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Contributors

Al Lawrence
("USCF History," p. 10) served as both USCF and World Chess Hall of Fame executive director. His latest book, with Lev Alburt, is Chess Training Pocket Book II.

Jerry Hanken
("North American Open," p. 18) is a frequent contributor with over 100 Chess Life articles carrying his byline since 1975 and is the president of the Chess Journalists of America.

Macauley Peterson
("Ray Robson Profile," p. 24) is a media developer and foreign correspondent for the Internet Chess Club’s Chess.FM. He was voted 2008 “Chess Journalist of the Year” by the Chess Journalists of America. His written work has appeared in Chess Life, Chess Life Online, New in Chess, 64 (Russia), Chess (U.K.), and elsewhere. In 2006, he completed work as an editor on Adam Nemett’s independent feature film, The Instrument, which appeared at the 2005 Dances With Films festival, in Los Angeles, and was part of New York’s Anthology Film Archives’ NewFilmmakers series, and he has produced the DVD releases of A Turnpike Runs Through It (2008), and Excess Hollywood (2006), for the Princeton Triangle Show.

WIM Elizabeth Vicary

FM Alex Dunne
("Correspondence Chess," p. 30) is a chess journalist and the correspondence chess director for the USCF. His monthly column, “The Check is in the Mail,” appears on uschess.org in the correspondence chess section under “Activities and Interests.”

April on uschess.org

SuperNationals!

Look for videos from the scene of the SuperNationals (Nashville, April 2–5.) The videos will feature some of the stars who appeared in Nashville, including World Champions Garry Kasparov and Alexandra Kosteniuk and U.S. Champions Yury Shulman and Anna Zatonskih. CLO editor Jennifer Shahade will be onsite blogging about the fierce competition and festivities.

The Last St. Louis Spot
The final qualifier into the 2009 U.S. Championship (May 7–17) will be determined by the Champion of Champion Events, a state championship tournament hosted on the Internet Chess Club. Look for a profile of the winner on Chess Life Online after the finals on April 4–5.

Foxwoods Open
Look for news from the biggest event of the spring, the Foxwoods Open (Mashantucket, Connecticut, April 8–12) including blogs by teenaged chessmaster and Ohio Chess Connection editor, Jonathan Hilton.

All Girls’ Nationals
Check out games and photos from the All Girls’ Nationals, sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation and set for Dallas, Texas on April 24–26.
April Chess Life

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On The Cover

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili has relocated to the U.S., and with his 2600+ rating is now one of America’s top players. Here he is pictured on the Brooklyn Bridge, close to his new home in New York City.

Cover Photo: Jeff Weiss
Art Direction: Frankie Butler

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The Happy Warrior
By Jerry Hanken

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili, formerly of Georgia, wins the North American Open in Las Vegas. The new U.S. resident relates, “... I discovered that a lone Russian plane had passed over and dropped a 1,000 pound bomb ... . This brought the war with Russia too close for comfort. I now fully realized that the safest place in the world today is the USA!”

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### REGULAR USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES

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Counterplay

Not so secret
Andy Soltis’ column is generally the first I turn to each issue; the information he compiles has a clever twist and is written in a clear and entertaining style. “Fischer Secrets” led me to look back and locate an old remembrance by Paul Helbig, a charter member of the now defunct Jersey City YMCA Chess Club and editor of the club newsletter, Chess Chat. In the November 1971 issue, Paul wrote:

“... Bill Walbrecht, who was our President ..., discerned Bobby Fischer’s native ability at an early stage and arranged an exhibition for him at our Club. Both got acquainted by touring with the late Forry Laucks’ Log Cabin Chess Club, through the southern states and to Havana, Cuba. He played 20 simultaneously in the Y’s then statistically loby, on Thursday, March 29, 1956, and won overwhelmingly. He was barely 13 years old. We do not recall the exact score, but we remember he lost to someone we considered as the worst contestant not knowing any openings. The atmosphere was theatrical. A milk bottle was placed on the table, by his mother, in which we put in the contracted fee. Photographers were on hand, offering their service of taking the contestant’s picture while facing Bobby in his dungaree pants. Before the start, rumors were spread that this exhibition would appear on television ...

“We, personally, were not overly impressed by Bobby’s feat, knowing the psychological advantage an exhibition has, but we reverted ourselves shortly after wards when we watched powerful Dr. Mengarini heave a sigh of relief after Bobby accepted an offered draw in the Open New Jersey State Chess Tournament held in East Orange at the Independent Chess Club. We realized then, the kid was formidable. A picture of our exhibition appeared in Parade’s October 27, 1957 issue. Bobby’s picture, with the announcement of our exhibition, was on the back page of the Daily Mirror’s March 22, 1956 issue.”

Frank E. Nothaft, life member
 Vienna, Virginia

Gunning for Alekhine
On page 35 of your December 2008 issue of Chess Life, Mike Klein reports that Gregory Serper mentioned “Alekhine’s Gun” when he placed his two queens and rook on the same file. This would indeed be very rare if it was two queens and one rook instead of two rooks and one queen. Was this a typo or was it actually two queens?

Mike Klein responds:

It was not a typo. In fact that is why Gregory Serper referred to it as a rare version of Alekhine’s Gun. The normal version is a queen and two rooks, but in the game in question, there were two queens and one rook all of the same color on the same file, making it a very rare occurrence indeed.

Detailing Sandrin
In his provocative account of the second decade of the USCF (1949-1958, February issue), Al Lawrence correctly reports that the winner of the 1949 U.S. Open was the “partially sighted Albert Sandrin of Chicago.” At that tournament I was an assistant to Al Ludwig, the chairman of the local host committee in Omaha. It was my duty to arrange the lighting for the table on which Al Sandrin played his games. Readers of Chess Life may enjoy a further report about his remarkable performance.

Sandrin was almost completely blind. Perforce he played blindfold chess in all his games. He could sometimes sense the contrast of light and shadow, but he could not well make out the pieces on the board, which he often handled clumsily. He would stare at what he supposed was the board, but often what he was staring at in fact was a spot several feet to the side of the physical board, from which his body had shifted. In one of his later, more complicated games, while staring hard at the rug that he apparently thought to be the chessboard, he announced mate in seven! His overall victory was a triumph of intellect and will.

Al Sandrin was a gentle, modest man. He was immensely grateful for the support he was given, and often made fun of his own disability with the most charming good humor. I became fond of him, and proud of him, and cheered silently for him each day of that extraordinary tournament in the summer of 1949.

Would you like to be profiled in Chess Life?
In an issue later this year we will profile seven USCF members examining how the USCF has been important to them and for this we need your help. Would you like to be profiled? Do you know someone who should be profiled? If you were born in the year 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, or 1999 and you are willing to be interviewed and have your photograph published in Chess Life, please contact us at letters@uschess.org. If you don’t have e-mail access, please see our address on page 2.

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Now, in the second edition of The Scandinavian Defense: The Dynamic 3...Qd6, the author has added a remarkable amount of new analysis, insight, and practical recommendations. This revised and enlarged second edition will provide both a solid foundation for meeting 1.e4, and at the same time allow considerable room for creativity and original play. Melts, 301 pp.

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Phil LeCornu, Life Member
USCF life member bequests $350,000 to USCF

By Dr. Tim Redman

The U.S. Chess Federation learned of the passing of a longtime member, Phil LeCornu, through a letter from the executor of his estate informing us that he had left the Federation a bequest of $350,000. I was sorry to hear of his death but not at all surprised at his generosity to chess, for Phil and I were good friends in Chicago in the sixties and seventies.

I discovered chess as a teenager, age fifteen, and by sixteen attended the major clubs including the august Chicago Chess Club in the Loop, which boasted that it was the oldest seven day a week club in continual existence in the nation, having been founded in 1870. The club was quartered on the fourth floor of an old office building that had seen better days, located at 64 East Van Buren. One entrance led to the elevators for the building, the other to what was then euphemistically referred to as an “art” movie theater. For a teenager from sub urban Hinsdale, it was all rather amazing.

Most amazing of all were the people who frequented the club: Wiley Clements, insurance executive at CNA; Danny Fischer, slumlord; hypochondriac Walter Grombacher, who boasted of being the only Jewish member of the Hitler Youth; Harold Leef, who beat Fischer at speed chess when he visited one day; George Leighton, one of the most distinguished black jurists of his generation; Norbert Leopoldi, who owned an import/export firm; Gene Martinowski, a psychiatrist; Norm Ferrin, a distinguished New Testament scholar and professor at the University of Chicago; Richard Verber, a strong master. Phil LeCornu was very sociable and had a dry sense of humor and he was always a welcome meal companion among the crowd. I went along, too, though mostly to listen. I was getting far more of an education from these folks than at my affluent high school. Being a promising younger player was enough to gain admittance to that circle.

He invited me to accompany him to dinner one evening and when his drink came, he lit in on fire. It burned with a blue flame. “I thought you had never seen this,” he said. Then he quickly put it out. “Don’t want to waste the alcohol,” he said. Like many in those days, he was a smoker, and matches were always at hand in restaurants. But what I remember most clearly was his constant question to me, stretching over many years: “Is chess all you want to do? Don’t you want to achieve something of real significance?” Phil loved chess. He was a master once, though when I knew him he was a strong expert in the mid 2100 range. And he made his way in the business world. But I sensed that he had once held higher aspirations.

When his father died in Florida, Phil said that he had founded a small company. “Which was something,” he added. “He gave people jobs.” When his mother died Phil inherited a modest estate and a condominium.

He moved to Florida and we were then in only occasional contact, by letter. In one letter (I had asked him to help a mutual chess friend financially) he declined, saying that he was living on a fixed income and had to be cautious. His caution led to his great generosity to the Federation, for which we are grateful. The executive board recently voted to use a substantial amount of the LeCornu bequest to pay down the mortgage on our headquarters in Crossville. A suitable memorial, such as naming the entry hall in the building after him, is being contemplated.

A life member, Phil found great beauty in the chess world. But I sensed that he had once held higher aspirations.

At press time we learn that the USCF executive board has voted 6-0 to use $50,000 from the bequest to create a permanent Phil LeCornu Memorial Olympiad Fund to help fund future international team participation. Donations are welcome. Contact the USCF at 931 787 1234 or bhall@uschess.org.

Anthony Santasiere
U.S. Open, Omaha, Nebraska 1949

A LeCornu Game
Queen’s Indian Defense (E19)

Phil LeCornu

Chicago 1949

By John Re Curnow

First Moves
The game of chess trains us to become the masters of our fate as we learn intricate strategies and study the unique potentials of each chess piece. As Samuel Clemens wrote about *The Prince & The Pauper* in a delightful treatise of life roles exchanged, so my life experiences have moved over life’s chessboard through all the varied positions.

I hadn’t contemplated the chess metaphor until I assumed my current position in a large corporation. Having to accept an “entry level” position despite so many years of expertise in other fields, and having been a CEO twice, now I watch managers above me court my favor in order to advance their own promotions. In an illuminating “Aha!” moment I perceived myself as a pawn in a vast corporate game. And upon that realization, I did a retrospect and saw that I have indeed played every role on the chessboard. When I was CEO, I ruled my small empire and was responsible for my “side of the board.” I was also the most vulnerable piece on the board, as the rest of my business could not carry on without me the game would be forfeit.

When I became a wife and mother, I was the queen. My king presided on the throne of the empire to allow me scope to be on all fronts; helping him with our business, yet also tending to the kingdom and the baby, parents, relatives, friends and pets who were subjects. If I went down, the kingdom would suffer yet go on. Unfortunately, it was the king who went down, accidentally knocked off the board by the careless hand of fate. The game should have ended there. For many sad days, I thought it surely had. Instead, I was shifted into a different position on a new board, and a different playing field.

In this suddenly surreal chess game, I became a knight. As a widow with an infant, having lost my business along with my husband and business partner, I was suddenly besieged by sly attacks from all over (widowhood being considered a vulnerability in the business world.) I had to charge forward and defend my territory, be fearless in countless financial onslaughts, be valiant as a role model for my child’s sake. I developed a thick coat of emotional armor and kept us safe through years of skirmishes.

During this time, my spiritual growth was my emotional outlet. I took ministry classes, training in healing modalities. I began to utilize healing ministry to humanity towards salvation for my kingdom. I was ordained, and thus officially became the bishop of my realm. I followed the straight and narrow path of avoiding fear while seeking out the holiness of love in each situation. Righteous living and freedom served as my regents for several years.

Finally, a king piece was replaced on the chessboard, as I remarried. I reprised my queenly role, and together merged our duties in a complex new strategy, which was so successful to the kingdom that we obtained a new and vaster territory and our numbers swelled. It intrigues me now to contemplate what a chess game would be like in which the rules would be altered to allow the king and queen to switch attributes at will to baffle the opponents.

Alas, after many years, the king was wounded, though not lost. The kingdom is presently under siege. Were it not for the substantial might of our army we would be forced to surrender the game. Sacrifice was required, so I put aside my queenly garb once again.

I first became the castle (or rook) with all concerns focused toward keeping our domicile from financial ruin. I felt so limited in scope, able to see potential gain but unable to make the necessary movements to acquire effective spaces on the board. Still, my linear purpose held the fort against the enemy, buying time for the king to heal, and allowing the children of the kingdom to mature and learn strategies that might advance them to form their own solid kingdoms.

These days, circumstance and duty require that I step forward into my new role as pawn, taking small, often painful, steps towards the goal of saving my kingdom. The king is recovering and may once again grasp his sword with renewed strength and purpose and turn the tide of fortune. But the enemy is relentless and must constantly be engaged.

Strategy being what it is, I have an alternate concept in mind. Should the king be unable to regain all his powers in time to save us, then, by dint of presumed bravery I shall trudge on despite the fear and pain, and perhaps contrive to advance within the guise of my precarious pawn’s position to secure a checkmate for our worthy kingdom. There is such a great satisfaction to winning as a pawn. Prince or pauper, we are all valuable players on the chessboard. ■

**Chessboard**

*A former CEO finds herself playing the role of every piece on the chessboard, extending the “chess as life” metaphor.*

By Emily Antonen

The game of chess trains us to become the masters of our fate as we learn intricate strategies and study the unique potentials of each chess piece. As Samuel Clemens wrote about *The Prince & The Pauper* in a delightful treatise of life roles exchanged, so my life experiences have moved over life’s chessboard through all the varied positions.

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When I became a wife and mother, I was the queen. My king presided on the throne of the empire to allow me scope to be on all fronts; helping him with our business, yet also tending to the kingdom and the baby, parents, relatives, friends and pets who were subjects. If I went down, the kingdom would suffer yet go on. Unfortunately, it was the king who went down, accidentally knocked off the board by the careless hand of fate. The game should have ended there. For many sad days, I thought it surely had. Instead, I was shifted into a different position on a new board, and a different playing field.

In this suddenly surreal chess game, I became a knight. As a widow with an infant, having lost my business along with my husband and business partner, I was suddenly besieged by sly attacks from all over (widowhood being considered a vulnerability in the business world.) I had to charge forward and defend my territory, be fearless in countless financial onslaughts, be valiant as a role model for my child’s sake. I developed a thick coat of emotional armor and kept us safe through years of skirmishes.

During this time, my spiritual growth was my emotional outlet. I took ministry classes, training in healing modalities. I began to utilize healing ministry to humanity towards salvation for my kingdom. I was ordained, and thus officially became the bishop of my realm. I followed the straight and narrow path of avoiding fear while seeking out the holiness of love in each situation. Righteous living and freedom served as my regents for several years.

Finally, a king piece was replaced on the chessboard, as I remarried. I reprised my queenly role, and together merged our duties in a complex new strategy, which was so successful to the kingdom that we obtained a new and vaster territory and our numbers swelled. It intrigues me now to contemplate what a chess game would be like in which the rules would be altered to allow the king and queen to switch attributes at will to baffle the opponents.

Alas, after many years, the king was wounded, though not lost. The kingdom is presently under siege. Were it not for the substantial might of our army we would be forced to surrender the game. Sacrifice was required, so I put aside my queenly garb once again.

I first became the castle (or rook) with all concerns focused toward keeping our domicile from financial ruin. I felt so limited in scope, able to see potential gain but unable to make the necessary movements to acquire effective spaces on the board. Still, my linear purpose held the fort against the enemy, buying time for the king to heal, and allowing the children of the kingdom to mature and learn strategies that might advance them to form their own solid kingdoms.

These days, circumstance and duty require that I step forward into my new role as pawn, taking small, often painful, steps towards the goal of saving our kingdom. The king is recovering and may once again grasp his sword with renewed strength and purpose and turn the tide of fortune. But the enemy is relentless and must constantly be engaged.

Strategy being what it is, I have an alternate concept in mind. Should the king be unable to regain all his powers in time to save us, then, by dint of presumed bravery I shall trudge on despite the fear and pain, and perhaps contrive to advance within the guise of my precarious pawn’s position to secure a checkmate for our worthy kingdom. There is such a great satisfaction to winning as a pawn. Prince or pauper, we are all valuable players on the chessboard. ■
Both Sides of the Moon

USCF’S 4TH DECADE: 1969-1978

By Al Lawrence

In 1969, as Neil Armstrong pressed the first human footprint into the powdery surface dust of the moon’s Sea of Tranquility, USCF was betting that frenetic Bobby Fischer had the right stuff to take America to the top of the chess world. That year Chess Life merged with Chess Review, becoming the U.S. chess magazine and gaining USCF an expanded readership. Young stars showed promise. John Watson of Omaha topped 370 at the first U.S. High School Championship, organized by Bill Goichberg in New York City. Ken Rogoff won his first of three U.S. Junior Invitational Championships.

In 1970 two non-U.S. citizens captured titles: Chess 3.0 won the first Association for Computing Machinery championship in New York City; and Bent Larsen, “the great Dane,” won the Boston U.S. Open. FIDE’s first official rating list ranked Bobby Fischer number one at 2720, with world champion Boris Spassky second at 2670.

Bobby validated Elo’s system. At the “USSR Versus the Rest of the World Match” in Belgrade, he defeated recently dethroned world champion Tigran Petrosian 3-1. Then Fischer humiliated the world’s elite at the unofficial world blitz championship in Herceg Novi. USCF President Leroy Dubeck, of New Jersey, and Executive Director (ED) Ed Edmondson successfully maneuvered to get Fischer, who hadn’t played in the U.S. qualifier, into the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal. Fischer ran away with the lead, but even his most rabid fans were dumbfounded by his follow-up.

In 1971, as Ken Thompson wrote his first chess-playing program and Larry Christiansen won the National High School Championship, Bobby blanked both his first two candidates’ match opponents, Mark Taimanov and Larsen, 6-0. Fischer fever raged. After ending Bobby’s 20-game winning streak, Petrosian collapsed against him. Then began the well-documented 1972 dance to get Fischer to Reykjavik. Shortly after Frank Skoff was elected USCF president, Bobby became the first official American-born world champion. U.S. chess fans exulted in a moonwalk of their own. The nation in general took pride—and felt relief as American troops came home from Vietnam. Life was finally, well, groovy.

Tournament attendance exploded. While Bobby and Boris were respectively fêted and flayed at home, San Antonio hosted a world-class turnout to the Church’s Fried Chicken tournament. Walter Browne bestrode the decade’s domestic events, winning three U.S. Championships, two U.S. Opens, two National Opens, two World Opens, and an American Open. Inventor Louis D. Statham’s Masters Tournaments in Lone Pine and winery Paul Masson’s outdoor championships created a bell-bottomed player’s paradise.

USCF membership swelled from 13,488 in 1969 to just short of 60,000 by 1974. Martin Morrison took charge of burgeoning technical issues. Edmondson had leveraged USCF’s resources to get Bobby his title—hoping to hold court for the world chess king for 20 years.

But all too quickly, both the U.S. and USCF saw the other side of the moon. As Watergate dispirited America and South Vietnam fell, Fischer resigned his title—restoring a Russian, Anatoly Karpov, to the throne. Blindfold champion George Koltanowski became USCF president only to see thousands who had been attracted by the meteoric Fischer fail to renew when he faded. Morrison took over as ED from Edmondson in 1977. Richard Meyerson and then George Cunningham of Maine served as ED in 1978. As the decade closed, USCF struggled to adjust.

70’s Psychedelic Trivia

- Fischer approved the 1969 publication of his famous My 60 Memorable Games only because he believed Rapture was imminent.
- January 1969 Chess Life used algebraic notation for the first time—in “Benko’s Bafflers.”
- The first chess game from space was played on June 10, 1970 by the Soviet crew of Soyuz IX versus ground control.
- Russian champion Leonid Shamkovich and Moscow champ Anatoly Lein settled in the U.S. in 1976, immediately co-winning the U.S. Open in Fairfax, Virginia.
Legal Update
As mentioned in the March Chess Life (page 48), Executive Board member Susan Polgar has filed a Texas lawsuit against USCF, most Executive Board members, and others. The $25 million suit alleged twelve causes of action. On February 19, the presiding judge dismissed four of these alleged causes, ordered the plaintiff to file an amended pleading to uphold jurisdiction over four defendants, and rejected defendants’ motion to require a more definite statement from plaintiff. On March 5, USCF filed a third party complaint against Paul Truong, alleging defamation, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and conspiracy. For details of this and other legal cases, see www.uschess.org/legalupdates.

On February 13, Susan Polgar was served in the Illinois lawsuit USCF vs. Polgar and Truong, which seeks to remove the defendants from the Executive Board. At the time of this writing (March 10), USCF has still been unable to serve this complaint on Paul Truong.

Sam Sloan is appealing dismissal of his $20 million New York lawsuit against USCF, its Executive Board and numerous others. Sloan’s request for a delay in the deadline to file moving papers to April 3 was granted, and defendants have until May 4 to file opposition papers.

Life Memberships
USCF has revised its member categories, dividing most into “Premium” with paper magazine and “Regular” with online magazine only. This allowed a necessary dues increase for those receiving the paper magazine, but with the option of a decrease in most categories for those who are price sensitive and/or comfortable reading an online publication. The new setup appears off to a good start financially.

For Life Members, the new structure requires no major change. The Federation will soon send a letter to Life Members asking them to choose between Premium and Regular benefits. Those satisfied reading the online magazine may select Regular benefits, saving USCF some money; they will be able to switch back to Premium benefits at any time.

Life Members who do not reply will be assigned Regular benefits, but can switch to Premium upon request. Our intention is to ask Life Members to reconfirm their choice approximately once every three years, with no fee for Premium benefits.

Benefactor Memberships
A new option now available to donors is the Benefactor Membership, priced at $3000 (existing Life Members, $1500). Benefactors receive a special membership card, and are recognized on a Benefactor page of our website and periodically in Chess Life.

LeCornu Bequest and Olympiad Fund
USCF is greatly indebted to the late life member Philip LeCornu, a former Michigan Open champion, who has left the Federation a $350,000 bequest. $50,000 of these funds are being used to start a Philip LeCornu Olympiad Fund, with 10% of the fund available each two years to support American teams. We expect investment and donations to exceed this payout so that the fund can grow to eventually provide significant, regular support for our players. USCF will also apply investment and donations to exceed this payout so that the fund can grow to even further.

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Chess to Enjoy

The Hoax is on You

By GM Andy Soltis

Very short games are often very entertaining. But if a game seems too short and too entertaining to be real, well ... maybe it isn’t.

American players have contributed some incredible miniatures to chess literature. At least one of them was literally not believed.

Sicilian Defense (B20)
Richard Kujoth
Fashingbauer
Milwaukee 1950

1. e4 c5 2. b4 cxb4 3. a3 Nc6?! 4. axb4 Nf6?

Black follows the bad advice that the best answer to a gambit is quick development, although that turns out poorly here.

5. b5 Nb8 6. e5 Qc7

Based on 7. exf6 Qe5+ and 8. ... Qxa1.

7. d4 Nd5 8. c4 Nb6 9. c5 Nd5 10. b6!, and Black resigned on move 16.

In fact, both the players and the moves were quite real, according to various American sources (although in one published version Black played on until move 16).

Yet the skepticism was natural because of the recurring phenomenon of hoax miniatures. A remarkable number of the great short games you find in books and magazines just aren’t real.

Every month in the Russian magazine 64 there’s a column of short games presented by master Anatoly Matzukevich, who has a piquant sense of humor. A few years ago he announced that a new miniature had been found in the archives of Moscow’s Lenin Library:

Queen’s Indian Defense (E12)
V. V. Starkov
Vladimir Ulyanov
Shushenskoe, April 1, 1898

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 b6 4. Bg5 Bb7 5. e3 h6 6. Bh4 Bb4+ 7. Nbd2?? g5!

After 8. ... g4

Black wins a piece. The game ended with:

9. Ne5 Ne4, White resigned.

This would be the only known game of Ulyanov, who went into politics and became better known when he took the name “Lenin.” But as the date indicated, this was a hoax.

There’s more to this trap. It occurred in a real game, Tarrasch Bogolyubov, Gothenberg 1920, which was widely reported to be the shortest ever loss by Siegbert Tarrasch. He allegedly resigned after 9. a3 gxf3 10. axb4 fxg2 11. Bxg2 Bxg2.

Not true: Tarrasch actually won that game in 28 moves.

Furthermore, the position after 9. Ne5 Nf4 did occur in another game that was misprinted as a miniature loss by White. The reality is that the game, Turover Kupchik from the international tournament of Bradley Beach 1929, even typically ended in a draw after 10. Qxg4 Qg5 11. 0 0 0 Bxd2+ 12. Rxd2 Nxd2 13. Kxd2.

Some bogus games are a deliberate hoax, a joke played on the reader, like Matzukevich’s Lenin confection. But the origin of other phonies is unknown. They crop up in bestsellers, like Irving Chernev’s wonderful 100 Best Short Games of Chess, which includes two spurious games played by Napoleon and the bogus “Gibaud Lazard, Paris 1924,” which is wrongly remembered as the shortest ever loss by a master.

Harry Pillsbury is often credited with a brilliant miniature, versus F.J. Lee at Paris 1900, which went 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bd7 5. e3 h6 6. Bh4 Bb4+ 7. Nbd2?? g5! 8. Bg3 g4

(see diagram top of next column)

And now “15. ... Qxg2 16. Qf3! White resigns” was the finish according to more than one database. In Masters of the Chess Board, Richard Reti gave it as “15. ... Qxg2 16. Qf3 and wins.” At least Reti got the correct tournament, London 1899.

But if you go back to the tournament
The tenth seeded American team surged to grab the bronze medal in the final round of the 38th Olympiad team tournament, held last November in Dresden, Germany. Each member of the U.S. team registered a solid plus score and contributed to the squad’s overall result of 29 points out of a possible 44. Games from the 154 team open event provided this month’s quiz. In each of the six positions you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. For solutions, see page 71.

Problem I
GM Vasily Ivanchuk
GM Murray Chandler

Problem II
IM Stanislav Mikheev
GM Tiger Hillarp Persson

Problem III
GM Alexei Shirov
GM Ziaur Rahman

Problem IV
GM Aloyzas Kveinys
GM Liviu Nisipeanu

Problem V
GM Alexander Grischuk
GM Surya Sekhar Ganguly

Problem VI
GM Kaido Kulaots
IM Oldao Adu

After 15. Bh6

... Bb4+ 4. Bd2 and now Black, intending 4...

... Qxe4 5. fxe4 Bd5 6. exd5 Qxd5 7...

... b5 and White to play

Ruy Lopez, Bird Defense (C61)

Alexander Alekhine
Joseph Blackburne
St. Petersburg 1914

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. Nxe5 d5...

5. d4 Nbd7 6. cxd5 exd5 7. Nc3 Bf5 8. Qc2...

9. Qd2 Bg4 10. hxg4 Qxg4 11. 0-0 Be6 12...

... dxc4 13. Qc2! Qe4+ 14. Qxe4 Nxe4...

... Bxh2+ 14. Kg1 Bxe4

13. ... Bxh2+! would have been crushing, eventually won.

K. Burger, Montreal 1963” and it went 11...

... Qxg5 9. Bxb5+ Kd8 10. Qf3 Bb7 11. 0...

... exd5 12. Qxf7 Nf6!, White resigns.

He tried to play the remarkable 5...


It’s one of those stories that can’t be true. Well, maybe it can. Mark Taimanov said something similar happened to him in the 1997 World Senior Championship. His opponent, Mark Usachy, also picked up his king at move four, realized his error, put the king on f8 “after which I took the bishop on b4 with check!”

... Ne7 17. Qxa1 and ended in a draw.

... axb5 15. axb5 Rxa1 16. Bb4+ Ne7 17. Qxa1 and wins. Naturally 13...

... Kxh2+ 14. Qxh2 Nxh2+ 15. Bxh2 Qxg2...

... dxc6 8. Rxb1. What isn’t well known is that a modern grandmaster...

... Qd5 4. cxd5 Qb5+ 5. e3 Bc8 6. Bb5+ Kd8...

... Rxa7!! Rxa7 10. c7 and wins.

As a result of so much deception, we tend to be skeptical about every short game. For example, Palau Kalabar, Lon don 1927 went 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3...

... Qe7, played 4. ... Ke7?? instead. After 5...

It’s one of those stories that can’t be true. Well, maybe it can. Mark Taimanov said something similar happened to him in the 1997 World Senior Championship. His opponent, Mark Usachy, also picked up his king at move four, realized his error, put the king on f8 “after which I took the bishop on b4 with check!”
Newcomers are generally dissuaded from accepting doubled pawns. Naturally, when they have the opportunity beginners try to inflict the “weakness” on their opponents. But as experience sets in they soon come to realize that the creation of doubled pawns can have specific utility. Even though doubled they may not be attackable or exploitable. The new pawn placement may also guard key squares while opening lines for attack. Such was the result of the e3 exchange in this month’s game, where the doubled pawn soon disappeared and White used the opening of lines to build a deadly kingside assault.

Giuoco Piano (C54)
James Mason
Jackson Showalter
New York 1889
5. Be3 Bb6 6. c3 Nf6 7. Nbd2 0-0 8. Bb3 Ne7
9. Nc4 Bxe3 10. fxe3 Ng6 11. 0-0 b5
12. Ncd2 Par Score: 4
13. Qe1 Par Score: 5
14. exd5 Par Score: 5
15. Ne4 Par Score: 6
16. Nxc5 Par Score: 5
17. d4 Par Score: 5
18. Nh4 Par Score: 4
19. Qg3 Par Score: 5
20. Ng6 Par Score: 5

Your starting position

Now make sure you have the above position set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover this 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 rewarded for second best moves, and there may be bonus points or deductions for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that the note to Black’s move is over and White’s move is on the next line.**

5. Be3 Bb6 6. c3 Nf6 7. Nbd2 0-0 8. Bb3 Ne7
9. Nc4 Bxe3 10. fxe3 Ng6 11. 0-0 b5
12. Ncd2 Par Score: 4

After 12. Na3 (accept only 2 points part credit) 12. ... a6 13. Nc2, it’s not clear how the knight gets back into the game. Accept 1 bonus point if you knew the idea of developing the knights to the second rank, freeing both of White’s bishop pawns for movement.

12. … c5
Since Black has d6 d5 in mind it’s best to do without this advance.**

13. Qe1 Par Score: 5
White guards e3 against a surprise attack while aiming for the kingside, taking advantage of the open lines stemming from accepting doubled pawns.

13. ... d5
There go the doubled pawns. **

14. exd5 Par Score: 5

15. Ne4 Par Score: 6

16. Nxc5 Par Score: 5
A pawn is a pawn in any country in the world.

17. d4 Par Score: 5

This cements the knight on the strong c5 square.

17. ... e4

Showalter tries to get some value out of his e pawn. Once White plays the queen to g3 the pawn will have to declare its intentions in any event.**

18. Nh4 Par Score: 4
Accept merely 3 points part credit for 18. Ng5, hitting f7 and e4. Black will defend by 18. ... Qc6. The text is better, looking to trade on g6 or enter at f5. Plus it keeps the g file clear for the queen.

18. ... Ne7
On 18. ... Nhx4 19. Qxh4, White’s queen comes into play. Showalter avoids this and preserves his piece at the same time guarding f5.**

19. Qg3 Par Score: 5
White takes advantage of the missing f2 pawn to shift to an offensive post. With Black’s g pawn pinned, accept 1 bonus point if you sensed Rxf6 in the air. For example, 19. ... Ba7 20. Nb7 Qxb7 21. Rxf6. On other bishop moves, such as 19. ... Bd7, 19. ... Be6, or 19. ... Bg5, 20. Rxf6 comes immediately. Probably the best reply is 19. ... Kh8, unpinning the g pawn.

19. ... h6
If this was meant as a defensive move (to stop Qg5) it doesn’t work. The g6 square is weak.**

20. Ng6 Par Score: 5
On 20. ... Nxg6 21. Qxg6, Black’s king must defend the f pawn and the e pawn is under fire. After say 21. ... Qe6 White continues 22. Rf4 intending 23. Raf1 and 24. Rxf6 (1 bonus point). If Black tries 22. ... Be6, White has 23. Rxe6 fxe6 24. Rxe6, soon recovering the queen with **
20. ... Nf5

If instead 20. ... Re8, then 21. Ne5 (1 bonus point). The text looks like an over-sight but there aren’t many good moves to be found.**

21. Rxf5 Par Score: 6

It’s nice to have an open f file. Receive only 2 points part credit for 21. Qf4. At least you didn’t lose your queen.

21. ... Bxf5

22. Ne7+ Par Score: 5

White wins two pieces for a rook, and that’s better than 22. Nxf8, which reduces to an even trade.

22. ... Kh7

23. Nxf5 Par Score: 5

The threat is 24. Qxg7 mate (add 1 bonus point for seeing this ahead of time).

23. ... g6

The alternative is 23. ... Nh5 (not 23. ... Rg8? 24. Bxh7 24. Qh4 Qg6? 24. ... g6 25. Nd7; or 24. ... Nh6 25. Rf1, threatening 26. Nxe6). 25. Rf1 Nf6 and if White has nothing better, he can just take 26. Nxe5.**

24. Nd6 Par Score: 5


24. ... Nh5

The try 24. ... Kg7 can be answered by 25. Qe5, or perhaps 25. Rf1, threatening 26. Rxf6 Kxf6 27. Qe5 mate (1 bonus point). After 25. Rf1 there could follow 25. ... Nh5 26. Qe5+ f6 27. Qe7+ Kh8 28. Nf7+ Rxf7 (28. ... Kh7 29. Ng5+ Kh8 30. Qh7 mate) 29. Qxd7, winning more material while maintaining the attack. Meanwhile, on 24. ... Qc7, Black loses to 25. Nxe4 Qg3 26. Nxf6+ Kg7 27. hxg3 Kxg6 28. Nd7+ (2 bonus points).**

25. Qe5 Par Score: 5

The only move to save both queen and knight: add 1 bonus point if, like Mason, you saw it in advance.

25. ... Qc7

26. Rf1 Par Score: 5

Mason brings his last piece into play, via the open f file, increasing the pressure on f7. Less good is 26. Nf7 (or Bxh7) 26. ... Bxf7 27. Bxf7 Qxf7.

26. ... f6

Black’s move is pretty much forced, but a new weakness appears on e6.**

27. Qd5 Par Score: 5

A mistake would have been 27. Qxe4?, hanging the knight at d6. And not 27. Qe6, taking away a key square from the c5 knight and running into 27. ... Ng7.

27. ... Rad8

Black plays into White’s hands. A better defense would have been 27. ... Ng7.**

28. Ne6 Par Score: 5

Take 1 bonus point if you foresaw that 28. ... Qxd6 29. Qxd6 Rxd6 is met by 30. Nxf8+.**

29. Nxf8+ Par Score: 5

30. Qxf8 Par Score: 5

30. ... Kh8

Marginally better was to block on g7. But Showalter, a piece down, wants to get it over with.**

31. ... Black resigned

Total your score to determine your approximate rating below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-05</td>
<td>under 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06-20</td>
<td>1200-1399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-35</td>
<td>1400-1599</td>
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<td>2200-2399</td>
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<tr>
<td>95+</td>
<td>2400+</td>
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The Sixth Annual All-Girls Open National Championships
April 24 – 26, 2009 – Dallas, Texas

Awards
The University of Texas at Dallas, www.utdallas.edu, has established an Academic Distinction Scholarship to the winner of the 18-years-old and younger section. The scholarship is valued at $80,000 for an out-of-state student.

Trophies to top 15 individuals and top 3 teams in each section. 3 or more players from the same school to make a team (top 3 scores added to give team final standings). Every player receives a souvenir medal.

Main Event
Saturday, April 25
9:00 AM–Opening Ceremony
Rounds 1-4:
9:30–11:30 AM; 12:00–2:00 PM; 3:00–5:00 PM; 5:30–7:30 PM

Sunday, April 26
Rounds 5–6:
9:00–11:00 AM;
11:30 AM–1:30 PM;
2:30 PM–Closing Ceremony

Entry Fee
$45 if postmarked by March 25th, $70 on-site. USCF membership required. All events will be hosted at Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion Blvd.

Side Events
Friday, April 24
3:00 PM– Blitz Tournament (G/5)
$15 if postmarked by March 25, $25 on-site.
5:00 PM Bughouse Tournament, $25 per team.
7:00 PM–Simultaneous Exhibition by WGM Anna Zatonskih.

6-SS, G/60, Sections
- 8-years-old and younger
- 10-years-old and younger
- 12-years-old and younger
- 14-years-old and younger
- 16-years-old and younger
- 18-years-old and younger

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The Happy Warrior

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili scores big in North American Open

By Jerry Hanken

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili had the tournament of his life at the end of 2008 in Las Vegas. This was the 17th year in a row that the North American Open was held at Bally’s Hotel and Casino and the Georgian grandmaster was clear first at 6 1 in the 89 player championship section. He pocketed a tad under nine grand for his mighty effort. Of the five games he actually played (the other two were admitted GM draws), he won three with black. This gave him a half point win over tough opposition. There were a dozen GMs beside Giorgi and 21 others who hold international titles.

The key to Giorgi’s victory came in round six when he bested Olympian Varuzhan Akoebian with the black pieces.

After the prizes were distributed, I had an enlightening talk with the winner. He was very pleased with his victory for a lot of reasons. Perhaps the most important one is that it bolsters his case for a special artist exemption to seek a long term visa for which he has applied.

Giorgi has been in the U.S. off and on for 12 years but has always returned to his native Georgia where he has played on their Olympic team. However last year he had an experience which caused him to want to come to the U.S. permanently. He now hopes he can join them permanently.

When you first see Giorgi, you are struck by his handsome features. At 32 he has a little gray around the temples but his classic good looks have suggested to some that he resembles his namesake, the great actor George Clooney. Chris Bird, who operates the live broadcast for the MonRoi website, really loves to “get” me. He had me believing for a couple of seconds that Clooney was playing in the tournament. It was only when I asked him in which section Clooney was playing and he said “the Open” that my bemused look led to Chris’ poker face dissolving into laughter. Only then did I catch on.

The next thing you notice is Kacheishvili’s upbeat personality and keen sense of humor. He says he is never bored. He loves chess but can enjoy a lot of other pastimes also. His friend and fellow Georgian GM Zviad Izoria has been playing a lot of big stakes poker recently. When Giorgi tried a few hands with Zviad, he says he held his own pretty well.

The thing you notice is Kacheishvili’s upbeat personality and keen sense of humor. He says he is never bored. He loves chess but can enjoy a lot of other pastimes also. His friend and fellow Georgian GM Zviad Izoria has been playing a lot of big stakes poker recently. When Giorgi tried a few hands with Zviad, he says he held his own pretty well. Giorgi also enjoys ping pong, tennis, movies and books among many other things. I see him as a kind of “happy warrior” like Hubert Humphrey.

When I asked about how he learned chess he showed his keen humor. He said that his grandfather taught him when he was about five. He liked to play dominos with grandpa even when he was only three but, even at that tender age, he won most of the time. His secret? He always kept an extra domino hidden and would place it on the board at the right strategic moment. Gramps never caught on and in frustration, the old fellow taught him chess. Giorgi immediately realized that it was not so easy fooling him at chess. It took him a couple of months until he could beat gramps at the more complex game.

This amusing tale may be true or not, but as my old history professor liked to say, “if it’s not true, it’s good enough to be true!” Giorgi chuckled all through the telling of this story. I later interviewed Giorgi’s mother Nana and she told me some very interesting things. When he learned chess he would have a set in the bathroom which she was not allowed to touch. At about the same early age, Giorgi learned folk dancing and showed a lot of promise. Nana was against chess and wanted her small son to pursue the dance in which she felt he had a future. After he told her “in chess I use my mind. I don’t think with my legs.” After this precocious statement, she reluctantly took him to the Pioneer House. He was only five and could not write yet. She told me that the teachers were impressed by his play but she had to stay with him to help him learn to write.

He became a GM at 19 without ever using a computer. After he got his title in 1997 they could finally afford one.

Giorgi has had many victories in chess to his credit. He told me though, that this title, North American Open Champion, was one of his most satisfying. Following is the pivotal game Giorgi played. His complex and exciting sixth round encounter with super GM Akoebian with the black pieces was the key to his victory.
Slav Defense (D15)
GM Varuzhan Akobian (2678)
GM Giorgi Kacheishvili (2670)
North American Open, Las Vegas (6), 12.29.2008

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 a6 5. a4 e6 6. Bg5 Nbd7 7. a5

We have already left mainstream Slav lines.


An unexpected attempt to create weaknesses in the black camp which Black answers coolly.


Who would think that this was the losing move! 20. Ra8 Nxc8; 20. Nxb6 c2 21. Ra8+ Ke7 22. Nd5+ exd5 23. Qb3 Nb6 24. Ke2


26. ... Nf4+ 27. Ke3 Bd6 28. Qc2 Bb5 29. Rd1 Ng6 30. h3 Bf4+ 31. Ke2 Bc1

Now Black has the position under control. He threatens ... Rb7 and a forced queening.


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This fourth round win over a fellow GM can almost be called a miniature.


In this line of the Nimzo, Black can play either ... d5 or ... Nf6 to try for equality. Against this move, White has a clear edge.

6. Qb3 Ba5 7. g3 d6 8. Bg2 Nd7 9. 0-0 Qb6 10. Ne4

Winning a pawn.

10. ... Qc7 11. Qa3 Nd5 12. Nxd6+ Qxd6 13. Qa5

Now the d4 knight is immune as we will soon see Black takes it anyway leading to a charming denuma.

13. ... Qxd4 14. Be3 Qxc4 15. Bxc5 Qb5 16. Qc7 Qd7 17. Qf4 Ne7 18. Rfd1

This is one badly embarrassed queen! try. Although still rated in the 2200s (he broke 2300 in this event), he often plays on a solid 2400 plus level. His only loss was to his fellow Angeleno, IM Andranik Matikozyan, and he tied with Vadim Kudryavtsev for under 2300 money. I really like this game a lot. (Of course this reporter loves all victories in the English Opening!)

1. c4 e5 2. d4 e6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. g3 Bb4 5. c4 Nf6 6. Bg2 d5 7. dxe5 Nxe5 8. f4 Nf6 9. e4

10. ... Bb7 11. Qd2 Nf6 12. Qa5+ Nd7

11. Qd2 Rd1

This rook is now placed better than before.

12. c5 Bxc5 13. Qxc5 dxe5 14. Nxe5 Nf6 15. Qf5 Nxe4

It is now almost impossible to ever dislodge this monster knight or its fellow.

19. ... Nf5 20. Rc1

Now the rook has found the right square. The extra tempi which Black had at his disposal has not helped him because of the fixed nature of the pawn position.

20. ... Nxe3+ 21. Qxe3 Rf3 22. Qd2 Nf7!

(see diagram top of next column)

23. Ng1

A cute trick which does not change the intrinsic nature of the position. Greg's reply shows a cool head. 23. Kxf3 Ng5+ 24. Ke3 Rh3 mate or if 24. Kg2 Qh3+ and mate after 25. Kg1 Nf3+ does the job.

18. ... Nd5

What else? It is curtains after 18. ... Qb5 19. Qd6.


If 20. ... Qe6 21. Qxg7 and it's finis for Black.

There were other notable performances in this tournament; one is the following game.

English Opening (A26)

Gregg Small (2284)
IM Michael Mulyar (2445)

Gregg Small is originally from Texas and lived in Florida for a few years. Now he lives in Los Angeles and plays in a lot of major tournaments around the coun
Another pawn bites the dust! This was a smooth performance by Mr. Small against a very strong international master (IM).

Reti Opening,
King’s Indian Attack (A07)
GM Zviad Izoria (2652)
IM Samuel Shankland (2470)
North American Open, Las Vegas (6),
12.29.2008

Giorgi’s nearest competitor was one of five GMs who finished a half point back. In this sixth round encounter he hands the remarkable 16 year old IM Sam Shankland his only loss.

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 Nc6 3. d4 Bg4 4. Bg2 Qd7 5. c4 e6 6. 0-0 0-0-0

This is a tad over optimistic. Whites’ attack comes first.

7. cxd5 exd5 8. Nc3 f6 9. Qa4 Nge7 10. b4 a6

11. b5 Nb8 12. Qb3 g5 13. bxa6 Nxa6 14. Rb1 b6

After 14. ... b6


15. Bd2 Nc6 16. Nb5 Bb4 17. Qa4 Kb7

It’s getting just a little tight on Black’s king position.


This move wins two knights for a rook.

19. ... Ra8 20. Qb3 Nxb4 21. Qxb4 Ra5

Not much better was Rdh8.

22. a4 Rha8 23. Nc3 Bh3


24. Bxh3 Qxh3

Allowing a fatal queen penetration.

25. Qe7 Qf5 26. Nb5 Rc8 and Black resigned.

Zviad showed his true GM credentials.

GMs Alexander Shabalov, the Cuban assassin Julio Becerra, Jaan Ehlvest and Melikset Khachiyan were the other four who came in a half point behind Giorgi.

Closed Ruy Lopez,
Worrall Attack (C86)
IM Andranik Matikozyan (2491)
GM Julio Becerra (2665)
North American Open, Las Vegas (7),
12.29.2008

Here is a quickie by Julio which propelled him into the money in the last round.


A sound pawn offer which gives Black the initiative.

9. d3

9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Qxe5 Bb7 and Black has full compensation for the pawn as in the game.


16. Qg3 cxd4 17. Nb5


17. ... dxc3 18. Nxe3 Nxc3 19. bxc3

Now Black has the upper hand.

19. ... Ba6

And just like that, the rook has no place to go!

20. Qh3 g6 21. Bh6

21. Rd1 Qxd1+.

21. ... Bxf3 22. Bxf3 Qc8 23. Qf3 Qxc3, White resigned.

And White has no compensation for the Exchange. It is surprising that Black could win so easily.

(see game top of next column)

Sicilian Defense,
Nimzovich-Rossolimo Attack (B30)
IM Vladimir Merson (2441)
GM Alexander Shabalov (2627)
North American Open, Las Vegas (6),
12.29.2008

Shabalov takes the measure of a very strong IM in this entertaining game.


Now we have a kind of reverse English with Black a couple of tempi down. These tempi don’t seem to matter.


And White has no compensation for the Exchange. It is surprising that Black could win so easily.

(see game top of next column)
Justin and Eric are both good friends of mine. I have published a few of Justin's very good games as he seeks his last GM norm. Eric is a 16 year old Canadian who looks and acts 25. He carries the FM title and has an IM norm. I hope that Justin will not be annoyed at me for publishing this loss but I think it was one of the best games of the tournament.


The Nimzo Indian has long been considered a great way for Black to fight for the initiative. Justin chooses an old but solid way to handle the “Nimzo.” In the ’70s and ’80s, it was even fashionable to avoid the Nimzo with 3. g3 or invite a Queen's Indian with 3. Nf3. This one Justin should simply take as the next line (courtesy of Rybka 3.22), will demonstrate.

In a 600 plus tournament, there are always a few odd incidents. The oddest in this competition came in the under 1000 section. This section is mostly children, or adults playing in their first tournament. Among the latter was 40ish Crescencio Tolentino. Mr. Tolentino won his first game over a rated player. This was the forced three day schedule in this and the under 1300 sections. The second round began at 5:30 p.m., but there was no Mr. Tolentino to be found and he was duly forfeited. Normally, neglecting to report that you will no longer be playing leads to being dropped from the tournament. But chief tournament director (TD) Bill Goichberg had a feeling that, as a new American Open, their signature triple decker, the Alban, was used on board one throughout the tournament.

Tim (Toby) Tobiason was a sub contractor and brought, along with his fascinating collection of CDs, and other chess “doodads,” a mysterious tale of a chesspalace.com with Anthony at point, again provided a first class line of books and equipment for the players. They offered the last chance to purchase one of the superb sets and boards loaned to the tournament by TheChessPiece.com. Again, as in the American Open, their signature triple decker, the Alban, was used on board one throughout the tournament.

Now there is no way to stop the raging attack!

28. Qxc6 g5 29. Ndx5 Rd5 30. Qxd5 Qh3 31. Rbb2?

31. Qd8+ Kh7 32. Rbb2 Rxe2+ 33. Rxe2 Qh1+ 34. Kf1+ 36. Kg3 h4+ 37. Kg4 Bh3+ 38. Kg5 “Buena No checks” as the Spanish say.

31. ... Bxg2

The finishing touch.

32. Rgx2 Qxe3+ 33. Kf1 Qc1+, White resigned.

The only perfect score came in Under 1700, 1st: Seid Seidov, 7.

Under 1500 had 78 participants and again saw a single winner at 6½ by Melik Melikyan. Under 1300 had 60 and another clear winner at 6½ by the likes of Michael E. Thomas. The under 1000 drew 41 players with Menaka Narayanan and Adrian Nez both scoring six points.

The staff was reduced by one when Brenda and Bill Goichberg, international arbiter Walter Brown, national tournament director Al Losoff, and Charles Hatherill all gave up the services of Chris Bird. He operated the live broadcast on the MonRoi website (MonRoi.com), pre serving the top boards’ games for our and future chess lovers’ enjoyment, for which he deserves a special nod.

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Eric offers another piece to continue the attack. This one Justin should simply take as the next line (courtesy of Rybka 3.22), will demonstrate.

23. Rf2?

No checks

23. gxf3 Re6 24. Qxe4 Rg6+ 25. Qxg6

25. ... hxg6 and the pieces will beat the queen. 26. Rac1 g5 27. Re3 g4 28. f4 g3 29. Rgxg3 Qh5 30. Kf2 Rb6 31. Rgf1 g6 32. Rlg2 Kg7 and White should win with ease.

23. ... Re6 24. Rb1 Rd8 25. Bc1 Rg6 26. Be3 h5 27. Nf4 Rg4

Now there is no way to stop the raging attack!

Analysis after 25. Qxg6

Chess Life — April 2009

North American Open
At A Glance

Date: December 26 29, 2008
Location: Bally’s Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Top Finishers: Open, 1st: Giorgi Kachishvili, 6.
Under 2100, 1st: Jared Tan, Vincent Huang, 6. Under 1900, 1st: Drayton Harrison, 6½.
Under 1700, 1st: Seid Seidov, 7.

Chief Tournament Director: William Goichberg.
Ray Robson would like to be a grandmaster. As of this writing, his FIDE rating is 2455, but he has not yet earned a single grandmaster (GM) norm. This is not for a lack of stellar performances. In last September’s Miami Open, the 14 year old netted a performance rating over 2700, good enough for a norm save for a technicality: You have to play at least three existing grandmasters for the performance to count, whereas Ray faced only two. The two GM elects (Josh Friedel and Renier Gonzalez) were still considered international masters (IMs) during the event for norm purposes.

It was a bitter footnote to a dreamlike tournament a disappointment to be sure, but Robson takes advice from the likes of Garry Kasparov, who told me in December, “Ray concentrates on the game of chess so he’s making the fastest progress, and I think that with certain care and support he could be a very, very strong grandmaster.” It’s only a matter of time.

When opportunities for norms are scarce on the U.S. Swiss circuit, an up and coming young player like Robson often heads overseas. So, it was no great surprise that to reach him during February, and a typical dearth of major U.S. tournaments, I had to dial a few extra digits. What was a surprise was to learn that, in fact, their relationship had ended not long afterward. In the summer of 2007, Kaidanov and Ray’s father, Gary, had a falling out, after disagreements about the best plans to further Ray’s training. The parting was not amicable.

“After I wasn’t working with Kaidanov we were looking for a coach, kind of,” Ray explained, “but we didn’t really find anyone at that time so I was just working by myself.” Working alone is quite common nowadays among the young elite set, as chess engines and computer data bases have revolutionized chess training, such that even when you’re on your own, you’re never really alone.

Nevertheless, sometimes there’s no substitute for professional guidance, and as Ray recalled, “my dad asked me, ‘which three coaches would you choose if you could work with someone?’ and I said Onischuk.” Also high on the imaginary list were Gata Kamsky and Hikaru Nakamura but neither of the two (highest rated) American GMs was available for coaching. Ray had limited his search to players from the U.S. and Onischuk is the next one down. “And yeah, he did win the U.S. Championship,” Ray added, “so I just thought he’d be a really strong player to work with.”

In a curiously symmetrical turn, Onischuk sought out advice from none other than Gregory Kaidanov. “[Onischuk] called me and asked whether he should take Ray as a student,” Kaidanov told me. “I begged him to do it. I love the boy, still miss him tremendously.” Kaidanov praised Onischuk’s coaching abilities as well.

Robson and Onischuk have only been working for a handful of months, mostly over the phone and the Internet Chess Club. Onischuk lives in the Washington D.C. area and they met at the Eastern Open in December. The Moscow trip in February was only the second time they have worked together in person.

Onischuk was a little under the weather when I phoned Sevastopol. After his Moscow Open win he needed the week to recover in time for Aeroflot. Alex did not have time to train Ray during the tournament, but they did analyze together. “It’s
not that I was his coach or something. We were more like partners,” he said. Ray is his only student, and he’s not looking to take on any more.

The Moscow Open wasn’t one of Robson’s best performances. Even after winning his last four games he remarked, “I still did badly, but not terribly.” The late winning streak couldn’t make up for his 1/5 start. “I just wasn’t playing very well at the beginning ... I wasn’t calculating very well.”

Miami was another story. There Robson finished tied for first with 2629 rated GM Darmen Sadvakasov, ahead of a field that included six GMs and 16 IMs (including GM elects Gonzalez and Friedel). I asked Ray if this was his greatest success, to which he replied, “It’s probably my best tournament ever I mean so far,” he quickly corrected himself.

Robson’s win over Gonzalez in round seven was a 25 move miniature, but Ray doesn’t take all the credit for it. “For some reason everybody says that game [is the best], but actually it was a good game, but I didn’t think up the whole thing myself, I’d actually seen that line before, of some of those sacrifices. I mean I was thinking over the board to make sure they were correct, but I’d seen that idea before, so it wasn’t entirely my creation,” he explained. Robson instead prefers his win over Friedel from round two more original.

**Sicilian, Kan (B42)**

*IM Ray Robson (2467)*

*GM elect Josh Friedel (2571)*

*Miami Open (2), September 2008*

*Notes by Robson*

1. e4

I have played Josh many times before, and every time I have been white. Every time he has played ... e5, in just about every game I had an advantage at some point, and I hadn’t managed to score one win!

1. ... c5

A surprise. After the game I remembered I had seen a game of his vs. Erenburg as black, but during the game I didn’t remember this. Before he’s played ... e5, in just about every game I had an advantage at some point, and I hadn’t managed to score one win!

1. ... c5

So far all of this is theory. Here White has a choice between these two moves: 10. 0 0 and 10. Bg5.


This is still actually theory! This line was also played by Josh as black against Erenburg, and White also won that game.

18. ... g5

**After 23. fxg5**

So, this is his improvement.

19. Kb1

With this move I am just getting out of the way of any ... Be3+ moves.

19. ... Be3 20. e5

An interesting idea, although it may not give White an advantage against correct play.

20. ... dxe5 21. h3 Nf2 22. Bxf2 Bxf2 23. fxg5

This was my idea. I had actually thought before that Black just can’t take on g5 because of 24. Rxf1 Bxg3 25. Rxd6, and here I stopped. Now I realized that Black had 25. ... Bf4.

23. ... hgx5?

A clever idea, but not the best. (23. ...

24. Rhf1 Bxg3 25. Rxf6 Bf4

So, here I am up a piece but my rook is locked in on f6. Eventually I found a good plan which for tactical reasons stops him from developing so easily.


This is a good move, stopping the bishop from moving and also bringing the knight to b6 or d6.

27. ... Rh7 28. Nc4 Bd7

My opponent decides to give up mate instead of being choked to death.

29. Rxd7+ Kxd7 30. Nb6+ Ke7 31. Nxa8 Rxc3 32. a3

32. a4 may have been more accurate.

32. ... Rh2 33. Bd3 g4 34. Nb6 g3 35. Nc8+ Kd8

On 35. ... Kf8 there is a very nice variation which is pretty much forced: 36. Nxd6 g2 37. Rxf7+ Kxf7 38. Nc7+ Kh8 39. Nc6! K=Q+ 40. Ka2.

36. Rxc7 Kxc8

After 36. ... g2 37. Rb8+ Ke7 38. Rg8 Rh1+ 39. Ka2 g1=Q 40. Rxc1 Rxe1+ 41. Nc6 White is clearly better if not winning here. It is funny that the computer says White is clearly better if not winning.

37. Nd6+ Kb8 38. Nb7+ Ke8 39. Nd6+ Kd8 40. Be4

This move threatens mate and at the same time slows down Black's passed pawn by controlling g2.

40. ... Rd2 41. Nb7+ Ke8

After 41. ... Ke8, 42. Rg7 stops the pawn and wins.

42. Bg6 g2 43. Rxf7+ Kd7 44. Rg6 Rd1+ 45. Ka2 g1=Q 46. Rxc1 Rxe1+ 47. Be4

White is easily winning here.

47. ... Re1 48. b4, Black resigned.

At this point Black resigned, as he has no way of advancing his e pawns while I will either take his pawns or just push my own pawns.

Robson had already secured a share of first after drawing GM Victor Mikhalevski in round eight, when he faced Sadzakov with white in the final round. All he needed was a draw to win the tournament clear. “I was probably kind of nervous or something because I definitely didn’t play my best... I think I got worried about my time and then started to make bad moves.” In December, at the Kasparov Chess Foundation training session, Kasparov himself was amazed that Ray let the game get away from him. Robson maturely observes that the problem is chronic. “Generally, sometimes in the last rounds, when there’s more pressure, I don’t always do as well as I wish I would.” Dealing with big “money” games is still what he needs to work on, it seems.

To break the tie and decide the title, Robson and Sadzakov then had to play an Armageddon style blitz game almost immediately, with only minutes to collect themselves after the ninth round. Robson said he didn’t feel too much pressure, however. He had white once again, but this time essayed 3. Bc4 and went for a sideline that was tried even more recently by Sergei Movsesian in his win over Michael Adams at the 2009 Corus tournament. “It’s not really well known, but it’s not that bad actually,” Ray explained, “and for blitz it’s good.”

The critical moment came at move 33 when Robson overlooked that 33. d6 could be met by 33. ... Qe1+ winning for Sadzakov. Ray held his breath. “I was just like ‘oh no, I hope he doesn’t see that,’ “cause if he doesn’t see that then I have those pawns.” Sadzakov instead backed up 33. ... Qb6+ and lost on time in a fragile position shortly thereafter.

Robson’s spring schedule was still evolving when we spoke. Despite the Moscow jaunt, he’s not making a conscious decision to play outside the U.S., the way some players in the norm hunt however. He had white once again, but this time essayed 3. Bc4 and went for a sideline that was tried even more recently by Sergei Movsesian in his win over Michael Adams at the 2009 Corus tournament. “It’s not really well known, but it’s not that bad actually,” Ray explained, “and for blitz it’s good.”

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Crowning K-12 Kings

By WIM Elizabeth Vicary

The National Grade School Championship (Orlando, Florida, December 12-14) advertises itself as one big tournament with 13 sections (grades 1-12 plus kindergarten), but I’ve always known it was two distinct events. There’s a scholastic tournament, filled with wide-eyed eight-year-olds wearing silly satin hats who routinely offer each other draws in completely won or lost positions out of a bizarre sense of the importance of forming interstate friendships. Simultaneously, they hold a real chess tournament for the older kids. Pretty much everyone in this is over 1500, and if someone is wearing a hat, it’s to shut out the rest of the world from view. Obviously, this is an exaggeration — great chess does get played in the lower sections but not an enor-
mous one. Sections for the lower grades tend to be much larger this year second through sixth grades had 131-152 play-
ers each, while ninth to 12th averaged only 48. Elementary grades also tend to have many more competitive teams. In fifth grade, an amazing seven schools had more than a few competitive teams. Finally, the older sections tend to be much more ‘top heavy’ in terms of the rating distribution of individual players. This means that points are very hard to come by in the high school sections: it’s not hard to find 1600s and 1700s who only manage an even score.

Traditionally, New York teams dominate national scholastic tournaments, but in recent years programs from Texas have done well. California, Florida, and Arizona are also hubs of scholastic activity. States’ turnout depends a lot on where the tournament is held, as strong Texas teams often don’t travel far, and California is a long way from the East Coast sites. This year, with cheap JetBlue flights working in their favor, New York schools dominated the team competitions, winning seven sections and placing in the top three 20 out of 39 times. New York’s players are concentrated in the (upper) elementary and junior high school grades: Hunter won 2nd grade; PS 116 took 3rd; Horace Mann dominated in 4th and tied with two other New York teams in fifth and one in eighth; IS 318 swept the three junior high grades (6, 7, 8). The rest of the country revenged these losses in the primary and high school sections: Oak Hall of Gainesville, Florida won the kindergarten and 1st grade sections, while teams from New Jersey, Arizona, Texas and Ohio won the four high school grades.

It’s always been true that upsets are a dime a dozen in scholastic tournaments: kids are inconsistent by nature, and the fast time control and multiple rounds per day leave a lot of room for error. But I suspect something more systemically strange is occurring in scholastic ratings across the country: I think kids are playing the same kids over and over again in effectively closed rating pools, and this is causing scholastic ratings in certain areas to become skewed. For example, look at Florida. Players from this state won 15 out of 48 trophies for the best performance under a certain rating in grades 2-6, but no one from the state placed in the top five in any of these sections. Conversely, players from Texas won a fifth of the top five spots in grades 2-6, but none of the rating prizes. Of course, there is more than one possible explanation for this imbalance, but it offers circumstantial evidence for the idea that some areas may be causing scholastic ratings in certain areas to become skewed. For example, look at Florida. Players from this state won 15 out of 48 trophies for the best performance under a certain rating in grades 2-6, but no one from the state placed in the top five in any of these sections. Conversely, players from Texas won a fifth of the top five spots in grades 2-6, but none of the rating prizes. Of course, there is more than one possible explanation for this imbalance, but it offers circumstantial evidence for the idea that some areas may be causing scholastic ratings in certain areas to become skewed.

For the sake of consistency, let’s see the first upset of the tournament: Robert Kim (1529) beat top seed Jeffrey Haskel in round one on the top board of the 11th grade section. Kim is coached by Lorand Bela Kis and attends New Hope Academy in Yardley, Pennsylvania. He described 17. ... Nxe4 as the hardest decision he had to make in the game: “I got a pawn, but he got the bishop pair and some compensation.”

King’s Indian Defense (E70)
Jeffrey Haskel (2266)
Robert Kim (1528)


In fact, Jeffrey can get away with just
casting here, as he gets two pieces for the rook after 11. 0 0 Nc2 12. Qxa7 Nxa1 13. fxg5 Nc2 14. Qa4+.
11. ... Bd7 12. b3 a5
12. ... Qb6 preventing castling, also looks good.
13. Bb2 0-0 14. 0-0 b5 15. a3 Na6 16. cxb5 Bxb5 17. Kh1

After 17. Kh1

17. ... Nxe4!

Robert described this as the most difficult decision in the game: “I got a pawn, but he got the bishop pair and some compensation.”


Second seed Abby Marshall (2151) followed Hasket’s lead in the next round, losing to Steven McLaughlin (1652). Hap pily, both Abby and Jeffrey recovered, winning the rest of their games, to tie for first. Abby generously annotated her loss for Chess Life.

Queen’s Gambit Accepted (D26)
Abby Marshall (2151)
Steven McLaughlin (1802)
Notes by Marshall

So here is my second round game, where I blundered and was very upset the rest of the night, but it taught me a valuable lesson. But excuses first. So a friend of mine (Elizabeth Vicary) speculated that maybe why there are so many upsets and blunders is because nationals is complete chaos. Especially at Disney World, with the distractions of outrageous food prices, huge crowds of people, Mickey Mouse, the hyper competitive atmosphere, and overall the absurd extravagance of the hotel, could cause kids to get overloaded and go crazy. Basically by Friday night I was knocked out.

11. ... Qb6 preventing castling, also materialistic Fritz says White is winning despite being down a pawn.

10. ... Nc6 is best, though White is in control.)
11. d5 Nxd5 12. Nxd5 exd5 13. Bxe7 ... Nc6 is best, though White is in control.)
12. Bb2 0-0 14. 0-0 b5 15. a3 Na6 16. cxb5 Bxb5 17. Kh1

Notes by Marshall

Notes by Marshall

Analysis after 20. ... Rxd4

20. Bh4?
I don’t know how I missed a simple tactic twice. Why am I so stupid?

20. ... Rxd4!

The horror! Now I’m losing. I should have just chilled out, took a walk and have just chilled out, took a walk and come back to think rationally, but we can’t always control our emotions. I hate being 17.

21. Nc4?
Not exactly brilliant. 21. Qxd4 Bc5 22. Qxc5 Qxc5+ 23. Bf2 Qe7 24. B4d; okay, so objectively Black is winning. But come on, there’s a lot of play in the position, f4 f5 is gonna be strong, and the pressure is on him now. Often it’s difficult for the side with the queen cause you’re winning but it’s not so easy. Not to be biased, but as a 2100 against a 1700, I probably shouldn’t even offer him a draw here.

21. ... Rxc4+

Now he goes on to crush me.


Probably the best lesson out of this game came from GM John Fedorowicz, who after listening to me cry about the game, told me not to do anything crazy. Kinda funny, though I mean it’s true, nationals is a long tournament and tenacity is vital. But man, it is really hard to lose like this on board one!

Anyway, after this performance people probably wondered not how I won nationals, but how I won any games at all. It shouldn’t be surprising that my success is due to the sleeping habits of a third grader named Alana. Saturday night, I’m feeling OK now that I at least have a chance at the title, but I’m completely drained. I had three wonderful room mates, my friend Leondra, her mom, and little sister Alana. And because Alana did not snore that night, I slept amazingly well and was able to win two games on Sun day, enough to be co champ. Thanks Alana I owe it all to you!
**Boas’ “Constricting” Win**

*Expert Toby Boas (2112) of Florida won the 12th grade section by half a point, despite losing in the last round.*

**ELIZABETH VICARY:** I feel like there are a set of openings where the most important thing is which player knows the weird, totally “unguessable” positional plans available to each side, and that the Benko is the best example of this (see game at end of sidebar). Agree or disagree?

**TOBY BOAS:** Definitely. There are a lot of different maneuvers that are so common in Benko positions. For black ... Ng4 e5, ... Qa6 to trade queens, ... e7 e6 to break in the center, ... f7 f5 to weaken the center in the endgame, ... c5 c4 to allow c5 for a knight, d3 and c4 as outposts for knights.

**What's your favorite one?** A knight on d3, because unless I'm getting mated, I’m probably winning! What was the biggest/most difficult decision you made in the game?

**Hmm,** to tell you the truth, all the moves were so natural. I knew they had to be correct so they weren’t hard to make.

**Which of your games was the most challenging?** Number five, against the top seed. It was the only one where I felt like I was in a worse position out of the opening. He sacrificed a rook for what he thought was mate, and I was able to defend and consolidate. If he had played the position more calmly, he would have had good chances to beat me, I think.

**When he sacked it, did you think it worked at first? Or had you already calculated it?** Well, he was spending a lot of time on that move (maybe half an hour), so I knew he was most likely going to make the sacrifice, but I looked deeper and saw that he most likely wouldn’t have enough material to mate me with.

**So you were willing him to make it? Secretly?** I suppose, but I was a little nervous as well because my king would be in danger.

**Is this the first national title you've won?** Yes. It’s great, especially in 12th grade since this was my last chance to win something in high school.

**Tell me about the chess scene/scholastic chess scene where you live? How much do you play? Do you have a program at your school or a private coach?** I live in central Florida, near Orlando, so there are quite a few tournaments in Orlando every year. I try to go to every major tournament in Florida (so I travel to south Florida if I need to) and I occasionally go to one day tournaments in Orlando, but I don’t really have a huge amount of scholastic chess. I’m homeschooled, so no team, and I don’t have a private coach.

**How long have you been homeschooled?** I’ve never actually been to public school, but at 14 I started dual enrollment classes at the community college near me. I honestly like the classroom setting better than being homeschooled, mainly because I think I learn better that way.

**Because it's more structured? Or because you are with other people?** Structure mainly, and it helps to have a lecture and a teacher you can ask questions to.

**What kinds of questions could you ask a teacher that you couldn't ask a parent or find on the Internet?** For higher up math (which I’m majoring in), it helps to have someone who can explain the process in depth (there’s only so much math my parents know up to!).

**Do you think being home-schooled has affected how you've learned/studied chess? I'm wondering if being home-schooled has made you more thoughtful about how you learn, and if this is possibly very useful in chess?** It definitely gave me more free time to study/play online. I suppose that by being homeschooled, there’s more of a sense of independence in learning, which I believe is necessary to study chess.

**So what was it like having a full-point lead going into the last round?** There was one person who could catch me, but I knew even if I lost, I would win on tiebreaks (although I definitely didn’t want that).!

**How did the game go?** I offered a draw early on to try and secure clear first, but he declined. I got an advantage out of the opening and got a nice attacking position, but got too carried away and neglected my king safety.

**Did you think about offering a draw again, mid-game?** I did, but I really liked my position so I figured I should go for the win.

**Did your game finish before or after the second board?** I think it was right around the same time, but I knew for a while he wasn’t going to win since his position looked slightly worse, definitely not better. It was kind of scary though; I definitely didn’t want him to catch me.

His favorite win was a sixth round Benko Gambit against Adam Weser.

**Benko Gambit (A57)**

Adam Weser (2093)

Toby Boas (2134)

2008 K-12 Championship, 12th (6), 12-14.2008

The hottest player in the 2005 Electronic Knights Championship has to be Gillmore Hoefdraad. From sunny Suriname where he was born in 1962, won several junior championships, and represented his home country at the Luzerne Olympiads, to Mexico where he was an economist for the Center of Monetary Studies for Latin America and the Caribbean, then to the U.S. in 1999 where he discovered correspondence chess, and finally to Beirut, Lebanon where he worked for the International Monetary Fund. Gillmore has annexed the second annual Electronic Knights Championship.

Gillmore had played an earlier International Correspondence Chess Federation correspondence event, and he liked the taste. His second tournament was the 2005 Electronic Knights and notes that "email has made correspondence chess much more interesting. It is quick, efficient, and helps you stay on top on current chess developments." Gillmore's advice to aspiring correspondence players: "If you love chess, but have a busy life, please play correspondence chess. It will be very helpful when you retire and would like to play over the board again."

How does Gillmore play? Here's a taste from the final round.

Sicilian Defense,
Yugoslav Attack (B78)
Gillmore Hoefdraad (2058)
Zachary Cohn (1721)
2005 Electronic Knights Final


The Soltis variation has given new life to the Dragon variation. Black is willing to engage in a battle on the kingside in the hopes of surviving long enough to eventually counterattack on the queenside.

11. 0-0-0 Rc8 12. Bb3 Ne5 13. Bg5 Rc5 14. g4

Gillmore chooses the most directly aggressive line from among many. Only 14. Kb1 has more adherents, but Gillmore's reasoning is that Black's counterattack has been postponed by 10. ... h5 and so he aims for immediate battle. Nevertheless, the modern (2008) vote is for 14. Kb1.

14. ... hxg4 15. f4 Nc4 16. Qe2 Qc8

And by 2007 the majority preference leans toward 16. ... b5 here with an occasional success for 16. ... Na5.

17. Bxf6

There are still a few diehard fans of 17. h5 here.

17. ... Bxf6 18. Nd5

In the battle of opening theory, a critical position has been reached. Black's choice of 18. ... b5 is quite playable, but the move that has had the greatest success for Black here is 18. ... Rxd5! 19. exd5 b6 20. h5 g5 21. fxg5 Bxg5+ 22. Kb1 when it has been Black who has been marking up the plus scores.

18. ... b5 19. h5 g5 20. Nxf6+

This apparent theoretical novelty attempts to improve Kubach Habermehl, 19 World Championship, which continued 20. f5 Rxd5 and drawn shortly after.

20. ... exf6 21. Qh2!

White has his queen's sight set on d6, Black fails to see White's idea and his game collapses.

21. ... Be6? 22. f5 Bd7 23. Bxc4 bxc4 24. Qxd6

And with an unanswerable threat on f6, White wins.

24. ... c3 25. b4 Rc4 26. Qxf6 Qd8 27. Qh6, Black resigned.

No defense 27. ... f6 28. Ne6 Qe7 29. Rxd7!
Ken Coryell takes second place

Second place was earned by Ken Coryell. Ken is a 59 year old self employed consulting engineer. He, too, is widely travelled, having lived and worked in many locations in the United States and overseas. He graduated in 1973 with a Masters degree in engineering from Ohio State University. He moved back to Ohio in 2000 where he lives with his companion Mary on her 80 acre farm. He has two children Lee, who recently graduated from medical school and Vir ginia who is working toward a doctorate degree in psychology. He enjoys home brewing, cooking (especially barbeque), playing the piano, church work, genealogy (he is a Mayflower descendent) and life on the farm.

At age four, Ken learned the game from his father. Ken remembers watching his dad make his postal moves in an old Post a Log album. Ken himself was first drawn to correspondence chess in 1970 using his father’s Post a Logs. After college, his chess activity slowed down considerably until the early eighties when he began playing online through Com puserve and Leisure Linc. During the nineties, Ken’s time was taken up raising his children, but now he has returned to the chess wars. At age 59 and after a heart attack, he finds he can no longer see as much over the board with the faster time limits, but correspondence chess still allows for careful analysis and sharp games can still be played.

Torre Attack (D03)

Ken Coryell (2075)
Brian Stewart (2228)
2005 Electronic Knights Semifinal
(Notes by Ken Coryell)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bg5 Bg7 4. Nbd2 d5
   Preventing e4.
5. e3 0-0 6. c3 Nbd7 7. b4
   Looking for space on the queenside.
7. ... Ne4 8. Nxe4 dxe4 9. Nd2 a5 10. Nxe4
   I am leery of gift pawns, especially from stronger players.
10. ... axb4 11. cxb4 Nf6
   Already down a pawn, Black’s ensuing doubled pawns give White a slight edge.

After 30. ... Rxa7

The game changer This allows the queen to penetrate the kingside. Better seems 30. ... Ra8 as it keeps Black’s...
Correspondence Chess

31. Rx7 Qxa7 32. Qf6 Rf8 33. Qxc6
33. ... Rb8 34. Bc4 Rb1+ 35. Kh2 Rc1 36. Qxe4+ Kg7 37. Qe5+ Kh8 38. h4 Rxc4 39. g4
Rxf4 40. g5+ Kh5 41. exf4 Qa3 42. Qe3, Black resigned.

Third place went to John Menke. John has retired, but his games work on. Here is a rousing game against vastly under rated Johnny Owens. At the end, Owen quietly withdrew leaving Menke with a full point, but Menke had all but earned the point and a resignation would have been a more fitting conclusion.

King’s Indian Defense,
Averbakh Variation (E75)
John Menke (2358)
Johnny Owens (1709)
2005 Electronic Knights Preliminary

Black plays to keep e5 under control, but he cedes dangerous space on the kingside.

15. f4 Ng6 16. f5 Ne5
The last few moves have produced an interesting give and take. White has gained some white square control on the kingside; Black has eternized possession of his e5 square. White is stuck with an e2 bishop that is semi bad, and Black has a c6 Bishop without a proper diagonal. Black has weakened his kingside structure and White’s c4 is his weak square in the center. How both sides plan to take account of these advantages and disadvantages is instructive.

17. a5 Re8 18. Ra3
The rook plans a journey across the board to g3.

18. ... Rb8 19. Qc2 Nf6 20. Rb1 g4 21. b4!? To counter Black’s kingside activity, White opens up a second front on the queenside.

21. ... gxc3 22. gxc3 Nfd7 23. bxc5 Nxc5 24. Bxc5?
A rather surprising choice: White has decided to transfer all the action to the queenside (for now) where his heavy pieces dominate. All this he does, in order to then go back to the kingside. This is high class strategy, but Black is also up to the task.

24. ... dxc5 25. Na4 Qxa5 26. Rg3 Kh8 27. Nxc5
Now the effects of White’s plan are clearer. Black’s kingside is very lonely. Given a move or two, White’s pieces will overrun the black king but Owens is prepared.

27. ... Nd7?
Vacating the strong c5 square to offer an exchange of pieces, but more importantly to exchange queens via the long diagonal when White’s attack is greatly diminished.

A new phase of the battle commences. White’s advanced central pawn mass versus Black’s nearly unmoved connected passed pawns. White’s more active pieces give him some hope for an advantage.

31. ... Ne6 32. Rc4 Ba7
Unappetizing was 32. ... Nxe4 33. Nxe4 Rxe4 34. Bf6 Qe5 35. Bg6 Bf6 36. Re7 h5 37. Re7 hxg4 38. Rxf7+ Kxf7 39. Kh3 Kg7 40. Ne5.

The skirmishes have gone in Black’s favor. His pawn mass split up, his attack on the black king and now needs only to prevent being driven off the board.

His solution? Reinvigorate his attack against the black king.

40. Be6 Bb7 41. h4! Bf6?!
Black passes up the draw in hopes of scoring the win. After 41. ... Bxb4 42. Rf4 Ng5 43. Rxb4 Nxe6 44. fxe6 Bxd5+ 45. Ke2 Re8 46. Nf4 Bxe6 47. Rxb8+ Kg7 48. Rxe6 Rxe6 49. Bxe6+ Kf6 which online endgame databases rank this position as drawn.

42. Ng3 Nd7?!
Black fails to see the oncoming assault. Exchanging on g3 might lessen Black’s winning chances but it would also lessen his losing chances.

43. Rf2 Nc4 44. Kh3 Rd8 45. Nf4 Bd4 46. Rc2 Be3 47. Ng6+ Kh7 48. Nh5
White has brought his army to bear on the black king and now needs only to find a file for his rook to invade on.

48. ... Bb6?
This helps the queenside pawns to advance but abandons a tempo in the defense of the king.

49. Rd2 Bx4 50. f6 Ne3 51. Rg3 Bxd5 52. Ngf4 Be4
There is no defense by 52. ... Bxe6+ 53. Nxe6 Rg8 54. Rf3 Kg6 55. f7 Re8 56. Nxd4 and Black’s game has fallen apart.

53. f7 Bf5+ 54. Bxf5+ Nxf5 55. Ne6 Nxf3 56. Nxd8 Bg7 57. Kxg3 b4
Exciting to the end the electrons were buzzing in this game.

58. Ne6 Kg6
Also losing is 58. ... Be5+ 59. Nhf4 Bd6 60. Bf8=Q Bxf8 61. Nxf8+ Kg8 62. Nxe6 b3 63. Nd3 Kh7 64. Nec5 and White wins.


After 63. Nb2

Black forfeits. The game ended here, but the reader might like to match Menke and solve the position as White wins. Menke has retired, so we won’t get to see his solution, but the game could have followed this line 63. ... Kd4 64. Nf4 Kc3 65. Nd3 a5 66. Kg4 a4 67. Nxa4+ Kxd3 68. Nc5+ Ke4 69. Nxb3 Kxb3 70. Kh5 Kc4 71. Kb6 Kd5 72. Kg7 Ke5 73. h5 and mate will follow in due time.

2005 Electronic Knights
At A Glance

Date: January 17, 2005 October 20, 2008
Entrants: 126
Top finishers [weighted points]: Gilmore Hoefdraad, 39.60; Keneth Coryell, 39.00; John Menke, 38.35; Dean Barclay, 37.85; Patrick Ryan, 35.05. Weighted points in round one, a win = 1.0, a draw = 0.5; in round two, a win = 2.0, a draw = 1.1; in round three, a win = 4.50, a draw = 2.25.
Keres’ Endgame Studies

“Chess is art, creativity, a clash of personalities,” said Estonian GM Paul Keres (1916–1975). Arguably the strongest player who never became world champion, he used to be dubbed the crown prince of chess. Some books devoted to his games seldom mention these wonderful endgame studies that he composed by age 20. Solutions on page 71.

Readers are invited to send their positions in for possible consideration in this column. Send to whatsthebestmove@uschess.org or mail to Chess Life, c/o What’s The Best Move, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

1. White moves
   - (a) Nd3
   - (b) Qc2
   - (c) Nc2+

2. White moves
   - (a) Be5
   - (b) Qxa1+
   - (c) Bb1+

3. White moves
   - (a) Be5
   - (b) Qxa1+
   - (c) Bb1+

4. White moves
   - (a) Kg3
   - (b) exf5
   - (c) Bxg7+
USCF Executive Board Candidate Statements

Dr. Eric Hecht

I'm running in this election because I wish to serve the chess community. I've served as a governor of the Marshall Chess Club and Marshall Chess Foundation, and I've been a senior sponsor of the Miami Open. This year I'll contribute to the NY International Chess Tournament.

I'm a medical doctor and member of the business community. My background in business includes finance and governance. I was trained as an analyst by several of the largest banks on Wall Street, having been a senior member of several firms. Recently, I've served on the boards of several health care companies.

The USCF is a sizeable non profit business, and as such, needs the type of governance and financial oversight that I've worked on for other organizations. I believe my background could prove useful to the successful running of the USCF.

— Dr. Eric Hecht

Michael Atkins

My name is Michael Atkins. I've been a member of the USCF since 1973, and a Life Member since 1984. I've been a Tournament Director since 1974 and a National TD since 2000.

For the past decade I've ran the USCF Tournament Clearinghouse for events happening from Baltimore down to Richmond. Doing this has required working with multiple organizers in the attempt to reduce unnecessary conflicts.

In this same manner, I would like to help the USCF’s Executive Board return to civility in its actions and re direct it back to supporting and encouraging the growth of chess in the U.S.

I have no agenda other than helping the USCF get back on track and doing what is best for chess. I will never sue the USCF and anyone who does should never be on the board.

Whenever possible all USCF actions should be open and visible to all members. Thanks!

— Michael Atkins

IM Blas Lugo

I learned chess in Havana, Cuba when I was 13 years old. Since then I’ve devoted my life to this wonderful game.

I became an International Master at 23, and I achieved my first Grandmaster norm in 1996 at the NY Open.

I’ve been an active chess player as well as an organizer and trainer for the last 25 years. In 1996 I founded the Miami International Chess Academy where I’ve taught countless players of all ages.

For the last several years I’ve been organizing the Miami International Open and many other important events. I have solid proven success in multiple facets of chess. I can help our chess federation.

If elected to the USCF executive board, I plan to bring harmony and new energy to our organization. I’ll concentrate my efforts in raising memberships, securing much needed sponsorship, and finding effective ways to cut expenses to make this federation stronger.

— IM Blas Lugo

Opinions expressed are solely those of the candidates.
Being a USCF Executive Board member is a privilege. I hope my candidacy will earn your support.

My chess experience is substantial. First joined the USCF in 1976, I’ve served on the Wisconsin Chess Association Board of Directors since 1984, and President continuously since 1987. During this tenure Wisconsin hosted two national scholastic championships, the 1990 World Youth Championships, two Yasser Seirawan Chess Schools and sixteen State Scholastics averaging 400 players; I was Chief Local Organizer on each.

I’ve been a USCF delegate since 1987 attending seventeen delegates’ meetings. My USCF Committee experience includes: Co Chair of the Scholastic Council that is the chair of the Scholastic Committee, the Chess In Education Committee, the States Committee and various MIS committees.

Professionally, I am a senior programmer/analyst for a large non profit hospital working with the Finance, Payroll and HR departments.

My ideas for a better USCF will follow next month.

—Mike Nietman


—Bill Goichberg

Vice President of USCF 2007 to present. Highest USCF rating 2090. FIDE rated 2054. Since 1991:
• Played in 245 USCF tournaments including 7 recent US Opens.
• Senior Tournament Director of 85 events.
• Coached 5 recent Denker representatives from Oklahoma


Married to same gal for 40 years. US Military Veteran. Served for last 10 years on Board of Directors of Stillwater National Bank a $2.9 billion dollar bank. NASDAQ: OKSB)

Your USCF Executive Board needs both financial expertise and financial professionalism as well as an abiding love of Chess. Our USCF will have all of the above when you vote JIM BERRY for re election. Thank you.

—Jim Berry

Opinions expressed are solely those of the candidates.
After graduating from Harvard in 1976, I spent fourteen years as an Engineering Manager for Digital, a major computer manufacturer, eight of them in Europe. In 1993, I started an Internet development company. In 1998 I became a VP of Engineering at Oracle, a former client. Since 2001, I have been a consultant.

I now live in Carlisle, Massachusetts with my wife and two children. Returning to chess as a “Chess Dad” in summer 2007 I volunteered full time on the redesign of the USCF website. I am an active board member of MACA. I help run a scholastic chess club.

The USCF faces critical decisions, and I am running for the EB to be an independent voice on the Board and to bring my solid technical, management, and entrepreneurial experience to the USCF. For more about me and my views on the issues in this election, please visit http://micaissa.blogspot.com.”

— Brian Mottershead

I’m running for a position on the USCF Executive Board. I’m asking for your vote because, as an organization, we need a sea change in the way we function. We need leadership with a commitment to transparency, openness and fiscal responsibility. I have no competing or conflicting financial interests and would certainly disclose them in the unlikely event that any developed.

The USCF needs leadership with:
1. The ability to actively listen;
2. The desire and ability to set reasonable goals in concert with others;
3. The ability to work toward goals through a consensus approach;
4. The ability to admit mistakes and seek solutions.

I have demonstrated my capacity to utilize the aforementioned attributes and hope to put them to work for the betterment of the USCF. My resume can be found at http://mysite.verizon.net/vzewuo9u/brianlaffertyuscfselecti onblog/index.html

I look forward to telling you more about me in future issues of Chess Life.

— Brian Lafferty

Regular members who joined or renewed after September 24, 2008 may be wondering why they have not received Chess Life magazine in the mail. The shocking answer is the current board voted unanimously to stop sending Chess Life in the mail to regular members and to stop sending Chess Life for Kids in the mail to regular scholastic members. They have also notified the Life Members that they provide no guarantee that they will receive a paper Chess Life after 2012.

If elected, I will do everything in my power to reverse these decisions. I am committed to restoring to regular members the right to receive a paper Chess Life magazine, to scholastic members the right to receive a paper Chess Life for Kids magazine, and to Life Members the right to receive Chess Life magazine for the rest of their lives.

We should also start selling Life Memberships again.

— Sam Sloan

See Sam Sloan’s 100 word felony statement, mandated by USCF bylaws, on page 37.

Opinions expressed are solely those of the candidates.
Dr. Mikhail Korenman

I am currently living in Chicago and coaching chess in local area elementary and secondary schools. Some of my strong chess credentials are:

- Extensive experience working in non profit organizations.
- Excellent success in grant writing.
- Organized many successful major chess events, including the U.S. Junior Open and Invitational, the Pan American, the Final Four, and numerous world class FIDE tournaments.
- Initiated the internationally acclaimed “Chess for Peace” program with Gorbachev, Karpov, Onischuk, Shulman, Polgar, Krush, Zatonskikh, etc., that was featured in National Geographic, The NY Times, NPR, NBC, PBS, and countless print and TV media across the U.S. and around the world.
- Served on the USCF Scholastic Council.
- Current member of the Scholastic Committee.
- FIDE International Organizer.

With my experience in multiple facets of scholastic, college, adult, professional, and women’s chess, I can help make the USCF a much stronger organization.

—Dr. Mikhail Korenman
PhD Education, Kansas State University

Ruth Haring

I am running for the Executive Board because I love chess and want to see it grow.

USCF leadership should have experience in both chess and success in business.

For 23 years, I have successfully managed large complex projects for IBM, Lockheed, TRW, and eBay. My experience will be of immense help to the federation.

It will be my privilege to give back to the community that supported me at five Olympiads and an Interzonal. I have no personal or professional conflict of interest. My income is derived from non chess sources.

With “one member, one vote,” it has become more important for members to be informed on issues rather than attacks on personalities. USCF leadership should be more transparent in the details and the rationale for its decisions in communicating with the membership.

I have the experience to work with the USCF leadership to achieve common goals for the membership. For more information, visit www.RuthHaring.com.

I look forward to serving on the executive board, and hope you will give me your support.

— Ruth Haring

USCF Executive Board Candidate Statements

Opinions expressed are solely those of the candidates.

USCF Election

Any Youth category member who wants the May candidates statements may receive them on request. This applies only to Youth members who will be 16 by June 30th, since otherwise the Youth member will not be receiving a ballot.

In addition to the 150 word candidate statements that appear in this issue of Chess Life, there will be 500 word statements in the May and June issues. Youth members are not scheduled to receive the May issue.

Call For ADMs

Advance Delegate Motions for the Delegates’ meeting at this year’s U.S. Open are due before June 1, 2009.

They can be sent to Cheryl Bruce, c/o USCF, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or e mailed to cbruce@uschess.org.

Ballots

Ballots will be available to USCF members whose member ships are current through June 30th as of midnight on May 1, 2009, and who will be 16 by June 30th.

Further details will appear in a future issue of Chess Life.

Sam Sloan Felony Statement

The delegates, in their wisdom, have voted to give me 100 words to explain my court case in Virginia. I have eight children. One of them is Shamema, whom many of you met when I used to bring her to international chess tournaments. When Shamema was eight years old, she was kidnapped by persons unrelated to us and taken to Virginia. When I came to Virginia to try to rescue my kidnapped daughter, I was immediately arrested, tried and convicted of attempted abduction of my daughter.
OUR HERITAGE

2008 U.S. CHESS FEDERATION YEARBOOK

For the most part, the information in this yearbook is current as of December 31, 2008. For the full version of the 2008 Yearbook, including contact information for USCF delegates, please see uschess.org.

USCF ANNUAL MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, AND FUND BALANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Business Meeting</th>
<th>Membership Fund Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Cherry Hill, New Jersey</td>
<td>81,827 (182,842)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
<td>80,578 (257,186)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Membership totals are given as of May 31. Totals exclude Junior Tournament Players and tournament members
(2) Figures enclosed in parentheses are deficits

USCF PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Presidents (1) Years
Beatriz Marinello 2003-2005
Bill Goichberg 2005-current
Bill Goichberg 2004-2005

Executive Directors (2) Years
Bill Goichberg 2004-2005
Bill Hall 2005-current

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP
2007 Alexander Shabalov
2008 Yury Shulman
Tulsa, Oklahoma • May 2008

U.S. OPEN
2007 Boris Gulko, Alexander Shabalov, Sergei Kudrin, Benjamin Finegold, Michael Rohde, Michael Mulyar, Aron Del Mundo
2008 Enrico Sevillano, Alexander Shabalov, Rade Milovanovic
Dallas, Texas • August 2008

U.S. WOMEN’S CHAMPIONSHIP
2007 Kira Kraush
2008 Anna Zatonskih
Tulsa, Oklahoma • May 2008

NATIONAL OPEN
EDMSOND Cup Winner
2007 Hikaru Nakamura
2008 Gata Kamsky, Laurent Fressinet, Tigran L. Petrosian, Atanas Kolev, Ben Finegold, Josh Friedel
Las Vegas, Nevada • June 2008

ARMED FORCES

INDIVIDUAL* TEAM
2007 Lark Larkin* Navy
2008 Jhonel Baniel* Air Force
Tucson, Arizona • June 2008

U.S. SENIOR OPEN
2007 Joel Johnson
2008 Larry Kaufman
Boca Raton, Florida • April 2008

U.S. CLASS
2007 M: Alejandro Ramirez; X: Arut Safian; A: Andy Lin; B: Bradley Anderson; C: Ricky Durbin; D: John Setton; E: Peter Harris; Unr: Spencer Scorcelletti
2008 M: Daniel Fernandez; X: Jeffrey De Jesus, Ernesto Malazarte, Anton Soloyov; A:

2008 Yearbook

Frank Brack, Steven Chen, Mariano De Medina, Mitchell Powell; B: Dylan James; C: Stephen Rugh; D: Kyle Hecker; E: Robert Settles; Unr: Gheorghe Socaciu
Houston, Texas • July 2008

U.S. BLIND
2007 Jeffrey Siebrandt
2008 Jeffrey Siebrandt, Alex Barrasso
Buckhannon, West Virginia • June 2008

U.S. GAME/10
2007 Not Held
2008 Hikaru Nakamura
Las Vegas, Nevada • June 2008

U.S. GAME/15
2007 William Aramid, Jim Burgess
2008 Dionisio Aldama
St. Petersburg, Florida • August 2008

U.S. GAME/30
2007 Ashish Vaja
2008 Emory Tate, Kirill Kudrinov, Albert Chow
Skokie, Illinois • June 2008

U.S. GAME/60
2007 Not Held
2008 Emory Tate
Skokie, Illinois • June 2008

U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONS
2007 East: David Grasso, Alisa Melekhina, Andrew Shvartsman; South: Lawrence Cohen, John Rouch; West: Kevin Zhang, Edward Yetman III
2008 East: Hanon Russell; South: Event Not Held; West: Richard Ding
May 2008

U.S. AMATEUR TEAM
2007 West: Orange County Chess Club (Alexander Krotchetov, Ilia Serpik, Takashi Iwamoto, Krishna Kalaianam)
2008 East: Beavis and Buttvinnik (FM James Critelli, Evan Turtel, Evan Robin, Nick Panico, Alan Kantor)
North: Repeat Offenders (John Cole, John Langreck, FM Jim Dean, Drew Hulbinberger)
South: Four Found Fischers (Daniel Ludwig, Corey Acor, Eric Rodriguez/Jeffrey De Jesus, Anthony Felicione)
National Playoff Winner: Team South
2008 West: We Have Cox (Ben Marmont, Jonathan Cox, Robby Adamson, Landon Brownell)
East: GGGr (Zviad Izoria, Roman Djindzichashvili, Eugene Perelshteyn, Stephen Fanning)
North: Wi Chess Academy’s Surprise (Alex Betaneli, Ashish Vaja, Erik Santarius, Trevor Magness)
South: The Foreclosure Doctors LLC (Gilbert Luna, Javier Gonzalez, Jeffrey Haskel, Bruci Lopez)
National Playoff Winner: Team South
February 2008

TOURNAMENT OF COLLEGE CHAMPIONS
2007 Warren Harper
2008 Daniel Yeager, Julian Landaw, Scott Low
Dallas, Texas • August 2008

ARNO LDENKER TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS
2007 Warren Harper
2008 Daniel Yeager, Julian Landaw, Scott Low
Dallas, Texas • August 2008

SUSAN POLGAR NATIONAL INVITATIONAL FOR GIRLS
2007 Julia Kerr, Eunice Rodriguez
2008 Courtney Jamison
Lake Buena Vista, Florida • December 2008

U.S. JUNIOR INVITATIONAL
2007 Marc Tyler Arnold
2008 Tyler Hughes, Gregory Young
Lindsborg, Kansas • June 2008

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY
2007 Ryan Moon
2008 Aleksandr Ostrovsky
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • May 2008

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY TEAM
2007 IS 318 (NY)
2008 IS 318 (NY)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • May 2008

NATIONAL JUNIOR CONGRESS

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH
2007 Alex Getz
2008 Michael Lee
Dallas, Texas • March 2008

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH TEAM
2007 Hunter College Campus Sch (NY)
2008 Oiq Middle School (WA)
Dallas, Texas • March 2008

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2007 Alex Lenderman
2008 Daniel Yeager
Atlanta, Georgia • April 2008

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
2007 Catalina Foothills School (AZ)
2008 Catalina Foothills School (AZ)
Atlanta, Georgia • April 2008

U.S. JUNIOR OPEN
2008 Under 21: Maxx Coleman, Tim Moroney; Under 15: Garrett Wirka; Under 11: Joseph Stafford
Lindsborg, Kansas • July 2008

U.S. CADET
2007 Evan Ju, Warren Harper
2008 Conrad Holt
Lindsborg, Kansas • June 2008

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC K-12
Lake Buena Vista, Florida • December 2008

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC K-12 TEAM
2007 K: Oak Hall (FL); 1st: Hunter College Campus Sch. (NY); 2nd: The Village Sch. (TX); 3rd: Horace Mann (NY); 4th: Horace Mann (NY); 5th: PS 124 (NY); 6th: Canyon Vista Middle Sch. (TX); 7th: Horace Mann (NY); 8th: IS 318 (NY); 9th: Gilbert High Sch. (AZ); Hunter College Campus Sch. (NY); 10th: Balleire High Sch. (TX); 11th: Patrick Henry High Sch. (VA);
AMERICAN WORLD CHAMPIONS

WORLD SENIOR
2008 Larry Kaufman
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany • October 2008

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

A great many players are active in tournaments run and rated by USCF. Most popular is the annual Golden Knights Championship, a three-stage event, although USCF offers several other options. You’ll find advertisements for these events in every issue of Chess Life. Many over-the-board players find that correspondence chess improves their play, and correspondence also appeals to those who for various reasons cannot play in over-the-board tournaments. There is no limit to the number of games one can have going at once. For further information, contact Correspondence Chess Dept at the U.S. Chess Federation, P.O. Box 367, Sayre, PA 18680. The correspondence rating system is similar to the OTB system, and a written explanation is free on request (a stamped, self-addressed envelope is appreciated). Players who earn ratings over 2000 and have 25 or more games rated are issued special certificates. If you qualify and haven’t received one, please write to us.

International correspondence chess titles are awarded by the International Correspondence Chess Federation, an affiliate of FIDE. Titles are awarded for outstanding performance in ICCF-sponsored events.

U.S. CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPIONS

2008-2009 Eduard Lasker
2007-2009 Thomas Biedermann, Lawrence Coplin

AMERICAN GRANDMASTERS

2007 Ehlvest, Jaan g 2595
5 Akobian, Varuzhan g 2619
2 Nakamura, Hikaru g 2699
1 Onischuk, Alexander
7 Dzindzichashvili, Roman
g 2550
18 de Firmian, Nick
K-9: Michael Rohde
K-8: Ray Henley
K-7: Ildar Ibragimov
K-6: Alexander Ivanov
K-5: Gregory Kaidanov
K-4: Bihias • Walter Browne • Robert Byrne • Larry Christiansen • Nick de Firm-
K-3: Pal Benko • Vinay Bhat • Arthur Bisguier • Peter Crouch • Robert Feller • John Friedrich • Higor Gang • Leonardo Gonzalez • Catherine Gioulis • Robert Green • Walter Grob • John Grünfeld • Sherry Rekh • Kenneth Rogers • Ira Lee Riddle • L. Thad Rogers • Sophia Rohde • Robert Sutter • Robert Tanner

AMERICAN OPEN

2007 Alexander Meltikset Khachiyan
Los Angeles, California • November 2008

LINA GRUMETTE MEMORIAL CLASSIC

2007 Enrico Sevillano

WORLD OPEN

2007 Varuzhan Akshian, Alex Stripinsky, Hikaru Nakamura, Chanda Sandipan, Leon Judasin, Evgeny Najer, Alex Shabalov, Victor Mikhalchik, Julio Becerra
2006 Michael Negi, Alexander Mineenko, Evgeny Najer, Lubomir Ftacnik
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • June 2008

NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

2007 David Pruess, Hikaru Nakamura

U.S. MASTERS (AKA MID-WEST MASTERS PRIOR TO 1990)

2007 Jaan Ehlvest

FIDE awards titles for outstanding achievement in three areas of chess competition: Over-the-board play, correspondence play, and composition.

OVER-THE-BOARD PLAY

FIDE uses a complex but flexible formula to determine eligibility for OTB titles. Basically the average rating of a qualifying event is used to determine how many points a titled player— a grandmaster for example— would be expected to make when playing in a tournament. Players who score that number of points achieve a "norm" toward that title. Each FIDE Grandmaster sets his own acceptance criteria and makes several such norms and fulfill other requirements, thus maintaining a minimum rating. The international arbiter title is awarded to tournament directors on the basis of applications submitted.

GRANDMASTERS

Vadim Gurevich • Bela Bubacz • Antonio Jose • Julio Becerra • Joel Benjamin • Emil Belanoff
112: Hanna High Sch. (TX); Collegiate: University of Texas at Dallas (TX)
2008 K: Oak Hall (FL); 1st: Oak Hall (FL); 2nd: Vela Middle School (TX); 3rd: Vela Middle School (TX); 4th: Hanna High School (TX)

PAN-AM CHAMPIONSHIPS

PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE INDIVIDUAL

2007 Kurt Schneider, Andrew Hubbard, Axel Bachmann
2008 Salvijsz Bercrys
Fort Worth, Texas • December 2008

PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM

2007 University of Texas at Dallas, Team A
2008 University of Texas at Dallas, Team B; University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Fort Worth, Texas • December 2008

TOP 50 FIDE-RATED AMERICANS

Active players from the January 2009 FIDE Rating List

Rtg.
1 Kasparov, G
2 Nakamura, H
3 Onischuk, Alexander
4 Shulman, Yury
5 Akobian, Varuzhan
6 Kasparov, G
10 Avrukh, Maxim
11 Lein, Irina
12 Scherbakov, Alexander
13 Yermolinsky, Fabiano
14 Gulko, Boris F
15 Gudoshnik, Roman
18 de Firmian, Nick
21 Serper, Gregory
22 Fabiano, Alexander
23 Khachian, Melkojor
24 Yermolinsky, Alex
25 Sevillano, Enrico
26 Friedel, Joshua E
27 Gurevich, Dmitry
28 Kramnik, Viswanathan
29 Bhat, Vibha
30 Finegold, Igor
31 Fedorowicz, John
33 Schneider, Dmitry
34 Hess, Robert L
34 Chirgadze, Amos
34 Zhao, Zhihui
35 Lobron, Samuel
36 Lapshun, Yury
38 Lenderman, Alex
39 Root, Douglas
40 Smith, Bryan G
41 Rohden, Samuel
42 Dvoiris, Alexander
43 Krush, Irina
44 Sgroi, Ray
45 Saric, Justin
46 Shankland, Samuel
47 Lapshun, Yury
48 Aronian, Babak
49 Barlowbome, John
50 Lenderman, Alex

Active Players from the January 2009 FIDE Rating List

Rtg.
1 Kasparov, G
2 Nakamura, H
3 Onischuk, Alexander
4 Shulman, Yury
5 Akobian, Varuzhan
6 Kasparov, G
10 Avrukh, Maxim
11 Lein, Irina
12 Scherbakov, Alexander
13 Yermolinsky, Fabiano
14 Gulko, Boris F
15 Gudoshnik, Roman
18 de Firmian, Nick
21 Serper, Gregory
22 Fabiano, Alexander
23 Khachian, Melkojor
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34 Hess, Robert L
34 Chirgadze, Amos
34 Zhao, Zhihui
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36 Lapshun, Yury
38 Lenderman, Alex
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43 Krush, Irina
44 Sgroi, Ray
45 Saric, Justin
46 Shankland, Samuel
47 Lapshun, Yury
48 Aronian, Babak
49 Barlowbome, John
50 Lenderman, Alex

Active Players from the January 2009 FIDE Rating List

Rtg.
For more information on ICCF, write to ICCF-US, 1642 V Volusia Ave, Orange City, Fl, 32763, or e-mail zprchess@aol.com

**COMPOSITION**

Titles for compositions on chess problems and endgame studies are overseen by FIDE’s Permanent Commission for Chess Composition. The commission periodically issues albums of composers’ best pieces. A composer receives points for each problem and endgame study chosen for an album. Twenty-five points are needed for an international master title, 75 for a grandmaster title.

**GRANDMASTER FOR CHESS COMPOSITION**

Torna Garai

**INTERATIONAL MASTER FOR CHESS COMPOSITION**

Pal Benko • George Sphicas

**INTERATIONAL JUDGE FOR CHESS COMPOSITION**

P. Jian • K. C. Tran • L. T. Tran

**SOLVERS**

These titles are awarded by the Society of U.S. Chess Problemists.

**Master Solvers:** Robert J. Bades Jr. • Paul Birnbaum • Tony Book • Brian Book • David Brudny • Bob Cass • Jerry Chartrand • Joseph Christensen • John Gibson • David Haggerty • Paul Holzmueller • John Hovland • John Knudsen • Gary Kubach • Jerry Meyers • Michael Milchtein • Tim Murray • Armitola Pamess • P. J. Sturdivant • Christopher Werblin • Joe Wollschlager • Max Zavanelli

**USCF AWARDS**

**Distinguished Service Award**

2007 Fred and Carol Kleist, Gordon Barnett, Stephen Dann

2006 Selby Anderson, Glen Buckendorf, John Hillery

**Special Services Award**

2007 Steve Doyle, Emie Schich

2006 Hal Karlsson, Tom Tobiason, Allex Root, Jim Stillingas, Russell Harwood, Kerry Lawless

**Meritorious Services Award**

2007 Richard Sherman, John Hibert, Dan Heisman, Grant Perks

2006 Luis Salinas, Gary Dorrfer, Lloyd Hunter

**Committee of the Year**

2007 Financial Review Committee

2006 Bylaws Committee

**City of the Year**

2008 Tulsa, OK

2007 St. Louis, MO

**Koltanowski Awards**

2007 Gold: Frank K. Berry

2006 Gold: Hanon Russell

**U.S. Chess Hall of Fame Inductees**

2007 No inductees

2006 Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, Nick de Firmian

**Scholastic Service Awards**

2007 Susan Polgar, Brownsville, TX School District

2006 Steve Shultt, Michael Khodorkovsky, Southern Arizona Chess Association

**Organizer of the Year**

2007 Sevan Muradian

2006 Jerry Weikel, Tom Braunlich

**Frank J. Marshall Award**

2007 Gregory Kaidanov

2006 John Watson

**Grandmaster of the Year**

2007 Gata Kamsky

2006 Gata Kamsky

**Honorary Chess Masters**

2007 Donna Gravenberg, Jan Rogan

2006 Janelle Losoff, Annette Buckendorf

**The Gallery of Distinguished Chess Journalists**

2007 Alex Dunne, Yasser Seirawan

2006 Bruce Pandolfini

2005 John Watson
SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS
SAMFORD FELLOWSHIP
2007 Josh Friedel
2008 Irina Kruzh, Vinay Bhat

SCHOLAR-CHESSEPLAYERS AWARDS
2008 Vaishnav Aradhula, Eric Dong, Francisco Guadalupe, Trevor Jackson, Peter Yeh
2009 Aashi Agaian, Jonathan Cox, Benjamin Marmont, Michael Sobin, Adam Weser

WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX
2007 GM Izao Iwata
2008 Alex Lenderman

USCF GOVERNANCE

OFFICIALS
These elected volunteer officials constitute the Executive Board, the executive committee to the Delegates. They meet quarterly and monitor the affairs of the Federation on an almost daily basis. • President: Bill Giuseppi, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577, chessoffice@aol.com • Vice President: Jim Berry, PO Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076, jaberrycg@aol.com • VP Finance: Randy Bauer, 812-923-1533, urbandale@sbcglobal.net • Director: Randall Hough, 1286 Saber Ave, Unit 5, Alhambra, CA 91803 rdhouch@yahoo.com • Membership: Bill Goichberg, PO Box 250722, Madison, WI 53722, scharczyshn@hotmail.com • Secretary: Tony Paban, 4811 Maniﬃn Rd, Indianola, IA 50125, jerryhanken@aol.com • Women’s Committee: Penny Wright, 57 Oatlands Road, Eastchester, NY 10709, pchessgirl@gmail.com

USCF REPRESENTATIVES TO FIDE
• FIDE Vice President: William J. Kolkmeier, 2205 South Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa 50702, Fax: 319-233-0472 • Delegate: Michael D. Berman, Apt 703, 124 Gough St, San Francisco, CA 94102 • Director: Lewis S. Steel, 2420 Bingle Drive, Lincoln, NE 68521, lsteel@chess.com • Treasurer: Michael J. Baranofski, 4720 Highland Blvd, San Diego, CA 92117, will@tudor.com • Ethics Committee: Kenneth Stein, 218 Fehrman Drive, Springfield, IL 62704, kenneth@chess.com • Appeals Committee: Michael Herzfelder, 1010 Silverwood Road, Bottineau, ND 58318

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH
USCF members are part of a nationwide network. To find other chess players in your area, send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope and request a list of all the special lists. • STATE ORGANIZATIONS: Contacting your local club is the best way to find chess competition in your area. Many states have active organizations sponsoring official championships and publications for members. • CHESS MAGAZINES: Everything from local club newsletters to general-interest magazines regularly published in the United States. • CHESS CLUBS: The addresses of chess clubs in your area are posted on the USCF website: www.uschess.org • START YOUR OWN CHESS CLUB: If there is no Chess Club in your area, don’t despair! Anyone can learn to run a club and send the membership list to the USCF. Chefs clubs or individuals can become affiliates of USCF for $40 a year. For information or advice about starting a club in your area, write to USCF at PO Box 5967, Criswellville, TX 78357. • Affiliates: A list of chess clubs that want more information on how to start a club, and request a free copy of “TLAs in Chess Life” which explains how to organize your club. This list is on the USCF website: www.uschess.org

STATE ORGANIZATIONS
Your state will have three main organizations: a state championship, state tournaments and tournament sponsorship. Joining your state organization can bring you great benefits in chess involvement. You may also be interested in receiving the publication of a nearby state’s organization. Many states are interested in receiving the publication of a nearby state’s organization. Write to the USCF’s Director of Communications to find out how to receive the publication of a nearby state’s organization.

American Chess Foundation Contact: Allan Cunningham Phone: 707-635-3121 E-Mail: adcunningham@bravenet.com Web: www.members.aol.com/DOD/Jun/Wyoming/chess.html

2008 STATE CHAMPIONS

2008-2009 USCF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
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JOURNAL OF THE YEAR AWARD
2007 Meg Greengard
2008 Macauley Peterson

CHESS CLUB OF THE YEAR
2007 Atlanta Chess Center
2008 Dallas Chess Club

COLLEGE OF THE YEAR
2004 University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Tech University

TORNEOAMENT OF THE YEAR
2007 Mike Ahtian
2008 Frank K. Berry

SPECIAL FRIEND OF THE USCF AWARD
2007 Gary Kasparov
2008 None

2008 University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Tech University

Chees Life — April 2009 41
Looks at Books

The Epic Rivalry: Kasparov Ascends the Throne

The first Karpov-Kasparov match was terminated on February 15, 1985. A few days later, the New York Times editorialized “it matters when a country formerly accused of noncompliance with arms treaties is credibly charged with fudging even the clear rules of international chess.” The Politburo wasn’t amused.

By GM Lev Alburt

Like many other world champions, Garry Kasparov always has been a prolific, and deservingiy popular, chess writer. His writing moved to an even higher plateau with the My Great Predecessors series, a project remarkable both for its scope and its high quality. Garry’s latest work, Kasparov vs. Karpov, 1975 - 1985, is a logical continuation of The Predecessors. The book (hardcover, $45, 424 pages, translation from Russian by Ken Neat) is very well designed, and manufactured to last for a long time.

It starts with a brief “parallel lives style” history of both heroes, then presents an exciting game which the 12 year old author lost to the world champion in a clock simul, and three “reconnaissance in force” draws from the year 1981. More “education of a young Garry,” both in chess (coach Nikitin, mentor Botvinnik) and in chess politics (aborted, and then reinstated, Candidates’ Match with Viktor Kortchnoi) leads directly into a large chapter two, the first (unlimited) match. Then chapter three – the match stopped and de facto cancelled, in which personalities like Florencio Campomanes (FIDE president), Vitaly Severstyanov (president of the Soviet Chess Federation and Anatoly Karpov’s friend) and Heydar Aliev (Politburo member, Kasparov’s patron) reign supreme.

Finally, chapter four gives all 24 games of the second, (not unlimited) match, where Garry, after dramatic defenses, won the 24th game (a draw would suffice) to become the 13th world champion.

All 76 games are well analyzed, providing “insider” background, first hand psychology of each game, opening theory as it evolves from game to game, and usually just the right amount and the right type of analysis. History lovers, as well as practical players, from category D to super grandmasters will find many things to enjoy, and to learn.

The Time Control Is Over? Then, Stop, Calm Down And Think.

The first Karpov-Kasparov match was terminated on February 15, 1985. A few days later, the New York Times editorialized “it matters when a country formerly accused of noncompliance with arms treaties is credibly charged with fudging even the clear rules of international chess.” The Politburo wasn’t amused.

The Lonely King
September 26/27, 1984, match game #6

Writes Kasparov, “Here it would have done no harm for me to remember that in my childhood I liked to arbitrarily divide the chessboard into right and left halves, and see what the balance of forces was in each of them. In the given instance, all Black pieces are bunched together on the queenside, having left their lone king to its fate. The evaluation of the position is obvious: White has an irresistible attack.”

Garry quickly played 25. Qd4!, and now writes “To this day I just can’t understand why I went in for the exchange of queens, instead of making an obvious attacking move in my style – 25. Qf3! or 25. Qh5!”

The first Karpov-Kasparov match was terminated on February 15, 1985. A few days later, the New York Times editorialized “it matters when a country formerly accused of noncompliance with arms treaties is credibly charged with fudging even the clear rules of international chess.” The Politburo wasn’t amused.
blitzing, hoping your opponent will do the same and blunder.

In Chess, Unlike Checkers, (Re) Captures Aren’t Mandatory

Commenting on 46. ... gxh4?, Garry writes, “In expectation of the automatic reply 47. gxh4 (the basis of our analysis), after which White cannot break through...” The key words here are automatic (try not to reply automatically, and do not expect only automatic replies) and break through (as an opposite to “to build an impregnable fortress.”)

Karpov played 47. Ng2!! (“The unexpected and brilliant move” generically and objectively noted Kasparov). The game continued 47. ... hxg3+ 48. Kxg3 Ke6 49. Nf4+ Kg5 50. Nhx5 Ke6 51. Nh4+ Kd6 52. Kg4 Bc2 53. Kh5 Bd1 54. Kg6 Ke7

Surprisingly, Black is worse off with the d5 pawn, which “boxes in” his king. If 54. ... Bxf3, then 55. Kxf6 winning the d pawn at the right moment, and then the game.

Here Garry quotes Mark Dvoretsky, “In such cases the method of gradually driving back the opponent’s king is employed: The knight is placed on f5, and after the forced retreat of the king (the pawn endgame is lost) the White king goes to e5 or e7, then the knight gives another check, and so on.” Garry’s extensive use of quotes by other experts greatly enriches his book!

Back to the game. Knowing the rules is good; knowing both the rules and the exceptions (47. Ng2) is even better, but knowing both the rules and the exceptions greatly enriches each other’s ideas. The key words here are automatic (try not to reply automatically, and do not expect only automatic replies) and break through (as an opposite to “to build an impregnable fortress.”)

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This time Karpov took a pawn; 55. Nxd5+? , which allows Black to escape (55. Nh5! was winning, albeit mindbogglingly if Black defends perfectly, which even the greatest players are unlikely to do here).

55. ... Ke6

Better 55. ... Kd6, leading to a draw. But even 55. ... Ke6, which allowed 56. Nc7+, winning a second pawn, should have led to a draw if only Garry believed that a draw was still possible.

Abundance of Riches
If you are simply too busy to have the time to study meticulously, game by game, page by page, that’s OK too! Just browse through the book, searching for interesting statements and positions (diagrams). Some games provide a true gold mine! Take, for instance, game 11 of the second match.

An interesting (could well be used today) opening, which also occurred in several previous games; an “isolani” position, where White (Kasparov) exchanged his d4 pawn with a typical thrust (16. d5), achieving a small and temporary advantage. Then fast forward to the diagram after 22. Qg4!

Here Karpov “almost without thinking” played 22. ... Rc6??, and the following “petite combination” should be easy, amusing, and instructive to nearly all players: 23. Qxd7!, winning.

Choosing Your Opening— Follow the Leader
One effective way to choose your openings is to find a grandmaster whose choice of openings and whose style (both of play and of annotations) you like and believe you can, to a degree, imitate. (In some cases you borrow just one variation, in others cheat even in a chess match and that would have happened if Karpov won the 32nd game.

Were the outcomes predestined as Garry (gently) implies? Could Karpov over come his exhaustion as he did in Baguio?

Take a look, for instance, at a diagram below.

After 22. Qg4

Choosing Your Opening— Follow the Leader
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Take a look, for instance, at a diagram below.

After 31. ... Rd4

While Garry's writing still preserves a lot of his trademark passion, this work, compared with his earlier accounts of the same events, is much more calm, even somewhat detached. Still, it should be interesting to compare Garry’s views on chess and non chess matters, with those of Karpov and his helpers. For instance, was Karpov striving to get his six wins without a single loss even if trying to achieve this goal required greatly pro longing the match? (I doubt it: 8, 2, 9 = 10 (11 7), taking six seven weeks, is more impressive than, for instance, 1, 6, = 26 (19 13), reached in three months which would have happened if Karpov won the 32nd game.

The unexpected victim of the K K 1983 1985 brawls was Soviet ruling Politburo.

Soon after the first match was termi nated The New York Times (usually pro détente and pro arms control) lamented in its editorial that if the Sovi ets cheat even in a chess match and that between two of their own players, then how can we trust them in the more seri ous business of arms control?

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Sometimes very bad moves provide very instructive examples. Consider, for instance, 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f6?. Black’s second move is bad on many counts: it takes from the black king’s knight its best square; it doesn’t develop; and it makes castling problematic (after White’s 3. Bc4).

Not surprisingly, normal moves like 3. d4 and 3. Bc4 give White a real edge. But 2. ... f6 has an additional drawback: it exposes the king on that vital h5-e8 diagonal, thus allowing 3. Nxe5!. After 3. Nxe5, the normal defense, 3. ... fxe5 4. Qh5+ the normal defense, 4. ... g6, loses material to 5. Qf5+ Kh6 6. d4+, winning (12. ... g5 13. Bxg5+).

Going back to the first diagram, Black’s best is 3. ... Qe7 (not 3. ... d5? 4. Qh5+ g6 5. Nxf6—another “trick” to remember). 4. Nf3 Qxe4+ and now, of course, 5. Bc2, planning to exploit the e file with the black king and queen on it to gain even more developing tempi (Remember: if your king is safer than your opponent’s don’t exchange queens!)

After 3. Nxe5

After 3. ... fxe5 4. Qh5+ the normal defense, 4. ... g6, loses material to 5. Qxe5+ Qe7 6. Qxh5, and now an attempt to catch the queen: 6. ... Nf6 7. d3, as well as 6. ... Qxe4+ 7. Kd1 leaves White with a big, even decisive, edge, which leaves 4. ... Ke7 5. Qxe5+ Kf7 6. Bc4+.

Now 6. ... Kg6 loses quickly to 7. Qf5+ Kh6 8. d4+ g5 9. h4. Black’s best is 6. ... d5 7. Bxd5+ Kd6, controlling the f5 square with the bishop. White now has three pawns for a piece, and a wandering black king as a target. When calculating 3. Nxe5 on move three, there was no need to look any further.

Now, however, let’s find the best plan, and the best move. 8. h4 (see diagram top of next column)

threatening 9. h5 and mate soon follows. 8. ... h5 9. Bxb7! deflecting the defender of the f5 square (the same blow follows 8. ... h6). 9. ... Bd6, and now the most pre

The winner of this month’s award, Preston Herrington, didn’t know this Qh5 check idea very well and thus didn’t recognize the opportunity when it occurred. 

Wrote Mr. Herrington:

This was a blitz Internet game. My blitz rating on that Internet site was 1231, and my opponent was rated 2123. I figured I would see how long I lasted. The game was over quickly, but not without some surprises. (As usual, Lev’s further comments are in italics).

Englund Gambit (A40)

Preston Herrington (1231)
Anonymous (2123)
Internet blitz

My standard opening move. Especially against someone rated 900 points higher, I thought I would stick with the familiar.

1. d4 e5

This gambit can’t be good for black against top players, but it seems to sacrifice a pawn in order to change from a typical “queen pawn” opening (more positional) to a “king pawn” opening (full of attacking possibilities).

2. dxe5 Nc6

Developing and attacking the pawn. I am already aware that he will ultimately win the pawn back.

Not so see my comment to 3. ... f6.

3. Nf3

Developing and defending the pawn.

After 8. h4

After 3. Nh3

3. ... f6

Attacking the pawn again. This move seems risky, making the black kingside more vulnerable than necessary. Fritz 9 suggests 3. ... Qe7.

The theory goes 4. Qd5 f6 5. exf6 Nxf6, with only partial compensation for a pawn.

4. e4

Here I chose development over the hopeless prospect of saving my pawn.

A reasonable decision in an unknown position but why not take a look into ECO after the game is over? White’s best is to play 4. exf6, with advantage.

4. ... Bc5

Black likewise develops rather than capturing the pawn.
Black should play here 4. ... fxe5, e.g., 5. Bc4 Nf6 6. Nc3 Be5, unclear (ECO).

5. Bc4

I considered 5. exf6, but now that we have a “king pawn” opening, I wanted to develop rapidly and castle.

Here not taking the pawn is the best, but for a different reason than simple castling: White now has higher goals.

5. ... Nxe5?

A big blunder, but I failed to take advantage. I’m afraid I had already the mindset that the huge rating difference meant my opponent wouldn’t blunder.

Also bad now is 5. ... fxe5 as 6. Bxg8 Rxg8 7. Qd5 wins a piece.

6. Bb3

Perhaps still in the “queen pawn opening” mindset, I liked my bishop on this diagonal, but I was nervous that it was unguarded. I wanted to avoid 6. ... Nxc4. I missed 6. Nxe5! since 6. ... fxe5? allows 7. Qh5+!, winning material. Also very good was 6. Bxg8! Rxg8 setting up the fork 7. Qd5! where Black’s best hope is 7. ... Bxf2+. 6. Bxg8 was completely counter to my strategic thinking:

(1) bishops are better than knights in open positions.
(2) my bishop is more developed than his knight.
(3) my bishop is preventing ... 0-0.
I missed winning tactics while focusing on strategy, especially in blitz. And strategic thinking should be brought in only after tactical opportunities have been examined.

6. ... g6?! This still leaves me the option of 7. Bxg8!, since his bishop on c5 is unprotected. Better for Black was 6. ... d6. 6. ... g6 also seems to make the kingside rather “airy.”

7. 0-0

Again, safe development didn’t hurt me, but I missed 7. Bxg8!.

Black has achieved a “normal” position and I knew I would be forced to weaken my kingside pawn structure with gxf3.

7. ... d6

Perhaps he saw the need to defend the bishop.

8. Nc3

Continuing my development.

8. ... Bg4

Likewise developing, I was worried after this move since my f3 knight was pinned and I knew I would be forced to weaken my kingside pawn structure with gxf3.

It was better to worry before “continuing development.” White could have played, for instance, 8. Nd4.

9. Ba4+?

I’m afraid I panicked here, hoping for Black to retreat the bishop from g4. I could have seized the initiative with 9. Bxg8! Rdxg8 10. Qd5 (forking the rook and the b pawn) 10. ... Rf8. Next my knight escapes the pin with 11. Nxe5.

Of course, 9. Ba4+ is an inexcusable loss of two (!) tempi. Interestingly, besides the “normal” 9. Bxg8!, White also could play 9. Nxe5 Bxh1 10. Nf7 and here Black’s best would be to recognize that keeping the queen is too costly and to return it with 10. ... Qe7 11. Rxd1 Qxf7!

9. ... c6

The right move. Fritz now says the position is almost even, but in the game it felt like I was losing.

10. Bb3

Again my opponent gave an opportunity to take the initiative with 11. Nxe5, since 11. ... Bxa1 will lose a piece after 12. Nxd7.

Correct. Thus, Black should have executed his plan with 10. ... Qc8 aiming to go to h3 while avoiding 11. Nxe5.

11. Be3?

Developing and hoping to simplify and distract Black from his attack on my kingside. Best was 11. Nxe5! (see above), but other moves that kept me alive were 11. Bf4 or 11. Kh1, anticipating the position after ... Bxf3.

11. ... Bxf3 12. gxf3 Qh3!

13. Be6?

My bishop has to be on f4 to guard h2. So either 13. Bf4 or 13. Kh1 Nxf3 14. Bf4 was called for.

13. ... Nxf3+!!, White resigned.

Tactics reigned supreme in this game: first, missing Qh5+; second, missing (after the in between Bxg8) the double attack Qd5; then ignoring and overreacting to the pin (8. ... Bxh4); allowing and overlooking 11. Nxe5; and finally, allowing checkmate or the win of decisive material. A rich field for studying tactics! ■
The Berlin Defense and the Endgame

By GM Pal Benko

The Berlin Defense (C67) in the “Spanish torture” is designed to head right into an ending. Benko brings us up to date on the latest in this potent weapon against attacking players.

The third Grand Prix event of 2008 was organized in Elista, Russia. The Berlin Defense variation of the Ruy Lopez, a system that leads to an early endgame, was played four times here.

Even Garry Kasparov praised it, labeling it as an effective weapon against attacking players, as Kramnik showed when he successfully used it against him during their world championship match.

**Typical win example**

GM Dimitry Jakovenko (FIDE 2737)  
GM Yue Wang (FIDE 2736)


This will be the starting point for the games that follow. Black hopes to compensate White's kingside pawn majority with his own bishop pair. White also has some developmental advantages, but the black position is hard to penetrate.

9. ... Ke8 10. h3 Be7 11. g4!? White believes that his kingside advance is prepared well enough.


18. Nf4 g6

Better is 18. ... Rxd1 19. Rxd1 hxg4 20. hxg4 Bd7, keeping the bishop pair.


After trading the rooks White can carry out the f4 f5 breakthrough. Black has no counterplay.

27. ... Ke7 28. Kg2 f6 29. f4 Be6 30. Ne2 Rh8 31. Bf2 hxg4 32. hxg4 Bxg4+

Typically Black will castle long, but White has a simple solution.

33. Kf3 Rxg4

Black has no compensation for the pawn.

34. Bxe6 fxe6 35. Bxe4 Kd8 36. b4 c6 37. Bd3 Be8 38. c5 Bb8 39. b5 Ke7 40. Ke2 Kf6 41. Kf3 Kg6

This is a simple way for White to win.


This is a typical winning position. Black has no way to continue playing.

57. Ke2 Kg6 58. Kg3 Kf6 59. Kg4 Ke7 60. Kf5 Kd7 61. Kg6 Ke8 62. Kg7 Kf8 63. Kg8 Kg8 64. Kg9 Kg8 65. Kg1

Black resigns.

28. Rh1

The situation has cleared up after some complications. White is a pawn up but realizing the advantage is not easy.

28. ... Bf5 29. Bc6 Bxe5 30. dxe5 Kg8 31. Kg6 Bxg6 32. Bxe7 Kf7 33. Kg7 Bc8 34. Bf8

Simpler was 38. ... Rg7. Trading either the rooks or the bishop would ease his defense.

39. Rc7

39. Bf4! would have thwarted the activation of Black’s king.
Benko’s Bafflers

Most of the time these studies resemble positions that could actually occur over the board. You must simply reach a theoretically won position for White. Solutions can be found on page 71.

Please e-mail submissions for Benko’s Bafflers to: pbenko@uschess.org

39. ... Ke5 40. Rxc6 Bd4 41. Bd2 Ra4 42. Bc1
If 42. Rxa6 Ra2 43. Kd3 Ra3+ etc. is equal.
42. ... Ra1 43. Kd2 a5
After 43. ... Rxa4 44. Kd3 is strong.
44. Rh6 Rb1 45. Rh4 Bf2
45. ... Rb4 looks OK.
46. Kg4 Kg4 47. Kc2 Ra3 48. Bc1 e5+ Kxe5 49. Bd2
49. ... Ke6 50. Bb2 Bc5 51. Rd8 Rb1 52. Rxa5 Kd6!
White has a rook and bishop plus pawns but it is a theoretical draw.
57. Ra6+ Kg7 58. Kg5 Kb7 59. Kd6+ Kc7 60. Rd4 Rh1!

After 60. ... Rh1

The best place for the rook is this corner so as to be able to give checks from both directions.
61. Kb6 Rh5+ 62. c5 Rh1 63. a5 Kb7! 64. a6+ Ka7! 65. Rd4 Rh1+ 66. Kc6 Rh1 67. Rd8 Rh7?
It is a pity to make this mistake after defending so well. Black just should make waiting moves. For example 67. ... Rh2 68. Kc7 Kxa6 69. c6 Rh7+ 70. Rd7 Rh8 holds the draw.

68. Kb6 Rh7 69. Rd5 Rh1 70. Rd7+! Kb8 71. c6 Rd1+ 72. Kb5 Rc1+ 73. Kb6 Rd1+ 74. Kc5 Rc1+ 75. Kd6 Rd1+ 76. Ke7 Rc1 77. Rd8+
Of course not 77. a7+? Ka8 78. c7 Rxc7! 79. Rxc7 stalemate.
77. ... Ka7 78. Kd7 Rd1+ 79. Kc8, Black resigned.

A modern treatment
GM Dmitry Jakovenko (FIDE 2737)
GM Etienne Bacrot (FIDE 2705)

See the Berlin Defense used in Wijk aan Zee in next month’s "Endgame Lab."
Welcome, USCF Members!

Welcome to World Chess Live (WCL), a new family-friendly service with special benefits for USCF members. Once again, WCL is pleased to sponsor USCF's 2009 Grand Prix (GP) and 2009 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). We're providing prize funds of $25,080 and $10,200 (cash, merchandise, and memberships), and will also be running online grand prize satellite events throughout the year.

Grand Prix checks from '08, these chess tycoons are already plotting their next events in an effort to take the top spot for '09.

From this month's standings, however, it appears that the wily IM Jay Bonin may be looking to get a running start. Last year's 12th-place finisher scored a respectable 142.311 points, leaving his name on the roster but his wallet empty.

Bonin, or “J Bo” to those who know him by the most obscure of his many nicknames, is one of the most active New York players of all time. His 2,933 USCF-rated rounds but his wallet empty.

IM Jay Bonin gets a quick jump with a 3rd place start in the 2009 World Chess Live Grand Prix!

The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of March 6 for the 2009 World Chess Live Grand Prix. All Grand Prix updates are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete.

Welcome, Members!

World Chess Live sponsors over $25,000 at the 2009 Grand Prix!

~Jonathan Hilton

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**2009 WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX STANDINGS**

The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of March 6 for the 2009 World Chess Live Grand Prix. All Grand Prix updates are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete.

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<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>IM Enrico Sevillano</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>IM Andranik Matikozyan</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>IM Bryan G. Smith</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>19.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>IM Emory Tate</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>19.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>GM Alejandro Ramirez</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENIOR CATEGORY</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Players born 1944 and before:</td>
<td>Klaus Pohl</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FM Asa Hoffmann</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Denis Strenzwill</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ralph Italie</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR CATEGORIES</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Players born between 1996 and after:</td>
<td>Richard Ding</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FM Daniel Naroditsky</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Adarsh Jayakumar</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR CATEGORIES</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Players born between 1994 and 1995 inclusive:</td>
<td>IM Alex Lenderman</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>69.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Matt Parry</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>IM Salivias Bercys</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR CATEGORIES</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Players born between 1992 and 1993 inclusive:</td>
<td>IM Alex Lenderman</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>69.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>FM Darwin Yang</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>David Adelberg</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR CATEGORIES</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>David Adelberg</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Lucas Van Beuzekom</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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</table>

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**CATEGORIES AND PRIZES**

**$10,000 IN CASH PRIZES!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST PRIZE: $5,000 !</th>
<th>2nd: $2,500</th>
<th>3rd: $1,000</th>
<th>4th: $750</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st: $5,000 !</td>
<td>2nd: $2,500</td>
<td>3rd: $1,000</td>
<td>4th: $750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th: $500</td>
<td>6th: $250</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**$4,900 IN MERCHANDISE PRIZES!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7th: $250</th>
<th>8th: $225</th>
<th>9th: $200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th: $175</td>
<td>11th: $150</td>
<td>12th: $125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th: $100</td>
<td>14th: $75</td>
<td>15th: $50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th-25th: $200</td>
<td>26th-30th: $250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 40 non titled players: 1 year WCL membership worth $50. (FIDE titled players are always free on WCL)

---

**$10,200 IN JUNIOR GRAND PRIX PRIZES!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST PRIZE: $1,000 !</th>
<th>2nd: $500</th>
<th>3rd: $250</th>
<th>4th: $150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd: $500</td>
<td>3rd: $250</td>
<td>4th: $150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th: $100</td>
<td>6th: $100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first place JGP winner will also receive U.S. Open entry and a trophy from the USCF. 1st 10th place winners will receive 2 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships, 11th 20th place winners will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships. Each state JGP winner will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships and a special prize valued at $60.

---

**2009 WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX SUMMARY**

World Chess Live sponsors over $25,000 at the 2009 Grand Prix!

www.worldchesslive.com

Real chess. Real people. Real fun!
World Chess Live, a new family-friendly online chess service, is sponsor of the 2009 World Chess Live Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by March 6, 2009 are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete. There are currently 872 players with JGP points. 74 JGP events resulted in points earned. Top prize includes $1,000 cash, trophy and free entry to the 2009 U.S. Open. Other prizes awarded to the top 20 finishers and the top individual in each state.

### 2009 World Chess Live Junior Grand Prix Top Overall Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Pts.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WINTER, CURTIS A</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHER, WILLIAM</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINGIONE, CALVIN WALTER</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HILTON, JONATHAN</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TROFF, KAYDEN WILLIAM</td>
<td>UT</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THAI-PARAMBIL, ROHIT</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAUREANO, DERECK</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSARAKIS, PAUL P</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOLO, NATHANIEL S</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAM, FIONA V</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROWN, MICHAEL WILLIAM</td>
<td>CA-S</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SREENIVASAN, RAMANUJA</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YANG, CHARLES</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREELAND, ALEX</td>
<td>CA-S</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASTILLO, MATTHEW</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBARTSOUMIAN, MICHAEL</td>
<td>CA-S</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAISHREDI, NEAL</td>
<td>NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOMMALAPATI, ABHINAY</td>
<td>VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>POTEAT, LILIA MEILAN</td>
<td>NY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FU, JASON</td>
<td>TN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Pts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DING, KIMBERLY</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEINBERG, MAX</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XU, HARDY</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMASWAMY, RAHUL</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOORE, KENZIE L</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAVERNIER, CHRISTOPHER</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VEECH, JOHN</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XU, DANIEL WENKAI</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGH, REVA SHREE</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>COTTER, SAMUEL</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEGALL, ETHAN R</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAI, JESSE</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHIN, PHILIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>AYCOCK, SAM</td>
<td>CA-S</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHETTY, ATULYA ARYA</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHAN, JAHAN</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUNG, CHUN PAN</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACHS, HARRISON IAN</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUPTA, KARTIK</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENA, JOEL ANTHONY U</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepare to make your best move since joining the USCF...

Don’t miss one of this year’s top benefits of USCF membership.

Claim your **six-month free trial** now at World Chess Live, the only online chess service offering:

- Weekly USCF quick-rated tournaments
- Chances to earn both Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix points
- Many other tournament prizes
- Free videos from top instructors
- A welcoming atmosphere for players of all levels

For details, go to [www.worldchesslive.com/uscf](http://www.worldchesslive.com/uscf)
Organizing a 2009 Grand Prix Event

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

- All USCF 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.
- Class prizes for Under 2300 or a higher rating requirement qualify towards GP points, but if they exceed 25% of the total qualifying Grand Prix money, they count as 25% of the total.
- Other than entry fees and USCF dues, no additional points can be awarded because the bonus would be unfair to players who may otherwise have
  earned GP points, but if they exceed 25% of the total qualifying Grand Prix money, they count as 25% of the total.
- The tournament must be submitted for the Tournament Life section of Chess Life and designated by the submitter as a Grand Prix tournament.
- Only players who are USCF members during the tournament may earn GP points. Foreign GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WMs can play without being members, but they will not obtain Grand Prix points unless they join.
- Conditions concerning USCF Grand Prix tournaments are subject to review and adjustment by the USCF Executive Director.

The top prizes must be unconditionally guaranteed (or if a Grand Prix 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 Chuck Lovin at clovingood@uschess.org or 931 787 1234 ext. 148.

Guaranteed Grand Prix points awarded for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Prizes</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
<th>8th</th>
<th>9th</th>
<th>10th</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000-$1,499</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,500-$1,999</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>$2,500-$2,999</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>$3,000-$3,499</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000-$5,999</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>$10,000-$29,999</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>$30,000 &amp; up</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ (Enhanced)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Tournament Directors

The tournament director has the right to shorten the basic time control, in minutes, by the time delay used, in seconds. Example: Clocks for G/60 with 5 second time delay (t/d5) may be set at 55 minutes instead of 60.

There is no requirement to advertise this option in advance. It may also be used for games starting later than the official starting time of any particular round even when not used otherwise.

Organizers, TDs and Affiliates

To speed up the processing of rating reports, USCF now asks that whenever 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 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 USCF IDs for new member ships.

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 USCF website: www.uschess.org/rtgchange.php.

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 that participate in this program are entitled to be promoted to the next higher Grand Prix category. For example, a 6 point tournament would become a 10 point tournament.

Points in the top category are promoted 50%. Points in the next higher category are promoted 25%.

Benefits Fund

50 Chess Life — April 2009

Chess Life TLA Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>1 yr</th>
<th>2yr</th>
<th>3yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult P</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$120</td>
</tr>
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<td>Adult P **</td>
<td>$42</td>
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<td>Adult R **</td>
<td>$29</td>
<td>$52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior (65+) **</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult P (U25)*</td>
<td>$32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth P (U16)*</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholaristic P (U13)*</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult R (U25)*</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$43</td>
<td>$61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth R (U16)*</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholaristic R (U13)*</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$39</td>
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</table>

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

USCF Membership Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
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<th>3yr</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>$49</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholaristic P (U13)*</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult R (U25)*</td>
<td>$24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth R (U16)*</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>Scholaristic R (U13)*</td>
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Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online only access to Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids; TLA Bulletin will be mailed to adults bimonthly and to scholastic members three times per year. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Schwolastic bimonthly Chess Life for Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice.

*Ages at expiration **Purchased online only

No Tournaments in your area? Why not organize one?

It’s not much work to hold a small tournament, and there is little risk if you use a low-cost site and avoid guaranteed prizes. You might even make a profit! Either a based on Swiss with projected prizes up to $500, a Quad format, or a trophy tournament will virtually guarantee taking in more in fees than you pay out in prizes.

The affiliation fee is just $40 a year. You will receive the annual rating supplement and have access to the TD/affiliate area of our website.

Remember, you can both run and play in a small event. Many of them wouldn’t be held if the organizer/TD couldn’t play. Want to know more? Contact Joan Du Bois at joandubois@uschess.org.

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

Tournaments Expected

Cover date | TLA must be received by | Tournaments beginning | Expected release |
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TLA Bulletin

Crossville, TN 38557

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

USCF Membership is 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 for at least 25 years.

Quick Chess. Tournaments with time controls of G/5 to G/29. There is a separate “quick” or “overall” rating system that includes these events, and games played in these tournaments will not affect a player’s regular rating. Games played with a time control of G/30 through G/60 will be rated in both the quick/overall system and the regular system.

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 Class C 1400-1599 Class G 600-799
- Expert 2000-2199 Class D 1200-1399 Class H 400-599
- Class A 1800-1999 Class E 1000-1199 Class I 200-399
- Class B 1600-1799 Class F 800-999 Class J 190/below
- Class C 1400-1599

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 USCF your approximate rating and last year of play.

If you have a USCF 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 (USCF, 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 USCF rated events, unless otherwise stated.

A Director may assign an estimated rating to any player, and may expel an improperly rated player from an event.

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 USCF ID 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% from your prize for the IRS (this includes foreigners).

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

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 TLA ads for entering options. Along with entry fee, send full name, address, USCF ID number, expiration date, and section desired (if any). Also, give your last official USCF rating from your magazine label (first 4 numbers on top row). If you are unrated, or have a rating from many years ago, be sure to indicate this. Your official USCF rating is on the top line of your mailing label: Regular, Quick, and Correspondence.

Mail 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 1 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.

If You Must Withdraw

If you enter by mail and cannot attend, or must drop out during a tournament in progress, it is important you give notice in advance to avoid being disqualified. Mail entrants should send withdrawal notices at least a week beforehand. Phone any later than this. To withdraw by phone on 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 the e-mail withdrawal and the call to 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. The certification does not render any Tournament Director an agent of the USCF, nor is any Affiliate an agent of the USCF.
"Tasty Treasures"

It's the all new original recipe book from the West Virginia Lions Clubs, coordinators and sponsors of the U.S. Blind Chess Championship – A USCF National Event!

West Virginia Lions Clubs, along with current event organizer Rick Varchetto, have been key sponsors of this U.S. Chess Federation national event for the past three years. Now they’ve compiled this great recipe book and are helping fund future U.S. Blind Chess Championships by passing on all proceeds. At just $10 each, plus shipping and handling, you’ll enjoy the recipes and the good feeling of helping to continue the US Blind Chess Championship.

Contact: Richard “Rick” Varchetto by email at ricky@meer.com or by phone at 304-636-4034 and place your order now!

$100,000 National Open Las Vegas

Come before......
Stay after......
$65 room rates!

LIFE IS GOOD !!
Tournament Life

USCF National Sections

Tournament Life

Junior Tournament Memberships (JTs) Available
USCF’s Junior Tournament Members (JTs) program, which allows players the option of joining for only the 2009 U.S. Amateur Open Championship and the 2009 U.S. Open Championship. JTs include one issue of Chess Life or any other magazine of your choice. Membership is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. 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.

USCF National Championships

USCF National Championships (NCs) include one issue of Chess Life or any other magazine of your choice. Membership is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. 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.

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Dropping Out? Have to miss a round? It is very important that you
NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR.

before pairings are made, so no one is deprived of a game if you
are forfeit without notice. You may be FINED up the amount of the
entry fee.
Apr. 11, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)

Jenifer Woods Memorial Grand Prix
Ent/Info: Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Lane, New Milford, NJ 07646. NS NC W.

Apr. 16, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)

2 Grand Prix Points Tonight!

Apr. 17- May 8, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6

Queens Spring Open

Apr. 18-19, Louisiana
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6

2009 Louisiana Pro-Am

Apr. 19, California, Southern
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10

2009 Westwood Spring Open

Apr. 20, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 1 (enhanced)

2009 Hatboro Open

Apr. 21, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced)

St. John’s Masters at the Marshall Chess Club

Apr. 25-26, Maryland
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20

3rd Annual Oakoopeni

Note: corrected to be a Grand Prix event at Verano Chess, to have a lecture 7 of a 10, 95/70, 2nd Annual Resort & Conference Center, 1455 Highway 7, Oakville, IA 52323. An Intra Qualifying Points Event, Top five prizes ($1,500) Guaranteed $500 each. Entry: $100, $80 (not at site). $50 (at site). $20 (not at site). $15 (at site). $10 (not at site). $5 (at site). $5 (not at site). $2 (at site). $2 (not at site). $1 (at site). $1 (not at site). $1 (not at site)....
Tournament Life

Hotel: 50 Capital Avenue ON, Battle Creek, MI 49017 (See Lodging below).

**CLOSAL EVENTS**: Sat, 7pm in WCT Tournament, $10 (95%) paid to Sun, June or MLK米饭 (15%).

**SCHOOL OF CHESS**: May 12th-14th, 9am-11am, $45 for 2 days, 60% guaranteed.

**CLOSAL EVENTS**: Sat, 6pm, Sun 7-12pm.

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**: Fri, 6-12:30pm, Sat 7-12pm, Sun 9-11:30pm.

**SCHOOL OF CHESS**: May 12th-14th, 9am-11am, $45 for 2 days, 60% guaranteed.

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May 7, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10

May 8-10, 9-10, Florida
20th Space Coast Open

May 15, New Hampshire
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 3 (enhanced)

May 16, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)

May 17, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20 (enhanced)

May 23-24, Missouri
St. Louis Open

May 23-24, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced)
**Tournament Life**

**An American Classic!**

May 23-25, California Southern

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 40

2009 Lisa Grunette Memorial Day Classic

6-15, 6/12, 5/20 (1-day schedule rds 1-6/6, then timed); LAX/Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. PM: $12,000/2000, 50% of prize guaranteed in four sections.

- Open: $5,100-1,000. $600-$60, 3½/80, 3½/120, 3½/150, 3½/180. Sold out.
- Reserve: $2,400-400. $600-$100, 3½/80, 3½/120, 3½/180. 3½/150, $1,000. Sold out.
- Reserve: $1,200-200. $600-$100, 3½/80, 3½/120, 3½/180. 3½/150, $1,000. Sold out.
- Reserve: $600-100. $600-$100, 3½/80, 3½/120. 3½/150, $1,000. Sold out.
- Reserve: $300-50. $600-$100, 3½/80, $1,000. Sold out.
- Under 1800: $750-300-200-100.
- Under 1600: $600-300-200-100.
- Under 1400: $500-200-100-50.
- Under 1200: $400-100-50-25.
- Under 800: Buy 3 get 1 free.

**Free Parking.**

Unr. competes in D & below. $50-$50 upset, 2 half pt byes rds 1-7, $10 OCF Reg. $40=&. Water $4, OK 74074. 1-405-372-5758. FKimBerry@aol.com NC, CMV, LS, W, Angeles CA 90038.

**An American Classic!**

June 5-7, 2009

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 200 (enhanced)

2009 National Open

See Note.

June 6, 2009

June 6, District of Columbia

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced)

2010 DC Action Championship


**World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 40 (enhanced)**

June 6, North Carolina

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced)

Orchard Lake Grand Prix

3SS, Rd 1&2 G/60 Rd 3&4 G/90. Location University of Louisville Shelby Campus, Founders Union Bldg., Louisville, KY 40241 or to the KCA P.O. Box. 8035, Louisville, KY 40257. E-mail questions or registration to Kevin Hyde, 705 Old Mtn Page Rd, Saluda NC 28773. 828-749-1625 hyde@sierra.com. Questions: Kevin Hyde, 705 Old Mtn Page Rd, Saluda NC, 828-749-1625. See schedule:

- Reserve: $120.
- Open: $50 if postmarked $50 if rec’d by Jun 7th, $60 at site.
- Under 1600: $750-300-200-100.
- Under 1500: $600-300-200-100.
- Under 1400: $500-200-100-50.
- Under 1300: $400-100-50-25.
- Under 1100: Buy 3 get 1 free.
GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

GOLD

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 USCF members during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Gold Affiliate. Gold Affiliates are honored in a special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Gold Affiliation costs $350 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract 83 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation, or $20 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliation. As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of $500 (instead of $350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.

SILVER

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 USCF members during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. Silver Affiliates are featured in a special list in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, state, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliation costs $150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract 83 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. Silver Affiliates are featured in a special list in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, state, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliation costs $150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract 83 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of $250.00 (instead of $150), Silver Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.
Tournament Life

$30 Any player who loses Fri. night may re-enter for $30 and loss will not count in tournament standings. 1-3 PM Fri. Free parking. Prizes $200 on 250 paid entries. Re-entry $20 online or at USCF. Questions: 845-496-9658, advance entries posted at chesstour.com.

Southern CA residents. Re-entry $80; not available in Open Section. Unofficial cards OK at site.

2009 Chess Life Grand Prix Points: 100 (enhanced)

17th Annual Southern Open
555, 480, 320, 200. Open 1-3 PM Fri. Free parking.

July 31-Aug. 2, Aug. 1-2, Florida
World Chess Life Grand Prix Points: 100 (enhanced)

10th Annual Vermont Open
555, 480, 320, 200. Open 1-3 PM Fri. Free parking.

July 31-Aug. 2, Aug. 1-2, Vermont
World Chess Life Grand Prix Points: 30 (enhanced)

2009 Annual Vermont Resort Open
555, 480, 320, 200. Open 1-3 PM Fri. Free parking.
A Heritage Event
Aug. 1-9, 4-9, 6-9, Indiana
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 300 (enhanced)
1100 USCF Open
See Nationals.
Aug. 7-9, 8-9, Connecticut
World Chess Open - 50 (enhanced)
15th Annual Northeast Open
555, 400, 300, 150 (10 7-15), 500 Best Int’l, 750 Main St., CT 06795, Free parking. $300 guaranteed prize fund. In 4 sections.
Regional
Alabama
Bham Cc.
555, 400, 300, 150 (10 7-15), 500 Best Int’l. FIDE. 3-day schedule: Reg open Fri 6-7 pm, Sat 7-11 am, Sun 9-3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 10 am, Sun 7-9 pm, Sat 9-3:30. By: all limit, 2, must consult before 2 r. FR: $99-99, 406-347-7393, 203-358-4040; read more at site. Questions: www.chessopen.com, 406-347-7393, or chess@chesstour.com.
California
May 23-25, 2009 U.S. Amateur West Championship
July 19-19, 17-19 or 18-19, 13th annual Pacific Coast Open Sea Grand Prix.
 APR 25-26, 2009 April Franklin Day Open
Apr. 16, 2009 - April G/29 Series Event - Greely (CO)
1/2 EF: $75-50-25, Accelerated Pairings with more than 12 entries.
See Grand Prix.
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Florida
South Florida Chess Club
Boca Ratan Chess Club
Friday nights, Game 90 Tournament one game a week for 4 weeks.
www.scbocaraton.com. WCL JGF.

Check Out USCFS’s Correspondence Chess Rated Events

USCF’s 62nd Annual 2009 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship $1,000 First Prize (plus title of USCFS’s Golden Knights Champion and plaque)

**2nd place $600 • 3rd place $400 • 4th place $300 • 5th place $200 • 6th place $100 each. Entry fee: $25.**

*The entry deadline is November 30, 2009.*

These USCFS Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCFS members worldwide, continent, islands, or nation, as well as those USCFS members with an APO or FPO address. USCFS members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCFS membership must be current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCFS 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 300 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries awarded.

**Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)**
- **$50 entry fee per person with two, or six-game options.**
- **Entry fee: $10**

Victor Palcauskas Prize Tournaments
- Seven player’s class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. Players may have a USCF CC rating to enter, 1st place winner receives a trophy and a certificate signed by Victor Palcauskas.
- **Entry fee: $25.**

John W. Collins Memorial Class Tournaments
- Four-player, double-round-robin with class-level pairings (unrated welcome). 1st place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate.
- **Entry fee: $7.**

To Enter: 800-903-USCF (8723), Fax 931-787-1200 or on-line www.uschess.org

**USCF’s 6th Annual 2009 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship (Seven player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)**

$700 First Prize (plus title of USCFS’s Electronic Knights Champion and plaque)

**2nd place $400 • 3rd place $300 • 4th thru 10th place $100 each. Entry fee: $25.**

*The entry deadline is November 30, 2009.*

These USCFS Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCFS members with e-mail access. Your USCFS membership must be 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. Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

E-mail Rated Events (need e-mail address):
- **Lightning Match** Two players with two, or four or six-game option. **Entry fee $5 per person.**
- **Swift Quads** Four-player, double-round-robin format. **1st place winner receives a提倡 credit of $30.**
- **Entry fee: $10**

Writer Muir E-Quads (webserver chess)
- Four-player, double-round-robin e-mail format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st place receives a certificate signed by Victor Palcauskas.
- **Entry fee: $7.**

Esquires Tournament
- Seven-player tournaments, one game with each of six opponents. 1st place winner receives a certificate signed by Victor Palcauskas.
- **Prizes:** 1st place $30 merchandise credit, 2nd place $20 credit.
- **Entry fee:** $5

Please circle event(s) selected.

**NOTE:** For Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Writer Muir E-Quads, Electronic Knights & Esquires Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

To Enter: 800-903-USCF (8723), Fax 931-787-1200 or on-line www.uschess.org

Name
USCF ID# Address
City State ZIP Phone
Email Rating
Email Credit card (VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX)
Exp. date

If using VISA, need V code

Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated. *Note: This may slow down your assignment*

Make checks payable to U.S. Chess and mail to: Juan Dulleas, USCFS, P.O. Box 39367, Creswell, OR 97427

USCF's 2009 E-mail Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship (seven player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)

**2nd place $600 • 3rd place $400 • 4th place $300 • 5th place $200 • 6th place $100 each. Entry fee: $25.**

**The entry deadline is November 30, 2009.**

These USCFS Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCFS members with e-mail access. Your USCFS membership must be 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. Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

E-mail Rated Events (need e-mail address):
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Please circle event(s) selected.

**NOTE:** For Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Writer Muir E-Quads, Electronic Knights & Esquires Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.
Adults Dues Options! >>

New Free TLA Categories Added!

RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SUMMER! Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines and up to 2 issues of Chess Life, for any tournament between July and September 2009. If no TLA for such an event is submitted, then the TLA is re-emailed by e-mail the appropriate deadline. The 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES QUALIFY FOR FREE TLA! Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines for events in the following categories, if submitted by e-mail. The free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs:

NEW CATEGORY: SENIOR. For age 50 or above, or a higher minimum age.

NEW CATEGORY: UNRATEDS FREE. Any tournament that offers free entry to unrated players. If your prizes are based on entries, say “paid entries.”

USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT. A tournament that offers at least two USCF membership renewal prizes, or a quad that offers at least one quad spot per section.

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL. A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

Adult Dues Options! >>

RBO. Open to Under 1200/low or Under 1000/low Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”
BLITZ. Time control of Game/5. TLAs such as “USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 p.m” are accepted.
COLLEGIATE. A tournament limited to college students.
JUNIOR. For age 20/20 below (age 20 must be eligible).
NON- SCHOLASTIC WITH SCHOLASTIC. A tournament for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a scholastic tournament in that same location during the same round, except minimum age 13-18.
SPECIAL RATES FOR CLUB ADS. Up to 5 lines $180 per year, $100 for 6 months for unchanged club ads in the TLAs section. Announce meeting dates & times, activities, contact info, etc.

USCF DISCUSSION GROUPS. See uschess.org forums for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

Ages 21-24 dues lower than Adult dues. The membership category once called “Youth” has been renamed “Young Adult,” and eligibility has changed from under 21 to under 25. Annual dues for this category are only $32 with paper Chess Life or $24 with the online version!

One-year membership with Chess Life: If purchased online at uschess.org, now only $42 for Premium Membership, which includes a copy of Chess Life every month. Regular Memberships are available for $29 and give online-only access to Chess Life and a mailed TLA Newsletter (6-months). (To affiliate: if you collect a $42 membership, you may submit it online to USCF for $42, in effect creating a $7 commission. If you submit it by mail or phone the affiliation cost is $3.)
Tournament Life

**Massachusetts**

Apr. 25, Dr. Joseph Platz Memorial
Celebrating the life of a New England Chess Legend! SS G/90, UMass Student Union, UMass-Amherst, MA (Parking WILL be validated). $15 by 4/20. $20 at site. 100% to scholarships. 25-27 at site. Entry ends by 4/19. 7:30 p.m. Absentee Entry: info@saintlouischessclub.org.

Apr. 26, 19th Massachusetts 6/0 Championship
See Grand Prix

May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, Wachusett CC “E” Championship
755, 20, McCoy Campus School, Room C192, Fitchburg State College, 67 Ridge Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Open to Under 1800. $35. $20 if entry is received by 4/17. $10 at site. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. $150 to scholarships.

May 6, May Knights
455, SS G/10, Reg.: Wednesday, May 6th, 6:00 - 6:45. Rounds: (one per week) 7:30-8:30, 8:30-9:30, 9:30-10:30. $30 per section. 7½ or 9½ pt. bye for rds 4 or 5 must be requested by end of rd 3.

May 7-8 or 23-24, 2009 National Open Scholastic Tournament
5:30 Game/30, South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas, NV 89183. Open to players U20. In 3 sections. $150, $250, and $300. U1800, and U1000. Ultradats in the U2000 section and all players in the U1800 section must be under age 20. Trophies to top 4 in each section, top 1 in each 200 point rating group and entrants. $500 for 1st, $350 for 2nd, $150 for 3rd, $75 for 4th. Entry fee: $10. 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sat., Sun.

**Michigan**

Apr. 24-26, Great Lakes Open
See Grand Prix

May 22-25, 23-25 or 24-25, 18th annual Chicago Classical Championship (IL)
See Grand Prix

Saturday. Rds 11-1:30-4, 11-1:30. Breakfast with Susan 9 a.m. Sunday. Opening Ceremony 10 a.m. Sunday. Winners & Ties determined Saturday. Entry: info@saintlouischessclub.org. The tournament will be played in 5 sections: Free Chess. Top 40% of players receive awards. Top 10% will receive trophies and medals. All players receive a special hand-signed certificate from Susan Polgar. The playing time is G/35.

**Missouri**

Friday Action Quads – Every Friday Night (OC)
3RR, G/90, Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 4657 Maryland Ave., St. Louis MO 63108. Festival Prize fund $36 first in each quad. Club membership required, available from $1. Reg.: 6:30 - 6:45. Rounds begin at 7:00. Site entry only. Info: 314-361-0985 or info@saintlouischessclub.org.

Saturday, May 9
11-1:30-4, 11-1:30. Breakfast with Susan 9 a.m. Sunday. Opening Ceremony 10 a.m. Sunday. Winners & Ties determined Saturday. Entry: info@saintlouischessclub.org. The tournament will be played in 5 sections: Free Chess. Top 40% of players receive awards. Top 10% will receive trophies and medals. All players receive a special hand-signed certificate from Susan Polgar. The playing time is G/35.

**Montana**

A State Championship Event
Apr. 25-27, 7th Annual Montana Open
MIOD International Qualifier 555, $5, 120, Best Western Inn, 3301-10 14th St. Dr, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Prizes: b/7 per class: $150-1st, $50-2nd, each: A, B, C, D, E. $90-1st, $30-2nd, $15-3rd. (Missouri State Championship - see Missouri section for more information). Missouri Chess Association will administer Missouri State Letterman Championship to awardee of each section. Missouri Letterman Championship will only be offered to those Missouri players who meet Missouri Invitation requirements. Players may only play in one Missouri state section each year. Missouri State Letterman Championship is a single elimination event with seeding based on pairings. At each section, top 30% of players will be invited to play at Missouri Championship. Players play only those Missouri players that are invited to play. $500 will be split between Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi. Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi, Missouri Ishiguchi.

**Nevada**

Apr. 10-12, 9th Annual RENO-FAR WEST OPEN
See Grand Prix

June 4, 2009 U.S. Game/10 Championship (OC)
See Grand Prix

June 5, National Open Scholastic Trophies Tournament
5:5 Game/30. South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas, NV 89183. Open to players U20. In 3 sections. $150, $250, and $300. U1800, and U1000. Ultradats in the U2000 section and all players in the U1800 section must be under age 20. Trophies to top 4 in each section, top 1 in each 200 point rating group and entrants. $500 for 1st, $350 for 2nd, $150 for 3rd, $75 for 4th. Entry fee: $10. 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sat., Sun.

June 6-7, Susan Polgar World Open Championship for Girls and for Boys
See Grand Prix

June 8-9, 40th Annual French Open
See Grand Prix

June 9, International Open Scholastic Tournament
5:5 Game/30. South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas, NV 89183. Open to players U20. In 3 sections. $150, $250, and $300. U1800, and U1000. Ultradats in the U2000 section and all players in the U1800 section must be under age 20. Trophies to top 4 in each section, top 1 in each 200 point rating group and entrants. $500 for 1st, $350 for 2nd, $150 for 3rd, $75 for 4th. Entry fee: $10. 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sat., Sun.

New Hampshire

Apr. 13, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 3rd Annual Knights CC Championship
555, 90/90, 200/200, Knights CC, F. E. Lane Hotel, 30 Main St., Keene, NH. 4/17-19. $150, $100, $50. Rds.: 6:30-8:30, 9:30-11:30, 12-2:30. Prizes: 1st $150, 2nd $100, 3rd $50. Each section A/B/C/D/E. $5 entry minimum is requested. Cash only. Max 1 half bye; MCA required, O.S.A., available on site from $5.

Apr. 25, New Hampshire Quick Chess Championship
See Grand Prix

Apr. 25, Geller Quads - First Friday Every Month!
See Grand Prix

May 5, 2009 New Hampshire Open
See Grand Prix

May 9, Portsmouth Open
See Grand Prix

New Jersey

Geller Quads - First Friday Every Month!

Silver Knights Chess Tournaments
2-3 Saturdays per month for scholastic USCF-rated tournaments throughout the Philadelphia area.
For info. and registration, go to YourChessSet.com/KidsSwiss. For more info. e-mail Stephen at cs@ATKMchessSets.com or call 856-582-8222.

May 3, 2009 Westfield Quads

May 3, 2009 Westfield Quads

New Mexico
Apr. 25, 2010 Annual Pir Mile Malek Memorial Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

New York
Apr. 2-May 7 FIDE Thursday!!
(see note, round, e.f. & prize corrections), 655 (not 355), 300/60, 21st Ave, NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to all rated players 1600 or above. EF $30, members $25. Nov. 30, $150. 3-SS, G/30. EF $40. 3-0 wins $40, 2.5 wins $20, 2 wins $10. Reg ends 7:20 pm. Rds. 1, 2-2:30 p.m. 3-SS, G/30, Chess Center at Marshall Chess Club, 23 W 10th St, bet 5-6 Ave, NYC: 845-569-9969. EF $40, club members $25, specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. Mail entries to: Ken Thomas, 132 Moore Street, Hackettstown N.J. 07840-2233. Checks payable to NJSCF. Indicate section desired and your grade level. Information: Call 908-763-4663 or e-mail info@njchess.org, NJ, NC, W, SC, PA, NY. See Grand Prix.

May 20, 2009 Annual U.S. Amateur Championship East
See National.

May 23, 2009 U.S. Amateur Championship – East U1300-K-8 Scholastic
2-2:30 p.m. 3-SS, G/30. EF $40, Club members $25, specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. Mail entries to: Ken Thomas, 132 Moore Street, Hackettstown N.J. 07840-2233. Checks payable to NJSCF. Indicate section desired and your grade level. Information: Call 908-763-4663 or e-mail info@njchess.org, NJ, NC, W, SC, PA, NY. See Grand Prix.

May 31, 2009 Westfield Quads

June 2, 2009 Westfield Quads

June 7, 2009 Westfield Quads
5 Rd. game/15 hq (OK) Westfield, 220 Clark Street, Westfield NJ. $50 to first in each section. Entry Fee: $25, 15 members. Registration: 2-2:15 p.m. Rds. 2-10. 3-SS, G/30. EF $30, club members $25. Specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free.

June 13, 2009 Garden State Scholastic
Prevention First, 1405 Route 35, Ocean, NJ 07722. Primary open to K-3, 4-6, 7-12. EF $40, Club members $25. Medals to all players, Ford Transit to 1st and 2nd in each section, U1300. EF $40, club members $25. Pease indicate section.

June 20-21, 2009 Delaware Capital Classic
See Grand Prix.

June 25-26, 2009 Capital Classic
See Grand Prix.

June 26-28, 2009 World Senior Amateur Champion
See Pennsylvania.

June 27-28, 2009, 30th Annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix.

July 1-5, 2-5, 3-6 or 3-9 June 29-July 5, 37th Annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix.

June 29-30, 2009 Westfield Open G/60 Quads (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

July 1-5, 2-5, 3-6 or 3-9 June 29-July 5, 37th Annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix.

New Jersey
Apr. 16, 2010 Grand Prix Points Tonight!
See Grand Prix.

Apr. 17- May 8, Queens Open Spring
See Grand Prix.

Apr. 18, 2009 Syracuse University Spring Open
35 Rd. 162 G/60. Rds. 346 G/60. Syracuse, 304 Tooker Rd, Jf 8 Ex. 18, bear left & get in center lane, left E. Adams, Right Irving, Left Warner, 48 Kings to parking lot.

Apr. 19-20, 2010 April Under 1600!
(see note, round, e.f. & prize corrections), 655 (not 355), 300/60, 21st Ave, NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to all rated players 1600 or above. EF $30, members $25, specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. May be limited to 1st 26 entries. $100 (2-2:15 p.m. 3-10:45 p.m. Sat. 9-12:30 p.m. 3:00-6:15 p.m. Sun. 10:00-1:15 p.m. 2:45-5:45 p.m. Monday at site. Entry Fees, 1/2) $15 if registered by 4/25, $20 on site. No byes allowed. Entry Fees: 1/2 $40, 3-0 wins $40, 2.5 wins $20, 2 wins $10. Reg ends 7:20 pm. Rds. 2-2:30 p.m. 3-SS, G/30. CCA Ratings may be used. Online entry at www.chesscenter.eth.no 4/16.10 extra to “enter” by phone!

Apr. 18, 2009 Prove Your Point!
(see note, round, e.f. & prize corrections), 655 (not 355), 300/60, 21st Ave, NYC. 212-477-3716. EF $20. 3-0 wins $40, 2.5 wins $20, 2 wins $10. Reg ends 7:20 pm. Rds. 2-2:30 p.m. 3-SS, G/30. CCA Ratings may be used. Online entry at www.chesscenter.eth.no 4/16.10 extra to “enter” by phone!

Apr. 18, 2009 On-site Tournament!!
(see note, round, e.f. & prize corrections), 655 (not 355), 300/60, 21st Ave, NYC. 212-477-3716. EF $20. 3-0 wins $40, 2.5 wins $20, 2 wins $10. Reg ends 7:20 pm. Rds. 2-2:30 p.m. 3-SS, G/30. CCA Ratings may be used. Online entry at www.chesscenter.eth.no 4/16.10 extra to “enter” by phone!

Apr. 18, 2009 On-site Tournament!!
(see note, round, e.f. & prize corrections), 655 (not 355), 300/60, 21st Ave, NYC. 212-477-3716. EF $20. 3-0 wins $40, 2.5 wins $20, 2 wins $10. Reg ends 7:20 pm. Rds. 2-2:30 p.m. 3-SS, G/30. CCA Ratings may be used. Online entry at www.chesscenter.eth.no 4/16.10 extra to “enter” by phone!

Apr. 22-24, 2009 Annual Connecticut Open
See Grand Prix.

Aug. 7-9 or 8-9, 15th Annual Northeast Open (CT)
See Grand Prix.
Quad. 12:30-12:55.
See Grand Prix.

70-50, 1700-1999/unr $60, U1700 $60.
4SS, G/60. Marshall CC, 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. ($360 b/24) $120-
Apr. 25, Marshall CC Saturday G/60 
9:30-10:45 pm.

4-SS, G/30, Chess Center at Marshall Club, 23 W 10th St, bet 5-6 Ave, NYC: 212-
Apr. 23, 4 Rated Games Tonight!

EF: Master $35, Expert $30, A $25, U1800 $20. $$ (all EFs returned less 
3-RR, G/30, Chess Center at Marshall Chess Club, 23 West 10th St, bet 5-6 Ave, NYC: 212-477-
Apr. 19, Binghamton Monthly Tournament
See Grand Prix.

Apr. 26, April Polgar Scholastic Tournament G/30 
PC members win titles. Trophies to top 3 in each section. Medals to others. 

Apr. 26, Grandmaster Challenge
See Tournament Life.

Apr. 24-26 or 25-26, 6th annual Vermont Spring Open (VT)
See Grand Prix.

Apr. 22-25, Marshall Chess Saturday G/60 
45S, 6-0. Marshall Chess, 23 W 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. ($360 b/24) $120-
70-50, 1700-1999/unr $60, U1700 $60.
X
Rds.:
Hope not. Or call/cap/paye to Pat Bowyer c/o PAR Group Inc., 119 N. Park Avenue. Suite 303, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Limited to first 70 players.

Info:

Polgar Chess, 103-10 Queens Blvd. #1C, Forest Hills, NY 11375). 718-897-4600.

Apr. 26, April Polgar Scholastic Tournament G/30 
PC members win titles. Trophies to top 3 in each section. Medals to others. 

Apr. 26, Grandmaster Challenge
See Tournament Life.

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See Grand Prix.

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70-50, 1700-1999/unr $60, U1700 $60.
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Info:

Polgar Chess, 103-10 Queens Blvd. #1C, Forest Hills, NY 11375). 718-897-4600.

Apr. 26, April Polgar Scholastic Tournament G/30 
PC members win titles. Trophies to top 3 in each section. Medals to others. 

Apr. 26, Grandmaster Challenge
See Tournament Life.

Apr. 24-26 or 25-26, 6th annual Vermont Spring Open (VT)
See Grand Prix.
Mail Entries: 12:45-2. Late entrants may not be paired for the first round.

$39 if received (postmarked by May 11).

Phone: (718) 645-5896
Fax: (718) 535-7896
Online Entry: www.TriStateChess.com

Mail Entries: (b/20)

NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.

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!

Do you need to go out of town for tournament play? Would you and others in your area like the convenience of an occasional event closer to home? Organize one!

It's not much work to hold a small tournament, and there is little risk if you use a low-cost site and avoid guaranteed prizes. You might even make a profit! Either a based-on-Swiss with projected prizes up to $500, a Quad format, or a trophy tournament will virtually guarantee taking in more in fees than you pay out in prizes.

The affiliation fee is just $40 a year. You will receive the annual rating supplement and have access to the TD/affiliate area of our website.

Remember, you can both run and play in a small event. Many of them would be helpful if the organizer/td could play.

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!

May 9, 10, Marshall CC May Open
1-2:10-3:30pm. 718-897-4600.

June 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Marshall CC May Open
1-2:10-3:30pm. 718-897-4600.

June 12, 13, 14, 15, Marshall CC May Open
1-2:10-3:30pm. 718-897-4600.

June 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, Marshall CC May Open
1-2:10-3:30pm. 718-897-4600.
A forum for discussion of USCF issues, open to all members age 16 or over. Candidates for the Executive Board (bailout in June issue) are among the participants.

Register at www.uschess.org/uscforum.
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All age/over vote may. Ballot will in Young Chess Class.

To view or participate in discussion of election issues, register for the USCF Issues Forum at www.uschess.org/forums

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Chess to Enjoy

Problem I.
1. Nh3! threatens 2. Ng5+, and if 1... Bf6 2. Ng5+ Bxg5 3. Qh8 mate, or 1... f6 2. Qh8 mate.

Problem II.
1... Bxd3 prolongs the game and isn’t as good as 1... Rad1, which prepares 2... Rca8 and 3... Qa1+4. Rxax1 Kxa1 mate. If 2... c3 then 2... Bxb3 wins a piece, and if 2... Ne2 then 2... Bxb3 threatens 3... Qa1 mate.

Problem III.
1. c4! and now 1... Qxc4 2. Bd6+ Ke8 3. Qg8+ and mates or 1... B-moves 2. Bxb6, Black resigned after 1... d6 2. Rxd5! in view of 2... exd5 3. Bxd6+.

Problem IV.
The attractive fork 1... Qd1+ 2. Qe1 Qd5 fails to 3. Ne5. But 2... Qd3+ 3. Qe2 Qd5 wins (4. Ne5 Qh1 mate).

What's The Best Move?
1. C. Composed in 1938.
   A. Hopeless is 1. Nd3 Bxd3 with the fatal threat of b2+.
   B. Also fatal is 1. Qc2? b2+ 2. Qxb2+ cxb2+ 3. Kd2 Bxd3=0.

   C. The right path is 1. Nc2+1 Ka2 (if 1... Bxc2 2. Qb8! Bb1 3. Qd3) 2. Nb4+ Ka1 (or 2... Ka3 3. Nd3! Bxd3 4. Qd6+ Ka2 5. Qd5) 3. Qa2+1 bxa2 4. Nc6 and then Nd4 followed by mate either on b3 or c2.

2. A. Composed in 1937.
   A. The only way to draw is 1. Bxd4! Bxd3+ (if 1... Bxc2 2. dxc4) 2. Kxd3 Bxc3 3. Bxc3+ Rxc3 4. Ke2! Nxb1 5. Kc3 a2 6. Kc2 and despite the material advantage Black can’t extricate his king.
   C. Also bad is 1... dxc4 2. Qd6+ Ka2 3... Qa2+! bxa2 Bxa2 with a standard book win.


   A. No time for 1. Be5?? Qg5 (or 1... Qd7) mate.

   B. No time for 1. exf5? h1=Q+ 2. Kg4 Qg5+ 3. Kh3 Qh4 mate.

Endgame Lab – Benko’s Bafflers

Problem I.
1. Kg6
   1. Nh6? h5 is equal.
   2. Nh6+ The knight goes after 1... Ne8+ 2. Kf7.

   2. Kf7 a5
   8... Kd1 9. Nc3+ keeps the pawn from queening.


Problem II.
1. Kh7 Kh4
   1... e1=Q 2. Ng7+ Kh4 3. Bf4 transposes to the main line; 1... a4? 2. Ng7+ Kh4 3. Bg4 e1=Q 4. Nf5 mate.

   2. Ng7 e1=Q 3. Bg4 Qe7
   3... Qb1+ 4. Nf5+ is even.
   4. Kg6 Qd6+ 5. Kf7 Qd5+
   5... Qc7+ 6. Kg6 repeats (6. Kg8? Qxf4 and Black’s King has room).

   6. Kg6 Qd6+ 7. Kf7 Qf8+
   7... Qxf4+ 8. Nf5+ will draw.


Solitaire Chess – ABCs of Chess

Problem I.

Overload: The simple 1... Nxb2 wins a piece, since 2. Qxb2 is met by 2... Rxf3.

Problem II.

Discovery: The queen is lost after 1... Rxe3. No matter where it goes, there’s an appropriate discovery that wins it.

Problem III.

Mating net: Taking the knight (1... Rxh1), clearly wins, but 1... Qxg2+! 2. Rxg2 Rxf1+ 3. Kg1 Rxg1 mate is a little faster.

Problem IV.

Mating net: It’s over after 1... Qxa3+ 2. bxa3 Rxa3 mate.

Problem V.

Fork: Black simplifies to a winning fork, 1... Rxh1+ 2. Kxh1 Rxf1+ 3. Kg1 Nf4+.

Problem VI.

Fork: Black gains a piece with 1... Rxh4, since 2. Rxf4 is answered by 2... Ne2+.
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2-day schedule (U1300 & up): Late entries end Sun 9
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