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SEPTEMBER 2020 | USCHESS.ORG

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*Empower people, enrich lives,
and enhance communities through chess.*



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Chess Life

SEPTEMBER

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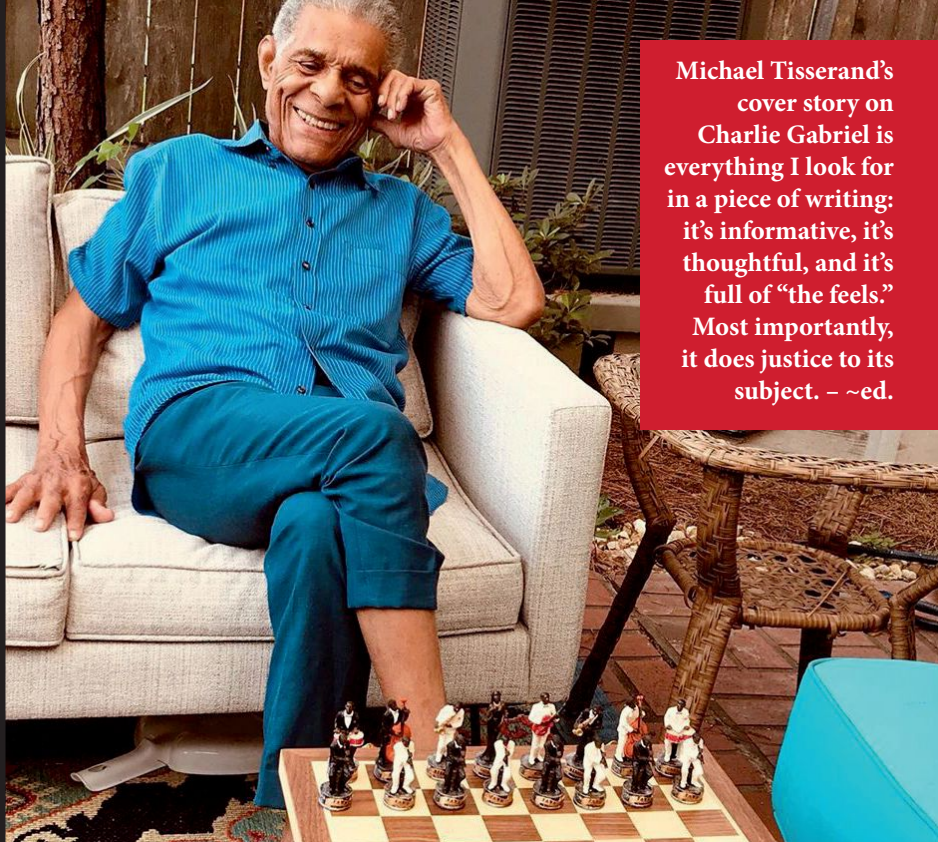
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This issue is dedicated to the
memory of Susan Elaine Kantor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE GABRIEL



Michael Tisserand's cover story on Charlie Gabriel is everything I look for in a piece of writing: it's informative, it's thoughtful, and it's full of "the feels." Most importantly, it does justice to its subject. – ~ed.

16 **COVER STORY / CHARLIE GABRIEL**

Chess with Charlie

BY MICHAEL TISSERAND

One of New Orleans' beloved musicians is also a keen chess player, and his Instagram account proves it.

20 **EVENTS / SINGAPORE VS. NYC**

Singapore Defeats New York in Online Charity Chess Challenge

BY CC-SIM JUNIOR TAY

Over \$120,000 was raised for #ChessAgainstCovid charities.

33 **EVENTS / 2020 IOWA CLOSED**

Saleem Wins 2020 Iowa Closed Championship

BY ARSHAQ SALEEM

Played with COVID-19 precautions in place, the Iowa Closed appears to be the first OTB state championship contested since the pandemic began.

36 **EVENTS / CLUTCH CHESS**

Another Clutch Performance

BY FM DENNIS MONOKROUSSOS

GM Magnus Carlsen fought through a tough line up to win "Clutch Chess International."

ON THE COVER: Charlie Gabriel is one of the elder statesmen of New Orleans trad jazz... and a mean chess player to boot.

COVER PHOTO BY JOSH GOLEMAN.

Letters: Questions, Answers...



IN OUR JULY ISSUE

MISSED MATE

I am not sure this is the appropriate way to comment on an article, but if it is then:

Did both Firouzja and Tisdall miss a mate in one at move 52 (page 35, July 2020), in Firouzja versus Carlsen?

Firouzja played 52. Rxc6.
Is not 52. Rd2 mate?

Lloyd Bond
via email

You are correct. Firouzja missed a mate. His move (52. Rxc6) was also winning, though not nearly as quickly. Such are the vagaries of rapid chess! ~ed.

AMATEUR TEAMS

After reading the articles on the 2020 U.S. Amateur Teams (July 2020) I have some questions. I noticed that the listing of the third place team in the West event [Kolty] listed six players: Mike Arne, Mike Splane, Juan Diego Perea, Dana Mackenzie, Marshall Polaris, and Paulo Santanna. Have the rules for teams changed to allow for two alternatives? The article on the East listed Alan Kantor as part of the US Chess team that played, and the article on the South listed Alan Kantor as playing on a team in that event. Years ago I was told that a player could only play in one of the four U.S. Amateur Team events. Has that changed? Finally, the article on the West mentioned interviews with players during the event. Are there any future plans for broadcasting or streaming of all four of the U.S. Amateur Team events?

Lawrence Cohen
via email

We consulted Steve Doyle and Abel Talamantez on this. While we can't comment on question #3, here's what we learned on the first two questions: (1) There were indeed two alternates on "Kolty." This was by special dispensation of the organizers. (2) The unofficial rule about playing on two teams in different regional Team events is just that—unofficial. It seems to come from the days when all the regions were contested on the same weekend. ~ed.

SITE SUGGESTION



I enjoyed GM Jesse Kraai's article on the expansion of internet chess during this pandemic (June 2020). In the list on page 33, "Playing Chess in the Age of COVID-19," I feel there is one chess site that is missing from that list and that I feel is underrated, *Gameknot.com*.

I have been playing chess on *Gameknot* since 2004. *Gameknot's* correspondence-style format has allowed me to play multiple games at

once and also play at my leisure. While I enjoy playing on *Chess.com* and *lichess.org*, I don't always have a couple of hours to sit down and play through a full live game of chess. If your opponent is online at the same time, it is possible to play through a few moves together, which, unlike correspondence chess via email, can keep the pace of the game going.

I hope you will consider featuring *Gameknot.com* in the future as it fills a niche in the online chess world between live gameplay and traditional correspondence chess via email or the post.

Bill Morrison
via email

Thanks for your note, Bill. Many of the leading chess-playing sites, including chess.com and lichess.org, allow for correspondence-style time controls. The International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) is explicitly designed for this purpose. I was not aware of gameknot.com, but we're happy to pass your recommendation on to our readers. Let a thousand servers bloom! ~ed.

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

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**Rochelle Wu, 2017
National Girls Tournament of
Champions winner**

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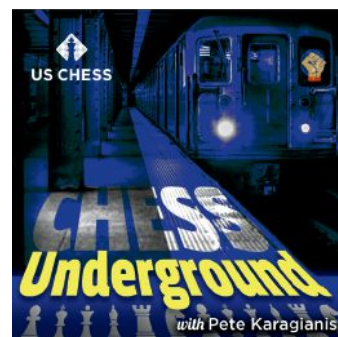
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CHESS LIFE ONLINE

SEPTEMBER PREVIEW



Tune in and listen to our podcasts at uschess.org

COVER STORIES WITH *CHESS LIFE*

For the September edition of Cover Stories, available on the first Tuesday of the month, *Chess Life* editor John Hartmann will talk with Michael Tisserand about his profile on Charlie Gabriel, one of New Orleans' most beloved musicians who's also an avid chess player.

ONE MOVE AT A TIME

Our September One Move at a Time guest is 2020 US Chess Special Services award winner Jonathan Crumiller. Crumiller, who is known for his top-level expertise in the history and evaluation of chess sets and other artifacts, has been instrumental in enhancing the educational part of our mission. Crumiller has been active for many years in both over-the-board and correspondence play, achieving a master title in both forms of chess.

LADIES KNIGHT

Ladies Knight, the award-winning podcast hosted by Women's Program Director Jennifer Shahade, features conversations with community members who are advancing women's chess. Recent guests include IM Annie Wang, who talked about the college application process, why she's going to MIT, and her plans for the fall. Ladies Knight drops on the third Tuesday of the month.

THE CHESS UNDERGROUND

Hosted by Assistant Director of Events Pete Karagianis, The Chess Underground explores the subculture (and occasionally, subversive culture) that is chess—all of its eccentricities, peculiarities, and theoretical novelties. The Chess Underground is available the fourth Tuesday of the month.

New to podcasting?

Don't know how to begin? For some simple instructions, go to YouTube and search "How Do I Listen to Podcasts?" The first video is a short and simple introduction.

Be sure to subscribe to our family of US Chess podcasts on your favorite listening platform!



Available on iTunes, Spotify & Google Podcasts



FIND ALL OF OUR PODCASTS ON OUR WEBSITE AT [NEW.USCHESS.ORG/CATEGORY/PODCAST/](https://new.uschess.org/category/podcast/)

USCHESS *Streaming*

With so much uncertainty due to COVID-19, US Chess and *Chess Life Online* have launched a number of new video programs for members. Watch *CLO* and our social media accounts for announcements about new content!



LEVELLING UP WITH US CHESS

Omidvari, Lara 790 – Anbu, Rajkumar 811 0-1
CSO RCF-chTS U18 1920 (4NCL Online) (2) 23.04.2020 (Hartmann, John)

Sign up, renew your membership, or make a donation at uschess.org

John Hartmann @hartmannchess

Chess Life / *Chess Life Online* Editor **John Hartmann** takes a look at games between players rated under 1400. By understanding typical mistakes at that level, newer players young and old can “level up” more quickly.

THE TD SHOW

FIDE Events Manager and National Tournament Director **Chris Bird** and guests help explain everything you could ever want to know about US Chess rules and tournament direction.



CLASS in session
with **JEN SHAHADE** and OTHER GUESTS.

US CHESS women
US CHESS

US Chess Women's online programming, created by **Jennifer Shahade**, is growing: in addition to our weekly “Girls Club Zooms” with the top players in the country, we are expanding our offerings to adult Ladies Knights, teenager college prep discussions, and beginner classes.

Sign up to these playlists on YouTube!

CONTRIBUTORS

MICHAEL TISSERAND

(Cover Story) is a New Orleans-based author whose most recent book was the Eisner Award-winning *Krazy: George Herriman, a Life and Black and White*. He can be reached at his Web site at www.MichaelTisserand.com.

CC-SIM JUNIOR TAY

(Singapore vs. New York) has been a chess author, editor and coach for the past four years after being a school teacher for 17 years. He is a former National Rapid and Cairnhill Open Champion and has represented Singapore in international events including the Asian Team Championships. He lives in Balestier, Singapore.

ARSHAQ SALEEM

(Iowa Closed) is a pre-medical student at the University of Iowa. He has been playing competitive chess for 11 years and became a national master in 2016.

FM DENNIS

MONOKROUSSOS (Clutch Chess) is a FIDE Master and the 2009 Indiana State Co-Champion. The holder of a PhD in philosophy from Notre Dame, Monokroussos is perhaps best known for his (now largely shuttered) blog, “The Chess Mind,” the archives of which can be read at thechessmind.net. He continues to produce video content for chesslecture.com.



SOCIALIZE Join us on **Instagram** @US_Chess and **Twitter** @USChess as well as on our accounts @USChessWomen. And be sure to bookmark and visit uschess.org/clo to ensure you catch the latest news on our digital presence.



The Saint Louis Chess Club opened its doors 12 years ago and has established itself as the “Chess Capital” of the United States and arguably, the world. Since its inception, the club has hosted well over 1,400 tournaments. While the club is most well-known for hosting the Sinquefeld Cup, Cairns Cup, and the U.S. Chess Championships, it also runs a plethora of local tournaments as well, totaling to over 69,000 rated games and over 35,000 chess players to date.

The club also holds scholastic tournaments off-site at Saint Louis University and various schools in the St. Louis area. Through this scholastic initiative, the club has given away over 1,000 free US Chess memberships, as well as entry fees, to new chess players.

While the Saint Louis Chess Club is a world-class venue for tournaments it is also a great place to learn and improve your chess game. With regular weekly classes and private lessons taught by our staff and resident grandmaster, such as four-time U.S. Champion GM Yasser Seirawan, players can put that master class knowledge to work for them and quickly ascend to a better understanding of the classical game. For those interested in expanding their chess knowledge remotely, there are over 1,000 different entertaining and instructive classes and lectures available on the Saint Louis Chess

Club’s YouTube and Twitch.tv channels.

Every Thursday night, the club hosts “Ladies Night.” Taught at the adjacent Kingside Diner by IM Dorsa Derakhshani, a member of the Saint Louis University chess team, and FM Thalia Cervantes, a member of the Webster

The Saint Louis Chess Club has become the epicenter of chess in the United States ... no matter the level of interest or knowledge.

University chess team, “Ladies Knight” is a fun evening where wine, cheese, and chess flow.

The Saint Louis Chess Club hosts over 80 tournaments a year for all levels. The Friday Action Quads is great for all as players are pitted against others of comparable strengths in three quick games—with the opportunity to win a cash prize. Beginners have the

opportunity to play against members like veteran and local postman Greg Vanvalkenburg, who never saw a kingside attack he didn’t like. And amateurs most likely will compete against teen superstar, Vinee Thatiparthi, who emphasizes the phrase, “Better to be lucky than good.” In the top quad, a lucky player may be fortunate to face off against Saint Louis Chess Club board member FM Doug Eckert, whose knowing smile implies that every game will be a hard fought battle across the board.

For those interested in larger prize funds and fiercer competition then what can be found at the monthly Saturday tournaments, the Saturday Night Special is a top pick for many members. These tournaments regularly offer a \$1,800 prize fund that typically attract top grandmasters such as GM Aleksandr Lenderman and GM Akshat Chandra, who are among the over twenty different grandmasters who now call St. Louis home because of the club. Local national master and senior chess associate Caleb Denby recently defeated two different Webster University grandmasters and also took home a sizable prize.

International chess professionals have many opportunities as well to compete in strong tournaments such as the Chess Classic Series, held quarterly each year. These tournaments



FACES ACROSS THE BOARD

By AL LAWRENCE



**KIMBERLY
"KIMMY" LIU**
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
Chess Scholar

In Kindergarten, Kimmy saw a chess teacher helping another

student. "The pieces looked cool!" Kimmy told her dad she loved "the horse piece." She's come a long way since then. Kimmy is one of five 2020 Scholar Chessplayers who have each won a \$3,000 scholarship.

Early on, Kimmy noticed Carissa Yip on the cover of *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Kids* as Yip broke age records for her accomplishments. "Carissa always bounced back, never gave up." Although Yip was then only 10, she quickly became 12-year-old Kimmy's role model. "I thought, if she can do it, maybe I can." Kimmy would.

She tied for the 2017 North American Youth Chess Championships for girls under 16, earning her the WFM title. She took second place in the 2017 Kasparov Chess Foundation All-Girls National Championship. She journeyed with her dad to Montevideo, Uruguay, to represent the USA in the World Youth Chess Championships, where she "tried out my four years of Spanish." The next year, she traveled to Baja California, Mexico, to become 2018 North American Junior Chess Championships co-champ for girls under 20—even though she was just 16.

That win made her eligible for the WIM title—as soon as she gets her FIDE rating to at least 2000. (She's already a US Chess expert and climbing.) While she was still under 18 and her K-factor allowed a quicker rating climb, she planned a summer campaign of playing in many FIDE-rated events. But then came the coronavirus shutdown. It's just a matter of time. "Through chess, I came to understand that persistence is the key to life," she says. Meanwhile, she started college at Cornell University.

Kimmy is an accomplished violinist and pianist, as well as a sculptor with her own Etsy store. She teaches chess on Zoom and streams on Twitch with 1,700 followers.

Girl role models were important to her, and she wants to pay that forward. "My greatest challenge was overcoming self-doubt. Wherever I go, I hope to inspire younger chess enthusiasts to pursue their passion, one game at a time."



were created to give international masters and grandmasters a chance to participate in strong round robin tournaments in order to test their skill against similar level players. In addition to the Chess Classic series, the GM/IM Norm tournaments occur twice a year. These tournaments bring together players from around the world to compete for both cash prizes and the opportunity to earn their Grandmaster or International Master titles.

Saint Louis Arch Bishops team members of the PRO Chess League include well-known grandmasters Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, Jeffrey Xiong, and Var Adhikari. In 2019, the team secured two major victories: the World Championship and the Champions of the

Summer Series.

The Saint Louis Chess Club also has made great strides to bring chess into the classroom over the last 12 years. Through its scholastic department, the club teaches in more than 100 schools annually in the greater St. Louis area and has introduced the game to over 60,000 students since 2008.

The Saint Louis Chess Club has become the epicenter of chess in the United States and will continue to be "the place" to learn, watch, and play chess—no matter the level of interest or knowledge. ♠

Editor's note: This article was written before the pandemic. Check with the Chess Club for current events and locations.

The Membership Appreciation Program (MAP) is a year-long membership drive that provides prizes and recognition for affiliates and members who sign up new or renewing US Chess members. Visit <http://www.uschess.org/datapage/MAP-standings.php> for the most current standings. And watch these pages to meet other MAP winners soon!

2020 Executive Board Election Results

US Chess welcomes new Executive Board members **David Hater**, **David Day**, and **Fun Fong**, who will hold these at-large positions for a term of three years, expiring in 2023.

There were 4,073 ballots mailed for this election, out of which 1,782 ballots were returned and 1,780 were valid. The vote totals were:

David Hater:	1,431
David Day:	1,139
Fun Fong:	1,076
Angelina Belakovskaia:	538
Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath:	518
Sean J. Manross & Bear the Chess Husky:	224

The Election committee expresses its gratitude to all candidates in this year's election.



DAVID DAY



FUN FONG



DAVID HATER

US Chess Loses a Stalwart Friend



ALAN & SUSAN KANTOR

Susan Kantor, who recently retired from US Chess, died from complications associated with cancer on August 5 2020. Executive Director Carol Meyer said, "I am sorry for

all on our team who lost a dear friend today. We extend our sympathies to her family and friends." Susan's husband Alan Kantor was also an employee of US Chess until recently.

Susan had been a dedicated employee for 15 years since she was hired in 2005 as an Accounting Associate. When she retired her title was Scholastic Associate and Clubs, FIDE Associate, and OTB Ratings Associate, a position in which she interacted daily with a wide swath of our membership and community. At many of our national events, Susan was a friendly face at Chess Control making sure everything was running smoothly and solving problems when things occasionally went awry. She watched her two sons grow up playing chess and once stated that she "loves the fact that most chess players always seem to want to help other players who have an interest in getting better."

In our retirement announcement last

month, her supervisor Director of Events Boyd Reed stated, "Susan's imprint is, literally and figuratively, on every aspect of our national events operation. She has also been a very important contributor to the design of our new membership database, and a vital linchpin for directors, organizers, and scholastic affiliates across the country. It has been my unqualified privilege to call her a colleague. It is my continued privilege to call her a friend."

US Chess mourns Susan's death along with all of those whose lives she touched. Judging by the outpouring of condolences on social media and in the US Chess forums, there were many such lives.

In accordance with her wishes, Susan's family is asking for donations to either Crossville's Focus on Cumberland County Animal Safety (foccas-tn.org) or the American Cancer Society (cancer.org/involve/••onate.html).

ACROSS THE BOARD

By **ALLEN PRIEST**

PRESIDENT, US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD



By the time this is printed my term as president of US Chess will have ended. I will also have completed nine years of service on the Executive Board. I think it is natural at a time like this to look back and see where we have come to.

The recent outbreak of COVID-19 has forced us to make many changes and embrace new things. But we have been laying the foundation for US Chess for a long time. A decade ago, US Chess owed more than it owned. Legal issues had left us with significant debts to attorneys, mortgaged properties, maxed out lines of

We started building a real rainy-day fund. We set a goal of having at least three months' worth of operating expenses in the bank. That would let us get through a summer slowdown. After we reached that goal, we expanded the goal to have six to nine months of expenses in the bank. We needed this solid foundation just in case—because you never know when a crisis will come. You just know that something is likely to happen. And when it did this year, we have been able to relax just a little and focus on long term answers to the challenges in front of us, knowing that our team would be paid

Becoming a 501(c)(3) allows us to accept tax-deductible gifts. It also makes us eligible for grants from various organizations and corporations that will only support 501(c)(3) non-profits. Since this was a new world for US Chess, we started slowly. We had to build the case for support. We had to find those projects and opportunities that would excite donors and that would allow us to fulfill the mission the delegates had laid out for us. It was a different way to think and the change was hard. After years of slow, steady progress, the fruits of those labors began to appear this year. We hired an experienced development director and gave him time to build momentum. It has only taken six years for us to have overnight success in fund raising.

Becoming a 501(c)(3) also forces us to think about our mission. The board developed a strategic plan and has continued to update it. That strategic plan is considered in the development of every program and in setting budget priorities. As the plan is long-term, the board has changed its budget processes to focus more on the long term. Moving to a two-year budget cycle, which reflects the two-year pattern of major international events, is part of this. Developing a priority list for the funding of both domestic and international events gave us a road map to expand support when we have been able, and to cut back a bit when circumstances have been more difficult.

We have become much more relevant in international chess circles. Not only have we experienced unprecedented success in international play in youth events, we have also seen a resurgence of U.S. players at the highest levels in FIDE. We are both developing new talent and welcoming those who wish to join us from abroad. We have also become more active in FIDE governance. Ruth Haring and Francisco Guadalupe worked diligently to develop relationships with our friends in the Americas continental association, as well as with FIDE. For the first time, we have U.S. representatives on each of the elected commissions of FIDE, as well as a FIDE vice president. This gives us the ability not only to protect the interests of U.S. players and organizers, but also to influence the way chess develops all over the world.

It has been an exciting, challenging, marvelous time to share in this transformation of US Chess. I look forward to remaining active both in US Chess and FIDE, while having more time to return to tournament directing. I am grateful to all those who have encouraged me through the years, and I wish you well. ♠

Our mission ... focuses US Chess on growing the game across all demographic groups.

credit, and loans from the Life Member Assets committee to fund basic operations. Then, as now, summer is the low point of US Chess cash flow. One year a major advertiser advanced US Chess a major part of his advertising spend for the year to make sure we could pay the team through the summer until the normal fall income pick up. That situation was intolerable.

Through the efforts of many, and with the leadership of Ruth Haring, Gary Walters, and Randy Bauer we started to dig our way out. We paid off the attorney bills. We paid off the line of credit and built up a small emergency fund so we would make sure our team would be paid.

We put money back into the LMA several ways. We paid back the advances the LMA had made for operations. We paid off the mortgage on the headquarters building, which is owned in part by the LMA. And we created the LMA Trust to better safeguard these assets in the future.

and the computers would stay on, even as we face a decrease in membership revenue with the cancellation of so many over-the-board tournaments.

We took seriously the delegates' restatement of the US Chess mission from 2008. It took several years and several additional filings with the IRS, but we were finally approved to change from the 501(c)(4) non-profit to a 501(c)(3). It may not seem like much, but the move of just one number is transforming US Chess.

It has changed who we engaged to lead us. We first hired Jean Hoffman because of her experience with a small chess-related 501(c)(3). After Jean took us as far as she thought she could, we brought in current Executive Director Carol Meyer. Carol has extensive experience leading 501(c)(3) organizations and little chess experience. While some criticized the board, time has proven they were inspired choices who have helped us more fully realize the vision the delegates created.

Beginner's Luck

Where you get your information matters when starting out in chess.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

"HOW DO YOU VIEW THE WORLD situation?" Mikhail Botvinnik was once asked. "Pessimistically," he replied. "The world is divided."

Then he added in his deep voice, "Into chessplayers and non-players."

If you are reading this, you're in the first category.

But if you open up a beginner's book—or visit a how-to-play web page or watch a Youtube video—you might wonder how anyone gets out of the second category.

Simply put, we teach chess in a way that is needlessly difficult.

For example, we make the way a knight moves sound as complex as baseball's infield fly rule or an NFL forward fumble.

The simplest way to explain the knight is to show an L-shape in a diagram. Or you could use a position from a game. Here's one that illustrates forks (from Paetz-Hoeltz, Bundesliga 2013).



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

The white knight has five legal moves. None are immediately good. But after **1. Qxh7+!** there is **1. ... Kxh7** **2. Ng5+!**.

That is followed by a second fork, **3. Nxe6!**, of both black rooks.

But many primers make the knight move confusing by adding an explanation in words.

Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess may be the best-selling chess book of all time. It offered three definitions. One is:

"The knight moves to the eight nearby squares which are not in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal straight line from the square it occupies."

Got it? No? Well, Garry Kasparov also offered these explanations in his mega-seller *Checkmate! My First Chess Book*. One goes:

"Imagine a box five squares by five with the knight in the middle. It can move to any square at the edge of the box that it would not be able to if it were a queen."

Yes, I know that today's newbies typically learn the moves from the internet, not books. But they are bound to ask questions after they read a knight-move explanation like this one on *iChess.net*:

"Imagine an L shape made from any 3 connected squares, any orientation."

Does that include diagonally connected squares?

This is hardly a new problem. In one of the oldest primers, *Chess Made Easy* (1836), author George Walker wrote, "The move of the knight is so difficult of explanation that I despair of making you clearly understand it, till you have met with it practically illustrated."

The take-away for many beginners is not to touch a knight early in a game. Do something easier to understand, like a rook move, **1. h4** and **2. Rh3!**.

There are problems with teaching even the most basic rules, starting with the object of the game.

"How do you win a chess game?" may be the first question a beginner asks. But he won't

understand checkmate until he has digested a barrelful of information.

The first great English primer, Howard Staunton's enormously popular *The Chessplayer's Handbook*, made no mention at all of checkmate until after it explained rules like castling. A popular 20th century primer, Al Horowitz's *Learn Chess Quickly*, waited until page 34 before it told readers that mate ends the game.

What about the internet? *Wikihow.com* says: "You cannot capture your opponent's king. However, to win the game you need to set up your pieces so they would be able to capture the king." Huh?

Of course, once you've played your first games, the knight move and checkmate are indelibly imprinted in your mind. But you may forget your first chess book. Years later you may not remember what the diagrams looked like in it. Or anything else about it.

An exception was a remarkable book that was perhaps responsible more than anything other for the last great generation of Soviet players. This is *Puteshestviye v Shakhmatnoye Korolevstvo* (Journey to the Chess Kingdom). Several of the elite grandmasters of the last 30 years were introduced to chess by it and have fond memories of its examples. Here is one that was used to explain underpromotion.

(see diagram next page)

The authors, Yuri Averbakh and Mikhail Beilin, said it is interesting because a computer could solve it and took only two minutes. (The book was published in 1972.)

Queening doesn't work. For example, **1. e8=Q+ Kxf6** **2. g8=Q** is stalemate. If you are not a computer, you can find the solution on page 59.

QUIZ FOR SEPTEMBER

A cadre of five Americans made the annual pilgrimage to Gibraltar earlier this year to compete in one of the strongest annual Swiss System tournaments. They did not finish high in the 10-rounder, which was won by GM David Parvyan. But they played enterprising chess, and this month's quiz features their games. In each of the six diagrams you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material. For solutions, see page 59.

PROBLEM I.
GM Gregory Kaidanov
WIM Natacha Benmesbah



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM II.
Andrew Reeder
Saed Kozarcenin



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM III.
GM Stephen Gordon
WGM Tatev Abrahamyan



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM IV.
GM Alexander Donchenko
GM Gregory Kaidanov



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM V.
GM Kirill Alekseenko
GM Gregory Kaidanov

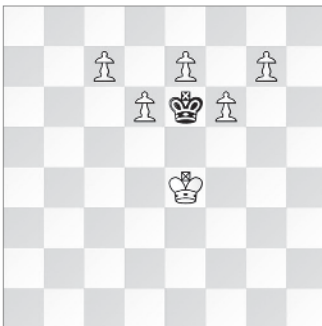


WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM VI.
IM Dominik Horvath
GM Alejandro Ramirez



BLACK TO MOVE



WHITE TO MATE IN THREE MOVES

Chess jargon is another problem with how we teach beginners. I was puzzled when my first chess book said "discovered check."

Do experienced players accidentally discover that one of them is in check? Fred Reinfeld's *A Chess Primer* made it clearer by calling it "uncovered check."

Why, I wondered, is the knight the only piece that can jump over other pieces? I would have been happy if I read, "Because it's a horse, of course."

And why does a pawn move one way but capture another? One of the few explanations I read that made sense was:

"Pawns are medieval foot soldiers. They are trained to march forward, holding their weapon, a sword, halberd or pike, so they can only swing it to the left or right."

One of the all-time classics, *Lasker's Manual of Chess*, explained rules in terms of justice and logic (or "Reason" as Emanuel Lasker put it): It isn't fair if a pawn survives a charge through enemy territory and then becomes immobile on the eighth rank. Such courage should be rewarded by raising him to the ranks of the board's officers. That's why pawns can promote, Lasker said.

Authors may take some liberties in beginner's books when serving a higher educational purpose. For instance, the following was used to illustrate perpetual check by Vladimir Zak, a legendary teacher whose students included Viktor Korchnoi and Boris Spassky.

NEO-GRUENFELD DEFENSE (D78)

GM Vlastimil Hort
IM Vlastimil Jansa
Havana, 1967

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. d4 d5 5. c4 c6 6. Nbd2 O-O 7. O-O Bf5 8. b3 Qc8 9. Re1 Bh3 10. Bh1 Qf5 11. Bb2 Bh6?

Now 12. e4! dxe4 13. Nh4 Qd7 14. Nxe4 gives White a solid edge.

12. Nh4?

(see diagram next column)

12. ... Qxf2+! 13. Kxf2 Ng4+ 14. Kf3! Nxf2+ 15. Kf2, draw agreed.



Zak didn't mention that the players were good friends and this was the first of 20 straight games, all drawn in under 20 moves, between them. It was most likely a composed-in-advance game.

New beginner's books are published every year. This year marks the first English translation of one of the oldest, the *Book of the Liberal Invention and Art of the Game of Chess*.

The clergyman who wrote it in 1561 offered lots of wholesome advice. But since he was a chess player, he also said there were sneakier ways to win, beginning with what he called "the first rule":

"When a game is played on a clear and sunny day, make sure the sun is in the enemy's face so that it blinds him."

The author was a certain Rodrigo Lopez de Segura. You know him as Ruy Lopez. ♠

Dealing with “Sick” Opening Moves

A spike of a different kind

By **GM LEV ALBURT** and **AL LAWRENCE**

FUTURE “BACK TO BASICS” WILL NOT always focus on a reader game, but when we get a juicy one, we’ll continue to share and emphasize lessons you can apply to your own games.

This month we have the juice: a game both instructive and very entertaining. Briant Lee (Ohio) writes: “Having fought in Afghanistan as a mortar man in the U.S. Army infantry, I am a disabled combat veteran.” Due to his extensive injuries, “On the worst of days, which are more frequent, a fog comes over my brain and I play like a wood pusher, blindly placing pieces *en prise*. This was one of my better days.” Indeed—it’s a game any of us would like to play!

In the final round, Lee needs a win to tie for first in his section. He knows his opponent is an aficionado of the “Grob Attack,” named for Swiss IM Henri Grob (1904–1974), who dubbed it “The ‘Spike.’”

GROB’S ATTACK (A00)

Fred Schwan (1554)

Briant Lee (1469)

Toledo April Swiss (U1600 section), 04.09. 2016

1. g4?!

What if this happens to you? You’ve studied a “repertoire” for Black. You have a plan for 1. e4 and 1. d4. And maybe you even have a line in mind against 1. c4. But how do you respond to “sick” opening moves? Are they “sick” bad or “sick” good? It depends on what you make of them!

1. ... d5!

Excellent! *When your opponent gives you a chance to take the center in the opening, grab*

it! Theoretically, Black is already significantly better after only one move. But those who play offbeat openings are likely to be enthusiasts who have memorized every nasty trick in their pet line.

2. Bg2

This is normally the follow-up, donating the wing pawn. *In the opening, the farther away from the center a pawn is, the less its value.* Fred Reinfeld wrote that, if we value a center pawn as a dollar, subtract a dime for each file you move away from the center. So White is sac’ing an 80-cent pawn in exchange for the tempo it takes to put his light-square bishop on the long diagonal.

2. ... Bxg4 3. c4

Of course! White wants to pry open the diagonal he’s invested in.

3. ... c6



Lee’s choice was objectively best and follows a reliable, classic guideline: *Maintaining the center is a solid choice!*

But when is a trap just a bluff? Chessplayers are often faced with this question on the board. Here, Black can take the pawn and keep a better

game, even an Exchange down, but matters continue to be tricky: for example, 3. ... dxc4 4. Bxb7 Nd7 5. Bxa8 (5. h3 Bh5 6. Na3 Rb8 7. Bf3 Ngf6 8. Nxc4 e5) 5. ... Qxa8 6. f3 e5, when Black shows off some tricks of his own. If you want to do some homework on this position and keep it in your toolkit to combat the Spike, no one could criticize you. And it may be fun to see White change from smug to glum when he realizes that you have better piece development, along with an eventual safe haven for your most important piece, your king.

4. cxd5

Occasionally, even someone in the “chess elite” plays a “sick” line for surprise value. GM Hikaru Nakamura played 4. Qb3 here against GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in a rapid game last year and eventually drew. But Schwan’s move order is just about as good.

4. ... cxd5 5. Qb3

“All book,” Lee points out, “which I resolved to get my opponent out of with...”

5. ... Nc6!?



The very best theoretical response is 5. ... Nf6, when Stockfish 11 says Black is much

better—for example, 6. Qxb7 Nbd7 7. Nc3 e6 8. Nb5 Rc8 9. Qxa7 Ne4 10. Bxe4 dxe4 11. Qd4 Bf5 12. Nd6+ Bxd6 13. Qxd6 Rc2. But the game remains tricky. So, in a way that grandmaster chess psychologist and world champion Emanuel Lasker would have admired, Lee turns the tables on Schwan, playing his own “Lee Defense” for shock value. It’s a game between humans, after all, and, as a combat vet, Lee knows the value of surprise! White must now find the only move that doesn’t lead to a loss! There’s a general lesson in this. You may know the “book lines” to your openings. But: *Do your homework to know what to do if your opponent doesn’t follow book!*

6. Qxb7

White can’t resist the “poison pawn!” The classic admonishment against the cardinal sin of on-the-board greed: “*Never take the queen’s knight’s pawn!*” Of course, that’s an over-generalization. But caution should dominate. (A game on this theme that every ambitious chess player should play through is Boris Spassky-Robert Fischer, game seven of the 1972 World Championship match in Iceland.) Aron Nimzovich probably put it best: “*Never play to win a pawn while your development is yet unfinished.*”

The right move in our game is 6. Bxd5, after which Black plays 6. ... e6 with an approximately even game. (It’s crucial that Lee’s innovation doesn’t permit a response that gives Black a bad game.) After 7. Qxb7 exd5 8. Qxc6+ Bd7 9. Qxd5 Nf6, Lee writes: “Black has the bishop pair and superior development versus White’s having three pawn islands and a harassed Queen.” We should add that Black has a place to castle on the kingside, while White’s king looks drydocked on a semi-open center file.

In the eight million-game ChessBase database, there is only one game with the not yet christened “Lee Defense.” In Engelen (2073)-Soulie (1953), 2012, White found 6. Bxd5, and, instead of following the inventor’s recommendation, Black played 6. ... Qd7. He drew even after 7. Bxf7+.

6. ... Nd4 7. Na3 Nf6 8. e3

On 8. Nb5, Lee planned 8. ... Nxb5 9. Qxb5+ Bd7, “followed by ... e7-e6 and development is near complete.” A reasonable line, but 8. ... Rb8 or 8. ... Nc2+ is more decisive.

8. ... Rb8 9. Qxa7

(see diagram next column)

Lee: “Such is gluttony.”

Even after the more judicious 9. Qa6, Black is still better. For the rest of the game, Lee keeps a military grip on the win, playing moves that may not be Stockfish-sharp (whose are?) but still force a victory.



9. ... Nc6 10. Qc5 Nb4

Lee: “Threatening a family check.”

11. Bf1 e5!

Black uncovers an attack on the harassed queen, while taking total command of the center squares e4/d4/e5/d5.

12. Bb5+ Bd7 13. Bxd7+ Qxd7 14. Qc3



14. ... d4 15. exd4 exd4 16. Qg3 Qe6+ 17. Ne2 Bd6 18. Qb3 Qe4 19. Qa4+ Nd7



Even stronger was 19. ... Kf8! eliminating a later desperation-check.

20. Rg1 d3 21. Qd1

The only way to prevent mate.

21. ... Ne5 22. Rg3 dxe2 23. Qa4+ Ke7 (see diagram next column)

Again, 23. ... Kf8 prevents further distractions. Black is a piece up and threatens mate in two: 24. ... Nbd3+ 25. Rxd3 Nxd3 mate.

24. Re3

If 24. Qa7+, the simplest is again 24. ... Kf8. Then, if 25. Qe3 Qh1+ 26. Kxe2 Re8, Black’s



knight on e5 will move, uncovering a pin that wins queen for a rook.

24. ... Nbd3+, White resigned.



A discovered check, what Reuben Fine called “the dive bomber of the chessboard,” lights up the unprotected queen. If 25. Rxd3, then 25. ... Nxd3 mate!

Analyzing your own inspirations can pay big dividends. When Lee uncorked his own home-cooked defense, he wrote that “the muse Caissa smiled.” His inventive, psychological play made us smile too. ♠

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

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CHESS 9LX™

September 11-13, 2020*

Rounds Begin Daily
at **1:00pm** (Central Time)



September 15-19, 2020*

Rounds Begin Daily
at **1:00pm** (Central Time)



**SINQUEFIELD
CUP**

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

**Postponed until
Winter 2020**

*All tournament dates subject to change due to local COVID-19 guidelines.



Chess With Charlie

One of New Orleans' most beloved musicians is also a keen chess player, and his Instagram account proves it.

By **MICHAEL TISSERAND**

Charlie Gabriel had already done quite a bit by his twentieth birthday. Born in 1932, he was a fourth-generation jazz player growing up in the jazz city of New Orleans. At 11, he joined the Eureka Brass Band and started playing his clarinet and saxophone for everything from weddings to jazz funerals. At 14, he moved to Detroit and within a couple years found work with the famed vibraphonist Lionel Hampton, where he played alongside bassist Charles Mingus. In time, he'd be touring the world in Aretha Franklin's band.

But this wasn't the challenge that was facing Gabriel when he turned 20. That was the year he learned how to play chess.

"My oldest brother, August, was teaching his kids how to play chess," Gabriel remembers. "He said, 'Charlie, let me teach you this game.' 'Man,' I said, 'I don't have time to learn a game. I'm too busy playing this music.'"

Now 88 years old, Gabriel is speaking to me by phone from the home where he's been quarantined with his wife for the past several months, leaving only for occasional trips like the local drug store. Despite hardships, he speaks in a voice that is equal parts whisper and laugh, and

he plays though his stories of old days with unrelenting good humor.

Those initial chess lessons with his brother were more than six decades ago, but he remembers them well. From the start, he says, his nieces and nephews were tough. "They were whooping me!" he says with another laugh. But he kept at it. He never became a tournament player. He's not one for discussing favorite openings. But ask any traditional jazz musician in New Orleans and they'll tell you that a chess board is never far from Charlie Gabriel. "Everything I do is always involved in chess playing," he says.

His career in music has been long and storied. In Detroit, when Motown records opened, Gabriel played with the Funk Brothers, the house band that can be heard on many of the famed studio's greatest songs, from "My Girl" to "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." (Session players were frequently uncredited and, as Gabriel told Geraldine Wyckoff for New Orleans' *OffBeat Magazine*, he has played on so many records he can't remember them all.)

Although living in Detroit, Gabriel kept tabs on his family and friends in New Orleans. He watched as a new institution called Preservation Hall



took root in a tiny art gallery on St. Peter Street in the French Quarter. In 1960, a music-loving couple from Pennsylvania named Allan and Sandra Jaffe found their way to jazz shows being staged by the gallery owner, Larry Borenstein. Enraptured by what they heard, they moved to New Orleans and Preservation Hall was born. In addition to providing a rare venue for older traditional jazz players, Preservation Hall also became one of the few clubs in the South that openly featured racially

he had to return to New Orleans: August 29, 2005. "When Katrina hit New Orleans I was watching it on TV and I was crying like a baby," he said. "It just blew me off my feet. I always knew I was going to come back home and spend my last years playing music in New Orleans."

Thanks to Preservation Hall, he had a musical home to return to. When Ben Jaffe heard that Gabriel was looking to return to New Orleans, he eagerly brought him into the fold. That's also when Jaffe also

I always knew I was going to come back home and spend my last years playing music in New Orleans.

integrated bands. The Jaffes defied both Jim Crow laws and entrenched customs, even shaking off occasional threats of violence. Now in the hands of their son, tuba player Ben Jaffe, Preservation Hall has become a landmark for music-loving visitors and locals alike, with touring bands bringing its sound around the world.

Speaking to Wyckoff last year on the occasion of winning *OffBeat's* Lifetime Achievement in Music award, Gabriel recalled the day he knew

learned he was also bringing chess to Preservation Hall.

There's a long and distinguished history of jazz musicians and chess. Drummer Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers paid tribute to the game in Blakey's tune "The Chess Players." Trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie was an avid player, known to have played matches against everyone from saxophonist Charlie Parker to Billie Holiday to Ray Charles. And thanks to Charlie Gabriel, chess is now woven into the fabric of traditional jazz



TOP: GABRIEL AT WORK AND PLAY. BOTTOM LEFT: GABRIEL WATCHES A GAME BETWEEN KYLE ROUSEL AND JON BATISTE, BANDLEADER FOR THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT, AT BONNAROO. BOTTOM RIGHT: BEN JAFFE, CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND PERFORMER AT PRESERVATION HALL, TRIES HIS HAND. ALL PHOTOS FROM GABRIEL'S INSTAGRAM (@CHESS_WITH_CHARLIE) AND USED WITH PERMISSION.

in New Orleans.

"When I came back home, nobody in the band was playing chess, none of them," Gabriel says. "So I started showing them moves, showing them how to get out of situations. Every move has a counter-move. You got to look for that counter-move to win.

"Ben Jaffe, whoever wanted to learn, I taught them. Kyle Roussel the piano player, he fell in love with it," Gabriel laughs again. "I'm still the best in the band, but that's not saying much."

"It's a chance for us to leave the world behind for a couple hours and meditate on the next move," Ben Jaffe says of his chess dates with Gabriel. "I've played Charlie hundreds of times and the only times I've beaten him are when he gives me every move!"

Gabriel's home is a chess shrine, with ornate sets given to him by fans from around the world, including one so heavy that Gabriel says he can't lift it. His Instagram account, titled "Chess With Charlie," is as devoted to the game as it is to jazz. When Gabriel tours, he always packs along at least one set. When the Preservation Hall Jazz Band appeared at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee, Gabriel set up a game backstage and went head-to-head against Jon Batiste, the bandleader of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, who grew up playing chess in New Orleans. When musician Chancelor Bennet—who performs as Chance the Rapper—came across the games, he eagerly joined in as well.

One New Orleans musician whom Gabriel is still waiting to play is trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, an avid chess player whom Gabriel has known since Marsalis was a child. "I hope I have the opportunity to play a chess game with Wynton before I close my eyes," Gabriel says with a quieter laugh.

In New Orleans, one of Gabriel's favorite sparring partners is German-born saxophone player Martin Krusche, who leads the brass band Magnetic Ear. Before the quarantine, the two would regularly get together for games. It started casually enough but quickly grew competitive. "Chess drew Charlie to me because he usually doesn't lose many games, but with me he will," Krusche says. "The first few months, he didn't win a game. Then he became much stronger."

More recently, the wins and losses have started to even out a little more. It's hard to prepare against Gabriel; you just have to stay alert to the game. "Charlie's a rather open and adventurous player. He's not predictable, not by the book," Krusche says.

Gabriel says he welcomes a good loss. "I don't want to be whipped, but I don't mind being whipped," he says. In 2015, he joined the Preservation Hall band on a trip to Cuba that was memorialized in the documentary *A Tuba to Cuba*. They came across an older man in a park who was playing chess. Gabriel doesn't recall his name, but he still remembers the games. "That old guy beat the hell out of me," he says. "I enjoyed it though. You never lose, you never learn."

Every move has a counter-move. You got to look for that counter-move to win.

Other, more difficult, losses for both Gabriel and Preservation Hall have been mounting this year, as they have for all musicians and music clubs. Preservation Hall has been shuttered. On June 20, the club responded with a live-stream benefit titled "Round Midnight Preserves" to raise money to assist musicians. Special guests included Paul McCartney, Elvis Costello, and Dave Matthews.

A highlight of the online concert was a Zoom-style video of Gabriel's song "Come With Me." Gabriel first wrote the lyrics when he was trying to convince his then-fiancée Marsha to join him in his home city. It's a jaunty tune filled with promises of good times. For this performance, Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters joined Gabriel on vocals:

*Come with me to New Orleans
I'll show you a great time
All your dreams will come true
With me by your side*

It's a song about the kind of night you could once easily find by strolling through the doors of Preservation Hall, but it's now made more poignant because packing into an intimate jazz club will certainly be impossible for the foreseeable future. For the time being, both Preservation Hall and Charlie Gabriel are still searching for the best counter-move.

Gabriel, meanwhile, is also trying to get his chess game started again. Unaccustomed to playing online, he tried setting up a board and playing with Krusch via telephone, but didn't find it satisfying. Krusch has promised him he's going to find a way to get him on the internet, and that when he gets there, there will be plenty of games waiting for him.

Gabriel is eager for that day. "Chess has a lot to do with how you feel as a person," he says. "Chess is medicine, it keeps you healthy. All the beautiful things I know that I achieved, chess had a part of it." ♦



ABOVE: GABRIEL'S INSTAGRAM AVATAR AND ON THE COVER OF OFFBEAT MAGAZINE. BELOW: AT HOME WITH HIS WIFE MARSHA.



MAKE YOUR MOVE!

SEPTEMBER 2020 | FM CARSTEN HANSEN

This month's tactical puzzles are once more taken from a mix of online events and some of the traditional events that we now see returning in the parts of the world where COVID-19 has been mostly brought under control.

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

TACTIC I.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: OVERBURDENED PIECE

TACTIC II.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: COMBINING THREATS

TACTIC III.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: POOR COORDINATION

TACTIC IV.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: IS IT OBVIOUS OR NOT?

TACTIC V.



BLACK TO MOVE
HINT: OVERBURDENED DEFENDERS

TACTIC VI.



BLACK TO MOVE
HINT: TROPHY FISHING

TACTIC VII.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: REORGANIZE TO ATTACK

TACTIC VIII.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: CLEAR THE PATH

TACTIC IX.



WHITE TO MOVE
HINT: IDENTIFY BLACK'S WEAKNESSES, THEN STRIKE

SINGAPORE DEFEATS NEW YORK

IN ONLINE CHARITY CHESS CHALLENGE

By CC-SIM JUNIOR TAY



Over \$120,000 was raised for #ChessAgainstCovid charities.

Singaporean grandmaster Kevin Goh got his GM title minted by FIDE on April's Fools Day this year, just as the COVID-19 outbreak was picking up steam. He quickly became serious about making full use of the media attention on his title attainment to benefit those whose livelihoods have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, as well keeping the local chess scene vibrant while over-the-board (OTB) events were not allowed.

Beginning April 11, together with a team of local volunteers and a troop of young chess masters, the #ChessAgainstCovid charity drive started

livestreaming, holding online novelty events (Chess960, Bughouse, and Team battles) with chess masters from the past three decades showing up virtually to compete. Big scale simultaneous exhibitions were also held for local players to challenge grandmasters and top juniors. All of these events were widely reported on social media.

Beginner and grandmaster lectures also were held for interested learners and those with potential to excel at chess. All in all, about \$48,000 was raised by mid-May. One of the defining events, which was highly publicized in the press, was the Singapore versus Kazakhstan

Age Group battle. This was covered extensively by FIDE News and ChessBase India, as well as by Singapore's national newspaper, the *Straits Times*.

Kevin's friend GM Elshan Moradiabadi had read about the Singapore-Kazakhstan match and sent congratulations to the former about the successful implementation of the event. Soon the duo were scheming about the possibility of pairing Singapore with a team from the United States.

In mid-May, Elshan suggested New York as a good partner for a future match. Elshan had recently been part of a group of grandmasters (including Jeffery Xiong, Aleksandr Lenderman, and Andrey Gorovets) who had taken part in Chess In Action's program to raise proceeds for two charities: the Sino Professionals Association and the New York City Mayor's COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund "Food for Heroes."

The first name that came to Elshan's mind for New York chess was Professor Noah Chasin, the president of the famous Marshall Chess Club (MCC). Elshan had very recently met Noah's son Nico at a Pacific Northwest Chess Center rapid event and realized that the Marshall Chess Club, with its 400+ strong members on its roster, had the capability to rouse up the 36 players (per side) for such a match by the end of May. Noah replied swiftly, agreeing within a day to help muster up the numbers from Marshall Chess Club, and soon Bryan Quick (executive director of MCC) and GM Irina Krush were roped in to get suitable candidates for the event. As for the technical and logistic matters for the team, Junior Tay (Singapore) and MCC's assistant manager Carlos Chavez handled the issues.

From the Singapore side, besides inviting top local players to represent them in the Veterans and Adults category, those who had performed well at the Singapore versus Kazakhstan match were retained too. The rest were selected based on their Elo ratings as well as results from national events prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, former national players who had not played chess competitively in recent years also made a mini comeback for the purposes of this charity event.

Irina wanted to ensure that both sides, as much as possible, had roughly evenly rated players to make it an exciting contest. Emails flew back and forth to coordinate the pairings to make this happen. Within a week, when the roster was drawn up, it was clear that a quality match was shaping up, with nine GMs, 10 IMs, one WGM, nine FMs, two CMs, two WFMs and two WCMs involved.

It was also evident that some of the players from the New York team would be well known to their rivals. When we revealed the lineup to the 250+ strong Singaporean ChessAgainstCovid WhatsApp group, the excitement was palpable, with acknowledgements of well-known chess personalities such as GM John Fedorowicz, GM Joel Benjamin, GM Irina Krush, and even IM Carissa Yip (thanks to her beating world champion Ju Wenjun in February). Filipino GMs Mark Paragua and Oliver Barbosa, who are now based in New York, were also familiar names in the Asian chess scene.

Just before the match commenced, we also shared the Marshall Chess Club's rich chess heritage with the Whatsapp group, in particular how the late great Frank Marshall led the club for decades, and how its

distinguished members have included luminaries such as Bobby Fischer, Reuben Fine, Hikaru Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, and even Stanley Kubrick and Howard Stern. One nice factoid was how Fischer played a pioneer "remote play" event way back in 1965 via teletype from the Marshall for the Capablanca Memorial event in Havana, Cuba.

Kevin also managed to get Canadian GM Pascal Charbonneau to host the match from the popular chess server Chess24, together with British-Singaporean GM Daniel Howard Fernandez and WGM Sabina-Francesca Foisor serving as commentators. Besides guiding the players on the procedures required to take part in the match, Pascal also kindly arranged for all the players to get a one-month free Chess24 membership.

(What a guy!) As for those Singaporeans who did not use the Chess24 server, FM Andrey Terekhov and NM Olimpiu Urcan did livestreaming on Twitch.

The match commenced on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 10:15 p.m. Singapore time / 10:15 a.m. New York time, with players alternating colors in a two-game match with a G/15+10 time control. Each country fielded two veteran players, seven men, five boys U-20, five boys U-15, five boys U-12, three women, three girls U-20, three girls U-15, and three girls U-12, for a total of 36 boards for each side.

Both the New York and Singapore teams had to forfeit games on one board. On the Women's top board, Singapore's IM Li Ruofan got her games started against GM Krush but her connection went south in both games and hence was twice awarded losses. To Krush's credit, she immediately set up a challenge for a rematch and when Ruofan disconnected again, the American even suggested a shorter time control game instead so that they could contest fairly. However, it was not to be: the match went 2-0 to Krush by default. New York gave up two points,

too, as their U-12 board four could not show up for the event. And New York's GM Oliver Barbosa's internet connection went out for the first game.

As things transpired, round one was really close, with Singapore pipping New York 19-17. Singapore was absolutely outmatched in the veteran and adult women sections but managed to pip New York by a point in the other categories.

Perhaps thanks to the experience the Singapore team garnered from their loss to Kazakhstan (14-6 at match points), they played with more verve in the second round and this time, the gap widened.

The Americans claimed the Boys U-20 section though while the Veterans and Girls U-12 sections were fought to a draw. Singapore claimed the rest of the categories and the total game points score was 41-31 overall in favor of Singapore. In terms of match points, Singapore edged ahead 21-15.

GM Irina Krush joined in the livestream commentary and extended a rematch invitation to Kevin in the near future. We have no doubt the New York team will be beefed up the next time around if the rematch does occur!

Thanks to the challenge event, #ChessAgainstCovid raised about \$12,000 for the charity, bringing the total sum to \$60,000. As the Singapore government matched the charity, takings for the whole event thus garnered \$120,000 for the beneficiaries of Lakeside Family Service Centre.

READ MORE ON CHESS24.COM

For more on the match between Singapore and NY, and about the #chessagainstcovid charity:

The original story on Chess24:

<https://chess24.com/en/read/news/chess24-to-host-charity-match-between-singapore-and-nyc>

The match wrap at Chess24, including links to all games:

<https://chess24.com/en/read/news/singapore-victorious-in-charity-match-vs-nyc>

Archived live coverage of the event:

<https://youtu.be/TBajRigqzXE>

**MARSHALL GAMBIT (D31)**

IM Tin Jingyao (2464) (Above, left)
IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy (2425) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.5),
05.31.2020

IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy defended (more like counterattacked with) the Marshall Gambit on behalf of the Marshall Chess Club and took out Singapore's national champion IM Tin Jingyao convincingly.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. e4 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Qxd4

How appropriate—the Marshall Gambit defended by a staunch Marshall Chess Club member. And for good measure, his *Chess.com* handle is actually “Ostrovskiy-Marshalls”!

7. Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8. Be2 Na6 9. Ba5 b6 10. Qd6! bxa5?!

GM Dragan Paunovic considers this line dubious. 10. ... Bd7 is an alternative.

11. Rd1! f6 12. f3 Qe3 13. Qxc6+ Kf7 14. Qxa8 Ne7 15. Qe4

White retains a big advantage after 15. Nh3 e5 16. Nf2 f5 17. Rd6 Nb4 18. Nd3 Re8 19. Nxb4 axb4 20. Qb8 e4 21. fxe4 Qxe4 22. Qxa7 according to Paunovic.

15. ... Qb6 16. Nh3

A novelty by the Singaporean national serviceman. (All Singaporean males are required to serve two years in the armed forces after finishing their college education.) But it allows Black to seize the initiative.

Better is 16. Qd4! Nc5 and only now 17. Nh3 according to Ruslan Scherbakov.

16. ... Nf5 17. Rd2 Nc5 18. Qb1 Ne3!

The octopus establishes its tentacles. White is struggling to cope with Black's initiative.

19. Rg1 e5 20. Nf2 Bf5 21. Qc1 Rc8 22. Qc3

Perhaps 22. g4!? Bg6 23. h4 to stake some kingside space is better?

22. ... Ne6!

This redeployment with the idea of ... Nd4 is really troublesome for White.

23. Bd3?

White decides to ditch the c4-pawn to get rid of the light square bishop and hopefully quell the initiative. It isn't enough. Again 23. g4!? Bg6 with the idea of 24. Rg3 and 25. Bf1 is not easy to see, unless you are a cyborg.

23. ... Bxd3 24. Qxd3 Rxc4 25. Qd7+ Kf8 26. Qd6+

(See diagram top of next column)

26. ... Qxd6! 27. Rxd6

We have reached an ending with a material imbalance. Black's initiative still persists due to the tourist on g1.

**27. ... Rc1+ 28. Nd1 Nd4**

With the knights so active, one can sense a combination forthcoming, and the American IM finds a real stinger...

29. Kd2 Rxd1+!

The knights run riot and White can only watch them eat and eat.

30. Rxd1 Nc4+ 31. Kd3 Nxb2+ 32. Ke4 Nxd1 33. Ra6 Nc3+ 34. Ke3 Nxa2 35. Rxa5 Nb4 36. Rxa7 Nbc6

White has managed to clear all the queenside pawns but the knight pair soon takes over. Having an extra pawn helps too.

37. Rb7 Ne7 38. Ke4 Ne6 39. Ra7 f5+!

Faced with the bleak prospect of losing his kingside pawns as well after 40. Kd3 Nf4+, White decides to give up the rook and play the ending with pawn for knight.

40. Kxe5 Nc6+ 41. Kxe6 Nxa7 42. Kxf5 Kf7 43. h4 Nc6 44. g4 Ne7+ 45. Ke4 Ke6 46. f4 g6 47. h5 gxh5 48. gxh5 Kf6, White resigned.**FRENCH DEFENSE (C06)**

IM Carissa Yip (2420) (Above, left)
WGM Gong Qianyun (2333) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.9),
05.31.2020

When WGM Gong Qianyun frittered away a tempo (... Be7 and then ... Bd6 a few moves later) in a French Tarrasch against IM Carissa Yip, the latter massively overprotected the e5-square with a truckload of pieces and the Singaporean could not escape from the vice-like grip.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Be7

The main line here is 3. ... Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Ngf3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Bd3 cxd4 8. cxd4 f6 9. exf6 Nxf6 10. 0-0 Bd6 11. Re1 0-0. Keep this in mind as we see how the game progresses.

4. Ngf3 Nf6 5. e5 Nfd7 6. Bd3 c5 7. c3 Nc6 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Re1 f6 10. exf6 Nxf6 11. Nf1 cxd4 12. cxd4 Bd6?!

Black is now a tempo down compared to the line shown above with ... Bd6. As GM Kevin Goh indicated, the right plan is 12. ... Qb6 with ... Bd7, ... Kh8, and ... Rae8 to follow.

13. Bd2

White is better.

13. ... Bd7 14. Bc3

This move should be reserved for after Black plays ... Qb6. White can consider useful waiting moves such as Rc1 or a3 then Rc1

14. ... Qb6?!

And then again, Black obliges...

Better is 14. ... Nh5 15. N1d2 (or 15. g3 Qf6 16. N1d2 g6) 15. ... a5 (15. ... Qf6 16. g3 g6 17. Qe2 Rf7 18. Ne5 Bxe5 19. dxe5 Qe7 20. Nb3) 16. g3 g6 17. Bb5 Qe7 18. a4 Ng7 19. Bxc6! Bxc6 20. Ne5 with a pull for White.

15. a3 Rae8 16. Ng3

It's not easy to do anything active here for Black.

16. ... g6 17. Qd2

(See diagram top of next page)

17. ... Qc7?

Perhaps 17. ... Rf7 with the idea of ... Ref8 (as well as covering the 7th rank) should be tried, while the immediate 17. ... Ng4 runs into 18. Qg5!.

18. Ne5!



Commencing the big squeeze. Carissa focuses on boxing in the black pieces, removing any chance of counterplay.

18. ... Bc8 19. Re2

Preparing an overprotection of the e5-strongpoint and covering the f2-pawn in advance.

19. ... Qg7 20. Rae1 Bc7 21. b4 Nxe5?

Qianyun decides to fish for counterplay on the kingside instead of waiting to be slowly but surely squashed. But her passive setup dooms her.

22. dxe5 Ng4 23. Bd4!

Taking away the ... Bb6 option as well.

23. ... a6 24. h3 Nh6 25. Qc1

Another multi-purpose move, threatening Rec2 and forcing Black to keep an eye on the queenside as well.

25. ... Bb8 26. Kh1

What's the hurry? The initiative isn't going away anytime soon.

26. ... Bd7 27. Bc5 Rf7 28. Be3!

With this direct threat, White exposes the chronic dark-square weaknesses on the black kingside.

28. ... Nf5 29. Nxf5 gxf5 30. Bh6 Qg6 31. Re3

The beginning of the end.

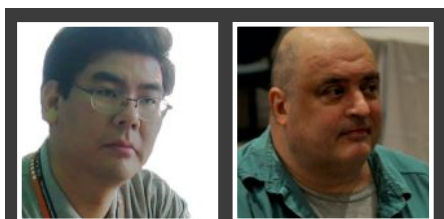
31. ... Kh8

Perhaps Black's best chance is 31. ... Rc8 32. Qd2 Qxh6 33. Rg3+ Qg6! 34. Rxc6+ hxc6 This is worse for Black of course, but in a rapid game it's as good a try as any.

32. Rg3 Qh5 33. Qf4

Even more decisive is 33. Be2 Qh4 34. Bg5 Qd4 35. Bh5.

33. ... Rfe7 34. Be2 Qf7 35. Bg5 h6 36. Bxe7, Black resigned.



SICILIAN NAJDORF (B80)

GM Wong Meng Kong (2250) (Above, left)
GM John Fedorowicz (2413) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.11),
05.31.2020

The famous Bronx GM John Fedorowicz demonstrated classy Sicilian Scheveningen motifs (10. ... Re8!? and 15. ... d5!) and by move 20, Singaporean GM Wong Meng Kong was already in serious trouble.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. g3 e6 7. Bg2 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. h3 Qc7 10. g4 Re8!?



This novelty is a typical Scheveningen motif, seeking to find the right moment to play (a) ... d5 or (b) ... e5 and then ... d5 or (c) simply to drop back the bishop to f8 with the (more

exotic) idea of ... f5 when White commences a kingside pawn storm.

11. Be3 Nc6 12. Nde2?!

Usually, White's setup is prefaced with a2-a4 and Nd4-b3 to restrain Black's ... Nxd4 or ... b5 ideas. 12. g5 Nd7 13. f4 is the principled continuation with a kingside space grab. Other ideas are 12. Nb3 and 12. a4 Bf8 13. Nb3.

12. ... b5!

The Fed isn't afraid of shenanigans on the long diagonal after e4-e5.

13. Ng3 Bb7 14. a4? b4 15. Nce2



15. ... d5!

Another great point of ... Re8! Just 16 moves into the opening, it is not too late to say that White is already in serious trouble. His center is crumbling and his central pieces are stuck in a traffic jam, getting in each other's way.

16. exd5 Nxd5 17. Bxd5

A move that White doesn't really want to play but it appears to allow White to stabilize the position ...

17. ... Rad8!

Completing development with aplomb. Now Black has both the center and an enduring initiative. Meng Kong probably analyzed 17. ... exd5 18. Nd4 to block the light-square bishop.

18. Bf4 Qc8 19. c4 bxc3 e.p. 20. Nxc3 exd5 21. Nxd5?

I remember playing for the Singapore team with Meng Kong at the 1995 Asian Teams Championship. When he reached a lost position against GM Nenashev (now Graf) after 15 moves or so, he basically went for broke, saying "worst case scenario, I can beat the rush hour traffic get an early dinner at home..."

The try 21. Re1 is met by 21. ... d4 when it is only a matter of time before the b7-bishop will exert itself.

21. ... Bc5 22. Rc1 Nd4

Virtually forcing White to cough up material.

23. Qxd4

After 23. Ne3 Qc6 24. f3 Ne6, there is no escape for the bishop.

23. ... Bxd4 24. Rxc8 Rxc8 25. Nf5

Time to mop up.

25. ... Bxd5 26. Nxd4 Rc4 27. Be3 Rxa4 28. Rc1 Rc4 29. Ra1 Bb7 30. b3 Rc3 31. Ra4 h6 32. Rb4 Bc8 33. Rb6 Kh7 34. Kg2 Re7 35. b4 Rd7 36. b5 axb5 37. Rxb5 Rd3 38. Rb4 Bb7+ 39. Kg3 Bd5 40. Ne2 Rd1 41. Nf4 Bb7 42. h4 Rg1+ 43. Kh3 Rh1+ 44. Kg3 Rg1+ 45. Kh3 Rc7 46. Ne2 Rh1+ 47. Kg3 Ba6 48. Nf4 Rg1+ 49. Kh3 Bf1+ 50. Kh2 Rxc4 51. Nd5 Rxb4 52. Nxb4 Rc4, White resigned.



JUST ONE SLIP

Dan Lapan (2220) (Above, left)
IM Chan Peng Kong (2142) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.12),
05.31.2020

After a tough Maroczy Bind tussle, IM Chan Peng Kong took his eye off the ball and walked headlong into a bishop shot that threatened an unstoppable double-attack.



A protracted battle in the Maroczy Bind reached this ending with White's bishop pair compensating for Black's better center. After one slip by Black it was all over for the Singaporean IM.

27. ... Kg8?

Black is not interested in simplifying but he is horribly exposed on the light squares after White's next move.

27. ... Rxc1 28. Rxc1 Rh8 is equal.

28. Rxc8! Rxc8 29. Bg4

... and it transpires he cannot stop the deadly Bg4-e6 threat effectively.

29. ... Rc3+ 30. Bxc3

White is clearly winning.

30. ... Nxc3 31. Be6+ Kh7 32. Bb3 b5 33. a5 d5 34. Re1 Bf6 35. Re6 Ne4 36. Rxa6, Black resigns.



FRENCH WINAWER (C18)

FM Jason Liang (2340) (Above, left)
IM Liu Xiangyi (2377) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.13),
05.31.2020

IM Liu Xiangyi was constantly on the backfoot after FM Jason Liang tortured him for 30+ moves in a protracted maneuvering French Winawer. The Singaporean seized on an Exchange sacrifice to confuse the issue and Liang failed to adjust psychologically to the loss of the initiative.

1. e4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Ba5 6. b4 cxd4 7. Nb5 Bc7 8. f4 Nc6 9. Nf3 f6 10. Bd3 Bb8 11. Nbx d4 f5 12. Be3 Nge7 13. O-O O-O 14. h3 a6 15. Kh2 Bd7 16. Qe1 Ng6 17. Nb3 Bc7 18. Qf2 Kh8 19. Rad1 b5 20. Nc5 Qe8 21. Kh1 Nd8 22. Qe2 Nf7 23. Nd4 Nh6 24. Ra1 Bb6 25. Ndb3 Bxc5 26. Nxc5 Bc6 27. Bd4 Qf7 28. Kh2 Qe7 29. g3 Rfb8

White has slowly but surely put a lid on Black's attempts to seek counterplay in this French. Now he presses on the queenside with...

30. a4!

A clever breakthrough. White has no intention of recapturing the pawn and giving Black counterplay down the b-file. He just plays around the a-pawn and continues to improve his position.

30. ... bxa4 31. Nxa6

White's task is harder after 31. Nxa4 Bxa4 32. Rxa4 Rxb4 33. Rxb4 Qxb4.

31. ... Rc8 32. Nc5 Nf8 33. Ra3 Nd7 34. Rfa1

Very Karpov-esque, building White's queenside initiative.

34. ... Nxc5 35. Bxc5 Qd7 36. b5 Bb7 37. Bd4



The Singaporean IM realizes he has to somehow gin up counterplay or he will be slowly ground down on the queenside.

37. ... Rc4! 38. c3!

White continues to ignore the rook offer and correctly so. 38. Bxc4?! dxc4 39. c3 (39. Qxc4? Rc8 40. Qd3?? and Black is winning after 40. ... Be4) 39. ... Qxb5 and things have become very random.

38. ... Qxb5 39. Rb1! Qc6 40. Qb2 Ba6 41. Qb6?

Now it is actually the right time to take the Exchange as White can seize the long white diagonal as well. But things are easier in post-mortem than actual play itself, of course. With 41. Bxc4 dxc4 42. Qg2! Qc8 43. Rb4 Black is just lost.

41. ... Qe8!

The a-pawn is becoming a nuisance. Now if

White doesn't take on c4, he will just be worse.

42. Bxc4 Bxc4 43. Rb4 Bf1

Black is threatening ... Qh5.

44. Rb1?

The engine churns the improvement 44. Ra1 Bd3 45. Qc7 Qh5 46. Rb8+ Rxb8 47. Qxb8+ Ng8 48. Qb2.

44. ... Bd3

White has an arduous defensive task and with little time left, Liang loses his way.

45. Rd1?

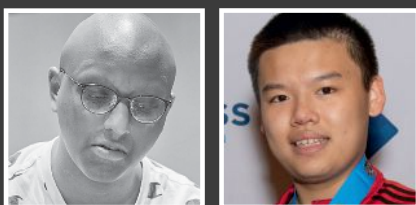


An engine could hold this after 45. Rb4 Qh5 46. Rbxa4 Rg8 47. Ra8 Bf1 48. Rxb8+ Nxb8 when White simply defends calmly with 49. Qb2 Qxh3+ 50. Kg1 Bd3 51. Qf2 and Black has at best equal chances.

45. ... Be4!

There is no stopping ... Qh5 and ... Ng4 with an unstoppable attack.

46. Raa1 Qh5 47. Re1 Ng4+ 48. Kg1 Qxh3 49. Rxe4 Qxg3+ 50. Kf1 fxe4 51. Rxa4 Qf3+ 52. Ke1 Rf8 53. Kd2 Qd3+ 54. Kc1 e3 55. Qd6 Rg8 56. Qxe6 Qd2+ 57. Kb1 e2 58. Qxg8+ Kxg8 59. Ra8+ Kf7 60. e6+ Kg6 61. f5+ Kh5 62. e7 e1=Q, mate.



CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS DEFENSE (D52)

FM Ashvin Sivakumar (2172) (Above, left)
FM Vincent Tsay (2310) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.14),
05.31.2020

When FM Ashvin Sivakumar shifted his pieces to the black kingside, I thought FM Vincent Tsay would have a torrid time trying to hold out. The American coolly dug in, held strong on the kingside, and slowly but surely advanced his queenside majority to claim victory.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. e3 Qa5 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. Qd2 Bb4 9. Rc1 h6 10. Bh4 b6 11. Bd3 Ba6 12. O-O O-O 13. e4 Nxc3?!

13. ... Bxd3 14. Qxd3 Nxc3 15. bxc3 Ba3 16. Rb1 Bd6 17. e5 Bc7 18. c4 Bd8= Black can equalize with relative ease according to Vuckovic.

14. bxc3 Ba3 15. Rcd1 Rfe8 16. e5!? Be7?

The Black kingside is a trifle porous after this trade.

Instead he should play the Stenitzian knight retreat 16. ... Nf8 17. Qe2 Bxd3 18. Rxd3 Qa4. Now Stockfish 11 demonstrates the flamboyant 19. Bf6!? Ng6! (Not 19. ... gxf6 20. exf6 Ng6 21. Ne5 Bd6 22. f4 and Black will get crushed on the

kingside) when White just keeps feeding pieces into the attack, i.e. 20. Nh4 gxf6 21. Rg3 Kh7 22. exf6 Qa5 23. Qe4 Rg8 24. Nxc6 fxc6 25. Qxc6 Rad8 26. Qc7+ Kh8 27. Rh3 h5 28. Qf4 Kh7 29. g4 Qd5 and suddenly an even double rook ending materializes following 30. c4 Qxd4 31. Qxd4 Rxd4 32. Rxa3 Rxc4+ 33. Kh1.

17. Bxa6 Qxa6 18. Rfe1 Rad8 19. Re4 Nf8

20. Rg4 Ng6 21. Bxe7 Rxe7 22. h4! Kh8

Black calmly curls up and asks White to do his worst...

23. h5 Nf8



This will make a very good training exercise for students. How should White continue his attack? Is it better to send pieces in or to use pawns to pry open the kingside?

24. Qf4

Ashvin sets up the dastardly threat of 25. Rxc7 and tries to bring in the heavies to crash through. As any tennis player knows, however, the tricky part about serving and volleying is that it leaves the baseline rather airy...

White should focus on the f4-f5 break here

instead with 24. Nh4! Nh7 (or 24. ... Rc7 25. f4 Qc8 26. Rf1 Nh7 27. f5 exf5 28. Nxf5 Rg8 29. Qf4 Qe6 30. Rf2 with a large advantage for White) 25. f4 Qc8 26. Rf1 Qd7 27. Qd3 b5 (no better is 27. ... c5 28. Qg3 Rg8 29. f5 when White crashes through) 28. f5! exf5 29. Nxf5 Ng5 with a serious White advantage.

24. ... Nh7! 25. Rd2 Qc4?!

The queen is susceptible to d4-d5 tricks from here. 25. ... Qa3! is a better square to harass White from, giving Black enough to keep White busy.

26. Qg3 Rg8 27. d5! Qxc3 28. d6?!

This does get a protected passed pawn but Black is more interested in trudging his queenside majority home.

White does better to create light square weaknesses with 28. dxe6! Qc1+ 29. Kh2 fxe6 30. Nh4 Nf8 31. Rd8 Rf7 32. Qb3 Qc5 33. f4 b5 34. Qf3 Qb6 35. Rc8 when Black's pieces are too uncoordinated to hold out.

28. ... Rd7 29. Rdd4?

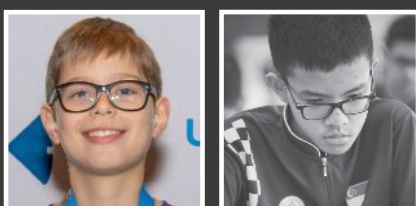
Giving Black a tempo to get Charlie the c-pawn moving.

29. ... c5 30. Rc4 Qa1+ 31. Kh2 Qxa2 32. Rcf4 Qb3

Despite the impressive accumulation of kingside forces, there is no way through.

33. Qh4 b5 34. Rg3 Qb2 35. Rgg4 a5 36. Re4 a4 37. Ne1 a3 38. Nd3 Qc3 39. Rg3 a2 40. Nf4 a1=Q 41. Rxc3 Qxc3 42. Re3 Qd4 43. Kg1 b4 44. g3 b3!, White resigned.

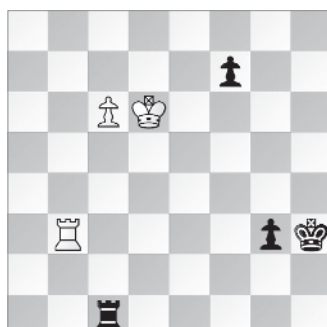
Nice cold-blooded defense by Vincent.



THE LAST MISTAKE

Jack Levine (1882) (Above, left)
Zhenyong Jayden Wong (2088) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (1.21),
05.31.2020

The popular phrase "he who makes the last mistake loses" applies to Jack Levine's loss to Jayden Wong. Here Levine understandably missed a nice drawing idea in a protracted rook and pawn ending.



BLACK TO PLAY

65. ... Kh2

Jack and Jayden fought all the way to a rook ending and the evaluation bar on the chess24.com swung between winning and drawn for Black throughout the last 20 moves. However, it's the last mistake that counts in quickplay...

66. Rb5??

White has to play 66. Rf3! g2 67. Rxf7 g1=Q 68. Rh7+ Kg2 69. Rg7+ Kf2 70. Rxcg1 and he can take home half a point.

66. ... g2

Black can't try to trade the rooks in an effort to win: 66. ... Rd1+ 67. Rd5! Rxd5+ 68. Kxd5 g2 69. c7 g1=Q 70. c8=Q is a tablebase draw.

67. Rh5+ Kg3!

If instead White had played 67. ... Kg1?, impeding the pawn's path, Black had multiple paths to a draw.

68. Rg5+ Kf3 69. c7 f6!

Now it's over.

70. Rg6 f5 71. Kd7 f4, White resigned.

**QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E18)**

IM Hsu Li Yang (2427) (Above, left)
IM David Brodsky (2455) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com (2.4),
05.31.2020

When it comes to space gaining and exerting continual pressure, it isn't surprising that the more senior players demonstrated model games. Here IM and Dr. Hsu Li Yang shows us how it is done.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Bb7 5. Bg2 Be7 6. O-O O-O 7. Nc3 Ne4 8. Bd2 Bf6 9. Rc1 Nxd2 10. Qxd2 d6 11. e4

The main line is 11. d5.

11. ... Nd7 12. Rfd1 g6

Black maintains flexibility for now, and looks for a more opportune time to play ... c5 or ... e5.

13. Qe2

White is in no hurry either.

13. ... Bg7 14. b3 Qe7

Black continues to shadowbox.

It is a good time as any to play 14. ... c5 or 14. ... e5, though White's spatial plus gives him a slight edge anyway.

15. e5

Li Yang decides to stake his central claim first.

15. ... dxe5!? 16. Nxe5 Bxg2 17. Kxg2 Rfe8?!

After Black's refusal to trade the Ne5, it's time for massive suffering.

Based on positional grounds, it would seem a tad crazy to play 17. ... Nxe5 18. dxe5 when the black bishop is kind of shut in by the e5-pawn wedge, and if rooks are traded off, White gets the dreaded queen and knight tandem. However, modern engines demonstrate that Black can swiftly undermine White's e5-strongpoint and create enough counterplay to nullify his subsequent pawn structure issues.

18. Nc6!

The knight lodges itself onto this square to torture Black for almost the whole game.

18. ... Qd6 19. Qf3 a6 20. b4 Qf8 21. a4

(See diagram top of next column)



This reminded us of FM Wong Foong Yin's play three decades ago. We used to get tortured by "Yinz" in Singaporean events or casual blitz—he would just take square after square and usurp more and more space while keeping his pawn structure immaculate. We still frequently watch his online games often as he snuffs out his opponents slowly. Among today's players, Li Yang has the most similar style to Foong Yin.

21. ... e5

Black tries to find counterplay in the center, but this was what Li Yang was waiting for: a chance to latch onto the d5-outpost.

22. dxe5

Even stronger is 22. Nd5 but Li Yang prefers keep a nagging slight edge.

22. ... Nxe5 23. Nxe5 Bxe5 24. Nd5 Re6 25. Rd3



25. ... Ra7?!

This is a clever attempt to evict the d5-knight by getting the rook out of the knight's way, but the positional concessions makes Black's subsequent defensive task even harder.

At first, the engine's choice of 25. ... a5 doesn't make sense. After all, 26. b5 merely ensures that the Nd5 can never get booted off its excellent outpost. However, after 26. ... Rae8 27. Re3 Kg7 28. Rce1 Qd6, there is no clear way for White to improve his position substantially. This is where (besides their superior calculative skills) the computer engines vastly outstrip we humans. We will reject moves that concede permanent positional concessions, and we tire and blunder after arduous defending for a long

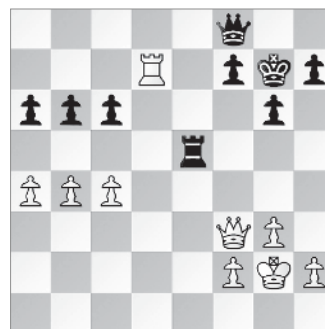
time. Engines have no such issues of course, and can keep the game going without missing a tactical beat.

26. Re1 c6 27. Rxe5!

White doesn't need the knight to maintain his edge as he exchanges one advantage for another. Now it's active pieces against passive ones, and Black is still saddled with queenside pawn weaknesses.

After 27. Nxb6?! Qxb4 28. Nc8 Qxe1 29. Nxa7 Black is clearly out of the woods and can even play for the win after 29. ... Rf6.

27. ... Rxe5 28. Nf6+ Kg7 29. Nd7 Rxd7 30. Rxd7



White now threatens 31. Qc3 and it's pure suffering for Black.

30. ... Re7

The best counter, as pointed out by GM Kevin Goh, is 30. ... c5! and after 31. bxc5? bxc5 32. a5 h5 33. Qc3 Qa8+ 34. Qf3 Qf8 35. Rb7 Rf5 36. Qc3+ Kh7 chances are even. White should instead play 31. a5! when Black is in hot water after 31. ... bxa5? 32. bxc5 Qe8 (A very long and unforcing variation follows with 32. ... Rxc5 33. Qc3+!) 33. c6 Rc5 34. Qc3+ Qe5 35. Qxe5+ Rxe5 36. Rd5 Re6 37. Rc5 and White will win.

31. Rd6

White won't agree to a rook trade as after 31. Qxc6?! Rxd7 32. Qxd7 Qxb4 Black is back in business.

31. ... Re8 32. Qf6+ Kg8 33. c5!

Ensuring that the c- and a-pawns will fall while White's own queenside pawns remain intact.

33. ... bxc5 34. bxc5 Qh6

For the price of the c-pawn, Black tries for counterplay.

35. Rxc6 Qd2 36. Rd6

Time to to run the c-pawn home.

36. ... Qa5 37. c6 Qxa4 38. c7 Qe4+ 39. Qf3 Qe7 40. Qc6 Rc8 41. Rd7 Qe8 42. Qd5, Black resigned.

A stylish squeeze and suffocation by the Singaporean legend.



BENONI DEFENSE (A70)

Rachael Li (1939) (Above, left)
WFM Liu Yang Hazel (2046) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com
(210), 05.31.2020

WFM Liu Yang took advantage of Rachael Li's unfamiliarity with the Delayed Benoni (holding back ... exd5) to equalize easily. The loosening of the kingside with g2-g4 by Rachael gave Yang the edge and subsequently Rachael sacrificed a pawn to stabilize her position. This sufficed for the Singaporean to convert the ending.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 c5 4. d5 e6 5. Nc3 d6 6. e4 Bg7 7. Bd3

The move 7. h3 now or on the next move are the principled continuations for White to play for a slight pull.

7. ... 0-0 8. 0-0?! exd5 9. cxd5 Bg4

9. ... a6 10. a4 Bg4 is a tad more accurate.

10. Bf4

10. h3 Bxf3 11. Qxf3 a6 12. a4 Nbd7 13. Bf4 Qc7 and as GM Goran Ivanesevic put it, "all Black's pieces are developed at their natural positions."

10. ... Nh5! 11. Be3 Nd7 12. h3?!

Why use up a tempo to force the issue when

Black is already committed to the exchange sooner or later?

12. ... Bxf3! 13. Qxf3 f5!?

A temporary pawn sacrifice to put immediate pressure on the White kingside.

White went down quickly in a prior game after 13. ... Ne5! 14. Qe2 Qh4! 15. Qd2 Nxd3 16. Bg5?? (16. Qxd3 is comfortable for Black with ideas of ... f5, ... Be5 or ... Rae8 and with a better game.) 16. ... Bxc3! 17. bxc3 Qxe4 and Black is a piece up in Salama (2254)-Abasov (2627), Porto Carras, 2018.

14. exf5 Ne5 15. Qe2 Nxd3 16. Qxd3 Rxf5 17. g4?

The impulse of youth. White seeks to displace the black pieces and gain some space but her kingside becomes porous as a result.

More prudent is 17. Qc4 a6 (17. ... Qf6 18. Rae1 Rf8 19. a4 Nf4 20. Ne4 Qe5 21. b3 R5f7 22. Bxf4 Rxf4 with equal chances.) 18. a4 Qe7 19. Rae1 Raf8 20. Bh6 Qd7 21. Bxg7 Qxg7 22. Qh4 and it's probably about equal. White can also play on the queenside with 17. Rad1 Qd7 18. Qc4 Re8 19. b4 b6 20. bxc5 bxc5 when things are also equal.

17. ... Nf4 18. Bxf4 Rxf4 19. Rae1 Be5!

Denying White the use of the e6 square and asserting total control over f4. The weak dark squares around the white king are quite telling.

20. Ne2?

White has to dig in with 20. Kg2 Qb6 21. Qc2 Raf8 22. f3 Rb4 23. Re2 and Black has the initiative, though it is still not easy to put White away.

20. ... Rf7

Stockfish demonstrated the tempo gaining 20. ... Ra4! 21. a3 Qh4 22. Kg2 Rf8 with a powerful attack.

21. b3 Qh4 22. f4



Rather than trying to hold the dark-square weaknesses, the American youngster decided to ditch a pawn to remove the dark-square bishop.

22. ... Bxf4! 23. Nxf4 Rxf4 24. Rxf4?

One trade too many.

After 24. Qe3! Raf8 25. Rxf4 Rxf4 26. Re2 Rf7 27. Qc3 Rf8 28. Qe3 Black has problems converting her advantage.

24. ... Qxe1+ 25. Rf1 Qe7 26. Qf3 Rf8!

Vacuuming everything off. Both king and pawn or queen endings are winning for Black.

27. Qxf8+??

Making things simpler for Black. To be fair, 27. Qd3 Qe5 should be winning for Black too.

27. ... Qxf8 28. Rxf8+ Kxf8 29. g5 b5 30. Kf2 b4 31. Ke3 Ke7 32. Kd3 Kd7 33. Kc2 Kc7 34. Kd2 Kb6 35. Ke3 Kb5 36. Kd3 a6, White resigned.



TACTICS!

IM Liu Xiangyi (2377) (Above, left)
FM Jason Liang (2340) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com
(213), 31.05.2020

Now it's Jason Liang's turn to demonstrate defensive acumen as Xiangyi missed chances to detonate his knight on the f7-square.

(See diagram top of next column)

15. ... b6



Black was outplayed in the opening and his opponent mounted a ferocious attack. Now Jason tries to resist the kingside incursion that the Singapore IM throws at him.

16. Bh6 Bf8 17. Qe4!

By hitting on c6, White gains a tempo to further weaken Black's kingside.



17. ... Bb7 18. Ng5 g6 19. Bxf8

Missing 19. Nxf7! Kxf7 20. Qf4+ Kg8 21. Bxe6+ Kh8 22. Qf6+ Bg7 23. Qxg7 mate. Black has to play 19. ... Bxh6 20. Qh4 (After 20. Nxb6+ Kg7, simplest is 21. Ng4 when Black is one pawn down and still unable to get forces over to the kingside) 20. ... Rxd1 21. Nxb6+ (if 21. Rxd1 Bg7 White is winning) 21. ... Kg7 22.

Rxd1 but this is crushing for White.

19. ... Rxd1 20. Rxd1 Rxf8 21. Qh4 h5



Jason still has more trials to endure.

22. Nxe6

Nowhere near as decisive as the detonation on f7. Now White is forced to find some difficult moves just to maintain the attack.

Once again, 22. Nxf7!+ wins; after 22. ... Rxf7 23. Bxe6 Qxe5 24. Qc4 Qf6 25. Bxf7+

Qxf7 26. Qxf7+ Kxf7 27. Rd7+ White mops up.

22. ... fxe6 23. Bxe6+

After this, the attack fizzled out.

23. Qg5! (A quiet queen shift following a sacrifice—not something easily calculated out for sure!) 23. ... Qxe5 24. Qxg6+ Qg7 25. Qxe6+ (25. Bxe6+ looks good but peters out to equality) 25. ... Kh8 26. Rd5 lets White continue to press.

23. ... Kg7 24. Rd7+ Kh6

The worst is over for Black as the king finds safety on h6!

25. f4??

Giving Black a chance to counterattack, and unfortunately for White, it is an immediate kill.

The only way to sustain the initiative is 25. Qe4 and now 25. ... Qc3 26. h4 Bc8 27. Rc7 Bxe6 28. Rxc6 Qa1+ 29. Kh2 Qxa2 30. c4 when all three results remain possible.

25. ... Qc5+ 26. Kh1?



26. Qf2 is losing anyway.

26. ... Qxe5!

Jason's tenacity paid off.

27. Bf7

Naturally 27. fxe5 fails to 27. ... Rf1 mate.

27. ... Qa1+, White resigned.



BREAKTHROUGH

Khushi Choksi (1706) (Above, left)
Kelsey Liu (1488) (Above, right)
New York vs. Singapore chess24.com
(2.30), 31.05.2020

Khushi Choksi demonstrated a textbook example of the thematic IQP d5-break to win a piece cleanly.

(See diagram top of next column)

14. Rfd1

In a standard Alapin Sicilian where Black has managed to lose a couple of tempi, White demonstrated great textbook application of



WHITE TO PLAY

how to play with the Isolated Queen's Pawn.

14. ... Bb8?

Mandatory is 14. ... Nd5. Now comes a powerful demonstration of the thematic IQP d4-d5 push and subsequent use of the initiative.

15. d5! exd5?

Black has to play 15. ... Ne7 although 16. Bb5 or 16. dxe6 are both good for White.

16. Nxd5

Black has no answer to the powerful accumulation of central forces.

16. ... Qf5?

Also insufficient are 16. ... Qd6 17. Bc5 and 16. ... Qe8 17. Nxf6+ gxf6 18. Qxb7.

17. Rxc6! Nxd5

Not 17. ... bxc6 18. Ne7+.

18. Rxc8 Rxc8 19. Qxd5 Qxd5 20. Rxd5 Bg6 21. Rc5

And the rest is just mopping up.

21. ... Re8 22. Rc1 h6 23. Rd1 Kh7 24. Bd3 Bxd3 25. Rxd3 Re7 26. Kf1 f5 27. Rd8 Bc7 28. Ra8 a6 29. Rf8 Kg6 30. Nh4+ Kh5 31. Nxf5 Rd7 32. Nd4 Kg6 33. Ne6 Ba5 34. Ke2 Rd6 35. Nf4+ Kh7 36. Rf7 b6 37. Nh5 Rg6 38. Bd4 Re6+ 39. Kd3 Kg6 40. Rxd7+ Kxh5 41. f3 b5 42. Bf2 Rg6 43. g4+ Kg5 44. h4+ Kf6 45. Bd4+, Black resigned ♠

PHOTOS

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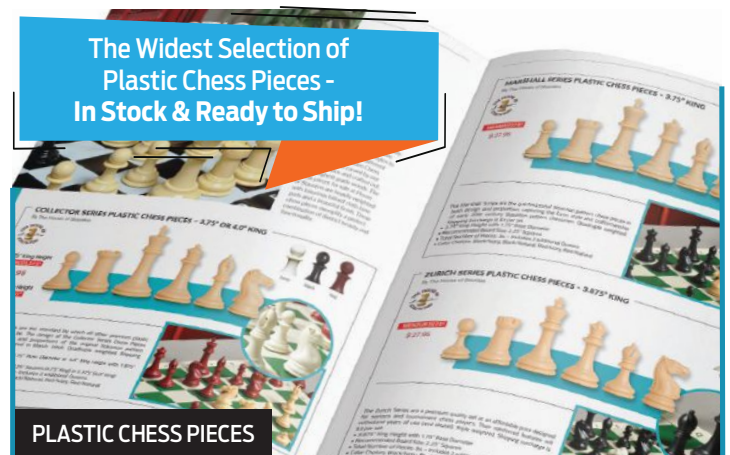
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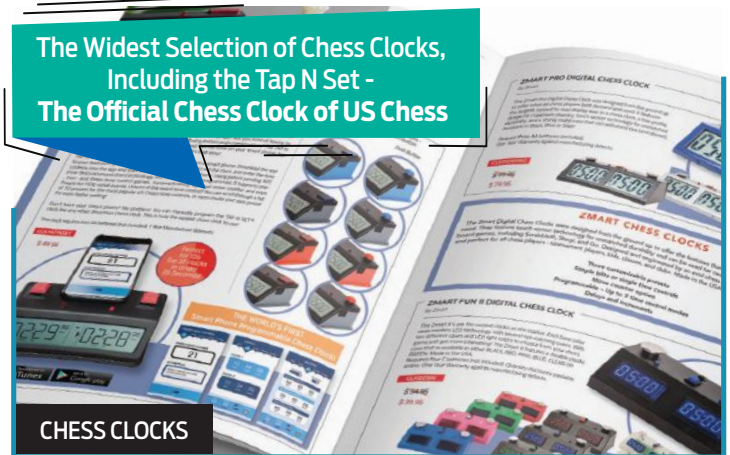
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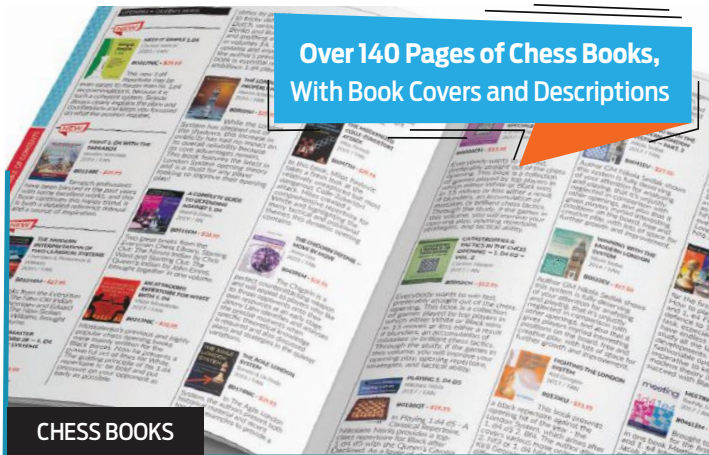
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Saleem Wins 2020 Iowa Closed Championship

Played with COVID-19 precautions in place, the Iowa Closed appears to be the first OTB State Championship contested since the pandemic began.

By **ARSHAQ SALEEM**

The 2020 Iowa Closed Championship was *easily* the most peculiar over-the-board event I have ever played in.

Originally scheduled for April, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to change plans. After much discussion and thought, the tournament took place over three days on two separate weekends (June 27-28 and July 11, 2020) and in two venues (Christ the King Lutheran Church in Iowa City, Iowa and the Marriott in Coralville, Iowa).

Iowa uses a qualifying system to determine who will play in the Closed. Specially tagged qualifying events are held across Iowa, and players earn points on the basis of their results in those events. Five of the top point finishers are joined by the defending state champion to play in a round robin to determine the Iowa Chess Champion.

For this year, in a nod to the havoc wrought by the pandemic on our tournament schedule, two players were added to the mix. The Iowa Denker champion, Michael Takahashi, was invited to play in the Closed, along with Iowa Senior champion Robert Reynolds. They joined returning champion Arshaq Saleem (i.e., me) and the five qualifiers—Owen Fierdorowicz, Tim McEntee, James Neal, Anjaneya Rao, and Alex Richter—to make up the eight player field.

Chief TD Eric Vigil and Assistant James Hodina, together with organizer IA Bill Broich, did a fantastic job of ensuring the players' health and safety. Eric has over 30 years of experience as a military/civilian nurse and James works with the Linn County Public Health Department. They used their expertise to meticulously plan out the event in such a way that the risk to the players was minimized.



IT'S A BRAVE NEW WORLD.

Eric told me that “the low density of players in a fairly large space made the tournament possible. Running tournaments where you have to pay for space is pretty cost prohibitive. We were blessed having the building use of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Iowa City.” He admitted, with a bit of smirk, that “I didn’t want to be THAT TD that infected his players with COVID-19.”

Over-the-board play is different now. Playing with masks on was stifling at first, and we couldn’t keep water or snacks at the table. It took a few rounds to get used to the changes, but in a seven round event you must learn to acclimate early on.

After tragically losing my first two games, including a blown winning position in the first round, I figured my chances of winning the event were slim. This led me to change my approach. Rather than playing to win the tournament, I just tried to focus on playing some good chess and learning from my games. I won the next two rounds to get back to 50%, but missed a golden opportunity to win in round five.

I was at 2½/5 and trailing three other players heading into the final day of play. In round six I faced the talented youngster Anjaneya Rao, who, at 10 years old, is the youngest Iowa Closed participant ever. He’s also ranked 26th for his age in the country. The game went back-and-forth, but I was able to win in a complex endgame.

I went home for a quick lunch and came back before the start of the final round. To my great surprise, two of the three players ahead of me had lost in round six, and I was in a four-way tie for first place along with Owen Fiedorowicz, James Neal, and Michael Takahashi. This gave me even more motivation to play for a win, as I was playing James. The winner of our game would, at minimum, tie for first.

I think this was the sixth time James and I have played each other at the Closed, so we both know each other’s openings. I had played a Neo-Catalan line as White in my earlier games in the tournament, so I knew he was expecting that. However, given the long break between rounds one through five and rounds six and seven, I had prepared something new.

QUEEN’S GAMBIT (D31)

Arshaq Saleem (2284)

James Neal (2184)

Iowa Closed 2020, 07.11.2020

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 a6!?

This move has never achieved main line status, but it has always proved to be a solid option, and Carlsen even employed it against Shankland last year.



ABOVE: TIM MC ENTÉE (L) AND ROBERT REYNOLDS (R) HAVE ALL THE SPACE THEY NEED TO DO BATTLE. BELOW: PIECES WERE SANITIZED BETWEEN ROUNDS TO HELP WARD OFF ACCIDENTAL TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19. PHOTOS BY ERIC VIGIL.

4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bf4 c6 6. e3 Bd6 7. Qf3!?

This had only been played five times prior to my game, but one of the players was Wojtaszek, so I figured it was worth testing out. 7. Bxd6 is by far the main move.

7. ... Ne7

Black wants to exchange his “bad” light bishop for my good light bishop with ... Bf5, although this plan led to a position that was difficult to play for Black practically.

Logical is 7. ... Nf6. Here I wanted to play 8. Bxd6 Qxd6 9. Qg3 Qxg3 10. hxg3 and while Black should be fine in this endgame, it's easy to play for White. He can combine queenside minority attack ideas with kingside expansion (f2-f3 and g2-g4).

8. Bd3 Bf5

8. ... 0-0 might be safer in hindsight, but after 9. Bxd6 Qxd6 10. Nge2 Black can't exchange the light bishops so easily.

9. Bxd6!

9. Bxf5 Nxf5 is comfortable for Black.

9. ... Bxd3 10. Qf4!

Together the coordinated queen and bishop will prove bothersome for Black due to his lack of a dark-square bishop.

10. ... 0-0 11. 0-0-0

This is the point of 9. Bxd6. While the computer says Black is fine, it is not easy to defend this over-the-board.

11. ... Bg6 12. h4 h6 13. g4 Re8 14. Nf3

White is threatening to blow up the kingside, and this prompted an interesting but flawed idea from Black.

14. ... Be4?!

Objectively this doesn't work, but it is a perfectly understandable move to try to slow down White's attack. 14. ... Nd7 was probably best, but Black was understandably worried about 15. h5 with g4-g5 to follow.

15. Nxe4 dxe4 16. Ne5!?

This allows Black back into the game.

The silicon beast points out that the amazing 16. Ng5! causes serious problems, i.e.

16. ... hxg5? (16. ... f6 is forced, although Black is nearly lost after either 17. Nxe4 or 17. Ne6) 17. hxg5 Ng6 18. Qh2 f6 19. Qh7+ Kf7 20. Rh6 and White's attack crashes through.

16. ... f6 17. Nc4 Nd5 18. Qg3 b5 19. Nd2 Re6 20. Bxb8 Rxb8

This was a critical moment in the game. I can continue with 21. Nb3 and have a solid positional advantage due to the weak c5-square and potentially weak e4-pawn, or I can play 21. g5 and attack. Objectively, my choice is not best, but I felt it was the most logical way to justify my early aggressive play.

21. g5?! f5

Practically forced. Taking on g5 is suicidal: 21. ... fxcg5? 22. hxg5 Qxg5?? 23. Qxb8+.

22. gxh6 Rxh6 23. Qe5

It was difficult to play this position for both sides, but I would argue that Black's task was harder as his king needed constant protection.

23. ... Qf8 24. Rdg1 Rb7!

Black avoids a nice trick with 24. ... Re8? 25. Rxcg7+!.

25. Rg5?!

Safest was 25. Kb1 to avoid potential ... Nb4-d3+ ideas.

25. ... Rf7

White would have had real problems after 25. ... Nb4! with ... Nd3 to follow.

26. a3 Rhf6

This is too passive. If Black just sits and defends White will eventually break through. 26. ... b4! was necessary to create counterplay: 27. a4 b3! and suddenly White has to worry about his king's safety as well with ... Nb4 and ... Qb4 ideas in the air.

27. Rhg1 Re7 28. Qg3?!

A bit better was 28. Qh2! avoiding ... f5-f4 ideas.

28. ... a5

Black has good counterplay after 28. ... f4!? 29. Qh3 fxe3 30. fxe3. The opened f-file makes it much less likely that my attack would succeed.

29. h5 a4 30. Qh3 Kh7 31. Rg6 Ref7?

Necessary was 31. ... b4! as Black desperately needs counterplay.

32. Qg2 Ne7 33. Rg5?!

Possible immediately was 33. f3 when the rook on g6 is obviously untouchable.

33. ... Ng8?

My opponent told me that because my d2-knight had been out of play for so long, he simply forgot about my next move.

34. f3!

The long-dormant knight enters the game with decisive effect. The rest of the game was played under time pressure, so the accuracy from both sides was not very high. To make matters worse, the tornado alarm in the city went off at this point, so we temporarily halted play!

34. ... c5

If 34. ... exf3 35. Nxf3 the knight comes to e5 and Black's position falls apart.

35. fxe4 cxd4 36. exd4 fxe4 37. Qxe4+ Kh8 38. Rxb5 Re7 39. Qd3 Qe8 40. Kb1 Rf2 41. Rc5

White is up two pawns, but Black still has some unpleasant pressure.

41. ... Re1+ 42. Rc1 Ree2 43. Rc2 Qxh5 44. Rgc1 Rf4?! 45. Rc8! Re7 46. Rd8 Re8?

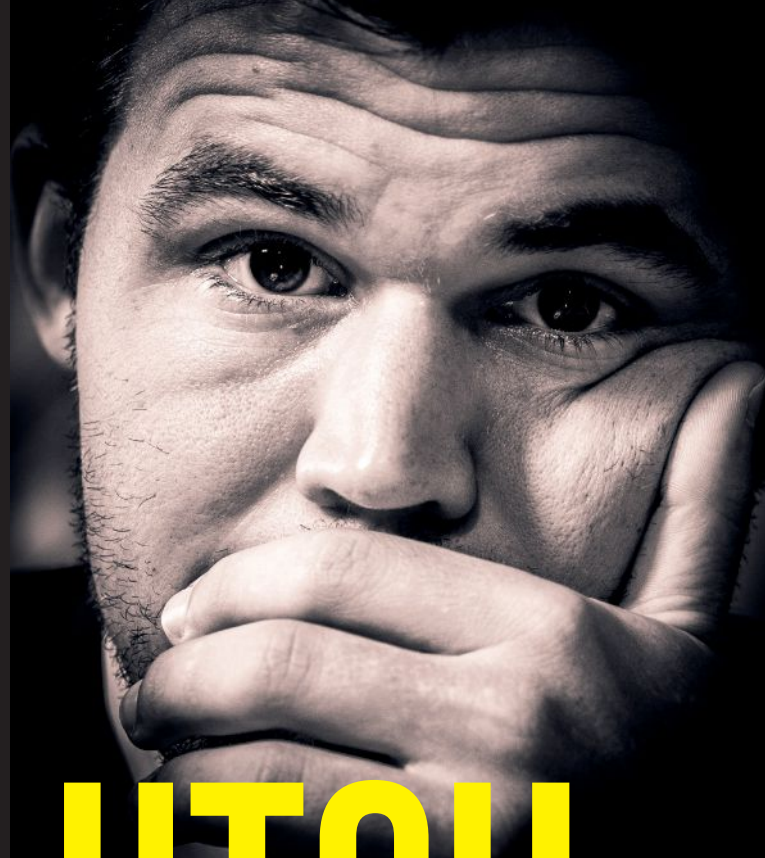
This loses immediately, but the position is lost anyway.

47. Rxe8 Qxe8 48. Qh3+, Black resigned.

48. ... Nh6 49. Rc8 will pick up the queen.

As things turned out, Michael and Owen did not win, which meant I repeated as Iowa Chess Champion for the third consecutive year.

It has been a long time since I've seen a round-robin where the winner loses the first two rounds. The tournament was a wild ride with almost every player having a chance to win at different points. I'm just glad I stepped up on the final day when it mattered the most. Thanks to Eric, Jim, and Bill for running the tournament and to all the players for their flexibility and patience! ♠



ANOTHER **CLUTCH** PERFORMANCE

By FM DENNIS MONOKROUSSOS



GM Magnus Carlsen fought through a tough lineup to win the “Clutch Chess International.”

While the sports world struggles to get its athletes back in action in the age of COVID-19, the world of professional chess has almost seamlessly managed not only to adapt, but to thrive. Elite events continue apace, and with an experimental flair at that. Different tournaments are varying their time controls and their scoring systems as well, with the “Clutch Chess” events from the Saint Louis Chess Club being a notable example.

The second of these “Clutch Chess” events—the Clutch Chess International (CCI)—was held on *lichess.org* from June 6-14, 2020 and finished with a thrilling rematch between World Champion GM Magnus Carlsen and his most recent challenger, GM Fabiano Caruana. Naturally it came down to the very last game, but before we get there, let's first recap the rules and the path the players took to the final.

The CCI was an eight-player knockout event, with a speedy rapid or slow blitz time control of 10 minutes per game, plus a five second increment after every move. The players faced off in a series of best-of-12 matches played over a period of two days and, as noted above, there was an unusual twist in the scoring.

The first four games each day were played with the traditional 1-½-0 scoring system, but the last two games of each day were “clutch games” that counted for both extra points and extra money. Clutch scoring on day one doubled the traditional system (2-1-0), and on day two they counted triple (3-1½-0). Moreover, in case of a tied match, the superior clutch score would serve as a tiebreak.

The first-named player won in all four cases, but in every match except So vs. MVL it came down to the last game.

Carlsen jumped to a 3-0 lead against Xiong, but incredibly, after four more games he trailed the young American phenom. Xiong won game five—the first clutch game on day one—and then game seven. On traditional scoring Carlsen would be up 4-3, but here the score was 4½-4½ with the tiebreak edge going to Xiong. It is thus possible, though of course unlikely, that one player could lose the first four games each day, draw the first clutch game on day 1 and win the other three clutch games, and thereby win the match on tiebreaks. The score on the tournament system would be 9-9, while on traditional scoring the loser of the match would have won with an enormous 8½-3½ score.

KICKING THINGS OFF

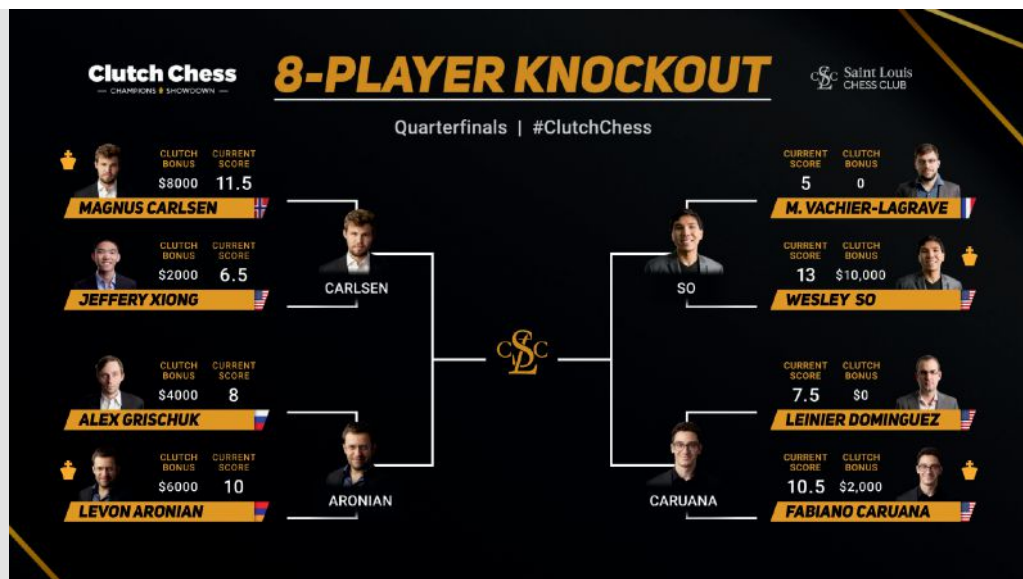
The quarterfinal pairings looked like this:

**GM Magnus Carlsen vs.
GM Jeffery Xiong**

**GM Levon Aronian vs.
GM Alexander Grischuk**

**GM Wesley So vs.
GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (MVL)**

**GM Fabiano Caruana vs.
GM Leinier Dominguez**



PAGE 36, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GM LEVON ARONIAN, GM MAGNUS CARLSEN, GM WESLEY SO, GM FABIANO CARUANA. THIS PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: GM JEFFERY XIONG, GM ALEXANDER GRISCHUK, GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE, GM LEINIER DOMINGUEZ. ALL PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF STLCC. THE THREE TOURNAMENT STANDINGS GRAPHICS AND THE FINAL CARLSEN GRAPHIC ARE ALSO COURTESY OF STLCC / SPECTRUM STUDIOS.

One can debate the merits of this system, but one thing that can be said in its favor is that it helped keep the matches interesting. Of the seven matches, all were still up for grabs until the clutch games of the final day, and five of them came down to the very last game.

SICILIAN KAN (B41)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2863)

GM Jeffery Xiong (2709)

Clutch Chess Showdown (1.5), 06.06.2020

1. Nf3 c5 2. e4 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. c4 Nf6 6. Nc3 Qc7 7. a3 b6

7. ... Nxe4?! is too clever by half. Black does win a pawn—but White gets a serious initiative as compensation. 8. Nxe4 Qe5 9. Bd3 Qxd4 10. Qe2 followed by Be3, 0–0, and f2–f4. White's initiative and lead in development is alarming, so I wouldn't recommend the 7. ... Nxe4 line except as an occasional surprise in blitz.

8. Be2 Bb7 9. f3 Be7 10. Be3 0–0 11. 0–0 d6 12. Rc1 Nbd7 13. b4

This is a standard type of Hedgehog position. White has a big space advantage, while Black's position is more flexible than one might suppose. Positions like this are great for getting both players into time pressure, as they must consider pawn breaks (whether immediately or as part of a plan) on practically every move. Black generally looks at ideas involving ... d5 and/or ... b5, and there's even the idea of ... Kh8 followed by ... Rg8 and ... g5–g4. For White, it's common to look for ideas like a4–a5, or c4–c5, and sometimes even b4–b5. Often positions arise when the breaks don't seem to work and it doesn't seem as if there's any way to further improve one's position. Then one looks for ways “not” to mess things up! As I said, it's a prescription for mutual time pressure.

13. ... Rfc8 14. Kh1 Qd8 15. Nb3 Ne5

Possible here is 15. ... d5. 16. exd5 exd5 17. cxd5 Nf8 18. Bf2 Nxd5 19. Nxd5 Bxd5 is equal, but note that 20. Bxb6?? Bxb3! turns the tables.

16. Na4 Nfd7 17. Qd4

17. f4 seems (and is) playable, and to those of you without much Hedgehog experience it may seem natural and automatic. It's not bad, but those of us who have faced strong Hedgehog players will have been chastened. After 17. ... Ng6 White has gained space and sidelined the knight, but now the e4 pawn is a new headache.

17. ... b5 18. Na5 Nc6!

Otherwise Black is in trouble, but now he's fine.

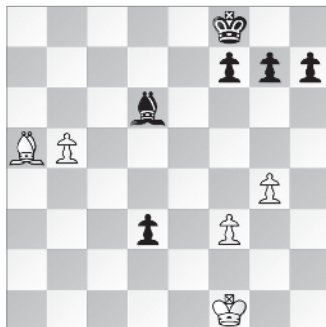
19. Nxc6 Bxc6 20. cxb5? Bxb5

Now White is in trouble.

21. Rxc8 Rxc8 22. Qd1 Qc7 23. Bd4 Qc2 24. Bxb5 axb5 25. Nb6 Nxb6 26. Bxb6 Qxd1 27. Rxd1 Rc3 28. Ra1 Bf6 29. Rd1 Rxa3 30. Kg1 Ra6 31. Bc7 Be5 32. Rc1 Kf8?

This makes Black's job much more difficult. He had to try 32. ... Ra4 33. Ba5 g5 when Black should win.

33. Ba5 d5 34. exd5 exd5 35. Kf1 Bxh2 36. Rc5 Re6! 37. g4 d4! 38. Rxb5 d3? 39. Rd5 Rd6 40. Rxd6 Bxd6 41. b5



The position is equal. Is Carlsen going to get an extra half point from the game yet again? Not this time.

41. ... g6 42. b6 Ke8 43. b7?

43. g5! had to be played, and it achieves a draw. 43. ... Kd7 44. Kf2 Bc5+ 45. Ke1 Black cannot save the d-pawn, because 45. ... Be3 46. b7 Bf4 47. Kf2 Kc6 48. Bd2! forces the bishop to abandon control over the dark squares that keep away White's king.

43. ... Kd7 44. Bb4 Bb8?

Correct was 44. ... Bc7! 45. Bd2 h5 46. gxf5 gxf5 47. Bg5 Kc6 48. Ke1 Ba5+! winning. There is no check on this diagonal when the bishop is coming from b8, and that's why Xiong's move is an error.

45. Kf2?

45. Bd2 h5 (45. ... Kc6 46. Kf2 Ba7+ 47. Ke1 Kxb7 48. Bh6 followed by Kd2xd3 is completely drawn.) 46. gxf5 gxf5 47. Bg5 Kc6 48. Ke1 is a draw.

45. ... h5!

The only winning move.

46. gxf5 gxf5 47. Be1 h4 48. Kg2 Kc6 49. Kh3 Kxb7 50. Kg4 Bg3, White resigned.

Game eight was drawn and game nine was headed to a draw until Xiong blundered in a slightly worse but very tenable rook ending. In game 10, Xiong lost badly, but due to the quirks of the Clutch Chess format he could still win the match if he managed to win one of the day two clutch games and draw the other. He would be -2 on traditional scoring, but

+1 under “Clutch rules” and with a tiebreak advantage, too.

Carlsen made sure this didn't happen. In game 11 Xiong had White and pressed a little, but Carlsen held the draw without getting into much trouble. Xiong equalized as Black in the final game, but it was a dry equality. Whether because Carlsen just handled things better than Xiong did, or because he went a bit crazy trying to make something happen, things fell apart in a hurry, and Carlsen won quickly. The match finished as an 11½–6½ win for Carlsen, but if Xiong had won the last game he would have won, 9½–8½.

2. c3 SICILIAN (B40)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2863)

GM Jeffery Xiong (2709)

Clutch Chess Showdown (1.12), 06.08.2020

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. Bc4 Nb6 6. Bb3 d6 7. d4 cxd4 8. cxd4 dxe5 9. Nxe5 Nc6 10. Nxc6 bxc6 11. 0–0 Be7 12. Nc3 0–0 13. Qf3 Ba6 14. Rd1 Nd5 15. Ne4 Qb6 16. Qg3 Qb8 17. Bg5 f6 18. Bd2 Qxg3 19. hxg3 Bd3 20. Nc3 Rfc8 21. Rac1 Kf7 22. Na4 Bb5?

Things would be equal after 22. ... Bf5. Now White takes over.

23. Nc5 Bxc5 24. Rxc5 Nb6 25. Re1 Re8 26. Ra1 Red8? 27. a4! Bc4?? 28. Bxc4 Rxd4 29. a5 Rxc4 30. axb6!, Black resigned.

The key idea is 30. axb6! axb6 (30. ... Rxc5 31. Rxa7+! Rxa7 32. bxa7) 31. Rxa8 Rxc5 32. Ra7+.

The Aronian–Grischuk match was a thriller. Their score in the 1-point games was equal on both days, so it came down to the clutch games. Aronian won game six on day one in 133 moves, winning with queen vs. rook, to take a two-point lead into day two.

That lead was maintained heading into the clutch games and Grischuk rose to the occasion by winning game 11 in style. That put him a point ahead and put Aronian in a must-win situation in the finale. Grischuk was doing fine in a complicated game until he made a wrong-rook blunder. 22. ... Rad8 would have given Grischuk the edge in a safe position, but 22. ... Rfd8 lost to a fairly simple tactic. Aronian thus pulled through, winning the match by a whisker, 10–8.

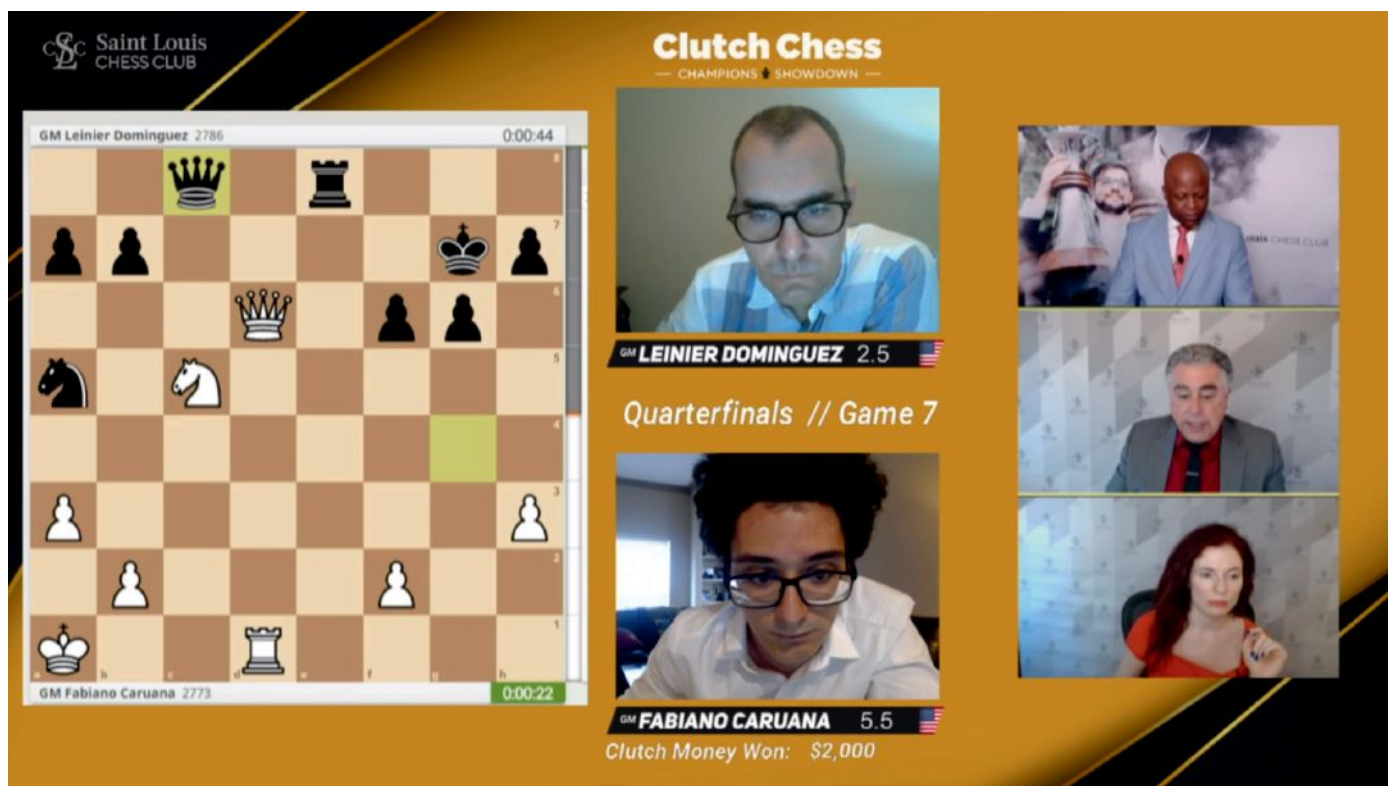
NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E47)

GM Alexander Grischuk (2777)

GM Levon Aronian (2773)

Clutch Chess Showdown (1.11), 06.09.2020

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 0–0 5. Bd3 c5 6. Nge2 cxd4 7. exd4 d5 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Bc2 Nc6 10. Qd3 Qh4?



THE SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB ANNOUNCING TEAM OF GMS MAURICE ASHLEY AND YASSER SEIRAWAN, ALONG WITH WGM AND US CHESS WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR JENNIFER SHAHADE, PROVIDED LIVE COVERAGE OF THE ENTIRE EVENT ON YOUTUBE AND TWITCH.



On the one hand, it's an alert move. Many of us might play the normal 10. ... g6 automatically, not even considering this move, because it's generally unavailable. (In most positions of this type, White's knight is on f3 rather than e2.) So it's impressive that Aronian noticed it. Unfortunately for him, he didn't notice, or at least underestimated, Grischuk's next two moves.

11. Bg5! Qh5 12. g4! Qg6 13. Qd2 f5 14. Rg1

Maybe Black can hold this, with a magnificent defensive effort, but it's a lousy looking position and it's much easier for White to handle.

14. ... e5? 15. gxf5 Bxf5 16. Bb3 Be6 17. Be7?

A big error by Grischuk. The move 17. Bh6 pretty much wins on the spot when 17. ... Qf6

is the only try and is probably what dissuaded Grischuk from 17. Bh6. Neither capture on g7 promises any advantage, but 18. 0-0-0! Rf7 19. dxe5 Nxe5 20. Bxd5 Bxd5 21. Bg5! is an outright winner.

17. ... Qf5?

Black should have tried 17. ... Qf7 18. Bxf8 Rxf8 with compensation.

18. Bxf8 Rxf8 19. 0-0-0 Nxc3 20. Bxe6+ Qxe6 21. bxc3 Ba3+ 22. Kb1 Rxf2 23. d5 Qf5+ 24. Ka1 Na5 25. d6! Nc6 26. d7 Be7 27. Qd5+ Qf7 28. Ng3 Qxd5 29. Rxd5 Kf7 30. Rf1 Rxf1+ 31. Nxf1 Ke6 32. c4 Bd8 33. Kb2 Nb8 34. Ng3

Aronian has defended very well, and while he's still worse he's no longer clearly lost. He wants to get rid of White's d-pawn—who could blame him?—but he needed to prepare the capture.

34. ... Nxd7?

An unfortunate slip. 34. ... g6! 35. Ne4 Nxd7 keeps the game going, though White is still better after 36. Nc5+ or 36. Rd6+ Ke7 37. Rd3.

35. Nf5! Nb6? 36. Nxg7+! Ke7 37. Nf5+ Ke6 38. Rxd8 Kxf5 39. Kc3 Na4+ 40. Kb4 b5 41. cxb5 Nb6 42. a4 Ke6 43. a5 Nd5+ 44. Kc5 Nf6 45. b6 axb6+ 46. axb6, Black resigned.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B50)

GM Levon Aronian (2773)

GM Alexander Grischuk (2777)

Clutch Chess Showdown (1.12), 06.09.2020

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Qxd4 Nc6 6. Qe3 d5!?

This seems to have been an unintentional novelty—it seemed from the post-match interview that Grischuk may have mixed things up. Even so, it doesn't look that bad—at worst White is a little better, and the refutation (a slightly exaggerated term) is counterintuitive.

7. Bb5

7. Nxd5 Nxd5 8. exd5 Qxd5 9. Qb3! is surprisingly unpleasant for Black. After the natural 9. ... Qxb3 10. axb3 White will make progress on the queenside with c2-c3, b3-b4, and Be3. Simple and strong.

7. ... Nxe4 8. Nd4 Bd7 9. Nxe4 dxe4 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11. Qxe4 Qa5+ 12. Bd2 Qd5 13. Qe3 c5

Black's position is precarious, but it looks like he can work his way out of trouble with precise play. Here's a sample line: 13. ... e5 14. Nb3 Bf5 15. 0-0-0 f6 16. Bc3 Qe4 17. Qxe4 Bxe4 18. f4 Bxg2 19. Rhe1 Rd8 and in the immortal words of Andras Adorjan, Black is okay.

14. Ne2 e6 15. Bc3 Bc6 16. f3 Be7 17. Nf4 Qf5 18. h4 Bd6 19. Ne2 Qxc2 20. Rd1 Be7

21. Nf4 0-0 22. 0-0 Rfd8??



Black keeps a serious edge after 22. ... Bxh4 23. Qxc5 Rfc8, while 22. ... Rad8 was also fine, though not as good as ripping off the h-pawn. Tactics aside, Grischuk's choice was correct, but "tactics aside" is an option that's not open to any chess player worth his salt.

23. Rc1! Qa4 24. Nxe6! fxe6??

A better option was 24. ... Qxh4 25. Nxd8 Rxd8. White should win in the long run, but at least there will be a long run.

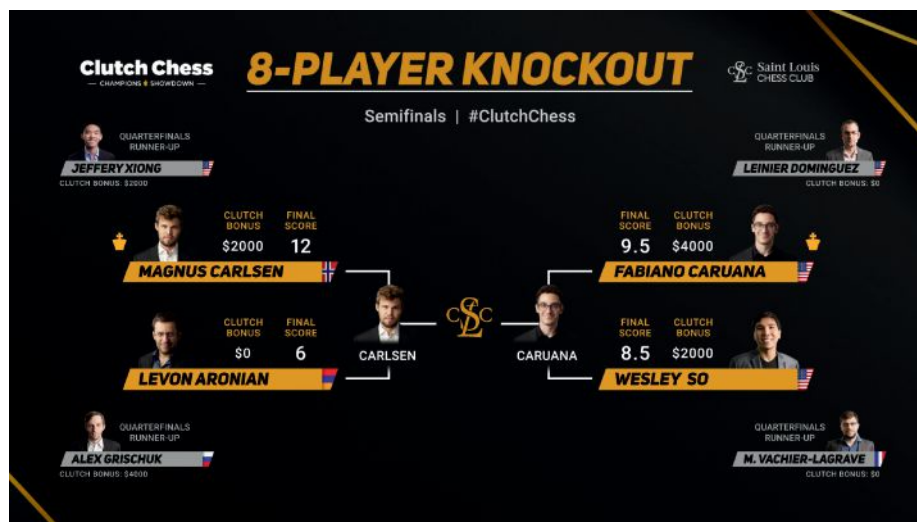
25. Qxe6+ Kf8 26. Bxg7+! Kxg7 27. Qxe7+ Kg8 28. Qe6+ Kh8 29. Rc4, Black resigned.

Winning the queen for the rook, as a move like 29. ... Qb5 allows 30. Qf6+ Kg8 31. Rg4 mate.

So's match against Vachier-Lagrave looked like a rout if one only sees the lopsided final score of 13-5, but that's a bit of an illusion brought about the clutch scoring system. The first three games were drawn, before So won games four and five—the first clutch game—to take a three-point lead.

In the next five games, however, So was winless. Games six through eight and 10 were all drawn, and MVL won game nine. So only led by two points, and, as in the Carlsen-Xiong match, Vachier-Lagrave could come back and win the match by winning one of the clutch games on day two and not losing the other. Unfortunately for the Frenchman and his fans, he lost a complicated battle in game 11, which meant that So clinched victory in the match, and game 12 was a bizarre rout won by the American in just 15 moves.

Finally, in the all-American battle between Caruana and Dominguez, Caruana took a three-point lead going into day two, but never managed to clinch the victory until the very end. Black won all four non-clutch games on day two and, as the first clutch game was a draw, Caruana kept his three-point lead going into the last game. Dominguez had the white pieces, and if he won that game, he'd have won the match on tiebreaks because of his 5½-4½ edge in



clutch points. Dominguez had an edge much of the way, but Caruana defended well and held both the game and the match.

THE SEMIS

The semifinal matchups paired Carlsen with Aronian, while Caruana faced So. On day one the score line of both matches was identical: Carlsen won games one, two, and five (a clutch game) and drew the rest to take a 6-2 lead, and So followed exactly the same pattern against Caruana.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E32)

GM Fabiano Caruana (2835)

GM Wesley So (2770)

Clutch Chess Showdown (2.1), 06.11.2020

On day one of their match, Wesley So looked like a world champion. The first game was especially impressive.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 0-0 5. e4 d5 6. e5 Ne4 7. a3 Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 c5



Here Caruana reveals a fantastic novelty. It looks like a blunder, and isn't showing up as one of the engine's top choices. Nevertheless...

9. f3!? Qh4+ 10. g3 Nxg3 11. hxg3!

The alternative 11. Qf2? is useless as 11. ... Nf5 leaves Black a pawn ahead with a

better structure.

11. ... Qxh1 12. Qf2

If the queens were off the board, White could resign, but the big question is whether Black will manage to keep his queen alive (and to do so without allowing some other sort of disaster). Caruana was making his moves immediately, while So was understandably burning through his time.

12. ... Qh5 13. Bd3 f6 14. exf6 Rxf6 15. g4 Qf7 16. Qh4 g6 17. Bg5 Nd7 18. Kf2



Caruana was still moving instantly through here and had around 11 minutes on his clock, while So was under six minutes. If you're checking the evaluations on your engine, you might think that So didn't make the most of his opportunities. After Caruana's sac, the engine claims that Black was winning, while now it says that Black is just somewhat better—somewhere between slightly and clearly for choice. But here's the important thing: Black is safe and has coordinated his forces. There's little danger to him at this point. So, although he hasn't handled the game like a computer, what he has done is brilliant: he has taken all the poison out of White's idea and can now make moves in a more or less normal position—one which is better. Very soon Caruana's position becomes obviously bad, and he falls

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TOTAL CLUTCH BONUS \$25,000 FINAL SCORE 9.5	VS	TOTAL CLUTCH BONUS \$21,000 FINAL SCORE 8.5
MAGNUS CARLSEN		FABIANO CARUANA

behind So on the clock as well.

18. ... dxc4 19. Bxc4 cxd4 20. cxd4 b5! 21. Bxb5 Bb7

White is in deep trouble. His pieces are disjointed and his king is terribly unsafe.

22. Qg3 Rf8

Even stronger was 22. ... e5!, threatening ... Rb6. Now 23. Bxf6 Nxf6 threatens ... Ne4+, so White doesn't have time to take on e5 with the pawn (and 24. Qxe5?? walks into a different fork after 24. ... Nxd4+), while after 24. Kg2 e4 Black is cracking everything open.

23. Bxf6 Nxf6 24. Kg2 h5!? 25. gxh5? Nxd5 26. Qg4 Nf4+ 27. Kf2 e5 28. Ne2?

The last chance to stay alive was 28. Qd7 but in a blitz game it's impossible for a human being to consistently make the best moves. Even here, Black should win after 28. ... Nd3+! 29. Kf1 Qxd7 30. Bxd7 exd4.

28. ... Bxf3!

Stripping away the last fig leaf covering White's king. The rest is a massacre.

29. Kxf3 Qb3+ 30. Kf2 Qxb5 31. Ke1 Kg7! 32. Ng3 Qb2, White resigned.

Things took a different turn on day two. Carlsen's path was a smooth one: he won games seven and eight to go up by six. Still, after draws in games nine and 10 Aronian was still statistically alive. With wins in the final day's clutch games Aronian would have won the match on tiebreaks, despite going 2-5 in decisive games. Fortunately for the integrity of the system, this did not happen. The clutch games were both drawn, and Carlsen won 12-6.

The other match? Well, truth be told, it was a tale of *two* matches. Caruana was as good on day two as So had been on day one, and since the clutch games were more valuable it meant

he won by a single point, 9½-8½. Caruana won games seven and eight, So struck back in game nine, and Caruana won again in game 10 to enter the clutch games down by two. It was game 11 that decided the match: Caruana won a long, hard battle with black to take the lead, and a safe draw with white in the last game gave him the victory.

And in this way, the dream final was reached: the world's #1 player and world champion, Magnus Carlsen, against the world's #2 and the last challenger, Fabiano Caruana. Sometimes such pairings don't live up to the billing, but this time it did, and the match came down to the very last game.

THE FINALS

Carlsen was dominant on day one... up to a point. Over the years Carlsen has been far more efficient than his opponents in picking up those extra half points that make the difference between winning chess tournaments and matches and coming out second-best. This played a big role in Carlsen's win over Xiong, but here it was Caruana who made the most of his chances.

Carlsen was winning the first game with an extra pawn and a dominant position, but (depending on one's interpretation) blundered the pawn or missed an important tactical point a couple of moves further down the line. Either way, his advantage was gone and the game was drawn. In game two Caruana stood better, but his advantage was nowhere near as large as Carlsen's had been in the first game. The game finished in a draw.

In game three Carlsen drew first blood, finishing off the American with a well-played attack. In game four, by contrast, Caruana had largely squandered an early advantage and was hoping to grind something out in the ending. Surprisingly, Carlsen buckled, blundered a pawn, and lost.

LONDON SYSTEM (A45)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2863)

GM Fabiano Caruana (2835)

Clutch Chess Showdown (3.3), 06.13.2020

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 d5 3. e3 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Nbd2 Nh5 6. dxc5 Nxf4 7. exf4 Qa5 8. Bd3 Qxc5 9. O-O g6 10. Nb3 Qd6 11. Qd2 Bg7 12. c3 O-O 13. Rfe1?! Bg4 14. Qe3 Bxf3 15. Qxf3 e6 16. h4 h5 17. g3 Rfe8 18. Rad1 a6 19. Nd2 b5

Better is 19. ... e5 with a slight advantage.

20. Ne4 Qd7 21. Ng5 Rad8 22. Bc2 b4? 23. Ba4

The more direct 23. g4! is even stronger, as the Black's kingside is very shaky. 23. ... hxg4 24. Qxg4 bxc3 25. bxc3 Bxc3 26. Re3 and with h4-h5 coming quickly—not to mention Bc2-a4 followed by Rd1-c1 as an added bonus—Black's position is on the verge of collapse.

23. ... bxc3 24. bxc3 Qc8? 25. f5!

Winning.

25. ... gxf5



If 25. ... exf5? 26. Rxe8+ Rxe8 27. Qxd5.

26. c4!

Remarkably, this is a crushing blow. Perhaps Caruana expected only 26. Qxh5, when 26. ... Re7 27. g4 Ne5 28. gxf5 exf5 is obviously good for White but not winning.

26. ... Nd4

Marginally better is 26. ... Ne5 27. Rxe5 Bxe5 28. Bxe8 Rxe8 29. cxd5 exd5 30. Qxh5 Qd7 31. Qh7+ Kf8 32. Re1, with the idea of Re1xe5 followed by Qh7-h8+ and Qh8xe5. Black is surprisingly helpless to cope with this threat.

27. Rxd4 Bxd4 28. Bxe8 Rxe8 29. Qxh5

White's advantage is too great and a precise path is not needed for him to convert.

29. ... Qc7 30. cxd5 Re7 31. dxe6 f6 32. Qg6+ Kf8 33. Nf3 Bc3 34. Rc1 Rxe6 35. Nd4 Rb6 36. Qh6+ Kg8 37. Qe3, Black resigned.

In the first clutch game, Carlsen did the usual Carlsen thing, playing out an even queen ending until Caruana blundered a pawn with

bxa5?, though Caruana briefly had a miraculous save available to him. While Carlsen “stole” a half point in that game, Caruana “re-stole” the full point in the next game, when Carlsen missed some relatively simple tactics in a won position, eventually losing the game.

AN IMPORTANT HALF POINT

GM Magnus Carlsen (2863)

GM Fabiano Caruana (2835)

Clutch Chess Showdown (3.5), 06.13.2020



BLACK TO PLAY

44. ... bxa5?

Blundering a pawn, and in a position where it will matter. Caruana could have kept equality with 44. ... Qf4.

45. Qa6+ Ke7 46. Qxa7+ Kf6 47. Qxa5 Kg7 48. c4?

This allows a surprising resource; unsurprisingly, Caruana wasn't able to find it either—there simply isn't enough time on the clock to find such moves and work out the details.

White has a beautiful win here. It's something like a mutual *zugzwang*, and White must find a way to achieve this position with Black to move. Here's how to make it happen: 48. Qa8! Kh7 49. Qb7 Kg7 50. Qd7 Kf8 51. Qd6+ Kg8 52. Qb8+ Kh7 53. Qa8 Kg7 54. Qa5 Kg8 55. c4! Qe7 56. Qxd5 Qb4+ 57. Kc2 Qa4+ 58. Kd3 Qb3+ 59. Ke4 Qc2+! 60. Ke5 Qh2+ 61. Kf6. With the help of his queen and queenside passers, if necessary, White's king will escape the black checks. This is why White had to get Black's king to leave g7.

48. ... Qxg4?

Only 48. ... Qe7!! holds: 49. Qxd5 Qb4+! 50. Kc2 Qa4+! 51. Kd3 Qb3+! 52. Ke4 Qc2+! 53. Ke5 Qh2+! and now because Black's king is on g7, White's king cannot go to f6 and then e7, eventually avoiding the perpetual. After the game move, there's no perpetual to be had.

49. Qxd5 f5 50. Qe5+ Kf7 51. c5 f4 52. Qd5+ Kf6 53. Qd6+ Kg5 54. Qg6+ Kh4 55. Qxg4+ Kxg4 56. c6 f3 57. c7, Black resigned.

The first day finished in a 4-4 tie, tied both

in overall points and in the clutch points, too. If the same state of affairs happened the next day, there would be an Armageddon game, and it *almost* finished that way.

Carlsen started day two in the best way, winning game seven with black. Caruana was in turn winning game eight, also with black, but allowed Carlsen to draw by repetition in a position he (Caruana) was still winning. Caruana bounced back with an impressive and one-sided victory in game nine, and the match was tied once again. Unfortunately for those who were hoping for an Armageddon scenario, Carlsen won game 10. Caruana was in an “equal” ending where he had to suffer a lot, and his attempt to simplify to a drawn ending lost the game (practically speaking) in a single move.

3. Bb5 SICILIAN (B30)

GM Fabiano Caruana (2835)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2863)

Clutch Chess Showdown (3.7), 06.14.2020

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e5 4. 0-0 Bd6 5. d3 Nf6 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bh4 a6 8. Bc4 Be7 9. c3 0-0 10. Nbd2 d6 11. a4 Nh5 12. Bg3 g6 13. Re1 Nng3 14. hxg3 Kg7 15. Nf1 h5 16. Ne3 h4 17. gxh4 Bxh4 18. g3 Bg5 19. Nng5 Qxg5 20. Qf3 f5 21. exf5 Bxf5 22. Nxf5+ Rxf5 23. Qg2 Raf8 24. Re2 Rf3



White is under pressure, but with the right move he's still okay. Paradoxically, the way for him to maintain equal chances is by sacrificing a pawn. Instead, he errs, and it's a black pawn sac that in turn gives him a winning advantage.

25. Rae1? e4! 26. dxe4

Of course White would rather not close the e-file after doubling his rooks there, but 26. Rxe4 is busted by the obvious 26. ... d5 (or 26. ... Rxf2 27. Qxf2 Rxf2 28. Kxf2 d5.)

26. ... Ne5 27. Be6 Nd3 28. Bf5 Nxe1 29. Rxe1 Rd3

Sometimes a minor piece and a pawn is enough, or almost enough, for a rook. Not here: White's bishop has nothing to do, while Black's rooks are extremely active. White is thoroughly lost.



30. f4 Qxg3 31. Qxg3 Rxg3+ 32. Kf2 Rd3 33. Ke2 c4 34. Rg1 Rf6 35. Rg4 d5 36. a5 b6 37. axb6 Rxb6 38. b4 cxb3 e.p. 39. Kxd3 b2 40. Rxg6+ Rxg6 41. Kc2 Rb6 42. Kb1 Kf6 43. Bh7 dxe4 44. Bxe4 a5 45. Bc2 Ke6 46. c4 Kd6 47. f5 Kc5 48. f6 Rxf6 49. Kxb2 Kxc4 50. Bh7 Rf8 51. Be4 Re8 52. Bg6 Re7 53. Bh5 Kb4 54. Bf3 Rd7 55. Bg4 Rd2+ 56. Kb1 Rd6 57. Kb2 a4 58. Bh5 a3+ 59. Kb1 Rd7 60. Bg6 Rd1+ 61. Ka2 Rd2+ 62. Kb1 a2+ 63. Ka1 Kc3 64. Bc2 Re2 65. Bd1 Rg2, White resigned.

Caruana thus entered the clutch games a point down, and therefore needed to win one game without losing the other to come out ahead. He achieved the first part of his task, winning game 11 in great style. Now it was Carlsen's turn to be on the hot seat. Only a win in the last game would win the match and the tournament. Could he do it?

Of course! He's the world champion for a reason. A brand-new opening position was reached as early as move six, and although both players were creative, Carlsen was more successful navigating his way through the unusual opening. Still, Caruana would have been in the game after 15. ... c5! Missing this chance, and making another error on the next move, Carlsen's attack was overwhelming, and with the win he won the match, too, 9½–8½.

ENGLISH OPENING (A22)

GM Magnus Carlsen (2863)

GM Fabiano Caruana (2835)

Clutch Chess Showdown (3.12), 06.14.2020

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 Bb4 4. e4 Bxc3 5. bxc3

There's nothing obviously wrong with this move, and the engine prefers this recapture as well, so it's surprising that it has been played so rarely while the other capture is a commonplace. (In fact, Carlsen himself has played 5. dxc3 at least three times.)

5. ... 0-0 6. f3 b5

A bold choice in a new position. Could this have been preparation? It seems unlikely, but it's astonishingly committal to play this on spec. Other ideas are 6. ... Re8 and 6. ... c6.

WINNER!**CLUTCH CHESS INTERNATIONAL**

PRIZE MONEY

\$50,000

TOTAL CLUTCH BONUS

\$25,000**MAGNUS**
 **CARLSEN****Clutch Chess**

— CHAMPIONS SHOWDOWN —

7. d4! exd4 8. cxd4 bxc4 9. e5 Nd5 10. Bxc4

This position looks scary for Black, but he's still okay—if he plays accurately. If he doesn't—and he doesn't—White's massive center will pay off.

10. ... Bb7 11. Nh3! d6 12. O-O Nd7 13. Re1 dxe5 14. dxe5 N7b6 15. Bb3

A critical moment. If White has the chance to play Bc1-a3 and Ra1-c1, Black will be left with a miserable position. White will have monstrously strong bishops, a powerful pawn center, and potential play down the road against Black's c-pawn. Black has only one good move here.

15. ... Qe7?

This deals with the threatened Ba3 in an even more forceful way, but it's a mistake. Black needed to neutralize the a2–g8 diagonal with

... c7–c5–c4, and now White takes advantage of Black's failure to do so.

15. ... c5! had to be played, and after 16. Ba3 the boldness continues: 16. ... c4! 17. Bxf8 (17. Bc2!? Nc3!) 17. ... Qxf8 18. Bc2 Qc5+ 19. Nf2 Ne3 20. Qc1 Nxc2 21. Qxc2 Bxf3 gives Black just about enough compensation to save the game.

16. e6! fxe6?

Necessary was 16. ... f6, when White is clearly better, but there's no immediate breakthrough.

17. Ng5 Rf6 18. Qc2 Rg6?

18. ... g6 was better, not overloading the rook. Still, Black is lost, e.g. 19. Qf2 e5 20. f4 Rf5 21. Bb2 and Black's position is a disaster.

**19. Rxe6!**

Simple and strong. In a slower game, or a less meaningful one, Black would resign here.

19. ... Qxe6

Not 19. ... Rxe6 20. Qxh7+ Kf8 21. Qh8 mate.

20. Nxe6 Rxe6 21. Bb2 Rae8 22. Bd4 Kh8 23. Qf5 Bc8

If 23. ... Re2 24. Qf7 and now the only sensible way of stopping the threatened Bxg7 mate is 24. ... Rg8, which loses serious material to 25. Bxb6.

24. Qh5 c5 25. Bxc5 Re5 26. Qf7 Bh3 27. Bf8 Re1+ 28. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 29. Kf2 Rf1+ 30. Ke2 Nc3+ 31. Kd3, White resigned.

It was a good result for Carlsen, bouncing back after losing to GM Hikaru Nakamura in the semi-finals of the Lindores Abbey tournament a few days earlier. I think that Caruana can also feel very good about his result.

For many years, Caruana seemed considerably weaker at rapid time controls than in classical chess, and losing the rapid playoff to Carlsen 3-0 in their world championship match did little to change this perception. This event—and not only this event—shows that he can compete on an even footing with the world champion in faster time controls, too.

While he lost the last game, he also showed his fighting spirit throughout the event. Caruana still looks like Carlsen's most dangerous opponent—provided he can make up his one-point deficit to GMs Vachier-Lagrave and Ian Nepomniachtchi whenever the Candidates tournament resumes. 

The Autobiographical Impulse

Personalities and circumstances come through in two new titles.

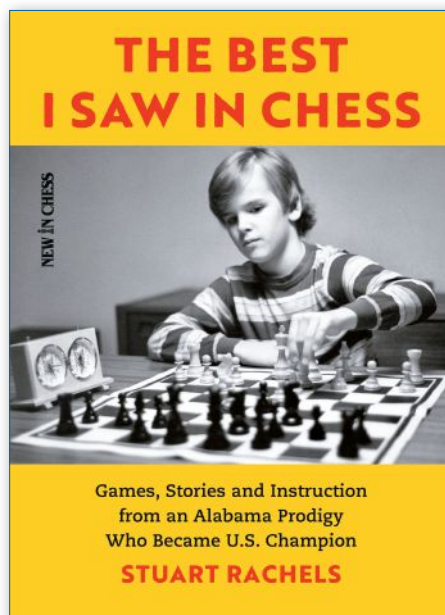
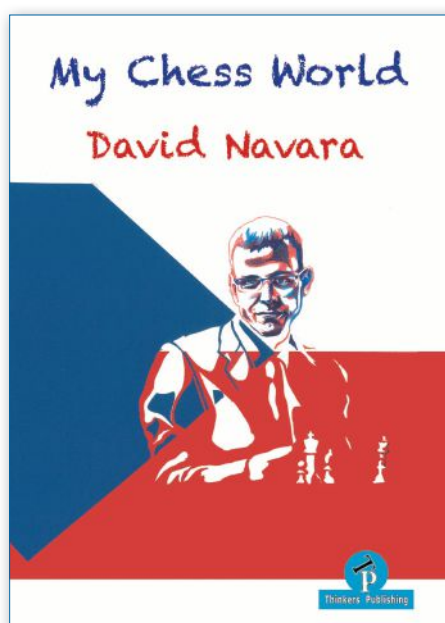
By IM JOHN WATSON

IF, LIKE MANY OF US, YOU'RE STUCK AT home watching too many streaming shows, it's a great time to settle back with a chess autobiography. The authors of the two books I'm reviewing this month, Stuart Rachels and David Navara, both had obvious talent and early successes as juniors, and both played into their early 20s while remaining full-time students. In fact, they got degrees in allied fields: Rachels in Philosophy and Navara in Logic. They also share an obvious love of chess and an affinity for the problem-solving side of the game; many of the games and analyses in their books feature a particular position being analyzed in obsessive depth. But their careers are very different stories.

Rachels played from ages nine to 23, including a stunning tie for first place in a powerful 1989 U.S. Championship at age 20. With that result, he became an IM and earned the equivalent of two GM norms in one fell swoop.

In the following years, he had some quite respectable results, but failed to get a final GM norm and decided to leave chess completely. In a fine essay he wrote for the book *Philosophy Looks at Chess*, Rachels modestly says that he "had neither the killer instinct nor the work ethic to make it to the top." Whether this is true, we'll never know, as he chose a different and successful career path in academia, upon which he has remained to this day.

Navara, 15 years younger, gained his international master title at age 13 and grandmaster title at age 16. He says (also modestly, I suspect) that he was a poor student, and upon graduating he didn't hesitate to take up the life of a chess professional. He has been rated above 2700 for almost all of the past 11 years, with numerous high-level achievements including a Gold medal on second board at the 2012 Chess Olympiad, becoming a World Cup quarterfinalist, and (last but not



least) his place as the nine-time national champion of Czechoslovakia.

Their divergent paths help explain the different approaches these authors take. Rachels, while annotating many of his favorite games versus GMs and IMs, includes a very large number of games and fragments versus players ranked 2000-2200 and even lower. *The Best I Saw in Chess* is a potpourri of diverse chess material, full of positions that he finds fascinating or simply entertaining, with numerous chapters on topics like tactics, blunders, endings of various types, or a particular opening variation.

Navara's opponents are usually above 2600 and very often above 2700. He has played against the world's best players multiple times, and his opponents in this book include Carlsen, Kramnik, Caruana, Aronian, Grischuk, Korchnoi, Svidler, Karjakin, Gelfand, Nakamura, Ding Liren and many others. There are many nice prose digressions, but it's fair to say that his is primarily an annotated collection of extremely high-level chess games.

The Best I Saw in Chess will undoubtedly have extra appeal to *Chess Life* readers because many of us lived through this time in American chess. Others may be familiar with Rachels' opponents, many of whom are still playing today. I was delighted to see names of players whom I hadn't thought about in years.

Rachels' annotations are fun. He is at his best when conveying the drama of a long complex battle. Instead of just attaching '?'s to inferior moves and '!s' to alternatives, he shows the surprising moves that one or both sides missed in their calculations, and the emotions that he felt as the game went back and forth. His all-important draw with Miles in the 12th round of the 1989 Championship was an interesting struggle throughout, but at adjournment it looked as though he was likely to lose:

A TOUGH ADJOURNMENT

GM Anthony Miles (2580)

Stuart Rachels (2385)

US Championship, Long Beach, 1989



WHITE TO PLAY

Rachels devotes eight dense pages to what transpired during the adjournment and the exciting conclusion, a tribute to both players' fighting qualities. I can only fit in the moves, but even they give you a feel for how difficult the play must have been in this pressure-cooker situation.

61. Rf4+ Kg8!! 62. Rf3 Rb4 63. Bd7 g5! 64. h5 Kg7 65. h6+! Kxh6 66. Rf8 Rb8 67. Rg8 Kh5 68. Bf5 Rb2 69. Rh8 h6 70. Rh7 Rd2+ 71. Kc5 g4! 72. Rd7 Rf2 73. Rd5 Nf7 74. Be4+ Ng5 75. Kb5 Rb2+ 76. Kxa5 Rb5+! 77. Ka6 Rb6+! 78. Kxb6, Draw agreed.

By itself, Rachels' ability to involve the reader in the excitement of the battle makes this book worth reading, and there's plenty of other material to browse through.

I do have one gripe, which is Rachels' habit of making what seem to me trivial or unsupported personal criticisms about players. Twenty-five years or more after the fact, he still seems upset about perceived slights as minor as a single purportedly hostile look by Portisch or Ljubojevic being too much of a show-off about his blindfold analytical abilities. He makes unsubstantiated claims about people's ethics; for example, he casually states that "Max [Dlugy]'s own ethics had sometimes been called into question." This seems unfair without any evidence, and more concerning, it's gratuitous.

Rachels sees Campomanes at a meeting and remarks: "He seemed like a politician—friendly and dishonest." At one point he describes Kasparov in a tournament hall looking at demonstration boards: "a disheveled man approached him with pen and paper, seeking his autograph. Kasparov ignored him." Really? Rachels also includes a separate short section entitled "Kogan's Moral Lapses," in which his coach tries to arrange a

last-round decisive result with him in order to split the higher prize money. Okay, that's a shame, but what earthly good does it do to mention it in a book decades later? And why say "lapses"?

Navara's *My Chess World* is a highly-revised combination of previous writings, including his popular blogposts. Due to the diary-like nature of latter, we experience his life as a kind of travelogue, in which he discusses some of the attractions and features of the cities he plays in. Navara reflects honestly upon the positive and negative sides of the chess lifestyle:

"My life might appear monotonous or boring to many people, consisting largely of sitting at the computer, playing chess and reading. Not much social contact, no extreme experiences, instead long, patient work every day (is it really work?), which can sometimes verge on routine. But for those reasons, my own life seems very interesting to me, sometimes almost too interesting, so I'm rarely bored..."

"I can't drive or dance, and my knowledge of films and TV series is minimal... [but] chess is my choice. It has given me a lot: fun, success, friends, self-realization, money, popularity, memories and the chance to travel. I could go on. If I want all the nice things chess can offer, I have to be prepared to sacrifice something."

Navara writes with a sympathetic style, even if the humor is sometimes lost in translation. One interesting feature of his career is the annual match against leading stars of his time, arranged since 2003 by the Prague Chess Society. With the exception of one match versus leading Czech GM Movsesian, his opponents have included the elite of world chess, e.g., Korchnoi, Karpov, Kramnik, Polgar, Svidler, Nakamura, So, Ivanchuk, and Ding Liren. Alas, in spite of some titanic battles, Navara has normally come out the loser. Here's what he says about that:

"Sometimes it feels like I've lost the most matches of any Czech or Czechoslovak player! It reminds me of this joke: A patient asks the doctor before a difficult operation: 'Doctor, how many times have you performed this operation?' 'Eleven,' replies the doctor. 'That's reassuring,' says the patient. 'Yes, I'll get it right sooner or later!' says the doc."

Wonderful. In his defense, Navara did come out 2-2-1 in the first five of the series (including wins over Korchnoi and Short, and draws with Karpov and Gelfand), whereas many of the others were Rapid Chess games, a format that I don't think suits his style particularly well.

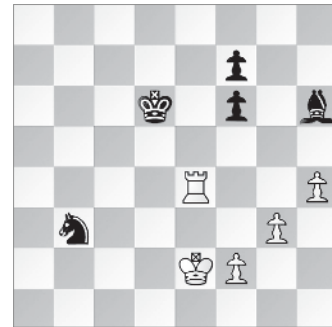
Navara plays complex and challenging chess, and his annotations are insightful, with plenty of verbal explanation. He is only 35 and has time to make even greater impact on top-level chess. Here's an excerpt from a game played last year. The middlegame was a massively complex affair, resulting in this apparently drawn endgame. With little time remaining, Navara plays a lovely sequence:

PRACTICAL CHANCES

GM David Navara (2739)

GM Ding Liren (2812)

Gashimov Memorial, Shamkir, 2019



WHITE TO PLAY

36. h5! Kd7!

White's idea after 36. ... Nc5 was 37. Re8! intending 37. ... Ne6? 38. Rh8 Bg7 39. Rh7! Ke7 40. Rxc7 Nxc7 41. h6 Kf8 42. h7!.

37. Rb4! Nc1+? 38. Kf3 Ke6 39. Rb6+ Kf5 40. Rb5+ Ke6 41. Ke4! Ne2 42. Rb6+ Ke7 43. Kd3! Nc1+ 44. Kc4

Finally ensuring that the knight will fall.

44. ... Ne2 45. Rb1!, Black resigned.

These are both fine books and can be enjoyed by anyone. Having said that, Rachels includes many elementary examples and a good deal of advice, so his book may be more appealing to less advanced players. Navara's annotations assume a more knowledge and understanding, but that should motivate the student who wants to learn what high-level modern chess is all about. ♠

Rachels, Stuart. The Best I Saw in Chess: Games, Stories and Instruction from an Alabama Prodigy Who Became U.S. Champion. New in Chess, 2020. ISBN Paperback: 978-9056918811. 372 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0235NIC, \$32.95)

Navara, David. My Chess World. Thinkers Publishing, 2020. ISBN Paperback: 9789492510808. 608 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0073TH, \$38.95)

The Strongest Non-Grandmaster?

Lauded by Tal and Bronstein, Rashid Nezhmetdinov might take the title.

By **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

WHO WAS THE STRONGEST PLAYER never to become a grandmaster? Obviously, there are a number of candidates to think about. One of the most worthy would be Rashid Nezhmetdinov (1912-74). Many of those in the know would surely deem the Kazakhstani virtuoso to have been of GM strength. Although he was erratic, at times he could be inspired, which often allowed him to salvage inferior positions. Consider this month's 1950 game against B. Romanov (Black) played in Arkhangel'sk. Black was doing well, but once Nezhmetdinov's counterattack got going, his opponent fell apart.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B88)

Rashid Nezhmetdinov
B. Romanov
Arkhangel'sk, 1950

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bc4 e6 7. a4 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. Be3 Bd7 10. Ndb5 Ne5



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.**

11. **Be2** **Par Score 5**

This is a natural retreat, preventing a Black knight from moving to g4.

11. ... **Bc6**

Black attacks the center and defends d6.

12. **f4** **Par Score 5**

This advance gets the king-rook into action, but Black is clearly okay.

12. ... **Ng6**

Romanov could have played 12. ... Ned7, when 13. Nxd6 Bxd6 14. Qxd6 Bxe4 is fine.

13. **Bf3** **Par Score 5**

White first strengthens e4, while also trying to dissuade Black from a possible ... d6-d5.

13. ... **Nh4**

Black aims for getting the two bishops. He's in decent shape.

14. **g4** **Par Score 5**

Typical Nezhmetdinov, and it looks menacing. Perfectly reasonable was 14. Nxa7. Accept *full credit* for playing it.

14. ... **Nxf3+**

15. **Qxf3** **Par Score 5**

15. ... **a6**

Black might have tried 15. ... Nxe4 16. Nxe4 f5, with a sizeable advantage.

16. **Nd4** **Par Score 5**

16. ... **e5**

Much better would have been either 16. ... d5 or 16. ... Qa5. This advance (16. ... e5) weakens the f5 square, and that's not a good idea against a powerful counterattacker like Nezhmetdinov.

17. **fxe5** **Par Score 5**

This leads to the opening of two files, the d-file and the f-file.

17. ... **dxex5**

18. **Nf5** **Par Score 5**



Suddenly, this knight becomes a monster. Black must play very carefully.

18. ... **Nd7**

Black anticipates a g-pawn advance, while closing the d-file.

19. **Rad1** **Par Score 6**

ABCs of Chess

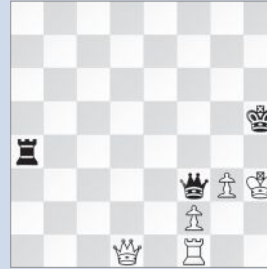
These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 59.

September Exercise: How can you try to overcome or minimize a flaw in your overall play? First you must determine what your problem is. Then you can devote your efforts to doing something about it. Once you think you've sized up your chief failing, you could play many training games from positions and openings that reflect the troubling situation. This is the Botvinnik approach. If he had difficulty with certain types of setups, he would fearlessly play right into them. The more practice he got trying to cope, the better he got at it. After a while, he got pretty darn good.

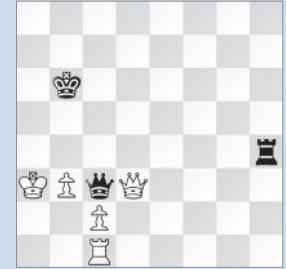
PROBLEM I.
Mating net



PROBLEM II.
Mating net



PROBLEM III.
Mating net



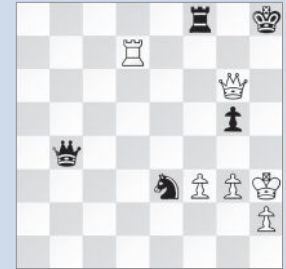
PROBLEM IV.
Mating net



PROBLEM V.
Mating net



PROBLEM VI.
Mating net



A strong placement. The opening of the position is clearly favoring White.

19. ... **Bg5**

Black tries to reduce the pressure by trading bishops and gaining a little freedom for his queen.

20. b4 **Par Score 5**

Another Nezhmetdinov surprise. It's perfectly fine, but accept *full credit* for either 20. Nd5 or 20. Bc5.

20. ... **Bxe3+**

It's funny. Romanov hoped to reduce the pressure by trading bishops, but suddenly his dark squares become more vulnerable.

21. Qxe3 **Par Score 5**

White's queen is now ideally positioned to operate in two directions.

21. ... **b5**

22. a5 **Par Score 5**

White shuts down the queenside. Black is left with dark square weaknesses. If he has any counterplay, it will be along the c-file.

22. ... **Qc7**

23. Qg5 **Par Score 6**

It's starting to be serious. Mate is menaced and White's queen is poised for tactical operations.

23. ...

Black had to stop the mate at g7.

24. Ne7+ **Par Score 7**

The knight check is crushing. Add *1 bonus point* if you realized that 24. ... Kh8 25. Rxd7, and however Black takes back, 26. Qf6 is mate.

24. ... **Kg7**

This is obviously better than going to the corner.

25. Rxd7! **Par Score 8**

A nice shot anyway. It doesn't matter how Black takes back.

25. ... **Bxd7**

26. Qxf6+ **Par Score 6**

26. ... **Kh6**

27. Rf5! **Par Score 7**

Threatening 28. Rh5 mate. On 27. ... Bxf5, 28. Nxf5 is mate. Accept *full credit* for 27. Nf5+, which also mates; after 27. ... Bxf5 28. Rxf5, White is threatening the same mate at h5. Add *1 bonus point* if you saw all the mating lines.

27. ... **Qa7+**

A spite check, nothing more.

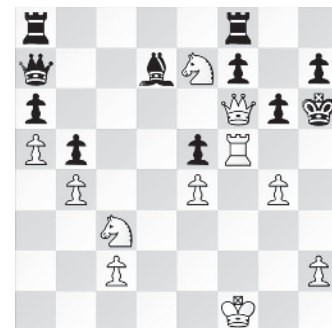
28. Kf1 **Par Score 5**

You may accept *full credit* for any White king move. That's it. Black is dead in the water.

g6

28. ...

Black Resigned ♠



**TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO
DETERMINE YOUR
APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:**

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

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To qualify, an event must be US Chess-rated (regular or quick) and meet these criteria:

- All US Chess-rated players over 2199 must be eligible to play in the top (or only) section.
- The prize fund for which all masters are eligible MUST equal or exceed \$300 guaranteed; \$150 be guaranteed to first place; no more than one prize under \$100 may count towards the Grand Prix (GP) total; and prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the GP total.
- Class prizes for Under 2300 or a higher rating requirement qualify towards GP points, but if they exceed 25% of the total qualifying GP money, they count as 25% of the total.
- Other than entry fees and US Chess dues, no charges over \$25 are permitted.
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The top prizes must be unconditionally guaranteed (or if a GP event's prize fund is based on entries, only the absolutely guaranteed minimum payout counts for point awards) and announced in *Chess Life*.

Even if prizes are raised at the tournament, no additional points can be awarded because the bonus would be unfair to players who may otherwise have entered. If you have questions about the Grand Prix, please contact Boyd Reed at boyd.reed@uschess.org.

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To speed up the processing of rating reports, US Chess now asks that wherever possible these reports have IDs for every player. If you collect a new membership, do not submit your rating report until your disk and paper reports include that player's ID number.

To assist tournament directors (TDs) in doing this, we have made several enhancements to our web server which will speed up online membership processing and give TDs a quick way to obtain US Chess IDs for new memberships.

We also recommend that TDs use the Member Services Area to check for member IDs. The search capabilities of MSA have been enhanced to assist TDs in finding existing member IDs.

For more details, please check the US Chess website: www.uschess.org/rtgchange.php.

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Want to know more? Contact Joan DuBois at joandubois@uschess.org.

We'll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess!

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If at all possible, please e-mail your TLAs. This will help to reduce errors.

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TLAs received after the 10th of the deadline month will not appear in the issue currently being processed.

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Top Prizes	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	Tot
\$300-\$499	6										6
\$500-\$749	8	2									10
\$750-\$999	10	5									15
\$1,000-\$1,499	12	8									20
\$1,500-\$1,999	14	10	6								30
\$2,000-\$2,499	16	12	8	4							40
\$2,500-\$2,999	18	14	10	6	2						50
\$3,000-\$3,999	20	16	12	8	4						60
\$4,000-\$4,999	22	18	15	12	8	5					80
\$5,000-\$5,999	24	20	17	14	11	8	6				100
\$6,000-\$9,999	26	22	19	16	13	10	8	6			120
\$10,000-\$29,999	30	26	23	20	16	13	10	8	4		150
\$30,000 & up	36	32	29	26	21	18	14	12	8	4	200
\$ (Enhanced)	54	48	44	39	31	27	21	18	12	6	300

Points involved divided equally (rounded to two decimal points) among tied players.

CHESS LIFE TLA DEADLINES

Cover date	TLA must be received by	Tournaments beginning	Expected release
Jan.	Nov. 10	Jan. 15	End Dec.
Feb.	Dec. 10	Feb. 15	End Jan.
March	Jan. 10	March 15	End Feb.
April	Feb. 10	April 15	End March
May	March 10	May 15	End April
June	April 10	June 15	End May
July	May 10	July 15	End June
Aug.	June 10	Aug. 15	End July
Sept.	July 10	Sept. 15	End Aug.
Oct.	Aug. 10	Oct. 15	End Sept.
Nov.	Sept. 10	Nov. 15	End Oct.
Dec.	Oct. 10	Dec. 15	End Nov.

Information for Players

US CHESS MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

If not a member, add dues to advance entry fee or pay them with entry fee at site.

U.S. Championship Qualifier. Tournament in which qualification spots for the U.S. Championship are awarded.

American Classic. Generally, an event that has been held by one organizer for the last three years and has attracted more than 400 players each year.

Heritage Event. Tournament held at least 25 years.

Regular Chess. Total playing time for each player is greater than 65 minutes ($mm+ss > 65$). **Quick Chess.** Total playing time for each player is more than 10 and less than 30 minutes ($10 < mm+ss < 30$). **Dual (both regular and quick).** Total playing time for each player is from 30 to 65 minutes ($30 < mm+ss < 65$). **Blitz Chess.** Total playing time for each player is from 5 to 10 minutes inclusive and the primary time control must be at least 3 minutes. $5 < mm+ss < 10$. All rounds must use the same time control.

RATING CLASSES

In most events, you don't have to win the tournament to win a prize—you can win a class prize as a top scorer of your rating group, or a section prize in a section restricted to your rating group. These rating groups are:

Senior Master: 2400 & up • **Master:** 2200-2399 • **Expert:** 2000-2199 • **Class A:** 1800-1999 • **Class B:** 1600-1799 • **Class C:** 1400-1599 • **Class D:** 1200-1399 • **Class E:** 1000-1199 • **Class F:** 800-999 • **Class G:** 600-799 • **Class H:** 400-599 • **Class I:** 200-399 • **Class J:** 199/below

TOURNAMENT LIFE: ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised.

BLZ:	Blitz rated.
QC:	Quick Chess events.
\$SGtd:	Guaranteed prizes.
\$B/x:	Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to payfull prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of \$501 or more must be awarded.
Bye:	Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take 1/2-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1/2-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.
CC:	Chess club.
dx:	Time delay, x = number of seconds.
+xx:	Time increment, xx = number of seconds added after each move.
EF:	Entry fee.
Ent:	Where to mail entries.
FIDE:	Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.
G/:	Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.
GPP:	Grand Prix Points available.
HR:	Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means \$60 single, \$65 twin, \$70/3 in room, \$75/4 in room.
JGP:	Junior Grand Prix.

Some tournaments use different groups such as 1900-2099, and some have “under” prizes or sections including all below a specified level.

RATINGS INFORMATION

You never lose your rating, no matter how long it has been since you last played. If you return after a long absence, please tell the director and US Chess your approximate rating and last year of play.

If you have a FIDE rating, or a rating or category from any other country, no matter how many years ago, you are not unrated. FIDE or foreign ratings may be rejected or have adjustment points added. If details are not announced, players wishing to use such ratings should contact the organizer in advance.

For foreign players with multiple ratings (US Chess, FIDE, CFC, FQE, other foreign), the highest rating is used, with possible adjustment points added, unless otherwise announced.

Ratings based on 4-25 games are called “provisional ratings” to indicate they are less reliable than established ratings. However, such ratings are valid for pairing and prize purposes at all US Chess-rated events, unless otherwise stated.

A tournament director (TD) may assign an estimated rating to any player, and may expel an improperly rated player from an event.

HOW TO ENTER IN ADVANCE

Entering by mail or online (if available) is easier for both you and the tournament organizer and often costs less. Check the tournament life announcement (TLA) ads for entering options. Along with entry fee, send full name, address, US Chess ID number,

expiration date, and section desired (if any). Also, give your last official US Chess rating (from Player/Ratings Look-Up). If you are unrated, or have a rating from many years ago, be sure to indicate this.

Mailed entries are usually not acknowledged unless you enclose a self-addressed postcard. If entering online, print confirmation of entry. They are refundable if you withdraw before round one is paired, unless otherwise stated.

For national events, refund requests must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days after the tournament ends. Any requests made after this date may not be honored.

HOTEL-MOTEL RATES

Rates listed are often special chess rates—you must request “chess rates” or you will be charged more. The chess rates may be unavailable if not reserved several weeks in advance, or if the block of chess rooms is used up. Hotel-desk personnel are often poorly informed about chess rates—if that is the case, ask for the sales office or contact the tournament organizer.

WHAT TO TAKE TO A TOURNAMENT

Along with a pen or pencil and your US Chess identification card (or current *Chess Life*), take a chessboard, set, and clock if you have them.

For prizes of \$600 or more, bring your U.S. Social Security card. If you have no Social Security number, the organizer must deduct 30 percent from your prize for the IRS (this includes foreigners).

Warning! The use of a cell phone in the tournament room is prohibited at most tournaments. If your cell phone rings in a room with games in progress, you could be penalized, or even forfeited.

IF YOU MUST WITHDRAW

If you enter by mail and cannot attend, or must drop out of a tournament in progress, it is important you give notice before pairings are started, so no one is deprived of a game. Mail entrants should send withdrawal notices at least a week beforehand—phone any later than this. To withdraw by phone on the tournament day, call the site and ask specifically for “the chess tournament.” E-mail withdrawals several days in advance are acceptable if the TD's e-mail address is listed. Any later than this, both e-mail your withdrawal and call the tournament site as the TD might not have access to his (her) e-mail account. If you forfeit without notice, you may be fined up to the amount of the entry fee.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Tournament director certification is an endorsement of professional competence only. Such certification does not in itself render any tournament director an agent of US Chess, nor is any affiliate an agent of US Chess.



National Events

Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events

See TLA in this issue for details

- 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled)** September 16-17 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2020 National Open (rescheduled)** September 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 or 19-20 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2020 U.S. Class Championships - Virginia** October 30-November 1 or October 31-November 1 • Dulles, Virginia
- 2020 U.S. Game/10 Championship** December 18 • Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2020 U.S. Game/30 Championship** December 19 • Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2020 U.S. Game/60 Championship** December 20 • Charlotte, North Carolina

FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)

- 2020 K-12 Grade Championships** December 11-13 • Orlando, Florida
- 2020 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship** December 27-30 • Toronto, Canada
- 2021 All-Girls National Championships** April 23-25 • Chicago, Illinois
- 2021 SuperNationals VII** May 7-9 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 2021 U.S. Junior Open Championship** June 4-6 • Pomona, California
- 2021 U.S. Senior Open Championship** June 4-6 • Pomona, California
- 2021 National Open** June 16-20 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2021 U.S. Women's Open** June 17-18 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 122nd annual (2021) U.S. Open** July 31-August 8 • Cherry Hill, New Jersey
- 2021 K-12 Grade Championships** December 3-5 • Orlando, Florida
- 2022 National High School (K-12) Championship** April 8-10 • Memphis, Tennessee
- 2022 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships** April 29-May 1 • Grapevine, Texas
- 2022 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships** May 13-15 • Columbus, Ohio
- 123rd annual (2022) U.S. Open** July 30-August 7 • Rancho Mirage, California
- 2022 K-12 Grade Championships** December 9-11 • National Harbor, Maryland
- 2023 National High School (K-12) Championship** March 31-April 2 • Washington, District of Columbia
- 2023 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships** April 21-23 • Round Rock, Texas
- 2023 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships** May 12-14 • Baltimore, Maryland
- 124th annual (2023) U.S. Open** July 29-August 6 • Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2023 K-12 Grade Championships** December 15-17 • Washington, District of Columbia
- 2024 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships** April 26-28 • Columbus, Ohio
- 2024 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships** May 10-12 • Atlanta, Georgia
- 125th annual (2024) U.S. Open** July 27-August 4 • Norfolk, Virginia
- 2024 K-12 Grade Championships** December 6-8 • National Harbor, Maryland

Bids

Note: Organizers previously awarded options for US Chess National Events must still submit proposals (including sample budgets) for their events.

OVERDUE BIDS

Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. US Chess recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates. US Chess reserves the right to decline all bids and organize the event itself.

For our expanded list of national events available for bid, see: www.uschess.org/content/view/12116/705/.

RATING SUPPLEMENTS

Rating supplements will be updated EACH MONTH on the US Chess website, and each monthly rating supplement will be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless otherwise announced in *Chess Life*. The US Chess website at www.uschess.org also frequently lists unofficial ratings. The purpose of unofficial ratings is to inform you of your progress; however, most tournaments do not use them for pairing or prize purposes. If you would otherwise be unrated, organizers may use your unofficial rating at their discretion, even without advance publicity of such a policy.

NOTE

The TLA pages "Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates" and "Information for Players" can now be found online at main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo.

PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HEALTH AND BENEFITS FUND

Many Grand Prix tournament organizers will contribute \$1 per player to the Professional Health & Benefits Fund. All Grand Prix tournaments which participate in this program are entitled to be promoted to the next higher Grand Prix category—for example, a six-point tournament would become a 10-point (Enhanced) tournament. Points in the top category are promoted 50%.

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

US Chess has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide US Chess affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately \$265 per year for a \$1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.

Nationals

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

SEPT. 16-17, NEVADA

US CHES GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

2020 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN (RESCHEDULED)

SSS, G/90, +30. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, 3700 W. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas. **\$3,500 Prize Fund** based on 30 paid entries. \$1000-600-400, U2000 \$350-200, U1800 \$250-150, U1600 \$200-100, U1400 \$150-100. **EF:** \$99 by 8/31, \$125 later. **REG.:** 8:30-9 a.m. **RDS.:** 9:30-2:30-7, 9:30-2:00. Half point bye available in any round (limit 2). **HR:** \$70 (\$97 Friday and Saturday nights) (888) 746-6955 ask for the **CHES** rates. Group code: SRLVCO. This event starts the Wednesday before the **National Open**. **ENT:** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or online at <https://chess.vegas/national-open>. FIDE. W.

An American Classic!

A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, NEVADA

US CHES GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

2020 NATIONAL OPEN (RESCHEDULED)

Open Section: Sept 16-20: 9-SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30. GM & IM norms possible. **Under Sections: September 17-20, 18-20 or 19-20:** 7-SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30 (3-day rounds 1-2 G/60, +10, 2-day rounds 1-4 G/30, +5). **Beginners Sections: September 18, 19 and 20:** 6-SS G/30, +5. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, 3700 W. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas. **\$100,000 Prize Fund** based on 600 paid entries! In 8 sections, top 3 FIDE rated. **Open:** \$8,000-4,000-2,000-1,000-600-500-400-300-250-250. **Under 2500:** \$2,500, top under 2400 \$2,400. **Extra \$2,500** divided among GMs, WGMs and foreign IMs winning less than \$250 and playing all rounds. The winner of the Open section also receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup. **Under 2300:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250. **Under 2100:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250. **Under 1900:** \$5,000-2,500-1,250-600-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 1700:** \$4,000-2,000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250-250. **Under 1500:** \$3,000-1,500-700-350-300-250-250-250-250. **Under 1300:** \$2,000-1,000-500-300-250-250, top under 1000 \$800 top under 800 \$700 (no provisional). Provisionally rated players may not win an amount greater than 40% of top prize in any under section; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **Beginners** (unrated or provisionally under 1301): 3 schedules with 6 rounds per day \$200-125-75 each day plus \$300 overall (best 2 results). Unrated players may play only in Beginners or Open Section. **Plus-Score Bonus:** (\$12,000) in addition to any other prizes, every player with a plus score wins a \$50 gift certificate. Plus score prizes will be awarded on site only. **Mixed Doubles:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$1,500-750-400. Average rating below 2200, teammates may play in different sections, only rounds 1-7 count for Open Section or best day for Beginners. **The Freddie:** Players age 14 and under are eligible for best game prizes including the Freddie Award and \$400 in cash prizes (donated by Fred Gruenberg). September FIDE ratings used in

The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of US Chess members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither US Chess nor *Chess Life* warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. *Chess Life* will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TLAs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least \$150. 2) No more than one prize under \$100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control noting increment or time delay even if delay is zero (d0).

US Chess Junior Grand Prix: A Junior Grand Prix event must have four or more rounds with a time control greater than 65 min. Please see: www.uschess.org/data/page/JGP-Rules.php for complete Rules.

SUBMISSIONS: E-mail your TLA to: tlas@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information check www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo and "Advertising" at uschess.org. Payment can be done online through the TD/Affiliate area or sent to: US Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

Note: US Chess Junior Grand Prix events do not have to necessarily be Scholastic or Youth tournaments. They do, however, have to have the required number of rounds and time control in order for scholastic and youth players to gain JGP points for prizes. For more information, please see the JGP rules at <http://www.uschess.org/datapage/JGP-Rules.php>.

Open section, September US Chess ratings in all other sections. CCA minimum ratings or other ratings may be used if higher. **EF:** Open: \$239 by 7/31, \$259 by 8/31, \$279 later. \$150 more for players not rated 2200 or above. GM, WGM & foreign IM free. \$80 less for IM or WIM. Under sections: \$239 by 7/31, \$259 by 8/31, \$279 later. **Beginners:** \$129 1 day, \$189 2 days, \$229 3 days. \$30 more after 8/31. All: Senior (over 65) \$40 less by 8/31. All fees \$21 more on site. 5-day schedule: **Reg.:** Wednesday 4-5 p.m. **Rds.:** 6:30, 12-6:30, 12-6:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. 4-day schedule: **Reg.:** Thursday 2-5 p.m. **Rds.:** 6:30, 12-6:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. 3-day schedule: **Reg.:** Friday 9-10:30 a.m. **Rds.:** 11:30-2:30 then merge with 4-day in round 3 at 6:30. 2-day schedule: **Reg.:** Saturday 8-8:30 a.m. **Rds.:** 9:30-11-1-2:30 then merge with 4-day in round 5 at 4:30. Half point byes available in any round if requested at least 2 hours in advance; Sunday byes must be requested before the start of round 4 and may not be cancelled. Chess sets and boards provided for tournament play only, not for skittles. Please bring digital chess clocks! **Many free extras and surprises!** U.S. Women's Open Wednesday and Thursday. **Walter Browne Memorial Blitz** Saturday 10:30 p.m. **Action Quads** Thursday. **Blitz** Sectionals Thursday & Friday. **Don't be shut out** - make your reservations early and be sure to ask for the **CHES** group rates — \$70 single or double (\$97 Friday and Saturday nights. Group code: SRLVCO. The discounted \$15 resort fee includes access to the Fitness Center and free WI-FI. **Cutoff for special hotel rate is August 31**, after that rates will increase significantly and there may not be any rooms available.

(888) 746-6955 or at <https://chess.vegas/national-open>. **ENT:** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or at <https://chess.vegas/national-open>. **Info:** (702) 930-9550. FIDE. W.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 30-NOV. 1 OR OCT. 31-NOV. 1, VIRGINIA

US CHES GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

2020 U.S. CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP - VIRGINIA

A VCF Cup Event! **\$14,000 GTD (7 Sections).** Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166. **Master to Class D Sections** plays 3-day or 2-day, 5-SS. **Class E/Unr** plays 2-day only 6-SS. **Master (FIDE):** \$2000-1000-500-300-200. **Expert (FIDE):** \$1400-800-400-200. **Unr limit \$200. Class A (FIDE):** \$1000-500-300-200 **Unr limit \$200. Class B:** \$800-400-300-200 **Unr limit \$200. Class C:** \$700-400-200-100 **Unr limit \$150. Class D:** \$600-300-200-100 **Unr limit \$150. Class E/Unr:** \$400-\$300-\$200. **Plaque/Trophy to the Class Champion in each section and Medals for Tied for 1st Place(s).** **Time Controls and Round Times:** **Master to Class D,** 5-SS: 40/120; SD/30 d10 except Round 1 at G/120 d10 (3-day) OR Rds. 1 & 2 at G/60 d10 (2-day). 3-day: Fri 7:30pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-4pm. 2-day: Sat 10am-1pm, Merge with 3-day Rd. 3 at 4pm. **Class E/Unr,** 6-SS: 2-day only G/60 d10. Sat/Sun 10am-1pm-4pm. **Entry Fees:** Early Bird: \$95 by 9/15; Regular Entry fee: \$105 after 9/15 and before 10/16; Late Entry Fee: \$115 after 10/16 and

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through September 30, 2020 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 "\$XXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "\$XXX 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.

38th Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western States Open

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!! A Weikel Tournament

• **October 16 - 18 & October 17 & 18, 2020** •
3 DAY SCHEDULE - 2 DAY SCHEDULE
US Chess 100 GPP (Enhanced) • Open Section F.I.D.E. Rated

PRIZE FUND \$27,500 (b/275) Gtd. \$3900 (1st - 3rd Open Section)

6 Sections • Entry Fee \$174 or less
Room Rates: \$65.30 Sun-Thu / \$106.16 Sat & Sun
Reservation Code: CHES1020

Wednesday October 14th

• **GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul/Analysis - Only \$30** •

Thursday October 15th

• **GM Enrico Sevillano - Simul - \$20** •

• **FREE Lecture by IM John Donaldson** •

• **Blitz Tourney (G/5 d0) - \$25 (80% = Prize Fund)** •

Saturday October 17th

• **FREE Game / Position Analysis by IM John Donaldson** •

For more info email wackyyl@aol.com
SEE TLA on page _____

Neither the Tournament Directors nor the Sands Regency will be held liable for any player attending whose health may have been compromised by attending the tournament. In addition, masks will be required to be worn for the tournament based on State / Government Covid regulations.

before 10/29; \$125 after and onsite. **Byes:** Limit 2, must commit 1hr before Round 3 starts (by Sat 3pm). Except Rounds 4/5 in Master, Expert and Class A FIDE Sections must be declared prior to Round 1. **HR:** \$99/night by Oct 5th. Reservations <https://tinyurl.com/tk3b9x6> or 703-471-9500, mention chess tournament. More tournament information/Online registration: www.capitalareachess.com/2020USClass. Mail checks to: Capital Area Chess, 5116 Bebe Ct., Centreville, VA 20120. Email info only: Anand Dommalapati, 2020USclass@capitalareachess.com. Boards and sets provided in ALL sections. **Two Side Events: Sat US Class Scholastic 9am; Sat US Class Blitz 9:30pm.**

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), NORTH CAROLINA US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

2020 U.S. G/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE)
6 rounds, G/10 d0. Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Road, Charlotte, NC – 704-547-7444 and mention chess tournament, or reserve online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid. Hotel rooms \$109-\$109, reserve by December 1. Free parking, free internet. **\$1000 guaranteed prize fund** in one section. **G/10 National Championship:** \$300 – 200 – 100, top Under 2200 \$100, top Under 1900 \$100, top Under 1600 \$100, top Under 1300/Unrated \$100. Plaque and 2020 U.S. G/10 National Champion title to first place. 2019 U.S. G/10 Champion (Charlotte): GM Illia Nyzhnyk (2752). USCF Blitz rated, December USCF regular ratings used for pairings and prizes. Up to 2 byes available, request at registration. Rounds Friday 7:30pm then ASAP. **Registration:** \$30 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid or check mailed to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226 by 12/15. \$40 after 12/15 or on-site. GMs, IMs, WGMs free, \$30 from prize. Boards and sets provided, please bring clocks. Info and registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), NORTH CAROLINA US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

2020 U.S. G/30 CHAMPIONSHIP - (NOTE NEW DATE)
5 rounds, G/30 d5. Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Road, Charlotte, NC – 704-547-7444 and mention chess tournament, or reserve online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid. Hotel rooms \$109-\$109, reserve by December 1. Free parking, free internet, entry fee discount if also playing Sunday G/60. **\$3000 guaranteed prize fund** in three sections. **G/30 National Championship:** \$600 – 300 – 200, top Under 2000 \$100. **Under 1800:** \$500 – 250 – 150, top Under 1600 \$100. **Under 1400:** \$400 – 200 – 100, top Under 1200 \$100. **Under 800 Scholastic (K-12):** Entry Fee \$30, Trophies to top 8, same playing schedule as main tournament. Plaque and 2020 U.S. G/30 National Champion title to first place in Championship section. 2019 U.S. G/30 Champion (Charlotte): GM Alexander Ipatov (2713). Rated players may play up if within 100 points of next section, unrated players must play Under 1400 or U800 Scholastic section. Up to 2 byes available, request at registration. Rounds Saturday 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm. **Registration:** \$60 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid or check mailed to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226 by 12/15. \$10 early discount if also entering G/60 Championship Sunday, \$10 discount if staying at official hotel. \$75 after 12/15 or on-site. U800 Scholastic \$30 entry fee. GMs, IMs, WGMs free, \$50 from prize. Boards and sets provided, please bring clocks. Info and registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), NORTH CAROLINA US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

2020 U.S. G/60 CHAMPIONSHIP - (NOTE NEW DATE)

4 rounds, G/60 d5. Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Road, Charlotte, NC – 704-547-7444 and mention chess tournament, or reserve online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid. Hotel rooms \$109-\$109, reserve by December 1. Free parking, free internet, entry fee discount if also playing Saturday G/30. **\$4000 guaranteed prize fund** in four sections. **G/60 National Championship:** \$700 – 400 – 200, top Under 2100 \$100. **Under 1900:** \$500 – 250 – 150, top Under 1750 \$100. **Under 1600:** \$400 – 200 – 100, top Under 1450 \$100. **Under 1300:** \$400 – 200 – 100, top Under 1100 \$100. Plaque and 2020 U.S. G/60 National Champion title to first place in Championship section. 2019 U.S. G/60 Champions (Charlotte): GM Illia Nyzhnyk (2752), GM Alexander Ipatov (2713), GM Mackenzie Molner (2545). Rated players may play up if within 100 points of next section, unrated players must play Under 1300 section. Up to 2 byes available, request at registration. Rounds Sunday 10am, 1pm, 3:30pm, 6pm. **Registration:** \$60 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid or check mailed to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226 by 12/15. \$10 discount on early entry fee if also entering G/30 Championship Saturday, \$10 discount if staying at official hotel. \$75 after 12/15 or on-site. GMs, IMs, WGMs free, \$50 from prize. Boards and sets provided, please bring clocks. Info and registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

Grand Prix

SEPT. 16-17, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

2020 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN (RESCHEDULED)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

2020 NATIONAL OPEN (RESCHEDULED)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 19, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

WALTER BROWNE MEMORIAL NATIONAL OPEN BLITZ (BLZ) (RESCHEDULED)

6 D-SS (12 games), G/3, +2. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. **\$3,600 Prize fund** based on 70 paid entries! **Open:** \$700-\$350-\$200. U2400 200, U2300 190, U2200 180, U2100 170, U2000 160. **Reserve (U1900):** \$350-\$200-\$150, U1800 150, U1700 140, U1600 130, U1500 120, U1400 110, U1200 100. Open section FIDE Blitz rated. Must be 3 players eligible for each prize awarded. Unrated eligible for under prizes in open section only. **EF:** \$50 by 8/31, \$60 later. **REG.:** by 9:45 p.m. Rd. 1 at 10:30 p.m. **chess.vegas/national-open** FIDE. W.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, GEORGIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

24TH ANNUAL "BORIS KOGAN MEMORIAL" (NEW DATE) (POSTPONED FROM MAR. 20-22)

5-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5241 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. **\$3000 guaranteed.** 3 sections. **CHAMPIONSHIP (FIDE-rated):** Open to USCF or FIDE-rated 1900 and Above. \$700-\$350-\$175. Under 2100, \$175-\$100. **AMATEUR:** Open to USCF-rated 1500 thru 1899. \$400-\$200-\$125; Under 1700, \$125. **RESERVE:** Open to USCF-rated Under 1500 and Unrated. \$300-\$150-\$100; Under 1200, \$100. **Entry Fee:** \$74 (3-Day), \$73 (2-Day) — if received by September 24; \$79 at site.

(W)Gms and (W)IMs Free (\$60 deducted from cash prizes won). **Unrated:** \$35. **Re-Entry:** \$40 (not available in "Championship" section). **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 7:00pm. Rds. Fri 7:30pm; SAT 2:30pm & 7:30pm; SUN 10:00am & 3:30pm. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends SAT 10:00am. Rds. SAT 10:30am, 2:30pm & 7:30pm; SUN 10:00am & 3:30pm. **Time controls:** "Championship" Section: 40/90, SD/30, d10. All other sections: G/120 d10. All sections: 2-day Schedule, Rd. 1 G/90 d10. (SAT 10:30am round is not "FIDE-rated"). **1/2-Pt. Byes:** Available any round (limit two) — requests required before Round One (no changes afterwards). **Players Must Bring Sets, Boards, and Clocks** — None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Information:** americanchesspromotions.com, (478) 973-9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 24 — no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, MARYLAND

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

MARYLAND OPEN - (POSTPONED FROM APR. 17-19)

5SS, 40/90, SD/30 + 30" incr. (Rnd. 1 G/90 + 30" incr) (2-day schedule: rds. 1-2 G/45+30"incr) U1300 & U1000 G/90 d5 (rds. 1-2 G/45 d5), (U1300 3-day option rds. 1&2 G/90 d5) Marriott Bethesda North, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, MD 20852. \$Based on score. 7 sections: Championship (min. rating of USCF 2000) FIDE rated: 5.0 = \$1600, 4.5 = \$800, 4.0 = \$450, 3.5 = \$175, 3.0 = \$50 [min \$1500 payout, top score group raised if less than \$1500]. U2200 (min. rating of USCF 1800) FIDE rated: 5.0 = \$1500, 4.5 = \$700, 4.0 = \$350, 3.5 = \$150, 3.0 = \$40. U2000: 5.0 = \$1200, 4.5 = \$650, 4.0 = \$325, 3.5 = \$125. U1800: 5.0 = \$1200, 4.5 = \$600, 4.0 = \$300, 3.5 = \$100. U1600: 5.0 = \$1000, 4.5 = \$500, 4.0 = \$250, 3.5 = \$100. U1300: 5.0 = \$500, 4.5 = \$250, 4.0 = \$125, 3.5 = \$50. U1000 (no adult UNR): 5.0 = \$250, 4.5 = \$125, 4.0 = \$50, 3.5 = \$20. Trophies to top 5 & U800 in U1000. **If no 5-0 in section, then sole 1st @ 4.5 or shared 1st at lower score receive bonus (added to score prize)** - Championship: \$300; U2200 \$200, U2000 \$150, U1800 & U1600: \$100; U1250 & U1000: \$50. Unrated limited to \$100 in U1000, \$200 in U1300, and \$400 in U1600. **Sets, boards, and clocks provided in all sections.** **Optionally, pairings can be texted/emailed to your phone. Free Sunday morning continental breakfast for players.** Free parking for day guests. **EF:** \$109 by 9/11, \$119 by 9/22, and \$124 online only by 9/24, \$130 later. Special Efs: \$55 less for U1000, \$35 less for U1300, GMs free, \$50 deducted from prize, IMs \$45 off EF, \$20 deducted from prize, HR: \$113/123, (\$5 EF discount if staying at hotel). Rooms may not be available after 9/11. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 7pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 11 & 5:30, Sun 9:30 & 3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 2:15 & 5:30, Sun 9:30 & 3:30. U1300 & U1000 schedule Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 12:45 & 3:00, Sun 9:30 & 8:12:45. U1300 3-day schedule Reg. ends Fri 7pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 11 & 3:00, Sun 9:30 & 12:45. Ent: MCA, 1827 Thornton Ridge Rd., Towson, MD 21204. Detailed rules, more information and registration at <http://themdopen.com>.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

SEPT. 26-27, TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

TEXOHMA OPEN (RESCHEDULED FROM APR. 9-12)

5SS, G/90 inc/30. Embassy Suites Dallas — Park Central, 13131 North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75248. HR \$119. Mention Chess. **Open:** \$875G. FIDE and US Chess rated but uses FIDE rules. Use US Chess ratings and rules for pairings and for awarding prizes. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. Note that Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play. Note that USA Players with no FIDE ID must disclose their email address. \$5 \$500-\$250-\$125. EF: 2400 + \$125, U2400 \$99, Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member \$60. Small Minimum prize to the First three GM/IM's who apply. GM/IM must play all rounds to get minimum prize (entry fee may be deducted from prize). Reg.: Saturday from 9:45-10:15 am. Rds.: Sat 10:45 am-3:10pm-7:16pm, Sun 9:45 am-2:10pm. One half point Bye allowed if requested before end of round 2 and before getting full point bye. Withdrawals and zero-point last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Due to social distancing, the occupancy of the ballroom may be met and registrations may be cut off. So, register early. Online registration strongly recommended and no onsite registration. Register at www.dallachess.com Make/mail Checks payable to Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719. Info: 214-632-9000. FIDE.

OCT. 3-4, ILLINOIS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

CAVEMAN FIRST WEEKEND CLUB #3

Ramada Plaza Chicago North Shore, 1090 South Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090. 3SS, G/80 + 30. 2 sections based on published rating: **Open:** 1800 & up, Reserve Under 1800. Unr @ director discretion. \$5 \$5,000 (b/70 & 35 per section): Open: \$750, \$350, \$250, \$200, U2200 \$300, \$150, U2000 \$300, \$150. **Reserve:** \$700, \$300, \$200, \$150, Unr Both: **EF:** \$100, online only until 8:00 pm 9/25, \$125 online til 8:00pm 10/2. \$140 @ site cash or credit only. Re-entry for \$50 with 1/2 point bye for round 1. \$20 to play up in Open section. Youth under 14 must be accompanied by adult, max 3 youths per adult. **Bye:** 1/2 any round, elected before rd. 2. **Reg/Check-in:** 8:00 to 8:30 am. Late players given .5 bye for rd 1. Pre-registered who arrive after Round 1 auto withdrawn. **Rds:** Sat 9:00, 1:00, 5:30. Sun 9:00, 1:00. **HR** \$69 847-215-9900 ask for Caveman Chess rate. **Ent:** www.kingregistration.com. **Info:** contact@cavemanchess.com Bring sets & digital clocks. Watch www.cavemanchess.com Upcoming Events for updates. Subject to regulatory cancellation if req'd.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

OCT. 8-12, 9-12 OR 10-12, VIRGINIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)

CANCELED: 12TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON CHESS CONGRESS

Premier Section, 9SS, Oct 8-12, G/100 + 30, FIDE rated. **Open** sections, 7SS, Oct 9-12 or 10-12, G/100 + 30, FIDE rated. **Reserve** sections, 5SS, Oct 9-12 or 10-12, G/100 + 30, FIDE rated. **Amateur** sections, 3SS, Oct 9-12 or 10-12, G/100 + 30, FIDE rated. **Entry Fee:** \$100, online only until 8:00 pm 9/25, \$125 online til 8:00pm 10/2. \$140 @ site cash or credit only. Re-entry for \$50 with 1/2 point bye for round 1. \$20 to play up in Open section. Youth under 14 must be accompanied by adult, max 3 youths per adult. **Bye:** 1/2 any round, elected before rd. 2. **Reg/Check-in:** 8:00 to 8:30 am. Late players given .5 bye for rd 1. Pre-registered who arrive after Round 1 auto withdrawn. **Rds:** Sat 9:00, 1:00, 5:30. Sun 9:00, 1:00. **HR** \$69 847-215-9900 ask for Caveman Chess rate. **Ent:** www.kingregistration.com. **Info:** contact@cavemanchess.com Bring sets & digital clocks. Watch www.cavemanchess.com Upcoming Events for updates. Subject to regulatory cancellation if req'd.

See www.cavemanchess.com for updates. Subject to regulatory cancellation if req'd.

CANCELED

TOURNAMENT LIFE: ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised.

BLZ: Blitz rated.

QC: Quick Chess events.

\$\$Gtd: Guaranteed prizes.

\$\$b/x: Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to payfull prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of \$501 or more must be awarded.

Bye: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take 1/2-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1/2-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.

CC: Chess club.

dx: Time delay, x = number of seconds.

+xx: Time increment, xx = number of seconds added after each move.

EF: Entry fee.

Ent: Where to mail entries.

FIDE: Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.

G/: Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.

GPP: Grand Prix Points available.

HR: Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means \$60 single, \$65 twin, \$70/3 in room, \$75/4 in room.

JGP: Junior Grand Prix.

Memb. Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.

Open: A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.

Quad: 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.

RBO: Rated Beginner's Open.

Rds: Rounds; scheduled game times follow. For example, 11-5, 9-3 means games begin 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. on the first day, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the second day.

Reg: Registration at site.

RR: Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).

SD/: Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/90, SD/1 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.

SS: Swiss-System pairings (preceded by number of rounds).

Unr: Unrated.

W: Site is accessible to wheelchairs.

WEB: Tournaments that will use a player's online rating.

A Heritage Event!**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****OCT. 9-11 OR 10-11, ILLINOIS**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)

29TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

5SS, G/100+30 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10), Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090. Prizes \$20,000 based on 300 paid entries, 50% each prize minimum. Master Section projection \$2000-1000-500-300, USCF U2300 \$800-400. See www.chessevents.us.

An American Classic!**A Heritage Event!****US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****OCT. 16-18, NEVADA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

38TH ANNUAL SANDS REGENCY RENO - WESTERN STATE OPEN - OPEN SECTION FIDE RATED - NEVADA

6SS, 6 Sections, OPEN Section 40/2, G/55 Min-d5, ("X", "A", "B", "C", "D") Sections 40/2, G/1-d5 - 2-Day Schedule G/1-d5). Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, 345 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89501.1-866-386-7829 or (775) 348-2200. **\$\$27,500 b/275. GTD \$33,900 (1st-3rd OPEN SECTION).** **OPEN** (2200 & above) EF: \$174, (2000-2199) EF: \$250, (1999 & below) EF: \$300, (GMs & IMs free but must enter by (9/18) or pay late fee). \$52,000-1,000-900-800-700-600-500, (2399/below)- \$1,000-500, (2299/below)- \$1,000-500. (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy). **EXPERT** Section (2000-2199) EF: \$174; \$52,000-1,000-500-300-300. Sec. **"A"** (1800-1999) EF: \$173; \$51,800-900-500-300-300, Sec. **"B"** (1600-1799) EF: \$172; \$51,700-800-400-300-300, Sec. **"C"** (1400-1599) EF: \$171; \$51,500-700-400-300-300, Sec. **"D"/under** (1399 & below) EF: \$160; \$51,000-500-300-200, (1199 & below) - \$5300; 2-Day EF: \$170 (No Open Section). Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Champ. - \$600-300. ALL: Entries must be postmarked by 9/18 or pay late fee-\$11, do not mail after 10/9 or email after 10/13, \$22 at site. Trophies: Open Champion, 1st Senior, 1st Unrated, 1st Expert and 1st - 3rd ("A" - "D" sections). Unrated players are free entry but not eligible for cash prizes- must join USCF for 1 full year thru this tournament. 1st Unrated = trophy + 1 yr. USCF Mem. Senior discount (65+ yrs.) \$10. Players may play up. Provisionally rated players may only win 1/2 of 1st place money (except Open Section 1 - 3). CCA ratings may be used. Note: pairings not changed for color unless 3 in a row may be assigned. SIDE EVENTS: Wed. (10/14) 7:00pm GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul with game analysis (ONLY \$30!); Thurs. (10/15) 6-7:15pm Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE); 7:30pm- GM Enrico Sevillano - Simul (\$20); 7:30pm-Blitz (G/5 d0!) Tourney (\$25) 80% entries = Prize Fund. Sat. (10/17) (3-4:30pm) Free Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson. REG.: (Thurs,10/15) 5-8pm (Friday,10/16) 9-10am and (Sat,10/17) 9-10 am. RDS.: (Fri) 12-7, (Sat) 10-6, (Sun) 9:30-4:30. 2-Day (10/17) Rd. 1 (10:30 am), Rd. 2 (12:45 pm), Rd. 3 (3:00 pm), Rd. 4 merge with regular schedule - (6:00 pm). Byes available any round if requested by Rd.1 (Open Section 2 byes max). ENT: make checks payable and send to: SANDS REGENCY (address listed above), postmarked by 9/18. \$11 late fee if postmarked after 9/18. Do not mail after 10/9 or email after 10/13. \$22 late fee at site. HR: (Sun-Thurs. \$65.30) (Fri. & Sat. \$106.16) 1-866-386-7829 Reservation Code: CHESS1020 (Reserve by 10/5/20 to get Chess rate. Under 21 years of age must check in with an adult. ALL prize winners (including juniors attending with parents) must have photo i.d. to collect prize money at site. **Neither the tournament director(s) nor the Sands Regency will be held liable for any player/spectator whose health may be compromised by attending the tournament. In addition, masks will be required to be worn for the tournament based on State/Government Covid19 regulations.*** INFO: Jerry Weikel, 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523, (H) 775-747-1405 or (Cell) 775-354-8728 (AFTER 10/15/20 please call cell number ONLY or the Sands Regency), wackyylk@aol.com or check out our website at: www.renochess.org. To verify entry and review the Health and Safety Protocols for the tournament check Reno Chess website.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, GEORGIA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

2020 ATLANTA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

5-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5227 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. **\$3000 guaranteed.** 5 sections. **"Master/Expert (FIDE-rated):"** Open to USCF or FIDE-rated 2000 and Above. \$500-250; Under 2200, \$225-125. **Class "A"** Open to USCF-rated 1800 thru 1999. \$400-200. **Class "B"** Open to USCF-rated 1600 thru 1799. \$300-150. **Class "C"** Open to USCF-rated 1400 thru 1599. \$250-125. **Class "D/Below"** Open to USCF-rated below 1400 and Unrated. \$200-100; Under 1200, \$100-75. **Class "D"** thru "A" rated players may elect to enter the next higher section. **Entry Fee:** \$74 (3-Day), \$73 (2-Day) — if received by October 22; \$79 at site. (W)GMs and (W)IMs Free (\$60 deducted from cash prizes won). **Unrated:** \$35. **Re-Entry:** \$40 (not available in "Master/Expert" section). **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends FRI 7:00pm. Rds. FRI 7:30pm; SAT 2:30pm & 7:30pm; SUN 10:00am & 3:30pm. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends SAT 10:00am. Rds. SAT 10:30am, 2:30pm & 7:30pm; SUN 10:00am & 3:30pm. **Time controls:** "Master/Expert" Section: 40/90, SD/30, d10. All other sections: G/120, d10. All sections: 2-day Schedule, Rd. 1 G/90, d10. (SAT 10:30am round is not "FIDE-rated"). **½-Pt. Byes:** Available any round (limit two) — requests required before Round One (no changes afterwards). **Players Must Bring Sets, Boards, and Clocks** — None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Information:** americanchesspromotions.com, (478) 973-9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER OCTOBER 22 — no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, NEW JERSEY

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

24TH ANNUAL EASTERN CHESS CONGRESS

5SS, Hyatt Regency Princeton, in 7 sections. **Premier Section** (1900/up): Minimum \$5 500-300-200. Details: www.chessevents.us.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**OCT. 24-25, TEXAS**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

2020 DCC FIDE OPEN II (RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 9-10)

5SS, G/90 inc/30. Embassy Suites Dallas — Park Central, 13131 North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75243. HR \$119. Mention Chess **Open:** \$5875G. FIDE and US Chess rated but uses FIDE rules. Use US Chess ratings and rules for pairings and for awarding prizes. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. Note that Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play. Note that USA Players with no FIDE ID must disclose their email address. \$\$ \$500-\$250-\$125. EF: 2400+ \$125, U2400 \$99, Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member \$60. Small Minimum prize to the First three GM/IM's who apply. GM/IM must play all rounds to get minimum prize (entry fee may be deducted from prize). Reg.: Saturday from 9:45-10:15 am. Rds.: Sat 10:45 am-3:10pm-7:16pm, Sun 9:45 am- 2:10pm. One half point Bye allowed if requested before end of round 2 and before getting full point bye. Withdrawals and zero-point last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Due to social distancing, the occupancy of the ballroom may be met and registrations may be cut off. So, register early. Online registration strongly recommended and no onsite registration. Register at www.dallachess.com Make/mail Checks payable to Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719. Info: 214-632-9000. FIDE.

OCT. 30-NOV. 1 OR OCT. 31-NOV. 1, VIRGINIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

2020 U. S. CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP - VIRGINIA

See Nationals.

OCT. 31, VIRGINIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

2020 U. S. CLASS FIDE BLITZ! (BLZ)

Side Event to the 2020 U. S. Class Championship. Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166. 2 Sections. **Open:** G/5 d0; 5-SS Double. **\$\$\$500 GTD** \$200-150-100-50. **U1800** (b/16): \$150-75-50. **EF:** \$30 by Oct 30th online, Onsite \$35 by 9:15pm. Rounds start 9:30pm. Max 1 byes allowed at entry. More information/Online registration: www.capitalareachess.com/2020USClass

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), NORTH CAROLINA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

2020 U.S. G/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), NORTH CAROLINA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

2020 U.S. G/30 CHAMPIONSHIP - (NOTE NEW DATE)

See Nationals.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), NORTH CAROLINA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

2020 U.S. G/60 CHAMPIONSHIP - (NOTE NEW DATE)

See Nationals.

Regional

ALABAMA

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, 24th Annual "Boris Kogan Memorial" (New Date) (postponed from Mar. 20-22) (GA)

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 2020 Atlanta Class Championships (GA)

See Grand Prix.

ARIZONA

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 19, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz (BLZ) (rescheduled) (NV)

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 19, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz (BLZ) (rescheduled) (NV)

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 19, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz (BLZ) (rescheduled) (NV)

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

COLORADO

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

CONNECTICUT

SEPT. 26, CANCELED: 2020 Connecticut Harvest Open

Mill Brook Place, 1267 Main St., (Rt 31) Coventry, CT. 3-SS. G/60 d5. One Section. Accel.Pairings. **Cash prizes:** \$160-1st, \$80-2nd are based on 12 entries. **EF:** \$40 cash only. Register at the door only 9:45 thru 10:15 am. **Rds.:** 10:30, 12:45, 3:00. Dual rated. No equipment supplied. Masks required. No shaking hands. **Info:** 860-600-3191. W.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, Maryland Open - (postponed from Apr. 17-19) (MD)

See Grand Prix.

FLORIDA

Boca Raton Chess Club

Friday night tournament games, one game a week for 4 weeks. www.bocachess.com, 561-302-4377.

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, 24th Annual "Boris Kogan Memorial" (New Date) (postponed from Mar. 20-22) (GA)

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 2020 Atlanta Class Championships (GA)

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

GEORGIA

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, 24th Annual "Boris Kogan Memorial" (New Date) (postponed from Mar. 20-22)

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 2020 Atlanta Class Championships

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

HAWAII

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

IDAHO

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)

See Nationals.

OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020 October Chandra Alexis Chess Club

Weekly September rated tournaments. Scott Hayhurst DMD Building, 7337 W. Northview St., Suite 4, Boise, ID. Entrance on North side of

building, downstairs. Every Saturday 9am-8pm. USCF rated G/60 d5. EF: \$25. Prizes: \$200 b/10. Reg.: chandraalexchessclub.org. For information please contact: USCF Senior TD; FIDE National Arbiter-US; George Lundy (208) 375-1211.

ILLINOIS

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

OCT. 3-4, Caveman First Weekend Club #3
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 9-11 OR 10-11, 29th annual Midwest Class Championships
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS

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.MDChess.org for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signups 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. UMBG is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, Maryland Open - (postponed from Apr. 17-19)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

MASSACHUSETTS

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

MISSOURI

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

NEVADA

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 17, National Open Action Quads
3-RR, G/25, +5. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. \$580 in each section of 4. EF: \$30. REG.: by 1:30 p.m. Rd. 1 at 2:00 p.m. chess.vegas/national-open

SEPT. 17, National Open Thursday Blitz Sectionals (BLZ)
7-RR, G/3, +2. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. \$5100-60 in each section of 8. EF: \$30. REG.: by 11:30 p.m. Rd. 1 at midnight. chess.vegas/national-open

SEPT. 18, National Open Friday Blitz Sectionals (BLZ)
7-RR, G/3, +2. Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. \$5100-60 in each section of 8. EF: \$30. REG.: by 11:30 p.m. Rd. 1 at midnight. chess.vegas/national-open

SEPT. 19, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz (BLZ) (rescheduled)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 16-18, 38th Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western State Open - Open Section FIDE Rated - NEVADA
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Check out these US Chess Rated Events!

US CHESS 73rd ANNUAL 2020 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

\$800 FIRST PRIZE (plus title of US chess Golden Knights Champion and plaque)
2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those US Chess members with an APO or FPO address. US Chess members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to US Chess Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: Class A: 1800-1999 (very strong); Class B: 1600-1799 (strong); Class C: 1400-1599 (intermediate); Class D: 1399 and below (beginner level). Note: Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

US CHESS 17th ANNUAL 2020 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship*

\$800 FIRST PRIZE (plus title of US Chess electronic Knights Champion and plaque)
2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members with e-mail access. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten. Note: Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

*Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.

Mail in this form to enter, or call us at 800-903-USCF option 4, or visit us online at www.uschess.org

Name _____ US CHESS ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Est. Rating _____

Please call the number above to pay by credit card.

☐ Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated
(note that this may slow down your assignment).

Make checks payable to US CHESS and mail to: Joan DuBois, US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557

Three ways to enter:

- Call 800-903-USCF (8723) option 4
- Visit us online at uschess.org
- Mail in the form below

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

Two or six-game options. ENTRY FEE: \$5.

☐ Win A Correspondence Chess Trophy

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy. Entry fee: \$10.

☐ Victor Palciauskas Prize Tournaments

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. Entry fee: \$25.

☐ John W. Collins Memorial Class Tournaments

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate. Entry fee: \$7.

EMAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED EMAIL ACCESS)

☐ Lightning Match

Two players with two or six-game option. Entry fee: \$5.

☐ Swift Quads

Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize US Chess CC entry credit of \$30. Rating-Levels 0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+. Entry fee: \$10.

☐ Walter Muir E-Quads (webserver chess)

Four-player, double round-robin webserver format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate. Entry fee: \$7.

Please check event(s) selected.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads & Electronic Knights, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

NEW JERSEY

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, Maryland Open - (postponed from Apr. 17-19) (MD)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 24th annual Eastern Chess Congress
See Grand Prix.

A State Championship Event!

NOV. 22, New Jersey K-12 Grade Championships

5SS, G/25 d5. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ 07738. Student Life Center, use Parking Lot #7 or #6; 4 miles from Garden State Parkway exit 109. **13 Sections:** Play only in your grade! Grades K-12: Trophies to top 10 individuals, top 3 teams - top 3 from each school/grade; 50% of players receive trophy or medal! **Rds.:** 10am and ASAP. **EF:** \$35 by 11/15, \$55 at site. USCF mem req'd. **Reg.:** 8-9:00am After 9:00am 1/2 pt bye rd 1. **Info:** 732 259-3881, Halsprechman@gmail.com **Ent:** Please make checks payable to NJSCF and send to Hal Sprechman, 66 Cromwell Lane, Jackson, NJ 08527. Entries must include name, grade school, date of birth, USCF ID # & expiration, mailing address, phone number & entry fee, please include email address. Register online at: www.njscf.org until 7pm 11/21.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

NEW MEXICO

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

NEW YORK

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

SEPT. 3, 10, 17, 24, OCT. 1, 11th LICC Sept. Open

5SS, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. \$(b/20 pd. ent.):** \$110-90. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$60 ea. **EF:** \$35. Non-LICC members + \$10. UNRATED FREE! **Reg.:** 6:45 - 7:15 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. **Info:** www.lichessclub.com.

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 17, Marshall Thursday Action
Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

SEPT. 18, Marshall Quick Chess (QC)
Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

SEPT. 18-20, Marshall Monthly U2400
Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

SEPT. 20, Marshall Rated Beginner
Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

SEPT. 24, Marshall Thursday Action
Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

SEPT. 25, Marshall Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)
Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, Maryland Open - (postponed from Apr. 17-19) (MD)
See Grand Prix.

Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)

The MAP program continues in 2020. See details at main.uschess.org/go/MAP. Top standings will appear every two months in *Chess Life*. Standings as of July 6, 2020:

Overall Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	367
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	266
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC	NY	174
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	166
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	131
DARK KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	TX	126
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	101
EN PASSANT CHESS CLUB	TX	73
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	68
BNASC	IL	59

Small State Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	68
JOHN BAPST MHS CHESS CLUB	ME	32
METRO AREA CHESS	DC	20
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX	NH	19
HARRISON COUNTY CHESS CLUB	WV	17
ENDGAME CHESS	NM	8
MAINE HIGHLANDS CHESS LEAGUE	ME	8
CMC- LLC	RI	5
HAWAII CHESS CLUB	HI	4
AIRLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ME	4

State Chapter Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	MD	158
MINNESOTA ST CHESS ASSN	MN	120
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	110
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	102
PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED	PA	83
NEW JERSEY ST CHESS FED	NJ	37
NEVADA CHESS INC	NV	27
MAINE CHESS ASSOCIATION	ME	23
FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION	FL	13
TENNESSEE CHESS ASSOCIATION	TN	8
MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC	MA	8
IOWA STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION	IA	8

Adult Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	249
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	45
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	41
JERSEY SHORE HS CHESS LEAGUE	NJ	35
MECHANICS INST CHESS CLUB	CA	32
ROCHESTER CHESS CENTER	NY	25
MARSHALL CHESS CLUB	NY	22
JOHN BAPST MHS CHESS CLUB	ME	22
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	21
CHESS CASTLE OF MINNESOTA	MN	20
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	20

Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	247
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC	NY	168
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	145
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	118
DARK KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	NY	117
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	111
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	94
EN PASSANT CHESS CLUB	TX	67
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	65
BNASC	IL	59

Member Standings

Name	State	Count
LUNA, GILBERTO, II	FL	14
CAMPBELL, TIM V	MO	14
KRANICH-RITTER, TANIA	FL	13
CRAWFORD, RUSSELL	TX	10
DEAN, ZACHARY	NY	9
TUSING, TIMOTHY A	FL	8
BRAUNLICH, THOMAS	OK	8
WOLF, TODD W	ND	7
LOZANO, JESSE	TX	6
TITUS, ANDREW LEWIS	MN	4
UTZ, JEFFREY PETER	NY	4
LIPTRAP, JAMES M	TX	4
HODSON, GRANT B	UT	4

PCT Gain Standings

State	Dec19	Jun20	PCT	State	Dec19	Jun20	PCT	State	Dec19	Jun20	PCT	State	Dec19	Jun20	PCT
NM	643	806	25.3	CA	2	2	0.0	MT	107	102	-4.7	DC	417	391	-6.2
MIL	14	17	21.4	WV	265	265	0.0	AL	693	659	-4.9				
HI	160	182	13.8	ME	555	541	-2.5	OH	2461	2327	-5.4				

SEPT. 26, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1800)Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**SEPT. 27, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**SEPT. 27, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1500)**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**SEPT. 28, OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26, NOV. 2, Marshall FIDE Monday/U1800**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 1, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 2-4, Weekend Open**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 4, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 8, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

OCT. 8, 15, 22, 29, NOV. 5, 10th LICC Fall Open
 555, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. \$(b/20 pd. ent.):** \$110-90. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$60 ea. **EF:** \$35. Non-LICC members + \$10. UNRATED FREE! **Reg.:** 6:45 - 7:15 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. **Info:** www.licchessclub.com.

OCT. 9, Marshall Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 10, Marshall U1900 Morning Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 10, Marshall G/50 Open**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 10, CHESS IS BACK! National Chess Day Tourney!**

Venue TBS - Binghamton, NY 13901. 3 round SS. G/45 d0. **EF:** \$30 open section \$25 reserve section (under 1700). **Rounds:** 10AM-12:30PM-3PM. \$500 prize money based on 20 entries. **Open** 1st \$125, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$75, **Reserve** 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$25. For every paid entry 1 chess set and board will be donated by Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY22) to a local school or community organization of the players choice. **Info:** call 607-772-8782 or cordisco4council@gmail.com. Bring your own masks if required. None provided.

OCT. 11, Marshall Rated BeginnerComplete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 11, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1600)**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 12, Marshall Columbus Day Action!**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 15, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 16-18, Marshall Monthly U2400**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 18, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 20, Marshall Masters**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 21, 18, NOV. 4, 11, 18, DEC. 2, Marshall Weekly Wednesday**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 22, 29, NOV. 5, 12, 19, DEC. 3, Marshall Thursday Open**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 22, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 23, Marshall Quick Chess**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 24, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1800)**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 25, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 25, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1500)**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 29, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**OCT. 30-NOV. 1, Weekend Open**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 1, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 5, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 6-8, Weekend Open**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 8, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 9, 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, Marshall FIDE Monday/U1800**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 12, Marshall Thursday Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 13, Marshall Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 14, Marshall U1900 Morning Action**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 14, Marshall G/50 Open**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 15, Marshall Rated Beginner**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**NOV. 15, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1600)**Complete details and registration: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.**DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)**

See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)

See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)

See Nationals.

NORTH CAROLINA**SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, 24th Annual "Boris Kogan Memorial" (New Date) (postponed from Mar. 20-22) (GA)**

See Grand Prix.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 2020 Atlanta Class Championships (GA)

See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE)

See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE)

See Nationals.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed**

An official FIDE Continental Championship offering **IM, FM, WIM, WFM direct FIDE titles and GM, IM, WGM, WIM norms** for winners! The 2019 North American Junior was held in Charlotte and had a record 77 players. Two sections - **Open U20** and **Girls U20** (girls may enter either section). 9 rounds, G/90 inc/30, USCF and FIDE-rated, FIDE norms and titles available. Venue: **Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel**, 8629 JM Keynes Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262. Hotel: \$109/night (single/double), free breakfast, free 3-mile shuttle, free internet, free parking, fridge/microwave in every room. \$15 discount off tournament entry fee if staying at official hotel. Open to all players from USA, Canada, and Mexico who are under 20 (19 & younger) as of 1/1/2020 (born 2000 or after). This is a completely open event for those



THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS



Thank you for being the sustaining force behind all our initiatives, and for making all of our programs possible.

US Chess Benefactor Members as of July 30, 2020:

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Henry J. Thompson	Bill Witmer
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Gold & Silver Affiliates



US CHESS would like to recognize and thank
all of our Affiliates for their commitment and hard work.

US CHESS GOLD AFFILIATES

Bay Area Chess

2050 Concourse Drive #42
San Jose, CA 95131
408-409-6596
ask@bayareachess.com
www.bayareachess.com

Berkeley Chess School

2622 San Pablo Avenue,
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-843-0150
tournaments@berkeleychessschool.org
www.berkeleychessschool.org

Capital Area Chess

Centreville VA
703-627-5314
info@capitalareachess.com
www.capitalareachess.com

Caveman Chess, LLC

27 Morris Street
Park Ridge, IL 60068
224-985-5244
contact@cavemanchess.com
www.cavemanchess.com

ChessNYC.com

Michael Propper
1562 1st Ave #189
New York, NY 10128
212-475-8130
info@chessnyc.com
www.chessnyc.com

Continental Chess Association

P.O. Box 8482
Pelham, NY 10803
201-347-2269
director@chess.us
www.chesstour.com

Marshall Chess Club

23 West 10th Street,
New York, NY 10011
212-477-3716
admin@marshallchessclub.org
www.marshallchessclub.org

PaperClip Pairings

c/o Remy Ferrari
4 Jalapa Court
Brownsville, TX 78526
956-621-0377
rrferrari@bisd.us

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis

4657 Maryland Avenue,
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-CHESS
info@saintlouischessclub.org
www.saintlouischessclub.org

San Diego Chess Club

2225 Sixth Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92101
619-752-4377
chucnglo@aol.com
www.sandiegochessclub.org

WilliamsburgTutoring.com

David Green
60 Broadway
Brooklyn NY 11249
info@ChessNYC.com
www.WilliamsburgTutoring.com

US CHESS SILVER AFFILIATES

Chess Center of New York (NY)

www.chesscenter.cc

En Passant Chess Club (TX)

td_edg@twc.com

Evangel Chess Club (AL)

www.evangelchurch.me

Jersey Shore HS Chess League (NJ)

shorehschessleague@yahoo.com

Little House of Chess, Inc. (NY)

littlehouseofchess.com

Long Island Chess Nuts (NY)

516-739-3907

Michigan Chess Association (MI)

www.michess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation (OK)

www.OCFchess.org

Rochester Chess Center (NY)

www.chessset.com

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)

www.spartachessclub.org

For all information on becoming a Gold or Silver Affiliate, please visit www.uschess.org/content/view/7905/95.

TLA Continued

who meet the age and eligibility requirements. **Awards:** Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals to top 3 in each section (on tiebreaks if necessary). Gold medalists win Personal Rights status at 2021 North American Junior and Pan-Am Junior Championships. **Direct FIDE Titles:** Open section – Gold medal = **IM title and GM norm**; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive IM title, gold medalist also earns GM norm. Silver = **FM title and IM norm**. Bronze = **FM title and IM norm**. Girls section – Gold = **WIM title and WGM norm**; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive WIM title, gold medalist also earns WGM norm. Silver = **WFM title and WIM norm**. Bronze = **WFM title and WIM norm**. **Schedule:** suggested arrival Friday 12/18. Players meeting 12/19 12:30pm, Rounds Sat 1pm, 7pm, Sun 12pm, 6pm, Mon 12pm, 6pm, Tues 12pm, 6pm, Wed 10am. **Registration:** Players should register directly with the organizers online, it is not necessary to go through the federation. **Entry Fee:** \$260 paid online at www.charlotteschesscenter.org/najunior until 11/20, \$280 until 12/10, \$300 until 12/18. No registration after 12/18. \$15 off EF if staying at official hotel. Refunds before 11/20 subject to 5% service fee. No refunds for withdrawals after 11/20. No half-point byes, only zero-point byes. All equipment provided! This event takes place at the same time as the U.S. G/10, G/30, G/60 Championships (www.charlotteschesscenter.org/usblitzrapid). FIDE Rules, December FIDE ratings used for pairings, USCF and FIDE-rated, all players must have US Chess membership. Organizer: Charlotte Chess Center, contact: grant@charlotteschesscenter.org. Info, detailed regulations, registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/najunior

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE)
See Nationals.

OREGON

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

PENNSYLVANIA

Chaturanga Chess Club

Wed. nights 7:30pm, Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Hatboro, PA. Visit <https://www.chaturangachessclub.org/> or email chaturanga@verizon.net.

North Penn Chess Club

Main & Richardson, Lansdale, PA. See www.northpennchessclub.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418.

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, Maryland Open - (postponed from Apr. 17-19) (MD)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, 24th Annual "Boris Kogan Memorial" (New Date) (postponed from Mar. 20-22) (GA)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 2020 Atlanta Class Championships (GA)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

TENNESSEE

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, 24th Annual "Boris Kogan Memorial" (New Date) (postponed from Mar. 20-22) (GA)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 10, 2020 Cumberland County Fall Open - National Chess Day Cumberland Co. Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Rd., Crossville, TN 38555. \$420 guaranteed prize fund. In 2 Sections, **Open:** 4SS, G/60 d5, \$5: \$75. 30-X, A, B, C, D/Below. **Amateur - U1200:** 4SS, G/60 d5, Open to U1200 & under. \$5: \$75. 30-F, G, H/Below, UNR. UNR eligible for unrated prize only. **ALL:** EF: \$15 if mailed by 10/7, \$20 later or at site. **Memb. Req'd:** TCA \$10 TN residents only. US Chess membership required. **Rds.:** 9, 11:15, 2 and 4:30 CDT. A 1/2 point may be requested for any round if

done by the end of registration. **ENT:** Cumberland County Chess Club, PO Box 271, Crossville, TN 38557. **INFO:** www.cumberlandcountychess.org, CumberlandCountyChessClub@gmail.com. W.

OCT. 23-25 OR 24-25, 2020 Atlanta Class Championships (GA)
See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 26-27, TexOhma Open (rescheduled from Apr. 9-12)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 24-25, 2020 DCC FIDE Open II (rescheduled from May 9-10)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

UTAH

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 19, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz (BLZ) (rescheduled) (NV)
See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA

SEPT. 25-27 OR 26-27, Maryland Open - (postponed from Apr. 17-19) (MD)
See Grand Prix.

OCT. 8-12, 9-12 OR 10-12, CANCELED: 12th annual Washington Chess Congress
See Grand Prix.

A Heritage Event!

OCT. 10-12, 2020 (61st Annual) U.S. Armed Forces Chess Championship (5-SS FIDE G/2+30)

G/2, +30 (increment 30 seconds/move), FIDE-rated. USCF Ratings will be used for pairing purposes. HUBZone HQ, 1591 Dahlia Dr., Ste. 103, Virginia Beach, VA 23453. Website: <https://usarmedforceschess.org>. Due to pandemic-related factors, this year's venue is off-base. Venue restrictions limit the number of players to 20. USCF MCC player selection criteria: 12 slots are reserved for the Top 3 rated applicants from each service (USA, USN, USAF and USMC) who apply on or before Labor Day (Monday 7 SEP). Remaining 8 slots plus any of the unfilled 12 service slots will be assigned to other applicants based on their highest USCF regular ratings. List of participants will be finalized on Friday 11 SEP 2020 to allow sufficient time for selectees to make travel plans. U.S. Active Duty, Reservists, Military Retirees, Cadets, Midshipmen, and ROTC who have a USCF membership may apply. **Entries and additional information:** tbelke@hubzonehq.com. **EF:** Free! **Prizes:** Trophies/Plaques to Top 3 overall players, Top player of each DoD service on Active Duty, Top Reservist, Top Retiree, Top class A, B-and-below, Highest Upset, Best Sacrifice and various special prizes. If there are at least 2 class C entries, the class prizes will be revised to A, B, and C-and-below. Top Team member plaques to the top 3 scoring members of the winning military service team: USCF Rollins team scoring points system applies. **Reg:** Advance registrations only on the website **On-site check-in:** 0800-0845 **Rds.:** Sat. 0900-1500; 0900-1500; 0900. All participants must have a Military ID Card as it is required at check in for the tournament. Participation is voluntary and all participants must sign a pandemic contact sports liability waiver. **Byes:** A single half-point bye is available and must be requested 30 minutes before Round 2. Byes for rounds 3, 4 & 5 may not be changed after the start of round 2. **Billing:** None. Include room-sharing requests with your e-entry. **Hotel:** See hotel information on the website. **Info:** For all other questions contact CAPT Tom Belke, USN (ret.) at tbelke@hubzonehq.com. Boards, sets and clocks provided. **FIDE. W. Special Events:** The Awards ceremony will be held immediately after Rd 5. **1st Annual Armed Forces Rapid Championship** will be held on Sat, 10/10 at 2130. (5-SS, G/12 incr. 3, FIDE). **The Armed Forces Blitz Championship** G/5 d0 will be held Sunday 10/11 at 2130 (double 5-SS, G/5 d0, USCF-rated only). See the website for details.

OCT. 30-NOV. 1 OR OCT. 31-NOV. 1, 2020 U. S. Class Championship - Virginia
See Nationals.

OCT. 31, 2020 U. S. Class FIDE Blitz! (BLZ)
See Grand Prix.

DEC. 18 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), 2020 U.S. G/10 Championship (BLZ) (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), 2020 U.S. G/30 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

DEC. 20 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), 2020 U.S. G/60 Championship - (NOTE NEW DATE) (NC)
See Nationals.

WASHINGTON

SEPT. 16-17, 2020 U.S. Women's Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

SEPT. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20, 2020 National Open (rescheduled) (NV)
See Nationals.

DEC. 19-23, 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (Postponed from July 15-19), Hotel Changed (NC)
See North Carolina.

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Solutions

Page 11 / GIBRALTAR

PROBLEM I. 45. Rc8! threatens 46. Rdd8 and mate after Rg8+, e.g. 45. ... Rc7 46. Qf6+ Qxf6 47. exf6+ and 48. Rxc7. **PROBLEM II.** Not 13. g6? Nf6 but 13. Rg1! threatens 14. g6 Nf6 15. Qh6+ Kg8 16. g7 and wins. **PROBLEM III.** 31. Ng4! threatens Nxh6+, e.g. 31. ... Ne8 32. Nxh6+ gxh6 33. Qxh6 Ng7 34. Bg6!. **PROBLEM IV.** 49. ... Nxf2+! 50. Qxf2 Ne3+ 51. Kg3 (51. Kh2 Ng4+) Nf1+! 52. Kf3 Bd5 mate. **PROBLEM V.** 35. Bxf7+! Rxf7 (35. ... Kxf7 36. Rd7+) 36. Rd8+ Rf8 37. Rxf8+ Kxf8 38. Qd6+ and Qxb4. **PROBLEM VI.** 25. ... Nf5! so that 26. dxe6 Qd1+ 27. Kf2 Qe2+ and mates or 26. Qxf5 Rxe3+. The game ended with 26. Bh3 Nxe3 27. Bxe6 Ng2+ 28. Kd2 Qxe6 29. Qf3 Qb6 30. Rhc1 Qb2+ 31. R1c2 Qd4+ 32. Kc1 Qa1+ White resigned.

Page 19 / MAKE YOUR MOVE!

TACTIC I. 18. g5! Bxg5 This looks like Black's only move, but a better defense was 18. ... Bxd4 although White is much better after 19. Nxd4 cxd4 20. Rxd4 Ne5 21. gxf6. **19. Bxd7!** The point behind the previous move: Black's queen is overburdened and cannot recapture on d7 as the bishop on g5 will then fall because the h-pawn is pinned. **19. ... Rf8 20. dxc5 f5 21. c6 Bc8 22. Rxd5** and White soon won. Salem - Mladenovic, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC II. 12. Ng5!** A standard tactical play that frequently occurs in the Queen's Indian, the Catalan as well as the English Opening. **12. ... Bxg5 13. Bxg5! Qxg5 14. Bxb7 Nc6 15. Bxa8**, White has won the exchange and soon picked up the full point. Sepp - Narva, Viljandi 2020. **TACTIC III. 26. e5!** This pawn advance allows White to take advantage of Black's poorly coordinated pieces. **26. ... Nxe5?** A mistake that makes matters worse. Relatively best was 26. ... Rxc3 27. bxc3 Nxe5 28. Be2 and White has won the Exchange and has every chance of winning the game. **27. Bxe5** Here **Black resigned**, realizing that 27. Bxe5 Bxe5 28. Rd8+ Kh7 29. Be4+ would win the rook on c2. Belous - Gabdrakhmanov, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC IV. 26. g4!** The inclusion of this move is essential. If White rushes matters with 26. Qxd4?? she would have received a nasty surprise with 26. ... Nxg3+!! which wins for Black! A possible continuation was 27. Kg2 (or 27. hxg3 Qh3+ 28. Kg1 cxd4 and the knight check on f6 is of no use) 27. ... cxd4 28. Nf6+ Kf7! 29. Nxd7+ Nxf1 30. Kxf1 Ke7 and the knight is trapped, leaving Black with an easily won endgame. **26. ... Nh6 27. Qxd4!** Now Black no longer has the intermediary check on g3 and White therefore wins a piece. **27. ... Nxg4 28. Nf6+ Nxf6 29. Qxf6 Re8 30. Bh6** Black resigned as there is no way to prevent mate. **Black resigned.** Khademalsharieh - Ju Wenjun, Women's Speed Chess 2020. **TACTIC V. 23. ... Nc3!** A nasty surprise for White who collapses with astonishing speed. **24. Rd2** Naturally, 24. bxc3?? is not an option on account of 24. ... Rb1+ 25. Ka2 Qb3 mate; If 24. Rd3 then Black wins after 24. ... Nxe2 25. Na5 Qb5 26. Rxb3 Bxb3 27. Nxb3 and now 27. ... Re8! protects the knight on e2 without allowing

White the opportunity to protect the knight on b3. Finally, 24. Qxc5 Rb8! (or simpler 24. ... Nxe2 25. Na5 Qb5) 25. Bd3 Bxc4 26. Bxc4 Rxb2! 27. Rd8+ Rxd8 28. Bxb2 Qxb2+! 29. Kxb2 Na4+ which leaves Black a piece up. **24. ... Bxc4 25. Qxc5** Or 25. Bxc4 Rxa3+ 26. bxa3 Qb1 mate. **25. ... Bxe2 26. Re1 Rc8 27. g4 h6 28. Qd4** and **White resigned** before Black played 28. ... Rxa3+. Garcia Ramos - Firouzja, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC VI. 17. ... Ngf4!** In the game, Black chose the other knight **17. ... Nhf4? 18. Nxf4??** (White could have played better with 18. Bc2! Rf6 19. Qg5 Qe7 20. Rae1 Qf7 when Black would only have been clearly better) **18. ... Nxf4 19. Rad1 Rg8! 20. g3 Rg6** and White's queen was trapped leading to quick resignation in Cervantes Landeiro - Isajevsky, Titled Tuesday 2020. **18. Bc2** If 18. Nxf4 then 18. ... Nxg4 transposes back into the game as seen in the previous note. **18. ... Rg8!** Black also wins after 18. ... Rf6 19. Qg5 Nh3+! 20. gxh3 Rg6 but the main line is better. **19. Ng3 Rg6** and White's queen is trapped. **TACTIC VII. 29. Rd5!** A surprising move that doesn't seem to threaten anything, but it leaves Black remarkably vulnerable. A natural alternative is 29. e5, aiming to exploit the dark squares, for instance, 29. ... Qe4+ 30. Qxe4 Bxe4+ 31. Ka2 Kd7 32. exd6 b5 33. Ka3 and White is better, but winning the game is another story and not entirely simple. **29. ... Kd7?** Black wants to get the king away from the a3-f8 diagonal but placing the king on the d7-square is not without its problems. Alternatively, 29. ... b5 30. Rd4 bxa4 31. Rxa4 when Black's position suddenly is very drafty, for instance, 31. ... Qb5 32. Qe3 Bc6 33. Rc4 Ba8 34. Rxc8 Rxc8 35. f5 and Black is struggling to keep everything guarded. **30. Rd4!** The point behind the previous move: the e4-pawn is now protected and Bb4 is a terrifying threat. **30. ... a5?** Black blundered (Sevian - Abdusattorov, Leon Blitz Open 2020) but also 30. ... b5 31. Rxh7 bxa4 32. bxa4 would have been lost for Black. White could have won on the spot with **31. Rc4** because **31. ... Ba6 32. Qh5 Bxc4 33. Rxf7+** ends with Black getting mated. **TACTIC VIII. 12. Ng5+!** The game continued with **12. gxf5 gxf5** (Black could have stayed in the game with 12. ... Nd4! after which Black may even be better!) **13. Ng5+! Kh8 14. Qh5! f4 15. Nf7+** (or 15. Rg1 fxe3 16. fxe3 Bd7 17. Nf7+ Rxf7 18. Bxf7, transposing to the game) **15. ... Rxf7 16. Bxf7 fxe3 17. fxe3 Bd7 18. Rg1 Be8** was Narayanan - Wagner, Titled Tuesday 2020, and here White should have played 19. Nd5 Bxf7 20. Qxf7 Qg8 21. Qxg8+ Rxg8 22. Nxc7 Rc8 23. Ne6 with a clear advantage for White. **12. ... hxg5** If 12. ... Kh8, the play transposes into the game continuation with 13. gxf5 gxf5 14. Qh5. **13. h4!** Ouch! Suddenly the king's hiding spot is being torn apart. **13. ... f4** Or 13. ... d5 14. hxg5+ Kg8 15. Nxd5 Be6 16. gxf5 Bxd5 17. exd5 Nxd5 18. Qf3 and Black's position collapses. **14. hxg5+ Bh6 15. Rxh6+ Kg7 16. Qf3! Rh8 17. Qh3 fxe3 18. fxe3 Qf8 19. 0-0-0** and Black's king will not find safety as Rh1 is threatened. **TACTIC IX. 30. h4!** The game continued with **30. h3 Rfe8??** (30. ... h5 was the best way to stay in the game) **31. Rd6 Qc5**, Fedoseev - Sanal, Leon Blitz Open 2020, and now White could have won with 32. Qd2! threatening Qh6+ followed by Nf6 and no defense works because Black has too many loose

pieces and weak squares. **30. ... Qc5 30. ... Qxh4?** 31. Ne3! Interestingly, Black now loses a piece by force! 31. ... Qh5 32. Rd6! Qc5 33. b4! Qxb4 (Or 33. ... Qc7 34. Qd4+) 34. Rxb6 and White is winning. **31. Qe3!** White threatens Qh6+ followed by Nf6. **31. ... Qf5** Or 31. ... Rc6 32. b4! Qh5 33. Re4 with the threat of Qd4+ followed by Re5, and 33. ... Kg8 34. Qd4 f6 35. Re7 Nc8 36. Rd7 and Black's defense collapses. **32. Qh6+ Kh8 33. Rf4 Qh5 34. Qxh5 gxh5 35. Nf6** with a technically won position for White.

Page 47 / ABCs OF CHESS

PROBLEM I. Mating Net: It's mate in two: **1. ... Ne2+ 2. Kh1 Qf3 mate.** **PROBLEM II.** It is mate by **1. ... Rh4 mate.** **PROBLEM III. Mating net:** Black mates with **1. ... Ra4+ 2. Kxa4 Qa5 mate.** **PROBLEM IV. Mating net:** Black wins in two moves: **1. ... Nc4+ 2. bxc4 Qb2 mate.** **PROBLEM V. Mating net:** Black mates by **1. ... Rg1+ 2. Kxg1 Ne2 mate.** **PROBLEM VI. Mating net:** Black mates in two: **1. ... Qh4+ 2. gxh4 Rxf3 mate.**

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MY BEST MOVE

IM Keaton Kiewra

International Master
& Professional Chess
Teacher

I grew up in Nebraska, far from the elite centers of chess in America (then and now), but through the right guidance and opportunities I was able to take off in chess. In my youth I was a nine-time Nebraska State Chess Champion and a six-time national scholastic champion. I attended college at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) on a chess scholarship and competed on their chess team, which at the time was one of the top two collegiate chess programs in the United States alongside the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

After graduating from UTD I became a full-time chess instructor, and I became an IM a few years later. Today I live in San Diego, my favorite place in the world, and I still teach chess professionally and try to play regularly. I'm proud to have been the founder and manager of the San Diego Surfers, a team that had a great run in the PRO Chess League.

It is a great challenge to think of a single move I played that I am most proud of, but in reviewing some of my games the one that came to mind was played against GM Ray Robson in the 2015 SPICE Cup.

MY BEST MOVE

IM Keaton Kiewra (2431)

GM Ray Robson (2680)

Saint Louis SPICE Cup, Saint Louis (4),

10.19.2015



BLACK TO PLAY

17. ... Nx f2?!

This extremely natural looking move is surprisingly a mistake that allows White to



...through the right guidance and opportunities I was able to take off in chess.

take over the initiative. Black would have been slightly for preference after 17. ... Nx d2. Can you find what White should play here?

18. b4!

This is **MY BEST MOVE**! This hidden resource turns the tide in my favor. Black wins material, but the white pieces that remain will be far more active than their counterparts.

18. ... Nx h1 19. bxc5 e4

Black's pieces are scattered and his position has problems, but true to form Robson continues to create problems for me.

20. Be2 e3 21. Ne7+ Kh8 22. Bxe3 axb5 23. Nb6 Ra3 24. Bc1

An important hit on the rook to keep

the initiative.

24 ... Rc3 25. Nbx c8 Rxc5 26. Ba3 Rxc8 27. Nxc8 Rxc8

The position has settled, but White still maintains the winning game due to the bishop pair and Black's trapped knight on h1.

28. Bxb5 Rc2 29. Be2 h5 30. Bc1

The bishop returns home for the third time this game in order to control important squares and make room for running the a-pawn.

30. ... Rc8 31. a4 Ne4 32. a5 Re8 33. Be3 Nc3 34. Kd2 Ne4+ 35. Kc2 Rc8+ 36. Kd3 Re8, Black resigned.

Having left the h1-knight undefended, and with his flag nearly falling, Robson gives up. ♠

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