian inventor Wolfgang von Kempelin. He also dreamed of writing a work of chess fiction. But he did not have time. On March 25, 1959, Isaac Oskarovich Lipnitsky died and was buried in the Baikove cemetery in Kyiv. ♠

A Generational Battle

Youth shines at the Larry Evans Memorial, but experience has its place as well.

BY GM JIM TARJAN

T

HE 2023 LARRY EVANS Memorial was held from April 7-9 at the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada. The organizing team lead by Jerry Weikel was dealt a wild-card just before the new year

when the original playing site canceled their contract. But co-organizer Fran Weikel had an ace up her sleeve and worked out a deal with Circus Circus just in time.

This was a nice event for me personally. Taking two byes and winning my four other games, I finished clear first. It helped that I avoided being paired with the other two GMs in the field — Melik Khachiyan and Sergey Kudrin — but there was a reason for that: The youngsters were nicking them left and right!

Playing on first board in the fourth round were two of America's most talented juniors, FM Ruiyang Yan and newly-minted

national master Rose Atwell. As one of the tournament directors pointed before the round, this was (not surprisingly) the first time in the history of the tournament that first board was held down by two females.

Atwell had a particularly good tournament, defeating Kudrin and Yan, and drawing with Khachiyan. The win over Kudrin was, I'm told, her first grandmaster scalp. (Here are Atwell's own notes to the game. ~ed.)

SICILIAN DEFENSE, HYPER-ACCELERATED DRAGON (B27)

Rose Atwell (2203)

GM Sergey Kudrin (2424)

Larry Evans Memorial (3), Reno, 04.08.2023

Annotations by Rose Atwell

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5

5. d4 Bg7 6. Nbd2 cxd4 7. Bc4

Developing with a tempo!

7. ... Qh5 8. Qb3 Nh6 9. Nxd4 0-0 10. 0-0 Bxd4 11. cxd4



I have a lonely pawn in the center, but it's okay because Black has weak squares near his king.

11. ... Nc6 12. Qc3 Na5 13. Bd3

This move is a little too passive. His king is weak. Instead I should have played 13. b3 and developed my other bishop to b2, so it can attack.

13. ... Be6 14. Nf3 Rac8 15. Qd2 Ng4

16. b3 Nc6 17. h3 Nf6 18. Be2 Qa5

19. Qxa5 Nxa5 20. Ba3 Rc7 21. Ne5 Nd5

22. Bf3 Rfc8 23. Rfe1



This endgame is around equal, but I have a little more activity.

23. ... Kf8 24. Bc5 b6 25. Ba3 Rd8 26. Rac1 Rdc8 27. Bxd5 Rxc1 28. Bxc1 Bxd5 29. Ba3

(see diagram next page)

29. ... Rc7?

After this he is lost. Black's last chance to hold was 29. ... Ke8, which looks scary for him, but I don't have any useful knight jumps.

30. Ng4 Be6 31. Nf6 Rc2 32. d5 Rxa2

33. Bb4 Kg7 34. dxe6 Nc6



Here 34. ... Kxf6 doesn't work because the pawn promotes after 35. Bc3+ Kg5 36. exf7.

35. Nd5 fxe6 36. Rxe6 Nxb4 37. Nxb4
Black is just down a piece.

37. ... Ra1+ 38. Kh2 Kf7 39. Re3 Rc1
40. Nd5 e6 41. Nf4 Rc6 42. Nd3 Ke7
43. Ne5 Rc7 44. f4 a5 45. Nc4 Rc6 46. Rd3,
Black resigned.

With Atwell at an undefeated 4½/5 heading into the final round, it was up to me to stop her. At least this time, experience won out over youth.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, (D31)

GM Jim Tarjan (2448)
Rose Atwell (2203)
Larry Evans Memorial (6), Reno,
04.09.2023

1. c4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Be7 4. cxd5 exd5
5. Bf4 c6 6. e3 Bd6
As she has played before.

7. Bxd6 Qxd6 8. Bd3 Nf6
Straightforward, and what I have played in this position.

But the top players have used a different plan: 8. ... Ne7 intending ... Bc8-f5, and if 9. Qc2 then 9. ... b6, successfully trading off the bishop via the a6-square. One can argue that the slight weakening of Black's queenside pawns means White at least has something to play for.

9. Nge2 0-0

(see diagram top of next column)

10. Qd2
Believe it or not, this seems to be new, as everyone plays 10. 0-0, including Sorokin against me at the recent North American Open. With 10. Qd2 I am telegraphing my intention to repeat Sorokin's plan of a quick



f2-f3 and e3-e4. I am also feinting the possibility of queenside castling. (Would that be so bad?) I suspect that Rose's next move is an anticipatory response to that possible 0-0-0.

10. ... a5
Perhaps Black could try 10. ... b6 to trade off the bishops with ... Bc8-a6, but with Black's knight on f6, White's plan of f2-f3 and e3-e4 still may have some bite.

Sorokin versus Tarjan went (by transposition) 10. ... Re8 11. 0-0 b6 12. f3 and faced with an impending e3-e4, I switched plans with 12. ... c5 but this is definitely not right. Later I decided Black should play 11. ... Nbd7 12. f3 (White could also wait a bit on this) 12. ... c5 hoping the weakened e-pawn gives Black some counterplay.

11. f3 c5
Atwell correctly realizes that Black needs to get this in, but taken together, the last two moves don't make a good impression.

12. Nb5?
A small but important oversight.
Very obviously I should have traded pawns right away: 12. dxc5 Qxc5 and Black will lose time with her misplaced queen. But I overthought, figuring I could do even better by gaining Nc3-b5 first.

12. ... Qe7 13. dxc5 Nbd7
So the proper piece gets to c5. And now even ... a7-a5 makes sense in this position, cementing the c5-knight. Even so, I would rather play the white side, but it is only a normal, small edge.

14. Ned4 Nxc5 15. 0-0 Re8
This creates a problem with Black's normal development because of the possible knight jump Nb5-c7.

I would snap the bishop off and develop: 15. ... Nxd3 16. Qxd3 Bd7, or instead just 15. ... Bd7, but my sense is it's right to take off White's bishop. There's something here about the two remaining white knights duplicating effort.

16. Rfe1 b6
So Black has to develop the bishop somewhere other than d7, though this ... b7-b6 will probably be played in any case.

17. Bf1
Given the chance to save this bishop, I will take it!

17. ... Bb7
I was expecting 17. ... Ba6.

18. Nf5
These are very subtle points, but just as Black should have taken my bishop when she had the chance, I make sure to take hers — even if the bishop cosmetically looks “bad.”

18. ... Qd7 19. Nfd6 Re7 20. Nxb7 Qxb7
21. Rad1 Rd8
The rook is prone to pins on the d-file and perhaps should have stayed elsewhere, if possible.

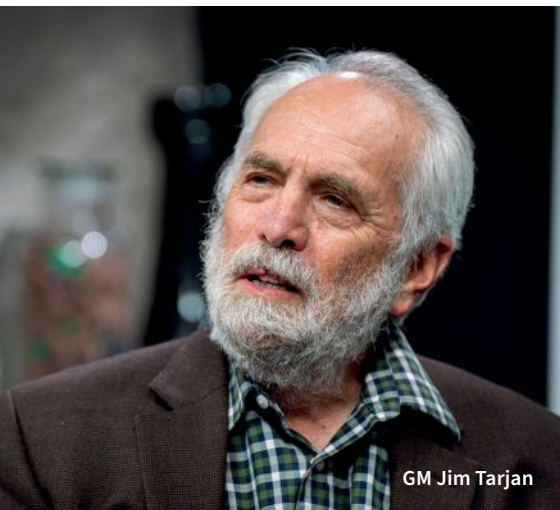
22. Qf2
An ineffective attempt to improve the position of my queen.
Another idea would be 22. e4!? already, while another plan in the position is 22. a3 to drive away the c5-knight with b2-b4.

22. ... Ne6 23. Qg3 Red7
May I confess I was hoping she would trade queens with 23. ... Qb8, thinking the old man would have better chances of beating this talented junior without queens on? Didn't turn out that way, actually.

24. Qf2 Ne8



Rose Atwell



GM Jim Tarjan



Black has improved the position of her pieces, and now she wants to trade off the b5-knight with the less useful f6-knight, while leaving her remaining knight well placed on e6 or c5. This is a decision that shows Atwell's talent.

25. Rd2 Nd6 26. Red1 Nc4

Perhaps it's better to just take the opportunity to trade: 26. ... Nxb5 27. Bxb5 Rd6 but then there is 28. e4.

27. Rc2

Naturally Black saw 27. Bxc4 dxc4 28. Nd6 Qc7 29. Nxc4? Rxd2 30. Nxd2 Qc2 and wins.

27. ... Ne5

The knight looks good in the center, but I didn't see its prospects from this square. I think she should wait, or go back and trade on b5. For example, 27. ... g6 seems useful to me, making *luft* in a way that prevents a White piece from using the f5-square.

28. b3

Not a move I necessarily wanted to make, but I did want to keep that knight out of c4.

28. ... f5?!

She is trying to stop e3-e4, and also do things herself, such as a ... f5-f4 push. But I was happy to see this move as the opening of the kingside pawns may backfire, especially with all the major pieces still on the board.

29. Nd4 Nxd4 30. exd4!

Time to switch plans, and in particular, to drive Black's knight out of the e5-square.

30. ... Nf7 31. Rdc1 Nd6 32. Qg3

The computer wants to play 32. Rc6 here, and I was looking at it move by move. You have to make sure Black never has an effective 32. ... Nc4, and at this particular moment, White has 33. Re6! with a great advantage.

32. ... Re7 33. Qf4 g6 34. h4 Qd7 35. h5 Rc8

The computer criticizes this, but Black is clearly not happy and has to try to trade off one of those doubled rooks at some point.

36. Rxc8+ Nxc8 37. h6

And in any case her moves worked as here I choose the wrong plan.

It turns out that the correct path was 37. hxg6 hxg6 38. Bb5! Qe6 and here I didn't see how to go further, as the black queen gets active. The computer points out that White has 39. Rc6! Qe1+ 40. Bf1 and Black can resign. But White also must see 38. ... Qxb5 39. Rxc8+ Re8 40. Qd6! Rxc8 41. Qxg6+ Kh8 42. Qh6+ Kg8 43. Qe6+ Kg7 44. Qxc8 and then figure out how to win this endgame.

37. ... Nd6



The computer gives White only a slight edge now, but most evidently that is not a realistic assessment in a game between humans. Black remains under pressure.

38. a4

I had this idea in mind all along, to finally get the bishop going with Bf1-b5.

38. ... Kf7 39. Kh2 Kf6

A sign of a rather good player, it seems to me, realizing that the king belongs on f6. But here perhaps 39. ... Qd8 is more comfortable, anticipating White's next move.

40. Bb5 Nxb5

The infamous 40th move.

After 40. ... Qd8 the computer blithely calls it equal, but, again, easy for a computer to say. With accurate moves, Black holds on; for example, 41. Rc6 Re6 42. g4 (42. Qc1 g5) 42. ... g5.

41. axb5 Re6 42. Rc7 Qd6?

Despite plenty of time on the clock now, this is the losing move.

To be fair, Black can only hold because of a nice resource, and that "all rook endgames are drawn": 42. ... g5! 43. Rxd7 (if 43. Qg3 only then 43. ... Qd6 or even 43. ... Qe8) 43. ... gxf4 44. Rxh7 Kg6 and Black should hold this. A likely continuation is 45. Rd7 (on 45. Rh8 Re3 46. Rb8 Re6!) 45. ... Kxh6 46. Rxd5 Kg5 and with bad pawns, bad rook, and a bad king, this rook endgame is certainly drawn.

43. Qxd6 Rxd6 44. f4!

This ends it. The weaker 44. Rxh7 Kg5 is more of a fight.

44. ... g5

Hopeless, but so is everything else. After 44. ... Rd8 45. Rb7! is most accurate, i.e., 45. ... Rd6 46. Rxh7 g5 47. Rc7 and Rc7-c6

45. Rc6, Black resigned. ♠

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Abhi



Nodirbek Yakubboev



Felix Blohberger

Who earned top grades at the 2023 Spring Classic?

BY **GM BENJÁMIN GLEDURA**

T

HE 2023 SPRING CHESS Classic was hosted by the Saint Louis Chess Club from April 5-13. With parts of the Club currently under renovation, this edition of the Spring Classic was held at the nearby Chase Park Plaza hotel in the “chasement” — the Chase basement.

It’s no secret that Saint Louis organizes some of the best events in the world, and this includes the quarterly Classics series. The playing hall was quiet and comfortable, and the circulating photographers and livestream coverage added to the prestige. While the players in the two round-robins are very strong, we’re not (yet!) quite at the level of the Grand Chess Tour, so getting a taste of that level of coverage and interest was invigorating.

The Classics generally feature two 10-player round-robins. The A Group boasted an average rating of 2621, with top American players like GMs Illia Nyzynyk, Sam Sevan, and Dariusz Swiercz along with top juniors Abhimanyu Mishra and Christopher Yoo. GMs Benjamin Bok, Daniel Dardha, Yasser Quesada Perez, and Nodirbek Yakubboev rounded out the all-grandmaster field, along with your author.

The B Group also featured a tough, professional lineup, with seven grandmasters (Dambasuren Batsuren, Felix Blohberger, Luka Budisavljevic, Akshat Chandra, Balaji Daggupati, Gergely Kantor, and Viktor Mikhalevski) along with three hungry IMs (Gleb Dudin, Kirk Ghazarian, and Jason Liang) looking for norms.

With pairings drawn about a week in advance, there were no “easy days” to be had. There were no punching bags in the field, and everyone did special preparation for each round. The fighting nature of the event was also boosted by the “no draw offer before move 40” rule, which cut down (but not completely eliminated!) short draws. This is part of what I like most about Saint Louis tournaments. Players have to fight, and the spectators get to enjoy the results.

Perhaps you have wondered what it’s like to play in a high-level round-robin like this. While everyone’s routine varies a bit, the basic elements are very similar in my experience. Rounds start at 1 p.m. sharp, with the exception of the final round, which kicks off at 11 a.m. in case time for tiebreaks are needed.

Games can run up to four hours, after which players grab a bite to eat and clear their heads. Then preparation for the next day begins, lasting for two to four hours. It

can be exhausting to play for hours a day, and then have to sit down and memorize opening preparation. Multiply this by nine rounds, and you begin to understand how difficult top-level chess can be.

Perhaps this is why the percentage of draws was surprisingly high, despite the 40-move rule. The relative parity between the players in each group certainly contributed as well. With no one who stood out strength-wise, draws are inevitable. But someone has to win!

For the first time in Club history, there was a five-way tie at the top of the A group — quite unusual in my experience! Bok, Quesada Perez, Sevan, Swiercz, and your author all finished at +1 (5/9). While the tie would stand in other events, one of the unique rules in America is that first place must be fought for. There must be an ultimate winner, and here, there was an Armageddon knockout tiebreaker.

The ninth and final round finished around 4pm, five hours after the first moves were played, and we moved to Armageddon shortly thereafter. In this knockout structure, Black had four minutes to White’s five, but with draw odds to compensate. Some people had time to prepare; some did not. No matter — the fight was on.

Quesada Perez knocked out Swiercz, who was defeated in turn by Bok. I lost to Sevan. This left a final between Bok and Sevan, and with the exhaustion of the event coupled with the stress of the playoff, there was a sense that anything could happen.

Here is the game that gave Bok the top prize of \$6000.

RÈTI OPENING (A06)

GM Benjamin Bok (2607)

GM Sam Sevan (2684)

Spring Classic A Playoff, St. Louis, 04.13.2023

1. Nf3 d5 2. e3 c5 3. b3

A smart opening choice by White, as it is very easy to play. The moves Bc1-b2, Bf1-b5, d2-d4, and 0-0 come fast and naturally.

3. ... a6

Stopping Bf1-b5 to maintain healthy development.

4. Bb2 Nc6 5. d4 Nf6 6. dxc5!

An interesting concept. White gives his central pawn in order to achieve a flexible position. Bok is an experienced blitz player, and it shows. He wants to get a middlegame position where his moves are easy.

6. ... e6 7. a3 Bxc5 8. Nbd2 0-0 9. b4 Be7

10. Bd3 b6

Black gets a better setup with 10. ... b5 11. 0-0 Bb7 compared to the game.

11. 0-0 Bb7

Both sides have finished developing their minor pieces, so it’s time to decide on a plan.

12. Qe2!

The best square for the queen. White basically has two plans — c2-c4 and e3-e4 — and both allow him to open the position more.

12. ... b5!?

Stopping c2-c4 makes a lot of sense, but it also wastes a tempo.

13. e4! Rc8 14. Rfe1

Better is 14. e5 Nd7 15. Nb3 when White’s position feels very comfortable. It looks like a bad French Defense for Black. Next is Nb3-d4.

14. ... Qb6 15. exd5

Again I’d prefer 15. e5 Nd7 16. Nb3, which is even stronger than on the previous move because now the black queen takes the b6-square away from the d7-knight.

15. ... Nxd5 16. Qe4!



White makes use of the raking bishops to attack the kingside.

16. ... g6 17. c4! bxc4 18. Nxc4 Qd8 19. Rad1

Bok must have been pleased with what he achieved out of the opening. All the White pieces are in use, and that gives a comfortable advantage.

19. ... Bf6!

Best. Black has to exchange the dark-squared bishops to defend his king.

20. Bxf6

Natural, but imprecise. With 20. Bf1 Bxb2 21. Nxb2 Qf6 22. Na4 and Na4-c5 to follow, White would keep a stable advantage.



Sam Sevian

20. ... Qxf6

It feels like Black is back in the game. The queen is very well placed on f6, as it helps with attacking ideas like ... Nd5-f4.

21. Rc1 Rfd8

Sevian missed the strong 21. ... Nf4! here. I suspect he felt this was a critical moment, but he went with the natural move. After 22. Bf1 Na5 23. Qe5 Nh3+! we see the point. It's a draw after 24. Kh1 Nxf2+ 25. Kg1 Nh3+ 26. Kh1.

22. Bf1 Nde7 23. Nfe5 Na5

After the game I suggested 23. ... Rd4 to Sam, and I thought it would have given him a decent position. He agreed, but the engine still thinks that White has a small advantage after 24. Qb1 Nxe5 25. Nxe5 Rd2 26. Rxc8+ Bxc8 (or 26. ... Nxc8 27. Nd3) 27. Nf3.

24. Qe3 Nxc4 25. Nxc4



White has a very stable position. The kingside is safe and secure, but can he make use of his queenside pawn majority?

25. ... Bd5

Better is 25. ... Bc6 with the idea of ... Bc6-b5, but it is not an easy move to make. Now after 26. Nb6 Rb8 27. Bxa6 Bxg2! White cannot move his bishop from f1 because the kingside would become too weak. Black has a dangerous attack after 28. Kxg2 Nf5.

26. Nb6 Rxc1 27. Rxc1

Stronger is 27. Qxc1 with the idea of Qc1-c7.

27. ... Qb2 28. Na4

A smart choice by Bok. He gives no counterplay.

28. ... Qf6 29. Nc5

White's pieces are ideally placed. Black has to create counterplay on the kingside; otherwise, sooner or later the a6-pawn will fall.

29. ... Nf5 30. Qc3 Qg5!?

Logical, but 30. ... Nd4! is Black's best chance. The d4-knight and the d5-bishop

seem to give enough play. Note that if 31. Nxa6? (31. Qg3 is slightly better for White) 31. ... Qg5 Black has too many threats, including ... Nd4-e2 and ... Bd5xg2.

31. Rd1 Rc8?!



Black's best chance is to give up the a-pawn on his terms, but after 31. ... a5 32. bxa5 Rc8 33. a6 White retains good winning chances.

32. Qe5!

The best square for the queen. Now many black knight jumps are prevented, and Bok sets up a serious threat.

32. ... a5

Missing White's idea.

33. Nd7!

Here we could all see the frustration on Sevian's face. He clearly missed this move, and he knew that the position was completely lost. There's no way to stop Nd7-f6.

33. ... Bb3 34. Nf6+ Qxf6

The best practical chance but not enough to save the game. No better are 34. ... Kf8 35. Nxf7+ or 34. ... Kh8 35. Ne4+ f6 36. Nxf6 Bxd1 37. Ne4+.

35. Qxf6 Bxd1 36. bxa5 Bb3 37. g4!

A good practical decision to open the back rank.

37. ... Nd6 38. Qe7 Rc6 39. a6 Kg7 40. a7 Nc8 41. Qb7 Nxa7 42. Qxb3 Rd6 43. Qc3+ Kg8 44. Qc7, Black resigned.

In stark contrast, the B group was dominated by one player: Austria's Felix Blohberger. He played very strong, stable chess, scoring 6½/9 and finishing a point and a half ahead of the field. For this performance he deservedly took home the \$4000 first prize.

The closing ceremony was held in the Kingside Diner, which every chess player should visit when they are in St. Louis. It is always — well, usually! — very pleasant to



Christopher Yoo



Dambasnien Batsuren

spend some leisure time with people that you have competed against. Chess has its own language, and not that many people can speak it at a high level. Naturally there were chess boards available, and some people, including your author, took the opportunity to play a bit more! We ate, laughed, and analyzed together, and before we knew it, the closing ceremony was over.

Now, let's look at two of the most interesting games from the tournament with annotations from the players themselves.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION (B99)

GM Christopher Yoo (2607)

GM Abhimanyu Mishra (2550)

Spring Classic A (2), St. Louis, 04.06.2023

Annotations by GM Christopher Yoo

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6

Abhi sticks to his main opening, the Najdorf. I decided to challenge him in one of the mainlines.

6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. 0-0-0 Nbd7 10. g4 h6 11. Qh3!?

Deviating from the typical mainline 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. h4 when White has a nice pawn storm, but I felt that he would be prepared for this line, as it's more popular.

11. ... Nc5

To my slight surprise, he immediately blitzed out this move, indicating he was still in prep!

12. Bg2 Rg8 13. Bxf6

Now we enter a forced variation which was part of both of our preparation!

13. ... Bxf6 14. b4!? Nd7 15. g5 hxg5



16. e5!

Forcing Black to sacrifice the d7-knight.

16. ... Nxe5!

Not 16. ... dxe5?? 17. Nxe6! when White has a decisive attack after 17. ... fxe6 18. Qxe6+ Kf8 19. Bd5.

17. fxe5 Bxe5 18. Rhe1 Bd7 19. Rxe5!?

Sacrificing to get rid of the strong e5-bishop, and trying to play for the weak dark squares.

19. ... dxe5 20. Nb3 Rd8

This was the last move he made quickly, indicating that he had known the theory to this point.

21. Nc5 Bc8 22. Rf1

Keeping the rooks on the board for a possible attack.

22. ... Rd4?!

This is a natural move, but instead, it was important to kick my knight off the strong c5-square with 22. ... b6! 23. N5e4 Bb7 24. Qh7 Ke7!. The position looks scary for Black, but White has no tactics.

23. N3e4



23. ... b6?

A mistake, allowing me to get a winning position. Instead 23. ... Rxb4 was required when White has better chances in a messy game.

24. c3?

Too prophylactic. There was no reason to pass up the immediate attack with the correct 24. Qh7! Kf8 25. Nxe5 Rf4 (if 25. ... bxc5 26. Rxf7+ Qxf7 27. Nxf7 Kxf7 28. bxc5 and White's c-pawn combined with Black's poor coordination doom him) 26. Nce4 Rxf1+ 27. Bxf1. The imbalances all favor White, and Black cannot defend against all the threats.

24. ... bxc5?

Dubious. Now the position should be winning for White.

Nearly forced is 24. ... Rd8!. The rook is a better defender on d8, as ... Ke8-e7 is possible in some cases, and the g8-rook is defended. Some sample lines: 25. Nxe5 (worse is 25.

Qh7?! Ke7! 26. Nxe5 f6 27. Nce4 fxe5 with an unclear position) 25. ... bxc5 26. Nxf7 cxb4 27. Nxd8 Kxd8 28. Rd1+ and White still has a big attack, but it is not quite decisive.

25. cxd4 cxd4+ 26. Kb2 Qe7 27. Rc1?

There was no reason to abandon the b-pawn. I should have played 27. Nc5!, when the knight is well-placed, and I have a great advantage after 27. ... f5 28. Qg3.

27. ... Bd7?

Definitely a miss, but the position is still incredibly complex. Black can get away with 27. ... Qxb4+!, and after 28. Ka1 Ke7 29. Qh5 d3 30. Rc7+ Kd8 31. Rc3 Ke7 Black is somehow defending, and perhaps even equalizing. Of course this is very hard to find during a game, as the king looks weak, but there's just no decisive punch for White.

28. Nc5 f5 29. Qh7 Qf7?!



Allowing a shot that could have finished the game.

30. a4?

Too slow! After 30. Nd3! e4 31. Ne5 Qf8 32. Ng6 Qf7 33. Rc7 Black is paralyzed, and the game is over.

30. ... Ke7 31. Qh3 Qf6 32. Nxd7?

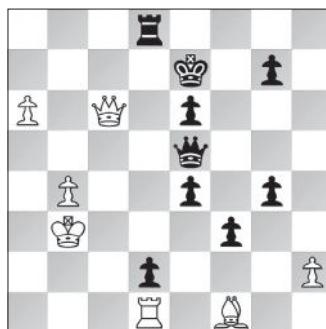
I thought this exchange (giving up a good knight for a poor bishop) boosted my attack, but Black can keep defending.

Best is 32. b5! e4 33. Qa3 d3+ 34. Kb1 Kf7!;, giving up the bishop, but the pawns provide real initiative: 35. Nxd7 Qd4 36. Rc7 Kg6 37. Qb2 and here White is doing well, but Black's strong pawns mean it's not so simple.

32. ... Kxd7 33. Qd3 e4 34. Qxa6 d3+ 35. Kb3 Rd8!

(see diagram next page)

Black's king is now safe! This is what I had missed when playing 32. Nxd7.



This is the start of a forced variation that leads to an interesting endgame.

42. a7 e3 43. Qb7+

Luring the king to f6 to give a queen check on d8 later.

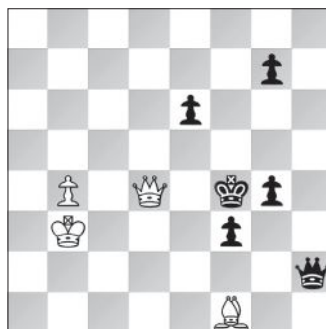
43. ... Kf6 44. a8=Q Rxa8 45. Qxa8 e2 46. Qd8+ Kg6 47. Qxd2 exd1=Q+?!

Not bad, but now it becomes a bit more difficult to defend. Instead I like 47. ... Qe3+! as it cleanly forces a draw using deflection: 48. Kc2 Qe4+ 49. Kc3 Qe5+ 50. Kb3 Qe3+ 51. Qxe3 exd1=Q+ 52. Kb2 Qxf1 53. Qxe6+.

48. Qxd1 Qxh2 49. Qd3+ Kg5?

Allowing me to regroup my pieces. It's harder to do so after 49. ... Kh6! as I cannot check his king as easily, i.e., 50. Qe3+ Kh5 51. b5 Qd6 with equality.

50. Qd8+ Kf4 51. Qd4+



The ideal square for the Queen, now centralized and able to give many checks to the king.

51. ... Kf5 52. Bd3+?!

Hasty. I can save this check for a more opportune time. Instead I should have remembered the rule that passed pawns should be pushed! After 52. b5! e5 (52. ... Qb8 53. b6 g3 54. Bd3+ Kg5 55. Qxg7+ is winning) 53. Bd3+ Kg5 54. Qd8+ Kf4 55. b6 and White's pawn is unstoppable.

52. ... Kg5 53. Qxg7+?

It was tempting to take this pawn with check,

but not only does it help get Black's king out of danger, my queen now becomes misplaced. 53. b5! should still win, although Black now has 53. ... Qb8! making it harder to promote. After 54. b6 Kh4 55. Be4 Qf4 White is still winning, but it is not easy. The black pawns give good counterplay.

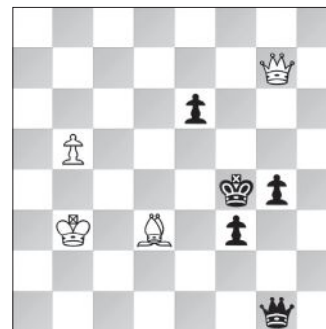
53. ... Kf4?

Almost begging me to re-centralize my queen! After the correct 53. ... Kh4! I cannot play Qg7-d4 with check, so Black gets an important tempo. Here 54. Qe7+ (54. Qd4 e5 is also equal) 54. ... Kg3 55. b5 Qg1 is similar to the game.

54. b5?

Here again only 54. Qd4+! does the job. It's true that 54. ... Kg3 55. b5 Qg2 56. b6 f2 57. Qe5+ Kh3 58. Qh5+ Kg3 59. Qb5 Qf3 60. Kc2 is a tricky sequence to have to find, but we can see that the queen's versatility is helping my pawn go forward, while preventing the black pawns from promoting. Very instructive!

54. ... Qg1!



Now it's a draw. Abhi held strong from here on out.

55. Qf7+ Kg3 56. Qc7+ Kh3 57. b6 Qd1+

With a safe king on h3, there are too many checks for me to have any hopes of winning.

58. Bc2 Qd5+ 59. Kb4 Qd4+ 60. Ka3 f2

This looks scary, but fortunately I do have an easy draw, as we'll see.

61. Qh7+ Kg2 62. Qe4+ Qxe4 63. Bxe4+ Kg1 64. Bd3 g3

The pawn race is a tie!

65. b7 g2 66. b8=Q f1=Q 67. Bxf1 gxf1=Q, draw.

What a wild battle! There were plenty of mistakes from both sides along with many interesting moments. This kind of game is why we love chess!



36. a5 d2 37. Rd1 Ke7 38. Bf1 Qe5 39. Qc4?!

A bit slow. It was better to send the black piece to worse squares with 39. Qa7+ Kf6 40. Qb6 Rd7 41. a6 e3 42. Qb5 and we've reached a messy position where I don't really know who I prefer!

39. ... f4 40. a6 f3?!

The strange-looking 40. ... g4! is best, with the idea of going ... e4-e3, and if Bf1-e2, then ... f4-f3. Play continues 41. a7 e3 42. Qa6 (42. Be2?? f3 and wins; 42. Qc6? fails to 42. ... e2!) 42. ... Qe4! 43. Qb5 Kf7 and it is hard to stop Black's pawns in this wacky position. I suspect this was almost impossible to find as Abhi was in serious time trouble at the time control.

41. Qc6!

The only move to prevent ... e4-e3.

41. ... g4

CATALAN OPENING (E04)

GM Benjamin Bok (2607)

GM Samuel Sevian (2684)

Spring Classic A (5), St. Louis,
04.09.2023

Annotations by GM Benjamin Bok

Greetings everyone! First of all, thank you to Benjámín Gledura for inviting me to annotate this game for *Chess Life*. Before this game, I was in the pack of players on 1½/4, while my opponent, Sam Sevian, was in the leading group with 2½/4. Sam had to defend for a long time against Dariusz Swiercz the day before, eventually drawing his game after 179 moves. I figured he might have been tired after such a long battle, and that would be good if I could put him under pressure in this game as well.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3

The first surprise, as 3. Nc3 is my main move in this position. In fact I played it three times against Sevian at the 2021 FIDE World Cup!

3. ... d5 4. Bg2 dxc4 5. Nf3

Illia Nyzhnyk played 5. Qa4+ against Sam in round three, but he held comfortably.

5. ... c5

Sam's usual response, and one of the main lines against the Catalan. Black aims to play ... Nb8-c6 quickly and clarify the situation in the center right away.

6. 0-0 Nc6 7. dxc5

Leading to an endgame where White can hope for a slight edge.

7. ... Qxd1 8. Rxd1 Bxc5 9. Nbd2 c3

Since Black does not have a good way to hang on to the pawn, their best option is to return it this way to damage the White pawn structure a bit.

10. bxc3 0-0 11. Nb3 Be7 12. c4

Gaining some space on the Queenside, and opening up the a1-h8 diagonal, as we are aiming to play Bc1-b2 next. There are many games with 12. Nfd4 as well.

12. ... Bd7 13. Bb2 Rfd8 14. Nfd4 Rac8 15. Nb5 b6 16. Nd6 Bxd6

Also well-known to theory is 16. ... Rc7.

17. Rxd6 Be8 18. Rxd8 Nxd8

White has managed to gain the bishop pair, but Black aims to play ... Be8-c6 quickly to trade off the light-squared bishops.

19. Rc1 Bc6 20. c5 Bxg2 21. Kxg2 Nd7 22. cxb6 Rxc1 23. Bxc1



Sam and I had both been blitzing out the opening until this point, but this is where he had his first real think of the game.

23. ... axb6

After a 12-minute think, Sam settled on this recapture. Of course, 23. ... Nxb6 is also possible. White has a slight advantage here, but Black should hold with accurate play.

24. Kf3

Activating the king. White is slightly better in this endgame with a more active king and a bishop is often better than Black's knight. That being said, Black should hold with accuracy as the position is quite simplified.

24. ... f5

Logical, stopping my king from advancing up the board. Sam was still following a game that he had played with Black against GM Ray Robson in the 2022 American Cup. 24. ... Nc6 has also been played in some games, most notably in Giri – So, Bucharest 2019.

25. Ke3 e5

Once again, stopping the white king from

advancing up the board by building a wall of pawns.

26. g4!?

Believe it or not, this is the first new move of the game. White sacrifices a pawn to try to gain access into Black's position.

The game Robson – Sevian (St. Louis, 2022) saw 26. Kd3 b5 27. e4 g6 28. exf5 gxf5 29. g4 fxg4 30. Ke4 Nc6 and eventually finished in a draw at 50 moves.

26. ... g6

The best move, maintaining the pawn wall and stopping my king from advancing. Black is not in good shape to accept the pawn sacrifice as after 26. ... fxg4 27. Ke4 Kf7 28. Kd5 White's king enters Black's position with serious winning chances.

27. gxf5 gxf5 28. f4

Again, trying to break down Black's pawn wall, so that my king can advance up the board. Up to this point, I was still in my preparation. His reply is actually one of two moves that are still fine for Black.

28. ... Ne6

After a 21-minute think, Sam settled on this move, which took me out of my preparation. I had only looked at 28. ... Kf7 after which White still has nagging pressure and Black will have to play accurately to hold the draw.

29. fxe5

Not much choice here.

29. ... Nxe5 30. Nd4

Attacking the f5-pawn, and offering the trade of pawns so my king can advance up the board.

I also considered 30. h3 with the idea



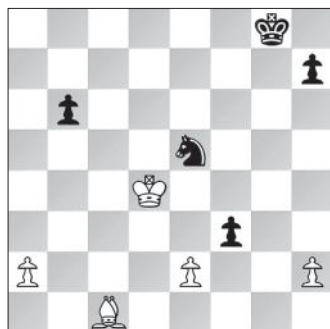


to play Nb3-d4 on the next move, without having to worry about ... Ne5-g4+. However, this is too slow. Black's easiest way to equalize is 30. ... b5 as now 31. Nd4 runs into 31. ... Nc4+ 32. Kd3 Ne5+ 33. Kc3 b4+ 34. Kxb4 Nxd4 35. Bb2.

30. ... f4+?

This loses, but even the strongest engines have trouble seeing why. Black's only way to hang on was 30. ... Ng4+ but after 31. Kd3 the endgame is still unpleasant.

31. Ke4 Nxd4 32. Kxd4 f3



This was Sam's idea. Black trades off another pair of pawns, and will pick up the h2-pawn afterwards. However, Black's king and knight are far away from White's a-pawn, which will soon become a passer.

33. exf3 Nxf3+ 34. Kd5

Here 34. Kc4 leads to the same thing after 34. ... Nxe2 35. Kb5.

34. ... Nxh2 35. Kc6 Kf7

Rushing the king to the queenside. Initially, I believed White should easily be winning here, but Black has a lot more resources than I thought.

My first thought was that Black might hold with 35. ... Nf3 36. Kxb6 Nd4 but White is winning after 37. Be3 (if 37. Bb2 Black still has 37. ... Nf3 with the idea to meet 38. a4? with 38. ... Nd2 and Black manages to stop the pawn with ... Nd2-b3) 37. ... Nc2 38. Bd2 (I saw that after the natural 38. Bc5 Black has 38. ... Na1! with the idea to meet 39. a4 with 39. ... Nb3) 38. ... Na3 39. Bc1 Nc4+ 40. Kc5 and as Black's knight is getting pushed away, the white a-pawn laces up its running shoes.

36. Kxb6 Ke6

Here I thought for a long time — 42 minutes to be exact. I could not find a win as Black brings the king to c8, and is just in time with the knight to prevent me from promoting right away. But then I spotted a clever idea...

37. a4

I had also considered other moves like 37. Kc7 to shoulder the black king, but the knight gets back in time.

37. ... Kd7 38. a5 Kc8 39. Bf4

Preventing the king from reaching a8, as the game would then be clearly drawn.

39. ... Ng4

Black has to route the knight this way, as he will need to check White's king from the d5-square to stop immediate promotion.

40. a6 Ne3

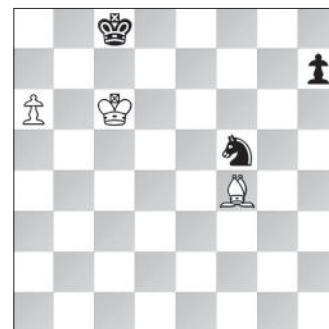
This was the move that had caused trouble when calculating on move 37.

I was quite happy to see 40. ... Nf6 41. Kc6 in my calculations, even though it is still not over yet, as Black has 41. ... Ng8.

41. Kc6

Black is just in time to meet 41. a7 with 41. ... Nd5+ 42. Ka6 Nb4+.

41. ... Nf5



Initially, I thought that Black would be holding here. Black is again just in time to meet 42. a7 with 42. ... Ne7+ 43. Kb6 Nd5+ 44. Ka6 Nb4+. I therefore considered placing my bishop on d6 to control the b4-square, but thought that Black would always be able to play ... Nf5 to kick the bishop away, and once the bishop moves, Black can play ... Nf5-e7 again. However, it then occurred to me that I can meet a potential ... Nf5 with Kb6! as ... Nf5xd6 will be met by a6-a7 ... Nd6-c4+ Ka6-a7 and the White a-pawn queens. I then started to realize that White can put Black in zugzwang by placing the bishop on d6 and the king on c5 when Black's knight is on e7. He can push the

2023 SPRING CLASSIC AT A GLANCE

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h-pawn, but he will eventually run out of pawn moves as my bishop covers the h2-square.

42. Bd6 Ne7+

Of course 42. ... Nxd6 43. a7 would make my job a lot easier.

43. Kc5

The first *zugzwang*, Black has to start pushing the h-pawn.

43. ... h5

Here 43. ... Nf5 44. Kb6 Nxd6 45. a7 Nc4+ 46. Ka6 is the line I was referring to earlier.

44. Bh2 Ng6 45. Bg3 Ne7 46. Bd6

Black is in *zugzwang* again and has to push the h-pawn again.

46. ... h4 47. Be5 Nf5 48. Bf4 Ne7 49. Bd6

Again, Black is in *zugzwang*.

49. ... h3 50. Bh2 Nf5 51. Bf4 Ne3 52. Bd6 Nc2

Black's best attempt. Now moving the king up the c6- or b6-squares will allow Black to instantly draw with ... h3-h2 followed by ... Nc2-b4. Furthermore, our bishop is already ideally placed, but fortunately we

have another way to put Black in *zugzwang*.

There is definitely some beauty to the fact that White wins by one move after 52. ... Nf5 53. Kb6 Nxd6 54. a7 Nc4+ 55. Ka6 as my pawn will queen one move earlier.

53. Kb5

Another *zugzwang*; when Black's knight moves, White can play Kb5-b6 or Kb5-c6.

53. ... Ne3 54. Kc6 h2

White was threatening 55. a7, so Black finally has to give up their h-pawn.

55. Bxh2 Nf5 56. Bd6

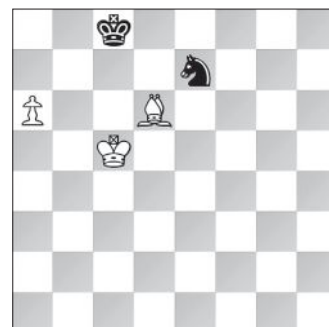
Here again, White has to be patient as pushing the pawn right away would allow Black to draw.

56. ... Ne7+ 57. Kc5

(see diagram top of next column)

The final *zugzwang*! Black's knight has to move, and then White can finally play Kc5-b6, followed by a6-a7, after which the a-pawn promotes.

57. ... Nf5 58. Kb6



Finally executing the idea seen earlier.

58. ... Nxd6 59. a7 Nc4+ 60. Ka6 Kc7 61. a8=Q

The rest was not difficult.

61. ... Kd6 62. Kb5 Ne5 63. Qe4 Nd7 64. Qc6+ Ke7 65. Qa6 Nf8 66. Kc4 Ne6 67. Qc6 Kf7 68. Kd5 Nf4+ 69. Ke4 Ng6 70. Qd6 Ne7 71. Ke5 Ng6+ 72. Kf5 Ne7+ 73. Kg5 Ng8 74. Qd5+ Kf8 75. Qd7, Black resigned. ♠

For an expanded version of this article, visit our CLO story at [new.uschess.org/news/2023-spring-classic](https://www.uschess.org/news/2023-spring-classic).



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BEAUTIFUL BANFF

Chess and camraderie at the 2022 Banff Open

BY **GM NICK DE FIRMIAN**



MOST CHESS TOURNAMENTS you choose to play for an intriguing, competitive challenge. The very nature of a serious chess game drawn you into its world of myriad complications. A major tournament enhances the experience as the quiet atmosphere of intense competition focuses the mind on fascinating possibilities.

There are also chess tournaments one chooses for their beautiful setting and cozy atmosphere. I have particularly fond memories of the Bermuda Internationals organized by the genial hosts Nick Faulks and Nigel Freeman. It's for this reason that I was thrilled last November to play another tournament in a special setting, the Banff Open.

Banff is a magical place, its snow-capped mountains and abundant wildlife making this Canadian national park an enchanting place for any chess tourist. It also plays home annually to an international tournament with strong masters and enthusiastic amateurs. FM Ian Findlay created the tournament six years ago, and the 2022 edition, played November 11-13, was the largest yet at 130 players. As one of two major Swisses in Calgary — the other being the Steinitz-Menchik Chess Classic — the Banff Open

is helping to grow a lot of enthusiasm for Canadian chess.

The fabulous venue is the Kinnear Center, part of the Banff Center for Arts and Creativity, and it boasts magnificent views. The Center works to bring tourists to Banff in conjunction with artistic activities.

We chess players have had the good fortune that Ian's wife, Janice Price, has been the president of the Banff Center for eight years. Chess qualifies in the artistic realm, at least according to Janice, so we get to play in this wonderful place, and beyond the scenery and local culture, I enjoyed wonderful food in Banff.

Chess in the Rocky Mountains should be brave and brash, like the terrain. The tournament did not disappoint in that regard. I start with my favorite game of the event, where young Leo Lin takes on experienced master Gary Ng in a rock em' sock em' game.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B10)

Leo Lin (2130)

Gary Ng (2378)

Banff Open (6), 11.13.2022

1. e4 c6 2. Nf3!? d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Ne5

Leo certainly trods the unbeaten path in the openings.

4. ... Nd7 5. d4 Nxe5 6. dxe5 e6 7. Nd2 Ne7 8. Nf3 Nc6 9. c3

The resulting position looks fairly normal for a French-type opening. I suspect both players were happy to be out of book and on their own.

9. ... Qc7 10. Bf4 Bc5 11. Bd3 h6

An alternative is 11. ... f6 12. Bg3 f5, more directed toward the center.

12. 0-0 Bd7 13. Rc1 Qb6?!

Asking for White's next move.

14. b4! Be7 15. a4 a6 16. Rb1 Rc8 17. b5?!

This allows Black to access some squares on the queenside. White would keep the advantage with 17. Re1.

17. ... axb5 18. Bxb5 Qa5 19. Qd3 0-0

20. Rfc1 Rfd8 21. Qe3 Bf8 22. Bd3 Qa8

Ng plays a risky, provocative move by putting the queen far in the corner.

23. Bc2 Na5



24. Bxh6?!

Objectively this deserves a question mark (or two), but Leo is brave and wants to attack the king, sound or not!

24. ... gxh6 25. Qd3 Bg7 26. g4

White needs more attacking help, so the g-pawn is chosen to join in.

26. ... Rc4 27. Qh7+ Kf8 28. g5 hxg5

29. Nxg5!

The exclamation mark is for bravery. White is quite lost if he doesn't charge ahead with the attack, so Leo throws another sacrifice into the mix.

29. ... Rg4+ 30. Kh1 Rxc5 31. Rg1

Black is two pieces ahead. You may suspect that a precise defense will win, and you would be right to do so. Yet it is hard to play the black side, as the queen and knight are far from the action, and there is no room for error despite the two extra minor pieces.

31. ... Rxc1+ 32. Rxc1 Bxe5 33. Rg8+ Ke7 34. Qh4+

The black king looks safe enough with the pawns and bishops surrounding him. Yet there is only one winning move and everything else loses.

34. ... f6?

Only 34. ... Kd6! 35. Rxd8 Qa6 wins for Black as the king is safe and the counterattack is coming. Yet Black thought it unnecessary to give back a whole rook, and if we're honest, who would act differently in his place?

35. Qb4+ Kf7



36. Rg7+!!

Adding a rook sacrifice while a bishop and knight down is the key. Shades of Mikhail Tal!

36. ... Kxc7 37. Qe7+ Kh6

There is no way out for the black king. No better is 37. ... Kg8 38. Bh7+ Kh8 39. Bg6.

38. Qh7+ Kg5 39. Qg6+ Kh4 40. Qh6+, Black resigned.

As 40. ... Kg4 41. h3+ Kf3 42. Qe3 is mate. A wonderfully inspired game by 13-year-old Leo Lin!

Another key battle included was the last round game between two strong Canadian masters, Rafael Arrubarrena and Sherzod Khodjimatov.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, CLOSED VARIATION (B26)

Sherzod Khodjimatov (2282)

Rafael Arruebarrena (2238)

Banff Open (6), 11.13.2022

This was the key last round game. If Khodjimatov could win or draw he would win the tournament. For his part, Arruebarrena was out for blood.

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7

5. d3 d6 6. Be3 Nd4 7. Qd2 e5

Mikhail Botvinnik's move against the Closed Sicilian is a bid for central dark-square control. It's a time-tested route to equal opening chances.

8. Nce2 Ne7 9. c3 Ne6 10. f4 0-0 11. Nf3



11. ... exf4

Opening up the game. Safe and quieter is 11. ... b6 12. 0-0 Bb7.

12. Nxf4 Nxf4 13. gxf4 Qc7 14. 0-0 d5

15. f5!? gxf5

Black is fine after the alternative 15. ... dxe4 16. dxe4 gxf5.

16. exd5

I'd prefer 16. e5!, a positionally motivated plan to control the central black squares. White should have a slight edge, at least in practical terms.

16. ... Nxd5 17. Bh6?

The correct 17. Nh4! Nxe3 18. Qxe3, which wins back the pawn and keeps equal chances, should be preferred.

17. ... f4! 18. Bxc7 Kxc7

Black's pawn structure may look loose with the doubled, isolated f-pawns, but the great knight outpost on e3 swings the game in Black's favor.

19. d4 Ne3 20. Rf2 Kh8 21. dxc5 Qxc5

22. Qd4+ Qxd4 23. Nxd4 Rg8!



The endgame brings no relief to White. The active black pieces much outweigh the broken black pawn structure. The threat now is 24. ... f3 or 24. ... Bh3 winning a piece.

24. Kh1 Nxc2 25. Rxc2 Bh3 26. Rf2 Rae8!

This is fine endgame play. Black gives back the pawn to get his three pieces into highly active positions.

27. Rxf4 Bg2+ 28. Kg1 Bd5+ 29. Kf1 Rg2

30. Rf2

The best try. On 30. c4 there is 30. ... Rxh2.

30. ... Reg8 31. Rd1?

A mistake to end the game right away. In any case Black is clearly winning with 31. Ne2 Rxf2+ 32. Kxf2 Rg2+ 33. Ke3 Bc4! 34. Nf4 Rxb2.

31. ... Bc4+ 32. Ke1 Re8+, White resigned.

This game created a four-way tie for first place with 5/6 between these two players, 13-year-old Leo Lin and myself. The tie break was Armageddon games, and here I managed to win and capture the title (which was of course satisfying).

My most interesting game of the event was my first-round pairing with the enterprising Jinghui Bai.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ACCELERATED DRAGON (B35)

GM Nick de Firmian (2550)

Jinghui Bai (2026)

Banff Open (1), 11.12.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6

5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 0-0 8. Bb3 a5

The Accelerated Dragon move. Instead 8. ... d6 would transpose to the main variation of the Dragon.

9. f3 d5 10. Bxd5 Nxd5 11. exd5 Nb4

12. Nde2 Bf5 13. Rc1

This position has been seen for many decades. Bai now chooses a recent sacrificial

continuation that offers White a chance to be greedy (and suffer).

13. ... Ra6 14. a3 Rd6!



This aggressive plan of leaving the black knight on b4 works because White is not castled. That one tempo makes the tactics work for Black!

15. axb4

If 15. Bc5 Na2! 16. Bxd6 Nxc1 17. Bc5 Qc7 (or 17. ... Nxe2 18. Qxe2 straightaway) 18. Bd4 Nxe2 19. Bxg7 Nxc3 20. Bxc3 Rd8 21. Qd4 e5 with compensation.

15. ... axb4 16. Qd2

The safe move. White could try 16. Bd4, or 16. Ne4 Rxd5 17. Bd2 but Black seems to have enough resources to keep the balance.

16. ... bxc3 17. Nxc3 Bxc3 18. Qxc3 Rxd5?!

Very risky and provocative. Much safer is 18. ... f6.

19. Bh6 f6 20. Bxf8 Re5+!

The white king has some trouble.

21. Kf1

The correct 21. Kf2! Qb6+ 22. Kg3 looks risky but the white king is rather safer here.

21. ... Kxf8 22. Re1 Rd5



Black has almost enough compensation for the Exchange as he controls the center and White's kingside is undeveloped.

23. g4

Weakening, but trying to get out of the box.

23. ... Bd7 24. Rg1 Rd2?!

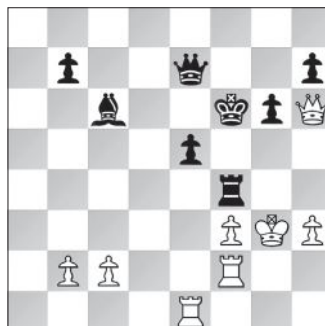
This helps White as long as he doesn't take the offered rook, i.e., 25. Qxd2? Bb5+. Instead 24. ... Qb6 25. Kg2 Qd6 26. Kh1 Bc6 keeps pressure on the white kingside.

25. Rg2 Rd4 26. Kg1



White starts to crawl out.

26. ... Qb6 27. Qe3 Qd6 28. Rge2 e5 29. g5 Bb5 30. Rf2 Kg7 31. gxf6+ Kxf6 32. Qh6 Qc5 33. Kg2 Bc6 34. h3 Rf4 35. Kg3 Qe7?



An unfortunate mistake. Instead 35. ... Rf5 leaves White with work to do. Now I win material with...

36. Rxe5!, Black resigned.

The Banff Open was a delight to play, and I highly recommend this tournament for those of you who want a real chess holiday. The only worry is that organizer Ian Findlay is moving back east to Toronto, but I'm told he remains determined to hold the next Banff Open regardless. It's currently scheduled for November 10-12, 2023. Visit www.facebook.com/chessinbanff for more information! ♡

Right, top to bottom: Sherzod Khodjimotov, FM Ian Findlay, Jinghui Bai, and Leo Lin, all at the 2022 Banff Open.



MAKE → YOUR → MOVE

BY FM CARSTEN HANSEN

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE TAKEN FROM VARIOUS OVER-the-board tournaments that took place in early 2023.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. It is worth noting that "easy" is a relative term. If you are 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 or 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. You will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Solutions are on page 63. ♠

TACTIC 1.



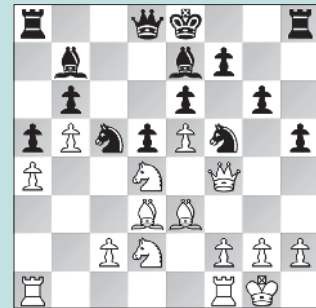
BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 7.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 8.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 9.



WHITE TO MOVE

Position 1: PUSH AND LOOSEN
Position 2: LOOSE PIECES
Position 3: MANY PIECES, FEW SQUARES

Position 4: NOT ENOUGH ROOM
Position 5: COMBINING THREATS
Position 6: RIGHT PLACE, WRONG TIME

Position 7: CREATING ACCESS
Position 8: THE SOFTEST POINT
Position 9: EXPOSE THE KING

Alekhine at Exhibition

A terrific show in Tinseltown

BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI



ALEXANDER ALEKHINE (1892-1946) was certainly one of the game's greatest players.

He won the title from Capablanca in 1927, lost it to Euwe in 1935, won it back in 1937, and kept it through World War II, until his death in 1946. He remains the only champion to die still holding the crown. This month's offering features a 1932 game played in Hollywood against Harry Borochoff (Black). Aside from its quality, the game is even more notable since Alekhine played it in a simultaneous blindfold exhibition! The way Alekhine shifts his focus from the center, to the queenside, to finish with a masterstroke on the kingside, is typical for his total-board attacking style.

RUY LOPEZ, OPEN VARIATION (C80)

Alexander Alekhine
Harry Borochoff
Hollywood, 1932

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6
5. 0-0 Nxe4



WHITE TO MOVE

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 5
This is a typical central advance, played to open the game, possibly taking advantage of the e-file. You may accept *full credit* for 6. Re1 or 6. Bxc6.

6. ... b5
Black ends the attack on the c6-knight with a gain of time.**

7. Bb3 Par Score 4
From b3, the light-squared bishop is often the linchpin of White's attack, observing possibilities along the a2-g8 diagonal.

7. ... d5
This counter protects the e4-knight, while closing the b3-bishop's diagonal. It also clears the way for the c8-bishop to enter the fray.**

8. Nxe5 Par Score 5
White takes the pawn back, reestablishing material equality. Accept *full credit* for 8. dxe5.

8. ... Nxe5
Trading here saves time, since the c6-knight was hanging.**

9. dx5 Par Score 4

9. ... Be6
The d5-square had to be upheld. Less good is 9. ... c6. It doesn't develop, and Black wants to retain the option of ... c7-c5, even though it's not really in the cards.**

10. a4 Par Score 5
White turns attention to the queenside, playing to open the a-file and attack the b5-pawn. You may accept *full credit* for 10. Qe2, 10. Be3, 10. Nd2, or 10. c3.

10. ... Nc5
Borochoff opts to eliminate the Spanish bishop, which is a typical approach.**

11. Nd2 Par Score 5
This development keeps White's pawn structure intact. You may accept *full credit* for 11. axb5.

11. ... Be7
Black readies kingside castling. It's essentially an even position.**

12. Qe2 Par Score 5
A useful place for the queen, focusing on the center and the queenside.

12. ... c6
Black solidifies his pawns.**

13. c3 Par Score 5
Giving the light-squared bishop a possible escape at c2.

13. ... Nxb3
Black gets the bishop before it can go anywhere.**

14. Nxb3 Par Score 4

14. ... bxa4
Black accepts an isolated a-pawn for activity. Ultimately, this affords White's queen-rook a means to enter the game.**

15. Nd4 Par Score 5
No need to take back yet. White centralizes with a threat. Now on 15. ... c5, White has 16. Nc6 or 16. Nxe6 fxe6 17. Qg4 Kf7 18. Rxa4.

15. ... Bd7
By protecting c6, Black also keeps the two bishops.**

16. e6 Par Score 6
Alekhine pushes through in the center. *Deduct 2 points* for 16. Rxa4, allowing 16. ... c5.

16. ... fxe6**

ABCS OF CHESS

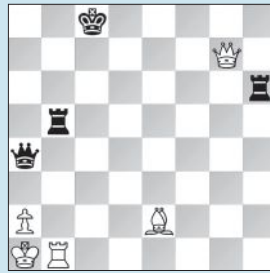
▶ **THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALL** related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, Black is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 63.

JUNE EXERCISE:

A good way to study chess these days is by watching online videos. Some of the most famous games are presented by many different experts. Instead of picking one presenter, however, try to see them all. This will surely reinforce the key ideas of any essential contest. But beyond that, if there are five experts analyzing the same game, each one is likely to offer some nugget or nuance not necessarily brought out by the others, enriching the overall experience.

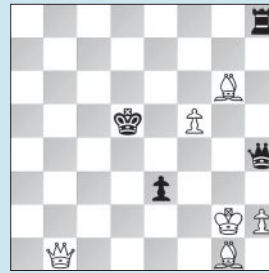
PROBLEM 1

Mating net



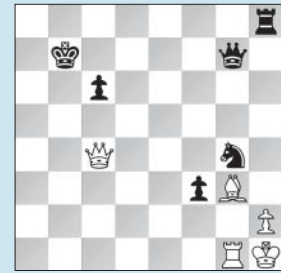
PROBLEM 2

Mating net



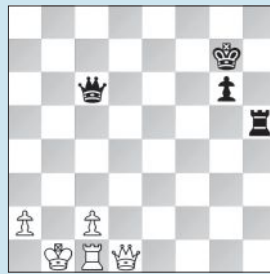
PROBLEM 3

Mating net



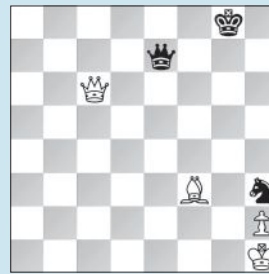
PROBLEM 4

Mating net



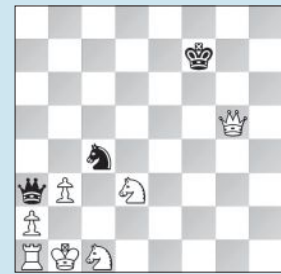
PROBLEM 5

Mating net



PROBLEM 6

Mating net



17. Rxa4 Par Score 5

The recapture is fine here. Now if 17. ... c5, White has 18. Nxe6.

17. ... Qc8

Black defends two assailed points, the a6- and e6-pawns.**

18. Re1 Par Score 5

Alekhine continues to apply central pressure.

18. ... Kf7

Adding protection to the e6-square, hoping later to castle by hand. If 18. ... c5 instead, White has 19. Nxe6, when 19. ... Bxa4 is answered by 20. Nxg7+ (1 bonus point).**

19. Nf5 Par Score 6

A surprising intrusion. The knight can't be taken because the e7-bishop then hangs with check.

19. ... Re8

Borochow defends the bishop and still hopes to castle by hand, possibly retreating the king to g8.**

20. Qh5+ Par Score 5

On cue, Alekhine shifts his focus from the center toward the kingside.

20. ... Kg8

With this retreat, Black may have thought

he had finally escaped the worst.**

21. Nxg7 Par Score 7

He hasn't! This clearance sacrifice exposes the Black kingside. If 21. ... Kxg7, then 22. Rg4+ soon mates (1 bonus point).

21. ... Rf8

This saves the rook, though not the day.**

22. Rg4 Par Score 6

The attack shifts from the queenside to the kingside. White threatens mate.

22. ... Kh8

Black avoids the discovery, but there's more fuel for the fire.**

23. Re3 Par Score 6

And now a new threat emerges. The threat is 24. Rh3.

23. ... e5

By clearing the diagonal, Black hopes to answer 24. Rh3 with 24. ... Bf5.**

24. Ne6 Par Score 7

A wonderful finishing move, opening the g-file and temporarily obstructing the d7-bishop. Now if 24. ... Bxe6, then 25. Qxh7+ mates next. So...

24. ... Black resigned.



For a simultaneous blindfold game, absolutely spectacular! ♠

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

| Total Score | Approx. Rating |
|-------------|----------------|
| 95+ | 2400+ |
| 81-90 | 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 |

The Rise of Vinay Bhat

Bhat's chess autobiography imparts lessons of many sorts.

BY IM JOHN WATSON

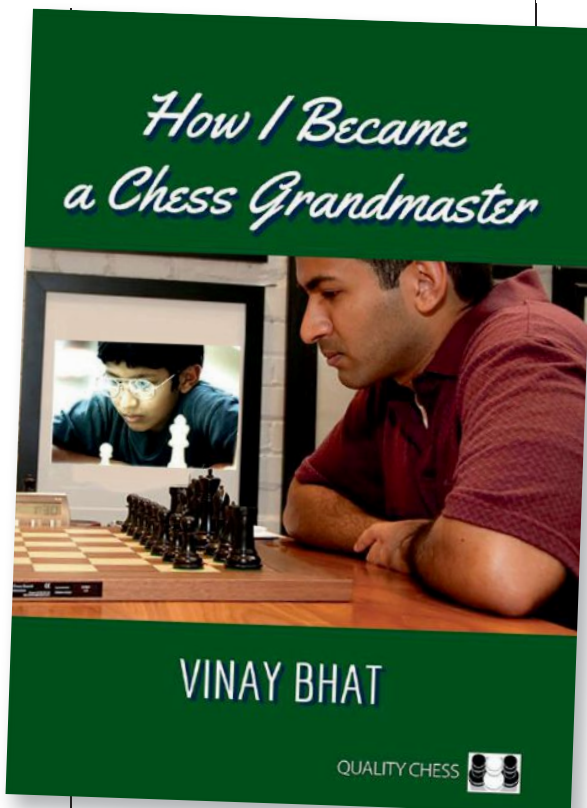
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M VINAY BHAT'S CHESS career is the story of a player with great talent who worked hard to improve and achieved his

goals at every stage, but always maintained other interests and ambitions that ultimately defined the role of chess in his life.

How I Became a Chess Grandmaster describes Bhat's development from a talented youngster who became the youngest-ever U.S. national master (at 10 years old) to an international master (at age 15) to a grandmaster. Having accomplished what he wanted in chess, Vinay changed course and successfully entered the professional world as a data scientist. Since that time (2010), he has continued to enjoy the game as a "chess tourist," playing online and teaching. This book contains reflections upon his chess career, with its rewards and frustrations.

Becoming a grandmaster doesn't seem that big a deal these days — a fairly recent article lists over 2000 GMs in the world. But for anyone learning and playing in the U.S. while Vinay was growing up, it was a major achievement. He points out that when he got his title in 2008, he and Jesse Kraai were the only two American-born players to become GMs in the 10 previous years. Indeed, looking at the FIDE records, I find only three others even from the decade before that (the 1990s), namely, GMs Patrick Wolff, Tal Shaked, and the late Alex Sherzer.



One enormous obstacle to earning the title was the lack of American tournaments matching the norm requirements — especially the need for enough strong FIDE-rated foreigners — and for some time, norms had a time limit before they expired. Few players young or old found it worth the time and expense of multiple European trips on the chance of getting a title that didn't seem to have much value back home anyway.

It's a tribute to Bhat's talent that he

achieved much of his improvement in the midst of both working and getting a college degree. His winning the Samford Fellowship in 2008 changed all that, allowing him to pursue chess full time for a few years after college. Although Vinay was always ambivalent about becoming a full-time chess professional, that assistance put him on a path to gaining the GM title.

One of the major themes of the book is the retrospective consideration of Bhat's weaknesses and strengths, both as a player and competitor, emphasizing what he might have done differently with hindsight. Young players and parents will both relate to, and learn a lot from, his descriptions of the frustrations involved in striving for improvement.

The book is conversational and thoughtful, with a conscious effort to pass on insights that Vinay acquired about the typical problems he faced and what to do, for example, when his motivation was low or his results below expectations. He outlines the solutions he came up with at the time and, with a deep look at his games from every period of his career, suggests how he might have done even better. For example, when discussing calculation and intuition in practical play, he says:

My intuition was good for my level, and I could quickly see short tactical sequences. Paradoxically, many of my poor time management decisions were when I had a quick, high-confidence reaction (and instead spent a lot of time calculating concrete lines) or when I had no immediate idea (but played at lightning speed). This process is simple in theory, but I struggled to consistently strike the right balance in this area for many years.

Bhat's games are uniformly interesting and full of instructive content, forming the instructive core of the book. He includes wins, losses, and draws, illustrating ways in which his thought processes were either improving or coming up short. The annotations are largely verbal, with enough analysis to support his points while remaining refreshingly uncluttered considering how complex his games often become. Here is a selection of Bhat's notes, taken from more thorough annotations, in which he explains his thought process in a key position:

GOING DEEPER

FM Luis Gomez Jurado
GM Vinay Bhat
Palma de Mallorca, 2009



BLACK TO MOVE

“Taking on d5 invites 16. Bxf5 and White is attacking both h7 and d5 still. So 15. ... Ne5 suggests itself, and that indeed is OK for Black. But looking a little deeper into the position, I decided to take on d5 anyway.”

15. ... exd5! 16. Bxf5?

“... neither option promises White an advantage, but taking on d5 is a much easier position to play.”

16. ... Rxf5! 17. Qxf5 Ne5

“Black’s sacrifice works in the short term because he picks up the c4-pawn, but longer-term, it revolves around the power of the two bishops...”

18. Qc2 Nxc4 19. Qd3 Qf7! 20. Ng5 Qf5 21. Qxf5 Bxf5 22. Nf3 Be4 23. b3 Nxd2 24. Kxd2 b5! 25. Ne1 Re8! 26. f3 Bf4+ 27. Kc3 Be5+ 28. Kd2 Bf4+ 29. Kc3 b4+ 30. Kb2 Bg6 31. Nd3

If 31. Rxd5 Re2+ 32. Ka1 Bd2! and “Black is still winning.”

31. ... Re2+ 32. Ka1 Bg5 33. h4

“33. f4 allows a nice mating finish: 33. ... Bf6+ 34. Ne5 Rxe5! 35. fxe5 Bxe5+ 36. Rd4 Bxd4 mate.”

33. ... Bf6+ 34. Kb1 c4, White resigned.

Here’s an isolated pawn position with some instructive notes (again, selected from more detailed commentary):

THE IQP

IM Thomas Roussel-Roozmon
GM Vinay Bhat
Montreal, 2009



WHITE TO MOVE

“Having all four pairs of minor pieces on the board usually gives the player with the IQP an advantage, while three pairs bring things closer to equality. The player with the IQP tends to want more minor pieces on the board, thanks to the space advantage the pawn provides.

“Here though, even with only three pairs of minor pieces, Black’s pieces are still slightly more active than White’s and White can’t develop his queen easily, as Qb3 walks into ... d4. So Black still has a small pull.”

16. g3

“16. Ne2 would be the ideal move, preparing to regroup with Bc3 and N-f4/g3/d4. Then White’s pieces would make good sense. The only problem is that it doesn’t work tactically: 16. ... Qb8! guards the b-pawn in anticipation of taking on b2 (or h2).”

16. ... Qe7 17. Qe2 Rad8 18. Rfd1 Rfe8 19. Be1 d4?!

“19. ... b5! was correct, securing the c4-square and preparing improving moves like ... Qa7 before playing ... d4.”

20. exd4 Bxd4 21. Bd2?

Bhat gives analysis that shows how 21. Nd5! would equalize, in large part because of the possibilities of the bishop on e1.

21. ... b5

“It often doesn’t seem dangerous to see the liquidation of the IQP with ... d4/exd4, but the problem is that there is a difference of piece activity after that. This is because the side with the IQP usually controls four ranks of the board (as opposed to three for the other side) and therefore has more room to place his pieces actively.”

22. Bg5 h6 23. Bf4 Qa7! 24. Qf1 g5! 25. Bd2 Ng4 26. Ne4 Bf5! 27. Bxg4 Bxg4 28. Re1 f5! 29. Nc3 Bxf2+! 30. Qxf2 Qxf2+ 31. Kxf2 Rxd2+ 32. Kg1 Rxe1+ 33. Rxe1 Kf7, White resigned.

I can’t resist showing one game without notes for its entertainment value. The contest has a 19th-century feel and a lovely finish:

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK (A45)

IM Vinay Bhat
FM Alan Stein
Franett Memorial, San Francisco, 2005

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 c5 3. Bxf6 gxf6 4. d5 Qb6 5. Qc1 e6 6. e4 Bh6? 7. Qxh6 Qxb2 8. Ne2! Qxa1 9. Nec3 Qb2 10. Be2 Ke7 11. d6+! Kxd6 12. Qxf6 Qc1+ 13. Bd1 Rg8 14. Nd2 Kc6 15. Qxf7 Rxd2 16. Qf8! Na6 17. e5 Kc7 18. Nb5+ Kb6 19. a4 Nb4 20. Nc4+ Ka6 21. Nc7, mate.

Each chapter ends with a short progress report. Bhat has a great variety of thoughts on improvement. The following advice applies to most students I have had over the years:

I only made my first GM norm in 2002 after turning 18. A key part of that leap from solid IM to making a GM norm was better understanding the dynamic value of the pieces... This was a natural extension of my stylistic evolution... where I was pushing the boundaries of my chess comfort zone and playing new kinds of positions. Given how important these kinds of dynamics are, if you don’t find yourself playing many positions with a material imbalance, getting familiar with these examples and taking a shot at playing similar sacrifices can be a way to strengthen a weak link in your understanding and break through to another level.

How I Became a Chess Grandmaster combines a close look at high-level play with insight into a grandmaster’s thoughts and advice. Anyone trying to improve, whether aiming as high as Bhat or trying to become an expert or master, will appreciate hearing from a player who has encountered and solved many of the same problems he is facing. In addition, the book serves as an entertaining games collection, well put together with the typically high production values Quality Chess offers. It’s particularly encouraging to see chess publishers preserving the past while providing lessons for contemporary players as well. ♡

Bhat, Vinay. How I Became a Chess Grandmaster. Quality Chess, 2023. ISBN 9781784831929 (PB), 344pp. (Available on uscfsales.com, product code B0218QT, \$32.95.)

Liquidation into the Bishop Endgame

Slide into some bishop endgames and boost your skills.

BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

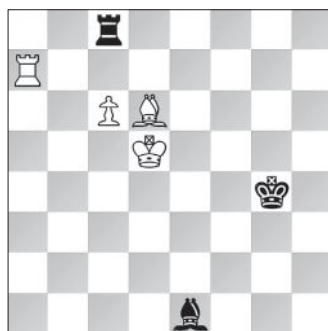


WE HAVE EXPLORED HOW liquidation into the pawn endgame is the most fundamental decision in endgames.

This month we delve into the often-overlooked bishop endings, with a twist that all games involved a critical rook trade before the angle sliders were left on the board.

LIQUIDATION MISCALCULATION

GM Sam Shankland
GM Wesley So
American Cup (1), St. Louis, 2023



WHITE TO MOVE

Once upon a time Wesley So had more pawns and was stubbornly trying to win. Shankland is poised to cap off a huge comeback but stumbles a few moves from the finish line.

95. Rf7

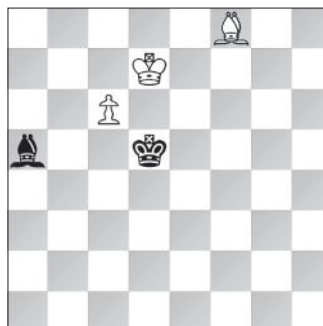
Sam avoids the trap 95. c7? Bh4! 96. Kc6 Bd8 which allows Black to reach rook and bishop versus rook. But White can use his active

rook to create threats in multiple directions. 95. Ra4+ Kh5 (95. ... Kf5 96. c7 wins as Black cannot get the bishop back to d8) 96. Ra1 Bh4 (96. ... Bc3 97. Ra3 Bd2 98. c7 Bg5 99. Kc6 Bd8 100. Rh3+ Kg4 101. Rh8 will cost a rook this time) 97. Rb1 Kg6 98. Rb8! Rxb8 99. Bxb8 Bd8 100. Ke6 and White has executed the liquidation from the game but with a critical extra tempo. The win is now routine: 100. ... Ba5 101. Bd6 Bb6 102. Kd7 Kf7 103. Be7 Ba5 104. Bd8 and the c-pawn queens.

95. ... Ba5 96. Rf8?? Rxf8 97. Bxf8 Kf5

The black king is already too close and will be able to touch the c-pawn at the critical moment.

98. Kd6 Ke4! 99. Kd7 Kd5



The positioning of the king denies White the critical maneuver of bringing the bishop to d8. He can displace Black's bishop from whatever diagonal it occupies, but the bishop will be able to return to monitor the c-pawn's advance.

100. Bd6 Bb6 101. Bc7 Bf2 102. Bf4 Bb6 103. Bd2 Kc4

This stylish step-over isn't even necessary,

as the bishop is not actually out of moves — 103. ... Bd8 suffices quite nicely.

104. Kc8 Kb5 105. Kb7 Bd8

There aren't any real traps from here, forcing White to eventually acknowledge the inevitable.

106. Be1 Bb6 107. Bg3 Ba5 108. Bc7 Bc3

109. Bd6 Ba5 110. Bf4 Bb6 111. Bd2 Bd8

112. Be1 Bb6 113. Bg3 Ba5 114. Bc7 Bc3

115. Bb6 Be5 116. Ba7 Bf4 117. Be3 Be5

118. Bb6 Bf4 119. Bc7 Bd2 120. Bb8 Ba5

121. Ba7 Bd8 122. c7 Bxc7 123. Kxc7,

draw.

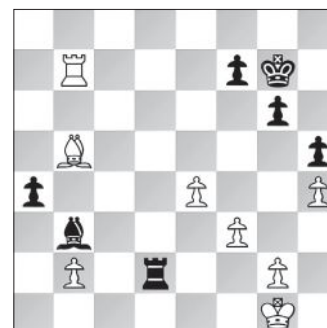
The liquidation in the next example occurs under very different circumstances, but the bishop and pawn versus bishop pops up in a critical variation.

WHICH WAY TO GO?

GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2609)

GM Yasser Quesada Perez (2579)

Capablanca Memorial Elite (2), Havana, 2022



BLACK TO MOVE

ENDGAME HOMEWORK

IT WOULDN'T BE ENDGAME School without a bit of homework. Test your mettle on these "all the way" liquidations.

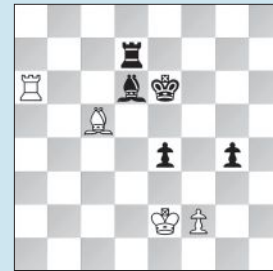
Try your hand at these two problems, which are based on analysis from the game in this month's column. Answers appear on page 63.

PROBLEM 1 How did White liquidate to win?



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2 Was White able to win in the pawn endgame?



WHITE TO MOVE

Black has a very active position and could profitably wait things out. Black might end up in a rook ending, but that would be drawn as well. Perhaps best is 27. ... Kf6 28. Kh2 Kg7 29. Kg3 Kf6 and now:

(a) 30. Ra7 Rxb2 31. Bxa4 Ra2 (I think this is easier than trading bishops, which also holds) 32. Ra6+ Ke5 33. Bb5 Rxa6 34. Bxa6 f5 and compared with the game, Black has essentially already forced a draw.

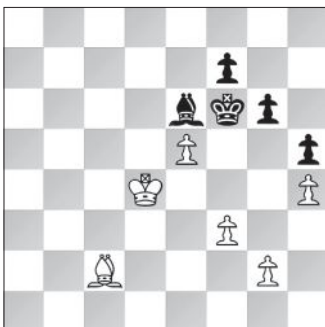
(b) 30. Bc6 Rc2 (or 30. ... Kg7 31. Rb4 Rc2 32. Bxa4 Bxa4 33. Rxa4 Rxb2) 31. Bd5 Bxd5 32. exd5 Ke5 33. Rxf7 Rxb2 and Black is in no danger.

27. ... Rxb2

Black decides to simplify right away, knowing that bishop endings with all the pawns on one side of the board rarely offer good winning chances. But White is able to get his king forward and develop some momentum.

28. Bxa4 Rb1+ 29. Kf2 Ba2 30. Rxb1 Bxb1 31. Ke3 Ba2 32. Kd4 Kf6 33. Bc2 Be6 34. e5+

Here Black's light-square pawn structure provides potential targets for attack. Black has to make a crucial decision right away.



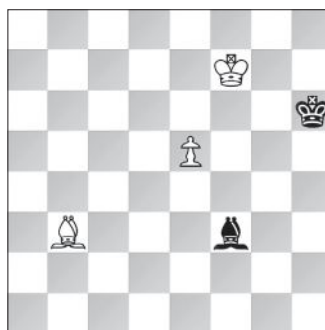
34. ... Kg7??

It's not always easy to choose between centralizing and hugging your own pawns, but

Black's choice looks illogical because White will establish tremendous king position.

Here 34. ... Ke7 would be good enough to draw: 35. Ke3 Bc4 36. Kf4 Ke6 37. g4 hxg4 38. fxg4 Bd5 (38. ... f6?? 39. Bxg6 fxe5+ 40. Kg5 and White wins) 39. Kg5 Bf3 (39. ... Kxe5?? 40. h5 gxh5 41. gxh5 f6+ 42. Kg6 Kf4 43. h6 Bg8 44. Kxf6 Kg4 45. Kg7 Kh5 46. Bd3 Kg5 47. Bg6 queens the h-pawn) 40. Bb3+ and now Black has a shortcut draw with 40. ... Kxe5! 41. Bxf7 Bxg4 taking advantage of the wrong rook pawn.

Note that 40. ... Ke7 is good enough, although with a bit more work: 41. h5 (41. e6 fxe6 42. Bc2 Kf7 43. Bxg6+ Kg7 44. Bc2 Bxg4 45. Kxg4 Kh6 is equal) 41. ... gxh5 42. gxh5 Kf8! (White should win after 42. ... Be4? 43. h6 Bd3 44. Bd5 Bc2 45. Kf4 Kf8 46. Be4 Bb3 47. Bh7 Bd5 48. Kg5 Bc4 49. Kf6 Bd5 50. Bg6!) 43. h6 Kg8 44. Kf6 Kh7 45. Kxf7 Kxh6 and we have reached bishop and pawn versus bishop ending with the defending king close enough to draw.



White cannot make progress after 46. e6 Bc6 47. e7 Bd7 48. Kf8 (48. Kf6 Kh7 49. Ke5 Kg7 50. Kd6 Be8 51. Kc7 Kf6 52. Kd8 and now 52. ... Bh5 is the simplest draw, but even 52. ... Bb5 53. Bd1 Ke6! 54. Bg4+ Kd6 will suffice) 48. ... Kg6 49. Bf7+ Kf6.

35. Kc5 Ba2

Black can only wait. If 35. ... f6 36. Kd6 Kf7 37. Bxg6+ decides.

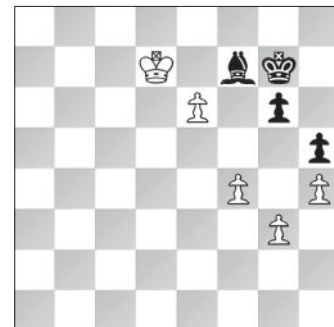
36. Kd6 Bc4

The pawn ending is a trivial win after 36. ... Kf8 37. e6! Bxe6 38. Bxg6 fxg6 39. Kxe6 Kg7 40. f4 Kg8 41. Kf6 Kh7 42. Kf7 Kh6 43. Kg8.

37. Ke7

It may seem logical to transfer the bishop to the a2-g8 diagonal, but 37. Be4 Be2 38. Bd5 Kf8 doesn't make progress.

37. ... Be6 38. Be4 Bc4 39. f4 Bb3 40. Bc6 Bc4 41. g3 Bb3 42. Be8 Bc4 43. Bxf7! Bxf7 44. e6 Bg8 45. Kd7 Bf7!



Hoping for the careless 46. exf7? Kxf7 when Black has the opposition and White is out of pawn moves.

46. e7!, Black resigned.

White's king will get to the e-file and penetrate: 46. ... Kf6 47. e8=Q Bxe8+ 48. Kxe8 Ke6 49. Kf8 Kf6 50. Kg8, etc., and the black pawns are goners.

Here's an oldie but a goodie. A bit of trivia for readers of *Liquidation on the Chess Board*: when this position appeared there, the White player was given as Gerald Martinez, but today (following Megabase) I believe it was

Juan Ramon Martinez. The moves are the same, in any event!

TARGETED FOR TERMINATION

Juan Ramon Martinez
Eldis Cobo Arteaga
Havana Olympiad 1966

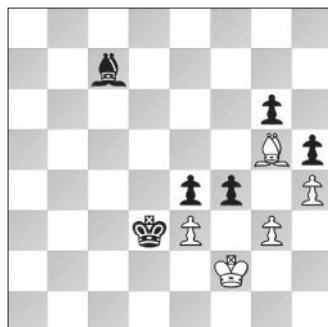


BLACK TO MOVE

34. ... Ra5!

Here the rook trade works perfectly because White's pawns are particularly vulnerable to attack.

35. Rxa5 Bxa5 36. Bc5 Kd5 37. Be7 e4 38. Bg5 Bc7 39. Kf2 Kc4 40. Bh6 Kd3 41. Bg5 f4!



This breakthrough needs to be exactly calculated, but it brings Black closer to a passed pawn.

42. gxf4 Bb6 43. f5 gxf5 44. Bf4 Bd8 45. Bg5 Bc7 46. Ke1 Bd6!

A nice *zugzwang* sets up a repeat of move 41.

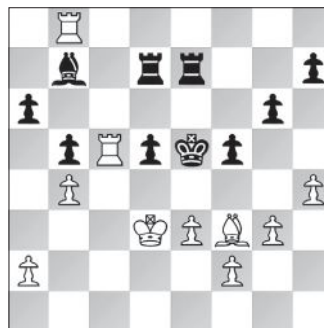
47. Kf2 f4!, White resigned.

In view of 48. Bxf4 Bxf4 49. exf4 Kd2 or 48. Bh6 fxe3+ 49. Bxe3 Bg3+.

Finally we see a game where timely trades offered the defender various degrees of hope, but wholesale swapping doomed him to certain death.

BREAKING BAD BISHOP

GM Sam Shankland (2720)
Domingos Junior (2107)
FIDE Open Olympiad (1), Chennai, 2022



WHITE TO MOVE

Black's strategic disadvantage in this position only begins with the isolated d-pawn. Every one of his pawns sits on the same color of his imprisoned bishop, which requires protection from the other black pieces. Still, White has to open the position to be able to cash in.

42. g4 Rc7?

This was the first chance for Black to be proactive in defense. Instead 42. ... f4 43. g5 fxe3 44. fxe3 Rc7 would offer better chances for survival.

43. Re8?

This attractive move is actually a serious bobble. White should proceed patiently with 43. gxf5 gxf5 44. Bg2 f4 (otherwise this pawn will be targeted) 45. exf4+ Kxf4 46. Bh3 Rg7 (46. ... Ke5 47. Rf8) 47. Rxc7 Rxc7 48. Rf8+ Ke5 49. f4+ Kd6 50. Rf6+ Ke7 51. Rh6 Ke8 52. h5 and Black is so tied up he will see pawns start to drop soon.

43. ... Kd6

If Black has anything going for him, it's the high-level protection of the second rank. But here giving up the second rank creates sudden counterplay. After 43. ... Rxe8! 44. Rxc7 Bc8 45. g5 f4! 46. Rxh7 Bf5+, the bishop has come alive, and Black is on the cusp of salvaging a draw.

44. Rd8+ Red7?

This is a typical mistake often seen in the games of non-professionals. The White rooks are clearly more active than their counterparts, but trading all the rooks leaves Black without potential counterplay and at the mercy of White's plans.

Here 44. ... Rcd7 was necessary to resist further, when White will need a little accuracy to bring home the point. Then 45. Rf8! (or 45. Rb8 Rc7) is a nice subtlety. After 45. ... Rf7 46. Rb8 Rc7 (Black is short of moves and vulnerable to tactics; both 46. ... f4 47. Rxb7 Rxb7 48. Bxd5 and 46. ... Rfe7 47. gxf5 gxf5 48. Bxd5! Bxd5 49. Rb6+ Ke5 50. f4, mate, win for White, the latter in spectacular fashion) 47. Rxc7 Rxc7 (if 47. ... Kxc7 48. Rxb7+ — the point of luring the rook to f7!) 48. gxf5 gxf5 49. a3 and the position is too open for Black to hold the line.

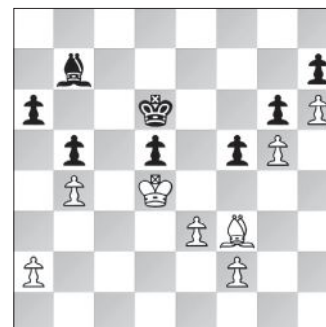
45. Rxc7 Kxc7 46. Rxd7+ Kxd7 47. g5!

Fortresses often crumble when they are forced to cover more ground. Here Black's defenses cannot bend, so they break.

47. ... Kd6 48. Kd4 Ba8 49. h5 Bb7

There's no help after 49. ... gxh5 50. Bxh5 Ke6 51. f4 Bb7 52. Kc5.

50. h6!



This typical finesse puts the black king outside the square of a potential passed h-pawn. It has to move to the e-file or the breakthrough beginning with Bf3-h5 will force promotion.

50. ... Ke6 51. Bg2

Trying to penetrate with 51. Kc5 f4 is clearly winning for White, but there is no reason to allow any counterplay at all.

51. ... Kd6 52. f4 Bc6

Or 52. ... Ba8 53. Bh3! (threatening 54. Bxf5) 53. ... Ke6 54. Kc5, etc.

53. Bf3, Black resigned.

Black is in *zugzwang*. Both 53. ... Bb7 54. Bh5 and 53. ... Ke6 54. Kc5 are hopeless. ♠

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

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 June 30, 2023 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: new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Women's Open

JUNE 14-15, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$3,500 GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLA ID: 35981

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

2023 National Open

JUNE 14-18, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$100,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLA ID: 35980

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Junior Open Championship

JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$2,400 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36381

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Senior Open Championship

JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36382

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Blind Chess Championship

JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$4,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36386

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

123rd Annual U.S. Open Championship

JULY 29-AUGUST 6, 2023, MICHIGAN

Event site: DeVos Place Convention Center Address: 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49503 Overall prize fund: \$50,000 b/500; \$40,000 gtd. GP Points: 300 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: nationalevents@uschess.org Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2023/usopen> TLA ID: 37403

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix point totals reflect all rated event information as of December 31, 2022 for the 2022 Grand Prix.

FINAL 2022 GRAND PRIZ STANDINGS

Congratulations to the 2022 Grand Prix Champion

IM JASON LIANG

| Name | State/Ctry | Pts |
|------------------------------|------------|--------|
| 1. IM JASON LIANG | NY | 222.68 |
| 2. GM BRANDON JACOBSON | NJ | 177.20 |
| 3. IM JOHN BRYANT | CA | 166.43 |
| 4. IM SEMEN KHANIN | RUS | 152.35 |
| 5. GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ | MA | 137.17 |
| 6. IM MYKOLA BORTNYK | UKR | 127.25 |
| 7. FM DANILA POLIANNIKOV | MA | 124.26 |
| 8. GM MARK PARAGUA | PHI | 121.20 |
| 9. GM ALEXANDER FISHBEIN | TN | 103.43 |
| 10. GM ANDREW TANG | MD | 103.28 |

2022 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 | |

The Grand Prix continues in 2023. For information visit new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-priz-program.

GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

2023 Carolinas Classic

JUNE 9-11, 2023, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Charlotte University Place Address: 8629 J M Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Charlotte Chess Center Email: events@charlottechesscenter.org Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.charlottechesscenter.org/events> TLA ID: 36962

GRAND PRIZ

Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Action Chess

JUNE 10, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: UC Davis Conference Center Address: 550 Alumni Lane, Davis, CA 95616 Overall prize fund: \$1,250 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Davis Chess Club Email: michael@fpawn.com Phone: michael@fpawn.com Website: <https://sosnickchess.com> TLA ID: 37192

GRAND PRIZ

Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Raps

JUNE 11, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: UC Davis Conference Center Address: 550 Alumni Lane, Davis, CA 95616 Overall prize fund: \$1,250 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Davis Chess Club Email: michael@fpawn.com Phone: michael@fpawn.com Website: <https://sosnickchess.com> TLA ID: 37193

ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

9th annual Continental Class Championships

JUNE 16-18, 2023, VIRGINIA

Event site: Sheraton Reston Hotel Address: 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 201912 Overall prize fund: \$22,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37066

GRAND PRIZ

CFCC 2023 Sunshine Open & Scholastic

JUNE 16-18, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Holiday Inn at Lake Buena Vista Address: 13351 State Road 535 Orlando, Florida, 32821 Overall prize fund: \$8,500 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Larry Storch Email: larrystorch88@gmail.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.centralflchess.org> TLA ID: 37199

GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

Tunnelvision IX

JUNE 17, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA

Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address: 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: info@columbiachess.org Phone: 8035690938 Website: <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> TLA ID: 36977

GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship

JUNE 17, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$3,600 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLA ID: 35998

GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

2023 Chicago Summer Open

JUNE 23-25, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E Golf Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: King Tournaments Email: bill@kingregistration.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/chissummopen23> TLA ID: 37668

GRAND PRIZ

2023 Castle Chess Grand Prix

JUNE 23-25, 2023, GEORGIA

Event site: Emory University (Student Center) Address: 605 Asbury Circle, Atlanta, GA 30307 Overall prize fund: \$12,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Castle Chess Camp Email: grant@castlechess.org Phone: n/a Website: <https://castlechess.org/grandprix/> TLA ID: 37079

PLEASE NOTE

DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

TLAs appearing in *Chess Life* must be uploaded online on the 10th, two months prior to the issue cover date in which the ad is to appear. (For example, October TLAs must be uploaded no later than August 10th.) TLAs uploaded past this deadline cannot be published without special approval by US Chess.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://www.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

17th annual Philadelphia Open
JUNE 23-25, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 359177

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Philadelphia International
JUNE 24-28, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35939

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

12th annual World Open Women's Championship
JUNE 29-30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$2,000 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36017

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

12th annual World Open Game/7 Blitz
JUNE 30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$1,500 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36038

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

Pacific Southwest Open
JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Address: 18880 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine, CA 92612 Overall prize fund: \$13,000 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Charles H. Ensey Email: chcunglo@aol.com Phone: (858) 432-8006 Website: <http://www.sandiegochessclub.org> TLA ID: 37350

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

51st annual World Open, top 6 sections
JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$208,000 GP Points: 300 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36019

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

46th Annual Green Bay Open
JULY 1-2, 2023, WISCONSIN

Event site: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Address: 2040 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI 54313 Overall prize fund: \$2,600+ GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Luke A. Ludwig Email: lukaaludwig@aol.com Phone: [9204659859](tel:9204659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37548

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

25th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
JULY 1-3, 2023, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

Event site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Address: 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: John McCumiskey Email: sacto@chess@sbcglobal.net Phone: 916-524-9479 Website: <http://sacramentochessclub.org/index.htm> TLA ID: 37205

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

31st annual World Open G/10 Championship
JULY 3, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$2,200 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36435

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

34th annual World Open Blitz Championship
JULY 4, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: N

Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [904659859](tel:904659859) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36434

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Columbia Tunnelvision X
JULY 8, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA

Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address: 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 gtd GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: info@columbiachess.org Phone: [8035690938](tel:8035690938) Website: <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> TLA ID: 38149

GRAND PRIX • REGIONALS

13th Western New England Open
JULY 8-9, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Amvets Post 74 Address: 2150 Main St, Three Rivers, MA 01080 Overall prize fund: \$4,850 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Western Massachusetts Chess Association Email: wmass-chess@comcast.net Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.wmass-chess.us/> TLA ID: 37914

GRAND PRIX

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss
JULY 9-13, 2023, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn - Southpark Address: 4808 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Charlotte Chess Center Email: events@charlottechesscenter.org Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.charlottechesscenter.org/events> TLA ID: 37890

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

53rd annual Continental Open
JULY 13-16, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Address: 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough MA 01752 Over-

Continental Chess OTB Tournament Schedule

See www.chessevents.us for details, possible changes, other events

CONTINENTAL CLASS, June 16-18, Sheraton Reston Hotel, near Washington, DC. \$22,000 guaranteed prizes.

WORLD OPEN AND SIDE EVENTS at Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel:

- World Open top sections, June 30-July 4**
- World Open U1200 & U1000, June 23-25**
- Philadelphia Open, June 23-25
- Philadelphia International, June 24-28
- World Open Under 13, June 26-27
- World Open Amateur, June 26-28
- World Open Junior, June 28-29
- World Open Senior Amateur, June 28-29
- World Open Action, June 29
- World Open Womens Champ, June 29-30
- World Open G/7 Blitz, June 30
- World Open G/10 Championship, July 3
- World Open Blitz Championship, July 4

CONTINENTAL OPEN, July 13-16 at new site, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, Mass. 7 rounds, \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

CHICAGO CLASS, July 14-16, Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling, IL. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

PACIFIC COAST OPEN, July 21-23, 6 rounds at Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

PITTSBURGH OPEN, July 21-23, Doubletree Green Tree. \$13,000 guaranteed.

SOUTHERN OPEN, July 28-30, Wyndham Orlando Resort. \$20,000 guaranteed prizes.

BRADLEY OPEN, July 28-30, Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport. \$15,000 guaranteed prizes.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA OPEN, Aug 11-13, Doubletree Fresno. \$10,000 guaranteed prizes.

ATLANTIC OPEN, Aug 25-27, Sheraton Reston Hotel, near Washington, DC. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

INDIANAPOLIS OPEN, Aug 25-27, Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport. \$15,000 guaranteed prizes.

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, Sept 1-4 at Albany Marriott. 6 rounds, \$18,000 guaranteed prizes.

all prize fund: \$30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70836814](tel:70836814) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 36814

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Chicago Class JULY 14-16, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** \$30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70836839](tel:70836839) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 36839

GRAND PRIX

2023 Charlotte Summer Open JULY 14-16, 2023, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn - Southpark **Address:** 4808 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 **Overall prize fund:** \$7,500 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Charlotte Chess Center **Email:** events@charlottechesscenter.org **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <https://www.charlottechesscenter.org/events> **TLA ID:** 38047

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Continental Open Blitz JULY 15, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel **Address:** 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough MA 01752 **Overall prize fund:** \$500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70838167](tel:70838167) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 38167

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

8th annual Chicago Class Blitz JULY 15, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Ad-

dress: 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** \$500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70838174](tel:70838174) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 38174

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

24th annual Pittsburgh Open JULY 21-23, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Doubletree Green Tree **Address:** 500 Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh PA 15205 **Overall prize fund:** \$13,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70837298](tel:70837298) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37298

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

27th annual Pacific Coast Open JULY 21-23, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel **Address:** Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406 **Overall prize fund:** \$30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70837297](tel:70837297) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37297

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Pacific Coast Open Blitz JULY 22, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel **Address:** Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406 **Overall prize fund:** \$500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70838175](tel:70838175) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 38175

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

Texas Action Championship JULY 22, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Waco Convention Center **Address:** 100 Washington Avenue, Waco, TX 76701 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,600 (projected); \$700 gtd Open **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Innovative Chess Solutions, LLC **Email:** csbrown.entrepreneur@gmail.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <https://innovativechessolutions.com/> **TLA ID:** 37971

GRAND PRIX

2nd Annual Nashville Summer Classic JULY 28-30, 2023, TENNESSEE

Event site: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel **Address:** 2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd, Nashville, TN 37228 **Overall prize fund:** \$6,500 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Todd Andrews **Email:** nashvillechess@gmail.com **Phone:** 6292544737 **Website:** <https://ncc.clubexpress.com/> **TLA ID:** 38155

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

28th annual Bradley Open JULY 28-30, 2023, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport **Address:** 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks CT 06096 **Overall prize fund:** \$15,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70837352](tel:70837352) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37352

GRAND PRIX

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic

Event site: Sheraton Bucks County Langhorne Ad-

dress: 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA, 19047 **Overall prize fund:** see TLA **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** josh@dmvchess.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/> **TLA ID:** 38203

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

31st annual Southern Open JULY 28-30, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 **Overall prize fund:** \$20,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70837301](tel:70837301) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37301

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

10th annual Southern Open Blitz JULY 29, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 **Overall prize fund:** \$500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70838180](tel:70838180) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 38180

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

13th annual Central California Open AUGUST 11-13, 2023, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

Event site: Doubletree Hotel **Address:** 2233 Ventura St, Fresno CA 93710 **Overall prize fund:** \$10,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chessevents.us **Phone:** [70837944](tel:70837944) **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37944

16th annual Chicago Class

July 14-16 or 15-16, 2023 - Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel

\$30,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES

5 rounds, 40/80, SD/30, d30 (2-day option, rounds 1-2 G/60, d10), Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 N Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling IL 60090. Free parking.

In 7 sections; no unrateds in Master or Expert. No residence requirements. See peakrating.us.

Master (2100/up): \$3000-1500-800-500, clear win or 1st on tiebreak \$100 bonus, top USCF U2400 \$1200-600. 150 Grand Prix Points (enhanced). FIDE rated. GMs free, \$130 from prize.

Expert (1900-2199): \$2000-1000-600-400. FIDE rated.

A (1700-1999): \$2000-1000-600-400. FIDE rated.

B (1500-1799): \$2000-1000-600-400.

C (1300-1599): \$1700-900-500-300.

D (Under 1400): \$1400-700-500-300.

E (Under 1200): \$800-400-300-200.

Unrated prize limits: \$100 E, \$200 D, \$300 C, \$400 B, \$500 A.

If USCF Online Regular rating is over 50 points above prize maximum, prize limit \$400. If scoring 8/more in 2023 World Open, must play higher than WO.

Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player combined score among all sections \$1000-600-400-300. Must average under 2200, different sections OK, register (no extra fee) by 2 pm Sat

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$148 at chessaction.com by 7/12, all \$170 at site, or online until 1 hour before round 1.

Class E Section entry fee: all \$50 less than top 6 sections entry fee.

Re-entry (except Master): \$60.

All: No checks at site, credit cards OK. Online entry fee \$5 less to ICA members; join/renew at il-chess.org.

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine, online at chessaction.com: Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. USCF membership required.

3-day schedule: Reg. to Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30.

2-day schedule: Reg. to Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5; Sun. 10 & 3:30.

Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 2.

All: No smoking. Bring clocks, sets, boards if possible-none supplied.

Hotel rates: \$130-130-130-130, link at chessevents.us or 847-777-6500, reserve by 6/30 or rates may increase.

Unofficial or Online Regular uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Entry: chessaction.com. Refunds, \$15 service charge.

Questions: Director@Chess.US, www.chesstour.com.

Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering).

Blitz Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:10 pm.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

**Columbia Tunnelvision XI
AUGUST 19, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Event site: First Church of the Nazarene **Address:** 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,000 **gtd GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Columbia Chess Club **Email:** info@columbiachess.org **Phone:** 8035690938 **Website:** <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> **TLA ID:** 38150

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

**55th annual Atlantic Open
AUGUST 25-27, 2023, VIRGINIA**

Event site: Sheraton Reston Hotel **Address:** 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 **Overall prize fund:** \$30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37675

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

**16th annual Indianapolis Open
AUGUST 25-27, 2023, INDIANA**

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport **Address:** 8910 Hatfield Drive, Indianapolis IN 42641 **Overall prize fund:** \$15,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 37676

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

**145th annual New York State Championship
SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023, NEW YORK**

Event site: Albany Marriott **Address:** 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 **Overall prize fund:** \$18,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **Website:** <http://www.chessevents.us> **TLA ID:** 38164

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

**2023 New Jersey Open
SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2023, NEW JERSEY**

Event site: Cherry Hill Double Tree By Hilton **Address:** 2349 Marlton Pike West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 **Overall prize fund:** \$8,650 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Aaron Kiedes **Email:** akiedes@gmail.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <http://www.njssc.org> **TLA ID:** 37757

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

**Columbia Tunnelvision XII
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Event site: First Church of the Nazarene **Address:** 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,000 **gtd GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Columbia Chess Club **Email:** info@columbiachess.org **Phone:** 8035690938 **Website:** <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> **TLA ID:** 38151

Online

Online Scholastic Tournaments Every Wednesday

BEGINNING APRIL 14, 2021-ONGOING WEEKLY

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** n/a **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** tournaments@dmvchess.com **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/scholastic-tournaments> **TLA ID:** 30042

Online Scholastic Tournaments Every Saturday

BEGINNING APRIL 17, 2021-ONGOING WEEKLY

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** n/a **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** tournaments@dmvchess.com **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/scholastic-tournaments> **TLA ID:** 30043

Online Open Tournaments Every Sunday

BEGINNING APRIL 18, 2021-ONGOING WEEKLY

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** n/a **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** tournaments@dmvchess.com **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/open-tournaments> **TLA ID:** 30044

Regional

ALABAMA

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JULY 22, 2023

Alabama Dual-Rated State Chess Championship

Event site: Evangel Church **Address:** 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36117 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,350 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Doug Strout **Email:** evangelchess@yahoo.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/evangelchessclub> **TLA ID:** 37583

JULY 28-30, 2023

31st annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

ARIZONA

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 17-18, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)
See Nevada.

JUNE 17, 2023

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

28th annual PACIFIC COAST OPEN

July 21-23 or 22-23, 2023 - \$30,000 guaranteed prizes!
6 rounds, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys (Los Angeles)

6 rounds, 40/80, SD/30, d30 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/35 d10), Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406. Parking \$8 day, \$12 including overnight. LAX-Van Nuys bus about \$10.

Hotel rate: \$125-125, link at chessevents.us or call 818-997-7676, reserve by 7/7 or rate may increase.

7 sections (top 2 are FIDE rated), Premier (2000/up; see peakrating.us): \$3000-1500-1000-700, clear or tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$1400-700..

Under 2100: \$2000-1000-600-400.

Under 1900: \$2000-1000-600-400.

Under 1700: \$1600-800-500-300.

Under 1500: \$1600-800-500-300.

Under 1300: \$1600-800-500-300.

Under 1000: \$1000-500-300-200.

Unrated prize limits: U1000 \$150, U1300 \$250, U1500 \$350, U1700 \$500, U1900 \$700. Balance goes to next player(s) in line.

Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best 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; prize limits do not apply.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$158 online at chessaction.com by 7/19, \$180 at site (no checks, credit cards OK) or online to 1 hour before round 1.

Under 1000 section entry fee: All \$40 less than top 6 sections fee.

Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

If USCF Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over prize maximum, prize limit \$300.

USCF membership required. See chessevents.us or chessaction.com for special rate.

Online entry \$5 less to Southern California Chess Federation members. Join/renew at www.sccchess.com.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 noon & 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun 10 am & 3:30 pm.

2-day schedule: Reg. Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10 am, 12:15 pm, 2:30 pm & 5 pm; Sun 10 am & 3:30 pm.

Half-point byes OK all (limit 2); must commit before round 3.

All: Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied. Re-entry (no Premier to Premier) \$70.

Entry: chessaction.com. \$15 charge for refunds.

Questions: chessstour.com, director@chess.us. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entry).

Blitz tournament Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:10 pm.

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament
See Tennessee.

📍 CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021-ONGOING

PCC LBX Hangar Sunday Action

Event site: LBX Hangar Building (inside and out) Address: 4150 McGowan St, Long Beach CA 90808 Overall prize fund: 80% of total entry fee GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: John Tan Email: paramountchessclub@gmail.com Phone: 3107356871 Website: n/a TLA ID: 31701

JUNE 10, 2023

Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Action Chess (CA-S)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 11, 2023

Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival Rapids (CA-S)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 17, 2023

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

JUNE 17-18, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)
See Nevada.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1-3, 2023

25th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship (CA-N)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 22, 2023

9th annual Pacific Coast Open Blitz (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 11-13, 2023

13th annual Central California Open (CA-N)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 COLORADO

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

📍 CONNECTICUT

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

28th annual Bradley Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

📍 DELAWARE

JUNE 17-18, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)
See Nevada.

JULY 13-16, 2023

53rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

📍 DIST. OF COLUMBIA

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

📍 FLORIDA

JUNE 9-11, 2023

2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 16-18, 2023

CFCC 2023 Sunshine Open & Scholastic (FL)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

31st annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 29, 2023

10th annual Southern Open Blitz (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 GEORGIA

APRIL 8, 2023-ONGOING MONTHLY

Pizza Scholastic

Event site: The Boardroom Address: 1675 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite #180, Cumming Georgia 30041 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: ThinkChess, LLC Email: info@myThinkChess.com Phone: 770.744.8595 Website: <https://mythinkchess.com/> TLA ID: 37216

JUNE 9-11, 2023

2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament
See Tennessee.

JULY 28-30, 2023

31st annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 IDAHO

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

📍 ILLINOIS

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

2023 Chicago Summer Open (IL)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1, 2023

Springfield Mid Year Open

Event site: Southern View Village Hall Address: 3410 South 5th St, Springfield, IL 62703 Overall prize fund: \$400 b/30 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Long Email: n/a Phone: 217-726-2584 Website: <http://www.springfieldchessclub.com> TLA ID: 37833

JULY 14-16, 2023

16th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 15, 2023

8th annual Chicago Class Blitz (IL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 16, 2023

Caveman Chess Sunday Blitz

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 37167

JULY 21-23, 2023

2023 Caveman Medior Open

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36383

JULY 22, 2023

2023 Beginner Open

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: Plaques GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36387

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)
See Indiana.

AUGUST 12-18, 2023

XXXIII Pan-American Youth Chess Festival

Event site: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Address: 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Chicago, IL 60616 Overall prize fund: Direct FIDE titles and norms GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Heiser Email: david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org Phone: n/a Website: <https://panamyouth2023.com/> TLA ID: 36757

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 INDIANA

JUNE 10, 2023

Chess Earth at ChessTime G/30 - 4RD (OH)
See Ohio.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

2023 Chicago Summer Open (IL)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 14-16, 2023

16th annual Chicago Class (IL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman

Event site: Wolf Lake Subdivision in New Albany, Indiana Address: Lakehouse, New Albany, IN 47150 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Daro Mott Email: launchlouisvillechessclub@gmail.com Phone: 15026083577 Website: <https://www.launchlouisvillechess.club/> TLA ID: 38248

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

IOWA

JUNE 23-25, 2023

2023 Chicago Summer Open (IL)
See Grand Prix.

KANSAS

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JULY 15-16, 2023

2023 Kansas Open
Event site: Double Tree Hotel (Brazilian Ballroom) Address: 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044 Overall prize fund: \$2,075 b/80 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kansas Chess Association Email: kansaschess.105@gmail.com Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.kansaschess.org/index.htm> TLA ID: 37792

KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

REGIONALS

JUNE 10, 2023

Derby City Classic
Event site: Broadway Theater Address: 816 East Broadway, Louisville, KY Overall prize fund: \$1,050 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Corbin Seavers Email: urbanlouisvillechess@yahoo.com Phone: n/a Website: n/a TLA ID: 38022

ble: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Corbin Seavers Email: urbanlouisvillechess@yahoo.com Phone: n/a Website: n/a TLA ID: 38022

JUNE 10, 2023

Chess Earth at ChessTime G/30-4RD (OH)
See Ohio.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament
See Tennessee.

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)
See Indiana.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MAINE

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

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, signup 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 4, 2023

Charm City Chess Club 2023 Summer Open Tournament
Event site: DoubleTree Hilton Hotel Address: 4 W University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Alan Horowitz Email: charmcitychess@gmail.com Phone: 917-573-5775 Website: <http://www.charmcitychess.com/> TLA ID: 38001

JUNE 16-18, 2023

9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 24-28, 2023

16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

#1st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

53rd annual CONTINENTAL OPEN

July 13-16, 14-16 or 15-16 - \$30,000 guaranteed prizes!

7 rounds at new site, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, Mass.

Best Western Royal Plaza, 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough MA 01752. Free parking.

Top 5 sections: July 13-16 or 14-16, 40/80, SD/30, d30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), both schedules merge & play for same prizes.

Under 1300 and Under 1100 sections: July 15-16, G/60, d10.

Premier section: Open to 2000/up (see peakrating.us). Prizes \$3000-1500-800-400-300, clear/tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$1300-700. FIDE rated.

U2100, U1900, U1700 sections: Prizes each section \$2000-1000-500-300-200. Under 2100 is FIDE rated.

U1500, U1300 sections: Prizes each section \$1400-800-400-300-200.

U1100 section: \$800-500-300-200-100.

Unrated prize limits: U1100 \$100, U1300 \$200, U1500 \$300, U1700 \$400, U1900 \$500, U2100 \$600.

Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player team (avg. under 2200) combined score, all sections: \$1000-500-300. May play different sections; register before both players begin round 2.

If online regular rating is more than 50 pts over section max, prize limit \$400.

If scoring 8 or more points in 2023 World Open U2200 or below, must enter higher section than in World Open

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$158 online by 7/11, \$180 online or at site until 1 hour before round 1. GMs free, \$150 from prize. Re-entry \$80; no Premier to Premier.

U1100 Section EF: all \$60 less than top 6 sections entry fee. Re-entry \$40.

USCF membership required. Special dues with magazine paid online with entry, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18.

Online entry fee \$5 less to MACA members, join/renew at masschess.org.

4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7, Fri 11 & 5, Sat/Sun 10 & 4.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 10 am, rds Fri 11, 2 & 5, merges with 4-day Fri at 5 pm.

2-day schedule (Under 1300, Under 1100): Reg. Sat to 9, rds Sat 10, 1, 4, 7, Sun 10, 1 & 4.

Half-pt byes OK all rds (limit 2, must commit before rd 3).

All: Bring set, board, clock if possible-none supplied. Unofficial or Online Regular ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Hotel rates: \$129-129, includes hot breakfast, use link at chessevents.us or 508-460-0700, reserve by 6/29.

Entry: Chessaction.com. No mailed entry. Refunds, \$15 service charge. Questions: director@chess.us, chesstour.info. Entries posted at chessaction; click "entry list" after entering.

Blitz Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:10 pm.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 23-25, 2023

17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 24-28, 2023

16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 13-16, 2023

53rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 15, 2023

9th annual Continental Open Blitz (MA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

28th annual Bradley Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MICHIGAN

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JUNE 10-11, 2023

2023 Michigan Amateur Championship
Event site: Hilton Garden Inn Grand Rapids East Address: 2321 E Beltline Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Overall prize fund: Trophies GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Michigan Chess Association Email: jeffchess64@gmail.com Phone: 810-955-1271 Website: https://www.michess.org/ TLA ID: 37893

JUNE 23-25, 2023

2023 Chicago Summer Open (IL)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

MISSOURI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)
See Indiana.

NEVADA.

JUNE 15, 2023

National Open Action Quads
Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: https://vegaschessfestival.com TLA ID: 35999

JUNE 16, 2023

Youth Trophy Tournament
Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: Trophies GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: https://vegaschessfestival.com TLA ID: 36001

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 17-19, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship
Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: https://vegaschessfestival.com TLA ID: 36000

JULY 1-3, 2023

25th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship (CA-N)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 11-13, 2023

13th annual Central California Open (CA-N)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 14-DECEMBER 30, 2023

Hamilton Chess Club Quads
Dates: Feb. 11, Mar. 18, Apr. 29, May 20, Jun. 3, Aug. 19, Sep. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 30. Event site: Switlik Park Pavilion Address: Fischer Place, Joe Dimaggio Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08610 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Edward Sytnik Email: edmendou@aol.com Phone: 609-758-2326 Website: https://sites.google.com/site/hamiltonchessclub/ TLA ID: 35704

JUNE 16-18, 2023

9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

REGIONALS

JUNE 17, 2023

King's Chess Club Youth/Young Adult Quads

Event site: Grace Church Bethlehem Campus Address: 758 Route 10, Randolph, NJ 07869 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Bob McAdams Email: fambright@optonline.net Phone: 9736943988 Website: n/a TLA ID: 37931

JUNE 23-25, 2023

17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 24-28, 2023

16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

13th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 29-30, 2023

12th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 29, 2023

10th annual World Open Action (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 3, 2023

31st annual World Open G/10 Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 4, 2023

34th annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 13-16, 2023

53rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW MEXICO

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

NEW YORK

JUNE 16-18, 2023

9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 18, 2023

Saratoga June Quick
Event site: Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church Address: 175 Fifth Ave, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Saratoga Staunton Club Email: alecours1@hotmail.com Phone: 5189444450 Website: n/a TLA ID: 38306

JUNE 23-25, 2023

17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 24-28, 2023

16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

13th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship (PA)
See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 29-30, 2023

12th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

JUNE 29, 2023

10th annual World Open Action (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 3, 2023

31st annual World Open G/10 Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 4, 2023

34th annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 13-16, 2023

53rd annual Continental Open (MA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 21-23, 2023

24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023

145th annual New York State Championship (NY)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ NORTH CAROLINA

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament
See Tennessee.

◆ OHIO

JUNE 9-11, 2023

16th annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open (OH)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 10, 2023

Columbus Chess Club June Open
Event site: Griggs Reservoir Park Address: 2933 Riverside Drive, Columbus, OH 43221. Overall prize fund: 80% payout based on entries GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Dave Antonucci Email: antonucci56@gmail.com Phone: 845-489-4289 Website: <https://www.columbuschessclub.com/> TLA ID: 37512

antonucci56@gmail.com Phone: 845-489-4289 Website: <https://www.columbuschessclub.com/> TLA ID: 37512

JUNE 10, 2023

Chess Earth at ChessTime G/30 - 4RD

Event site: ChessTime Chess Club Address: 4120 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45223 Overall prize fund: \$600 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chess Earth - Robert Chenault Email: admin@chessearth.com Phone: 513-884-7027 Website: <https://chessearth.com/> TLA ID: 38029

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 21-23, 2023

24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)
See Indiana.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ OREGON

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

JUNE 17-18, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)
See Nevada.

◆ 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 16-18, 2023

9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 20, 2023

June Quick Quads
Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: director@pittsburghchessclub.org Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/uscf/june-quick-2023> TLA ID: 37208

JUNE 23-25, 2023

17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$17,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36030

HERITAGE EVENT

JUNE 24, 2023

52nd Fred Thompson Memorial

Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: director@pittsburghchessclub.org Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/uscf/thompson-2023> TLA ID: 37209

JUNE 24-28, 2023

16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35994

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35957

JUNE 27, 2023

June Blitz

Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: \$475 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: director@pittsburghchessclub.org Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/uscf/june-blitz-2023> TLA ID: 37210

REGIONALS

JUNE 28-29, 2023

13th annual World Open Senior Amateur

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36006

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • REGIONALS

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36031

JUNE 29-30, 2023

12th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

REGIONALS

JUNE 29, 2023

10th annual World Open Action

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36036

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30, 2023

12th annual World Open Game/7 Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 3, 2023

31st annual World Open G/10 Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 4, 2023

34th annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 21-23, 2023

24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament

Event site: Sheraton Bucks County Langhorne Address: 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA, 19047 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/> TLA ID: 38204

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic

Event site: Sheraton Bucks County Langhorne Address: 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA, 19047 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/> TLA ID: 38205

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023

145th annual New York State Championship (NY)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ RHODE ISLAND

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

◆ SOUTH CAROLINA

JUNE 9-11, 2023

2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 17, 2023

Tunnelview IX (SC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 8, 2023

Columbia Tunnelvision X (SC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 19, 2023

Columbia Tunnelvision XI (SC)

See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Columbia Tunnelvision XII (SC)

See Grand Prix.

📍 TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club

Event site: Memphis Chess Club **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** info@memphischessclub.com **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** <https://www.memphischessclub.com/> **TLA ID:** 32334

JUNE 9-11, 2023

2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess Tournament

Event site: Fair Park Senior Center, Cumberland County Community Complex **Address:** 11398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN 38555 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,700 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Cumberland County Chess Club **Email:** cumberland-countychessclub@gmail.com **Phone:** (931) 200-9038 **Website:** <http://www.cumberlandcountychessclub.org> **TLA ID:** 37674

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

JULY 28-30, 2023

2nd Annual Nashville Summer Classic

Event site: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel **Ad2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd, Nashville, TN 37228** 11398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN 38555 **Overall prize fund:** \$6,500 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Todd Andrews **Email:** nashvillechess@gmail.com **Phone:** 6292544737 **Website:** <https://ncc.club-express.com/> **TLA ID:** 38155

📍 TEXAS

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 17-18, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)

See Nevada.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

📍 UTAH

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 17-18, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship (NV)

See Nevada.

JUNE 17, 2023

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix.

📍 VERMONT

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 24-28, 2023

16th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

📍 VIRGINIA

JUNE 9-11, 2023

2023 Carolinas Classic (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 16-18, 2023

9th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

17th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections (PA)

See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania or chessevents.us.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 WASHINGTON

JUNE 14-18, 2023

2023 National Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 14-15, 2023

2023 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

📍 WEST VIRGINIA

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

📍 WISCONSIN

JUNE 23-25, 2023

2023 Chicago Summer Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

51st annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 1-2, 2023

46th Annual Green Bay Open (WI)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

16th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

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US CHESS

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Check out these US Chess Rated Events!

7-Player Championship Events

2023 Golden Knights (Postal) | **2023 Electronic Knights** (Email)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on order entries received. Players start in Preliminary round and qualify for Semi-final and then Final rounds based on scores in previous round. **ENTRY FEE:** \$25 per entry. Players can enter up to a maximum of 10 times per event. **PRIZES:** Prize fund of \$2300 based on 200 entries. \$10 correspondence chess gift certificate to players knocked out in Preliminary round.

7-Player Round Robins

Victor Palciauskas Tournament (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** \$5 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives a signed certificate.

4-Player Quads

John W. Collins Memorial (Postal) | **Walter Muir E-Quads** (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as double round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** \$10 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives \$25 correspondence chess gift certificate and signed certificate.

2-Player Matches (Postal or Email)

FORMAT: Players play either 2, 4, or 6 games against the same opponent. Selecting multiple options may facilitate faster pairings. Pairings based on ratings or players may name their own opponent. **ENTRY FEE:** \$5 per entry. **PRIZES:** None.

Two ways to enter:

- Visit us online at uschess.org
- Mail in the form below

GENERAL INFORMATION

- US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of all 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.
- Email events are open to all US Chess members with an accessible email account.
- ICCF Server events are open to all US Chess members with access to the ICCF internet based correspondence chess server and an ICCF account (free to create) in good standing.
- For events with groupings based on ratings, the following rating classes will be used:
 - o Class A: 1800 and above
 - o Class B: 1500-1999
 - o Class C: 1200-1699
 - o Class D: 1399 and below
- If you do not have an existing correspondence rating, please estimate your playing strength when submitting your entry.
- Correspondence chess gift certificate prizes can be used on correspondence chess entries only. They cannot be used for membership renewals or at US Chess Sales.

Online entry and payment by credit card is available at new.uschess.org/correspondence-chess

Name _____ USCHESSID# _____ Est. Rating _____ Phone _____

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- Golden Knights EF: \$25
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Solutions

PAGE 17 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 13. ... Bxe4! 14. Bxe4 b4 wins the pinned knight. **PROBLEM 2.** 11. ... Qd5! 12. Bxh3 Qf3!, White resigned. **PROBLEM 3.** 13. ... Nxd5! 14. Qxa5 Nc3+!, White resigned. **PROBLEM 4.** White resigned after 15. ... Nd4! in light of 16. Nxd4 Qxh2 mate. **PROBLEM 5.** 12. Bb3! threatens Bc1-e3 and Rh1xh2. Here Black resigned in view of 12. ... Ng4 13. e6 or 12. ... Bg4 13. Qe3. **PROBLEM 6.** 12. Rxa4! bxa4 13. Nc5, e.g. 13. ... Qc8 14. Ne5 Nd5 15. Bxd5 cxd5 16. Qxa4+. Black resigned after 13. ... Ra7 14. Ne5 Nd5 15. Nxb7 Rxb7 16. Qxc6+.

PAGE 45 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 21. ... e4! 22. dxe4 fxe4 23. Ng5 e3! Exploiting the fact that the rook on e1 will be unprotected if White captures on e3 with the bishop. 24. Nxf7 exf2+ 25. Kxf2 Bd4+ and White resigned. Hagner – Kaasen, Fagernes 2023. **TACTIC 2.** 20. Bxe7! Qxe7 21. Nf6+! Bxf6 22. Bxd5+ White wins the Exchange and ends up with an easily won position. 22. ... Kg7 23. Bxa8 Rxa8 24. Qc6 Rd8 25. Ra6 Rd6 26. Qa8 Rd7 27. e4 and Black resigned. Jouhki – Binham, Finnish Team ch 2023. **TACTIC 3.** 16. ... Nxd3! 17. cxd3 Nxd4 18. Qxd4 Or 18. Bxd4 Bg5 and the knight on d2 drops. 18. ... Bc5 19. Qf4 d4 The bishop is trapped. 20. Nc4 Qd5 and White resigned. Fedorov – Paichadze, Delhi 2023. **TACTIC 4.** 16. ... c4! 17. bxc4 Nb4! This is probably the move White had overlooked. Now he loses material. 18. Qb3 Nxd2 19. Qc3 Qh6 20. Nxb4 d4 21. Qd3 Or 21. Qa3 Bxg2 22. Kxg2 Qb6 and Black wins. 21. ... Bxg2 22. Nd5 Or 22. Kxg2 Bxb4. 22. ... Rxd5 23. cxd5 Be4 24. Qxd4 Bf6 25. Qb4 Qh3 26. f3 Bxf3 27. Kf2 Bg5 and White resigned. Mardov – Pranav, Reykjavik 2023. **TACTIC 5.** 21. exd5! In the game, Keymer instead chose: 21. Qh5 dxe4 22. Qg5 Bf8 23. Rf1 Bf7 24. h4 Qg6 25. Qf4 Bd5 26. h5 Qxh5 27. Bxe4 Bc6 28. Rf3 Qe8 29. d5 Bd7 30. d6 Be6?? 31. Qh4 h6 32. Rg3 Bf5 33. Qf6 and Black resigned in Keymer – Vogel, German Bundesliga 2023. 21. ... Bxd5 22. Bxg7! Kxg7 23. Qe5+ Kg8 24. Qf5! White is winning but there is still work to be done. 24. ... Qe6 25. Qxh7+ Kf8 26. Rf1+ Ke8 27. Bf5 Qe3+ 28. Kh1 Be7 29. Qh8+ Bf8 30. Qh5+ Bf7 31. Qh4 Be7 32. Qh8+ Bf8 33. Bg6 and it is game over for Black. **TACTIC 6.** 24. ... Re1+! This is much stronger than the game continuation although White there soon blundered: 24. ... b5 25. axb5?? (White should have opted for 25. Ne4 c4 26. Rc3 Re5 27. Nd6 Rd5 28. Nb7 Bc8 29. Nxa5 b4 30. Rxc4 Rxa5 31. Rxb4 and Black still has a lot of work to do before the win will be a reality) 25. ... cxb5 26. Nxb5 a4 and White resigned in Kuznecov – Carlstedt,

German Bundesliga 2023. 25. Kh2 b5 26. axb5 If 26. Ne4 c4 27. Rc3 Be6 and Black is much better. 26. ... cxb5 27. Ne4 Bc6 28. Rc3 Or 28. Nxc5 Re2 29. Ne4 b4 and Black is winning. 28. ... Bxe4 29. dxe4 c4 and Black has a decisive advantage. **TACTIC 7.** 21. ... d5! 22. e5 Ne4! Now White's position collapses. 23. fxe4 dxe4 24. Qg2 Rxd3 This looks "slow" but the threat is ... Qd5xe5 followed by ... Be7-f6 and game over. 25. Bg5 Bc5 Or even better 25. ... Qa6, threatening ... Rd3xb3+, and after 26. Qb2 Bc5 there is no good way to meet the threat of ... Bc5-d4, e.g., 27. Rxe4 Bd4 28. Rxd4 Rxd4 29. Qxd4 Qxa2+ 30. Kc1 Rc8+ 31. Kd1 Qb1+ and Black is winning. 26. Bc1 Qa6 27. Re2 e3 28. Rh3 Bd4 and White resigned. Rakotomaharo – Gupta, Reykjavik 2023. **TACTIC 8.** 21. ... d3! White must have failed to fully consider the consequences of this move. 22. exd3 It could look like White can save himself after 22. Re1, but then 22. ... Qe4 23. f3 d2 24. Bxd2 Qd4+ 25. Kf1 Bc8! and White loses a piece. 22. ... Qd7 23. Rf1 The alternatives also do not work, e.g., 23. f3 Qd4+, or 23. Qxb6 Qd5 and Black wins. 23. ... Qc6 24. f3 Ra8 The queen is trapped and White could have resigned here. 25. Qxa8+ Bxa8 26. Rc1 Qe6 27. Kf2 h6 and White resigned. Swinkels – Ernst, German Bundesliga 2023. **TACTIC 9.** 16. g4! Boom! You can have my bishop. But 16. Rad1 is also terrible for Black. 16. ... Kxg5 17. gxf5 Black's king is hopelessly exposed. 17. ... Kh6? It was better to play 17. ... Nc6 18. h4+ Kh5 19. Qg2 Ne4 20. Qg4+ Kh6 21. Rxe4 Nxd4 22. Rxd4 and White is clearly better. 18. fxe6 Qa5 19. c5! Nc6 20. Nf5+ Black is hopelessly lost; the king is isolated from his defenders. 20. ... Kg5 21. h4+ Kxf5 22. Qd3+ Ne4 23. Qxe4+ Kf6 24. Qf4+ Or 24. exd7 and Black can resign. 24. ... Kg6 25. Kh1 h6 26. Rg1+ Bg5 27. Rxg5+ hxg5 28. Qxg5+ Kh7 29. Qh5+ Or 29. Rg1. 29. ... Kg8 30. Qf7+ Kh7 31. Rg1 and with no way to delay mate, Black resigned. Belenkaya – Gajewski, Reykjavik 2023.

PAGE 47 ABCS OF CHESS

PROBLEM 1. Mating net: It is mate after 1. ... Qxa2+ 2. Kxa2 Ra6 mate. **PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** Black mates in two: 1. ... Qh3+ 2. Kh1 Qf3 mate. **PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** Black mates in two: 1. ... Rxh2+ 2. Bxh2 Nf2 mate. **PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** It is mate in two: 1. ... Rb5+ 2. Ka1 Qc3 mate. **PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** Black mates in two: 1. ... Qe1+ 2. Kg2 Nf4 mate. **PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** It's over in two moves: 1. ... Qb2+ 2. Nxb2 Na3 mate.

PAGE 51 ENDGAME SCHOOL

PROBLEM 1. White won after 35. h5 (White could trade first as well) 35. ... g5 36. Rxb5+ Rxb5 37. Bxb5 Kxb5 38. f4 gxf4+ 39. Kxf4 Kb4 40. g4 Ka3 41. g5 hxg5+ 42. Ke3!, Black resigned. The rook pawn on the seventh rank will not draw because there is no stalemate possibility. (Ivanchuk – Hellers, World Junior Ch, 1987 **PROBLEM 2.** No, Black used a finesse to draw: 39. Ke3 Kd5 40. Bxd6 Rxd6 41. Rxd6+ Kxd6 42. Kxe4 g3! (42. ... Ke6?? 43. Kf4 g3 44. Kxg3) 43. fxg3 and draw agreed because 43. ... Ke6 gains the opposition. (Kozul – Lalic, Croatia, 1998)



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MY BEST MOVE

JOSHUA ANDERSON
PRESIDENT, CHESS
JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA



LIKE MANY SUBJECTS OF THIS column, my best moves in chess were not made at the board.

My chess story begins at home. I learned to play from my dad, who of course, taught me many other things. His belief that people working together could accomplish more than they could as individuals was often part of that education, and it has become an integral part of my work.

On the micro-level, I run the Tri-Bridges Chess Club, a free community club open to all. We get diverse players with even more diverse interests. On the macro-level, I am the President and Coordinating Judge of the Chess Journalists of America. This organization was formed in the 1970s to help chess journalists from all over the country communicate and work together. We also collect oral histories from older players, and run the Chess Journalist of America Awards.

Our hundreds of entries come from all types of media. Fortunately, there is a diverse cross-section of chess people — grandmasters, photographers, class players, historians and many more — to judge all these works, with awards given at our annual meeting at the U.S. Open. (Here again I'm reminded of my father's dictum that people working together is the way to get things done.) If you're interested, we can always use more entries and more judges!

Teaching is often a key component in building a chess community, and this game features important elementary tactical themes. Though my best move is not hard to find, the game that follows has served me well in teaching thousands of kids in the Philadelphia suburbs. Thanks Dad!

SICILIAN DEFENSE, DRAGON VARIATION (B76)

Joshua Anderson
"Spiffy"
Offhand Game, 03.31.2003

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6



“
Teaching is
often a key
component
in building
a chess
community...”

5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 d6 7. f3 e5

An unfortunate novelty.

8. Ndb5



This is MY BEST MOVE, leading to all the instructive moments. Passivity can be a problem of mine. While 9. Nb3 is safe and solid, this move provides much more opportunity.

8. ... a6

My opponent quickly rewards my having played the more aggressive move.

9. Nxd6+

Now comes the series of developmental moves with discovered check threats.

9. ... Ke7 10. Bc5 Ke6 11. Bc4+

Even stronger was 11. Qd5+.

11. ... Kf6 12. Nd5+ Ke6

Here I went for the flurry of discovered checks and missed the mate-in-six that comes from 13. Ne8.

13. Nb6+ Ke7 14. Nxb7+ Ke8 15. Nd6+

Choosing the windmill over the queen.

15. ... Ke7 16. Ndxc8+ Ke8 17. Nd6+ Ke7

18. Nxf7+ Ke8 19. Nd6+ Ke7 20. Nf5+ Kf6

If 20. ... Ke8 21. Nxf7, mate; note that all four minor pieces assist with the finish.

21. Nd7+ Kg5

Now it's time to find all the mate-in-twos. There are 11! I chose:

22. Qd2+ Kh5 23. g4, mate.

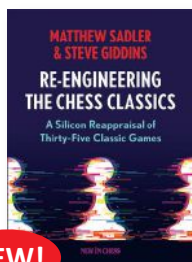
My favorite is: 22. h4 Kf4 23. g3 mate where the "smiley face" of pawns checkmates the king. ♠



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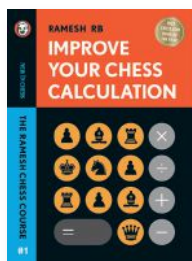
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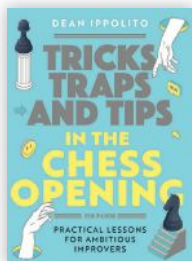
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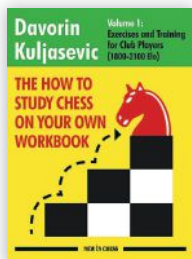
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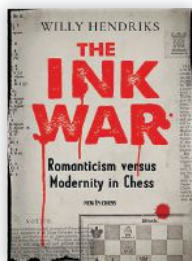
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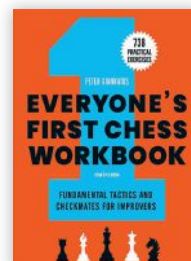


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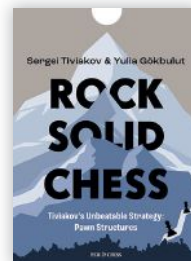
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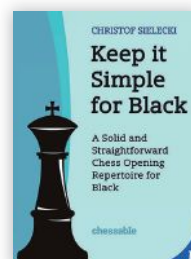
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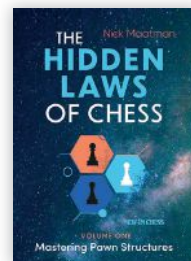
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Half point byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Must commit before round 4.

PAST WINNERS

1973 Walter Browne **1974** Bent Larsen **1975** Pal Benko **1976** Anatoly Lein **1977** John Fedorowicz **1978** Peter Bilyasias **1979** Haukur Angantytsson **1980** Larry Christiansen **1981** Igor Ivanov **1982** Nick de Firmian **1983** Kevin Spraggett **1984** Joel Benjamin **1985** Maxim Dlugy **1986** Nick de Firmian **1987** Boris Gulko **1988** Maxim Dlugy **1989** Mikhail Gurevich **1990** Igor Glek **1991** Gata Kamsky **1992** Gregory Kaidanov **1993** Alex Yermolinsky **1994** Artashes Minasian **1995** Alex Yermolinsky **1996** Alex Yermolinsky **1997** Alex Shabalov **1998** Alex Goldin **1999** Gregory Serper **2000** Joel Benjamin **2001** Alex Goldin **2002** Kamil Miton **2003** Jaan Ehlfest **2004** Varuzhan Akobian **2005** Kamal Miton **2006** Gata Kamsky **2007** Varuzhan Akobian **2008** Evgeny Najer **2009** Evgeny Najer **2010** Viktor Laznicka **2011** Gata Kamsky **2012** Ivan Sokolov **2013** Varuzhan Akobian **2014** Ilya Smirin **2015** Aleks Lenderman **2016** Gabor Papp **2017** Tigran Petrosian **2018** Illia Nyzhnik **2019** Liem Quang Le **2020** P Iniyani **2021** Hans Niemann **2022** Mikhail Antipov