

# Chess Horizons

The Magazine of the Massachusetts Chess Association



Anatoly Levin, Steve Doyle (organizer), Bill Kelleher, Joe Fang, Vesna Dimitrijevic, and Leonard Morrissey.

## ***Cambridge Springers First at the U.S. Amateur Team East***

*Denys Shmelov on Surviving Bad Positions*

*2009 National Open: Last Dance in Patzerland*

*85th Western MA & CT Valley Championship*

*Scholastics Holiday Team Challenge*

*19th Eastern Class Championships*

*GM Alexander Ivanov Annotates*

*Hurvitz Cup Tournament*

*Meet Ray Duval*

April-June 2010  
\$3.95



# 79th Massachusetts Open (State Chess Championship)

**May 29-31, 2010 (Saturday, Sunday, & Monday)**

**Leominster, Massachusetts**

**\$3,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund (GPP: 30 (enhanced))**

- Where:** Four Points by Sheraton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
- What:** 6-round USCF rated Swiss, 40/2, SD/1 in four sections, plus one day side events.
- Rounds:** 3-Day Reg. Sat. 8:30-9:30 AM., Rounds Sat. 10:30-5, Sunday 10-4:30, Monday 9:30-4  
 Saturday Hexads/Octos: Reg. 8:30-10:00, Rounds 10:30, 1:45, 5:00.  
 Saturday K-12: Reg. 8:30-10:30, first round at 11:00 AM.  
 Sunday 4-round Swiss: Reg. 8:30-9:30, Rounds 10:00, 1:00, 3:15, 6:00.  
 Sunday K-3: Reg. 9:00-10:00, first round at 10:30 AM.  
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- Entry Fee:** \$55 if postmarked by 5/25 or online (PayPal) at [www.MassChess.org](http://www.MassChess.org) by 5/27, \$65 at site.  
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 One day sections (including scholastic): \$20 if postmarked by 5/25 or online, \$25 on site.
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 Sunday 5/30 only: Swiss (G/60) U2000 and U1600; and Grades K-3 (G/30) U1200 and U600.  
 Monday 5/31 only: Hexads/Octos (G/60); and Grades K-6 (G/30) U1400 and U800.
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- Other:**
- Half-point byes available in rounds 1-6 in 3-day sections (except no half point bye round 6 in Open section), limit 2, rounds 4-6 must commit before round 2.
  - USCF & home state membership required. MACA dues \$12 adult, under 18: \$6, other states accepted.
  - **Rate changes 5/1:** adult \$20 (with printed mailed copy of *Chess Horizons*) or \$12 (without), junior \$14 (with printed mailed copy of *Chess Horizons*) or \$6 (without).
  - MACA Annual Meeting Sunday 5/30 at 3 PM, Massachusetts Blitz Championship Sunday 5/30 at 9 PM. MACA Auction Monday 5/31 at 1:00 PM.
- Hotel Rates:** Four Points by Sheraton, 978-534-9000. Rates: \$85-85-85-85 (double), \$110-110-110-110 (executive king). **Reserve by May 8th.** Must mention "Mass. Chess room block" to obtain reduced rate.
- Questions:** George Mirijanian, 978-345-5011, [MassOpenInfo2010@masschess.org](mailto:MassOpenInfo2010@masschess.org), <http://www.MassChess.org>

**Mail checks, payable to MACA, to: Ken Ballou, 27 Fenway Dr., Framingham MA 01701-4012**

## About MACA

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**The Massachusetts Chess Association** is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



**Providing at least four major tournaments each year:**

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)  
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship  
Greater Boston Open  
Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning ***Chess Horizons***, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

We hope you will chose to join MACA and enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that you are helping to promote chess throughout Massachusetts.

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Before May 1st 2010 (includes subscription to *Chess Horizons*):

*Adult: \$12.00; Life: \$175.00; Life (age 65 or older): \$100.00; Junior (under age 18): \$6.00.*

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**Dues are non-refundable**

# Chess Horizons

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# Living Memorial Chess Fund

The Living Memorial Chess Fund furnishes free chess sets and educational materials to schools, libraries, and public service agencies. MACA seeks volunteers to help administer local educational projects throughout New England.

Founder, Gilbert Gosselin (1926-2007), said it this way: "It's important for children to learn how to play chess. Not all of them will become competitive or join chess clubs, but many do. The playing of chess improves mental disciplines, analytic skills, thinking skills, and math and reading cognition. Chess is fun and helps keep a child busy and away from drugs. It's a lifetime sport!"

In the past, the fund has sponsored inner-city chess tournaments such as the Boston Youth Chessfest. Low-cost or free inner-city tournaments have also been held in Rhode Island. In the future, MACA may sponsor free introductory chess lectures, donate chess demonstration boards and assist in chess-in-education programs.

**Please donate to the LMCF.**  
**All donations are tax deductible.**

Donations may be given in the name of persons living or deceased. Be sure to give us the name and address (if known) of the person being honored, so that we may send an acknowledgment of your thoughtfulness. We have a \$35 minimum donation to permanently honor an individual, but there is no minimum to make a general donation to the fund.

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For other types of donations such as educational materials and support to other agencies that partner with MACA to promote these aims, please contact the LMCF & Education Coordinator, Brian Lafferty (978) 470-1191, (413) 348-5252, [blafferty1@verizon.net](mailto:blafferty1@verizon.net).

Applications for grants can be made via [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org), or directly to the LMCF coordinator. Members can suggest worthy projects, or volunteer to deliver the chess educational materials, saving MACA administrative expenses.

**Go to [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org) to contribute with your credit card via PayPal.**



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Cover photo by Julia Levin

**The next deadline for submissions is June 1, 2010.**

*All submissions are accepted and appreciated.*

*Submissions are preferred via e-mail and in  
ChessBase, PGN or MS Word formats.*

## MACA

Massachusetts Chess Association  
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# Letter from the President

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It has been at least fifteen years since MACA raised memberships dues. Yet, given the financial stresses that many families are still feeling in this economy, the board is reluctant to raise dues across the board. Instead, we have decided to adopt a model that many membership organizations with publications have embraced.

Starting soon, *Chess Horizons* will be available online on our website. It will be available to all, at no additional cost. Those who want to continue to receive a printed copy of *Chess Horizons* can do so, at a supplemental membership fee of \$8. Those who prefer to read their copy online, or are trying to cut down on their use of paper in general, will see no increase in their membership cost.

- These membership categories will take effect on May 1st, 2010. The new dues structure will be as follows:
  - Adult membership: \$12
  - Adult Membership with Printed Magazine: \$20
  - Junior Membership\*: \$6
  - Junior Membership with Printed Magazine: \$14
- \*available to those 18 and under

We are discontinuing Family Memberships, which was a membership built around the idea that one household should only receive one copy of the printed magazine.

We will be in individual contact with individual Life Members. Life Members who wish to continue receiving the printed magazine will have that wish honored, at no additional cost. However, we have decided not to accept applications for new Life Memberships until we have the data to determine whether our new membership categories can support the number of magazines we need to print.

I do hope our new membership categories satisfy the wishes of a diverse membership. Many of you have been questioning why we continue to print a magazine, at considerable financial and environmental cost, while so many associations have moved their magazines and newsletters online. But others have told us how much you appreciate your hard copy of *Chess Horizons* and that it is, in fact, an important aspect of your MACA

membership. I hope that we have created a solution that gives all of you what you want. As always, I am happy to receive your questions and comments.

Best,

Maryanne Reilly  
MACA President

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## FROM THE ACTING EDITOR

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As the acting editor for the April issue of *Chess Horizons*, first let me say: we're looking for a new editor! Since I'm already MACA's treasurer and membership secretary, as well as being a busy tournament director, I'm not looking for new jobs to do for MACA. Interested candidates should contact one of MACA's officers, or send email to [editor@masschess.org](mailto:editor@masschess.org).

We're also looking for a photographer to replace Tony Cortizas, who did such a fine job for so many years. We're grateful for the photographs contributed by several people for this issue, but we'd like to have a single photographer who we can rely on to take photographs at all of MACA's events.

Congratulations to the Cambridge Springers team (Bill Kelleher, Joe Fang, Anatoly Levin, Len Morrissey, and Vesna Dimitrijevic), who finished first at the U.S. Amateur Team East, and congratulations also to Max Lu, who won the junior high section of the New York State Scholastic Championships. Max was warming up for MACA's own Hurvitz and Spiegel Cup championships. Some warmup!

As MACA president Maryanne Reilly says in her letter to members, MACA is implementing a new dues structure starting May 1st. The intent is that members who want a printed copy of *Chess Horizons* will pay for it, while the content of the issue will be available on the MACA web site to everyone with access to the Internet. Junior and life members should notify me by June 1st if they want to continue to receive a printed copy of *Chess Horizons*.

Bob Messenger

# Cambridge Springers First At U.S. Amateur Team East

by NM Greg Kaden

The 40th Annual “World” Amateur Team Championship attracted 271 teams and 1131 players to lovely Parsippany, New Jersey on February 13-15, 2010. For many players, the event was more than just an chance to play in one of the most enjoyable chess tournaments of the year. It was an opportunity test the devotion of their spouses and significant others by choosing a three-day-weekend of chess over romantic Valentine’s Day activities.

After six competitive, and decidedly un-romantic, rounds, the second-seeded “Cambridge Springers” (FM Bill Kelleher, IM Joe Fang, expert Len Morrissey and A-player Anatoly Levin and WIM Vesna Dimitrijevic as alternate ) claimed first place on tiebreaks and a year of bragging rights, with a score of 5 1/2 - 1/2. Two New York-based teams, “Hunter High School” and the tastefully-named “Our Weiner Is Looking To Mate”, fell short on tiebreaks and settled for second and third place, respectively.

The local chess scene was well-represented in Parsippany. While only 48 players identified Massachusetts as their current state of residence (at least for purposes of receiving their *Chess Life* magazine), there were many other familiar faces in attendance, including numerous Boston-area college students and out-of-staters who have made recent appearances at area events.

Several of the top teams also had a local flavor. Apart from the tournament champs, three teams with strong Massachusetts ties finished with solid 5-1 scores: “The



Bill Kelleher and Joe Fang

Shmelov Money” (SM Denys Shmelov, FM Charles Riordan, expert Derek Slater and newly-minted Class A player Matt Phelps); “Lordy, Lordy, I Can’t Believe She’s Forty” (FM Paul MacIntyre and experts Evan Rabin, David Plotkin and Nick Panico); and “The Jackson Four: Long Live The King” (NM Lawyer Times, NM Carey Theil, NM Greg Kaden and expert Charlie Mays).

After tiebreaks, The Jackson Four was awarded the prize for the highest scoring Massachusetts team.

**White: Greg Kaden**  
**Black: David Kaufman**  
**[C11] French Defense**  
**Annotated by Greg Kaden**

**1. e4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3**

The Two Knights is hardly the most challenging line against the French, but it can give White active piece play and interesting tactical

opportunities.

**3... Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. d4 c5 6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. Bd3 Nc6 8. Bf4 f6**

8... O-O invites the classic “Greek gift” sacrifice 9. Bxh7+, which leads to mate after 9... Kxh7 10. Ng5+ Kh8?? 11. Qh5. Although Black can stay in the game after 10... Kg6, 11. Qd3+ f5 12. Qg3 Ndx5 13. Nxe6+ Ng4 14. Nxd8 Bxf2+ 15. Qxf2 Nxf2 16. Nxc6 Nxb1 17. Ne5+ Kh7 18. Nxd5 leaves White with a clear edge.

**9. exf6 Nxf6 10. Qe2 O-O 11. O-O-O Bd6?!**

Black should not be in such a rush to exchange his good bishop. More common (and more sensible) is 11... Qa5, as in Kosteniuk-Giddins, Port Erin 1999, which continued 12. Kb1 Nb4 13. Be5 Bd7 with mutual chances.

**12. Bxd6 Qxd6 13. Rhe1 Bd7 14. Kb1?**

Inaccurate. Better is 14. h3, which preserves the option of

15.Ne5.

#### 14...Rae8

Black prepares ...e5. If that move can be played safely, White will need to fight for equality. 15. Ne5 now loses the f-pawn without compensation after 15...Nxe5 16.Qxe5 Qxe5 17.Rxe5 Ng4.

#### 15. h3 e5

Now that Black has achieved ...e5, White must limit its impact by tactical means.

#### 16. Qf1

White would like to play 16. Bc4 immediately, but 16... Nd4! wins material.

#### 16... a6?

Ignoring White's primary threat in order to prevent the irrelevant 17. Nb5. Better is 16...Kh8, which limits the effectiveness of White's next move, or 16...Qc5, which stops it entirely.

#### 17. Bc4! Be6 18. Ng5 Nd4 19. f4! dxc4 20. fxe5 Qc5?

20... Qc6 is a better try.

#### 21. Nxe6 Rxe6 22. exf6 Rexf6

During the game I thought that Rxf6!? was even worse than the text after White, as in the game, plays 23. Qg1. However, the silicon beast points out a nice queen retreat that keeps Black in the game, albeit in a worse position. 22... Rxf6!? 23. Qg1 Rxe1 24. Qxe1 Qf8!

#### 23. Qg1 Rf2

The superficially appealing 23... Ne6 loses to 24. Ne4 Qxg1 25. Nxf6+ followed by 26.Rxg1

#### 24. Ne4 Qb6 25. Nxf2 Nxc2

Hoping for 26. Kxc2 Rxf2+ 27. Rd2 Rxd2+ 28. Kxd2 Qxb2+ 29. Ke3 Qxa2, when Black has three connected passed pawns for the rook and can dream of a perpetual check. However...

#### 26. Ne4 1-0

**White: Joe Fang**

**Black: Scott Massey**

**[B39] Sicilian Defense**

**Annotated by Joe Fang**

After 5 rounds we had won 4 matches and drawn one, and for the final round board one pairing we were facing Kenilworth A, the only team with a perfect 5-0. Both teams featured AARP eligible lineups, the exception being our 37 year old Board 3 baby Len Morrissey. Our matches had seemed somewhat smooth (we had gotten at least 3/4 in our four won matches and had lost only 1 game for the tournament). After 5 rounds Board 1 Bill Kelleher was at +1 facing strong opposition. Board 4 Anatoly Levin was also at +1, employing his strange repertoire of 1.b4, and as Black, weird gambits in the Philidor Defense. Our secret weapon was Len at +4, who was recapturing the glory days of his competing in Canadian Junior championships. His victories had appeared remarkably free of tactical complications, balancing out the stress some of his teammates might have had in reaction to the Board 4 shenanigans. I had somewhat mixed feelings about my own +4 score. These days I try to play "correct" chess, but all of my games seemed to follow the up and down waves of a sine curve. The one game I drew started out with a shaky opening, a temporary bishop sac which turned the tide, turning down the win of an exchange in order to maintain my "attack", after the attack fizzled out simplifying to a slightly better bishop vs knight ending, nearly losing on time while trying to find a win in what had become a drawish position, then finally conceding the draw after we had already won the match.

Basically my semi-retirement has left my calculating muscles atrophied, so I was constantly re-checking variations throughout the games, with lots of holes and time pressure in the end. My 4th round game during our one drawn match was a bit unusual in that I ended up w a y ahead on the clock in a position where I had played a speculative pawn sac in the opening. In fact it was something I had played before with a nice 25 move win, so I had simply repeated it with only happy thoughts. Unfortunately, my opponent had done his due diligence and gotten a fantastic position, consolidating his extra pawn. Strangely, this allowed me to serenely continue *va banque*, while my opponent chewed up the clock in what he knew was a favorable position. The attack carried the day and it felt like old times when I played things like the KID 4 Pawns Attack. So during this game when the opportunity arose to transform a typical positional space advantage into a sacrificial attack, it felt right.

#### 1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 g6 3. d4

If White wishes to establish the Maroczy bind then 3. Nc3 is a mistake as after 3... Bg7 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nc6 White must make concessions.

#### 3... cxd4 4. Nxd4 Bg7

This move does not allow Black to employ the variation 4... Nc6 5. e4 Nf6 6. Nc3 d6 7. Be2 Nxd4 8. Qxd4 Bg7 where Black's early exchange on d4 gains time by exposing White's queen. In order to combat the Bind and alleviate the cramping, Black usually trades a pair of minor pieces.

#### 5. e4 Nc6 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Nc3 Ng4

An unusual way to achieve the usual trade of knights. Another



system is 7... d6 8. Be2 O-O 9. O-O Bd7 10. Qd2 (10. Nc2!? ) 10... Nxd4 11. Bxd4 Bc6 12. f3 a5 followed by ...Nd7-c5

**8. Qxg4 Nxd4 9. Qd1 Ne6 10. Rc1 b6**

10... Qa5 is a positionally risky alternative, with the idea of ...g5 attempting to further Black's dark square control, but Black's queen can come under fire after. 11. Bd3 b6 12. O-O g5 (12... Bb7 13. f4) 13. Bd2!

**11. Bd3 O-O 12. O-O d6 13. Qd2 Nc5 14. Bb1 Bb7 15. b4!?**

More solid would be 15. f3, but White put his bishop on b1 to follow up with the more aggressive f4.

Although the knight on c5 is forced to retreat, Black obtains counterplay against c4, e.g., Nd7-e5. This is a recurring Hedgehog theme, as excellently elucidated in Sergey Shipov's massive 532 page tome "The Complete Hedgehog" Volume 1(!).

**15... Nd7**

15... Bxc3 16. Qxc3 Nxe4 17. Bxe4 Bxe4 18. Bh6

**16. Rfd1**

White is mixing in positional niceties but 16. f4 to prevent ...Ne5 looks more logical when the rook might be more effective on f1.

**16... Rc8 17. Nd5 Ba6**

1/2? In response to 17... Ne5!? I had intended the regrouping 18. Bg5 Re8 (18... f6 19. Bh4 Nxc4 20. Qd4 Ne5 21. Rxc8 Bxc8 22. Rc1 with compensation) 19. Ne3 and though I think Black is fine, the position promises plenty of play.

**18. Bg5**

After long consideration. I was not mulling over the draw offer, which seemed to coincide with similar offers from several of my opponent's teammates. I was looking at 18. c5 and 18. b5 without finding anything promising. At this point my match

assessment was that of the four boards my position was the most favorable, so I felt it necessary to press my advantage with the pawn sac.

**18... f6**

If 18...Re8 19. Ne3 as in the previous note. The game move was played rather quickly. Black may win the c4 pawn but White has plenty of compensation in the weakened e6 square for the knight and the b1-g8 diagonal to Black's king.

**19. Bh4 Rxc4?!**

Better is 19... Bxc4 20. Bd3 b5 (20... Bxd3 21. Rxc8 +-) 21. Bxc4 bxc4 22. b5 and the position remains double edged, e.g., 22... Ne5 23. f4 Nd3 24. Rxc4 Rxc4 25. Qxd3 Rc8 26. f5 with compensation.

**20. Nf4**

Another strong idea is to get control of the c-file: 20. Bd3 Rxc1 21. Rxc1 Bxd3 22. Qxd3 and there are too many threats like Rc7, Rc8, Qh3-e6, and Qa6.

**20... Qc8**

Black tries to meet the twin threats of Ne6 and Qd5+ by protecting the c4 rook and getting away from the fork. Black can try 20... Qa8 but after 21. Nd5 threatening c7 and e7, Black has nothing better than 21... Qd8 when 22. Bd3 Rxc1 23. Rxc1 Bxd3 24. Qxd3 transposes to the note to White's 20th move.

**21. a4 Kh8 22. Ne6 Re8 23. Ba2 b5**

23... Rxc1 24. Rxc1 Qb8 25. Nc7 +-

**24. Bxc4 bxc4 25. b5 Bb7 26. Qd4 Ne5 27. Nxg7 Kxg7 28. f4 Nf7 29. Qxc4**

I was getting annoyed with the undefended rook on d1 in variations like 29. Rxc4 Qg4 30. Bg3 Bxe4 though White is still winning. I thought the text would be simpler.

**29... Qg4 30. Bg3 h5**

Suddenly it seemed like the f4

pawn was dropping due to the threat of 31...h4. The Black knight might then become a monster on e5 and ...h3 would be in the offing.

Add in the approaching time pressure in a position which has seemed so totally winning for the last ten moves, not to mention the match situation (we were down a point at this time), I was relieved to finally hit upon the cute queen trap which relieves Black's pressure.

**31. Qf1 h4**

31... Bxe4 is probably better but the position simplifies after. 32.

Qe1 d5 33. h3 Qe6 34. Qe3

**32. h3! Qh5**

32... Qxg3 33. Rd3 +-

**33. Bf2 Bxe4 34. Re1 Ba8 35. Rc7 g5 36. Rxe7 Rxe7 37. Rxe7 gxf4 38. Qc4**

With accurate defense White can probably take on a7, but with only a few minutes on the clock the chance to simplify was irresistible.

**38... Qg6 39. Qxf7+! Qxf7 40.**

**Rxf7+ Kxf7 41. Bxa7 Be4**

1/2? If Black tries to defend the h4 pawn with 41... Kg6 42. Bf2 Kg5 White's king takes care of business on the other side. 43. a5 Be4 (43... f3 44. a6 +-) 44. b6 Bb7 45. Kf1 Kh5 46. Ke2 Kg5 (46... Bxg2 47. a6) 47. Kd2.

**42. Bf2 f3 43. gxf3 Bxf3 44. Bxh4 Ke6 45. b6 f5 46. Kf2 Bc6 47. a5 Bb7 48. Ke3 Kd7 49. Bf2 Ke6 50. Kd4 f4 51. h4 Kf5 52. Kc4 Ba6+ 53. Kd5 1-0**

This game evened the match at 1.5-1.5. All eyes turned to what had now become the decisive Board 1 Stoyko-Kelleher matchup. At some point during the first time control Stoyko's cell phone went off, resulting in a ten minute major. Another ring would be a game misconduct, but he made the wise decision of handing over the offending device to

director Steve Immitt for safe-keeping until after the game.

Bill's control of the open a-file in a Meran Defense had resulted in a slight endgame advantage where each side had a rook, 2 knights, and 6 pawns. Suddenly White sacrificed a knight for two passed pawns, and now three results seemed possible. In one of the last games of the tournament which went deep into the 6th hour, Bill pulled out the clutch victory to win the match. We then headed over to Arthur's for our traditional post-tournament steaks, joined by super fan Maria Morrissey, photographer Julia Levin, and alternate WIM Vesna Dimitrijevic.

Although Vesna was not called upon to compete, I have learned from her that emergency standby equipment is important in team chess and power plants. Also joining us was opera star bassist FM Nathan Resika and GM driver Dave Vigorito. When the call came to us delivering the good tie-break news, we conveniently had our Oktoberfest sized mugs in hand for the toasts.

Tie-breaks also broke in my favor for an unexpected board prize, as there were no 6-0 Board 2's. Weary but happy, the next morning we dispersed to head back home through a snow storm. Final props to IM/GM Vigorito who averted disaster less than 1 mile from home when the car right in front of us started gyrating wildly before sliding off the road into a tree (they were okay). Our subsequent spin out ended safely in a side road.

*"The mistakes are there,  
waiting to be made."*  
— Savielly Tartakower

## NOTICES

### Notice to Life and Junior Members

In order to reduce costs, MACA will provide the content of *Chess Horizons* magazine online at its web site, <http://www.massschess.org>. If you would like to continue to receive a printed copy of *Chess Horizons*, please notify MACA Treasurer/Membership Secretary Bob Messenger by June 1st, either at the email address [treasurer@massschess.org](mailto:treasurer@massschess.org) or by sending mail to him at 4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua NH 03062.

### Notice of MACA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Chess Association will be held Sunday, May 30th at 3:00 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Leominster, Mass., site of the 79th Massachusetts Open.

### Notice of "Most Interesting Game" Prizes at the Massachusetts Open

Open \$300, U2000 \$200, U1800 \$150, U1600 \$100

All include a five DVD set of "Shirov! Best Games" from the "GM Best Game Collection DVD Series" by ChessOnDVD.

Rules:

- Must be a decisive game, no draws.
- Prize goes to the winner of the game.
- Each player is allowed only one entry.
- Clearly legible score sheet must be submitted by the end

## *Private Lessons*

I am offering private lessons in my home in Cambridge at \$20.00 per hour geared for new players and players rated under 1400 or unrated who would like to improve their chess.

I am rated 1800 USCF.

**Contact Walter Driscoll at 857-928-2752.**

# 19th Eastern Class Championship

by Bob Messenger

The largest multi-day tournament in Massachusetts, the Eastern Class Championship, was held in Sturbridge March 5th-7th. 198 players competed in eight sections. Because this was a class championship players were only allowed to play up one section, ensuring stiff competition.

The 30-player Master section ended in a three-way tie between grandmasters Joel Benjamin of New York and Alexander Ivanov of Newton, Massachusetts and international master Robert Hungaski of Connecticut with 4-1 scores. Benjamin was awarded an additional prize for finishing first on tiebreak. In the last round he beat California grandmaster Josh Friedel, formerly of New Hampshire, to catch up with Ivanov and Hungaski, who drew their game.

Alex Fikiet, a promising young player from Connecticut, won the 27-player Expert section with a score of 4 1/2-1/2, giving him a post-tournament rating of just under 2200. He drew in the last round with Ian Harris, who tied for second with James Nitz and Mikhail Sher.

Yuval Shemesh of North Carolina won his first four games and then drew in the last round against Victor Archavski to win the 49-player Class A section.

Augusto Gutierrez of New Jersey won the 32-player Class B section with a last round win against James Asaro of Vermont. Asaro had won his first four games while Gutierrez had been held to draw against Robert Kwong of New York.

Max Krall of Connecticut, winner of the 28-player Class C section, was the only player in the tournament



GM Joel Benjamin, winner on tiebreak in the Master section, is facing the camera, playing against Massachusetts master Avraam Pismenny. Photo by Aime LaBonte.

with a perfect score, but he only won four games over the board, getting a full point bye in the first round. As a result of this tournament his rating jumped 180 points, from 1406 to 1586.

Timothy Lavoie of Natick, MA and Ian Lomeli of Connecticut tied for first in the 25-player Class D section. They were paired in the last round, each having won his first four games, and they drew.

Brian Eibert of New Hampshire had a slow start in the 11-player Class E section, drawing his first two games, but won the last three to finish first.

First-time player Seetharam Ganesan lost in the first round to Haocheng Huang, but he came back and won the remaining five games in the six-player Under 900 section, including a last round win against Huang. (With six players and six rounds, each player had to play one opponent twice.) Since Ganesan

was unrated, Huang was awarded the first place prize money.

Bill Goichberg directed this Continental Chess event, assisted by his wife Brenda and by Bob Messenger.

**White: Joshua Friedel**

**Black: Joel Benjamin**

19th Eastern Class Championships,  
Round 5, March 19, 2009  
[B04] Alekhine's Defense

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 dxe5 5. Nxe5 c6 6. Be2 Nd7 7. Nf3 g6 8. c4 Nc7 9. Nc3 Bg7 10. O-O O-O 11. Re1 b6 12. Bf4 Ne6 13. Bg3 Bb7 14. d5 Nc7 15. dxc6 Bxc6 16. Nd4 Bb7 17. Bf3 Bxf3 18. Nxf3 Ne6 19. Qe2 Bxc3 20. bxc3 Ndc5 21. Rad1 Qe8 22. Qe3 Qa4 23. Qh6 Rae8 24. Rd4 f6 25. Rg4 Rf7 26. h4 Rd8 27. Nd4 Ng7 28. h5 g5 29. f4 Qd7 30. fxe5 Qxe4 31. g6 Qxh5 32. gxf7+ Qxf7 and Black won. 0-1

# Hurvitz Cup Tournament

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by David Yasinovsky

On the surprisingly warm morning of Sunday, March 7th, I arrived with Maryanne Reilly at the Hilton Garden Inn in Waltham. The lobby was empty, but as we rushed into the Convention room behind the entrance hall Ken Ballou and Brian Lafferty loomed in front of us, calmly arranging trophies in rows of ascending height and grandeur. Chris Bird, a tournament director for the Continental Chess Association who had volunteered to help out, was surveying the convention room with a slight grimace on his face. The venue of the tournament had been suddenly moved from the Sage School in Foxborough, and because the Hilton staff had only had a few precious hours to prepare the playing hall there were still many discrepancies left to work out. The tables were in disarray, some of them not thick enough to hold a chessboard, some of them positioned at angles, and some leaning against the walls, yet to be assembled. With half an hour to go before the official start of play, the prospects for the tournament to start on time seemed bleak.

Once Maryanne saw the tournament hall, she summoned the manager of the staff. "Victor" was told briskly to get more tables, and to find some wingmen to help us move the existing ones into place. Everyone was put to work, Brian, Chris Bird and I adjusting the tablecloth-laden monstrosities into clean rows of five, Maryanne and Ken dragging never-ending boxes from their cars into the hall, and the staff of the hotel bringing more and more

accessories down from their storage. I taped down the final board number and Ken conjured up the first round pairings. All of the preparations had been accomplished. Children filed into the convention room, while the parents and coaches were kept intrepidly at bay. The games could begin.

The next hours passed by quickly, in a blaze of raised hands, marked-up pairing sheets, and small hands clutching ecstatically to newly earned trophies. All of the sections were incredibly hard-fought, with the high-school section this year one of the strongest that I, in my short recollection, can remember. Wars were waged on the board, and team mates had to watch in agony as their partner's lonesome kings were chased from square to square, while their opponent's friends brimmed with frustration at his inability to find the lethal blow.

At the end of the carnage, the lower sections all came out with a clean winner while the High School, fittingly, saw a tie between Newton North and Lexington. The teams drew each other in round two, and even though each team won their other matches to finish at 3.5/4 the Newton North team took home the first place trophy as they, unlike the Lexington squad, had each match live. The Lexington team had been issued a bye in the last round (a consequence of the odd number of teams in the section) and their tiebreak had been significantly handicapped by this. Boston University Academy rounded up the Podium in the High School section, their 3.0/4 earning

them a very respectable third place.

In the Middle School section, Jonas Clarke Middle School won all of their matches to pull away with First place, with R. J. Grey Junior High School snatching second, their only loss coming to the top-scoring team. BB&N school, though a rating underdog to its rivals for the top honors, had a very strong tournament but was hampered by a 3.5-0.5 loss to Jonas Clarke, which left them in third place. In the K-6 tournament, Conant Elementary School cleaned up to sweep first place with 4/4 while the 2-4 places were divided between Bridge School and Sage School Teams A & B, with the former claiming the silver medal on tiebreaks.

In the K-3 section, the rating-favored Cabot School carved their name on the trophy with yet another sweep, while the original host school's team Sage School Team A picked up second place with an undefeated 3.0/4. There was a 4-way tie for third place in the section with BB&N, Conant, John Nixon, and Horace Mann laying claim to the title, but BB&N won out on tiebreaks.

And so an extremely exciting edition of the Hurvitz Cup came to an end. The players had competed valiantly, and even though only some left the building carrying hardware every contestant behaved like a champion, navigating the crowded and hectic venue as well as the slightly-overstressed directors to successfully do what they were there to do: play chess. The parents were incredibly co-operative and supportive, and of course it is



important to acknowledge the often-underappreciated work of Ken Ballou, Brian Lafferty, Chris Bird, Beebe Wiegand, Steve Frymer and Brian Mottershead. Maryanne Reilly, our esteemed Madame President, put great effort into organizing this event and making sure it ran smoothly. In addition to being the President of MACA, Maryanne is the scholastic coordinator for the organization. She describes her rationale behind holding down the double position: "I do so love—after years of being scholastic coordinator—watching kids who were once kids grow into adults, and watching their attraction to chess grow into something that helps them become adults." Well, one of the kids that Maryanne watched grow up is now sitting here trying to write about her, but cannot find the right words. I guess there is always something more we can learn.

At the Hurvitz this year, there was stress, and there was laughter. There were tears and there were smiles. There was passion, and there was compassion. At the Hurvitz, we didn't need the sunshine of the spring day outside. We didn't need the paranoia of the world around us. All we needed were chess sets, and we created happiness. Let us hope that we will all come together to do the same next year.

**Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to MACA to support *Chess Horizons*. Send your check, payable to MACA, to MACA Treasurer Bob Messenger at 4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua NH 03062, specifying that your donation is for *Chess Horizons*.**

## Holiday Team Challenge

by Bob Messenger



2010 HTC K-12 Team 1st Place Winner. Loch Chess Monsters: Henry Friedlander, Max Wiegand, Michelle Chen, and Jordan Shapiro. Photo by Beebe Wiegand

On January 24th thirty teams in three sections competed in the Holiday Team Challenge tournament at the Hilton hotel in Woburn. Unlike the Hurvitz Cup scholastic team championship, teams in the Holiday Team Challenge can include players from different schools, subject to rating restrictions. This is a good opportunity for a group of friends to play together on a team even if they don't all go to the same school.

The Loch Chess Monsters (Michelle Chen, Max Wiegand, Henry Friedlander, and Jordan Shapiro) won the K-12 section with a perfect 4-0 score. BB&N Middle School (Nicholas Trieu, Bunnard and Darrith Phan, and Zachary Lovett) and the ACLS Tigers (Edward Li, Changming Xu, Andy Li, and Mason Liu) tied for second place with 3-1.

In the K-6 section, Sage School Team A (Nicholas Plotkin, Kevin Hu, Daniel Plotkin, and Brian Reidy) swept into first with 4-0. Andover (Alexander and Isabella Shih, James

Zhou, and Peter Heckendorn) was clear second with 3-1. Three teams tied for third with 2 1/2-1 1/2: the ACLS Tigers (Jenny Qiu, Eric Liu, Brandon Wu, and Anthony Gao), Sage School Team B (Alex Gottlieb, Max and Iain Sheerin, August Donovan, and Eric Hu), and Wildcats Team 3 (Ellis O'Donnell, Daniel In, Nathan Lu, and Daniel Benson).

The Smiling Buddhas (Rohan Krishnan, Christopher Wang, Rahul Krishnan, Justin Lin, and Eric Feng) won the K-3 section with a score of 3 1/2-1 1/2. There was a two-way tie for second between the Russian Knights (Anton Barash, Alan Sikarov, Alon Trogan, Gene Kuperman, and Ben Bugalter) and the Cabot School (Evan Meyer, Jonathan Cohen, Jacob Brockman, and Jason Wolf.)

Alex Relyea was the chief tournament director, assisted by Nita Patel, Ken Ballou, Maryanne Reilly, Beebe Wiegand, Steve Frymer, and Bob Messenger.

# Ivanov Annotates

by GM Alexander Ivanov

This was the crucial 4th round game with the last year's co-winner of the Bermuda Open.

**White: Ivanov 2545 FIDE**

**Black: Cummings 2360 FIDE**

**Bermuda Open, Round 4**

**[B48] Sicilian, Taimanov Variation**

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4.**

**Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6**

Another popular line here is 6...Nf6 7. f4 Bb4 8. Ndb5 Qa5 9. e5 Nd5 10. Bd2 Nxc3 and now all three captures on c3 have been tried with success.

**7. Qd2 Nf6 8. O-O-O Bb4**

8...Ng4?! 9. Bf4 Nge5 (9...e5? 10. Nd5 Qb8 11. h3+/-) 10. Bg3!+/- (8...Be7 happened in many games).

**9. f3 O-O**

This was new to me. Three Knight moves 9...Ne5!?!; 9...Ne7!?!; 9...Na5!?! look more consistent with Bb4.

**10. a3!? Be7**

Now we get a popular theoretical position with the White Pawn on a3 instead of a2 as usual which may actually help Black to open files on the Queenside.

**11. g4 b5 12. g5 Ne8**

12...Nh5!?

**13. Nxc6 dxc6**

Now with the closed c-file Black's Queenside attack doesn't look that scary. On the other hand there is no weakness on d7 and it's easier for Black to complete development. 13...Qxc6 14. Ne2!?

**14. h4 e5**

The most natural move. (14...a5 15. a4 b4 16. Nb1 e5 17. Qh2+/-) (14...c5 15. h5 b4 16. axb4 cxb4 17. Na4 Rb8 18. b3!+/-)

**15. Qh2**

This is sharper than 15. Qf2 Be6 16. Bb6!? Qb7 17. Bc5 a5=. The computer likes 15. h5 Be6 16. g6 fxg6 (16...h6 17. Bxh6!) 17. hxg6 h6 18. Bxh6! Rd8 19. Qh2 Rxd1+ 20. Nxd1 gxh6 21. Qxh6 Bf6 22. Bh3 Bxh3 23. Qxh3 but even at the end of this long line White's advantage is not obvious for a human.

**15...Be6**

15...a5 16. a4 b4 17. Nb1+/-

**16. h5 b4?!**

16...a5 17. a4 b4 18. Nb1 and now 18...b3 or 18...c5 with counterplay.

**17. axb4 Bxb4 18. Nb1 Rb8?!**

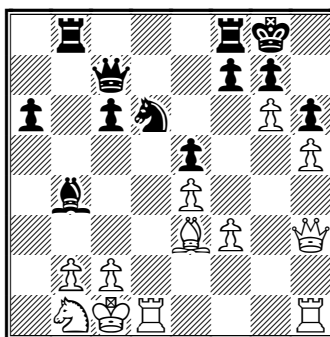
18...Qa5 19. c3 (19. g6?! Qa1 looked scary 20. gxh7+ Kh8 21. c4?! +/- Rybka. I didn't get this far) 19...Bc5 20. Bxc5 Qxc5 (unclear) 21. h6 g6 22. Qg1 +/-.

**19. g6 h6 20. Bh3 Bxh3?!**

20...Qa5 21. Bxe6 fxe6+/-

**21. Qxh3 Nd6**

21...Nf6 22. c3 Be7 23. Rhg1 Qb7 24. Rd2+/-



**22. gxf7+?!**

22. c3! Nc4 looked scary 23. Rd7! (not 23. Bxh6? Qb6!-/+ ) 23...Qc8 24. Bxh6!+/- Rybka.

**22...Qxf7**

Black had 30m left.

**23. Rhg1 Qa2?**

Only after this move White gets a clear advantage. 23...Kh8 24. c3 Nc4 25. Bxh6 gxh6 26. cxb4 Rxb4 with counterplay.

**24. b3+/-**

24. Bxh6!? Rf7 (24...Nc4? looked scary. 25. Qe6+ Rf7 26. Rxc7+ Kh8 27. Rh7+!+- Rybka) 25. Rxc7+ Rxc7 26. Bxc7 Kxc7 27. h6+ Kh8 28. Qg3 Rg8 29. Qxe5+ Kh7 30. c3 Qxb2+! 31. Kxb2 Nc4+ 32. Kb3 Nxe5 33. cxb4 Nxf3+/-

**24...Ba3+?!**

More stubborn is 24...Rf6 25. Qg3 Rb7!? (25...Ba3+ 26. Nxa3 Qxa3+ 27. Kd2 Qa5+ 28. Ke2 Rb7 and here 29. Qe1!+/-) 26. Qxe5 and now Rybka suggests 26...Nc4! 27. Rd8+ Kh7 28. Qd4 Nxe3 29. Qxe3 Qa5 (with compensation) 30. Qd3 Rxf3 31. Qxf3 Qxd8 unclear.

**25. Nxa3 Qxa3+ 26. Kd2 Nb5?**

26...Rf6 27. Qg3 Qa5+ 28. Ke2 Rb7 29. Qe1!+/-

**27. Qe6+ Rf7**

27...Kh8 28. Qxe5 Qa5+ 29. Kc1+/-

**28. Rxc7+!**

After 28...Kg7 29. Qxh6+ Kg8 30. Rg1+ wins.

**1-0**

*"Strategy requires thought,  
tactics require observation."*

— Max Euwe

*"He who fears an isolated  
queen's pawn should  
give up chess."*

— Siegbert Tarrasch

# Surviving Bad Positions

by SM Denys Shmelov

**White: Lawyer Times**

**Black: Denys Shmelov**

**[A47] Queen's Indian Defense**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 b6 3. e3 g6**

This move order requires a great deal of precision — certainly not the trait Black demonstrates over the next few moves.

**4. Bd3 Bb7**

4...d6

**5. Nbd2 Bg7 6. O-O d6 7. e4 Nbd7?**

7... O-O or 7...Nfd7 would have been much better.

**8. e5! Nd5 9. e6 fxe6 10. Ng5 Nf8**

The originally planned 10...Nf4 leads to disaster after 11. Nde4

**11. Qf3!**

Black took it upon himself to avoid theoretical paths at all costs, and he fully succeeded, although at the expense of getting an absolutely lost position.

**11.. Bf6**

Good time to take a break and count the casualties. Black has avoided immediate catastrophe on e6 or f7, but untangling this position will not be an easy task. Somehow he'll have to defend his bishop on b7, defend the pawn on e6, and find the good square for his f8 knight and his king. Black's main hope, however, is that White will get a bit impatient in converting his advantage.

**12. Nde4**

White is threatening c2-c4, after which the bishop on b7 will be hanging.

**12...Rb8**

Ugly, but very logical. Black defends his most vulnerable piece.

**13. Bb5+**

This move allows Black to set up a clever trap.

**13... c6 14. Nxf6+**

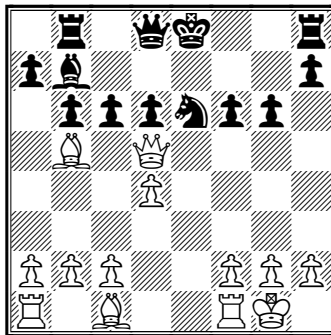
White sees what he thinks is a winning combination, but Black calculates just one move further.

**14.. exf6**

14... Nxf6 15. Bxc6+ Bxc6 16. Qxc6+ Qd7 allows White to win his pawn back, while maintaining a nice edge.

**15. Nxe6 Nxe6 16. Qxd5**

So White has won his pawn back, threatening to take a knight or a pawn, and Black has no safe place to hide. Time to call it a night? Not quite.



**16...Kd7! 17. Re1 Re8 18. Ba4 b5 19. Bxb5 cxb5 20. Qxb5+ Bc6 21. Qd3**

Black is up a piece, and he managed to win, although not without difficulty.

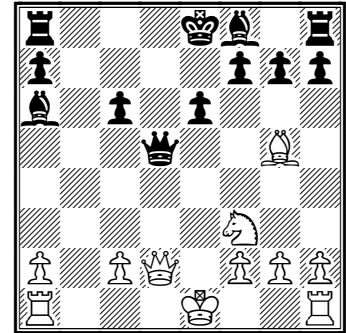
**0-1**

**White: Denys Shmelov**

**Black: Edward Astrachan**

I'd rather not tell how White has arrived at this position after only eleven moves. Suffice it to say that he is absolutely lost against

an opponent rated 500 points below him. White's king is stuck in the center, his pieces are poorly coordinated, and Black is about to open up the position and put White out of his misery.



**12. Kd1**

White has correctly identified the safety of the king as his main priority. d1 is far from perfect but it's the best White has in this position.

**12...Rb8**

A strong move. Black wants to play Rb8-b2, or Bf8-b4, forcing White to further weaken his position.

**13. Qc3**

Saves White from Rb8-b2...

**13...Bd6**

...and puts the pressure on Black to decide whether to play Bf8-b4 or not. 13...Bb4 14. Rb1 Bxc3 15. Rxb8+ Kd7 16. Rxh8 f6! leaves Black with a dominating position. Very often the winning side assumes that his advantage will play out itself, and fails to calculate forcing lines.

**14. a3**

White lives to fight another move.

**14...O-O 15. Kc1 Rb6**

Instead Black could have focused on carrying out c6-c5, which would have been the most dangerous plan. But the move in the game isn't bad

either — White is deprived of counterplay and won't be able to fend off eventual intrusion on the b-file.

**16. Be3**

16. Rd1? Be2 17. Rd2 Bxf3 — White is deprived of his only useful move.

**16...Rfb8 17. Re1 Bc4**

Black has been playing very well up to this point, but here he starts going astray. This move threatens nothing and disrupts the coordination of the black pieces. 17...Rb3 merits attention; 18. cxb3 Rxb3 19. Qxb3 Qxb3 is hopeless, but 19. Qc2 allows the strong 19...Bd3.

**18. Nd2 Ba2 19. Qd3 Rb2**

19...Qa5 20. Rxa2 Rb1+ 21. Nxb1 Qxe1+ 22. Qd1 Rxb1+ would have been a worthy ending of this game, but White is not forced to take on a2 and could play 20. Kd1 instead.

**20. Qc3 R2b5 21. Qd3 Ra5??**

Black finally collapses under the pressure and blunders very badly. 21...Rb2 22. Qc3 Qb5 and Black's advantage is indisputable.

**22. c4 Bxa3+ 23. Qxa3 Rxa3 24. cxd5 cxd5 25. Kd1**

And White converted his advantage.

**1-0**

**White: Jay Bonin**

**Black: Denys Shmelov**

**[E18] Queen's Indian Defense**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Bb7 5. Bg2 Be7 6. O-O O-O 7. Nc3 Na6**

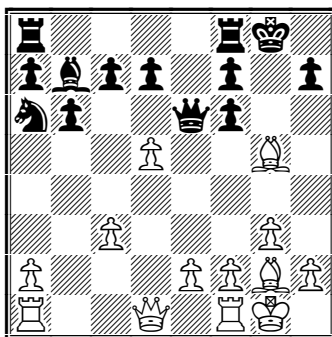
Black tries to avoid the drawish lines which arise after 7...Ne4 8.

Nxe4. Ironically, he blunders almost right away and finds himself fighting for a draw the rest of the game.

**8. d5 Bb4 9. Ne5 Bxc3 10. bxc3 exd5?**

10...Nc5 defends the bishop on b7 and ensures a reasonable game.

**11. Bg5 Qe7 12. Ng4 Qe6 13. Nxf6+ gxf6 14. cxd5**



Now would be a good time to take stock of my position. My pawn structure is ruined, my pieces are poorly coordinated, my king is exposed, and my opponent has two bishops and a strong presence in the center. I am playing against an experienced international master, the game is played in a team competition, and the outcome of the match will likely hinge on the outcome of the game. Time to switch to defensive mode...

**14...Qf5 15. Bh6**

Happy with his position, White goes on a streak of mediocre moves. My rook wants to get to e8 anyway, whereas the white bishop would stand better on f4.

**15... Rfe8 16. e4 Qg6 17. Be3**

17. Bf4 still looks like a better choice.

**17...Nc5**

Now White has to give up his dark squared bishop, since 18. f3 could be answered by 18...f5. Black is still very much worse, but in a bad position like this every bit helps.

**18. Bxc5 bxc5 19. Qa4 f5**

Jumping on a chance to get rid of my doubled pawns, but...

**20. Rab1**

White finds a very strong move, forcing Black to part with material.

**20...Ba6 21. exf5**

To add to his woes, Black is

now down a pawn.

**21...Qd6 22. Qg4+**

Happy with his position, White again goes on a streak of mediocre moves. The Black king would be safer on h8, so there was no need to force him there.

**22...Kh8 23. c4**

This pawn becomes a weakness in need of constant defense.

**23...Re5 24. Rfe1 Rg8 25. Qh4 f6 26. Bf1 Bc8**

26...Rxf5? 27. f4 strands a rook; instead Black just makes a waiting move.

**27. f4**

White has been playing without a clear plan for some time now; however, only now does he make a real mistake. In one move White weakens his king and sidelines his queen, giving Black chances for some counterplay.

**27...Re7 28. Kf2**

Now White goes astray, underestimating the dangers of having a weak king. After an accurate 28. Qh5 White will be able to bring his queen back, with good chances to convert his advantage.

**28...Rge8 29. Qh6**

Looks as if the best Black can do is trade rooks, but...

**29... c6!**

...makes White regret playing in such a daring manner. Now taking on c6 is obviously out of the question, and taking on e7 would most likely lead to perpetual check.

**30. Bg2**

If 30. dxc6?? Qd4+ and Black wins. 30. Rxe7 Qxe7 31. Rd1 Qe3+ 32. Kg2 Qe4+ 33. Kg1 Qe3+= (but not 33...Qxf5?? because of 34. Bd3+-).

**30...Ba6 31. Bf1?**

Better is 31. Red1 Bxc4 32. dxc6=

**31...cxd5**

31...Rxe1!



**32. cxd5?**

Again, White should avoid the exchange of rooks by playing 32.

Red1 d4=/+

**32...c4?**

Black misses an opportunity to go into a favorable endgame with 32...Rxe1 33. Rxe1 Rxe1 where the poor position of the white queen leads to White's eventual demise.

**33. Rxe7 Qxe7 34. Rd1**

White finally realizes that the best he can hope for is a draw, and attempts to coordinate his pieces.

**34...Qe3+ 35. Kg2 Qe4+ 36. Kh3**

White gives back his pawn but ensures the exchange of queens, leading to an approximately level endgame. After 36. Kg1 Black should take the draw with 36...Qe3+ since 36...Qxf5 gives White the advantage after 37. Bh3 Qg6.

**36... Qxf5+ 37. Kh4 Qg6**

The threat of Bf1-h3 forces Black to seek this exchange.

**38. Qh5 Rc8 39. Bh3 Qxh5+ 40. Kxh5**

With an eventual draw in the unclear endgame.

1/2-1/2

*"Chess is mental torture"*

— Garry Kasparov

## 85th Western MA & CT Valley

by Ed Kostreba

The Western Mass. and Connecticut Valley Championship is the longest running trophy only tournament in the United States. It is sponsored each year by the Western Massachusetts Chess Association (W.M.C.A.). It is a 5 round tournament with only one section, and recognizes top finishers for each class of player. The championship drew 29 players from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut. It was held at our best site yet: the Kittredge Center at Holyoke Community College (H.C.C.), made possible by our contact at the college, Jay Ducharme. Jay is a Professor at the college and teaches courses for the Electronic Media Department. He is also the H.C.C. Chess Club adviser, and comes from a chess playing family.

The new Champion is Anthony Norris with the highest score of 4.5.

The Top Class A player is Robert Campbell with a score of 4. He held the title in 1983 and 2001.

The Top Class B player is Richard Zyra with a score of 3.5. He and his brother Michael are two of the best supporters of local chess tourna-

ments. They participate in almost all W.M.C.A. sponsored events.

The Top Class C player is Richard Gold with a score of 3.5. Richard is a retired UMass Professor of Psychology.

The Top Class D player is Brian Santiago. Brian is a high school student at Central High in Springfield.

The Top Class E player and youngest player in the tournament is Jonathan Aiyathurai.

The Top Class F player is Gaetano Bompastore. Gaetano had a rough start in his first tournament last October, but has gained over 200 points since then. He is a fierce competitor, narrowly losing games against tough opponents at this tournament. He will be back and playing even better after reading his new book, Basic Chess Endings, by Reuben Fine.

The Top Un-Rated player is Daniel Kibbe. This was Daniel's first U.S.C.F. rated tournament. He runs the Renaissance Chess Club at the Renaissance Barber Shop in Palmer.

The tournament was directed by Ed Kostreba, assisted by Vince Bradley.

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# Meet Ray

George Duval

Meet Ray, He's my dad.

In case you are wondering how I got to be such a chess enthusiast, you needn't look much further than one click up the genealogical tree in my family. Being father's day, I thought I'd take the time and tell you the story of Ray, my dad.

Ray grew up in a small town in Maine and was the youngest of 4 children. Since his three older siblings were much older, there weren't many shared interests. This meant my father had to find things to entertain himself with.

Ray was about 7 when he went to his Uncle Harold who proclaimed to be a checkers champion, and he sought to learn the game. Though Uncle Harold was great at checkers, his way of teaching meant beating my father and laughing at his mistakes. My father loved board games and collected games that even included chess pieces. This was the 1940's and in Brunswick, Maine, chess was not a household world.

During the war, my dad went to a boarding school in West Newbury, Massachusetts as a young teen. Chess was introduced to Ray by a Clarence Bisson, a local boy who was also sent to West Newbury, Mass. Clarence showed Ray how to play and proclaimed that he was the "champion" at Billerica. He skipped teaching Ray about castling and *en passant* because "they were rarely used". It didn't take my father long to beat the champion of Billerica high school.

Eager to learn, Ray found a local bookstore that carried some basic chess books. With the money he made as a young teen working at



the family bakery, he picked up a couple of these books to get started. He began playing with his friends and anyone who showed an interest.

He found a few friends in High school to play. He yearned for better competition and discovered Postal chess to be an answer. He'd get several cards going in the mail playing several games. This was a great period for him to hone his skills in the days before the internet and ICC.

As a young man in the late 1950's, he was a newlywed. He found the local chess club in the city of Portland, Maine to fulfill his growing passion for the game. My mother would rather see him head off to a chess club on a Friday than hanging out in the bars, which was never the case for my dad. The only time he'd hang out in a bar was on a Saturday morning, as their book-keeper. After all, he was a CPA.

The early years of raising a family and moving to a small town in Maine gave him limited chess options other than the postal games. I was the youngest of three. Once I reached school age, I remember him teaching my sisters to play chess. Unlike Lazlo Polgar making a psychological study out of his children, Ray merely provided us the opportunity. As I watched my oldest sister attempt her best game at dad, with knights developed off the edge of the board and nothing in the center, she was in tears by the end of the game and swore it off. I, on the other hand, was eager to dive in. I didn't care if my pieces were taken immediately off the board. I'd only come back for more.

It was about this time in the late 1960's that he started up a chess club in small coastal college town. The pool of players came from the



Three generations: Ray, George and Nika at play in 2004

local Naval base, the college and several small hamlets in the area. What amazed me was the fact that chess was the great equalizer no matter what walk of life you were. I've met plumbers, doctors, carnival workers, teachers, students, and military personnel all with a common interest in a game that lasted two millennium.

My passion for the game grew as my father's involvement for the club grew. I was eager to come to the club, but using reverse psychology he'd say simply "Not yet, these guys are tough. When you are ready, I'll let you know." Ray was patient with this exuberant youth. He started to hand me the very same books that he learned from. I recall fondly, the book by Al Horowitz, "How to Win in the Chess Openings". Before this, my game resembled toy football players on a vibrating table that would fall off the edge of the board. Ray, got me started down the right path by learning some basic concepts of opening play and making his copy of *Chess Life and Review* (before the USCF called it *Chess Life* in 1980) available. He advocated playing over annotated games as the real meat to learning the game. I was naïve and wanted to simply play. But still, I was not ready for the club.

The Fischer versus Spassky match of 1972, was brought into our living room through PBS and the

genius work of a couple of men, Shelby Lyman and Michael Chase. The first ever real-time American televised coverage of a world championship match was being kibitzed by my father and I in our living room with portable chess sets on our laps.

One summer day, as I played Dad handicapped by the Red Sox playing in the background, I ended up not losing! The draw was my qualification to allow me to attend the weekly Club. I started going on a regular basis, even playing in team matches against other towns like Portland, Saco, and Lewiston. He encouraged me to start a chess club in the high school and even chauffeured the rag tag team to a couple matches.

Not once in my growing up did Ray ever force this game down my throat or tell me to "concentrate", or "how could you play such a stupid move". These are comments, I have heard chess parents tell their kids at recent events as I watched the enthusiasm get sucked right out of these kids. Rather, he cautioned me that "these guys at the tournaments are playing for blood." And "Expect to get your face rubbed in the mud by these guys (at the club), that's the best way to learn." He was there for the post mortem, never shaming, always encouraging, with a "better luck next time".

He was there for me when I

won the top student in the state in 1979. Not once did he rub it in my face that there were only two of us competing for the same trophy in the Maine State Championship that year. Rather, he let me feel good about the win and bragged to all the club members of this accomplishment. He made me feel like I was part of something special.

Then I grew up and moved out. Ray kept the club going until his retirement when it got to be too much for him to keep up. He retired his title as Maine Chess Association's treasurer in 2009 (one he kept for several decades). I had since moved out of Maine and could not keep the club going. What did keep going was the spark of enthusiasm for this game.

I did the same for my kids, as I learned from my dad. Even though my youngest daughter loses more games than she wins she still comes back for more because she likes what I like about this game. The experience of meeting people of all walks of life sharing a common bond to a game that has outlasted gameboys, play stations and Frisbees.

In Ray's words: "The beauty of this game is that the answer is always right in front of you. It's your mind against your opponent's. There's no luck, no dice to be thrown, no cards to be drawn. It's your own fault if you lose and it's your skill and ability if you win."



# 2009 National Open: Last Dance in Patzerland

by NM Ilya Krasik

**White: Ilya Krasik**  
**Black: Eric Zhang**  
**National Open, Round 1,**  
**[D85] Grünfeld Defense**

I've been to Vegas before but I've always let distractions shift my focus away from chess itself: suffering two horrible tournaments and one good tournament marred by a last round debacle, which I wrote about on chessbase.com. This time while sitting on the plane, I recollected about those failures and thought about how to change my fortune this time around. The passenger next to me was a 6'5" typical All-American jock named Joe. He played college hockey at BC and was even drafted by the NHL. The third passenger sitting on Joe's side was in some way even more interesting: she was born and grew up in Vegas, raised a family there but thought that gambling was pure evil, a dishonest way to make a living... But if it weren't for casinos there would be no Vegas, I remarked...

With Joe, naturally, our conversation turned to hockey as he told me many personal stories about guys like Federov and Crosby — the boozing and the partying. When the conversation ended Joe dozed off and I thought about doing the same until I started feeling sharp jabs to my side.

It was big Joe, whose legs and arms were simply too big and too long for a regular seat. I woke him up several times but each time he went to sleep again; the elbowing continued, and my plans to sleep had to be shelved. I arrived in Vegas

about 10-11 p.m. and got to my hotel at 12. Naturally I didn't feel too good after the six hour plane ride, but the good news was that I didn't have to play 'till the morning.

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. Bd2 Bg7 6. e4 Nxc3 7. Bxc3 O-O 8. Rc1 c5? 9. dxc5 Bxc3+ 10. Rxc3 Qxd1+ 11. Kxd1 Be6 12. Nf3 Nc6 13. Bc4 Rfd8+ 14. Kc2?! 14. Ke2 Bg4 (14...Nd4+ 15. Ke3 Bxc4 16. Rxc4 Nxf3 17. gxf3 +/-) 15. Ke3 Bxf3 16. gxf3 e6 17. f4 +/-) 14... Nb4+ 15. Kb3 Bxc4+ 15... Nd3 16. Kxc4! a5 17. a3 Na6 18. b4 Rac8 19. Rhc1 f6 20. e5?! b6 21. Kb5?**

21. c6! Rxc6+ 22. Kb5 Rxc3 23. Rxc3 axb4 24. axb4 Nb8 25. e6 +- 21... Nc7+ 22. Ka4

Forced. 22. Kxb6 axb4 23. axb4 Nd5+ 24. Kb5 Rb8+ -+ 22... Nd5 23. Rd3 axb4 24. axb4 Ra8+?

Black's one and only chance to capitalize on my mistakes and to save the game was 24...bxc5 25. bxc5 Ra8+ 26. Kb3 Rdb8+ 27. Kc4 Nf4 28. Rd2 Ra4+ 29. Kc3 Ra3+ 30. Kc4 Ra4+ 31. Kc3= 25. Kb3 b5?

Now it's all over. 25... bxc5 26. Rxc5 +/- 26. exf6 +- e6 27. Ng5! Ra6 28. c6 Rda8 29. f7+ Kg7

29... Kh8 30. Rxd5 exd5 31. Ne6 +- 30. Nxe6+ Kxf7 31. Ng5+ Kf6 32. Rxd5 Ra3+ 33. Kc2 Ra2+ 34. Kd1 1-0

**White: John Williams**  
**Black: Ilya Krasik**  
**National Open, Round 2,**  
**[A04] Reti Opening**

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d3 Nc6 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. O-O Nge7 7. Re1 d6 8. Nbd2 O-O 9. Nf1 h6 10. h4 e5 11. c3 d5 12. N1h2**

It's clear that White's pieces on the kingside are just getting nowhere. **12...Be6**

12...f5? 13. exd5 Nxd5 14. Qb3 with counterplay, e.g. 14... Kh7 (or 14... Be6 15. Qxb7 Rc8) 15. Bg5 (15. Ng5+ hxg5 16. Qxd5)

**13. Be3 b6**

13...d4 14. cxd4 cxd4 15. Bd2 Qb6 was also strongly considered: 16. b4 (16. Qb1 a5) 16... Rfc8 =/+ (16... Nc8)

**14. g4 Qd7 15. g5 h5**

Thanks to my opponent, the kingside is locked and all his pieces there lack any purpose. This means it's time for action on the queenside.

**16. Qa4 a6 17. Rad1**

17. c4 b5 18. cxb5 axb5 19. Qxb5 Ra5 20. Qb3 (20. Qb6 Rb8 -+) 20... d4 -+

**17... b5**

17... d4 18. cxd4 cxd4 19. Bd2 Qd6

**18. Qa3 d4 19. cxd4 cxd4 20. Bc1 Rfc8 21. b3 Bf8**

21...a5!

**22. Qb2 Qd6 23. Bd2 a5 24. Rc1 a4 25. b4 a3!**

White is positionally bankrupt: his pieces are still out of play and a2 and b4 are very weak.

**26. Qb1 Ra4 27. Rc5**

One cannot cement a big leak with chewing gum. White's posi-



tion is leaking profusely.

**27...Nxb4! 28. Rxe5 Nec6**

28... Bxa2! 29. Bxb4 Bxb1 30. Bxd6 a2

**29. Rxb5 Bxa2 30. Qd1 Ra7 31.**

**Qa1 Be6 32. Bxb4 Nxb4 33. Qxd4**

**Qxd4 34. Nxd4 a2 35. Ra1 Nxd3**

**36. Bf1 Rc1 37. Nc2 Bg7 38. e5**

**Bxe5 39. Rxc1 Bxh2+ 40. Kxh2**

**Nxc1 41. Na1 Nb3**

**0-1**

**White: Ilya Krasik**

**Black: John Funderburg**

**National Open, Round 3**

**[E11] Bogo-Indian Defense**

By far the cleanest and quickest victory at the National Open. I spent about 45 minutes on the clock but in truth I probably could have played all my moves in under 10 minutes. Winning quickly was nice, because the South Point Hotel and Casino sported a luxurious swimming pool and a huge jacuzzi.

**1. d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+ 4.**

**Bd2 Qe7 5. g3 Ne4?! 6. Bg2 Nc6**

**7. O-O Bxd2 8. Nbx2 Nxd2**

**9. Qxd2 d6 10. d5!+/- Nd8**

10... Nb8 11. dxe6 fxe6 12. c5!? with an advantage in development and the initiative.

**11. Rac1 e5 12. c5! O-O 13. Rc3**

**f5!? 14. Rfc1 Nf7 15. cxd6 cxd6**

**16. Rc7 Qd8 17. Qc3**

Black is paralyzed.

**17... Re8 18. Nd2**

My plan is to come to a5. (18. Bh3!? Ng5 19. Nxc5 Qxc5 20. e4)

**18... g6 19. Nb3 Qg5 20. Na5 e4**

**21. h4 Qg4?**

21... Qd8 was the only move  
**22. Qf6+-**

22. Nc4

**22... Rf8 23. Re7 g5 24.Rcc7 Qh5**

**25. Nc4!**

A picturesque illustration of

White's domination. Black resigns because of 25...Qg6; 26.Qxg6+ and 27. Nxd6 — Jacuzzi time.

**1-0**

**White: Benjamin Marmont**

**Black: Ilya Krasik**

**National Open, Round 4**

**[B42] Sicilian Kan**

After scoring a relatively easy 3/3 and occupying the top board for my section since round 2, I was feeling quite content. However, in round 4 it was almost as if a different player showed up. Disaster was close as I tightrope through a difficult position. I offered the draw when the worst was over, and my opponent to my surprise accepted. Afterwards I showed him many ways he could have broken through. In analysis he appeared weak and unsure. I couldn't believe I drew him, but then again I was close to the edge and all in all had to be quite content with the result.

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4.**

**Nxd4 a6 5. Bd3 Bc5 6. Nb3 Be7 7.**

**O-O Nc6**

7... d6 8. Qg4 g6 (8...Bf6)

**8. Qg4 Bf6 9. Nc3 d6 10. f4 Qc7**

**11. Bd2 Nge7 12. Rae1 e5?!**

12... Ng6 13. Qh5 (13. e5 dxe5

14. f5) 13... O-O?! 14. e5! dxe5 15.

Ne4 with an attack.

**13. f5 Bd7 14. a3?**

14. Bg5 h5! 15. Qh4 and Black's position is very unpleasant (15. Qg3 h4 16. Qg4 h3 17. g3 Bxg5 18. Qxg5)  
**14... g6?**

Just plainly stupid, since if I ever take on f5 his knight will come to e4 with devastating effect. I realized this sad reality as soon as I moved. Why does this happen?! (14... O-O 15. Bh6 (15. Bg5))

**15. Qf3 g5**

At least, admitting my stupidity.

**16. Kh1?**

I mostly feared 16. Qh5

**16...h5 17. Qf2 b5**

Played with a heavy heart as it loosens light squares on the queen-side, especially c6. But, on the other hand, I wanted to pretend that I had something active to do, a good strategy against a somewhat weaker player in anticipation of a draw offer. (17... O-O-O 18. Be3 +-)

**18. Nd5**

Correct.

**18... Nxd5 19. exd5 Ne7**

Here I began to think that I was toast again. White just needs to open lines with a timely c4... I felt as if someone had loaded a gun and pointed it at me. I closed my eyes but the gun never fired.

**20. Be4**

20. Ba5! Qb7 21. Nd2! Nxd5 22.

Ne4 Qc6 (22... Ke7 23. c4) 23. c4+-

**20... Rb8 21. Na5 Qb6 22. Qe2**

22. Qxb6 Rxb6 23. c4 +/-

**22... Rc8 23. b4 Kf8 24. Be3 Qb8**

**25. Rc1 Kg7+/-**

Here I offered a draw, which was accepted. Had I been White there is no chance I would have accepted it.  
**1/2-1/2**

*To be continued in the July-September issue.*

**NM Ilya Krasik is offering  
private or group lessons.**

**Contact info: 978-394-4100 cell  
or ilya\_krasik@yahoo.com**

*"Only the player with  
the initiative has the right  
to attack"*

— Wilhelm Steinitz

# Club News

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## Waltham Chess Club

([www.walthamchessclub.org](http://www.walthamchessclub.org))

—Nicholas P. Sterling, Ph.D.

February 2010

We closed out 2009 in high spirits with a highly successful Holiday Party on 12/18/09. Everyone who came brought so much pizza and so many delicious desserts, snacks, and soda that we were all floating in food within an hour. We ran a 3-Round Game/10 tournament, which **Max Chiu-hsin Lu** won with a perfect score of 3 points; we followed that with a team quad Bughouse tournament, which Team I (**Todd Chase** and **Hao-yuan Pai**) won with a perfect score of 3 points. This is certainly the first Bughouse Tournament WCC has held for a long time, if ever, and I look forward to many more. Thanks to everyone who came, brought food, and played.

The Waltham Chess Club meets every Friday evening from 7 PM through the evening, sometimes burning the post-midnight oil. Our website is <http://walthamchessclub.org>, including directions to our site at the IBM Building (404 Wyman Street in Waltham), and our schedule of events (which can also be found on the MACA website calendar).

Some highlights from the last few months:

- **Tomas Girnius** took first place in the Festival of Lights G/60 in December, with a score of 2 points.
- **Frank Sisto** took first place in the First Friday in January with a score of 6.5 out of 7 points.
- We were delighted to welcome **International GM Arthur Bisguier**, and welcome back **Edward Epp**, to the MLK G/60 in January. **Todd Chase** and **Matthew James Webber** took first and second prizes with scores of 2 points and 1.5 points respectively.
- **Todd Chase** took first prize in the January G/25 with a perfect score of 3 points, while **George Comeau** took the first under-1500 prize with a score of 2 out of 3 points.
- We are honored to welcome **SM Denys Shmelov** to our club. In a tough field that included **Gregory Kaden**, **Todd Chase**, and **Frank Sisto**, Denys took first prize in the First Friday in February with a

score of 6 out of 7 points.

- In our first Wild Card event in February, we held a 5-Round G/15. We were pleased to have **Patrick Sciacca** join us that night, and he and **Tomas Girnius** took first and second prizes with scores of 5 and 4 points respectively. We were also happy to welcome back **Barbara Peskin**. Free pizza was served that night, and I thank everyone who made donations to cover the cost.

Finally, I intend to publish regularly in *Chess Horizons* one featured game from a WCC tournament. If you have a score of a game that you'd like to see in print, turn it in to me and I'll write up an article. Annotations are welcome but not necessary.

Thanks to all those who have come to Waltham on Friday night and helped our club to grow and prosper.

## Wachusett Chess Club

([www.wachusetchess.org](http://www.wachusetchess.org))

—George Mirijanian

Former multitime club champions **Bruce Felton** and **George Mirijanian**, both of Fitchburg, tied for first place in the Reggie Boone Memorial tournament, held January 6 to February 3 at the McKay Campus School at Fitchburg State College. The Class A players, who drew each other in the third round, tallied 4.5-0.5 in a field of 25 players. Tying as runners-up with 3-2 scores were fellow Class A participants **Larry Gladding** of Leominster, **Martin Laine** of Lunenburg, and **Dave Couture** of Westminster, as well as Class B entrants **Paul Giovino** of Lunenburg, **Arthur Barlas** of Chelmsford, **George Miller** of Ashburnham and **Tom Fratturelli** of Leominster. Finishing behind the runners-up with 2.5-2.5 results were top-ranked expert **Raymond Paulson** of Lowell, 1999 club champion **Geoffrey LePoer** of Westford, **Kenneth Gurge** of Leominster, **Mark Daley** of New Ipswich, NH, and **Max Sewell** of Peterborough, NH. The tournament honored the memory of longtime club member Reggie Boone (1926-2008) of Gardner.



## 20th Massachusetts Game/60 Championship

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- Rounds:** Sat.: 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:00 PM. Sun.: 9:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:00 PM.
- Entry Fee:** \$55 if postmarked by April 27th or online (PayPal) at [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org) by April 29th, \$65 at the tournament site. GM, IM free.
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  - Emergency contact **only** day of tournament: 508-561-2160.
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- Questions:** (978) 345-5011. George Mirijanian. [MassG60Info2010@masschess.org](mailto:MassG60Info2010@masschess.org), [www.MassChess.org](http://www.MassChess.org).

### 20th Massachusetts Game/60 Championship, May 1-2, 2010

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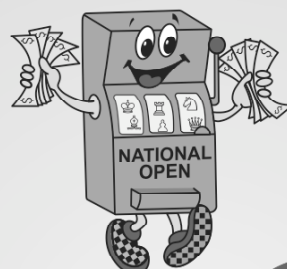
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