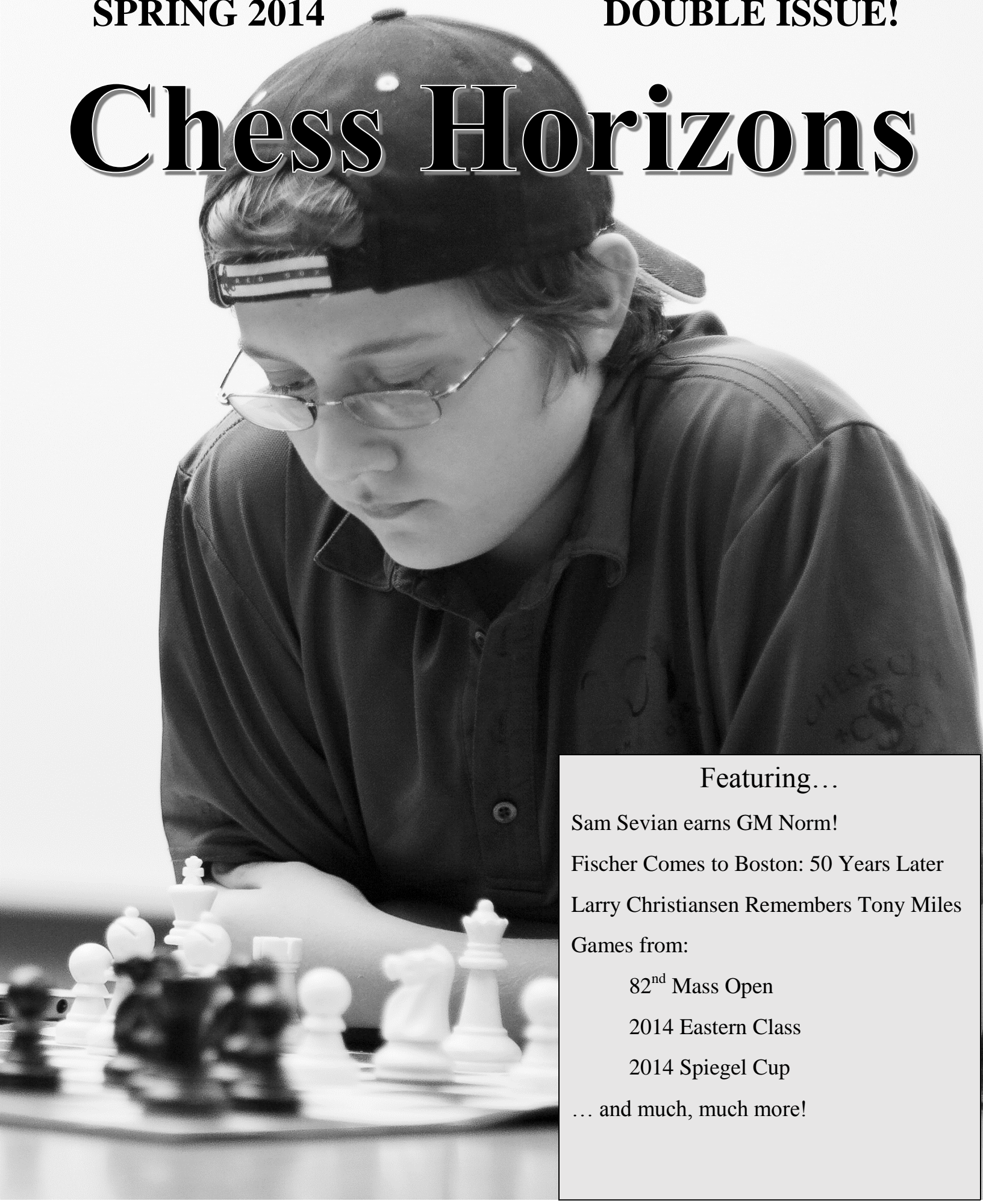


SPRING 2014

DOUBLE ISSUE!

Chess Horizons



Featuring...

Sam Sevian earns GM Norm!

Fischer Comes to Boston: 50 Years Later

Larry Christiansen Remembers Tony Miles

Games from:

82nd Mass Open

2014 Eastern Class

2014 Spiegel Cup

... and much, much more!



83rd Massachusetts Open (State Championship)

May 24-26 or 25-26, 2014

Marlborough, Massachusetts

\$4200 in Projected Prizes, \$3600 Guaranteed

Where: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough. 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9500. Hotel rate \$97 per night single or double, **reserve by 5/1**.

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Registration: 3-day: Sat. 5/24 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 2-day: Sun. 5/25 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Rounds: 3-day: Sat. and Sun. 10:30 and 5:00. Mon. 10:00 and 4:00. **Annual meeting Mon 9:30 a.m.**

2-day (U2100 to U1500 only): Sun. 10:30, 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00, Mon. 10:00 and 4:00.

Entry Fee: \$55 for 3-day, \$54 for 2-day if mailed by **5/19** or online (PayPal) at www.masschess.org by **5/22**, \$70 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$25 discount to players rated under 1000 in the U1500 section.

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Name: _____

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Cover photo: Samuel Sevian
Credit: Tony Cortizas



Letter from the Editor

Nathan Smolensky

Dear Readers,

It is no great secret that the recent history of Chess Horizons has been a tumultuous one. Work and other time commitments have made it impossible for our last several editors to continue to produce the magazine. Unfortunately, in a volunteer organization, these things happen sometimes, and I want to take this opportunity to address any concerns about the present and future of the publication.

First and foremost, this is not the end of Chess Horizons. MACA has a contractual obligation to the subscribers of this magazine to produce the equivalent of no less than four issues each year. When we failed to produce an issue from Summer 2012 through Spring 2013, the MACA board made sure to reimburse those affected by extending their memberships*. However, it would be disingenuous for us to repeat this practice, and the resulting membership situation would be downright confusing. Our subscribers expect Chess Horizons, and we will deliver Chess Horizons.

Thus, I present my first issue as editor. In gathering content, I was faced with a significant backlog of happenings and notable games from the Massachusetts chess community. There's a lot of exciting stuff here – from stories of simul shockers to grandmaster clashes to all the world-beating antics of Bernie Xu.

More importantly, having all this in the issue means that we're caught up, and the next issue can feature only the most current news and content. The deadline to submit for that issue (Summer 2014, another double!) is July 15th, and all are welcome. I'm excited to see where things go.

Feedback is also more than welcome – it is important for me to strive to improve my work here through the comments and suggestions of you, the readers. I am not the acting editor, nor the interim editor. I am the editor, and I want to make this publication the best it can be.

* - If you're not sure how the extension has affected your membership, please address inquiries to membership secretary Robert Messenger (contact information on back).

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It Takes a Village

Nathan Smolensky



... to host one of the most popular chess tournaments in Massachusetts. This year's Eastern Class in Sturbridge attracted a spectacular 254 players, an increase of over 50% from 2013's attendance of 165. Some, perhaps, were following the star of reigning U.S. Champion Gata Kamsky, who would reign supreme in this event as well, clear first in the master section with 4.5/5.



The achievement is more impressive than it may seem at first. Sole first in a five-round tournament demands impeccable consistency of results, and this event featured two other GMs with near-2700 USCF ratings, Brandeis student Sam Shankland and New York's Aleksandr Lenderman. A clash between these two in the third round, with Shankland prevailing, would set up the key game of the tournament, a fourth round masterpiece by

Kamsky featuring a remarkable bishop sacrifice on h7:

GM Gata Kamsky 2783

GM Sam Shankland 2698

Eastern Class Championships (4)

London System [D02]

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 d5 3. e3 e6 4. Nd2 c5 5. c3 Nc6 6. Ngf3 Bd6 7. Bg3 O-O 8. Bd3 Qe7 9. Ne5 Nd7 10. Nxd7 Bxd7 11. Bxd6 Qxd6 12. dxc5 Qxc5



13. Bxh7+ Kxh7 14. Qh5+ Kg8 15. Ne4



15... Qc4 16. Ng5 Rfd8 17. Qxf7+ Kh8 18. Qh5+ Kg8 19. Rd1 e5 20. Qf7+ Kh8 21. e4 Ne7 22. Qxe7 Bb5 23. Rd2 Qxa2 24. Qf7 Qa1+ 25. Rd1 Qxb2 26. Qh5+ Kg8 27. Qh7+ Kf8 28. Qh8+ Ke7 29. Qxg7+ Kd6 30. Rxd5+ Kc6 31. Qf6+ 1-0

**Bxf4 28. Kf1 Be5 29. Rb7 Rc6 30. Rb4
Bc7 31. Rd4 Bd6 32. Re4 Be5 33. Rb4 b5
34. a4 Nf4 35. axb5 Rd6 36. Re4 axb5
37. Rxb5 Rd1+ 38. Re1 Rd2 39. Re3 Nd3
40. b4 Rxf2+ 41. Kg1 Bh2+ 42. Kh1 Ne5
43. Rd5 Bf4 44. Re4 Nf3**

GM Fishbein, meanwhile, would have his queen pickled in a third round encounter with FM Deepak Aaron:

GM Alexander Fishbein 2565
FM Deepak Aaron 2430
Eastern Class Championships (1)
Ruy Lopez [C77]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. Qe2 b5 6. Bb3 Bc5 7. c3 d6 8. d3 h6 9. O-O O-O 10. Be3 Bb6 11. Nbd2 Re8 12. Rfd1 d5 13. Bxb6 cxb6 14. exd5 Nxd5 15. Qe4 Be6 16. Re1 f5 17. Qh4 Qd6 18. Qg3 Rad8 19. h3 Nf6 20. d4 Bxb3 21. axb3 f4 22. Qh4 exd4 23. Rxe8+ Rxe8 24. Rxa6 dxc3 25. bxc3



25... Ne7 26. Ne4 Nxe4 27. Qh5 Rd8
28. Qxb5 Qd1+ 29. Kh2 Nxf2 30. Ng1 Qd3
31. Qxd3 Rxd3 32. Rxb6 Nd5 33. Rb8+
Kh7 34. c4 Ne3 35. Ne2 f3 36. gxf3 Rd2
37. Nd4 Ne4+ 38. Kh1 Nf5

6



Aaron (above, right) would end up the only player in the tournament to score against Kamsky (achieving a last-round draw) and would ultimately share 2nd – 5th place in the top section with Shankland, Lenderman, and IM Victor Shen.



Northeastern University professor Timothy Sage would share 1st – 5th in the expert section with Connecticut's James Nitz, Maine's Aaron Spencer, New Hampshire's Arthur Tang, and Michael Mahoney of Medford, for a total of five co-champions representing four New England states. Mark Bourque, Joseph Bihlmeyer, and Peter Korzeb, all from Connecticut, would split top honors in the Class A section. Thomas Keegan and Adam Banakus would take sole firsts in the Class B and C sections, respectively, while Malachi Davis would sweep Class D. Camden Wagner and

Michael Samuels would share tops in the Class E.

Finally, the weekend would also draw a veritable parade of the nation's top juniors:



Michael Bodek and Arthur Shen, each over 2450 USCF, are two of the top 16-year-olds in the nation.



At only 12 years old, NM Nicholas De Checa is the reigning state champion of New York.



(Clockwise, from left): 11-year-old WFM Akshita Gorti, the stylish Carissa Yip of Chelmsford, and the top 11-year-old girl in the US, Martha Samadashvili

All photos credit Tony Cortizas



Cover Story

Sevian Earns GM Norm at Foxwoods

Nathan Smolensky



*Sevian plays for the Boston Blitz in a 2013 USCL match.
Photo credit: Tony Cortizas*

The return of the Continental Chess Association's popular Foxwoods tournament this January was marked perhaps most notably by the dominance of GM Anton Kovalyov. As he ran off far into the lead, everything seemed a blur behind him. A slew of titled players from around the world were mired in a battle for distant second.

When the dust settled, remarkably, it was IM Sam Sevian of Southbridge who emerged atop this group, besting GMs Shabalov and Stripunsky in the final rounds. Yes, he was still behind Kovalyov, who finished with a stunning 8/9, but Sevian's 6.5 was good enough for sole second in the premier section and a GM norm. Having just only turned 13, he became the youngest holder of such a norm in U.S. chess history, an historic achievement. Ray Robson, who holds the record for youngest American GM at just over 14 years and 11 months of age, may have to watch out.

As for the rest of the tournament, however, a lackluster showing of 271 players was far below Goichberg and co.'s expectations (prizes were based on 500), and

the future of the tournament appears once again in doubt. Without the preferred Easter weekend spot, it is unclear if a major norm tournament at the site is viable.

Congratulations to the Gus Gosselin Grade Championship Winners!



*Siddharth Arun, Grade 8-12 Champion
Photo credit: Tony Cortizas*

On March 9th, MACA held its annual Gus Gosselin Grade Championships in Marlborough. Surprisingly, all eight sections boasted a clear first by the end of the day:

Grades 8 – 12: Siddharth Arun
Grade 7: Evan Meyer
Grade 6: Eric Feng
Grade 5: Sandra Shur
Grade 4: Maxwell Zhao
Grade 3: Bernie Xu
Grade 2: Dustin Liang
Grades K – 1: Derek Jin



Tournament News

Paschall, Wang Tie at 2013 New England Open

George Mirijanian

International Master Bill Paschall, 40, of South Yarmouth, MA and USCF Life Master and two-time Massachusetts State High School champion Andrew Wang, 18, of Cambridge, MA tied for first place in the 73rd New England Open, held Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Double Tree by Hilton hotel in Leominster, MA. The duo tallied 5-1 in an Open section field of 21 players. Paschall defeated Wang in their head-to-head encounter in round 2, but both were declared New England Open co-champions as a result of finishing with the same score. Ending up as runner-up with a 4.5-1.5 result was three-time New England champion IM Igor Foygel, 65, of Brookline, MA, who drew Paschall in round 4. Farzad Abdi of Rockland, MA captured the 1st U220 prize by scoring 3.5-2.5. Tying for the 2nd U2200 prize with 3-3 tallies were Leonid Tkach of Swampscott, MA and Scott Didham of Sharon, MA.

The 28-player Under 2000 section saw a four-way tie for first place among Stephen Brudno of Brookline, MA, Valentin Levin of Lynn, MA, Peter Korzeb of Ellington, CT and Mateos Sahakian of Medford, MA. All four tallied 4.5-1.5.

John Brady of Sanford, ME finished first in the 26-player Under 1750 section with a score of 5-1. Sharing 2nd-3rd prize with 4.5-1.5 tallies were Arthur Nagel of Salem, CT and William Ravn of Ocean Park, ME.

Sandra Shur, a 10-year-old MACA member from Agawam, MA posted an impressive 5-1 score to win first place in the 19-player Under 1500 section. Taking

second place with a 4.5-1.5 result was Lawrence Legros of Oxford, MA. Tying for third place with 4-2 tallies were Raymond Behenna of Quincy, MA, Stanford Talcott of Brookline, NH, Michael Stevens of Whitinsville, MA and Donald Kirouac of Sutton, MA. Both Stevens and Kirouac shared the top U1350 prize. Also scoring 4-2 and winning the top U1200 prize was Andrew Piortowski of Needham, MA.



IM Paschall

Vadim Martirosov, 43, of Allston, MA repeated as the "5-minute champion" by winning the New England Open Blitz Championship with a score of 8-2 in a field of 18 players. Tying for second place with 7.5-2.5 tallies were FIDE master William Kelleher of Watertown, MA and life master Andrew Wang of Cambridge, MA. Sharing the top U2000 prize with 6.5-3.5 results were Anatoly Levin of Watertown, MA and Michael Isakov of Sudbury, MA. Tying for the top U1800 prize with 5.5-4.5 results were Bay State resident Andrew Boyer and William Ravn of Ocean Park, ME.

The following are the prize winners in the various scholastic tournaments that were held during the Labor Day weekend:

K-12 Under 1500 section (19 players)
1st: David McCabe of Newton, MA, 3.5
2nd: Michael Yu of Acton, MA, 3.5



3rd: David Sun of Lexington, MA, 3 Medal winners: Luke Randolph of Jamaica Plain, MA, Bernie Xu of Needham, MA, 3

K-12 Under 800 section (6 players)
1st: Nicholas Belous of Reading, MA, 4/4
2nd: Derek Zhao of Westford, MA, 3
3rd: Joy Cao of Westford, MA 2
Medal: Winston Zhao of Bolton, MA, 2

K-3 Under 1200 section (5 players)
1st: Derek Zhao of Westford, MA, 3/4
2nd: Danila Poliannikov of Belmont, MA, 3
3rd: Dustin Liang of Sharon, MA 3

K-3 Under 500 section (15 players)
1st: Sasha Kaneko of Shrewsbury, MA, 4/4
2nd: John Archibald of Arlington, MA, 3.0
3rd: Siri Vadlamudi of Sharon, MA, 3.0

K-6 Under 1400 section (12 players)
1st: Brian Yin of Natick, MA, 4/4
2nd: Luke Randolph of Jamaica Plain, MA 3
3rd: Alexander Bao of Milton, MA, 2.5
Medal: Michael Yu of Acton, MA 2.5

K-6 Under 600 section (21 players):
1st: Nicholas Belous of Reading, MA, 3.5/4
2nd: Mark Chudnovsky of Newton, MA, 3.5
3rd: Keshav Rangan of Nashua, NH, 3

Medal winners: Allan Kafig of Westborough, MA, Aaron Huang of Andover, MA, John Archibald of Arlington, MA, and Vineeth Nareddy of South Grafton, MA, all 3/4.

The 73rd New England Open, sponsored by the Massachusetts Chess Association for the third straight year in Leominster, drew 162 players in 11 sections and was directed by Bob Messenger of Nashua, NH, assisted by George Mirijanian of Fitchburg, MA. Stephen Frymer of Lexington, MA, MACA's scholastic committee chairman, supervised all six scholastic sections.

Spotlight: Bill Paschall

William Mark "Bill" Paschall, who was awarded the International Master title by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1998, was born on Dec. 19, 1972 in Haddon Heights, New Jersey, a suburb of Philadelphia. He started playing USCF-rated chess in 1987. After Bill graduated from Haddon Heights High School in 1990, he moved to Boston in September of that year to attend Boston University. In the USCF annual rating list for 1990, he was rated 2165 and quickly reached master level around his 18th birthday. In the USCF February 1991 rating list, his rating is given as 2206.

After Bill's father passed away in 1995, his mother moved to South Yarmouth, MA from New Jersey, and the Cape became a sort of home for Paschall. Although he has lived in Boston, Cambridge and Jamaica Plain on and off for 13 years between 1990 and 2003, he has lived in Budapest, Hungary most of the year since 2004, though he still resides on the Cape from late June through September with his two children and wife as well as with his mother.

Bill has been New England champion three times. Besides sharing this year's championship with life master Andrew Wang, he won the New England Open championship clear in 2001 when he scored 5-1 in Springfield, MA. In 1995, he shared championship honors with FIDE master and five-time Wachusett Chess Club champion Allan Bennett, now of Columbus, OH.

Bill has won numerous tournaments over the years, including the 1994 Mass. Open, tying for first in the 1999 Greater Boston Open, winning the 2000 BU Open, tying for first in the 2001 Foxwoods Open, and tying for first in the 2003 Mass. Open. In 2002 and 2003, he competed in the U.S. Championship in Seattle, WA. In 2002, he won the Boylston Chess Club championship. While living in Hungary, he has competed in many 1st Saturday GM tournaments in Budapest. He plays every year in the Hungarian Team Championship for a team in the Hungarian 2nd Division, where he plays Board 1. For the past five years, he has played more poker than chess, mostly online, but also the occasional live poker tournaments as recently as April in the European Poker Tour in Berlin.

Bill still hopes to attain the Grandmaster title before he turns 50 years old. MACA wishes Bill all the best in reaching his goal.



The Road to Spiegel 2014

Nathan Smolensky

2014 marked the debut of the Spiegel Cup Series, an additional route to qualification for the vaunted state scholastic championship through tournaments held at MACA's affiliate clubs. Though this new path was added, the total number of participants in the invitational sections (14 and Under, 11 and Under, and 8 and Under) remained the same. Through aggregate SCS results, triumphs at the four automatic qualifiers, or the excellence demanded for those qualifying by rating, the fields were set for the February 9th Barry S. Spiegel Cup Finals:

14 U

Evan Meyer	2079	Q1 Winner
Henry Liu	1786	Q2 Winner
Jason Tang	1899	Q3 Winner
Alvin Tan	1880	Q4 Winner
Anton Barash	1619	SCS Winner
Nithin Kavi	2043	Q by Rating
Conway Xu	2027	Q by Rating
Danny Angermeier	2013	Q by Rating
Carissa Yip	1991	Q by Rating
Allen Wang	1821	Q by Rating

11 U

Maxwell Zhao	1699	Q1 Winner
Michael Yu	1618	Q2 Winner
Eric Feng	1776	Q3 Winner
Andrew The	1410	Q4 Winner
Danila Poliannikov	1424	SCS Winner
Brandon Wu	1828	Q by Rating
Alex Yu	1765	Q by Rating
Suraj Ramanathan	1671	Q by Rating
Eddie Wei	1640	Q by Rating
Lucy Cai	1629	Q by Rating

8 U

Achyuta Rajaram	1292	Q1 winner
Nicholas Belous	907	Q2 winner
Derek Zhao	1115	Q3 winner
David Zhou	1135	Q4 winner
Arnon Kuzmin	1033	SCS winner
Derek Jin	1390	Q by Rating
Dustin Liang	1215	Q by Rating
Bernie Xu	1104	Q by Rating
David Xie	904	Q by Rating
John Archibald	863	Q by Rating

The high school section, meanwhile, was held as an open tournament, as it has been in recent years. It featured four masters: Grant Xu, Andrew Liu, Siddharth Arun, and Mika Brattain, the highest rated and eventual champion of the group, who has annotated his crucial final-round victory over Andrew Liu for CH:

NM Mika Brattain 2405

NM Andrew Liu 2336

Barry S. Spiegel Cup Finals

02.09.2014

English [A21]

Annotations by M. Brattain

1. c4

After being the last to finish Round 3, I found myself with the only perfect 3-0 score. There were two competitors with 2.5: Andrew Liu and Siddharth Arun. I was playing Andrew, and Siddharth was playing Grant Xu who was 2-1. While a draw would clinch a tie for me, I still viewed this game as a must-win because I did not want to deal with any of the randomness associated with a blitz tiebreaker. Of course, both Andrew and Siddharth were in real must-win situations. This helped narrow down my opening choice in the final round.



As it turned out, Siddharth won his game which made my own win crucial to avoid the tiebreaker.

1... g6 2. Nc3 Bg7 3. g3

Rather than play into what I believe was preparation for a sharp King's Indian Defence, I chose a quieter "pure" English where Black cannot simply memorize a bunch of variations and cause trouble over the board.

3... e5 4. Bg2 d6 5. d3 f5 6. e4

One of several options for White in this position

6... Nf6 7. Nge2 O-O 8. O-O c6 9. h3 Be6 10. b3

I wanted to be able to meet ...fxe4 with dxe4, so the c4 pawn had to be defended

10... Qd7

(10... d5? 11. exd5 cxd5 12. Bg5±)

11. exf5!

This is a good time to release the tension and start harassing the Black pieces. 11. Be3? would be met with 11... fxe4 12. dxe4 Bxh3

11... Bxf5

(11... gxf5 12. d4)

12. g4 Be6 13. d4 exd4 14. Nxd4

My opponent began using a lot of time around this point, and after his next move was down to around thirty minutes. White is slightly better due to superior centralization and a weak d6-pawn as well as f4-f5 and g4-g5 ideas. Black's only chances revolve around an equalizing ...d6-d5 break, which makes trying to win the position (as I'm sure my opponent was still hoping to do) from the Black side very difficult. My job here was simply to retain both a positional and time advantage and force him to keep thinking.

14... Bf7 15. Be3 Na6 16. Qd2 Rfe8 17. Rad1 Nc7 18. Nde2 Rad8?

18... Red8 was necessary, for which I had planned 19. Qc2 d5 20. Rfe1 with a pleasant position.



19. Bxa7

It is easy to forget about this pawn when all the pieces are concentrated in the center. After losing a pawn, Black is under significant pressure to force something immediately, but his position has left him inadequately prepared to do so.

19... d5 20. Bb6±

20. g5 could be thrown in for good measure.

20... Qc8 21. Qf4!

I began burning my time advantage around here. I did not really mind, because these next few moves were the climax of this game, and it was important to avoid messing things up after gaining a significant advantage.

21... Ne6

21... Rd7 avoids losing a second pawn

22. Qg3 Rd7 23. cxd5 cxd5 24. Nxd5

There are no tricks despite Black's bishop hiding on f7 and undefended White pieces on b6 and e2. I was very careful and spent a solid ten minutes on this move, after which



White is a solid two pawns ahead and clearly winning.

24... Ng5

(24... Nxd5 25. Rxd5 Rxd5 26. Bxd5 Qd7 27. Rd1!+- (27. Bg2?? Qb5+- really would really hurt))

25. Nxf6+ Bxf6 26. Rxd7 Qxd7 27. Be3+-

Everything is nicely defended and the rest is a matter of technique.

27... Ne4 28. Qf3 Be5 29. Qxe4 Bh2+ 30. Kxh2 Rxe4 31. Bxe4 Qb5 32. Ng3 h5 33. gxh5 gxh5 34. h4 Bd5 35. Bxd5+ Qxd5 36. Rc1 Qf3 37. Rc4 Qd1 38. Rc5 Qb1 39. Rxh5 Qxa2 40. b4 Qb1 41. b5

It was a long day having to win all four games, three of which were against the #2, 3, and 4 seeds, each game lasting over two hours. Overall, I came away pleased with how I played in such a tough field.

1-0

Interestingly, Brattain would be the only player in the entire Spiegel finals to emerge as a sole section winner, though this is owing partially to the format and resulting ratings range of that section (close to a 2000-point spread between fourteen players). Three-way ties between players with three points apiece would top each invitational section:

Evan Meyer, Danny Angermeier, and Carissa Yip would share first in the 14 and Under. The 11 and Under was won by Brandon Wu, Suraj Ramanathan, and Michael Yu.

And finally, the 8 and Under was thrown for a bit of a loop when top-rated Derek Jin was upset in the first round by NESAs team member Bernie Xu:

Bernie Xu 1234

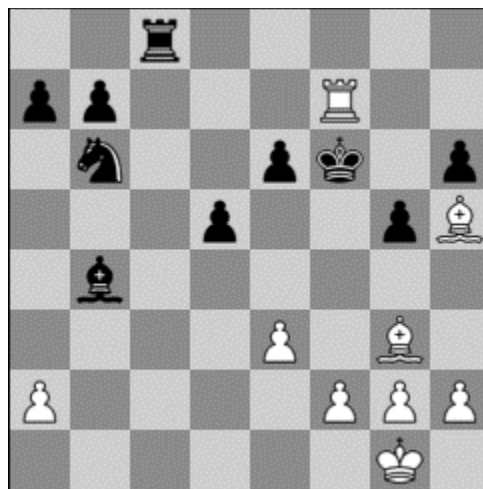
Derek Jin 1428

Barry S. Spiegel Cup Finals (4)

02.09.2014

Nimzo-Indian [D38]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 d5 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 Nbd7 7. e3 c5 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Nf3 Qc7 10. Be2 Ne4 11. O-O cxd4 12. Nxd4 Nxc3 13. bxc3 Qxc3 14. Qxc3 Bxc3 15. Rac1 Ba5 16. Bf3 Nb6 17. Nb3 Bb4 18. Nd4 Be6 19. Nxe6 fxe6 20. Rc7 g5 21. Bg3 Rc8 22. Bh5+ Kd8 23. Rxc8+ Kxc8 24. Rc1+ Kd8 25. Bf7 Ke7 26. Rc7+ Kf6 27. Bh5 Rc8 28. Rf7#



Xu would go on to share first in the section with Derek Zhao and Daniel Zhou.

As for Jin, to his credit, this slight setback has not deterred his run of chess success. In recent outings at the Boylston Chess Club, he bested two A-players, quite the feat for a youngster not far removed from his 7th birthday.

The day would be a shining moment for many top scholastic players. How far they go remains to be seen, but for the moment they are the brightest stars on the Massachusetts chess horizon.



Bobby Fischer Comes to Town

Nathan Smolensky

In March 1964, reigning U.S. Champion Bobby Fischer played a 56-board simul at Fitchburg's Wachusett Chess Club. Harold Dondis, who was instrumental in organizing the event, would also emerge as one of the winning participants. This is his story.



With the possible exception of the Beatles, who had just arrived in the United States, no one was hotter in early 1964 than GM Robert Fischer. The 20-year-old was no longer an up-and-coming chess prodigy, but a fully formed professional, fresh off an 11-0-0 sweep (!) of the U.S. Championship. It came as a surprise, then, when Fischer forewent participation in that year's Amsterdam Interzonal, and the 1966 world championship cycle, for a three-month simul tour of more than three dozen U.S. cities.

Harold Dondis, then president of the Massachusetts State Chess Association (MACA's predecessor), and organizer George Mirijanian were eager to set something up in Massachusetts, so they contacted Fischer. After an initial misunderstanding of the GM's price quote,

Dondis arranged for Fischer to come to the Wachusett Chess Club in Fitchburg, MA, in early March. The GM would receive \$5 a board, a hefty fee in those days equivalent to around \$37 in today's money, anticipating fifty players.

To his credit, Fischer did not charge for additional players when 56 showed up on March 2nd, 1964. He proceeded to play the games, including one against the MSCA president, in which he made a rather unfortunate choice of opening:

GM Robert J. Fischer
Harold B. Dondis
Vienna Game [C27]
Fischer Simul Tour
03.02.1964

1. e4!

Best by test.

1... e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bc4 Nxe4

In 1976, British chess writer Tim Harding dubbed this often chaotic line of the Vienna the Frankenstein-Dracula Variation. It's not clear whether the gentlemanly Dondis would have ventured into this line had it held that moniker, but it did not, as these were more gentlemanly times, after all.

4. Qh5 Nd6 5. Bb3 Nc6 6. d4?!

6. Nb5 is the main move, typically followed by 6... g6 7. Qf3 f5 8. Qd5 Qe7 9. Nxc7+ Kd8 10. Nxa8 b6. These ten moves had begun highly publicized games between Massachusetts chess icons Weaver Adams and Harry Lyman, played in 1940 and 1946, respectively. In both games, Adams played White, and in both he lost. Dondis was keenly aware of this, being a close friend and occasional study partner of Lyman's. Perhaps this discouraged Fischer from venturing into the main line, or perhaps it was a general disfavor of such chaos with 55



other games to tend to. Whatever the case, the move he chose offered little. Those wary of White's chances in the more adventurous continuation may opt for 5.Qxe5+ Qe7 6.Qxe7+ Bxe7 7.Be2, a line recommended by Swedish Grandmaster Ulf Andersson, who contends that it bears some slight advantage. Of course, such a meager positional edge would also be unpleasant for a simultaneous exhibitioner.

6... Nxd4 7. Nd5 Ne6 8. Qxe5 c6 9. Nc3 Qf6 10. Qxf6 gxf6



As peculiar as it appears, this position is perfectly fine for black. Development will be completed by virtue of a d5 advance, which in turn solidifies an advantage in the center, and the exchange of queens should ease concerns about the doubling of pawns and developmental lag.

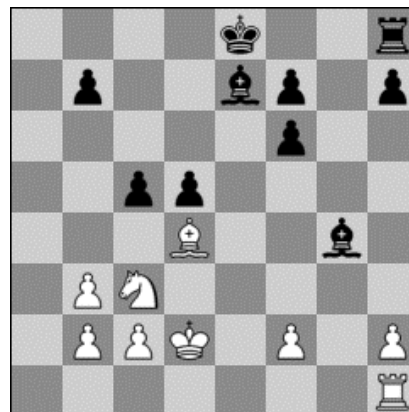
11. Nge2 Nf5 12. g4 Nfd4 13. Nxd4 Nxd4 14. Be3 Nxb3

With the bishop pair, Black further improves strong endgame prospects.

15. axb3 d5 16. Rxa7 Rxa7 17. Bxa7 Bxg4 18. Bd4 Be7 19. Kd2?? c5

A disastrous blunder in an already miserable position. Though this certainly sped up the process, Mr. Dondis should be commended for making the most of an opening advantage through highly accurate play.

0-1



Though Harold's game ended relatively early, he waited for his friend David Scheffer, who had given him a ride to the event. Mr. Scheffer was embroiled in a long game, in which he too would ultimately triumph over the champion! Following the games, the two got a glimpse of the erratic behavior for which Fischer would later become infamous. According to Dondis:

"After the simul, I went downstairs, where a few fans were asking Bobby questions. He would not look at them, and stood facing the wall. Asked about his chances against Petrosian, he misquoted their record against each other and said he could win. He suddenly walked off without any goodbyes. Dave and I were so charged up that we lost our way at night in returning to the Boston area."

They eventually made it back, of course.

Fischer's 49-5-2 result at Wachusett would be one of the weaker performances on his tour. In around 2000 exhibition games, he posted a win rate near 94%, dominance by an all-timer in his prime.

Dondis, now 91, continues to be one of the most active players in the state, playing mostly at the Boylston Chess Club. But even in a career as prolific as his own, a win over Fischer will always be special.

Photo courtesy of Wachusett Chess Club

Photo credit: Lester Gabricz



Featured Games

A Puncher's Chance

William Collins

Fifty years after Harold Dondis' victory over Fischer, the tradition of simultaneous exhibitions continues with a local expert's exciting outing against GM and three-time U.S. Champion Larry Christiansen, a Cambridge resident and regular simultaneous exhibitor.

Hello, chess fans! My first appearance at Larry Christiansen's South Station Simultaneous Chess Exhibition was a success! In my very first win against Larry under any conditions, I ventured to play a French Defense. When asked by Larry verbally: "What opening do you want me to play?" I arrogantly said in a joking manner: "Any one you think you can win with." to which Larry responded: "I guess I'll play you solid then.", and proceeded with d4! I played e6, still hoping for a transposition, and I was actually surprised when Larry wouldn't play the French Defense, opting for 2. c4.

Before the beginning of the game, I was cognizant of four notable things about the conditions of this game: first, Shirley Temple Black had died the day before; second, Mike Tyson lost his heavyweight title to James "Buster" Douglas 24 years prior to the very day; third, Whitney Houston died two years prior to the very day; and finally, that I had the Black pieces. Believe it or not I felt confident with the Black pieces because I dedicated the game to the memory of Shirley Temple BLACK, and it was a day historically favorable to the underdog! Enjoy the game, folks... this is a real donnybrook!!!

GM Larry Christiansen 2658
William "Billy" Collins 2122
Queen's Gambit Declined [D35]
Simultaneous Exhibition
02.11.2014

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3

I didn't want to give up the bishop pair early against a great attacker like Larry, so I declined to play the Nimzo.

3... d5 4. cxd5

The exchange was a surprise. I expected Larry to keep the tension in the center.

4...exd5 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 c6 7.Qc2 Be6 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Nge2 h6

A weakening move, but I wanted Larry to make a decision with the bishop. Better was Nf8-g6, but I didn't have the time to fully analyze the situation at this point.

10.Bh4 Nf8 11. O-O-O

Another surprise! I definitely expected Larry to castle 0-0.

11... Qa5 12. Kb1 O-O-O 13. Rc1 Kb8 14. f3 g5 15. Bf2

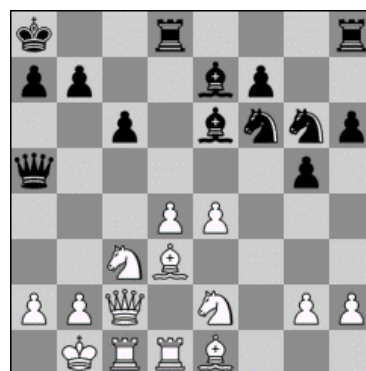
(15. Bg3+ Bd6)

15... Rg8 16. e4

Larry opens up the game for both players. The fun begins!

16... dxe4 17. fxe4 Ng6 18. Rhd1 Ka8 19. Be1!

Threatening Nd5!, trapping the queen.





19... Qc7 20. h3 Qh2?

Going astray for ill-gotten gains.

21. d5 cxd5 22. Bg3!

Attacking the queen and cutting off the king's only escape!

22... Qxg2 23. Nb5!

White's attack is now revealed, with a vengeance. It was my tunnel vision, a worry about my queen being trapped rather than my king's plight, which led me to miss this buildup.

23... Nf4 24. Qa4

Threatening mate and absolutely forcing a6.

24... a6 25. Nc7+ Ka7 26. Bxa6??

Throwing away a beautiful game, and missing several knockout punches. Just like that, the tables turned completely.



26... Qxe4+ 27. Qxe4 Nxe4 28. Bxf4 gxf4
29. Nxf4 Bg5

29... bxa6 30. Ncxe6 fxe6 31. Rc7+² and White would regain the initiative.

30. Nfxe6 fxe6 31. Nxe6 Bxc1 32. Nxd8 Rxd8

...and Larry resigned. Notch completed!

Event Spotlight: Christiansen Simul



Collins is one of many players, young and old, novice and expert, to partake in Larry Christiansen's South Station simul. Now entering its third year, the event has no entry fee and no registration requirement, though at peak times it can be near full.

Sponsored by Biederman Redevelopment Ventures and the Boylston Chess Foundation, these events take place right in the heart of Boston's South Station. Winners receive a Boylston free entry coupon, valid for all their events with the exception of round robins and memorial tournaments.

Players are welcome to play multiple games in a simul, and passes are allowed, within reason. The low barrier to entry and casual tone make this one of the most beginner-friendly chess events around.

The simul is held on the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise specified, from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00, with new games starting until 6:30.

Featured Games

Kicking the Year Off in Style

Alan Price

It was New Year's Day and I was in the mood to play something new and different, so I decided to do so at the Boylston's Herb Healy Open House. Many thanks to the Boylston Chess Club for another terrific January 1st tournament. It's always great to see old friends and support a great chess club. I congratulate Chris Williams for playing a great game against me. He unleashed a spectacular combination based partly on calculation but mostly on his intuition.

Alan Price 2110

Chris Williams 2255

BCC Herb Healy

01.01.2014

Larsen's Opening [A02]

1. b3!?

It was New Year's Day and I was in the mood to play something new and different. I don't really know any of the theory of the Nimzovich/Larsen, so please forgive me if my treatment of the opening is an abomination.

1... Nf6 2. Bb2 d6 3. f4 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. e3 g6 6. Bb5 Bg7 7. Bxc6+ bxc6 8. e4?!

With this move we've transposed into a Sicilian, which is more familiar to me, but the pawn took two moves to arrive at e4. I should have stuck with the Larsen and simply castled.

8... 0-0 9. d3 a5 10. Nc3 c4 11. d4 Ba6 12. Qd2 Rb8 13. 0-0-0 Nd7 14. Rhe1

At this point, I was happy with my game. I had placed my pieces actively in classical positions. I had a good center with space to move. It's a playable position, which is all I

ever ask of an opening anyway. My assessment of the position isn't far from accurate however my thoughts about what to do with this position were completely delusional. I overlooked the dynamic nature of Black's attacking chances.

14...Qc7



15. d5?!

By opening up the diagonal for his dark squared bishop and giving his knight a home on c5, I effectively hit the self-destruct button.

15...cxb3 16. axb3 Nc5

Black is threatening 17...Rxb3!

17. Kb1 Bd3!

again, threatening to capture on b3

18. Ka2

at this point I was still in denial about the dangers to my king. Certainly no better is 18.cxd3 Rxb3 with gruesome threats like 19...Bxc3 or 19...Rxb2 followed by 20...Na4 or simply 19...Rfb8.

18... Rxb3!

18...Bc4!? Was also an interesting way to kill me.

19. cxb3 Qb6

After the quiet queen move, my king is helpless.

20. e5

Trying to at least block the g7 bishop's power. Giving up my queen doesn't seem to help because 20.Qxd3 Qxb3+ 21.Ka1 Nxd3 22.Rxd3 Rb8 is a world of pain. 20.Qc1!? May have had the best chance of survival, but it looked dismal and I was running out of time to calculate.

In the case of 20...Qxb3+ 21.Ka1 Rb8 22.Nd2 Qb6 23.e5 Ba6, Black seemed better and I couldn't figure out what to do here. Still, this was preferable to what happened. What I overlooked was Black's 21st move.]

20...Qxb3+ 21. Ka1



21... Qc4!!

This was the move that neither of us saw going into this combination. But once Chris found it, it was clear to us both that the game was over.

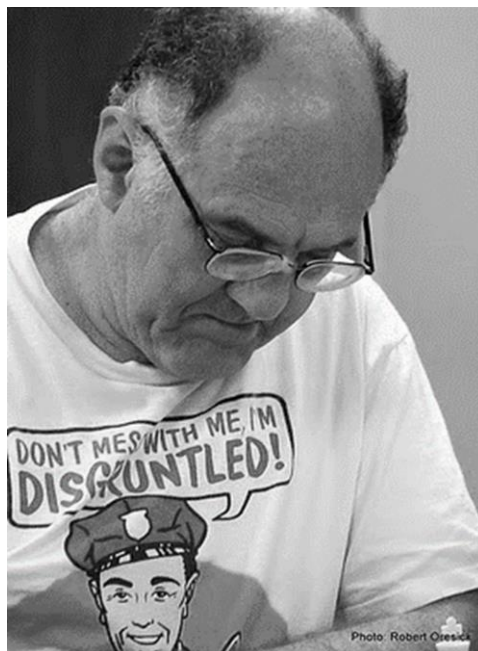
22. Qe3

My only alternative was to give away all my pieces and go into a hopeless endgame. It seemed better for both of us to allow the pretty finish. 22.Nd4 Qxd4 23.Re4 Qxe4 24.Nxe4 Nb3+ 25.Ka2 Nxd2 26.Nxd2 cxd5

22...Nb3+ 23. Ka2 Nc1+ 24. Ka1 Qa2+

I resigned here due to... 25.Nxa2 Nb3#
Again, congratulations Chris.

0-1



**Walter Driscoll III:
Owner of the World's Lowest
Morphy-Bacon Number?**

Walter Driscoll is a fixture in the Massachusetts chess community, known for his warmth, humor, and humility. But what some may not realize is that he has worked as an actor in some major Hollywood films, including 2010's *The Fighter* and, most recently, in an uncredited role in last year's *R.I.P.D.* The latter movie featured the inimitable Kevin Bacon, putting Walt in the elite group of actors with a Bacon Number of 1. Having also in chess played John Curdo, who played Harlow Daly, who played Frank Marshall, who played James Mortimer, who played Paul Morphy, he also wields a Morphy Number of 5.

As few can claim a combined Morphy-Bacon Number at all, it stands to reason that Mr. Driscoll's mark of 6 may well be the world record! Congratulations, Walt!

- Nathan Smolensky



Featured Games

Xu-Ng, USATE

Grant Xu

This was a game from the final round of the US Amateur East. My team (What Does the GM say?) was facing off against defending champs Princeton A. We were the only 5-0s at this point, but Princeton had incredible tiebreaks, so we knew we needed a win. Princeton had slight rating edges on Boards 1-3, and we had a larger rating edge on Board 4. On Board 2, I had white against Andrew Ng, a strong master.

Grant Xu 2288

Andrew Ng 2341

U.S. Amateur Team East 2014

Sicilian, Alapin [B22]

1. e4 c5 2. d4

I had done some quick prep against Andrew before the game, and decided to have some fun with the Smith-Morra. I was nearly certain what he would play.

2... cxd4 3. c3 Nf6

Weak. Fortune favors the bold! Best was dxc3!

4. e5 Nd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bc4 Nb6 7. Bb3 g6 8. cxd4!?

I was expecting d6 or d5 instead. Now, I make the most natural move: recapture the pawn. But Esserman recommends Ng5! A sample line: 8. Ng5 Nxe5 (8... d6 9. exd6 e6 10. Qf3 Ne5 11. Qg3 Bxd6 12. Ne4 and Black's kingside dark squares look appetizing) 9. Qxd4 Bg7 10. Bxf7+ Kf8 11. Ne6+ +-.

8... Bg7 9. Bf4 d5 10. h3 O-O 11. Nc3 a6 12. O-O e6?

A positional error. Black locks in his light-squared bishop, and seriously compromises the dark squares around his king. Now he is forced into the wrong side of a torturous grind. 12... Bf5 13. Rc1 Rc8 14. Re1 h6 15. g4 Be6 16. a3 Qd7 17. Ba2 and black has a solid position

13. Qc1 Bd7 14. Bg5

14. Bh6 f6 15. Bxg7 Kxg7 16. exf6+ Qxf6 17. Qe3 transposes to the game

14... f6 15. exf6 Bxf6 16. Bxf6 Qxf6 17. Qe3

This just looks like a bad French. The d7 bishop is terrible, and there's the wonderful square on e5.

17... Rf7 18. Ne2

The immediate Ne5 isn't best: With Ne2, another knight goes to an outpost on d4 after its companion gets traded on e5, e.g. 18. Ne5 Nxe5 19. dxe5 Qd8

18... Raf8 19. Ne5 Re7 20. f4 Nc8

I missed this obvious move, which was quite annoying. The knight reroutes to the kingside center for defensive duty.

21. Nc3

Covering e4

21... Nd6 22. g4

Covering f5

22... Be8 23. Rac1 Qh4 24. Kg2 Nf7 25. Nf3 Qh6 26. Rce1

Slowly ramping up the pressure. Black can't do anything except wait for the inevitable breakthrough.

26... Nfd8 27. Ng5

27. g5 Qg7 (27... Qh5 28. Ne2+-) 28. Ne5 was another possibility, but I didn't like the idea of a black knight on f5 at some point.

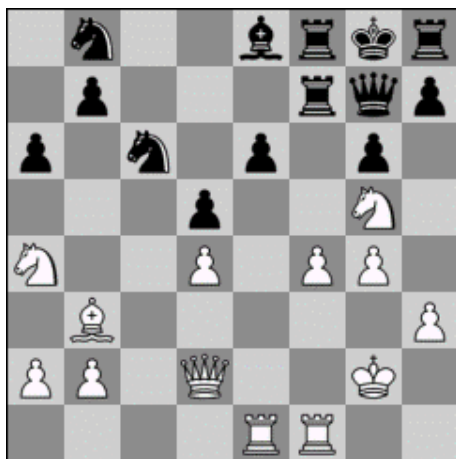
27... Bf7 28. Qd2?!



I was intent on just preserving the pressure, and this is certainly not a bad move, but there comes a point where I have to be precise and act. Na4 was the most natural course.

28... Qg7 29. Nf3 Be8 30. Na4 Ref7 31. Ng5?

Despite being up a ton of time and having a great position for a while, I begin to lose the thread. After Ref7, I had to go into a long think to try to preserve winning chances. I knew my game was a must-win. At this point in the match, Jason Tang, our board 4, had heartbreakingly lost a completely winning position due to a couple tactics. Sid Arun, our Board 3, was being subjected to intense positional torture and there was no way he would survive his position. Akshat, our Board 1, had an advantage, but in my opinion, the position was still a bit unclear. 31. Nc5! is the only way to go. 31... Rxf4 32. Rxe6! This was the move I missed. Ne7 33. Qe1 R4f7 34. Rd6+-



31... Re7=

Believe it or not, the position is almost equal now! I have to keep an eye on d4, while trying to breakthrough.

32. Nc5

The best try. Fortunately for me and my team, Andrew stumbles in the moves leading up to the second control.

32... Qxd4

32... Nxd4 33. Bxd5 Bb5 34. Rf2 exd5 35. Rxe7 Qxe7 36. Qxd4 Bc6 was another possibility, where I would still have to work to win.

33. Qxd4 Nxd4 34. Bxd5 Bc6?

I was relieved when this move was played. Now I go into a pawn up endgame where Black also has poor pawn structure. In the case of 34... Bb5 35. Rf2 Rfe8 36. Be4 b6 37. Nd3 N8c6, White is still better, but it's quite a psychological transition to move from that middlegame into this endgame where Black actually has piece play.

35. Bxc6 bxc6 36. Re4 Nb5 37. Ngxe6 Nxe6 38. Rxe6 Rxe6 39. Nxe6 Re8 40. Nc5

The dust has cleared at move 40, and the win should have been trivial, but Andrew would defend tenaciously from this point on, and I in turn would manage to almost completely screw up this endgame several times.

40... a5 41. Kf2 Nc7 42. Nd3 Nd5 43. Re1 Rb8 44. Re4 Nb4 45. Nxb4 axb4 46. Rc4 Ra8 47. Rxb4 Rxa2 48. Ke3 Ra1 49. Rb8+ Kf7 50. Rb7+ Kg8 51. Kd4 Ra5 52. Rb6 c5+ 53. Ke5 Kf7 54. Rb7+ Kg8 55. Kf6 Ra6+ 56. Kg5

The white king has successfully infiltrated and the black king is relegated to the back rank. The win is close. At this point, Sid's position was even more hopeless, but fortunately Akshat had a clearly winning position on Board 1.

56... Ra4 57. h4?

Missing a simple win in 57. Kh6! Rxf4 58. Rxh7 Rd4 59. Rc7

57... Rd4 58. Rc7 c4 59. Rb7 Re4 60. f5?

Another mistake.

60... gxf5?



The surprising 60... h6+ would make my task much more difficult, e.g. 61. Kxg6 Rxg4+ 62. Kxh6 Rxh4+ 63. Kg5 Rd4

61. gxf5 Rd4

Entering the 6th hour of play in a high pressure situation, we would trade mutual mistakes from this point on.

62. h5 Rd8 63. h6 Rc8 64. Rb4?

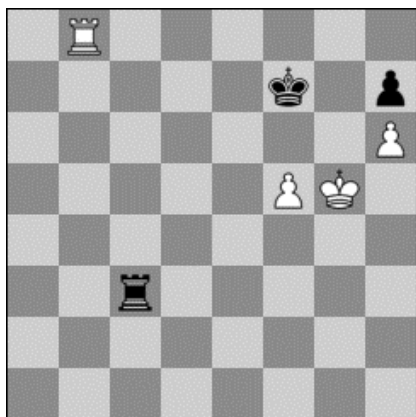
(64. Rg7+ Kh8 65. Re7 Kg8 66. f6 Rc5+ 67. Kf4 c3 68. Rg7+ Kf8 69. bxc3 Rxc3 70. Rxh7)

64... c3!?

(64...Kf7 65. Rb7+ Kg8)

65. bxc3 Rxc3 66. Rb8+ Kf7

Around this point, Akshat had won and Sid had resigned, so we were down 2-1, and I needed to win to tie the match.



67. Rh8??

As soon as I played this, I realized that I might have blown it, which would have been terrible. I was waiting for Andrew to play Rg3+ and I would start shaking my head, but he was down to 2 minutes and missed it. Better was 67. Rb7+ Kg8 68. Rg7+ Kh8 69. Ra7 Kg8 70. Kf6 Rc8 71. Ke6 Re8+ 72. Re7 Rb8 73. Rg7+ Kh8 74. Rd7 Kg8 75. f6 Re8+ 76. Kd6 Re2 77. Rg7+ Kf8 (77... Kh8 78. Re7) 78. Rxh7+-)

67... Ra3??

Again, I was expecting 67... Rg3+ A couple of days after the game, I thought I found a win for white, but I found it didn't work. As far as I know, this position is a draw, e.g. 68. Kh4 Rg1 69. Rxh7+ Kf6 70. Rh8 Rh1+ 71. Kg4 Rg1+.

68. Rxh7+ Kg8 69. Rb7 Ra1

I take an embarrassing amount of moves and time to finally convert to the win.

70. Kg6 Rg1+ 71. Kf6 Ra1 72. Rg7+ Kh8 73. Re7 Rf1 74. Kg6 Rg1+ 75. Kf6 Rg2 76. Re6 Rf2 77. Kg6 Rg2+ 78. Kf7 Rf2 79. f6 Ra2 80. Rd6 Re2 81. Re6 Ra2 82. Ke7 Ra7+ 83. Kf8 Ra8+ 84. Re8 Ra7 85. f7 Kh7 86. Re6 Ra8+ 87. Ke7 Rf8

A joke, though I was genuinely worried that it was a stalemate.

88. Kxf8

A tense and exciting game and match. Princeton had only let up 2.5 out of a possible 20 game points before facing us, while we had let up 5. Thus, they took first on tiebreaks while we took second. Congrats to Princeton on their repeat title (although we would have liked to see a blitz tiebreaker- USCL style). I'm proud of my team for their consistent play to get to the championship match. Akshat went 5-1 against strong opposition and got a 2700+ performance rating, carrying our team on Board 1. Sid, Jason, and I all had solid 4-2 scores. The average age on our team was around 14 years old and it would be interesting to find out if we were the youngest team in USATE history to tie for first. It is also interesting to note that the average rating of Princeton's squad after the tournament was 2252 and the average rating of our team after the tournament was 2232, while we both started with 2197 ratings. All in all, it was a fun time and I look forward to USATE 2015!

1-0



Opening Analysis with the CHOPIN System

This is a sponsored piece courtesy of ChessOpenings24-7.com. Details of their exciting promotion are at the end of the article.

Successful opening preparation essentially depends on two key components: reliable opening repertoire, and/or the ability to surprise the opponent. Many chess players are aware of that fact, but, in order to achieve their goal, time must be invested studying openings from a source that can be trusted, be it an expert, book, or software.

WGM Sanja Vuksanovic, the founder of Chess Openings 24/7:

“I firmly believe that it shouldn’t matter whether you come from a nation with rich chess tradition where knowledge and information is readily available; money for expensive coaching sessions mustn’t be a decisive factor; you shouldn’t waste endless hours gathering information just to end up analyzing each move with chess engines – you need a place where everyone should be starting equal. This is why we made the Chess Openings 24/7 online service: a chess opening database for all chess enthusiasts – professionals or amateurs.”

GM Boris Avrukh, Editor-in-Chief:

Assembling the Chess Openings 24/7 Editorial Board (Boris Avrukh, Vadim Zvjaginsev, Bojan Vuckovic, Borki Predojevic, Dragan Šolak, Aleksandar Kovacevic, Dragan Barlov, Dragan Paunovic, Slaviša Brenjo and Trajko Nedev) was an especially challenging task: all these grandmasters had to be expert in opening theory, yet also with advanced computer skills, to meet the necessary technical requirements. Their mental stamina had to be off the charts to overcome fatigue, and

often frustratingly complex working procedure. Chess professionals are known to have very busy schedules, so everything had to be meticulously planned, well in advance. To build a cohesive unit wherein everyone is considered almost a family member, we needed to rely on fundamentally good people with great moral qualities.

My colleagues are in charge of the opening codes from their own repertoire (except in cases of some very rare lines), so they are highly competent to perform selection, analysis, and evaluation of the material. The Chess Openings 24/7 Editorial Board is striving for perfection (and I wouldn't want it any other way), but initial expectations should be reasonable, as the sheer quantity of theoretically relevant games is daunting; still, a considerable amount of high-quality material has been available from the very beginning – we have published 230 opening lines and 76 articles by the end of 2013. New opening lines are published each day during weekdays, and new articles twice a week (“Opening Surveys” column is published on Saturdays, and “Pick of the Week” on Sundays). What's important is the fact that all the above-mentioned content will be regularly updated, and more importantly – constantly improved. We are especially proud of the official recommendation from the Association of Chess Professionals.

GM Bojan Vuckovic, the main architect of the CHOPIN code and classification system:

Our entire concept is based upon the assumption that top-level games are the most relevant for opening theory, so we practically took all available games wherein the opponents had an average rating of 2600 or above, and used them as the basis of our research. About 70,000 games were subjected to deep engine analysis, and numerous improvements and game



fragments from our extensive reference database of 14 million over-the-board, correspondence, and engine games were recommended and added by our silicon friends.

Computer engines have, nowadays, become irreplaceable assistants in any serious chess analysis, yet their games are conspicuously absent from most opening books and articles. After thorough research, Chess Openings 24/7 is determined not to make that mistake, and engine games will have the same treatment as any other game. Such an unbiased approach is bound to reap instant rewards, and an example of it can be seen in the recently published “Pick of the Week” by GM Boris Avrukh:

Pick of the Week by GM Boris Avrukh

**Adapted from the original article
published on December 8, 2013**

**Ruy Lopez: The Anti-Marshall with 11.
Bg5 [Line 395/C88]**

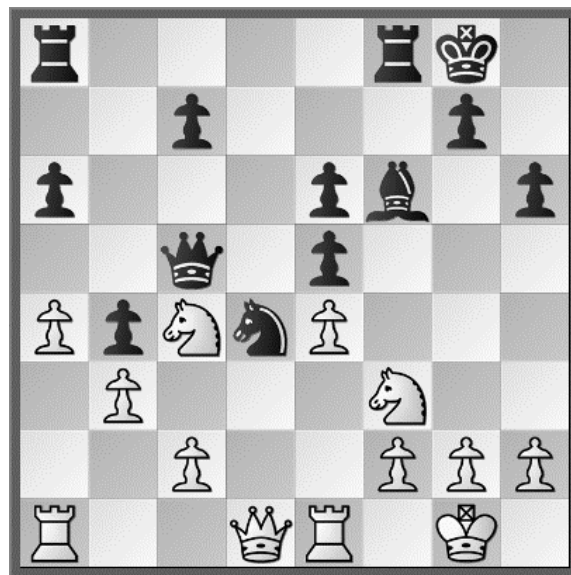
**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5.
0–0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 0–0 8. a4 b4 9.
d4 d6 10. dxe5 dxe5**

This has been a fashionable line among top grandmasters in recent years, and GM Avrukh's article focuses mostly on the theoretical outcome of the game between Anish Giri and Levon Aronian, from the recently finished World Teams Championship in Antalya.

11. Bg5!? h6

Aronian chose 11... Qxd1 in the above mentioned game, and it definitely seems more prudent.

**12. Bxf6 Bxf6 13. Bd5 Qd6 14. Nbd2 Be6
15. Nc4 Qc5 16. Bxe6 fxe6 17. b3 Nd4**



18. Rf1!!

This incredible prophylactic move prepares the topical Ne1-d3 maneuver and overprotects the f2 pawn at the same time.

**18... Rae8 19. Ne1 Qc6 20. f3 Rd8 21. Nd3
a5**

It's hard to believe that his subtle positional play is the “brainchild” of Stockfish 4, the notorious tactical monster. We've been following a recent (as of August 23, 2013) top-tier engine game Stockfish 4 – Naum 4.2, Internet 2013, and now White could have played

22. Rf2!

with a lasting pressure, due to Black's weak pawn structure. It seems that White can increase his advantage with accurate play.

**Opening Survey by GM Vadim
Zvjaginsev**

**Adapted from the original article
published on May 10, 2013**

**Two Knights Defense with 8. Bd3 [Line
367/C58]**



1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. Bd3

GM Zvjaginsev claimed in his original text that many fine players had occasionally dabbled in the Two Knights Defense, as it offered a welcome repose from the über-demanding Ruy Lopez, yet the example that you're about to see is almost the exact opposite. It seems that Vadim, as an exceptionally gifted and creative player, actually enjoys complications to such an extent that he finds them almost relaxing.

8... h6

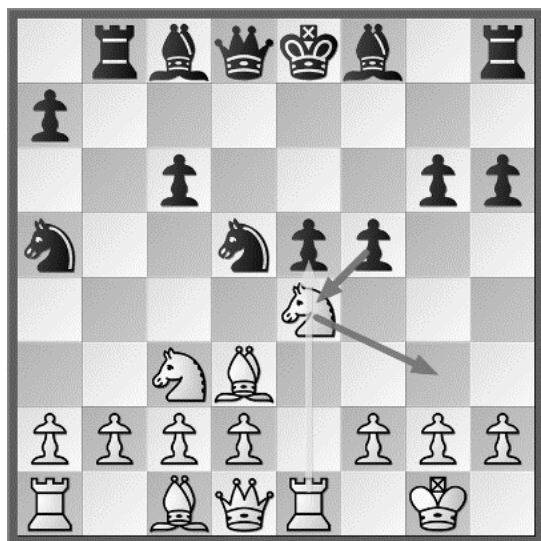
Probably not the best; immediate 8... Nd5 seems more to the point.

9. Ne4 Nd5 10. 0-0 g6 11. Re1 f5 12. Nbc3!

We've been following the game S. Nilsson – T. Sakelšek, Rogaška Slatina 2011, and now we'll examine

12... Rb8,

which is aimed against 13. Nxd5 cxd5 14. Bb5+.



13. b3!!

Vintage Vadim! White is completely unfazed by the threat against his knight, and calmly continues with his development.

13... fxe4

What else? 13... Bg7 is met by 14. Ba3!

14. Bxe4 Qd6 15. Bb2 Ne7

15... Bg7 is met by 16. d4! Ne7 17. Bd3!, and after 17... 0-0 18. dxe5 Qc7 19. Qd2 Black pieces are left in complete disarray.



16. Nd5!!

Come again?

16... cxd5

Refraining from the capture is hardly better: 16... Bg7 17. Nxe7 Kxe7 18. Qe2, and Black king is stuck in the center, where threats like d4 or f4 loom around every corner. White has ample compensation for the sacrificed piece.

17. Bxe5!

It's become pretty obvious that the writing is on the wall for Black, and White gives him no quarter.

17... Qxe5 18. Bxg6+! Nxg6 19. Qh5!



The calm before the storm – White has sacrificed all his minor pieces, and is now ready to harvest the material with dividends.

19... Bg7 20. Rxe5+ Bxe5 21. Re1 Kf7 22. Rxe5 Nc6 23. Rxd5

Black pieces are hopelessly uncoordinated. White has a lasting initiative.

Opening Survey by GM Borki Predojevic

Adapted from the original article published on January 4, 2014

Philidor Defense, The Exchange Variation with 7. Be3 [Line 295/B07]

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e5 4. dxe5 dxe5 5. Qxd8+ Kxd8 6. Nf3 Bd6 7. Be3!?

A) June 29, 2013

Our editor GM Borki Predojevic suffers at the hands of Magnus Carlsen, the undisputed World No. 1, in the fourth game of their rapid match in Lillehammer:

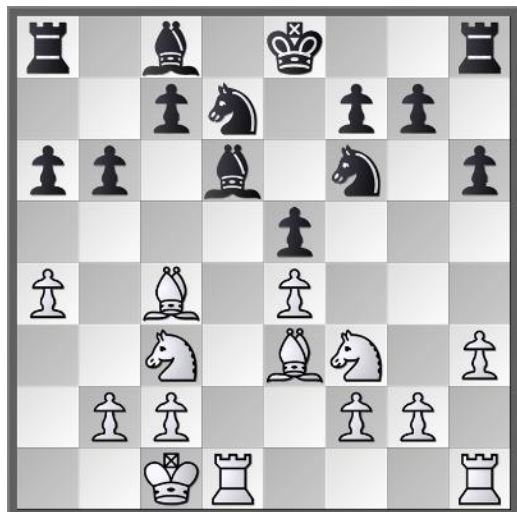
7... Nbd7 8. 0-0-0 a6 9. Bc4

9. Nd2 is also very promising for White; see R. Hovhannisyan – A. Nadanian, Jermuk 2011.

9... Ke8?!

Placing the king on e7 was a much better option.

10. a4 h6 11. h3 b6



12. Nd2!

Aiming for c4.

12... Bb7 13. f3 Ke7 14. Bb3 c6 15. Nc4 Bc7 16. Bf2 b5 17. Ne3 g6

18. Ng4!

Suggested improvement for White, with the idea 19. Bh4.

18... Rad8 19. Bh4 g5 20. Bf2 Nxe4 21. hxg4

and White has a lasting advantage.

B) December 18, 2013

Borki employs the World Champion's set-up against GM Aleksandar Indić, the No. 1 Serbian junior and a member of the national team, and reaps rewards from the lesson learnt.

7... a6 8. 0-0-0 Ke7 9. Bg5! Be6

Another possibility is 9... c6, with the following examples from correspondence play: 10. Bc4 Bc7 11. Nh4! (11. Be3 Nbd7 12. h3 b5 13. Bd3 Rd8 with mutual play, A. Oleksak – V. Ivanov, corr. 2012) h6 12. Nf5+ Bxf5 13. Bxf6+ Kxf6 14. exf5 Rf8 15. g4 Ke7 16. h4, when White had a moderate kingside control advantage and a lasting initiative in T. Hagen – J. Johansen, corr. 2011.

10. Nh4! g6?!

Black should have tried 10... Nbd7, though White could still obtain a tangible pull after 11. Nf5+ Bxf5 12. exf5.

11. Nf5+!

Still! This temporary sacrifice gives White the advantage.

11... gxf5 12. exf5 Rg8 13. Bxf6+ Kxf6 14. fxe6 fxe6 15. Bd3

and White had the upper hand in B. Predojevic – A. Indić, Zadar 2013.

**Opening Line 449 by GM Bojan Vuckovic**

Adapted from the original text published on November 19, 2013

The Paulsen Sicilian, Taimanov-Bastrikov Variation without 5. Nc3 [Line 449/B44]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nb5 d6 6. Bf4 e5 7. Be3 Nf6 8. Bg5 Be6 9. Nd2 Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. Nc4 0-0 12. Qxd6 Qc8!? 13. c3 Bxc4 14. Bxc4

**14... Nd4!**

An important novelty suggested by GM Vuckovic. Black's previous tries (14... Qg4, J. Nunn – M. Tal, Reykjavik 1988, and 14... a6, V. Peresipkin – G. Timošenko, USSR 1973) appear to fail to equalize.

15. Na3

Accepting the sacrifice is dubious at best: 15. cxd4?! Qxc4 16. Qc5 Rfc8 17. Qxc4 Rxc4 18. b3 Rb4 19. Nd6 Rxd4 20. Nxb7 Rxe4+ 21. Kf1 a5, and Black is slightly better.

15... b5! 16. Bxb5

Capturing the knight is still wrong: 16. cxd4?! bxc4 17. d5 c3 18. b3 Qg4 19. 0-0 Qxe4, and Black is again a bit better.

16... Nxb5 17. Nxb5 Rb8 18. Nxa7 Qb7

18... Qc4 is also good: 19. Qc6 Rfc8! 20. Qxc4 Rxc4 21. Ke2 This move leads to perpetual check. 21... Rxb2+ 22. Kd3 Rc7 23. Rhb1 Black has a back-rank weakness. 23... Rd7+ 24. Kc4 Rc7+ 25. Kd3 Rd7+.

19. Nc6 Rfd8! 20. Nxd8 Qxe4+ 21. Kf1 Rxb2

Black has sufficient compensation for the sacrificed material.

22. Re1 Qc2 23. Qd4!

A neat defensive resource: 23... exd4?? would end up in mate after 24. Re8#.

23... h6 24. Qe3 Bxd8 25. Qf3 Rxa2 26. g3 Bb6 27. Rxe5 Qa4 28. Kg2 Rxf2+ 29. Qxf2 Bxf2 30. Kxf2 Qc2+ 31. Re2 Qxc3=.



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Most Interesting Games at the 82nd Mass Open

FM John Curdo

The 82nd Massachusetts Open, held last Memorial Day weekend, once again featured Walter Champion's generous and innovative "Most Interesting Game" prize contest for all four sections.

As usual game submissions totaled about 100. Chief Tournament Director Bob Messenger had the difficult chore of deciphering 94 score sheets which he emailed to me without the players' names.

The Championship section produced an amazing winner! The game opened English, transposing to a Slav and finally to a Dutch Stonewall.

White has a lead in development when the g-file opens and Black, not sensing danger, plays 14...Rf5 (14...Ra7!?) and White uncorks the astonishing 15.Rxg7+!! Then Black would like to back into his castle with 16...Kh8 but 17.Qxf5 exf5 18.Nxf7 mates. Another great point of the combination is 17.Ne4+ clearing way for the queen so that if 17...dxe4 18.Qg2 wins. So the Black king's walk turns into a death march:

IM David Vigorito 2547
IM Jonathan Yedidia 2420
82nd Mass Open
Dutch Defense [A84]

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 e6 4.Qc2 f5 5.Bf4
 Nf6 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nbd2 Ne4 9.Ne5
 Bb4 10.Bxe4 fxe4 11.0-0-0 b6 12.f3 exf3
 13.gxf3 a5 14.Rhg1 Rf5



15.Rxg7+!! Kxg7 16.Rg1+ Kf6 17.Ne4+



17... Ke7 18.Bg5+ Rxg5 19.Nxg5 Qf8
 20.Qxh7+ Kd6 21.c5+ bxc5 22.Nc4+ dxc4
 23.Ne4+ Kd5 24.Rg5+ Qf5 25.Rxf5+ exf5
 26.Qf7+ Be6 27.Nf6+ Kd6 28.Ne8+ Kd5
 29.Nc7+ Kd6 30.Nxe6



30... Nd7 31.a3 Be1 32.Nxc5 Nxc5
 33.dxc5+ Kxc5 34.Qxf5+ Kb6 35.Kd1 Bh4
 36.Qe4

1-0

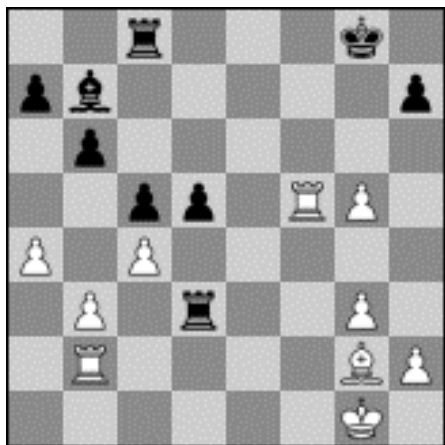


The U2100 section was the most difficult to judge, because of so many combative games! The one chosen was interesting in that Black, the loser, was quite pushy from the outset. Aggressive to a fault and falter he did, by passing up some potential drawing lines, notably at move 42 when 42...Rg4 43.Rxb6+ Kg7 would likely draw.

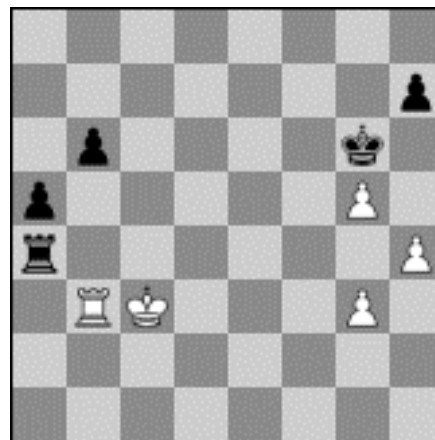
To play this type of ending correctly is tough at any level. So when White takes over, Black suffers long and hard:

Stephen Brudno 1928
Stefan Trandafir 1894
82nd Mass Open
Dutch Defense [A90]

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 c6
 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 Qe7 8.a4 0-0 9.Ba3 Bxa3
 10.Nxa3 b6 11.Qc2 Bb7 12.Nb1 Nbd7
 13.Nbd2 Ne4 14.e3 Rac8 15.Qb2 Rfd8
 16.Rac1 Qf6 17.Rc2 g5 18.Ne1 e5 19.f3
 Nxd2 20.Rxd2 c5 21.dxe5 Qxe5 22.Qxe5
 Nxe5 23.f4 Ng4 24.Nc2 Re8 25.fxg5 Nxe3
 26.Nxe3 Rxe3 27.Rb2 Rd3 28.Rxf5



28... Rd8 29.Bxd5+ Bxd5 30.Rxd5 R8xd5
 31.cxd5 Rxd5 32.h4 Rd3 33.Kg2 Kg7
 34.Kh3 Kg6 35.Rb1 a5 36.Rb2 Re3
 37.Kg4 Re4+ 38.Kf3 Rb4 39.Ke3 c4
 40.Kd2 cxb3 41.Kc3 Rxa4 42.Rxb3



42... b5 43.Rxb5 Ra3+ 44.Rb3 Ra4
 45.Kd3 Rg4 46.Ke2 a4 47.Ra3 Rb4 48.Kf2
 Rb2+ 49.Ke3 Rb4 50.Kd2 Rg4 51.Kc2
 Kg7 52.Kb2 Kg6 53.Rf3 Kg7 54.Re3 Kf7
 55.Kc2 Kg7 56.Kd2 Kg6 57.Ke2 Rb4
 58.Re6+ Kg7 59.Ra6 Rb2+ 60.Kf3 Rb3+
 61.Kg4 a3 62.h5 Kf7 63.Ra7+ Kg8 64.Ra4
 Kf7 65.Kf4 Rc3 66.g4 Rb3 67.Ra5 Rc3
 68.Ra7+ Kg8 69.Ra6 Kf7 70.Ra5 Rb3
 71.Kf5 Rf3+ 72.Ke4 Rb3 73.Kf4 Rc3
 74.Ra6 Rb3 75.Ra5 Rc3 76.h6 Kg6
 77.Ra6+ Kf7 78.Ra7+ Kg8 79.g6 hxg6
 80.Kg5 Rg3 81.Ra5 Kh7 82.Ra6 Kh8
 83.Rxg6 a2 84.Ra6 Rg2 85.Ra7 Rb2
 86.Kh5 Rc2 87.g5 Rb2 88.Ra6 Rc2 89.g6
 Rc5+ 90.Kg4 Rc4+ 91.Kf5 Rc5+ 92.Ke4
 Rc4+ 93.Kd3 Rc8 94.Rxa2 Re8 95.Ra6
 Kg8 96.Kd4 Kh8 97.Kd5 Kg8 98.Re6 Rf8
 99.Ke5 Ra8 100.Kf6 Rf8+ 101.Ke5 Ra8
 102.Rd6 Re8+ 103.Kf6 Rf8+ 104.Ke7
 Rf7+ 105.gxf7+ Kh7 106.Rd8 1-0

The U1800 section produced three games of interest, all with the classical Vienna Game opening (1.e4 e5 2.Nc3, etc.) Were they all by the same player? I can't be sure. However they were all wins for White, reminding me of New England's Weaver Adams whose most famous book "White to play and Win" (1939) featured the Vienna Game as its centerpiece! I've chosen the most interesting of the three.



Alan Sikarov 1537
Robert Babcock 1507
82nd Mass Open
Vienna Game [C25]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bb5
Nge7 6.Nd5 Bg4 7.c3 a6 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3
Nxd5 10.Bxd5 Qd7 11.d4 Ba7 12.Be3 Be6



13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.d5 Qc4 15.Bxa7 Qxe4+
16.Qe2 Qxd5 17.Be3 exf4 18.Bxf4 0-0
19.0-0 Rfe8 20.Rfe1 Qf5 21.Qe4 Qc5+
22.Qd4 Qc6 23.Re3 h6 24.Qd2 Bg4
25.Nd4 Qc5 26.Rae1 Bd7 27.Rg3 g5
28.Bxg5 Rxe1+ 29.Kf2 Re6 30.Bf6+ Kf8
31.Qxh6+
1-0

The U1500 game submissions showed that some of the players have a sense of humor. Witness two of the games: one was a seven move version of the old Qxf7 Scholar's mate and the other was an uneventful six move Giuoco Piano ending with "and Black won (0-1)"!

All this whimsy aside, there were many serious struggles submitted. The game chosen epitomizes this – kudos to both players, the winner and the loser!

Raymond Behenna 1214
Michael Stevens 1221
82nd Mass Open
Danish Gambit [C21]

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5
5.cxd4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Qa5 7.Bd2 Nf6 8.Nf3
0-0 9.Be2 Be6 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Rc1 Rad8
12.Bg5 Bxa2 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Ne4 Kg7
15.Ra1 Qd5 16.Ng3 Bb3 17.Qd3 Rfe8
18.Nf5+ Kh8 19.Ne3 Qe6 20.Bd1 Bd5
21.Bc2 Be4 22.Qxe4 Qxe4 23.Bxe4 Rxe4
24.Rfd1 Nxd4 25.Kf1 Bc5 26.Nf5 Nc6
27.Rxd8+ Nxd8 28.Rd1 Ne6 29.Rd7 Kg8
30.Nh6+ Kg7 31.Nxf7 Kg6 32.g3 Ng5
33.Nh4+ Rxh4 34.gxh4 Nxf7 35.Rxc7 Bb6
36.Rxb7



36... h6 37.h5+ Kg7 38.Ke2 Kf8 39.f3 Ke8
40.h3 Nd6 41.Rh7 Nf7 42.Kd3 Kf8 43.Ke4
Kg8 44.Rxf7 Kxf7 45.Kf5 Bd4 46.b4 a6
47.Ke4 Bc3 48.Kd3 Bxb4 49.Kc4 a5
50.Kd5 a4 51.Kc4 Be7 52.f4 f5 53.h4 Bd6
54.Kc3 Bxf4 55.Kb4 Bd2+ 56.Kxa4 f4
0-1

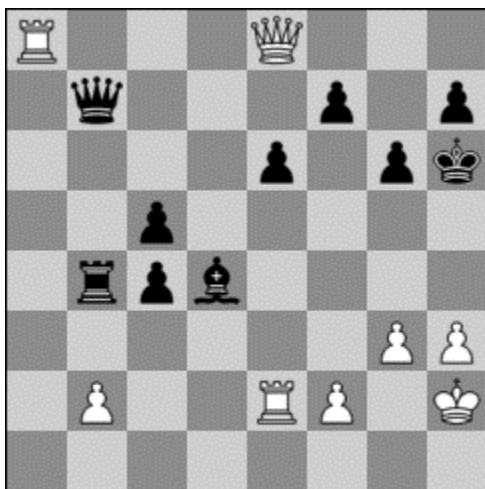
Walter Champion awarded an "extra" special game prize, to both players, for the first round draw between this writer and IM Vigorito. Several spectators said it was the most exciting game they ever witnessed, prompting the award.



Dave deserves great credit for his balancing act, on the precipice of defeat! I on the other hand thought the game was a “train wreck” because I missed so many wins. Two of the most glaring were: 47.Qe7 threatening three mates and Kh6 meets 48.Qg5+ Kg7 49.Ra7+ mating, and 61.Qxf5+ which will win the bishop.

FM John Curdo 2203
IM David Vigorito 2547
82nd Mass. Open
Sicilian Defense [B51]

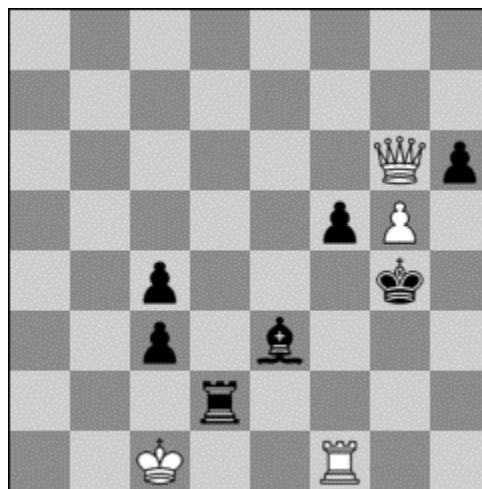
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.0-0 Bd7
 5.c3 Nf6 6.Qe2 a6 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bc2 Bg4
 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 g6 11.a4 Rb8 12.axb5
 axb5 13.Na3 Bg7 14.Qe2 b4 15.Ba4 Qc8
 16.cxb4 Rxb4 17.Nc4 0-0 18.Bxc6 Qxc6
 19.d3 Rfb8 20.Bd2 Rxc4 21.dxc4 Nxe4
 22.Rab1 Rb3 23.Rfe1 Nxd2 24.Qxd2 Bd4
 25.Kh2 Qb7 26.Qg5 Bf6 27.Qd5 Qb8
 28.Re2 e6 29.Qc6 d5+ 30.g3 dxc4 31.Ra1
 Rb7 32.Ra5 Bd4 33.Qa4 Rb4 34.Qc6 Rb7
 35.Qa4 Rb4 36.Qc6 Kg7 37.Ra8 Qb7
 38.Qe8 Kh6



39.Qf8+ Kh5 40.f4 f5 41.Rg2 Qxg2+
 42.Kxg2 Rxb2+ 43.Kf1 Rb1+ 44.Ke2
 Rb2+ 45.Kd1 c3 46.Ra1 Rg2



47.Rc1 Rxc3 48.Qe7 h6 49.Qxe6 Rxh3
 50.Ke2 Rh2+ 51.Kf3 Kh4 52.Rf1 Rh3+
 53.Ke2 Kh5 54.Qd5 Kg4 55.Qc6 g5
 56.Qg6 c4 57.fxc5 Re3+ 58.Kd1 Rd3+
 59.Kc2 Rd2+ 60.Kc1 Be3



61.gxh6+ Kh4 62.Qf6+ Kg3 63.Qg6+ Kh4
 64.Qf6+ Kg3 65.Qe5+ f4 66.h7 Ra2+
 67.Qxe3+ fxe3 68.h8Q Ra1+ 69.Kc2 Rxf1
 and eventually 1/2-1/2

The 83rd Mass Open will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 24th – 26th (2 day schedule May 25th-26th) in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and will once again feature Mr. Champion's best game awards. For full details, see the ad on page 2, or visit Masschess.org.



Grant X. Marks the Spot

82nd Mass Open Bonanza!

NM Grand Xu

Welcome to NM Grant Xu's roundup of local games and the critical decisions and plans which define them. In this inaugural edition, Grant focuses on a variety of games submitted at the 82nd Mass Open last May, including a slew of wins by GM Ivanov.

GM Alexander Ivanov 2641

Mika Brattain 2341

82nd Mass Open (6)

Sicilian – Najdorf [B90]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. h3 g6 7. g4 Bg7 8. Bg2 O-O 9. Be3 Nc6 10. Qd2 Bd7 11. O-O-O Na5

Forcing b3, but Black is not able to take advantage of the provoked weakness, as White's attack plays itself.

12. b3 Rc8 13. g5 Ne8 14. Kb1 Nc6 15. h4 Nc7 16. Nxc6 Bxc6 17. Bd4 Bxd4 18. Qxd4 Ne6 19. Qd2 Qb6 20. Nd5!



Trades off Black's good bishop and White's potential target on c3, but more importantly seals the center so White can overwhelm the kingside.

20... Bxd5 21. exd5 Ng7 22. Bf3 Qc5 23. Bg4 Rc7 24. h5 gxh5 25. Bxh5 Qc3 26. Be2

Black's h7 pawn will now fall, and his badly placed knight on g7 has little to say about it. Perhaps trading the queens first was also better: 26. Qxc3 Rxc3 27. Be2 f6 28. Rdg1 fxg5 29. Rxc3 Rxf2 30. Bd3+-

26... e5?

The pawns drop like flies now. After 26... Qxd2 27. Rxd2 f6, White does not have Rdg1 mentioned in the previous line anymore, although he does retain an advantage. 28. Bd3 fxg5 29. Bxh7+ Kf7 30. Rd3 Ne8 31. Rg1 e5 32. Rxc3 Ke7±)

27. dxe6 fxe6 28. Qxc3 Rxc3 29. Rxd6 Rxf2 30. Bd3 Nf5 31. Rxe6 Nd4 32. Bxh7+ Kf7 33. Rf6+!?

A very human move to simplify into an advantageous endgame, but White had better with 33. Rb6 Nxc2 (33... Rc7 34. Be4 is crushing) 34. g6+ Kf8 35. Rxb7 Na3+ 36. Ka1 Nc2+ 37. Kb2 Rg3 38. Rc1 (Game over)

33... Rxf6 34. gxf6 Kxf6 35. Be4 Rc7 36. Rh5 Ne6 37. Kb2 Ke7??

This blunder ends the game. Better was 37... b5 38. Bd3 Nc5 39. Bf1 Ke6. Black's defensive task is far from easy, but he has chances.

38. Bxb7 a5 39. Be4 Nc5 40. Bd5 Kd6 41. Bf3 Rc8 42. Rd5+ Kc6 43. Rd8+ Kc7 44. Rxc8+ Kxc8 45. a3 Kc7 46. b4 Na6 47. Be2 Nb8 48. Bb5 1-0

Jason Wang 1167

Robert E. King 1496

82nd Mass Open (3)

Queen's Gambit Declined [D35]

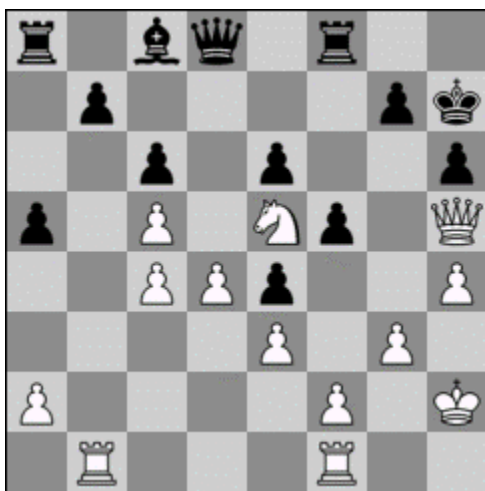
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bf4 e6 5. e3 Bb4 6. c5 Ne4 7. Qc2 Nxc3 8. bxc3 Ba5 9. Bd3 f5 10. Nf3 O-O 11. h3 Nd7



**12. O-O Nf6 13. Rab1 h6 14. Ne5 Bc7
15. Bh2 Ne4 16. Bxe4 dxe4**

White has played quite well up to his point (especially considering his rating!). The rook on b1 and knight on e5 keep Black's queenside bishop and rook entombed. The dark squares are dominated by White and he will logically play for a kingside breakthrough.

**17. Qe2 Qg5 18. Nc4 Bxh2+ 19. Kxh2 Rf6
20. Ne5 Rf8 21. g3 a5 22. h4 Qd8 23. c4
Kh7 24. Qh5**



24... Rf6

Notice how Black can't do anything except shuffle his pieces aimlessly. On the other hand, White could do a million things to slowly improve his position. The monster on e5 is worth more than the c8 bishop and a8 rook at the moment.

25. Qe2 g5??

Voluntarily opening the floodgates!

**26. hxc5 hxc5 27. Kg2 g4 28. Rh1+ Kg7
29. Rh2 Rh6??**

The last mistake, but invasion on the h-file was inevitable anyway.

30. Rxh6

1-0

**GM Alexander Ivanov 2641
FM Christopher Chase 2356
82nd Mass Open (3)
Modern Defence [B06]**

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Be3 a6

Chase's pet system.

5. Nf3 Nd7 6. Bc4 e6 7. a4 b6

In systems like these, Black accepts a slightly worse position out of the opening and tries to keep his pieces and pawns dynamic. This will often lead to Black outplaying a lower rated opponent. However, GM Ivanov makes tearing apart this opening seem easy.

8. d5!

I like this move. The resulting structure makes it difficult for Black to get his pieces to good squares and do anything constructive.

8... Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 e5 10. O-O Ndf6

Black tries to keep his kingside dark squares covered. It was better to develop the other knight to f6 though, as the knight is needed on the queenside, e.g. 10... Ngf6 11. Nd2 (11. Bd3 Nc5) 11... O-O 12. f3 Bb7 13. a5 b5 14. Be2 c6

**11. Bd3 h6 12. a5 b5 13. Ne1 g5 14. f3 Ne7
15. c4**

Black attempts to conjure up some kingside play, but it's too slow and now White breaks through on the queenside.

15... bxc4 16. Bxc4 Ng6 17. Nd3 Nd7

And the knight returns to d7 anyway! The rest of Black's pieces lie on the back rank.

18. Bb3 O-O 19. Ba4

Threatening to trap the rook with Bc6 and Ba7

19... Nb8

What a depressing move to have to play.

**20. c4**

The next foot soldier comes ramming in!

**20... f5 21. c5 f4 22. Bf2 g4 23. fxg4 Qg5
24. Ne1 Nd7**

It seems strange to not take the g4 pawn, but the position is hopeless anyway. It's comical to see the queenside knight continuously looking for a home. 24... Bxg4 25. Nf3 Qh5 (25... Bxf3 26. Qxf3 and c6 is coming anyway) 26. c6



And black's a8 rook and b8 knight will never get out.

25. cxd6 cxd6 26. h3

The rest is easy.

26... Qe7 27. Rc1 Nf6 28. Bb6 Bd7

(28... Nxe4 29. Qd3)

**29. Nf3 Rac8 30. Bc6 Kg7 31. Qa4 Bxc6
32. dxc6 Qe6 33. Rfd1 Ne8 34. Qa3 Qf6
35. Qd3 Ne7 36. Qxa6 Rxc6 37. Rxc6
Nxc6 38. Qb7+ Ne7 39. a6 1-0**

**FM Charles Riordan 2406
Nathan Smolensky 1938
82nd Mass Open (3)
Queen's Indian [E13]**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 b6 5.
Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 Bb7 7. Nd2!?**

Interesting idea. White tries to expand in the center before developing his kingside.

7... c5

Striking at the center. Black could also have just castled. (7... O-O 8. e3 d6 9. f3 Nbd7 10. Bd3 Bxc3 11. bxc3 e5)

8. d5!?

Tempting, but this leaves the pawn overextended if Black replies correctly. Better was 8. dxc5 bxc5 9. Qc2 d5

8... Bxc3 9. bxc3 d6

After 9... Qe7! White is uncomfortable. He must simultaneously hold on to the d-pawn and develop his kingside. 10. Qb3 (10. e4 exd5 11. cxd5 g5) g5 11. Bg3 exd5 12. Rd1 d4 13. cxd4 cxd4 14. Qb2 Nc6 15. Nf3 Ne4 16. Nxd4 Nxd4 17. Rxd4 O-O-O and White's kingside is still sleeping.

10. e4 e5?

It was better to keep the tension and simply castle, as Black would then have the choice of opening the E-file at one point. It's always important to not destroy your options unless absolutely necessary.

**11. Bd3 Nbd7 12. f3 Qc7 13. Nf1 Nh5
14. Ne3 Nf4 15. Bc2 Ba6 16. Bf2 O-O 17.
h4 h5 18. g3 Ng6 19. Bd3 Nf6 20. a4 Bc8
21. a5**

White has slowly fixed the pawn structure into one where only he is able to have play. There is no clear plan for Black, and these positions are terrible to defend. Also notice how White does not need to castle as his king is in no danger of attack.

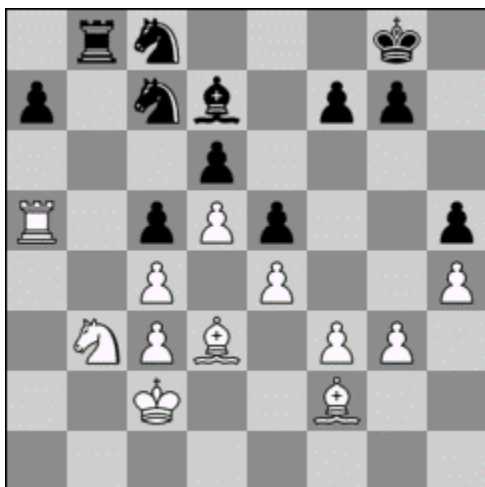
**21... bxa5 22. Qa4 Bd7 23. Qxa5 Qb6 24.
Kd2!**

The white rooks infiltrate. Black is basically helpless.

**24... Qxa5 25. Rxa5 Rfb8 26. Rha1 Rb7
27. Kc2 Ne7 28. Nf1 Nc8 29. Nd2 Rab8**



30. Rb1 Rxb1 31. Nxb1 Ne8 32. Nd2 Nc7
33. Nb3



33... Be8 34. Nxc5!

The breakthrough comes. Black's pieces are in poor position to stop the rolling pawns.

34... dxc5 35. Bxc5 f6 36. Be3 Kf7 37. c5
Bd7 38. c4 Ne8 39. c6 Bxc6 40. dxc6

White won on time.

1-0

Robert Holmgren 1846

Robert J. King 2053

82nd Mass Open

Sicilian [B33]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6
5. Nc3 Nf6 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bf4?

This just loses a tempo.

7... e5 8. Bg5 a6 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. Na3 b5
11. Nd5 Be6

11... f5 is a lot more direct and effective.

12. c3 Rc8?

On 12... Rb8 The rook doesn't do anything on c8. It is actually needed on b8 to defend against a possible future a4.

13. Nc2 Bxd5 14. Qxd5!?

(14. exd5! Ne7 15. a4±)

14... Ne7 15. Qd1 Qb6 16. Be2 Bg7 17. O-O

(17. a4!)

17... O-O 18. Kh1

The incorrect plan. White has to prevent d5 and play on the queenside rather than the kingside.

18... Rcd8 19. a4

Right move, wrong time. Ne3 was absolutely needed to contain d5.

19... d5 20. exd5 Nxd5 21. Qe1 f5

Aggressive, but also possible was 21... bxa4 22. Nb4 (22. Rxa4 Qb3-+) 22... Nxb4 23. cxb4 Rd4 24. Rxa4 Rb8 25. b3 Rxb4 26. Rxb4 Qxb4 27. Qxb4 Rxb4 28. Bc4=, although Black was probably playing for the win at this point.

22. axb5 axb5 23. Ne3 Ne7 24. Qb1?

Letting the pig get onto the seventh rank.

24... e4!?

(24... f4 25. Nf5 Nxf5 26. Qxf5 Rd2)

25. Kg1 Rd2 26. Re1 f4

26... Rfd8 would bring in all the pieces. White had little to do anyway.

27. Nf1 e3?!



28. f3?



Black's bluff works. In general, it's better to not play moves that just look plain ugly. You would be surprised how far your instinct can take you. White would have been better after 28. Nxd2 exf2+ 29. Kh1 fxe1=Q+ 30. Qxe1, or 28. fxe3 fxe3 29. Kh1 Rd6 30. Bd3

28... Rdd8 29. Kh1

I didn't understand the point of this move.

29... Ng6 30. Qf5 b4 31. Rac1 Rc8 32. cxb4 Rxc1 33. Rxc1 Qxb4 34. Rb1 Bxb2 35. Qc2 Rb8 36. g3 Qd4 37. Bd3 Rb4 38. Bxg6?

The bishop was White's better minor piece. White's knight has nowhere to go and is basically doing nothing. A large part of chess comes down to deciding when and when not to trade material.

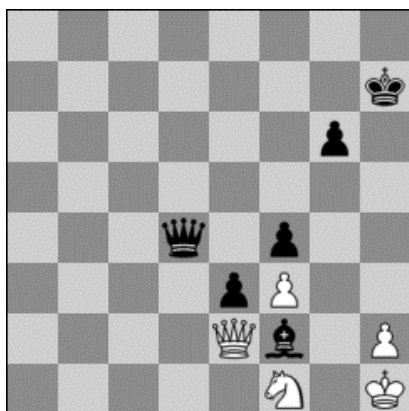
38... hxc6 39. gxf4 Bc3

Not best (39... Qxf4 40. Qe2 (40. Rxb2 Rxb2 41. Qxb2 Qxf3+ 42. Kg1 e2 43. Qc1 exf1=R+ 44. Qxf1 Qxf1+ 45. Kxf1 Kg7-+))

40. Rxb4 Bxb4 41. Qe2

41. Qa4! saves White. He is threatening Qe8+ winning the e-pawn as well as Nxe3. Always look for resources no matter what the position!

41... Bc5 42. Kg2 Qxf4 43. Ng3 Qd4 44. Kh3 Bd6 45. Nf1 Bf4 46. Kg2 f5 47. Kh3 Kh7 48. Kg2 Bh6 49. Kg1 f4 50. Kg2 Bg5 51. Kg1 Bh4 52. Kh1 Bf2



(52... Bf2 53. Kg2 Kh6 54. Kh3 Qe5 55. Kg2 Kh5 56. Kh3 Qf5+ 57. Kg2 Kh4 58. Kh1 Qg5-+)

0-1

Daniel Tiedemann 1751

Robert Babcock 1507

82nd Mass Open

Robatsch [B06]

1. d4 g6 2. e4 Bg7 3. f4 e6 4. Nc3 c6

Needless. d5 can be played immediately.

5. Nf3 d5 6. e5 b6 7. Be3 Nd7 8. Bd3

Observe and compare the speed of development for each side.

8... a6 9. g4

Fun fun fun!

9... c5 10. f5 cxd4 11. Bxd4 Nc5 12. f6 Nxd3+ 13. Qxd3 Bf8 14. O-O-O Bd7 15. g5

The only Black piece not on its home square is the d7 bishop. One by one, White's pawns advance as far as they can go.

h6 16. h4 Bc5??

16... h5 closes the kingside and forces White to find a less direct way to win.

17. h5 Bxd4 18. Nxd4 Qc7 19. hxc6 Qxe5 20. g7





20... Qxg5+ 21. Kb1 Qxf6 22. gxh8=Q
Qxh8 23. Qe3 Rc8 24. Nf3 Bc6 25. Nxd5
Ba4 26. Nc3 Bc6 27. Rhf1 Nf6 28. Ne5
Qh7 29. Rxf6

1-0

Stephen Brudno 1928

Nithin Kavi 1908

82nd Mass Open

King's Indian - Sämisch [E84]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3
O-O 6. Be3 Nc6 7. Nge2 a6 8. Qd2 Rb8
9. Nc1 e5 10. d5 Nd4 11. N1e2 c5 12. dxc6
Nxc6 13. Rd1 Be6 14. b3 Qa5 15. Nd5

(15. Qxd6 Nd4!)

15... Qxd2+?!

Rarely is it a good idea to voluntarily head
into an inferior endgame. In this case, White
has the better pawn structure, a strong knight
on d5, and all the winning chances. Better
was 15... Nxd5 16. exd5 Nb4 17. Nc3 (17.
dxe6 Nd3#) 17... Bf5

16. Rxd2 Bxd5

Trading the knight off, but opening the c-
file.

17. cxd5 Ne7 18. Rc2 Rbc8 19. Rxc8 Rxc8
20. Kd2 Nd7 21. Nc3 b5 22. Bd3

It might not look like it, but the endgame is
already near lost for Black. All of White's
pieces are working towards the queenside,
while Black's only defensive piece over
there is the rook on c8. If the knight on d7
goes to c5, b4 will drive it away.

22... f5

May as well try something on the kingside.
Certainly better than 22... Nc5 23. b4 Nxd3
24. Kxd3 Kf8 25. a4+-

23. Rc1?!

An inaccuracy. 23. b4 with a4 next is the
simplest way to win.

23... Nc5 24. Bb1 f4 25. Bf2 g5 26. h3

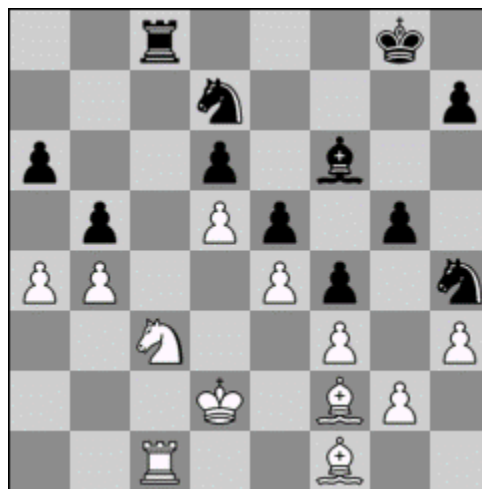
Not needed.

26... Ng6 27. b4

Finally, it comes.

28... Nd7 28. Bd3 Nh4 29. Bf1 Bf6 30. a4

Black's queenside crumbles.



30... bxa4 31. Nxa4 Rb8 32. Rb1 Bd8

33. Rb3?!

33. Bxh4 gxh4 34. Bxa6 is simplest.

33... Nb6 34. Nb2 Ra8 35. Ra3 Nd7

36. Rxa6 Rxa6 37. Bxa6 Bb6

(37... Nxg2 38. Nc4+-)

38. Bxb6 Nxb6 39. Bf1 Kf7 40. Kc3 Ke7

41. Nc4 Nxc4 42. Kxc4 Kd7 43. Kb5 Kc7

44. Ka6 Ng6 45. Ka7 Nf8 46. Bb5!

An important move, cutting off the knight.
Now it's over.

46... Ng6 47. Bc6 Ne7 48. Bb7 Ng6 49. b5
Nf8 50. b6+ Kd8 51. Bc6

1-0



Remembering Tony Miles

GM Larry Christiansen

On April 5th, the Boylston Chess Club will hold a memorial tournament in honor of Tony Miles, who passed away of heart failure in 2001. His friend, three-time U.S. Champion GM Larry Christiansen, remembers the remarkable player.

Tony Miles was a true original. He was a fighting player with a wicked sense of humor who amassed a vast number of chess brawls against some of the world's finest.

I first met Tony Miles in 1973 at the Lone Pine event. He would drink quart after quart of milk during his games and go through an elaborate and distracting routine of writing his move down before he played it, hiding the move with a large watch, often crossing out his original move. After making his move, he would then loudly honk and blow his nose and j'doube the pieces on his opponent's time.

Needless to say, these traits did not endear him to many of his opponents, but most players made allowances because of his good humor and very creative brand of play.

Miles was a very hard worker at the board. He could grind out long endgames and rarely shrank from wild complications.

He was notorious for his various feuds with the likes of Raymond Keene and Nigel Short, but he was on pretty good terms with most US players, although many were not happy with his very temporary switch to the US in the late 1980s.

Here is a fine game from 1980 that showcased Miles winning in his trademark positionally aggressive style:

GM Anthony Miles

GM Oscar Panno

Puerto Madryn

??..??..1980

Queen's Indian [E12]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. a3

The Petrosian Queen's Indian was a mainstay of Miles' repertoire in the late 1970s and 1980s.

4...Bb7 5. Nc3 d5 6. cxd5 exd5

6...Nxd5 is more active.

7. Bf4

7. g3 is more effective here, with a slight edge for White after 7... Be7 (7... Bd6 8 Bg5! 0-0 9. Bh3 creates problems) 8. Bg2 0-0 9. 0-0 Re8 10. Bg5

7... Bd6 8. Bg3

I once successfully tried 8. Ne5!? in a German Cup match against Robert Huebner, but Black should be okay after 8... 0-0 9. e3 c5 10. Be2 Nc6 11. 0-0 Nc6

8... a6 9.e3

(9.Qa4+ c6 10.e3 0-0 11.Bd3 c5=)

9... 0-0

9...Ne4 10.Nxe4 (10.Rc1 Nxe4 11.hxg3 Nd7 12.Bd3 Nf6) 10...dxe4 11.Ne5 Bd5 12.Be2 0-0 13.Qc2 Re8 leads to a reasonable position for Black.

10. Rc1 Re8 11. Bd3 Qe7 12. b4 Nbd7 13. Qb3

Miles plays to bottle up the freeing thrust ... c7-c5

13... c6 14. 0-0 a5 15. Bf5! axb4

15... g6 16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17. Bh3 axb4 18. axb4

16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17. axb4 Ra7

(17... Ba6 18. b5 cxb5 19. Nxb5 Bxb5 20. Qxb5²)

**18. Ra1 Rea8**

If Black swaps off all the rooks, then White enjoys pressure after 18... Rxa1 19. Rxa1 Ra8 20. Rxa8+ Bxa8 21. b5! c5 22. Qa2 Bb7 23. Qa7

19. Rxa7 Rxa7 20. e4! dxe4

20... Nxe4 21. Nxe4 dxe4 22. Ng5 Qe7 23. Nxf7 also favors White.

21. Ng5 Qe7 22. Nxf7!

22. Ngxe4 Nxe4 23. Nxe4 is simply equal.

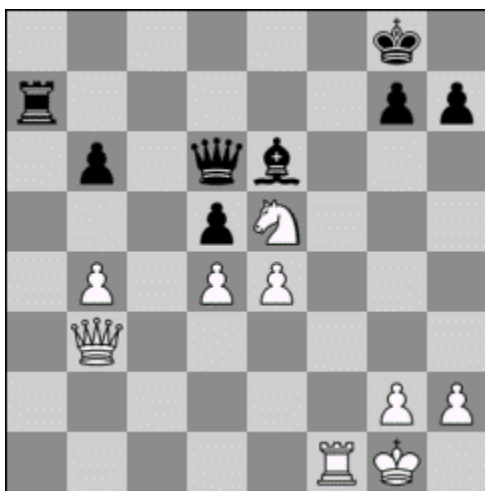
22... Nd5 23. Nxd5

(23. Ne5 Nxe5 24. dxe5 Qxe5 25. Bxe4 g6)

23... cxd5 24. Bxd7 Qxd7?

24... Qxf7 25. Qh3 Kh8 26. Qg3 Qxd7 27. Qb8+ Bc8 28. Rc1 g6 29. Rxc8+ Kg7 30. h3 with an edge for White offered more hope.

25. Ne5 This dominating knight decides the game. Black has a bad bishop and more exposed king. But Miles must find a way to activate his rook...

25... Qd6 26. f3! Bc8 27. fxe4 Be6**28. Rc1!**

There it is!

28... h6

28... Rc7 (Not 28... dxe4? 29. Rc8+ and wins) 29. Rxc7 Qxc7 30. exd5 Qc1+ 31. Kf2 Qf4+ 32. Nf3 (knights excel at defending kings) 32... Bf7 33. Qc4 h6 34. Qc6 Bh5 35. Qe6+ Kh7 36. Qe5 wins comfortably, while 28... dxe4 is met with 29. Rc8+.

29. Rc6 Ra1+ 30. Kf2 Qe7 31. Nf3 Bf7 32. e5 Qa7?

Black desperately searches for counterplay, but the queen's departure from the center opens up the chance for a mating attack.

33. Rc8+ Kh7 34. Ng5+! Kg6

[34... hxg5 35. Qd3+ (35. Qh3+ Kg6 36. Rc6+) 35... g6 36. Qh3+ Kg7 37. Qh8#]

35. Rc6+! Kxg5 36. Qg3+ Kf5 37. Qf3+ Kg5 38. Kg3!

Black is bound to be mated, e.g. 38. h4+ Kxh4 39. Qf4+ Kh5 40. Qf5+ Kh4 41. g3#

1-0

BONUS: Tony Miles Tactics!

Miles encountered this position playing with the white pieces in Wolverhampton in 1968. Can you spot the win?

Come to the BCC on April 5th for the Tony Miles Memorial! \$1,000 in guaranteed prizes in this four-round swiss! Details and pre-registration available at masschess.org.



Chess at the New England Sports Academy

Nicholas Sterling

NESA Beginnings

Before I started working at New England Sports Academy (abbreviated NESA), I was a struggling tutor and teacher with a whole parcel of scattered unrelated positions. In early September of 2009, one fine afternoon, a phone call came to me asking for an SAT tutor. The client lived in Rhode Island, but traveled regularly to a location in Westwood. Would I like to meet her halfway at this Academy where her other daughter took Gymnastics? I said sure.

So when I got there, SAT flyer in tow, my client and I sat at a table in this noisy crowded lobby with two birthday parties swirling around us, screaming kids everywhere. (“One, two, three, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!” at the top of twenty four-year-olds’ lungs.) Once the birthday parties had moved away to what I was told was the gym in the rear of the building, we could actually hear ourselves think, and talk, and then the lesson got underway.

Part-way through the lesson, a basketball coach named Markus asked me to leave my SAT flyer at the Front Desk, which I did. I met a couple of the other staff, and everything seemed cool. Aside from the unusual locale, nothing about this particular tutoring appointment seemed particular out of the ordinary.

Little did I know...

A few weeks later, a message on my phone with a Russian accent asked me to

come in to NESA to learn about an opportunity to take my tutoring “to the next level.” Intrigued, I went to NESA and met Henry, the CEO of NESA. He invited me to start an entire new Program at NESA, called Academic, that would include Chess, Math, and whatever other subjects I could teach or have others teach. And I would direct it. I, still practically a stranger off the street.

On my chin remains a scar where my jaw hit the floor.

The rest has been history for me. New England Sports Academy has been simply the most amazing place to work. Nowhere else have I had the chance to teach classes, direct two whole Programs, and do gymnastics workouts (first time ever in my 40s) working on flips. And though my finances are still soft, I am in way better shape than I was back when I was the struggling tutor.

The NESA Chess Team

So began my career at NESA. Though I have had many successes here – any time anyone wants to challenge me to a game of Munchkin, step right up! – I single out the growth of the Chess program as the biggest thrill.

As I wrote about in a previous *CH* article, most of the Chess classes, including those in the Home-School Program, are recreational, and include variants such as Vampire Chess, Knight-Mare Chess (made by the same company that produces Munchkin), Suicide Chess, Star Wars Chess, Rampage Chess, and other products of lunacy. Vampire Chess was my own creation. That says something, right?

From the general riff-raff, however, have emerged a group of kids far above the average youthful player. These are the competitors, numbering 15 at the time of writing, who form the mighty warriors of the newly aspiring NESA Chess Team.

Launched in April under the tutelage of Master Steven Winer, the Chess Team came together from the inspiration of several of the parents of children in the chess classes of several Chinese Schools. The Team meets once or twice a month. During a Team Meeting, the students play practice games under simulated tournament conditions (that is, when they do not get distracted by Munchkin Quest in progress at another table). Because they keep score, their games become the objects of analysis during the instruction phase of the Meeting. Steve presents a chess puzzle to the group, and then carefully goes over at least one of the students' games, for comparison.

Has it worked?

At least one player at Waltham Chess Club has made a reference to one of “my” students (meaning a NESa Team player) listed in a publication of an event. The Team’s reputation is starting to precede itself.

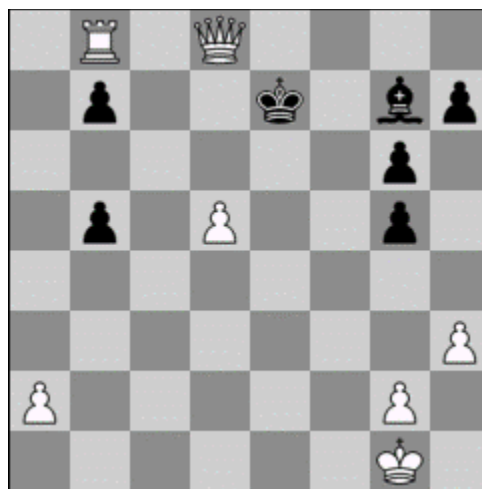
The New England Open saw one of the Team players, Brian Yin, take first place – and a big trophy – in the K-6 Under 1400. And prior to that, Bernie Xu, another powerful up-and-coming warrior, kicked my butt in the final round of the NESA July G/30, thereby taking first place and a special Upset prize. (The game is reproduced below.)

So yes, it is working.

But none of this would have happened had not a chance phone call for an SAT appointment brought me to NESa three years prior.

**Bernie Xu,1035 –
Nicholas Sterling
NESA G/30
07.20.2013
King's[E61]**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. Nf3 d6
5. Bf4 0-0 6. e3 Bg4 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 c6
9. Bd3 Nbd7 10. 0-0 e5 11. Bg5 exd4
12. exd4 Qb6 13. d5 Qxb2 14. Be2 Ne5
15. Qe3 Rfe8 16. Qc1 Qxc1 17. Raxc1
cxd5 18. Nxd5 Nxd5 19. cxd5 Rac8
20. Bb5 Rxc1 21. Rxc1 Rb8 22. f4 a6
23. fxe5 axb5 24. exd6 f6 25. d7 Rd8
26. Rc8 Kf7 27. Rxd8 Ke7 28. Rb8 fxg5
29.d8 = Q+



1 - 0



Book Reviews

San Remo 1930

Arthur Nugent

San Remo 1930: International Chess Tournament

Robert Sherwood

Caissa Editions, ©2013, HC, 220 pgs.
\$42.95

There are really only two chess publishing companies that consistently turn out quality hard cover books: McFarlands, and Caissa Editions (Dale Brandreth). You do get your money's worth with them! San Remo 1930: International Chess Tournament contains, "Most perfect chess by Alekhine!" according to Max Euwe. Nimzowitsch remarked, "Alekhine wins his games with great ease!" Alexander Alekhine won the San Remo 1930 tournament with a score of 14 out of 15, including 2 draws for a winning score of 93.3%!

Author Robert Sherwood conducted the analysis of the games with the help of three top notch search engines: Komodo 5, Critter 1.6a, and Houdini 3. The other analyses are by the players themselves. In the introduction written by Tartakower, he mentions that a feud by some journalists was started when they felt Alekhine was obligated to play Capablanca a rematch for the World Championship Alekhine had won three years before. Alekhine did ask for an increase in his appearance fee in tournaments where Capablanca played. As a consequence, Capablanca didn't play in San Remo 1930. The other major missing participant was Emmanuel Lasker.

"This is the only book in English that is so thoroughly informative and instructive on such an important tournament."

Before each round there are capsule comments about the critical moments of each game similar to the 1924 New York tournament book by Alekhine which are a nice touch. The diagrams are clear and numerous; 2-4 per page! This is the only book in English that is so thoroughly informative and instructive on such an important tournament. There is much to learn and enjoy! I wish there were more photos of the event - perhaps none were taken. Just one from the tournament is shown, and a photo of Alekhine that I've never seen before.

All tournament books should be like this one!



Arthur Nugent
Photo credit: Steve Stepak

Chess Horizons *thanks Mr. Nugent for this fine contribution. If you have any books or chess products you would like to review for a coming issue, please email the editor at editor@masschess.org. Ideas are welcome!*



Book Reviews

Attacking 101: Volume #001

Nicholas Sterling

Attacking 101: Volume #001

Joel Johnson

Lulu, ©2012, HC, 112 pgs. \$14.99

What seasoned chess player *wouldn't* want to launch a deadly furious attack against his terrified opponent any chance he could? *Attacking 101: Volume #001* is the second attack-themed book by Life Master Joel Johnson that I have had the pleasure of reviewing in as many years. Mr. Johnson has devoted considerable literary effort to teaching attacking tactics and formations in lucid step-by-step explanations, aided by illustrative game annotations and final position diagrams.

As with the previous book that I reviewed, *Formation Attacks*, the premise of this volume, which purports to be the first of an upcoming series, is to teach patterns of attack. A concise 112 pages long (with 60 games), *Attacking 101* presents Mr. Johnson's games against lower-rated players (up to 1800) in which the opponent makes fundamental mistakes that Mr. Johnson (known online by several monikers, such as MassCarnage) punishes decisively. Readers will enjoy seeing Mr. Johnson "dissect and exploit" the errors, as he puts it, in order to exact retribution on the hapless opponent for his inability to appraise a position accurately.

Mr. Johnson's approach in *Attacking 101* is to base his teaching of techniques of attack on the openings that lead into them, and to do this, he divides the games into specific variations that he employs against popular openings and defenses. I like this approach for a couple of reasons: first, it shows the reader how a game starts off and leads into the attacking patterns he illustrates, and second, it lets the reader see some unusual variations and orders of moves that, in Mr. Johnson's experience, are likely to trip up unprepared inexperienced players.

Some of the variations are mainly move-order transpositions into other more familiar openings; for instance, Center Game (1. e4 e5 2. d4) can be used to transpose into several major lines, such as Giuoco Piano, Scotch Game, and Two Knights Defense. Other variations are out-of-the-ordinary responses to standard openings, such as 4. b4!? against the Center Counter Defense (1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5), and 4. Qd3 against the Winawer French (1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4). Some of these "catch-him" moves lie deeper in the opening, such as 7. fxg6!? in the Sicilian Grand Prix, ECO B23 (1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 d6 3. f4 Nc6 4. Nf3 g6 5. Bc4 e6 6. f5 Bg7).

In effect Mr. Johnson, or another player of these moves, can dictate the course of the opening in a direction quite unexpected to his opponent, and can not only avoid his booked-up opening variation, but can also lead the opponent into positions never, or rarely, seen before. If the opponent is not skilled at assessing positions spontaneously over the board, he is likely to go astray and let the much stronger master into his camp.



The opening variations explored are: Center Game and its transpositions; Danish Gambit; Alekhine Defense; Caro-Kann Defense; Sicilian Defense, with focus on Grand Prix attack, Smith-Morra Gambit, and Yugoslav Attack; Pirc/Modern Defense (with another version of Grand Prix); Center Counter Defense (against which 4. b4!? is featured); French Defense (against which 4. Qd3 is featured); Stonewall Attack; and Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. Completing the survey are offbeat openings like 1. a3.

Each opening discussion is divided into an introductory diagram, Opening Lines, Techniques Learned, and the example games. Mr. Johnson uses his concise introductions to explain his own experience with the openings and the likely psychology behind his opponents' selection of those openings. The reader can understand that if he both prepares his responses against predicted openings, and also knows how to steer a game onto paths not predicted by his opponents, he can quickly take psychological advantage of his opponents long before a tangible advantage materializes on the chessboard.

Then we have the games themselves. Mr. Johnson's annotations are brief but helpful for pointing out the moves where the opponent went astray, and his explanations of why the moves are faulty are simple and clear. From there the reader can follow why Mr. Johnson's attacks work so well, and by the time we arrive at the triumphant diagram, there is a sense that the game flowed as a sinuous whole rather than in discrete, unrelated parts.

Many of the final, or almost final, positions are entertaining. My own favorite is Game #36, a Smith-Morra Gambit that

ends with a knight checkmate on h7. Really amusing is Black's rook stuck on g8 and Black's bishop stuck on g2 with the White king tucked safe on g1. Gee – Black just DIDN'T have that one last tempo he needed for that discovered check!

Overall, this is a fine basic attacking-technique pamphlet with some really neat pointers on attack for beginning and intermediate-level players. A few points of critique need to be made. First, although editing and layout are much improved over the carelessly produced *Formation Attacks*, there are still some annoying proofreading errors here and there. Second, Mr. Johnson's indications of his opponents' errors could have been more consistent in giving the right or preferred moves, to allow players to learn what mistakes to avoid and prevent the onslaughts that follow, without having to devote a lot of extra space to this. Such would have enabled the primer to serve the secondary purpose of indicating defenses against attacks as well as attacks themselves. Perhaps work for another volume.

But these are minor points. Clearly the information provided is meant to be rudimentary and succinct, and a more comprehensive and advanced treatment is to be looked for elsewhere. What is provided in *Attacking 101* is illuminating, and does a superior job of linking opening to final position, or alpha to omega. This reviewer eagerly awaits Volume #002 and recommends this book to those who are ready to learn how to sneak up on their opponents with well-conceived and well-executed attacks.



The Origins of Chess Horizons

Stephen Dann

This year marks the 45th anniversary of Chess Horizons, and we begin our multi-issue retrospective with a look back at Volume I, Issue No. 1.

The first issue of Chess Horizons, produced in October, 1969, speaks for itself. Eight 8.5 by 5.5-inch pages, two unstapled sheets of paper, black ink, no photos, four games (one with notes by the late Eugene Shapiro), three ads (two for upcoming Nov. & Dec. events by MACA--then called MSCA), including the first ad for the then new Boston Chess Studio and eighteen total news stories and features photo-reduced.

The top cover story was the announcement of the 1970 U.S. Open being awarded to MACA and Boston, and scheduled for August 9th – 22nd, 1970. A prediction was made that 300 or more players would participate - 303 actually did. The secondary story on the cover was the announcement that the Boylston Chess Club, at 48 Boylston St., Boston (also then the home of MACA), would celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 16, 1969. The issues were mailed first class to the roughly 225 current MSCA members in late October, and to up to 1,000 others soon thereafter.

Page two had three editorials/news stories worth noting: "Chess Review sold to USCF," "Revival of Chess Horizons may benefit state players," and "Editor appreciates readers comments" that would establish a tradition of editorial freedom among almost two dozen future editors of the magazine over roughly 45 years. A number of predictions were made by this

pioneer editor, but just one ever materialized...that the bimonthly (6 times per year) frequency would "soon" become monthly.

We also acknowledged that a mimeographed publication called Chess Horizon (no "s") was produced by MSCA from 1962 to 1964 under the editorship of Bob Goodspeed. MSCA/MACA had no publication from early 1964 to the fall of 1969, a five-year gap. The 18-year old editor and freshman at Northeastern University (journalism major) made it clear that the pages of CH were open for comment about the sport, hobby and any common interests among Massachusetts chess players.

Other features included stories on the Boston Met League, a report on the Rhode Island-Massachusetts match in Boston, lectures on Saturdays at the Boylston Chess Club, a full-page report on scholastic chess leagues across the state (then called "schoolboy chess") and the "record" 129-player U.S. Junior Open during the summer of 1969 at Northeastern University, reports of three tournaments in September and October run by the MSCA, a nine-clue Pillsbury puzzle, recommendations on beginner and intermediate chess books, Spassky's rise to defeat Petrosian to become world champion, Shapiro's "Master at Large" column, and a format statement asking for chess artwork (that would soon begin to flood in from volunteers). The back page had a calendar, the puzzle answers and two ads.

The budget for the issue was less than \$100 (excluding the postage to mail out subscriber and promotional copies), and 1,500 copies were printed. It took 100 hours to type out and layout the eight pages of text that were done on a manual typewriter with a fabric ribbon (the only issue produced this



way) and then photo reduced to 67% of original size (columns were 3 inches wide, reduced to double columns of 2 inches).

The cover had another "feature," introduction of the minuteman figure by graphic artist David Monroe to promote the 1970 U.S. Open. That's why Chess Horizons came together so fast--to raise awareness of the 1970 U.S. Open along with educational, open events and scholastic programs of the Association, and, funding was from an expense deduction from the almost monthly MSCA events, and the "editor" had a \$25 discretionary fund, which this writer hardly considered a salary of any sort for the 100 hours of research and production time to produce this first issue in less than a month after being named to the MSCA board and to the editor position.

History may judge Chess Horizons by the hundreds of issues by nearly two-dozen editors and hundreds of contributors over the years, and probably 20,000 or more games, numerous crosstables and chess hobby and sporting opinions expressed within its pages, mostly by volunteers. And, for a chess publication, 45 years is a LONG time for most any hobby journal produced by amateurs for a non-profit group six or even four times per year.

BONUS: The Very First Game in CH!

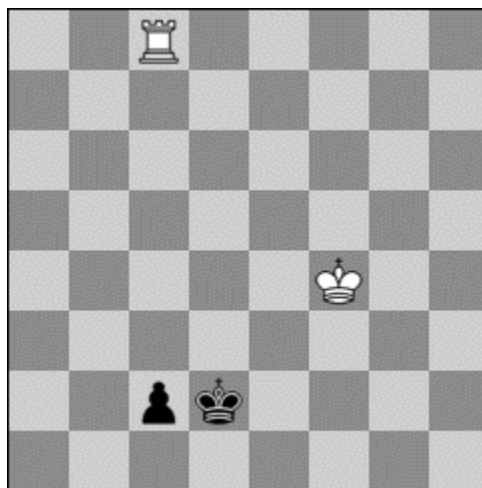
On Page 3 of that inaugural late-1969 issue is a mention of a recent match held at Boston's YMCU between twelve-person teams representing Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Massachusetts won the match by a decisive 8.5-3.5 margin, and it would be a game from that match – a back-and-forth Ruy Lopez between Rhode Island's Ed Friedman and a gambiteering Harry Lyman – which became the first ever published in Chess Horizons:

Ed Friedman
Harry Lyman
MA – RI Match
10.05.1969

Ruy Lopez – Marshall Gambit [C89]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. c3 d5 9. exd5 e4 10. dxc6 exf3 11. d4 Bd6 12. Qxf3 Re8 13. Bd2 Bg4 14. Qd3 Rxe1+ 15. Bxe1 Qe7 16. Nd2 Re8 17. f3 Bh5 18. Bf2 Bg6 19. Qf1 Qe2 20. Rd1 Bf4 21. Qxe2 Rxe2 22. Nf1 Rxb2 23. Bg3 Bxg3 24. hxxg3 a5 25. Rd2 Rb1 26. d5 Ne8 27. Bc2 Rc1 28. Bxg6 hxxg6 29. a4 bxa4 30. Ra2 Rxc3 31. Rxa4 Rc5 32. Ne3 Nd6 33. Kf2 Kf8 34. Ke2 Ke7 35. g4 Nb5 36. Kd3 Nc3 37. Ra3 Nxd5 38. Kd4 Kd6 39. Nc4+ Rxc4+ 40. Kxc4 Kxc6 41. Rxa5 Ne3+ 42. Kd4 Nxxg2 43. Ke4 Nh4 44. Ra8 f5+ 45. Kf4 fxxg4 46. fxxg4 Ng2+ 47. Kg5 Kd5 48. Kxxg6 c5 49. Kxxg7 c4 50. g5 c3 51. g6 Nh4 52. Kf6 Nxxg6 53. Kxxg6 Kd4 54. Kf5 c2 55. Rc8 Kd3 56. Kf4 Kd2

½ - ½



Those interested in further exploring the history of Chess Horizons can check out the Boylston Chess Club's bound anthologies, which encompass much of its forty-five year history.



Places to Play

This is an overview of active clubs in and around Massachusetts. Time controls are listed to give some idea of relative pace and time commitment. Most include some sort of delay, and events G/30 or slower (and some faster) require USCF membership unless otherwise specified. Start times refer to round starts, and registration may end as early as fifteen minutes prior. 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. – 11:00 P.M., 40/90 SD/30 (1 rd / wk)
www.MetroWestChess.org

Boylston Chess Club – 240B Elm St., Somerville, 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
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 Tuesdays, 7:10 P.M. – 10:30 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., 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

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