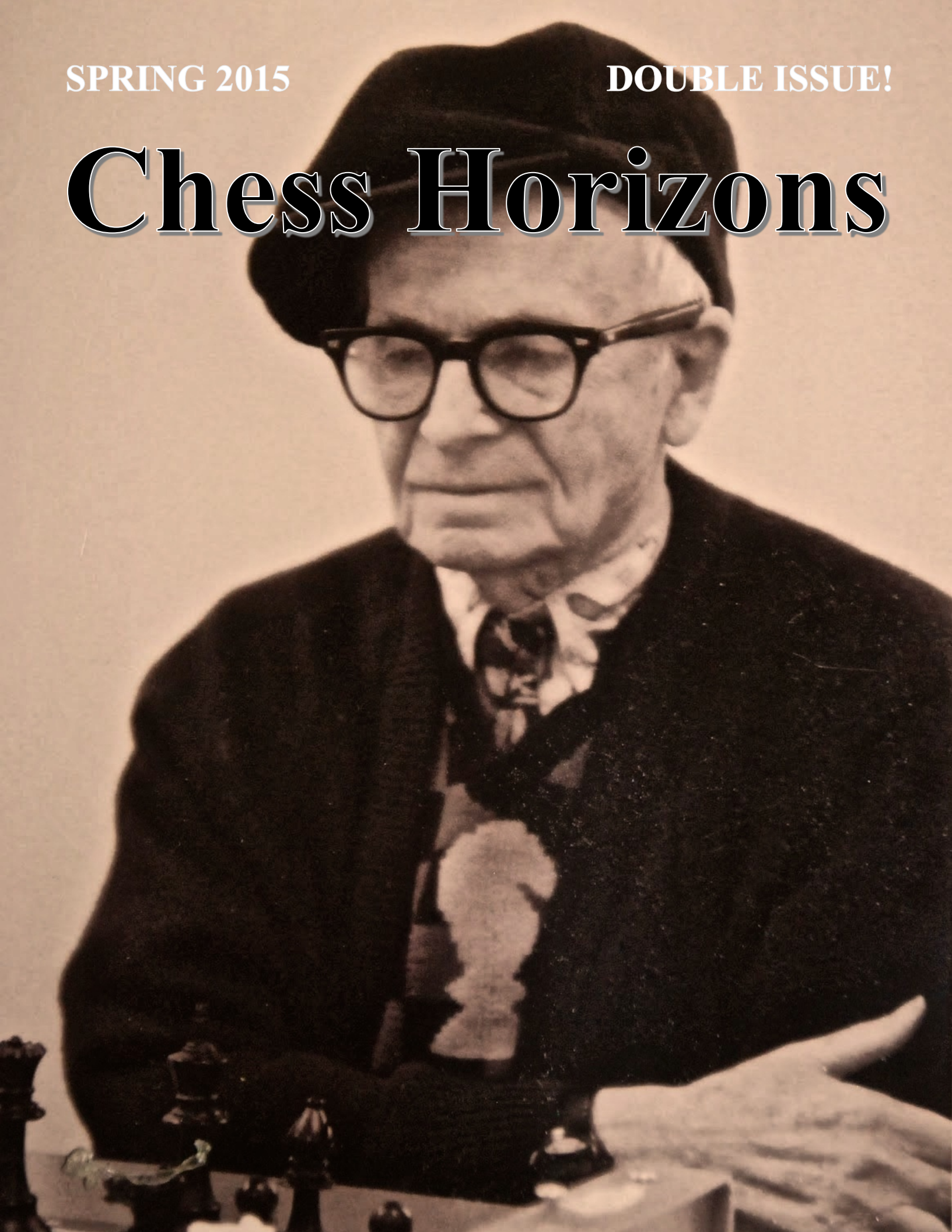


SPRING 2015

DOUBLE ISSUE!

Chess Horizons





75th New England Open

September 5-7 or 6-7, 2015

Boxborough, Massachusetts

\$4000 in Projected Prizes, \$3000 Guaranteed

Where: Holiday Inn Boxborough, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough, Mass. 978-263-9429. Hotel rate \$105 per night for 1-2 people, **reserve by 8/16** and mention chess tournament.

What: 6-round Swiss. 4 sect: Championship (open to players rated 1800+), U2000, U1800, U1600

Time Control: 40/100, SD/60; d5. Rounds 1-3 in the 2-day schedule are G/45; d5.

Registration: 3-day: Sat. 9/5 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 2-day: Sun. 9/6 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Rounds: 3-day: Sat. 10:30 and 5:00. Sun. 10:30 and 5:00. Mon. 10:00 and 4:30.

2-day: Sun. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30 and 5:00. Mon. 10:00 and 4:30. **No 2-day Championship.**

Entry Fee: \$69 for 3-day, \$68 for 2-day if mailed by **8/31** or online (PayPal) at www.masschess.org by **9/3**, \$80 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$30 discount to players in the U1600 section rated under 1000 or unrated. Official Sept. ratings used. Unofficial used if otherwise unrated.

Unrated and Byes: Unrated prize limits: \$200 in U2000, \$150 in U1800, \$100 in U1600, can't win title. Byes 1-5 in Championship section, else 1-6, limit 2, rds 4-6 must commit before rd 2.

Prizes: Prizes are 75% guaranteed based on 100 fully paid entries (players rated under 1000 or unrated in the U1600 section count half). New England Champion title to the top-scoring New England resident or student in each section.

Championship:	\$600-300-250	U2400 \$250	U2200 \$250	30 Grand Prix Points. FIDE.
U2000:	\$400-200-150			
U1800:	\$400-200-150			
U1600:	\$300-150-100	U1400 \$150	U1200 \$150	

- USCF membership required for all players, plus state membership for Mass. & N.H. residents. Mass.: MACA \$12 adult, \$6 under 18; add \$8 (optional) for a subscription to *Chess Horizons*, WMCA O.K. N.H.: NHCA \$8 adult, \$6 under 19, \$10 for membership with a printed *N.H. Chess Journal* subscription.

Questions: Alex Relyea, relyea@operamail.com.



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Chess Horizons

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EDITOR

Nathan Smolensky
15 Adams St.
Medford, MA 02155
editor@masschess.org

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Tony Cortizas

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*Cover photo: Harry Lyman, longtime pillar of the New England chess community.
Credit: Steve Stepak*



Note from the Editor

Nathan Smolensky

Dear Readers,

I am sorry for the long wait here. Due to lapses in timing the inflow of content, this issue ended up delayed to the point that it could not justifiably be a single 24-pager, and more recent delays have held it up much longer than I would have liked. Rather than continue to dwell on this, however, I simply offer without further ado the long awaited Spring CH issue. There's some great content in here, including pieces from GMs Ivanov, Christiansen, and Sevian, and lots of local coverage. Thank you for your patience, and I hope you enjoy!

- Nathan Smolensky, Editor

Annotation / Player Title Key

! – Strong move	!! – Brilliant move
? – Weak move	?? – Blunder
!? – Interesting move	?! – Dubious move
± (⊕) – White (Black) is slightly better	
± (⊖) – White (Black) is significantly better	
+– (–+) – White (Black) is winning	
∞ - Unclear	⊙ - Zugzwang
NM – National Master, any player over 2200 USCF	
LM – Life Master, permanently 2200+ USCF (may be due either to number of games played as master of 2400+ peak rating).	
FM – FIDE Master. 2300+ FIDE.	
SM – Senior Master. 2400+ USCF.	
IM – International Master. Norm-based FIDE title.	
GM – Grandmaster. Norm-based FIDE title.	

MACA

Massachusetts Chess Association
www.masschess.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Nathan Smolensky
15 Adams St., Medford, MA, 02155
(617) 733 - 6371
nathan.smolensky@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

John Sadoff
108 Central St., 1R, Somerville, MA 02143
(202) 725-5465
saddoff_john@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Bob Messenger
4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062
(603) 891-2484
treasurer@masschess.org

CLERK

Nicholas Sterling
60 Webster Street, Needham MA 02494
(781) 733-0849
clerk@masschess.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LMCF, Prison Chess,
Scholastics: Steve Frymer

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Larry C.'s Chess Challenges

GM Larry Christiansen

See how many you can get! Once you've mastered these problems, you can face the three-time U.S. Champion yourself at his South Station simul, from 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of every month in the heart of downtown Boston. Check out boylstonchess.blogspot.com for more details!

Solutions on p.46.

1.



Black to move and win.

2.



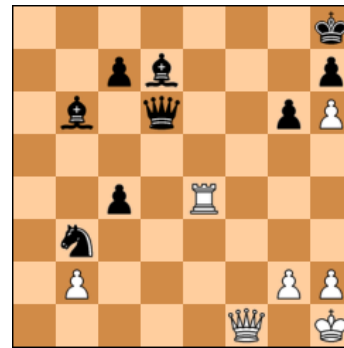
Find the best move for Black.

3.



Black to move and win.

4.



White to move and win.

5.



White to move and win.

Chess Trivia!

Nathan Smolensky

1. What players have played a match for the official World Chess Championship under the U.S. flag?*
2. The Sodium Attack is a name used for what highly unusual first move for White?
3. In the famous 1858 Opera Game involving Paul Morphy against Duke Karl of Brunswick and Count Isouard, what was the opera being performed?

Answers on p. 46

*- Official championships are those held since 1886. This excludes the FIDE tournaments for the world championship between 1993 and 2006 and any other tournaments not using a match structure (for example, the 1948 round robin).



News in Brief

Nathan Smolensky

Much has happened in the world of Massachusetts chess since the last issue of this magazine was released, perhaps most notably the historic achievements of two of our top junior players. In November of last year, Southbridge's **Samuel Sevia**n became the youngest Grandmaster in U.S. history, completing the feat a month before his 14th birthday. Then, this February, **Carissa Yip** of Andover broke another national record when she broke 2200 at the age of 11 years and five months, the youngest American girl ever to do so. For more on these remarkable achievements, be sure to check out my interview with GM Sevia on p. 15 and NM Yip's report on her recent lecture and simul at the new Andover Chess Club on p. 45.

An exciting year for MACA thus far began with the Gus Gosselin Grade Championship on January 3rd. Congratulations to winners **NM Siddharth Arun** (Gr. 8 - 12), **Eric Feng** (Gr. 7), **Michael Mi** (Gr. 6), **Luke Randolph**, **Gavin Randolph**, and **Daniel Wang** (Gr. 5 – tied), **Danila Poliannikov** (Gr. 4), **Jerry Li** (Gr. 3), **Derek Zhao** (Gr. 2), and **Victor Feng** (K-1). The tournament was held at the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge.

At the Winter Team Challenge on January 25th, top prizes went to Medfield-Franklin (**NM Siddharth Arun**, **Daniel Blessing**, **Arvind Sridhar**, **Niall Matthews**) in K-12, the Four Knights (**Boshen Li**, **Alan Song**, **Jerry Li**, **Benjamin Zilber**) and LDGB (**Luke Randolph**, **Daniel Wang**, **Gavin Randolph**, **Benjamin Fauman**) in K-6, and The Chess Mates (**Eli Traub**, **Fitzgerald Hung**, **Sai Nallajennugari**, **Samuel Li**) in K-3. The tournament was held in Boxborough.

Also in Boxborough, as it has been in recent years, was the April 12th Hurvitz Cup. Three teams tied for first the Gr. 9 – 12 section – BU Academy A (**Bary Lisak**, **Matthew Lee**, **Kevin Hu**, **Eric Hu**), Noble & Greenough A (**Loring**

Lauretti, **Max Sheerin**, **Iain Sheerin**, **William Wang**), and Medfield High School (**NM Siddharth Arun**, **Daniel Blessing**, **Niall Matthews**, **Joseph Aversa**). There would be clear winners in the other sections, with the RJ Grey Colonials (**Nithin Kavi**, **Brandon Wu**, **Allen Wang**, **Kevin Chen**) taking the 6-8 section, Hastings (**David Zhou**, **Daniel Zhou**, **Raymond Xu**, **Alan Lu**) triumphant in K-5, and Butler-Belmont (**Lewis Tu**, **Lawrence Tu**, **Lav Hotomski**, **Xiaogang Xu**) conquering the K-3.

The Massachusetts Game/60 Championship was held on March 29th in Marlborough. **GM Alexander Ivanov** took clear first with a perfect 4/4, with **IM Denys Shmelov** taking 2nd with 3.5/4.

At the 84th Massachusetts Open, also in Marlborough, held from May 23rd – 25th, **GM Alexander Ivanov** would again find himself alone at the top. His 5 points out of 6 would be enough for his 21st state crown. Stay tuned in the coming issue for extensive coverage of the tournament, including annotated games from every section of the main event, as well as plenty of photos and event reports.

The Mass Open weekend also featured the announcement of results for the 2015 MACA Board elections. Congratulations to newly elected members **Paul Arond** and **Jeff Caruso**. This was the first election to feature an online voting option for members, and the vast majority of the 87 registrants would take advantage of it.

Lastly, we must regretfully announce the March 10th passing of longtime MACA member and former MACA board member Marc Turgeon, 72, of Plymouth. A member of both the Boylston and Quincy Chess Clubs, Turgeon was also an avid instructor, having taught at Hill Crest Academy in Plainville, Storybrook Cove in Hanover, and the Plymouth Senior Center. Beyond chess, he worked for 15 years for the Environmental Protection Agency, and later practiced law. He is survived by his wife, his sister, and two children.



Tournament News **The Continental**

Nathan Smolensky

There is something to be said about playing chess in a familiar environment. When one has to dedicate the amount of mental energy that the game requires, it helps not to be distracted by unknown surroundings, to know where to find boards and water and whatnot. This is part of the beauty of having a regular club, after all.

So it's nice when the major events have consistent venues, unmistakable design and display that instill a sense of comfort even if players only visit once a year.

And, fortunately, this is the case with the two Continental Chess Association tournaments that visit Massachusetts each year, January's Boston Chess Congress near Logan International Airport and April's Eastern Class Championships in Sturbridge. On these familiar stages, a slew of familiar faces – as well as some new ones – converged to make a pair of memorable events this year.



The 2015 Boston Chess Congress

The Boston Harbor Hyatt, which has hosted the Congress since the event's debut three years ago, has a distinct class and elegance. A uniform grid of chandeliers lights the tournament hall, while coffee, water, and glasses are neatly laid out on the opposite side of the double-door entryways. The common areas of the hotel boast

marvelous views of the harbor, and the hallways and corridors have a consistent flavor of elegant velvet. The clam chowder in the main hotel eatery is not to be missed.



GM Fidel Jimenez (right) and reigning Mass Open champion Mika Brattain sit in deep thought at the top boards of the 2015 Boston Chess Congress.

This year, the tournament welcomed GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez, part of the chess juggernaut that is Webster University in St. Louis. Jimenez made his presence felt, dispatching two 2400+ players, locals Mika Brattain and Steven Winer, on his way to a share of 1st place in the Premier section, a draw with GM Alexander Ivanov – another local mainstay – the only blemish on his record.



Alan Price (left) and IM Steven Zierk play white against FM Charles Riordan and Nithin Kavi, respectively.

Joining Jimenez at the top was IM Steven Zierk, another new face to this tournament, though one who did not have to travel so far. Zierk, the 2010 World Under 18 champion, was



then on break in the middle of his senior year at MIT. The Boston Blitz star had been an infrequent tournament player since starting university, but took the opportunity to give himself a more proper welcome to the Massachusetts tournament scene. Despite drawing LM Henry “Hal” Terrie in the first round, the IM stormed back, besting local top dogs Ivanov and IM David Vigorito en route to 4.5/5. You can read more about his climactic final round win against the GM on page 31.



GM Alexander Ivanov and IM David Vigorito

For the top local players, this was not an event to be missed. FM Charles Riordan, who placed clear third with 4/5, was among a slew of 2300+ Massachusetts players, which also included FM Steven Winer, FM Christopher Chase, NM Chris Williams, and NM (and Brandeis student) Michael Vilenchuk.



NM Chris Williams contemplates his position. NM Farzad Abdi, the reigning New England Open co-champion, can be seen to his right.



NM David Brodsky

Top youngsters, both local to the state and beyond, also put their talents on display in the premier section. 12-year-old NM David Brodsky of New York, who had a strong performance at the 2014 Mass Open, made his return to the great state. WFM Akshita Gorti, also 12, was the top-rated female in the field.



WFM Akshita Gorti

A whopping seven players tied for first in the U2100 with 4/5, including Massachusetts' Michael Mahoney, Joseph Kelly, and Andrew Trattner. MIT student Wesley Runnels, returning to sanctioned chess after close to a decade away, boasted the biggest rating gain of the weekend, spiking almost 300 points – he came in rated 1401! – to share 1st in the U1900. New York's Daniel Gutierrez, who won the U1300, was the tournament's only perfect score.



The 2015 Eastern Class Championships

If class is the word that best summarizes the Boston Chess Congress site, then the atmosphere of the Eastern Class Championships might be most exemplified by serenity. Overlooking lovely Cedar Pond in central Massachusetts, the Sturbridge Host Hotel inspires calm through its wide open playing room, the bulk of which takes on a strong white motif, granting the room a sense of space through high ceilings and overhead lights. The top boards are cut off from the rest of the room into a segment with its own unique flavor, playing under the cover a large black curtain at the end of the tournament hall. Though lit well by standing lamps, the dark overhang still inspires calm and silence, giving the signal that these players are not to be disturbed.



GM Sergey Kudrin takes on SM Nicholas Checa

When the dust settled at the 2015 edition of the event, it was Connecticut GM Sergey Kudrin who stood alone atop the standings with 4.5 points out of a possible 5. The veteran was given no breaks by his pairings – after facing 2300-

rated rising star David Brodsky in the first round, none of the GM's other opponents would be below 2430 - but nonetheless Kudrin kept winning and winning, only drawing to seal sole first against GM Ivanov in the final round.



NM Timothy Sage takes on the young NM Brandon Jacobson

Kudrin's journey to victory went through an astounding array of the top youth in the Northeast. Beginning, of course, with a game against the 12-year-old Brodsky, Kudrin went on to face 14-year-old Nicholas Checa of New York and 18-year-old Alexander Katz of New Jersey. It was a remarkably deep field as the young players went, further featuring Massachusetts' own NM Andrew Liu (16) and NM Carissa Yip (11), New Jersey brothers NM Aaron Jacobson (15) and NM Brandon Jacobson (11), and WFM Gorti (12).



GM Ivanov

All this is not to suggest that the field of more experienced masters was shallow. On the contrary, they were as well represented a group as ever in this incarnation of the Sturbridge event. GM Ivanov managed a 4/5 score, good



for a share of 2nd-3rd with New York's Igor Sorkin, while Massachusetts GM Eugene Perelshteyn earned 3.5/5 to share 4th-5th with FM Katz.



GM Perelshteyn



NM Evan Rabin

The Eastern Class Championships had more than one section, of course. In the Expert Section, resurgent Massachusetts NM Evan Rabin dominated with a 5/5 score. That would mark one of only two perfect scores in the tournament, the other belonging to New Hampshire's Meghana Kancharla, who swept the Class E section.



Massachusetts NM Andrew Hoy takes on New York's Martha Samadashvili, an expert at only 10.

The tournament featured an abnormally high number of clear section winners. Beyond Kudrin, Rabin, and Kancharla, Maine's Dmitry Albin earned 4.5/5 for sole first for Class A, Massachusetts' Robert Holmgren took clear first in Class B with the same score, and Vermont's Andy Yang pulled the same feat for Class C. Only the Class D section - split by Pennsylvania's Camden Wagner, New York's Long Hua, Rhode Island's Octavio Teixeira, and Vermont's David Langlois with 4/5 apiece - was an exception.



Bella Angela Grasso makes her USCF debut in Sturbridge

With both these tournaments, though the faces and the results may change, there is a beauty to the regularity of the event itself. So good luck to all who choose to compete in the 2016 Congress or Eastern Class. You know the place to be.

All photos credit Tony Cortizas



News and Notes

The State of Scholastics

Nathan Smolensky



Ria Dawar (left, playing white) plays Madeleine Hung in a playoff for the first ever Massachusetts Girls Championship, held May 3rd. Photo courtesy Steve Stepak.

On May 3rd of this year, I had the privilege of running MACA's first ever Girls' Championship at the Boylston Chess Club in Cambridge. Originally scheduled for mid-February, the event threatened to become a casualty of the brutal winter weather, but fortunately in this case a delay was merely a delay. The first championship crown would be decided by a blitz playoff – won by Ria Dawar – and with that, the 2014-2015 MACA scholastic season came to a close.

That first Girls' Championship speaks to a remarkable diversity in MACA's scholastic programming, and a willingness over these past few years to dynamically expand our offerings.

The Spiegel Cup Series, now in its second season, spread further across Massachusetts clubs and schools, enabling them to integrate their own unique environments into the MACA network by feeding into the Spiegel Cup, our state scholastic championship. One of those qualifiers, Brookline's David Katsman, would go on to share 1st in his section, becoming the first SCS winner in the (admittedly short) history of the program to do so.

Interestingly, there would be no clear winners among the invitational sections of the 2015 Spiegel Cup. It would instead be a day of sharing, with the 14 & Under crown going to

Evan Meyer, NM Carissa Yip, and Anton Barash, the 11 & Under split among Eddie Wei, Evan MacLure, and Alex Yu, and the 8 & Under split four ways across Achyuta Rajaram, Derek Zhao, Katsman, and Rafael Pashkov.



Crucial games underway in the Spiegel Cup Finals' 8 & Under section. Left to right: Achyuta Rajaram, David Katsman, Derek Chubo Zhao, and John Archibald. Photo courtesy Tony Cortizas.

Again, a crucial piece of the evolution of MACA scholastics has been the integration of local events into state tournaments, and the effects are felt on both sides of the equation. The MA Scholastic Grand Prix, for instance, the brainchild of MACA Scholastic committee member Dmitry Barash, toured through a series of Papa Gino's, Burger Kings, and the NESSP earlier in the school year.



(Left to right) MA Scholastic Grand Prix TD Matt Gosselin with champion Advait Natti, 2nd place winner Eli Richmond, and 3rd place finisher Aidan Duncan.

There will always be the pillars in the MACA scholastic calendar – the Spiegel and its qualifiers, and the Hurvitz, discussed in News in Brief on p. 5 – but with young players hungry for more tournament options, it's good to know there's room to grow.

*Club Spotlight***The Journey towards Andover**

Michael Henroid

After seven years in Singapore, I relocated back to Massachusetts in 2013 with my wife and two children. By then and without any particular unique ability or interest, four-year old Bryan had figured out that chess was something his dad paid attention to, although he was too young to go with me to meet Kasparov when he visited Singapore in 2010. Bryan learned the names of the pieces, how to make legal moves, and some basic checkmates. We played at home and he seemed to enjoy it and finally got good enough to beat his mom regularly. When his attention span would allow, I steered toward game positions where he could play favorable and winning tactics so he could stay interested in playing old dad.

In the Spring of 2014, Bryan took a beginner chess class on Sundays in Winchester at his Chinese School with A-player Rick Lunetta, who recommended the Winchester Chess Club, close by to Woburn where we then lived. This proved to be exactly the right club for Bryan. Most of the players were scholastic-age players, and the club was well established under the long-time leadership of Tom Richardson and David Plantamura. There were plenty of beginners and novices, and club events were geared toward the juniors playing there. Bryan was having great fun and probably the chess part was secondary – being in a peer group of junior chess players where he could mix with the older kids had great appeal.

A few months later, I entered him in an unrated tournament at Stoughton Library. We had the talk on the drive down about the likely possibility that he would lose all of his games and we could simply go home any time if he was not having any fun. Little else could be expected of a 5-year old pre-schooler playing his first tournament in a K-5 section? I was quite

surprised when he finished 4.5/7 but I was under no illusions – this was not a USCF quality event and neither were most of the players, even by scholastic standards. And so later that month, he became a USCF and MACA member and entered a K-3 U400 tournament at the 2014 Mass Open – his first rated tournament. His 2-2 earned him a provisional rating of 281 and he spent a few tournaments getting organized with juggling notation, playing with a clock, surviving the moves of his more experienced and older opponents, and learning some of the rules of tournament play. In his second tournament in Concord, he allowed his opponent to illegally castle out of checkmate, and burst into tears when he realized it after the game.

Later that summer, my family bought a house in Andover, and we continued to frequent the Winchester Club on Friday nights, but the 25-mile roundtrip drive became a factor. We were committed to staying in Andover for a good while, so of course we would simply join the Andover Chess Club.

Except that there wasn't one – a fact that was not lost on a small group of Andover locals who were also interested in having a chess club in town. We got together one night at the library discussed what a chess club would be and we pretty much faced the initial big issues that anyone thinking about starting a chess club is going to face: Where do we play? When should we meet? And how do we get started? What kind of club are we?

The first question was always the most important. As a brand new not-for-profit club on a budget of zero dollars, getting donated meeting space was paramount, which ruled out the Elk's Lodges and VFWs in the area. I made a list of churches in Andover, and fellow Andover parent Wayne Huang suggested the Faith Lutheran Church, just down the street from his son's school. It was my first and only phone call, a testament to fantastic luck and the accommodating nature of the pastors at the church. Friday nights seemed the best fit – it was popular in Winchester and could be popular in



Andover -- a good night to do something fun before getting the weekend fully started. And so it was: Friday nights were to be reserved for the Andover Chess Club (ACC) and we agreed to start in January 2015, and initially go for 6 months to see how it progressed.

The next item was equipment. The Living Memorial Chess Fund and MACA came through with a grant of 10 sets and boards. I bought a demo board and tripod, made some fliers for the local library. I introduced myself to the local newspaper, the Andover Townsman, which was more than happy to communicate the existence of the club right before the first meeting by pretending my living room was the actual club so the photographer could come in. My wife navigated the Andover Moms website to let everyone know about the club. I reached out to some of the public schools in the area and found the parent volunteers running before/after school chess programs and handed out fliers at a chess class taught by IM Dave Vigorito. I invited inquiries and questions, and answered them all. Local chess star Carissa Yip had recently moved to Andover, so the positive local and national press about her accomplishments was a nice story to get everyone pumped up about chess.

I had the foresight to purchase a domain for the club web site, but neither the time or expertise to make the website functional, so that remains under construction with some club volunteers and a lesson learned for anyone looking to get a new club off the ground -- you need a website and you need someone who can build and maintain it.

For the first few months we did not speak of chess clocks, chess notation, tournaments, or membership fees. The first goal was to get the word out, be a regular option for people and let interest grow organically. I knew that the club was unlikely to be supported by a critical mass of rated adult players because there weren't enough in the area, so we consciously modeled ourselves after the Winchester Chess Club, and made the club inviting to young players of all ages and abilities. Most of our club meetings had

the same format. My wife and I would play matchmaker, making sure that everyone at the club had opponents at a competitive level of ability. I often did a short, beginner level lesson at the demo board, and tried to make it a point to play all the first-timers at the club that night. Bryan, now a tournament veteran and a newly minted six year-old was my go-to guy to make sure everyone had someone to play when the situation needed it.

Within a few weeks, word spread, and we were fortunate to be drawing 25-40 per night including the parents who are required to stay at the club with children under 12. We soon had more than players than equipment and had to buy some more sets. Because the church has some pre-scheduled Friday night events, we knew that one night, we would not be able to meet, so I reached out to the Tom and David at the Winchester Club and we scheduled a friendly match. 14 players from Andover made the trip into Winchester and our gracious hosts made sure everything went well for us except for the result. We were defeated 11-3 by our more experienced opponents.

We had been at this for 3 months and already it was clear that while the kids were having fun, and the club was popular and growing, we needed to introduce clocks to level the playing field, and allow for the possibility of tournaments. I held a parents meeting at the club and laid out the expenses made to date and the future expense that this phase of the ACC would require: clocks, Swiss Sys, proper chess bags for the pieces, a USCF affiliate membership, trophies/etc. Again, modeling ourselves after the Winchester Club, we instituted a \$25/family/year membership. Within a few weeks 25 families had stepped up, allowing us to order digital clocks. From then on, I only played members using a clock and encouraged them to do the same.

I bought the USCF affiliate membership and encouraged some of the better players to become members and get a rating by playing in local tournaments. We created a Hurvitz Cup team



from Bryan's elementary school featuring 3 brand new USCF members. Others signed up to play at Burger King, BCC, and the NESSP tournaments in Chelmsford.



I found that for K-5 players, the way they get hooked on chess is to play in tournaments, especially tournaments where there are some groupings by age or rating. I started poking through the USCF rule book and passed the exam to become a certified Local TD.



On April 17th, we had our most successful meeting yet when newly minted Chess master Carissa Yip visited to provide a short lecture, answer questions, and play a 31-board simul. She did a great job, and you can read about that elsewhere in this issue.



Finally, on May 1st, we held our first club tournament. Given our meeting time is only from 7-9 pm, we held Quick chess Quads, a format easy to organize and run when time is limited; no large Swiss sections here. Twenty-eight players competed with 4 rated quads and 3 unrated quads. I learned from NH Scholastic TD Vince Bradley how to make each kid feel special about doing something great – whether winning a tournament, scoring a key upset, or surviving their first tournament. To do that, it would take a good deal of hardware given out, and there was.

Not as enjoyable was the process of dealing with the USCF as a first time affiliate and newly credentialed Local TD. Lesson learned the hard way: get to know the ways of the USCF well before running your first tournament.

Four months into this venture, we have 26 families as members, have sold 6 USCF memberships, and watched many others improve to the point of learning notation, understanding a chess clock, and playing in a tournament.

The Andover Chess Club meets on Fridays at the Faith Lutheran Church, 360 S. Main Street, in Andover from 7-9 pm during the school year (September through June). To be put on the mailing list for upcoming events and tournaments, please contact andoverchessclub@gmail.com.



Interview

GM Seviaan on Making History

Nathan Smolensky

Shortly after the release of the last Chess Horizons, Southbridge's Samuel Seviaan completed his remarkable journey to GM by crossing the 2500 FIDE threshold at an invitational in St. Louis. He had already earned his necessary norms in the months since his 13th birthday. I spoke to the prodigy earlier this year about his remarkable feat.

NS: First of all, congratulations on your GM title. Did you do anything to celebrate?

SS: Thank you for your congratulations, I did not do anything in particular to celebrate, just took my mind off chess for a couple of days, and then went back to work. Of course, it felt great at the moment, [I] kind of felt relieved because leading up to the title I had to work very hard. The most tense moment was when I played the fourth round at St. Louis invitational against IM Gorovets with the game going back and forth in a time trouble situation.

NS: You recently competed in the famous Tata Steel Chess tournament in Wijk Aan Zee. How was that experience? Did it feel like the biggest stage you've been on so far?

SS: Playing in Tata Steel was a great experience, the conditions were excellent, and I got to play against quite a strong opposition. Yes, I think this has been the biggest stage of my career so far. I started out with two very disappointing losses - in the second round against Belgian GM Michels, I botched a perfectly good position with a series of inexplicable moves, and was really disappointed with myself. But then I was able to recover, and won a long 7 hour marathon game against former European Champion Russian GM Potkin in a complicated technical ending. That win really got my spirit up and changed the course of the tournament for me. Of course, the highlight of the tournament for me was the win over Chess Legend Jan Timman, the player who I admire a lot and whose books I

have studied over the years. I finished the tournament with 7.5/13, which I think is quite good for my first appearance.

NS: Now that you've reached GM - and shattered a number of records doing so - what's next on the agenda? What's your next big chess goal as a chess player?

SS: Right now I just want to keep improving on my game. My next goal would be to try to break 2600 FIDE. Learn, study, work on your game and the results will follow. I have yet to improve on my time management and emotion control, an important ingredient to have in order to compete at the high level.

NS: How much time do you think you spend on chess on a typical day? What are your favorite things to do the rest of the time?

SS: On a typical day I spend 5-7 hours studying, which includes every aspect of the game from Openings to Endgame. When not working on chess I watch TV - mostly sports - or go to the gym to run, play basketball, and swim. Love watching Bruins games.

NS: You've obviously accomplished an extraordinary amount at such a young age. To what factors do you attribute the achievements?

SS: Throughout the years, my family has always helped and supported me. My dad introduced me to Chess, he was himself a student of a great Chess Study Composer Genrikh Kasparyan, and appreciated the beauty element of the game, its Geometry. I think I have inherited this eye for the beauty from him as well as his visualization of move sequences which is the corner stone for good calculation. Besides just love for the game, chess requires total dedication and hard work. Adding to it I had a great coach Andranik Matikozyan, who devoted so much of his time and taught me for free for years.



Club Spotlight

From a Cold Knight to a Warm Day

Steven Stepak

The last home of the BCC was on Elm Street, Somerville, in a basement. After a flood in 2012, when the river of waters subsided, leaving a gritty residue, the mold fostered a rather putrid stench which discouraged many chess players from frequenting the premises with any degree of regularity. But, as the saying goes, in every cloud, there is a silver lining. And this was a shining example of the metaphor. On the brink of becoming homeless, the BCC was saved by members Harold Dondis and Mark Fins, whose generosity allowed us to find an absolutely beautiful place in Cambridge, north of Porter Square, quite parallel to the Somerville address.



Day Street is known for its parking lot, across from the bowling alley, where parents of the many wonderful children who frequented BCC events parked their cars each Saturday. So walking down Day Street from Elm to Massachusetts Avenue, takes us from Somerville to Cambridge. Somewhere in the middle, the street signs change from Somerville blue to Cambridge green. Right turn on Mass. Ave. from Day up towards Arlington, 3 blocks, on the left only, is Norris Street. And left again down the street takes us to the former St. John's High School building where Speaker of the

House Thomas P. Tip O' Neill went as a young lad graduating in 1931. The premises in now a renovated condo complex, including two marvelous rooms on either side of the basement, 101 and 103, the new home of the BCC.



The conditions of our new home compared to our old one are, well, like night and day (pun intended). Shiny hardwood floors, high ceiling, and windows – yes not since the early aughts has the BCC had fenestration.



As if by magic, a beautiful empty hall becomes a tournament room ready for action!



40 Norris St. from the front. Photo credit Tony Cortizas.

The Herb Healy Memorial, major fundraiser for the BCC occurs, traditionally on New Years Day. We moved during the entire month of December 2014. Andrew Hoy and Co. volunteered to refinish all the wooden chess tables; Ted Cross led the team which packed up the Elm Street show and with hard work and dedication to the cause, and all the stuff that wasn't thrown out arrived at 40 Norris Street, Cambridge for reworking into our new place. We are still finding new pictures to hang on the walls.



The Skittles Room on January 1st

The BCC has a Saturday tournament, Game 60, every weekend. This is the most popular time for our kids to come and play and have fun while they're at it. BCC is a training ground for some of the best juniors in the Commonwealth, like Carissa Yip who played 2 critical events at the BCC, the February Thursday Night Swiss and the BCC February Legends of Chess. Carissa scored well in both events and got her rating to 2194; she was concurrently playing the

February Billerica Swiss where she finally pushed her rating 2203 thus becoming the youngest female USCF master. It should be duly noted that in the MACA Game 60, held on March 29, which was won by GM Ivanov, Carissa scored 3 points to share 3-5th place for a 2219 rating! Way'ta go Carissa!



FM Charles Riordan (right) plays Walt Driscoll on January 1st while TD Bernardo Iglesias looks on. Photo credit Tony Cortizas.

And the BCC is also home to other scholastic stars, like Mika Brattain, Sidharth Arun, Nithin Kavi, Brandon Wu, Suraj Ramanathan, Jason Tang, Derek Jin, Boshen Li, brothers Maxwell and Winston Zhao, brothers Daniel and David Zhou, Jerry Li, Lucy Cai, Joy Cao, Raymond Xu, Evan MacLure, brother and sister Aashish and Pooja Welling, brothers Eddie and Evan Wei, Michael Yu, Alex Yu, Andrew Liu, Eric Feng John Archibald Daniel Wang, Skiler Zhou, Miriam Abd-El-Barr, brother and sister David and Anna Katsman, to name just a few! BCC is holding a 10 double round robin (40/90; Game 60) on Monday nights as well as chess camp and a Sunday Scholastic event for the kids chess novitiates. Even with a rather icy winter, the players would flock to the club from all over Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and even Connecticut and New York from the south. The ghost of Harry Nelson Pillsbury lingers in the mist of the wood work as the drawing of Harry Lyman by Suzy Kitman hangs on the outside wall, looking down benevolently on the players in the main tournament room.



The Boylston Chess Club is a jewel in the crown of New England Chess, as Harry Lyman said. And Harry was, after all, the Dean of New England Chess. The BCC has expanded its tournament activities to include a Friday Night Blitz, organized and directed by NM Andrew Hoy, which has already become a popular choice of chess action by the Harvard Square chess scene!



The playing hall, January 1st. Photo credit Tony Cortizas.

Beyond that, we have expanded the scholastic program enhancing the activities of our highly skill veteran chess teachers we offer a

major, robust chess and education program to the children of the Greater Boston area.

Activities of the Club are accurately posted on the BCC Website, under “Calendar of Events” as well as the MACA tournament listings on the front page of its website. All persons interested in chess, education and playing the royal game, are welcome to visit the Club at 40 Norris Street, Cambridge, MA, 3 blocks beyond the Greek Church, on the left, off Massachusetts Avenue, north of Porter Square. The main days when you are sure to find people around and the door open are: Friday Night Blitz; Saturday game/60 events; Monday long-time control tournaments and the famous and popular Thursday Night Swiss, also a long time control program.



(clockwise from top left) Mike Griffin, Adam Banakus, Mark Fins, and Suraj Ramanathan at February's Polar Vortex Premier. Photo credit Tony Cortizas.

So come on over to say hello and talk chess, chess analysis and current events and maybe you will also decide to register for a formal chess event. Worth noting: the Friday Night Blitz event is not rated so there is no requirement for membership either in the Club or in USCF. The BCC is an informal and friendly organization which has a long and illustrious history of chess play and chess education for the whole family.

All photos credit Steven Stepak unless otherwise noted.



USATE 2015

A Man Amongst Boys

Matt Phelps

Every President's Day weekend, over a thousand eager players gather in Parsippany, New Jersey for the US Amateur Team East, and it is truly an amateur event. With no cash prizes, four-person teams with average USCF ratings no higher than 2199 square off for a few plaques, a few clocks, and a whole lot of bragging rights – including the official titles of “Best MA Team,” “Best Seniors,” and “Best Mixed Doubles.” The winners of the event go on to compete against the victors of the South, West, and North tournaments for the national Amateur Team championship.

Planning for the mid-February tournament begins months before. Teams jockey for just the right combination of players to approach the 2199.75 maximum average rating. Being a director at the MetroWest Chess Club, and a former manager of the Boston Blitz in the US Chess league, I know many masters in the area, so I usually have a fairly easy time latching on to a competitive team. This year, however, all my sources were coming up dry. I had resigned myself to not playing in 2015 when in January I asked high school master Sid Arun if he was playing. He was working on forming a team with fellow masters, and high school students, Mika Brattain and Andrew Liu. They needed a board four rated around 1750. “How about 1733?” I asked. “I’ll be your ‘underrated kid.’” Considering I just reached qualifying age for the US Seniors last year, joining a team with some of the best high school players in the area seemed highly unlikely. Yet so it was.

Getting on a team, of course, is only half the battle. Next comes choosing the team name. There's a contest each year for the best name, so some thought is required. Movie titles, current scandals, and hit songs are regularly twisted with some bad chess related puns to form clever

names. I came up with a few candidates I liked, including “The Grand Parsippany Hotel,” “1. f4 Birdman,” and “Je Suis Giri (or ‘Je Suis Chucky’).” The most popular reference in the year's names was the “Deflategate” scandal, an idea we toyed with but ultimately rejected. In the end the kids came up with “Forknado,” which I liked. The winner of that competition this year ended up being high-minded “Legalize Caruana.”

The usual set of Massachusetts based teams was there again, including the Bill Kelleher's Cambridge Springers, a strong Waltham Chess Club team, and “Vitaliy Ryabinin,” led by IM Denys Shmelov (but not featuring its namesake). GM Larry Christiansen, with his wife Natasha, was back with a team, and IM David Vigorito again led a crew. More on them later.

Our team came in at an average of 2184, 23rd out of a total of 270 teams. Teams have won before that far from the top, so we had hopes of being in a position to win the tournament, and if not, we felt we had a decent chance of gunning for the Best Massachusetts Team prize.

The first two rounds of the tournament use accelerated pairings, so we faced two teams with an average rating in the 1900s. It's hard to tell how these teams will be composed. Sometimes there's a GM on board one with students making up the rest of the team. Who knows what I'll face on board four. Fortunately, both opponents on the first day were on relatively “flat” teams, so we out rated them on the first three boards. Sid won a nice game in round one:

NM Siddharth Arun (2236)**Marvin Shumowitz (1958)****2015 U.S. Amateur Team East (1)****02.14.2015****Nimzowitsch Defense [B00]*****Annotations by S. Arun***

The first round of the World Amateur Team 2015 Tournament. I was on Board 3, and our team Forknado was averaged around 2184. We



played the team Chaturanga in the first round, with all four boards having interesting games.

1. e4 Nc6

Not an opening move I expected to play against in Round 1.

2. Nc3 Nf6 3. d4 d6 4. Bc4 e6 5. Nf3 Nxe4 6. Nxe4 d5 7. Ned2

Better was 7. Bd3, allowing White to keep the bishops on board.

7... dxc4 8. Nxc4 Be7 9. O-O O-O 10. c3 b6

Black has equalized, and will have an easy position to play.

11. Re1 Bb7 12. Bf4 Bf6 13. Ne3 Ne7 14. Ng4 Nd5 15. Bg3 h5?

This move is inaccurate. Black tries to play actively and complicate the position, but this can allow White to become quite active as well.

16. Nxf6+ Qxf6 17. Re5 g6

Making room for the queen if necessary.

18. a3

Better was 18. Qd2, preventing the knight from coming to an active square of f4.

18... Ne7 19. Bh4 Bxf3 20. Bxf6 Bxd1



Time to make a decision. Do I go into an opposite-colored bishop ending that is most likely drawn if played correctly, albeit with extremely active play on the dark squares, or do I capture on d1, leaving myself an active knight to deal with?

21. Bxe7 Rfe8 22. Bf6

The bishop's control over the dark squares is extremely strong.

22... Bb3 23. h3 Rac8 24. g4 hxg4??

This move loses, setting up a cute checkmate pattern.

25. hxg4 c5 26. Kg2

Black resigns. If 26...Bd5+ 27. f3, then Rh1 and Rh8# are coming.

1-0

Meanwhile, I played horribly against a 1700 player, and should have been mated. But I managed to trick my opponent and win. We won the match 4-0. In round two the kids all won again. I played well against a higher rated opponent, and was in fact winning, but got tricked and lost. Chess works in funny ways sometimes.

In round 3 on the second day the accelerated pairings stop, so we faced a team with a high 1500s average rating, and we all won again, giving us a 3-0 record in matches and 11-1-0 in games.

The top nine boards in the playing hall are cordoned off with velvet ropes like you'd find in a fancy old bank. It's a joy to be "behind the ropes" as there's plenty of room, and no spectators roaming by the table distracting you. Plus it feels like you're in a "real" chess tournament, with lots of grandmasters ending up playing there. Our fourth round pairing had us playing on one of the coveted spots, and unfortunately it was versus IM David Vigorito's team. I had to face Mark Fins, whom I've played many times at the MetroWest Chess Club and have not fared well against. True to form, I lost without much resistance, and with a draw on board 1, but another loss on board three, we lost the match 1.5 - 2.5. Our hopes for winning the tournament were dashed, but we still had a shot at the state prize.

Day three began with us facing a tough team from Cornell. I lost on board four, but the guys all played interesting games, winning all three!

All this set up the final round. Now, I have had nightmares about being behind the ropes in the final round and playing the last game with



the match on the line. That nightmare scenario would come to pass, beginning with Siddharth losing a tough game on the 3rd board. Our captain had played his usual aggressive style throughout the tournament, finishing a good 4-2.

Andrew was next to finish, and he topped off a pristine tournament run with his sixth win in as many games:

NM Andrew Liu (2319)

NM James Nitz (2233)

2015 U.S. Amateur Team East (6)

02.16.2015

Nimzo-Indian [E63]

Annotations by A. Liu

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3

I've been playing this sharp line for a long time. The resulting positions can be very unorthodox, but I've always enjoyed them.

4... d5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 c5 7. cxd5 exd5 8. e3 O-O 9. Bd3 Re8 10. Ne2 b6

White's plan involves a conjunction of playing for e4 and a possible kingside attack with moves like g4, Ng3, and Ra2-g2. This is why Black wants to trade the strong bishop on d3.

11. O-O Ba6 12. Bxa6

This is a sideline white can try, directly seizing some tempo, but 12.Bb2 is the main line, and possibly offers more chances for the advantage.

12... Nxa6 13. Qd3 Nc7

I think 13.Nb8!? is correct. From b8, the knight may go to c4 or b3, like the famous Botvinnik-Capablanca game.

14. Ng3 Qd7 15. a4

The idea here is to prevent Qb5 ideas.

15... h5 16. Nh1

A weird move, admittedly, but it ensures h4 doesn't come with tempo.

16... a5 17. Nf2 Qc6 18. Bd2 b5?!

This is too hasty. 18.Re6 is better to keep preventing e4.

19. axb5 Nxb5 20. c4!

Black is saddled with weak queenside pawns.



20... dxc4 21. Qxc4 Nd6 22. Qc2

22. Qxc5 Qxc5 23. dxc5 Nc4 is fine for Black.

22... a4 23. Rfc1 Rec8 24. Nd3

24. dxc5! was probably better, winning a clean pawn, but during the game I had much more ambitious thoughts, like trying to cleanly sweep Black's a and c pawns. But the simplest solution is often the best.

24... c4 25. Nc5 a3 26. e4 Nd7 27. Bb4 Nb6 28. Rxa3 Nb5 29. Rxa8 Rxa8 30. Qd2

The position isn't that easy. It's hard for White to untangle pieces to more aggressive posts.

30... Ra7 31. Qb2 Qd6 32. Rd1 h4?!

This, however, falls into my next move.

33. Be1 c3!?

A strong try in time trouble, which we were both in. Now the game is pure tactics, which can be dangerous as it's hard to adapt to shifting style.

34. Qxb5 c2 35. Rc1 Ra1!

I overlooked this move, and felt panicked here.





35... Qxd4+ 36. Kf1 Qd1 37. Nb3 is winning for white.

36. Rxc2

36. Rxa1 Qxd4+ 37. Kf1 Qxa1 38. Nb3 Qb1 39. Qxb6 c1=Q 40. Qd8+! (I didn't see this check when calculating Rxa1) Kh7 41. Nxc1 Qxc1 and White wins. 36.Rxc2 was my move to bail out, and I resorted to it when I saw I only had a minute left!

36... Qxd4+?

This loses. Rxe1+ would lead to unclear positions, where black's activity compensates for the pawn.

37. Kf1 h3 38. Qe2 hxg2+ 39. Kxg2 Qe5

40. Bg3

It was a relief to come out of the time trouble still whole, with my opponent not having two queens roaming around!

1-0

Next, our top board drew a very tough game on board 1 against a high 2300 player. Mika, one of Massachusetts' newest Senior Masters, had a great tournament with four wins and two draws.

FM Ted McHugh (2366)

SM Mika Brattain (2458)

2015 U.S. Amateur Team East (6)

02.16.2015

Annotations by M. Brattain



In the last round, we reached this interesting and balanced position, with both sides having a gaping hole in the center.

20. Nb1 h5?

Instead 20... b6 21. Nc3 Nc6 22. Ncd5 Qa7! and Black will play ...Nd4 and is at least equal because White's knights on e3 and d5 are rather redundant.

21. Nc3

Now White will trade one pair of knights and hop into d5 with the other.

21... b6 22. Ncd5 Nxd5 23. Nxd5 Qa7 24. a4 a5

White now has a good position, but Black is still probably fine.

25. b3 Kf8 26. Qc1 Bc6 27. h4 Bxd5 28. Rxd5 Rxd5 29. cxd5 Ke7??



My plan was to put the king on d6, and attack on the kingside. 29... Bf6! 30. g3 Ke7 is the proper move order. Black will establish the blockade, and if White is not careful, an attack with ...Rg8, ...Qe7, and ...g5 could be dangerous.

30. d6+!

Of course

30... Kf8

After 30... Kxd6 31. Qg5! Black's king is stranded in the center. This is why throwing in ...Bf6 was vital.

31. Rd1 Qd7 32. g3 Bf6 33. Qh6+ Bg7 34. Qd2 Bf6 35. Qh6+ Bg7 36. Qd2 Bf6 37. Bc4 Kg7 38. Qd5 Rf8 39. Rd3 Qg4 40. Kh2 Kh6 41. Kg2 Kg7 42. Rf3 Qd7



Black just has to sit tight. I was tempted to play for ...g5 but this would inflict more damage on my own king than White's

43. Rd3 Kh6 44. Bb5 Qd8 45. Qb7 Kg7 46. Qc7 Qa8 47. f3?

47. Kf3 avoids any weakening. Now I can play for g5 since White's dark squares are considerably weakened.

47... Bd8 48. Qd7 Bf6 49. Bc4 Kg8 50. Rd1 Kg7 51. Kf2 Qd8 52. Qc7 g5!



White may have planned on running his king over to the queenside. Instead he has to deal with this counterplay.

53. hxc5 Bxc5 54. Qxd8

54. Rd5! is the only way to maintain a decisive advantage.

54... Bxd8?!

54... Rxd8 holds down White's rook.

55. Rh1 Rh8 56. f4 Bf6 57. Kf3 Kf8 58. Bb5 Kg7 59. Rd1 h4 60. Rh1 Rd8 61. Rd1 hxc3

I thought that the game was going to be drawn quite easily at this point but I almost lost it again.

62. Kxg3 exf4+?

62... Rh8 holds quite easily.

63. Kxf4 Bd4? 64. e5 Rh8

Sadly I was banking on 64... f6 but then 65. e6 Be5+ 66. Kf5 Bxd6 67. Rxd6! just wins.

65. Re1

65. d7! Rd8 66. Kf5 is once again winning for White.

65... Rh4+ 66. Kg5 Rh8 67. e6?

67. Kf5 is probably winning.

67... Bf6+ 68. Kf5 Rh5+ 69. Kg4 Rh4+

70. Kg3 fxe6 71. Rxe6 Rd4=

White's king is cut off from my side of the board.

72. Kf3?!

72. d7 Bd8

72... Kf7

Now I even get to claim a nominal advantage after winning the d6 pawn but sadly it is nothing.

73. Re3 Rxd6 74. Bc4+

1/2-1/2

And so, it was left up to me. I have been behind the ropes many times over the years, always facing an expert or high class A player, but never scoring even a half point. History was against me when I found out my opponent's rating was 2038.

Matt Phelps (1733)

Doug Fiske (2038)

2015 U.S. Amateur Team East (6)

02.16.2015

Ruy Lopez [C60]

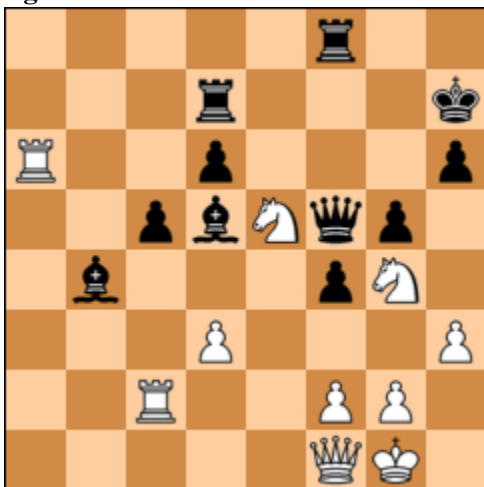
I'll concentrate on annotating what was going through my aged mind more than actual variations here. My chess isn't good, but I hope my thoughts are at least entertaining.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nge7 4. O-O g6 5. d3 Bg7 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bh4 O-O 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. Nbd2 d6 10. h3 Be6 11. c3 c5 12. Re1 g5 13. Bg3 Qd7 14. Nh2 Rab8 15. b3 Ng6 16. Ndf1 f5 17. exf5 Bxf5 18. Qd2 Nf4 19. Bxf4 exf4 20. Rac1 a5 21. Nf3 a4 22. b4 cxb4 23. cxb4 Be6 24. a3 Bd5 25. N1h2 Rf7 26. Qc2 Rbf8 27. Qe2 Qf5 28. Qf1 Bb2 29. Rc2 Bxa3 30. Ra1 Bxb4 31. Rxa4 c5 32. Ra6 Rd7

OK, so I've played badly so far and am probably just losing, down a pawn and with two knights facing a bishop pair. However, knights and major pieces can be tricky, and Black's king is looking a bit drafty. We were both in a bit of time trouble, so it was time to complicate matters and hope for the best!



33. Ng4 Kh7 34. Nfe5



This move actually turns the game around but deserves a "???" for my intended follow up.

34... Bb7

On 34... dxe5 I had intended 35. Rxh6+ Kg7 36. Qa1, thinking that the a1-h8 diagonal was open and all sorts of mating threats would be in the air. Of course, the black pawn on e5 blocks that diagonal, and can be easily defended, so this is just losing. Having noticed this after playing Ne5, I was convinced the game was now over. However, 35. Nxe6! traps the queen and is why my opponent didn't accept the knight. Still, black is still better after 35... Bb7.

35. Nxd7 Bxa6 36. Nxf8+ Qxf8 37. Ra2 Bb5 38. Qb1

Better is 38. Ra7+ Kg6 39. Qe2 with all kinds of mates possible

38... Qf5 39. Qb2 Qf7 40. Nf6+? =

Couldn't find Ra8 in time pressure! 40. Ra8 Kg6 (40... Be8 41. Rxe8 Qxe8 42. Nf6+; 40... Qg7 41. Nf6+ Kg6 42. Rg8) 41. Rg8+!! - hard to find with just minutes left - Qxg8 (41... Kf5 42. Nxe6+) (41... Kh5 42. Nf6+ Kh4 43. g3+ fxg3 44. fxg3+ Kxg3 45. Qf2+ Kxh3 46. Qh2#) 42. Qf6+ Kh5 (42... Kh7) 43. Qxh6#.

40... Kg6 41. Ne4 Bxd3 42. Nd2 Qe6 43. Nf3 Qc4?

This gives White chances again!

44. Ra7 Bc3 45. Qb8 Qe6

It was about here that Mika drew on board 1 after we had lost on board 3 and won on board 2. My opponent commented, "Well, I guess it's up to us now."

46. Qc7 Kh5?

Black is beginning to implode here. Entombing the king on the edge of the board can't be a good idea.

47. Ra3

This is a key move. It forces black to defend with the queen, drawing it away from protecting the white checking squares.

47... Qf6 48. Qc8 Bf5 49. Qe8+ Bg6 50. Qe2!

I hadn't worked out a lot of tactics here, and was beginning to run short of time. Further, the playing hall was getting empty of other games so crowds of spectators were gathering around us. So I'm particularly proud of finding this move given the nerves I was feeling. I just knew setting up a discovery with queen and knight had to lead to good things.

50... Bf5 51. Ne5+ Kh4 52. g3+ fxg3 53. fxg3+ Kxg3 54. Qf2+ Kxh3 55. Rxc3+

Better is 55. Qh2# but this works too.

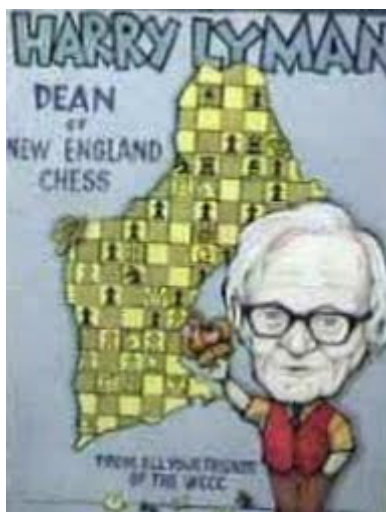
1-0

So the nightmare turned into a moment of glory! It turned out we had indeed won the Best Massachusetts prize. I was very glad to be able to contribute where I could to the team and win something for them. I imagine their ratings will continue to rise throughout the year, so we probably won't be able to return as "Forknado 2: The Second One" without some changes.

I want to thank Sid, Mika, and Andrew for letting me join them. I wish them all the best for their futures, both in chess and beyond. I also want to thank Steve Doyle of the NJ Chess Federation and all the volunteers who run the USATE. They do a great job. It's my favorite tournament every year, and I know I'm not alone with that sentiment. And for all those playing next year, in case you're looking for a wily veteran for board four, you know where to look.



Harry Lyman: Essays on the Dean of New England Chess



June 15th, 2015 marks what would be the 100th birthday of Harry Lyman, an unforgettable force in the development of New England chess for much of the 20th century. To commemorate the anniversary, we now present a collection of four essays from prominent figures in New England chess on the legendary figure.

Harry Lyman, Teacher

Mike Griffin

Originally published in the Boylston Chess Club blog

In the late 60's I was a high school kid, informally coached by my great Uncle Justin "Ducky" Power (long time member of the BCC) and I stumbled into the YMCU to be taken by the enthusiasm and encouragement of Harry.



I realize looking back it was Harry that could answer my questions and feed my curiosity that

made chess the most attractive game to me. At that time I was studying Backgammon and Go with my brother **Jay Griffin**.



From Harry I learned: to be a chess player was to be part of a society that was older than a millennium; chess could become an individual's vision quest/avocation in/for life; where your individual contributions in turn benefit the collective whole; chess was a metaphor for how a person should deal with living.

A few Harry Lyman stories:

Harry was a very strong checkers player and would beat all comers. Occasionally a real old timer checker player would come by to the YMCU and challenge Harry. I believe most of the checkers/draughts records on acid paper rotted to nothing in the back rooms at Clarendon Street. By the way, many of the YMCU members played all types of games and were quite good at non-chess, as we well know. This multi game legacy comes from Harry Nelson Pillsbury.

Professor Harry Lyman taught a course of endgames at the Bunker Hill Community College in the 70's based on Keres' *Practical Chess Endings* - attended by MG. In the recession of the late 70's, when the club was full of people unable to find work having time on their hands: Harry proclaimed what the BCC needed was a "club defense" against d4 and created a committee to find it for the BCC. They created a list of requirements and went out and searched. Harry would hold various meetings and the committee found that the Benoni was the best defense for BCC members against d4. They worked and found many special variations to trip up white. All in great fun. To this day, when I



see some long time BCF member playing the Benoni I wonder if they were initially influenced by output of Harry's Benoni committee.

Harry and medical science: It's the early 70's one hot summer Tuesday as I walked from Park Street station to the BCC. An hour before noon I noticed the bank across the street posted 101 degrees. There were very few people at the BCC and despite fans blowing the heat was oppressive, there was no real relief. Harry sat quietly to himself, an ashen gray, clearly in a great deal of pain, as he was suffering an angina attack. We wanted to call an ambulance but Harry refused saying would be alright in a few minutes. Harry slowly got better, but given my experience with family members' heart conditions I felt Harry was not in a good way. Yet Harry survived almost 30 more years battling chronic ailments; and chess in the Boston could benefit immensely from those three additional decades beyond 1970. Harry gave everything that he could to the game, and his influence will ripple throughout many generations to come. Thank You Harry.

Harry Lyman, Giver

Bernardo Iglesias

I remember Harry Lyman as a very generous man, well educated, presentable and witty to talk on any subject but, especially chess.

In November 1972 after joining for the first time the Boylston Chess Club at the original site in downtown Boston, 44 Boylston Street at the highest level of chess History in the USA: the Fischer era, I started playing chess and became a tournament director at the BCC.

Around 1975, Harry called me one day and he proposed to pay my BCC membership dues (chess club and social membership for YMCU), I refused his offer because I told him I was working and I could afford it. I knew he used to help many people with low income in becoming members of the BCC. He offered me many things in years after that including: MACA memberships, USCF memberships, books, chess sets but, I always refused his generosity with the same answer - "No, thanks Harry, I can pay for it". I became president of the BCC for two straight years to his delight of my leadership,

offering more weekends chess tournaments, compared before only to TNS (Thursday Night Swiss) and one or two weekend chess per month; sending letters to the members for the Annual meeting in October and regular quarterly meetings for the board. Tuesday was a very popular day; it was the club's Open House. Because he was there all day welcoming new people, his friends used to drop by to talk to him and he used to teach chess to anyone wanting to learn chess, after 7pm there was a blitz event.



Finally, while the club was in Clarendon Street, one Tuesday evening at the club, he had two chess books in his hands, ECO, volumes D and E; he said to me could you hold these two books browse them and bring them next week, I said yes to him, took the books home, I checked some of my repertoire openings with D & E. That was the last time I saw him alive, he got sick and did not come to the club for weeks until I learned that he passed away.

I decided to keep those two volumes for me as a gesture that he will have liked to keep them. I still have in my home library shelves those two books.

Harry Lyman, Friend

Harold Dondis

In a bygone era it was the habit of the Globe Chess column to designate as Saints those persons who promoted chess in the New England area. Harry Lyman of Saugus was one of those crowned, but he probably should have been identified as Chief Saint. Harry's picture adorns the walls of the Boylston Club; always a chess enthusiast, he dedicated his later years to education of novices and the art and love of chess.

Your author first met Harry Lyman by chance. On a date with a young lady, I went to a



modern poetry group in Dorchester, a member of which was Jim Burgess, chess columnist of the Globe. He got me interested in tournament chess, a game I had learned at Boy's camp at the age of ten, but had never played in chess tournaments. The introduction was accomplished by bringing me into the Boylston Club in Boston and introducing me to Harry Lyman. Harry Lyman virtually embraced any body he met, exuding a warmth and good will especially if they were interested in chess. Harry had previously collaborated with Burgess in writing the Globe column.



I knew very little of Harry's background except that he had retired from the Quartermaster Corps. He had worked in Rhode Island and then as I recall briefly at the Custom House in Boston. He was a good friend of Weaver Adams, the outstanding player of New England Chess. Weaver religiously believed that the Vienna Opening was a forced win for White. I am writing from memory now. Harry agreed to test Weaver's sweeping hypothesis and the two of them embarked on a correspondence duel that I believe lasted well over 170 games—I do not remember the exact number. Harry came out with a majority of the wins, but Weaver insisted that his theory was supported by their experiment.

In any event I soon learned that Harry was present every Tuesday to teach chess to all comers at Boylston. He was also present on Thursdays to watch over battles in the Metropolitan Chess League. His interest in

teaching was phenomenal, making even beginners, who had won games, convinced that they had played with extraordinary insight. In fact Harry loved to go over those games. In his own games Harry was discontented if he could not sacrifice a pawn, because he could not get the counterplay that was so dear to him. Of course he knew his openings well, especially Kingside openings. I would not have an inventory of those whom he developed as players, but it would be a vast number, including some who eventually outplayed Harry and became chess Senior Masters. I recall that John Curdo and Harry waged a match, and I understand that Harry won it, though John had a long range plus in their encounters.

Whenever I got an inquiry of a parent whose child was interested in learning more of the game, I told him or her to go to Boylston on Tuesday and ask for Harry Lyman. He was a fine player as well as an enthusiastic promoter of the game, after all - as I recall, Harry shared first place in the U.S. Amateur championship one year, showing me a game in which he disoriented an opponent by banging down a move. Harry had taught his nephew Shelby the game, who apparently over the objection of family, started to pursue a chess career. Shelby found his profession when he became the star of the TV program on the Fischer Spassky match.

One other point about Harry's Sainthood is that his purse was open for the Boylston Club and even for players who were short on entry fees. He also financed two player matches. As Boylston was being subjected to higher rentals, Harry stepped forward to cover the shortage, and only wise counselors were able to convince Harry that the landlord's demands could not reasonably be met.

It now comes back to me that Harry and I combined to teach a class at the Charlestown Bunker Hill Community College. I was interested in the field of problem solving and Harry was interested in chess and another mental system that now escapes me. Harry arranged for



most of the students, largely chess players, to enroll in the course. We had about ten students, including one from MIT who was able to get credit there for attending our class, because it was a unique course dealing with mental ability. Unfortunately, the class only lasted one year, as I could not find the time to practice law and teach at the same time. I do regret, however, that we did not continue the course, as I believe it would have been increasingly popular.

Harry Lyman, Gambiteer

Steve Stepak

Originally published in the Boylston Chess Club blog

Harry Lyman helped me in my time of need. No surprise, he helped many a chess player on the edge. He was there to listen. His advice was succinct. He offered money to help, if needed. If you came to a tournament he would notice you, ask you if you are playing; if not why. Then he would offer to pay the entry fee for you to play, no more questions asked. He was a pioneer in the field of Chess and Education and led the Boylston Chess Club to sponsor women's futurities (round robins to offer FIDE titles).



Harry's characteristic gesture: he brings you into the chess world, ready to guide you through many complex problems and combinations. Harry Lyman made it his business to come from the North Shore every Tuesday to host the Boylston Chess Club Open House. People came from far and wide to chat, share chess stories and life. He was an open friend to all.

But Harry was also a notable player in his own right, remarkable for his adventurous, gambiteering style. Harry Lyman won the New England Open on several occasions. His rating at that time was estimated to be 2340. In 1957, Harry won the US Amateur Championship in Ashbury Park, NJ, with a perfect 6-0. The

following is one of Harry's signature chess adventures, against another local legend:

Harry Lyman

Harlow Daly

Boston

1941

Dutch [A90]

1. c4 e6 2. d4 f5 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 d5 5. Nh3 c6 6. b3 dxc4 7. bxc4 Bb4+ 8. Bd2 Qxd4 9. Bxb4 Qxa1 10. O-O Qe5 11. Bd6



11... Qa5 12. e4 fxe4 13. c5 Na6 14. Nd2 e5 15. Nxe4 Bf5 16. Nxf6+ gxf6 17. Qf3 Qxa2 18. Qxf5 Qf7 19. f4 Nc7 20. fxe5 Ne6 21. exf6 O-O-O 22. Ng5

1-0



All photos credit Steve Stepak



Games People Play

Price on Price

Alan Price

Alan Price (2129)

FM Arslan Otchiyev (2390)

Fairfield County Chess Club Quads

12.13.2014

Queen's Pawn Game [A45]

I'm something of a "seasonal" chess player. When the leaves turn brilliant colors and that New England chill is in the air, my mind hungers for chess tournaments. Unfortunately for me, my late autumn games tend to be rusty and full of errors. By January I hope to regain some sense of consistency and accuracy. My usual goal is to peak at the US Amateur Team Championship in Parsippany, NJ each February. Then the snows melt and my mind returns to things like hiking, golf, and the joys of being a soccer dad. This cycle certainly limits my chess progress but seems to fit with the rest of life. This game was played in the third round of the Fairfield Quads. My first round loss to jovial Joe Bihlmeyer was filled with poor decisions and rusty miscalculations. My second round win over Derek Chen helped me refocus on tactical accuracy, but did little to help me think strategically. My third round opponent, Arslan Otchiyev (rated 2390) would definitely push me to get rid of the rust in a hurry. What should I play as White? The psychology of this and other decisions was interesting throughout the game.

1. d4 Nf6

I play a wide variety of openings on both sides of the board. It's a reflection of my mood at the moment. 1. e4 usually means I'm ready for a slugfest battle. Sometimes, 1. d4 means I want to play strategically or solidly. In this instance I knew it meant I was tentative.

2. Nf3 g6 3. Nbd2 Bg7 4. e3

This is the real proof that I'm tentative. I believe in myself but I'm still intimidated by my opponent's rating. Masters are fully aware of the intimidation factor of their titles and often hope that the weaker players will fail to play their

best. If rating intimidation weren't in effect, I might play 4. e4. But for some reason I was psyched out of playing what I already know and like. Of course, from Black's point of view these thoughts are hilarious. Black has done nothing unusual or intimidating. He's just making moves and wondering why White is taking so much time thinking about this opening.

4... 0-0 5. Bd3 d5 6. 0-0 c5 7. b3

Again, tentative. 7. dxc5 is more my style.

7... cxd4 8. exd4 Nc6 9. a3 Ne4 10. Bb2 Nxd2

I was relieved by this move for the simple reason that it simplified things and made it possible for me to make some moves quickly. 10... Nc5!? was possible and certainly more annoying.

11. Qxd2 Qb6 12. Qf4

At this point I was happy with my game. I survived the opening and had arrived at a perfectly playable position. I was curious how Black would finish his development. Given the fast time control, he seemed to take a lot of time thinking about it.

12... Nd8!?

Is Nd8 a fantastic move? No. But it surprised me. I was trying to figure out the strategic reasons for this move.

13. Rae1 Qf6!?



As I think about it now, Black has wasted time. I should trade queens and push 15. c4 to take advantage of the space advantage and developmental lead. Simple chess, and life is slightly better for White. But psychology can make chess complicated. I began hallucinating



that if Black wants to trade queens, then I should keep queens on the board! And the comedy of second-rate decisions begins.

14. Qc7?! Ne6 15. Qg3 Nf4 16. Ne5 Nxd3 17. Qxd3 Bf5

In a few moves, Black has gained the bishop pair, caught up in development, and improved his game considerably. This is psychologically powerful because I waste a few moments kicking myself. Then I remember that my position is still solid, still quite playable, and by no means worse.

18. Qe2

Again, the timid choice. 18. Qb5 would have been more confident and interesting. 18... Rac8 (18... Bxc2? 19. Nd7) 19. c4 dxc4 20. bxc4 Rc7 21. d5 at least presents Black with some challenges to consider.

18... Rac8 19. c4 dxc4 20. bxc4 Qa6 21. g4!?

Now I add the psychology of time pressure. I'm way behind on time. I like the pawns on c4 and d4, but worry that it will take me a lot of precious time to figure out how to work them for continued pressure. So I search for a tactical solution that is more forcing and can be played quickly. It is the equivalent of an all-or-nothing or "Hail Mary" desperation pass. Of course, there was no reason on the board to feel desperation, only psychological reasons. 21. d5 is one example of a more levelheaded move.

21... Bxe5 22. Qxe5?!

The wheels are coming off as I cling to the Hail Mary strategy. Aren't the dark squares a pretty target for me? I've stopped calculating and I'm relying on overly optimistic intuition, aka "Fantasy Land." 22. gxf5 Bg7 23. fxg6 hxg6 24. Qxe7 Rxc4 and while White should have no ambitions of winning this position, it may be possible to draw. However, the prospect of defending a tricky endgame against a much higher rated player without much time on the clock... not appetizing.

22... Bd3!-/+

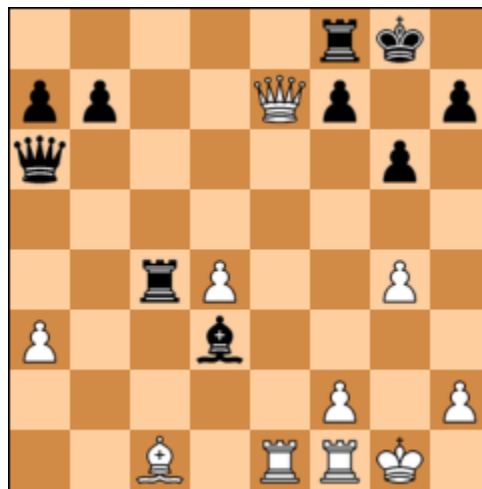
After taking time (on this and the prior move) to calculate and evaluate accurately, Black wins at least the exchange. And I can't find a way to make my attack work--because it doesn't work.

It's too easy for Black to play f6 and block the diagonal and squash my fantasy.

23. Qxe7 Rxc4?

Now I can never push the d4 pawn to release my bishop because my own king dies first. If 24. d5, Rxc4+ is punishing. But better is 23... Bxc4! leaving his back rank fully defended was strong enough to guarantee the win for Black.

24. Bc1!!



One last fantasy variation! Never give up! Never surrender! Fortunately, this is one threat slightly disguised within another threat. At this point, Black is quite confident that he's winning. But he's let down his guard a bit. He calculates that Black's threat of 25. Bh6 is too slow, and proceeds with his plan, overlooking the trap.

24... Rxd4??

24... Rfc8?! 25. Bh6 Qc6 26. d5 Rxc4+ 27. Kh1 Qxd5+ 28. f3 looks forcing and ferocious for Black, but then how does he deal with the back rank threats on e8?; 24... Rxc1 this is what I thought Black had to play. 25. Rxc1 Bxf1 26. Rxf1 and we've arrived at another playable endgame--albeit in terrible time pressure.

25. Qxf8+!!

And Black resigned immediately due to the forced 25... Kxf8 26. Bh6+, Kg8 27. Re8#. Although I played tentatively through much of the game, it was Black's overconfidence that gave me one more opportunity to be resourceful. Best of luck as you try to manage your emotions and psychology over the chessboard!

1-0



Boston Chess Congress 2015

Ivanov - Zierk

IM Steven Zierk

I came into this event not sure what to expect, as this was my first over-the-board tournament in over two years. Although this was a strong event, headlined by GMs Ivanov and Jimenez, I decided that my goal would be an ambitious one – to win the tournament. I knew I was capable of winning, and my results in the US Chess League were encouraging.

The first round was a warning that could have been much worse. Playing Black against NM Terrie, I reached a bad position out of the opening, and two overambitious attempts to turn the game around left me with serious difficulties. After a long defense, a hopeless middlegame turned into a pawn-down rook endgame. It was still lost, but there were defensive opportunities. At around one in the morning, long after every other game had finished, I salvaged an unlikely draw in a time scramble.

The lesson was learned, and although I continued to play ambitiously, I avoided overextending, and the next three rounds saw three wins, including a very satisfying victory in the Najdorf against IM Vigorito.

Going into the last round, Ivanov, Jimenez, FM Winer, and I were in a four-way tie for first with three and a half points out of four. In the fifth and final round, Winer-Jimenez reached an equal queen and bishop endgame, which I expected would peter out to a draw. Jimenez showed me how mistaken I was: he continued his characteristically energetic play in the endgame, and a little passivity by Winer was all it took for his position to be ripped apart by the Cuban GM.

This left only GM Ivanov and myself in contention for a share of first place with Jimenez. How that turned out can be seen below:

GM Alexander Ivanov (2603)

IM Steven Zierk (2543)

2015 Boston Chess Congress (5)

01.11.2015

French Defence [C11]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. c3 c5 6. f4 Nc6 7. Ndf3 Qb6 8. g3 Be7 9. Bh3 O-O 10. Ne2 f6?

Overly ambitious. Correct is first 10... cxd4 11. cxd4 (11. Nxd4 Nc5) 11... f6 12. Bxe6+ Kh8 13. exf6 Nxf6 14. Bxc8 Raxc8 15. O-O Ne4 and Black has good compensation for the pawn.

11. Bxe6+ Kh8 12. exf6 Bxf6

12... Nxf6 13. Bxc8 Raxc8 is similar to the line above, except that White can respond to cxd4 with Nxd4.

13. O-O Nxd4 14. Bxd5 Qd6 15. Bb3?!

Better was 15. Be4 Re8 16. Nd2! - This retreat keeps White safe, as he can defend the weak a8-h1 diagonal with his bishop.

15... Nxf3+ 16. Rxf3 Qc7 17. Be3?



Superficially it seems like White is well developed, but this is far from the truth. After Black's next move it becomes clear that White's center pieces serve only as targets. 17.g4!? presents White with ideas of Ng3 as well as Rh3!?. As the game soon demonstrates, White does not have time to worry about pawn structure.

17... b5! 18. Bd5



It is crucial for White not to give Black control of the a8-h1 diagonal. But now his pieces will be easy targets for attack as Black develops.

18... Rb8 19. Rf1 Nb6 20. Bf3 Bh3 21. Re1 Nc4 22. Bc1 Rfe8?!

More precise is 22... Rbd8 23. Qc2 Rfe8 when White, despite the extra pawn, is completely lost, e.g. 24. b3 Ne3 25. Qb2 Rd3.

23. Qd5



White finds a clever attempt to untangle. Developing one's queen into attack is not ideal, but it is much better than nothing.

23... Rbd8

23... g6 preventing White's intended queen maneuver, was probably stronger.

24. Qh5 Be6 25. Be4 Bg8 26. Qf3?

26. Bg6 was necessary.

26...Nd2?

Very good for Black, but much stronger was 26...Rxe4! -. Though I saw this during the game, earlier difficulties following ...f6 and an inability to calculate variations to the end made me hesitate. But this is crushing - control of the h1-a8 diagonal is worth far more than the exchange: 27. Qxe4 Bd5 28. Qf5 Bb7 29. Qe6 (29. h4 Qc6 30. Qh3 Qe4) 29... Nd6 30. h4 Qc6 31. Qh3 Nf5 and despite White's material advantage he is completely lost as Black will invade with Rd3 and Qf3 long before he can develop.

27. Bxd2 Rxd2 28. g4 Bh4 29. Ng3 Rf8

30. Rf1 Rxb2

30... Bc4 31. Rf2 Rxf2 32. Qxf2 Rxf4 is a strong alternative.

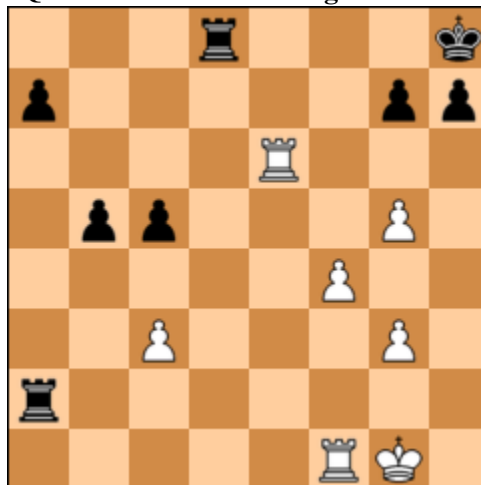
31. Bd5 Bxd5 32. Qxd5 Rd8 33. Rae1 Bxg3?!

I was worried about Nf5, g5 etc, but the bishop is still much stronger than the knight.

34. hxg3 Qc8 35. Qe6?!

This allows Black to simplify into a much better endgame. Better was Qf7 with counterplay.

35... Qxe6 36. Rxe6 Rxa2 37. g5?!



Trying to create counterplay by preventing ... h6, but it was much more important to attack the pawns immediately.

37... Kg8 38. Rfe1 Rd3 39. R6e3 Rxe3

40. Rxe3 b4 41. cxb4 cxb4 42. Kf1

42. Re8+ Kf7 43. Rb8 a5 hinders the pawns more, but Black is still winning comfortably.

42... Kf7 43. Ke1 Ra3

With the idea of cutting the king off at the d-file. ...a5 was also winning.

44. Re4 a5 45. g4 Rd3 46. Re5 a4 47. Ke2 Rh3 48. Ra5

White has many attempts here, but cannot stop a rapid promotion: 48. Re4 a3 49. Rxb4 a2

50. Ra4 Rh1 is a useful tactic in rook endgames.

48. Kd2 a3 49. Ra5 a2 50. Kc2 b3+ 51. Kb2 Rh1

48... a3 49. Kd1 b3 50. Rxa3 Rh1+

0-1

Steven Zierk is an International Master and current MIT student. He won the World Under 18 Championship in 2010.

This faceoff would be the climactic finish of the 2015 Boston Chess Congress, the fourth annual event at the Harborside Hyatt near Boston's Logan Airport.



Promoting to Queen

NM Chris Williams

On February 21st, the Boylston Chess Club held a Saturday G/60 Swiss tournament, as it so often does, and a bevy of strong players showed up to vie for top prizes. Among them was starlet Carissa Yip, rated 2150. After entering in the 2nd round, the little juggernaut proceeded to take wins over a strong A player and a strong expert, sealing her spot in a showdown with NM Chris Williams, a regular force at Boylston events. Her triumph in that final round would seal not only a share of first in the tournament but, when combined with points already in the pipeline from ongoing month-long events, her very first, historic, taste of 2200. That pivotal game is presented here, magnanimously annotated by her opponent.

NM Chris Williams (2309)

Carissa Yip (2150)

BCF Legends of Chess: Oscar Panno

02.21.2015

Sicilian – Dragon [B70]

It is important for me to congratulate my opponent in this game, not only for the result - she became the youngest female master in U.S. history - but for the way she did so, demonstrating good, practical execution in a winning position.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be2

This was a move chosen to get my opponent out of book. The game was a must-win for me (to earn first in the tournament) and it was necessary for me to be aggressive.

6... Bg7 7. Nb3 a6 8. g4

This rather forward move is actually an obscure Dragon variation known as the Nottingham attack. Despite its forward appearance, though, it puts Black in no immediate danger assuming

correct play, and structurally for the White side it is rather unsound.

8... b5 9. g5 Nfd7 10. f4 Bb7 11. Be3?

I remarked to my opponent after the game that this was an important mistake, leaving too many spots loose in my position. Better was the more cautious Bf3 which maintains a handle on both the center and my weakness on b2.

11... b4!



The most correct exploitation of my error. Forced to move my knight to d5, my position quickly turns to a desperate search for play.

12. Nd5 Nc6 13. Nd4 e6 14. Nxc6 Bxc6

15. Bd4 e5!



Refuting my try for play on the dark squares, this thematic move pushes forward the Black attack, and places the White king on even shakier ground, as you will soon see.

16. fxe5 Bxd5 17. exd5 Qxg5 18. e6



I thought this was my best shot, but I knew it would come down to the practical prospects of pulling out a draw from an inferior endgame.

18... Nf6 19. Bf3 O-O 20. Qd2

Provoking either 20... Qxd2 21. Kxd2 Ne4+ 22. Bxe4 Bxd4 or the game move, which I crucially underestimated.

20... Ne4!!



As I drew closer to the endgame that results from this sequence, I realized my prospects were bleaker than I had imagined. By the time the dust settles, the Black rooks will force through an advantage in short order.

21. Qxg5 Nxg5 22. Bxg7 Nxf3+ 23. Kf2 Kxg7 24. Kxf3 fxe6+

Though I saw this position coming, I did not realize just how hopeless it was. The rest is fundamental technique.

25. Ke4 exd5+ 26. Kxd5 Rf2 27. Rac1 Rc8 28. c4 bxc3 29. bxc3 Rxa2 30. Kxd6 Rd2+!

The use of mate threats to force the endgame's simplification are a fine finishing touch to a well-executed game.

31. Ke7 Rc4 32. Rhe1 Rxh2 33.

Re6 Rh3 34. Rxa6 Rxc3 35. Rca1 Rcd3 36.

Re6 Rhe3 37. Re1 Rxe1 38. Rxe1 Rf3 39.

Ke6 g5 40. Ra1 Kg6 41. Ke5 Rf5+ 42. Ke4 h5

43. Ra8 Rf4+ 44. Ke3 h4 45. Rh8 Kf5

46. Ra8 h3 47. Ra1 Kg4

0-1

Carissa Yip: Milestones to Master

Nathan Smolensky



Carissa Yip becoming the youngest female master in USCF history is a source of tremendous pride for the Massachusetts chess community. Let's take a look back at how she got there:

2003: Taking a crucial first step towards making master, Carissa Yip is born.

11/30/2010: After recently turning 7, Carissa Yip completes her first rated tournament, the Metrowest Chess Club Thanksgiving Swiss, and earns a provisional 945 USCF rating.

2012: With strong showings in the spring's Mass Open and Wachusett Club Championship, the 8-year-old's rating rockets over 150 points in two events, making her an A-player for the first time.

05/11/2013: Carissa defeats her first master, besting LM Hal Terrie at the BCC Grand Prix.

11/09/2013: Buoyed by another strong BCC GP showing, Carissa becomes the youngest female expert in USCF history, and in doing so earns her first Chess Horizons cover.

08/30/2014: Not yet 11, Carissa becomes the youngest girl ever to beat a GM in a tournament game, stunning GM Ivanov at the N.E. Open.

02/28/2015: A week after her pivotal win over NM Williams, Carissa seals her master rating. Of course, there are still more milestones to achieve and records to shatter. For this wunderkind, the sky is the limit.



Club Spotlight

Masters Face Off at BCC

FM Christopher Chase

The 2014 Boylston Chess Club Championship was a tense affair. With an average rating of 2270.8, it was one of the Club's strongest events in years, and with a full field of ten players it had the depth to boot. Reigning Mass Open champion Mika Brattain, whose star had been rising for some years, made his championship debut as the top seed. Among the others in the field were the 2013 champion (Charles Riordan), 2012 champion (Lawyer Times), and 2011 champion (myself). The stage was set for what would be a wild affair.

The first game I present was played in the first round. I didn't watch much of it at the time but I remember taking a look as I was leaving and thinking it as just a technical win for Lawyer Times, the 2012 tournament winner and perennial championship contender. But this tournament would not be so clean cut:

NM J. Timothy Sage (2214)

NM Lawyer Times (2302)

2014 Boylston Chess Club Championship

09.08.2014

Benoni [A70]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. Bd3 Bg7 8. h3 0-0 9. Nf3
The so-called Modern Variation of the Benoni.
9... Bd7!?

A rare approach and one that looks - at least to me - rather suspect.

10. a4

Or 10. 0-0, which after 10... b5 leads to great complication: 11. Nxb5 Nxe4 12. Re1 Nxf2 13. Kxf2 c4 14. Bxc4 Bxb5 15. Bxb5 Qb6+ 16. Be3 Qxb5

10... Qc7?

From my experience, the queen does not belong here. She always runs into either a bishop on f4

or the e5 and then d6 trick or just a rook on c1. 10... Na6 seems to be the main line here.

11. 0-0 c4 12. Bc2 Na6 13. Bf4

See, I told you! And a rook is soon coming to c1 - the dreaded double whammy.

13... Nb4

Another idea is 13... Nc5 14. e5 Nh5 15. exd6 Qb6 16. Be5 Bxe5 17. Nxe5 Qxb2 with crazy complications.

14. Rc1 a6 15. Bb1 Rfe8 16. Re1 Qc5

Don't like it. Black is taking far too many liberties with his queen.

17. Qd2

Or 17. b3!

17... Rec8

This has to be the wrong rook.

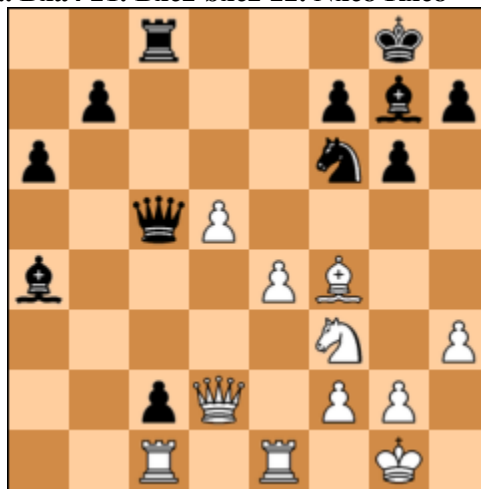
18. b3?!

This now doesn't work out so good. Better is 18. a5 with the idea of Be3, tying up Black's queenside. 18... Qxa5 falls to 19. Bxd6.

18... cxb3 19. Nb5 Nc2 20. Nxd6

20. Bxd6 Qc4 21. Na3 Qxa4

20... Bxa4 21. Bxc2 bxc2 22. Nxc8 Rxc8



And Black has plenty of compensation for the exchange. So, let's call it a dynamic equality. And in this dynamic situation another dynamic takes hold - Time Pressure.

23. Ne5?

23. Be5 is vastly better. White now starts to put his pieces on all the wrong squares.

23... Nh5 24. Nd3 Qd4 25. Bd6

A really bad move, self-pinning his knight can't help: 25. Be3 works: 25... Qxe4 26. Nc5 Qc4 27. Nxa4 Qxa4 28. d6 Nf6 29. Re2 Qd7 30. Rxc2 Rxc2 31. Qxc2.

25... Rc3 26. Re3



Another mistake allowing Black to continue compounding the pressure. 26. Qg5 and the complications around it are White's only chance.

26... Bh6 27. Be5 Rxd3 28. Rxd3 Qxe5?

28... Bxd2 just wins: 29. Rxd4 Bxc1 30. Rc4 f6 31. Rxa4 Ba3 32. Rc4 c1Q+ 33. Rxc1 Bxc1

29. Qxh6

Now White is even better, much better actually.

29... Nf4 30. Rd2?

Just losing, better is 30. Re3 holding the e-pawn.

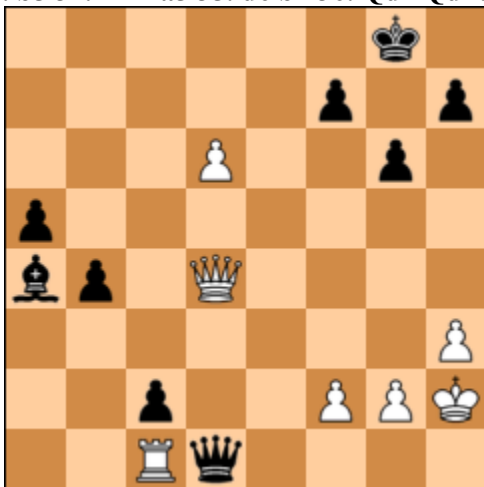
30... Qxe4

Well, now Black threatens both 31... Qxg2# and 31... Ne2 winning back an exchange.

31. Qg5 Ne2+ 32. Rxe2 Qxe2 33. Qf4

This is when I saw the game on my way out. I thought that all White had were some cheapo possibilities with perpetuals, futile efforts to delay an inevitable demise. Strange things happened in this game...

33... b5 34. Kh2 a5 35. d6 b4 36. Qd4 Qd1??



And just like that, with a careless miscalculation, the tone of the tournament changes dramatically. There were several winning lines, among them 36... Qb5 37. d7 Qxd7 38. Qxd7 Bxd7 39. Rxc2 b3 40. Rd2 Bf5 41. Rd8+ Kg7.

37. Rxd1 cxd1Q 38. Qxd1

1-0

The uphill climb was serious now for Lawyer, but he did his best to make his way back into contention. His recovery in the standings would need to involve points against one of the tournament's top seeds, Charles Riordan, who had also sputtered a bit in the early going:

FM Charles Riordan (2363)

NM Lawyer Times (2302)

2014 Boylston Chess Club Championship

09.22.2015

English [A34]

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 c5 3. g3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5.

Bg2 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Nc6 7. Rb1 e5 8. Qa4 Qc7 9.

Bxc6+!?

Enterprising, if nothing else. White hopes to win one or more of Black's c-pawns - that is, before he gets mated himself.

9...bxc6

I've actually seen QxQ which strikes me as chess suicide.

10. Nf3 Bd6

The more natural-looking 10...Be7 loses to 11. Nxe5

11. d3 0-0 12. Ng5 Be7?

12...f5 right away is better. I can only assume that Lawyer was worried about 13. Qc4+ and 14. Ne6 but that maneuver would cost White a lot of time after 14...BxN 15. QxB Rae1.

13. Be3 Bxg5

Now how is Black going to defend his c-pawn?

14. Bxg5 Be6 15. c4 f5 16. Qa3? 16. Be3 is vastly better as it wins the c-pawn without allowing Black's counterplay against this bishop.

16... f4

And now, White has to constantly worry about getting his bishop trapped.



17. Qxc5



Winning a somewhat meaningless pawn, at least White has something for all his troubles. These kinds of position are hard to understand and hard to play.

17... Rae8 18. gxf4 exf4 19. e4

On the surface this looks quite dubious - opening lines against your own king, after all - but the threat of 19... Rf5. had to be dealt with. Another idea is 19. Rg1.

19... fxe3 20. Bxe3 Rf3

The computer likes 20... Rf5 much better with a sample line going 21. Qb4 c5 22. Qc3 Rd8 with compensation for the pawn.

21. Qb4

White is better served by running for his life to the queenside with 21. Kd2. As is, White's queen just gets in the way on d2.

21... Bf7 22. Qd2 Bh5

Now the threat is 23... Qf4, which is hard to deal with.



23. h4

Of all the bad moves to make here, White makes the one that loses right away.

23... Rfxe3+

fxe3 loses on the spot to 24... Qg3+: either through the instant 25. Kf1 Rf8 or the materialistic flourish 25. Qf2 Rxe3 26. Kf1 Rf3.

0 – 1

The turmoil among the other top boards would prove good news for me. While I usually start the Championship slowly with a defeat or two and then frantically try to catch up, this year

was different. Probably due to the fact that September was a quieter month than usual for me, I avoided those early round setbacks, and managed to work my way close to the event's end unbeaten.

I was not alone in this regard. Brattain, the accomplished youngster, lived up to the hype and delivered a strong performance throughout. The third game I present was the much expected clash of the tournament leaders in the 7th round. As could be expected in this tournament, it was hardly a well-played game, but an exciting one nonetheless.

FM Christopher Chase (2403)

FM Mika Brattain (2445)

**2014 Boylston Chess Club Championship
10.27.2014**

1. e4 d6 2. d3!?

Not in the mood for any theoretical discussions, I craftily (!?) maneuverer towards a King's Indian Attack position.

2... g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. g3 c5 5. Bg2 Nc6 6. 0-0 Nf6 7. Re1 Bg4 8. h3 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Nd7 10. c3 0-0 11. Bg2 Rb8 12. a4 a6 13. Be3 Qc7

I must admit that I was not impressed with Black's queenside demonstration. As it turned out, I should have been more respectful.

14. d4 Rfc8 15. d5 Na5 16. Nd2 c4 17. Bf1 b5 18. axb5 axb5 19. h4



With all my opponent's pieces on the queenside, I thought it might be a good to give him something to think about elsewhere.



19... Ra8 20. h5 Nc5 21. hxc6 hxg6 22. Qg4

What follows is rather muddled, with White making a combination of real and imagined threats against Black's king.

22...Nab3 23. Rxa8 Rxa8 24. Nf3 Nd7

25. Qh3?!

Not sure why this square rather than the more natural h4.

25... Nf6

Getting a little nervous, Black rushes a piece for defense. The computer gives an interesting line which illustrates White's attacking chances: 25... Nbc5 26. Bxc5 Nxc5 27. Ng5 Kf8 28. Qh7 Ra2 29. Nxf7 Kxf7 30. Re3 Nd7 31. Rf3+ Nf6 32. Bh3 Qa7 33. Be6+ Ke8 34. Qxg6+ Kd8 35. Qxg7 with a winning assault.

26. Qh4 Ra1?

26... Ra2 Trying to tie White down to his weaknesses is better: 27. Re2 Ra1 28. Nd4 Nxd4 29. Bxd4 Rb1 30. e5 dxe5 31. Bxe5 Qb7 offers essential equality.

27. Rxa1 Nxa1 28. Nd4

Now that White's queenside has been secured, resources can be focused more completely on attacking Black's king.

28... Qb7 29. Bh6

Better is 29. Nc6 Qc7 30. Be2 Nb3 31. Kg2 Na5 32. Nd4 Qb8 33. Bd1 with a small advantage as Black has trouble finding a good home.

29... Nb3 30. Bxg7 Kxg7 31. Nc6 Nc5

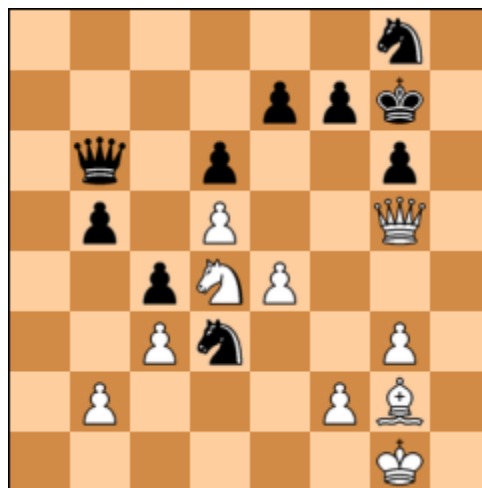
31... e5! turns the tables.

32. Bg2 Nd3 33. Qg5 Qb6?

Letting White catch his breath. 33... Nxb2 is better with Black significantly better. In time pressure to get to the first time control, I just thought that 34. e5 was better than it is but after 34. e5 dxe5 35. Qxe5 Nd3 36. Qd4 Qd7 White has no comp for the pawn.

34. Nd4 Ng8

Now 34... Nxb2 loses to 35. Nf5+ Kf8 36. Qh6+ Ke8 37. Qh8+ Kd7 38. Nd4.



35. Qd2 Nc5 36. Qe3 Qa5 37. Bf1 Nf6 38. f3 Ncd7 39. Qd2 Qb6 40. Kg2 Ne5 41. Be2 Qc5 42. g4

Now with a space advantage and impressive knight on d4, White has the edge.

42... Ned7 43. g5 Ng8

43... Ne8 offers the knight at least a future.

44. f4 Nf8 45. Bg4

45. f5 right is better, e.g. 45... Nh7 46. fxg6 Kxg6 47. Qf4 Kg7 48. g6! +-

45... Qb6 46. f5 Qc5 47. Qf2 b4 48. cxb4

Played with the ensuing combination in mind but it was not as good as hoped. On the other hand, fxg6 wins on the spot: 48...Kxg6 49. Bh5+ Kxh5 50. Qxf7+ Kxg5 51. Qf5+ Kh6 52. Qxf8+ Kh5 53. Qf5+ Kh6 54. Qh3+ Kg6 55. Qg4+ Kf7 56. Ne6 and there is no good defense to Qg7+, Qf8+ and Qd8#

48... Qxb4 49. Nc6 Qb3 50. Nxe7 Qd3

White is still winning but now Black's active queen makes it harder.

51. f6+ Kh8 52. Bf3? 52. Qe2!

Pushes Black back as a queen exchange leads to a lost endgame.

52... Nh7 53. Kg3 Nxe5 54. Qh2+ Nh7

The score sheet ends here and all I remember is that there was a fierce time scramble ending in a draw offer by White which was accepted. Weeks later, Brattain and I concluded our unbeaten runs to share the tournament crown, and this chaotic, muddled game would be both the deciding match and the tournament's epitome.

½ - ½



Good to Be King

GM Alexander Ivanov

Fresh off his 21st Massachusetts Open championship, local top dog Alexander Ivanov discusses a few key winter wins.

GM Alexander Ivanov (2588)

FM Steven Winer (2439)

Pillsbury Memorial (4)

12.14.2014

Sicilian, Scheveningen – Keres Attack [B81]

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

5. Nc3 a6 6. h3

This move has come into fashion lately.

6... e6

Alternatives are 6... e5 or 6... g6

7. g4 Be7

7... d5 8. exd5 (8. Nde2) 8... Nxd5 9. Nde2

8. Bg2

8. Be3?! allows d5 9. e5 (9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxd5 Qxd5 11. Qf3 =) 9... Nfd7 10. f4 Bh4+ ∞ and the King will have to move after the obvious 8. g5 Nfd7. White gets a Keres attack lines where h3 may be a waste of a tempo, but still this turns out to be a popular line. A few examples: 9. Be3 (9. h4) 9... Nc6 (9... Bxg5?! 10. Nxe6! fxe6 11. Qh5+ g6 12. Qxg5±) 10. h4 O-O 11. Be2 Nxd4 (11... Nb6 12. f4 d5 13. h5 e5 14. h6 g6 15. Nxc6 bxc6 16. fxe5 Bxg5 17. Bxg5 Qxg5 18. Qd4 Qg3+ 19. Kd1 Nc4 20. e6 Qe5 21. Qxe5 Nxe5 22. exd5 fxe6 23. d6 Nf7 24. d7 Bxd7 25. Ne4 a5 26. Ke1 Rad8 27. Rd1 Be8 28. Rxd8 Rxd8 29. Rh3 e5 30. Ra3 Nxe6 31. Rxa5 Bf5 32. Bc4+ Kg7 33. Ra7+ Rd7 34. Rxd7+ Bxd7 35. a4 Nf5 36. Nc5 Be8 37. Be6 Nd4 38. c3 1-0, Negi – Sarkar, Arlington 2013) 12. Qxd4 b5 13. O-O-O Qa5 14. a3 Ne5 15. Qb6 Qxb6 16. Bxb6 Ng6 17. Bc7 Nxe4 18. Bxd6 Ng6 19. Bxe7 Nxe7 20. Rh2 Ra7 21. Rdh1 h6 22. gxh6 g6 23. e5 Bb7 24. Rd1 Ba8 25. Rd6 Nf5 26. Rb6 Rc8 27. Bd3 Nd4 28. f4 Bc6 29. Be4 Be8 1-0, Topalov – Gelfand.

8... Nfd7 9. Be3 Nc6 (9... O-O) 10. Qe2

During the game I didn't know that this is White's most popular option (10. O-O g5!? ∞)

10... O-O 11. O-O-O Nxd4 12. Bxd4 b5 13. e5

It seems logical to grab some space in the center. (13. f4 Bb7 ∞ (13... b4 14. e5!))

13... d5

Unlike White, who spent half of the allotted time up by this point, Black played very quickly.

Turns out this is all still theory.

14. Qe3

The forced line 14. Nxd5 exd5 15. Bxd5 Rb8 ∞ looked quite unclear to me. The database check shows that Black is OK: 16. Ba7 Rb7 17. Bxb7 Bxb7 18. Rhe1 Qc7 (18... Re8 =) 19. Kb1 (19. e6 Nf6 =) 19... Nc5 20. Bxc5 Qxc5 21. f4 Bd5 22. Qe3 Qc6 23. f5 Bh4 24. Re2 h6 25. b3 Bf3 26. Rd6 Qa8 27. Rh2 Re8 28. Qf4 Bg5 29. Qd4 Be7 30. Rd7 Qb8 31. Qc3 Ba3 32. e6 Rc8 33. exf7+ Kf8 34. Qa5 Be7 35. Qe1 Bc5 36. f6 g5 37. Rhd2 Bc6 38. Re7 Qf4 39. Qe6 Qf1+ 40. Kb2 Ba3+ 41. Kxa3 Qc1+ 42. Kb4 Qxd2+ 43. c3 a5+ 44. Kxa5 Qxc3+ 45. Ka6 Ra8+ 46. Kb6 Qd4+ 47. Kc7 Qd8+ 48. Kxc6 Ra6+ 49. Kc5 Rxe6 50. Rxe6 Qa5 51. Re7 Qxa2 0-1, Movsesian – Ponomarev, Donostia 2009

14... Bb7

Black could try 14... b4!? 15. Na4 (15. Ne2?! a5 16. f4 Ba6; 15. Nxd5 exd5 16. Bxd5 Rb8 ∞) Qa5 16. b3 Bb7 17. Kb1 Bc6 18. Nb6 Rab8 =

15. Kb1 Qc7 16. f4 Rfc8 17. Rd2 Bc5

Sharper is 17... b4!? 18. Ne2 a5 19. f5 a4 20. Nf4 Ra6 ∞

18. Ne2 a5 19. Bxc5

White is playing it safe as well. I rejected 19. f5 Re8!?, which would leave the pawn on e5 weak.

19... Qxc5



19... Nxc5 20. Nd4 b4 21. Nb5!? Qb6 22. Nd6 ±



looks unpleasant.

20. Qxc5

20. Nd4 Nb6 21. b3?! Qb4 ♖ (threatening Nc4).

20... Nxc5 21. Re1

21. Nd4!? Ne4 (21... Ba6!?) 22. Bxe4 dxe4 23. Re1 Rc5 24. Nb3! ♚

21... b4 22. Nd4 Ba6

22... Ra6 23. Nb5 ∞

23. f5 Rab8

23... a4 24. fxe6 fxe6 25. Nxe6 Nxe6 26. Bxd5

24. b3

Immediate 24. h4 is possible since Na4? loses after 25. fxe6 +-)

24... Rb6 25. h4 a4 26. g5!? g6?!

Only after this move White is clearly better.

26... Ra8!? ∞

27. fxe6

27. f6 Ra8 ∞

27... fxe6 28. Rf2 axb3?!

Trading the Pawns helps White by relieving the worry of a possible a4-a3 advance.

29. axb3 Re8 30. Rf6 Nd7?

This mistake allows White to transpose to a technically winning ending. 30... Bb7 ♚

31. Rxe6 Rxe6 32. Nxe6 Rxe6 33. Bxd5 Kf7

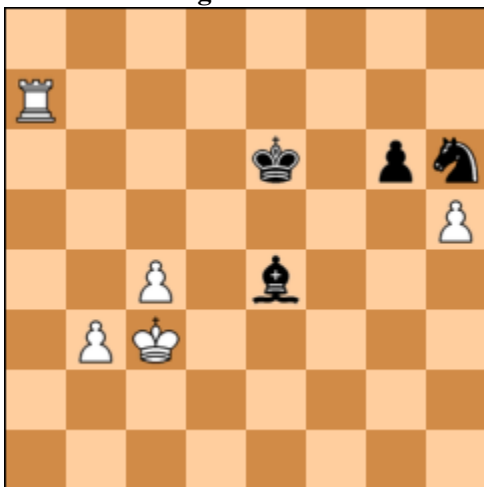
34. Re4 ± Ke7 35. Bxe6 Kxe6 36. Rxb4 Bf1

37. Kb2

I had three minutes left here for the rest of the game (plus delay), but managed not to mess up this time.

37... Nxe5 38. Rb7 Nf7 39. c4 Bg2 40. Ra7

Be4 41. Kc3 h5 42. gxh6 Nxh6 43. h5! +-



Trading away the pawn on g6, Black's last hope.

43... Ng4

43... gxh5 44. Ra6+ +-

44. Ra6+ Kf7 45. hxc6+ Bxc6 46. Kd4 Bf5

47. b4 Kc7 48. b5 Kd7 49. Ra7+ Kc8 50. c5

Nh2 51. c6 Nf3+ 52. Kc5 Ne5 53. Ra8+

Black resigned because of 53... Kc7 54. b6#

1-0

GM Alexander Ivanov (2594)

IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat (2390)

41st Annual Eastern Open (4)

12.28.2014

Caro-Kann Defense [B12]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. h4 h5 5. c4 e6

6. Nc3 Ne7

Black's most popular choice in this position, preparing to capture on d5 with the knight.

7. Nge2 Nd7

There's quite a few games played with the sharper 7... dxc4

8. Ng3 Bg6 9. a3

During my preparation I saw the following game: 9. Bg5 f6 10. exf6 gxf6 11. Be3 Qb6

12. Qd2 O-O-O 13. Rc1 Kb8 14. Be2 Qa5

15. O-O e5 16. Rfd1 Bg7 17. cxd5 Nxd5

18. Nxd5 Qxd2 19. Rxd2 cxd5 20. dxe5 Nxe5

21. Bf4 Bf8 22. Rcd1 Bf7 23. Ne4 Be7 24. Nc3

Bb4 25. Bf3 Bxc3 26. bxc3 Kc7 27. Bxd5 Rxd5

28. Rxd5 Bxd5 29. Rxd5 Re8 30. c4 Kc6 31.

Bxe5 fxe5 32. Kf1 a6 33. a4 b6 34. Ke2 a5 35.

g3 Re6 36. Ke3 Re8 37. Ke4 Rf8 38. Ke3 Re8

39. f3 Rg8 40. Kf2 Re8 41. g4 Rf8 42. Kg3

hxc4 43. fxg4 e4 44. g5 Rf3+ 45. Kg4 Rc3 46.

Rd4 e3 47. Re4 Kd6 48. g6 e2 49. Rxe2 Rxc4+

50. Kg5 1-0, Xiong - Enkhbat, 2014. 9.a3 may

save White a useful tempo compared to 9.Bg5 in case Black chooses plans with f6, because

Bc1 will get to e3 or f4 in one move.

9... dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nb6

10... c5!? 11. dxc5 Nxe5 12. Bb5+ N7c6 13. Bf4

Nd3+ 14. Bxd3 Qxd3 15. Qxd3 Bxd3 16. O-O-

O O-O-O 17. b4 a5 ∞

11. Be2

Now Black has several ways to continue the development. His next move is not the best one, as it turned out it was based on a miscalculation.

11... Nf5?!



11... Ned5 12. Nxh5!?

11... Nbd5 12. Bxh5!? Bxh5 13. Nxh5 Nf5
14. g4! Nxc3 (14... Nxh4? 15. Nxd5 exd5
16. Qb3 ±) 15. bxc3 Nxh4 16. f3!? Ng6 17. Kf2
c5 18. Be3 ±)

12. Nxf5 Bxf5 13. Bxh5 Be7

Here Black noticed that the straightforward
13... g6 14. Bf3 Rxh4 15. Rxh4 Qxh4 loses after
16. g4! +-

14. g3 ±



Black has some compensation for the Pawn, but probably not enough.

14... Nd5

14... Qd7 15. Bf3 O-O-O 16. Be3 Nc4 17. Qe2
Nxe3 18. fxe3 ±

15. Bf3 Nxc3 16. bxc3 Qa5 17. Qd2

I didn't want to allow Bd3 in case of 17.Bd2 or
17.Qb3.

17... O-O-O

17... Qb5 18. a4 Qc4 19. Ba3!? Qxa4 20. Qb2
Qc2 21. Qxc2 Bxc2 ±)

18. O-O Bh3

18... f6 19. exf6 gxf6 20. Qe3!? ±

19. Re1 g5 20. hxc5

20. Qb2!? Rxd4 21. Bxg5+-

20... Rdg8

20... Rhg8, which my opponent suggested in the
post-mortem, can be met with 21. Qb2± with the
idea of Rxd4 22. Bxc6! bxc6 23. Rb1+-

21. c4 Qb6?!

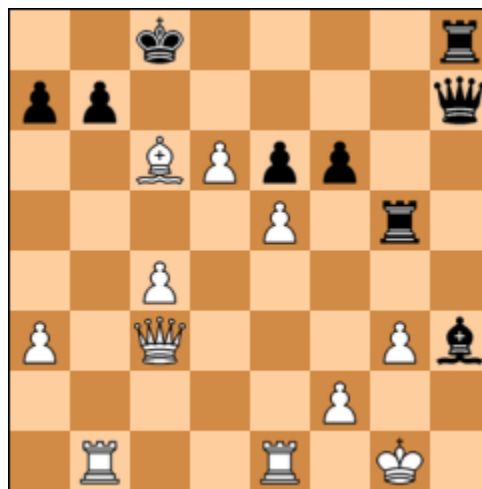
Objectively this is not the best, but who would
want to go into the ending down a pawn after
21... Qxd2 22. Bxd2 Bxg5±?

22. Qc3± Bxg5 23. Bxg5 Rxg5 24. Rab1 Qc7

25. d5!+- f6 26. d6 Qh7

Black prepares a counter, but White strikes first.

27. Bxc6!



27... Bf5

27... b6 28. c5 Rxg3+ 29. fxc3 (29. Qxg3 Rg8
30. d7+ Kd8 31. cxb6 Rxg3+ 32. fxc3+-) 29...
Bf5 30. cxb6 Qh2+ 31. Kf1 Bh3+ 32. Bg2+! +-

28. Bxb7+ Kd7 29. Bc6+!

The computer sees a less spectacular way to
win: 29. Bg2 Bxb1 30. Qb3+ +-. Still, I was
pleased to sacrifice the Bishop on c6 for the
second time in the game.

29... Kxc6 30. Qf3+ Be4

Taking the Bishop leads to a checkmate: 30...
Kc5 31. Rb5+ Kxc4 32. Qc6+ +-

(30... Kd7 31. Rb7+ +-)

31. Qxe4+ Qxe4 32. Rxe4 Rgh5 33. Rb2

Houdini's first choice. Less clear is 33. Rh4
Rxh4 34. gxh4 Rxh4 35. Rd1

Kd7 36. c5 Rc4±

**33... fxe5 34. Rd2 Rd8 35. Rh4 Rg5 36. Rh7
Rxd6 37. Rxd6+ Kxd6 38. Rxa7**

The ending is an easy win for White.

**38... Kc5 39. Rc7+ Kd6 40. Rb7 Kc5 41. a4
Kxc4 42. Rb5 Kd4 43. a5 Rg8 44. a6 Ra8 45.
Ra5 Ra7 46. Kg2 Ke4 47. f3+ Kd4 48. g4 Kd3
49. Kg3 Kd4 50. g5 Kc4 51. Kg4 Kd4 52. g6**

1-0

*This game was awarded the Eastern Open's
Best Game Prize.*



Kingshakers

Akiba Rubinstein: Total Chess

NM Farzad Abdi

Looking back on some of history's great players, we have an unfortunate tendency to pigeonhole based upon their most prominent aspects. Ironically, those so remarkable in one portion of the game tend to have that overshadow their other merits. In the case of Akiba Rubinstein, an otherworldly technical prowess is the aspect most etched in collective memory, and that undersells one of the most complete chess players of his era or any other.

Sadly, the other aspect of Rubinstein which clouds our assessment of him is his later life, mired in the tragedy of mental breakdown and illness. It leads us to perceive him lamenting what could have been rather than appreciating just how truly great he was.

The Polish-born Rubinstein learned the game aged 16 – he was born in 1880 - and came to the fore of world chess shortly after the turn of the century. He demonstrated in this era a grasp of strategy far beyond his time, adhering to crucial principles of play which would not be formalized by Nimzowitsch until years later. Adding to this, his tactical play was superb and his endgame technique exemplary. But perhaps most important of all, he knew how to combine all these attributes into a complete battle plan, turning early strategic developments into blueprints for masterful endgame conversions or, given the opportunity, brilliant exploitations of tactical possibilities.

In the era just before the First World War, one could argue – and many do – that he stood alone as the world's best, and in the next scores I present he displayed his dominance against a pair of all-timers.

In the following game, Rubinstein, facing future world champion Alexander Alekhine with the black pieces, displays a complete strategic vision, beginning with the laying of a defensive groundwork and dominance of key squares, all of which then flow comfortably into a devastating counterattack when his opponent presents the opportunity through a bit of suboptimal play.

Alexander Alekhine
Akiba Rubinstein
All-Russian Masters
Vilnius, Russia¹
1912
Ruy Lopez [C83]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5 Be6 9. c3 Be7 10. Nbd2 Nc5 11. Bc2 Bg4 12. h3 Bh5 13. Qe1 Ne6 14. Nh2?! Bg6!

After a rather ordinary opening sequence, Rubinstein solidifies his position by intercepting any thoughts of g4-f4-f5 winning a piece for White. Alekhine's Nh2 now looks backwards and ineffective.

15. Bxg6 fxg6!



A crucial move, and one which illustrates Rubinstein's remarkable foresight. Looking at first awkward and weakening, fg actually establishes a route for immediate defensive

¹ Later Lithuania



counterplay, and continues on the theme of suppressing White's dangerous f-pawn. Rubinstein's prophylactic play and blocking technique are years ahead of his time.

16. Nb3

Or 16.f4 d4!

16... g5! 17. Be3 O-O 18. Nf3 Qd7 19. Qd2??



Frustrated by Rubinstein's negation of his attacking prospects, Alekhine seems to almost dare Rubinstein to take on a sound sacrifice, underestimating the potent attack coming.

19... Rxf3! 20. gxf3 Nxe5 21. Qe2 Rf8

The fruits of Rubinstein's masterful strategy can be seen in the total activity of his pieces, and in his opponent's inability to resist the pressure. Pieces excellently positioned to blockade and defend seamlessly become an insurmountable attacking force.

22. Nd2 Ng6

Rubinstein overwhelms his opponent the same way he held his earlier defensive stance, with a staunch overprotection of the critical f4 square. It is a principle that would be considered revolutionary when Nimzowitsch formalized it years later.

23. Rfe1 Bd6 24. f4 Nexf4 25. Qf1 Nxf3+

26. Kh1 g4

And now even f3 will be off limits for White. The squeeze is inevitable, and the game will quickly be put away.

27. Qe2 Qf5

And White resigns.

0-1

It is worth noting that at this time, Rubinstein defeating Alekhine was no great upset. Though certainly an elite player, and named one of the five original grandmasters two years later, Alekhine would not be world champion himself for 15 years. His Polish rival, on the other hand, was already waiting in the wings for a match for the crown, which he had earned magnificently a few years prior in a remarkable display of calculation and technique against the reigning Emanuel Lasker:

Akiba Rubinstein

Emanuel Lasker

St. Petersburg

02.15.1909

QGD – Tarrasch [D32]

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Bg5 c5 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Nc3 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Nc6 8. e3 Be7 9. Bb5 Bd7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. Nxd5 Bxd4 12. exd4 Qg5

Thinking himself the superior tactician, Lasker zealously goes for a quick knockout. The game is anything but.

13. Bxc6!

An elegant maneuver by Rubinstein, and a very dangerous one if not for his clear tactical foresight.

13... Bxc6 14. Ne3 O-O-O 15. O-O Rhe8

16. Rc1



A masterful parry to the threat of capture on e3!



16... Rxe3 17. Rxc6+ bxc6 18. Qc1! Rxd4

19. fxex3 Rd7 20. Qxc6+ Kd8 21. Rf4

Akiba makes preparations for an advantageous endgame through forcing moves. The counter 21... Rd1+ is impotent, e.g. 22. Kf2 Rd2+ 23. Ke1 Qxg2 24. Rd4!!

21... f5 22. Qc5 Qe7 23. Qxe7+ Kxe7 24. Rxf5 Rd1+ 25. Kf2 Rd2+ 26. Kf3 Rxb2 27. Ra5 Rb7

Rubinstein has achieved his desired endgame. The rest is world-class technique, and against one of history's great endgame players, no less.

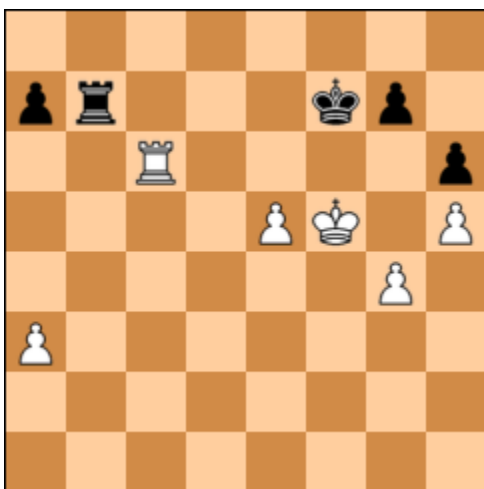
28. Ra6!

Constricting Black's king, so that White can reconfigure his pawns undisturbed.

28... Kf8 29. e4 Rc7 30. h4 Kf7 31. g4 Kf8

32. Kf4 Ke7 33. h5 h6 34. Kf5 Kf7 35. e5 Rb7

36. Rd6 Ke7 37. Ra6 Kf7 38. Rd6 Kf8 39. Rc6 Kf7 40. a3 ☹



1-0

But alas, the match Rubinstein had rightfully earned was not to be. Delayed for years through Lasker's demand of Rubinstein to raise funds adequate to hold a match, it was eventually scheduled for October of 1914.

By that time, though, war had broken out in Europe, and the match was not to be rescheduled again. Following the war, Rubinstein's play would falter, though he did still manage occasional triumphs at major events. By the

early 1930's, the grandmaster had broken down mentally and faded from tournament play. He spent a good deal of the remainder of his life in a sanatorium, and died in 1961.

But the tragedy of his tale should not distract us from the magnificence of Rubinstein as a player. And to that point, there is one aspect of his play that I have not discussed: his ability to concoct wild combinations and tactical flourishes to rival any Romantic master. As it has already been written about in depth, I present now without comment Rubinstein's Immortal:

Georg Rotlewi

Akiba Rubinstein

Lodz

12.26.1907

QGD – Tarrasch [D32]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6

6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.a3 a6 8.b4 Bd6 9.Bb2 O-O

10.Qd2 Qe7 11.Bd3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 b5 13.Bd3

Rd8 14.Qe2 Bb7 15.O-O Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5

17.f4 Bc7 18.e4 Rac8 19.e5 Bb6+ 20.Kh1 Ng4

21.Be4 Qh4 22.g3 Rxc3 23.gxh4 Rd2 24.Qxd2

Bxe4+ 25.Qg2 Rh3

0-1





Showtime

NM Carissa Yip

It was Friday night at April 17, 2015. My mom took me to Andover Chess Club that is a new chess club in Andover formed this year by Michael Henroid.

It was a special night for me and chess kids in Andover. A group of around 50 people gathered in Faith Lutheran Church at 360 S. Main Street. They were waiting to see me present my game against a girl at the World Youth Chess Championships, a fun and illustrative game that I thought would be good to highlight. I would follow it up with a simul.

We walked into a small room with bright lighting, chairs near the front of the room facing a large presentation board, and tables put together so they would form a U. My mom stood near the back and chatted with the other parents while I walked up to the front of the room to the large presentation chess board. The kids were sitting in chairs near the board. I presented my game against Lydia Czarnecka. While I presented my game, my dad arrived and sat in the audience.



Carissa Yip
Lydia Czarnecka
2013 World Youth – Girls U10
12.23.2013
Sicilian Dragon - Yugoslav [B76]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 O-O 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. O-O d5 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. Bd4 Nxc3 13. Qxc3 Bxd4 14. Rxd4 Qb6 15. h4 Rb8 16. h5 Be6 17. hxc6 fxc6 18. Re4 Rf6 19. Rxe6 Rxe6 20. Bc4 c5 21. Qe5



21... h5 22. Qxe6+ Qxe6 23. Bxe6+ Kg7 24. b3 Rb6 25. Bc4 Kf6 26. Kd2 e5 27. Ke3 Rd6 28. Rh4 Kf5 29. Bd3+ Kf6 30. Ra4 Rd7 31. Ra6+ Kg7 32. Rxc6+ Kf7 33. Rh6

1-0

Finally it was time for the simul. The kids sat down in chairs in front of chess boards that were placed on the table. A few parents also tried their luck against me. There were 31 boards. I played White with alternating 1. e4, and 1. d4. The simul took more than two and a half hours to complete. I won 30 games and drew one.



I was a little bit nervous about the presentation, but overall it was a fun night for me and the kids.



Solutions (problems on p. 5)

1. L'Ami - Vachier, Pokerstars, 2014
1... Bxd5! 2. exd5 g3
2. 1... Rxa3!!
(2. Rxa3 Qg1+ 3. Bxg1 Rxd1+)
(2. Bxa3 Qg1+ 3. Rxd1 Rxd1#)
3. Johansen - Risgaard, Aars, 1984
1... Qh5! 2. Kxg3 Qh4+ 3. Kf3 Qe4+
4. Kg3 Qg4+ 5. Kh2 Nh4 6. Rg1 Nf3+
7. Kh1 Qh3#
4. 1. Re6!!
(1... Bxe6 2. Qf6+ Kg8 3. Qg7#)
(1... Qxe6 2. Qf8+ Kg8 3. Qf6+)
5. 1. Qe5!!
(1... Nfxe5 2. Nxd6+ Kd7 3. Nd5+ Ke6
4. Nc7+ Ke7 5. Nf5+ Kf7 6. Rg7#)
(1... Ndx5 2. Nxf6+ Ke7 3. Nf5+ Ke6
4. Ng7+ Ke7 5. Ra7+ Rd7 6. Nd5+ Kd8
7. Ra8#)

Answers to Chess Trivia

1. There are three. **Wilhelm Steinitz** (five times between 1889 and 1897, but not 1886, when he was still a citizen of Austria-Hungary), **Frank Marshall** (1907), and **Bobby Fischer** (1972).
2. **1. Na3.** Perhaps better known as the Durkin Opening or Durkin Attack, after an American player willing to put his name behind it, this moniker comes from the chemical symbol for Sodium, Na. It's not especially good.
3. **Norma.** A Vincenzo Bellini – penned tragedy first performed in 1831, the October 21st, 1858 performance at Paris' Italian Opera House featured distracted performers attempting to make sense of the chatter emanating from the Duke of Brunswick's private box.

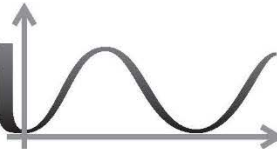
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Places to Play

This is a partial overview of active clubs in and around Massachusetts. Most time controls listed feature five second delay. Registration may end as early as 15 minutes prior to event start. For full details and club calendars, please visit club site or www.masschess.org. To add a listing for your club in future issues, please contact info@masschess.org.

Metro West Chess Club – 117 E. Central St. (Rt. 135), Natick, MA
Regular Events Tuesdays, 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., G/60 (1 rd / wk)
www.MetroWestChess.org

Boylston Chess Club – 40 Norris St., Cambridge, MA
Regular Events:
Thursdays, 7:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M., 40/90 SD/20 (1 rd / wk)
Saturdays, 10:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M., G/60
Fridays, 7:30 P.M., G/5
www.BoylstonChessClub.org (617) 629 - 3933

Waltham Chess Club – 404 Wyman St., Waltham, MA
Regular Events Fridays, 7:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M., Various Controls:
G/5, G/10, G/20, G/30
www.WalthamChessClub.org (781) 790 - 1033

Wachusett Chess Club – C159, McKay Campus School,
Fitchburg State Univ., Fitchburg, MA
Regular Events Wednesdays, 7:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M., G/100 (1 rd / wk)
www.WachusettChess.org (978) 345 – 5011

Sven Brask Chess Club – 16 E. Bacon St., Plainville, MA
Regular Events Wednesdays, 7:30 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., 40/90, SD/20 (1 rd / wk)
www.Svenbraskcc.org (508) 339 – 6850

Billerica Chess Club – 25 Concord Rd., Billerica, MA
Regular Events Fridays, 7:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M., G/90 (1 rd / wk)
For further inquiries contact arthur978@comcast.net

Chess Master Connections – 201 Wayland Sq., Providence, RI
Regular Events:
Thursdays, 7:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M., G/70 inc. 20 (1 rd / wk)
Fridays, 7:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., G/8
Saturdays, 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., G/30
www.ChessMasterConnections.org (401) 497 - 8366

Andover Chess Club – 360 South Main St., Andover, MA
Casual Events Fridays, 7:00 P.M.
For further inquiries contact andoverchessclub@gmail.com

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