

# CalChess Journal

Summer 2014

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## Grandmaster Sam Shankland Wins Gold Medal at Tromsø Olympiad



Chirila and Barbosa Win CalChess State Championship

De Guzman Wins Central California Open

Aleskerov Wins People's Tournament

Doyle and Byambaa Win Sacramento Championship

# CalChess Journal



Summer 2014

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## CalChess President's Message

From Tom Langland



### Helicopter Parents

I see it all time, especially in chess tournaments. Parents who have extreme anxiety about separating from their child before their game starts are the chess equivalent of what is known as helicopter parents. Before a round starts, their child has to have all their pencils sharpened for them, tissues ready, their notation sheet filled out, drink bottle filled, snacks close at hand and that last minute hug (or two or three) before the round starts. Unfortunately, this causes trouble for the tournament directors who want to start the round on time. The TDs are stuck between upsetting parents who want to continue to cosset their child, and those parents, players and coaches who expect the tournament rounds to begin on time.

I really do appreciate the problem a parent has with separating from their child and wanting to be comparable to a helicopter watching over them. Many times, I have been criticized that I don't know what it is like! Anyone who knows me understands I really do. In fact, that's how I ended up being most prolific National Tournament Director and International Arbiter in the US. When my sons started playing in like the second grade I remember being exactly like a helicopter. I would watch every move from afar, cringing every time they would hang their queen or miss a checkmate in one move. Finally at the State Grade Level championship, I was driving my wife crazy and she suggested I volunteer to help direct to keep my mind busy. That's what got me here, and yes, I know exactly just how it feels to be a helicopter parent! It's tough!

I've even seen helicopter parents vie against each other, like it's a competition for who is the better parent. Two moms of opposing players aspire to be the last to leave their child. Which will get the final hug and a kiss in? All the while you can see the child hoping their parent would stop the fuss, go away and let them begin their game. Then we have the parents who have to peek in whenever the opportunity arises, holding the door open indefinitely to get that last glance in, hoping to get a glimpse of their child's position. I wish parents could see how distracting this is to all the participants. Every child has to look up to see if it is their parent peering at them, instead focusing on their game. I've even had a parent somehow observe their child forgetting to press their clock and insisted that I go over and remind the player to press their clock!

Parents, the tournament staff do understand your desire to fuss over your your child and to make them happy at the tournament. But please, remember the staff also wants to make the tournament a complete success and that includes starting the rounds on time and keeping distractions out of the room. Please be mindful of their requests and assist their efforts. Thank you!

Tom Langland  
CalChess President

## And Interview with Orinda Grandmaster Sam Shankland on Winning Gold Medal at Tromsø Olympiad

By Elizabeth Shaughnessy

This is an interview, conducted by Elizabeth Shaughnessy with GM Sam Shankland who has just returned from playing on the US Olympiad team in Tromsø, Norway. He won a gold medal having achieved a score of 9/10, the highest percentage score in the entire Olympiad.

**Elizabeth:** By now most Chess players know of your remarkable achievement at the Olympiad in Tromsø. How do you feel about it?

**Sam:** Of course I'm beyond thrilled with my result, but I've already mostly forgotten about it. One of the most important attributes that all truly great chess players share is intense ambition. The next goal is to make this kind of result the norm rather than the extreme outlier.

**Elizabeth:** Did you think you would do that well when you qualified for the US Team?

**Sam:** Before the tournament I did not have any particular expectations - my only goal was to play my best chess and find the best move as many times as possible. I think I succeeded, although I also caught quite a few good

breaks to get to 9.0/10.

**Elizabeth:** At 22 years of age you are the fifth strongest player in the country; do you hope to become the strongest?

**Sam:** Of course I hope to become the strongest. At the moment there is not such a big gap between #2 and #5, so I could see myself climbing that far pretty soon if I manage to show some strong results, but Naka is really in a league of his own- it will take a lot of work to catch him. Plus I hear Wesley is switching...

**Elizabeth:** I have played in 6 Chess Olympiads and I find the experience itself extraordinary. Were you able to do any socializing?

**Sam:** My socializing was greatly limited - our prep work was intense and I barely had any energy for anything else. I tried to just think of it as any other tournament- prepare hard, play hard, and don't get distracted by anything else.

**Elizabeth:** What has inspired you to continue?

**Sam:** As I mentioned before, I was never satisfied with any



GM Shankland at Best of the West  
Photo by Richard Shorman

achievement. It always felt great to get to a new level, but I would never be content there for long. Pushing myself to the maximum has always been a priority, and this has been true for my chess development in all phases. Slow and steady wins the race they say.

**Elizabeth:** Is there anything or any person or persons who stand out as having been especially influential?

**Sam:** Of course I never would have made it to where I am without all the help I received along the way. First and foremost to my parents, my first sponsors who took me to



Sam in his early days at Berkeley Chess School  
Photo Courtesy of Berkeley Chess School

tournaments and lessons, The Berkeley Chess School, for introducing me to the game and developing a growing passion, all of the tournament directors put up with my antics as a child, all of my coaches, training partners, opponents... One could not possibly even start to try naming them all.

**Elizabeth:** You graduated from Brandeis College in June. How were you able to maintain your studies and be able to continue to sharpen your chess skills?

**Sam:** The secret of success was never having a conflict in my priorities. As soon as I realized that I was getting strong enough that chess was becoming a very viable career path, I continued my studies but they always came second. For example, my participation on the US Team at the Pan-American Championship and

the Cuitat de Barcelona Magistral both cost me a lot of time off and adversely affected my grades, but I never had to think twice about accepting the invitations.

**Elizabeth:** What is your advice to upcoming and new chess players?

**Sam:** I would advise new chess players to never shy away from challenges- this is good advice for life in general as well. I hear

all sorts of excuses for laziness or not playing the most challenging way. Examples: "I did not take that pawn because it just looked dangerous to open my king" but did you actually calculate whether there are any real threats? Oh, 3 moves in I see queens are exchanged? or "I play the exchange variation of (pick any opening) because it is risk-free and I don't need to know theory" Aversion to risk and choosing to play sidelines because you are intimidated by the workload of learning mainlines are both very poisonous to development. Always play for the maximum and always try to play the most challenging way.

**Elizabeth:** What games stand out most?

**Sam:** Two games in

particular from the Olympiad stood out for me- obviously my win over Judit Polgar that would turn out to be her final professional game, and I also greatly enjoyed the wild encounter I had in round 2. In a tournament this tough, being a bit higher rated doesn't mean much and my sub 2400 opponent really made me work for the win in what was definitely my most exciting game of the event.

**Elizabeth:** Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

**Sam:** I think that should cover it pretty nicely, unless I missed anything.

**Elizabeth:** Thank you Sam. We are very proud of you.

*Below are the two games Sam mentions in the interview.*

**White:** GM Shankland (2624)  
**Black:** GM J. Polgar (2676)  
E11 Bogo-Indian Defense

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 b6 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 Bb7 7.e3 a5 8.b3 d6 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.Bb2 0-0 11.0-0 Qe7 12.Qc2 c5 13.Rfd1 h6 14.Rac1 Rfc8 15.a4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.Ba3 Nfe4 18.Nb5 d5 19.f3 Nf6 20.Qb2 e5 21.cxd5 Nxd5 22.e4 Nf4 23.Bc4 Rd8 24.Kh1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rd8 26.Qc2 Rxd1+ 27.Qxd1 Qg5 28.Qd2 Nxe4**

29.fxe4 Bxe4 30.Bf1 Bc6  
31.Bc1 Qg4 32.Nc3 g5  
33.Qc2 Kg7 34.Be3 Qe6  
35.Kg1 Bb7 36.Nb5 Nd5  
37.Bf2 Nf4 38.Nc7 Qg4  
39.Bxb6 Nh3+ 40.Kh1 Qf4  
41.Qc4 Qd2 42.Qe2 Qc1  
43.Ne8+ Kf8 44.Nd6 Bd5  
45.Be3 Qb1 46.Qd3 Qe1  
47.Qe2 Qb1 48.Nc4 Qxb3  
49.Qd3 Qxd3 50.Bxd3 Nf4  
51.Bxf4 exf4 52.Nxa5 f3  
53.gxf3 Bxf3+ 54.Kg1 Bd1  
55.Bb5 Ke7 56.Nc4 Bf3

57.a5 f6 58.a6 Kd8 59.Kf2  
Bh1 60.Ne3 1-0

White: GM Shankland (2624)  
Black: IM Martinez Romero (2387)  
B64 Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6  
6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0-  
0-0 0-0 9.f4 h6 10.Bh4  
e5 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5 Qa5  
13.g4 exf4 14.Qxf4 d5  
15.g5 hxg5 16.Bxg5 d4

17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Ne4 Be5  
19.Qg5 Nb4 20.f6 Bf4+  
21.Qxf4 Rac8 22.Bd3 Qa4  
23.Qf2 Rxc2+ 24.Bxc2  
Rc8 25.Rd2 Qxa2 26.Kd1  
Qa1+ 27.Ke2 Qxh1 28.Qg3  
g6 29.Bd3 Nxd3 30.Kxd3  
Rd8 31.Qf4 b5 32.Ng3 Qc6  
33.Ke2 Rd6 34.Ne4 Re6  
35.Rxd4 Qc2+ 36.Kf3  
Qb3+ 37.Nc3 1-0

### CalChess State Championship

One of the largest tournaments each year is the CalChess State Championship on Labor Day Weekend. This year's event took place from Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Santa Clara Convention Center. 276 Players competed in the six round tournament.

Winning the master section and the tournament were Grandmasters Ioan Chirila and Oliver Barbosa. Each won \$1875. Tied for third and fourth were National Master Arun Sharma and Paul Richter. There were three players tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place. They



GM Chirila tied for First Place  
Photo by Richard Shorman

are Grandmaster Mark Paragua, International Master David Pruess and National Master Michael Wang.

There was also a two player tie for first place in the Expert Section. Teemu Virtanen and Joshua Cao won the section with five points each. Taking clear third in the Expert Section was Ladia Jirasek. There were eight players tied for fourth and fifth place. They are Julian Lin, Dana Mackenzie, Pranav Nagarajan, Art Zhao, Gabriel Bick, Andrew Hong, Samuel Bekker and Christopher Pan.

Alexandre Birguer was the winner of the A section scoring 5 points and winning \$1250. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> were Ted Castro, Jamshid Alamehzadeh, Aniruddha Basak, David Pan, Yuan Wang and Luiz Uribe.

There was also a sole winner in the B section. That person is Nikhil Jaha. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> were Oliver Wu, Brandon Ho, Kevin Pan, Antara Garai and Evan Ai.

Winning the C Section was Dmitri Dobrynin winning five games and drawing one. In clear second was Rithvik Javgal. In clear Third Place was Robert Thayer. Five

### CalChess State Championship

#### Master

1-2	GM Ioan Cristian Chirila GM Oliver Barbosa	5
3-4	NM Arun Sharma Paul Richter	4.5
5	GM Mark Paragua IM David Pruess NM Michael Wang	4

#### Expert

1-2	Teemu Virtanen Joshua Cao	5
3	Ladia Jirasek	4.5
4-5	Julian Lin Dana Mackenzie Pranav Nagarajan Art Zhao Gabriel Bick Andrew Hong Samuel Bekker Christopher Pan	4

#### A

1	Alexandre Birguer	5
2-5	Ted Castro Jamshid Alamehzadeh Aniruddha Basak David Pan Yuan Wang Luiz Uribe	4.5

#### B

1	Nikhil Jaha	5
2-5	Oliver Wu Brandon Ho Kevin Pan Antara Garai Evan Ai	4.5

<u>C</u>		
1	Dmitri Dobrynin	5.5
2	Rithvik Javgal	5
3	Robert Thayer	4.5
4-5	Nikhil Agashe	4
	David Fujii	
	Al Rangole	
	Justin Easterday	
	Shawn Knapp	

<u>DE</u>		
1	Satvik Singireddy	5.5
2-3	Henry Benaid	5
	Soundararajan Ramazwamy	
4	Avyay Varadarajan	4.5
	Kiree Devarakonda	
	Elliot Ki	
	Ryan Gossiaux	
	Andy Cai	
	Ahyan Zaman	
	Aaron Nhan	
1 <sup>st</sup> U1200	Reka Sztaray	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> U1200	Daniel Cheng	4.5
3 <sup>rd</sup> U1200	Stephen Yang	4
	Isaiah Lovell	
	Shree Ayinala	

players tied for fourth and fifth place. They are Nikhil Agashe, David Fujii, Al Rangole, Justin Easterday and Shawn Knapp.

Winning the D and E Section was Satvik Singireddy. Tied for Second and Third place were Henry Benaid and Soundararajan Ramazwamy with 5 points. Also scoring five points and winning first under 1200 was Reka Sztaray. Seven players tied for fourth place in the section with 4.5 points. They are Avyay Varadarajan, Elliot Ki, Ryan Gossiaux, Andy Cai, Ahyan Zaman and Aaron Nhan. Also scoring 4.5 points to win the second place under 1200 prize was Daniel Cheng. Three

players tied for third under 1200. They are Stephen Yang, Isaiah Lovell and Shree Ayinala.

The tournament was organized by Salman Azhar and Judit Sztaray from Bay Area Chess with Richard Koepcke and Tom Langland directing.

Below are some great games from the event. Analysis computer assisted.

The first two games are from tournament winner GM Ioan Cristian Chirila.

**White:** GM Chirila (2590)  
**Black:** GM Jesse Kraai (2589)  
E15 Queens Indian Defense

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6  
4.g3 Ba6 5.Qb3 Nc6  
6.Nbd2 Na5 7.Qc3 c5  
8.dxc5 bxc5 9.e4 d5N**

Perviously played was 9...Bb7  
10.e5 Ne4 11.Nxe4 Bxe4  
12.Bg2 in Van Wely -Kamsky,  
Antalya 2013

**10.cxd5 Bxf1 11.Kxf1 exd5  
12.exd5 Be7**

12...Nxd5 13.Qe5+ Ne7  
14.Ne4→

**13.Kg2 0-0 14.d6 Bxd6  
15.Nc4 Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Re8  
17.Bg5 h6 18.Bxf6 Qxf6  
19.b3 Qb2 20.Rad1**  
(diagram)



**20...Re2!?**

Offering a piece to expose the king.

**21.Rxd6 Rxf2+ 22.Kh3  
Re8 23.Rf1 Rxf1 24.Qxf1  
Qxa2 25.Qd3 Qf2 26.Rd8  
Rxd8 27.Qxd8+ Kh7  
28.Qd3+ g6 29.Ne5 Qe1  
30.Ng4 Kg7 31.Kg2 h5  
32.Nf2 Qc1 33.Ne4 Kg8  
34.Qd8+ Kh7 35.Qd7  
Qc2+ 36.Kf3 Kg8!?**

36...Qxb3+ 37.Kf4 a5 38.Qe7  
(38.Nxc5 Qc4+ 39.Ne4 a4  
40.Qa7 Qc1+ and Black would  
hold.) 38...a4 39.Qxc5 Qb8+  
40.Qe5 Qxe5+ 41.Kxe5 a3  
42.Nc3 Kg7 43.Na2 f6+  
should hold for Black.

**37.h4 Qc1 38.Qd8+ Kh7  
39.Qd3 Qh1+ 40.Kf4 Qc1+  
41.Ke5 Qb2+ 42.Kd5 1-0**

**White:** IM D. Pruess (2407)  
**Black:** GM Chirila (2590)  
C34 Kings Gambit

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Ne7  
4.Nc3 d5 5.d4 dxe4  
6.Nxe4 Nd5 7.Bd3 Be7  
8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 Nc6  
10.Bc2N Bg4 11.Qd3 Bh5**





Photo by Richard Shorman

**12. Bxf4?** (diagram)

12. Bd2 and the position would still be unclear.



**12...f5!**

Blocking the diagonal to h7. Not 12...Nxf4?? 13. Nf6+ gxf6 14. Qxh7#

**13. Nfg5 Nxf4 14. Rxf4 Bxg5 15. Nxb5 Qxg5 16. Raf1 Ne7 17. Qc4+ Bf7 0-1**

The other tournament winner, GM Oliver Barbosa, keeps his opponent under constant pressure in his game from round four.

White: IM Kaufman (2410)  
Black: GM Barbosa (2559)  
D17 Slav Defense

**1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. Nh4 Bg4 7. h3 Bh5 8. g4 Bg6 9. Nxb4 hxb4 10. e3 e6 11. Bxc4 Bb4 12. Qf3 Nbd7 13. Kf1 Qa5 14. Bd2 Rd8 15. Kg2 g5N**

Preventing h4.

**16. Rhd1 Nf8 17. Bd3 Nd5 Rxd5 20. Bc3 Rd8 21. Qg3 Nd7 22. e4 Bxc3 23. bxc3 e5! 24. Qe3 Nf8 25. Bf1**

Adding protection to h3.

**25...Ne6 26. d5 Nf4+ 27. Kh2 Rhd6 28. c4 c5 29. Rb1 Qc7 30. Rb5 b6 31. a5 Ne6!? 32. axb6 axb6 33. Qg3 Nd4** (diagram)



**34. Rxd4!? cxd4!? 35. Qxe5+ Kf8 36. Qg3**

**36. Qxd4?? Rxd5+ --**

**36...f6 37. e5!? fxe5 38. Qxe5 Re8 39. Qg3 Re1 40. Bd3 Qe7 41. c5! bxc5 42. Rb8+ Rd8 43. d6! Qf6 44. d7 Ke7 45. Rxd8 Kxd8 46. Qb8+ Kxd7 47. Bb5+ Ke6 48. Bc4+ Ke7 49. Qc7+ Kf8 50. Qxc5+ Ke8 51. Qc8+ Qd8 52. Bb5+ Ke7 53. Qb7+ Kf6 54. Qf3+?!**

54. Bc4 Qd6+ 55. Kg2 Re7 56. Qf3+ Kg6 57. Qf8 Qc6+ 58. f3 Qe8 59. Qf5+ Kh6 60. h4! was one potential way to hang on but not an easy task over the board.

**54...Kg6 55. Bd3+ Kh6 56. Qf5 Qc7+ 57. Kg2 Qb7+ 58. f3 Qb2+ 0-1**

GM Mark Paragua scores an endgame win in this game from round 5.

White: IM D. Pruess (2407)  
Black: GM Paragua (2596)  
E62 Kings Indian Fianchetto

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7**

**4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Nd7 10.e3 e5 11.dxe5 Ndx5 12.Be2 Qd7 13.Kg2 Na5 14.Qd5 b6N 15.Rd1** (diagram)



**15...c6!? 16.Qxd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 Rfd8 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.c5**

Not 19.b3? Nd3 20.Bd2 Nf4+ 21.exf4 Rxd2 22.Rc1 Bxc3 23.Rxc3 Rxe2-+

**19...bxc5 20.Ne4 Nd3 21.Bd2 Nc4 22.Bxd3 Rxd3 23.Bc3 Bxc3 24.bxc3 f5 25.Nxc5 Rxc3 26.Rd1 Rc2 27.Rd8+ Kf7 28.Rd7+ Kf6 29.Rxa7 Nxe3+ 30.Kg1 Rc1+ 31.Kh2 Rxc5 32.fxe3**

Black has a slight edge with an active rook, better placed king and less pawn islands.

**32...Rc3 33.a4 Rxe3 34.Rxh7 Re7 35.Rh8**

35.Rxe7 Kxe7 and Black's better placed king picks off the a-pawn leading to a win.

**35...Ke5 36.h4 c5 37.Rc8 Kd5 38.Rd8+ Kc6 39.Rc8+?!**

39.Kg2 with the idea of getting the king closer to the action might have been better.

**39...Rc7! 40.Rg8 c4 41.Rxg6+ Kd5 42.Rb6 c3 43.Rb1 c2 44.Rc1 Ke4 45.g4 f4 46.h5 Kd3 47.h6 Kd2 48.Ra1 c1Q 49.Rxc1 Rxc1 50.h7 Rc8 51.g5 f3 52.g6 f2 53.g7 f1Q 54.g8Q Qf2+ 55.Qg2 Qxg2+ 56.Kxg2 Rh8 0-1**

Paul Richter played an amazing tournament ending up tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. He picked up 80 rating points for his performance which will earn him the National Master title. Here are two of his wins from the tournament.

White: IM DeGuzman(2475)  
Black: Paul Richter (2191)  
A48 Torre Attack

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.c3 d6 6.e3 Qe8 7.Be2 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.e4 Nbd7 10.b4 h6! 11.Bh4 Nh5N 12.0-0 Nf4 13.Bc4 Nb6 14.Bb3 g5 15.Bg3 Qe7 16.Qc2 Bf6 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 g4** (diagram)



**19.Nd4! exd4 20.Bxf4 dxc3 21.Bxh6** (diagram)



**21...Qxb4**

Offering an exchange.

**22.Bxf8!? Qxc4! 23.e5 Bxe5 24.Rfe1 Qf4 25.g3 Qf6 26.Qe2!?**

26.Bc5 was a good alternative.]

**26...Bd4! 27.Be7 Qg7!? 28.Qc4 Be6 29.Qxc7**

White could bail out to an even ending with 29.Rxe6! fxe6 30.Rd1 Bxf2+ (30...Be5? 31.Qxe6+ Kh8 32.Rd5+-) 31.Kxf2 Qxe7 32.Qxg4+ Qg7 33.Qxe6+ Qf7+ 34.Qxf7+ Kxf7 35.Rd7+ Ke6 36.Rxc7=

**29...c2 30.Qxb7 Re8 31.Ra1** (diagram)



**31...Bxf2+! 32.Kxf2 Qd4+ 33.Re3 Qd2+ 34.Re2 Qxc1 35.Qe4 Rxe7 36.Rxc2 Qg5 37.Qf4 Qxf4+ 38.gxf4 Rd7 39.Kg3 Rd5 40.Rc7 Ra5 41.Kh4 Kg7 42.a3 Rxa3 43.Kg5 Ra5+ 44.Kh4 Kf6 45.Rc2 Ra3! 0-1**

Mate with ...Rh3 is inevitable.

**White:** Paul Richter (2191)  
**Black:** NM M. Wang (2231)  
B43 Sicilian Kan

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Nb3 Qc7 8.0-0 Bb7 9.a3 Nf6 10.f4 Be7 11.e5 Nd5 12.Qg4N g6 13.Bd2 f5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Qe2 0-0 16.Rac1 Qb7 17.Be3 Nc6 18.Nc5 Qc7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Rfd1 Kf7 21.c4! bxc4 22.Bxc4 Bxc4 23.Qxc4 Bxc5 24.Bxc5 Ne7 25.Rc3 Qb7 26.Rcd3 Nd5?**  
(diagram)



**27.Rxd5! exd5 28.Rxd5 Kg7 29.Qd4 Kh6 30.e6! dxe6 31.Rd7 Qxd7 32.Qxd7 Rd8 33.Qf7 Rac8 34.Kf2 a5 35.Qf6 axb4 36.axb4 Ra8 37.Bd4 Ra2+ 38.Kg3 Ra3+ 39.Kh4 Rxd4 40.Qf8# 1-0**

In this round 4 game, IM David Pruess demonstrates how to properly play against the Smith Morra Gambit.

**White:** Jerome Sun (2167)  
**Black:** IM D. Pruess (2407)  
B21 Sicilian Smith Morra

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 Bc5 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Bf4 Ng6 9.Bg3 0-0 10.e5 b6 11.Bd3N Bb7 12.h4 Nb4 13.Bb1!?**

Locking in the rook on a1.

**13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nc6**

**14...Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Kxd4 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Bxd4**

**15.Qe4 f5! 16.exf6 gxf6 17.h5 f5! 18.Qe2** (diagram)



**18...Qg5 19.hxg6 Qxg3 20.gxh7+ Kxh7 21.Na4 Bd4 22.Rd1 Qh4! 23.Rd3 Rg8! 24.Bc2 Rg6 25.Bd1 Rag8 26.Qh5+ Qxh5 27.Bxh5 Rxd2+ 28.Kh1 Rxf2 0-1**

Hunter Klotz-Burwell scores a nice win over a master in this game from round 4.

**White:** FM Schiller (2200)  
**Black:** Klotz-Burwell (2133)  
D05 Colle System

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5 5.b3 Nc6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Bb2 0-0 8.a3 Ne4 9.Ne5 cxd4N 10.exd4 Qc7 11.f4 f6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.g3 Bb7 14.Nd2 c5! 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bc4 Rfe8 17.f5?!**  
(diagram)



**17...Bxg3! 18.Qe2 e3!  
19.fxe6 cxd4 20.Rf5 Bf2+  
21.Rxf2 exf2+ 22.Qxf2 Qc6  
23.Qg3 Ba6 24.Bxd4 Bxc4  
25.bxc4 Rxe6 26.Rf1 Qxc4  
27.c3 Qc6 28.Rb1 Rae8  
29.Bxa7?! Re5 30.h4 Ra5  
0-1**

FM Andy Lee plays a nice Kingside attack in the following game.

**White:** FM Andy Lee (2361)  
**Black:** NM Stearman (2200)  
A45 Trompowsky Attack

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 g6 4.f3 Nf6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nc3 d6 7.Qd2 0-0 8.0-0-0**

With opposite side castling, whoever gets their attack rolling quickest usually wins. Here White should have an easy time opening lines while Black doesn't have as many easy targets.

**8...Nbd7 9.h4 c6N 10.Kb1 Qa5 11.Bh6 b5 12.h5 b4 13.Nce2 Nb6 14.Nc1 Be6 15.Nb3 Bxb3 16.cxb3 e5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.Rc1 Rad8 22.Nh3 Rf7**

**23.Ng5 Re7** (diagram)



**24.Nxh7! Nxh7 25.Qxg6+ Rg7 26.Qe6+ Kf8 27.Rh5 Nd7 28.Bc4 Ndf6 29.Rf5 Qc7 30.Rxf6+ Nxf6 31.Qxf6+ Ke8 32.Rh1 Re7 33.Be6 1-0**

In this game from round 3, Jerome Sun traps his opponent's rook.

**White:** NM S. Banik (2210)  
**Black:** Jerome Sun (2167)  
B92 Sicilian Najdorf

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1 Be6 10.f4 exf4 11.Bxf4 Nc6 12.Qe1 Ne5 13.Rd1 Qc7 14.Nd4 Ng6 15.Bg5 Nd7N 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Qh4 Ne5 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.exf5 f6 20.Bf3 Nxf3 21.Rxf3 Rad8 22.Qe4 Nc6 23.Nd5 Qf7 24.Rh3 Rfe8 25.Qh4 h6 26.Rg3 Kh7 27.Rg6 Qf8 28.Rg3 Ne7 29.Qe4 Nxd5 30.Qxd5 Qe7 31.h3 Qe5 32.Rc3 Qe2 33.Rc7 Re5 34.Qd2 Qb5 35.c4?**

35.Qd4 should hold the

balance.

**35...Qb6 36.Rf7** (diagram)



**36...Kg8!**

The rook is trapped.

**37.c5 Qc6! 38.Rxf6 gxf6 39.Qxh6 Qe8 40.Rd3 Rxf5 41.h4 Qh5 42.Rg3+ Kf7 43.Rg7+ Kf8! 0-1**

In this 5<sup>th</sup> round game, Michael Wang steadily improves his position until he can find a breakthrough.

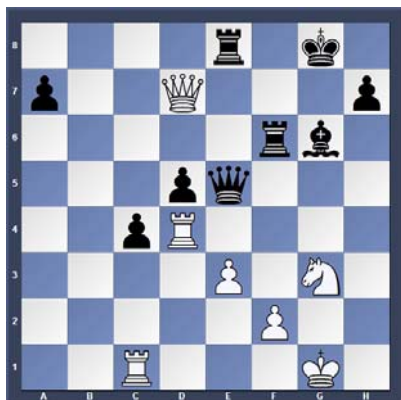
**White:** NM Aigner (2247)  
**Black:** NM M. Wang (2231)  
A45 Trompowsky Attack

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 g6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.e3 d6 5.Bd3 f5 6.Ne2**

An aggressive alternative is 6.h4

**6...Bg7 7.0-0 Nd7 8.c4 Nf6 9.Nbc3 0-0 10.Qc2 Re8 11.b4N Qe7 12.b5 c6 13.a4 Ne4 14.Bxe4 fxe4 15.a5 Be6 16.Qa4 f5 17.Rab1 Rac8 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.a6 Rc7 20.Nf4 Bf7 21.Rfc1 g5 22.Nfe2 f4**

**23.d5 f3! 24.Ng3 Bxc3**  
**25.Rxc3 cxd5 26.gxf3 exf3**  
**27.Qd1 dxc4 28.Qxf3 d5**  
**29.Rd1 Qe5 30.Rd4 Rc6**  
**31.h4 gxh4 32.Qg4+ Rg6**  
**33.Qxh4 Rxa6 34.Rc1 Bg6**  
**35.Qg4 Rf6 36.Qd7**  
 (diagram)



**36...Rxf2! 37.Qxd5+ Qxd5**  
**38.Rxd5 Rf3 39.Kg2**  
**Rex3 40.Nf1 Rc3**  
**41.Rd8+ Kg7 42.Rd7+ Kf6**

**43.Rxc3 Rxc3 44.Rxa7 Rc1**  
**45.Ne3 c3 46.Nd5+ Ke5**  
**47.Nxc3 Rxc3 48.Kh2 h5**  
**49.Ra6 Bf5 50.Ra4 Kf6**  
**51.Rb4 Kg5 52.Ra4 Bg4**  
**0-1**

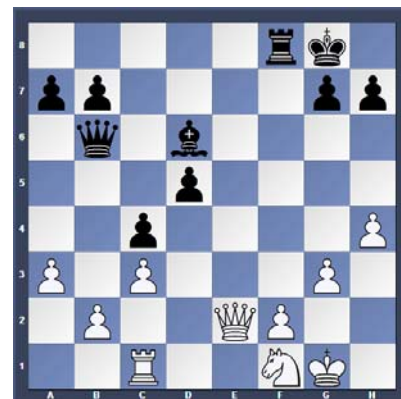
In the following game, NM Jimmy Heiserman finds some nice tactics.

**White:** Taghizadeh (2209)  
**Black:** Heiserman (2304)  
 C02 French Advance

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5**  
**4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3**  
**c4 7.Nbd2 Na5 8.h4 Bd7**  
**9.g3 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6**  
**11.Bh3 Bd6 12.0-0N 0-0**  
**13.Re1 Rae8 14.Re2 e5!**  
**15.Bxd7 Nxd7 16.dxe5**  
**Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Rxe5 18.Nf1**  
**Nb3! 19.Rb1**

19.Be3 is an important zwischenzug 19...Qc6 20.Rb1 and Black is still better but White is hanging on.

**19...Nxc1 20.Rxc1 Rxe2**  
**21.Qxe2 (diagram)**



**21...Rxf2! 22.Qe6+ Rf7+**  
**23.Kh1 Qc6 24.Qe2 Bc5**  
**0-1**

# ***GM Shankland Lecture and NM Stearman Birthday at Berkeley Chess School***

**By Beth Slatkin**

*On Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. The Berkeley Chess School celebrated NM Josiah Stearman's birthday and GM Sam Shankland's Olympiad Gold Medal at the Berkeley Chess School Hillside School. Sam had just flown in and gave a talk to a packed room! (For more information on Sam and Josiah's recent accomplishments, please see the article on page 26.) Below are photos from the event. All photos by Kerry Lawless.*



*GM Sam Shankland, Elizabeth and Stephen Shaughnessy on stage at the Berkeley Chess School.*



*NM Josiah Stearman and Stephen Shaughnessy.*



*A Packed House at the Berkeley Chess School.*



*GM Sam Shankland giving a lecture at the event.*

# Central California Open

By Dennis M. Wajckus

Over 110 players converged on Fresno to take part in the 5th Annual Central California Open the weekend of 14th-16th August, 2014. This major tournament is the absolute favorite chess event of the year in the greater Fresno area.

In the Open section IM Ricardo De Guzman (2459) took 1st with 4.5 pts, in a tie for 2nd & 3rd lone GM Enrico Sevillano (2558) & IM Ray Kaufman (2409) each picked up 4 pts. 1st & 2nd tie for under 2200 went to Julian Lin (2177) & Rayan Taghizadeh (2172).

Top under 2000 was David Pan (1872) and 2nd was Enoch Israel (1754). Nine other players won prizes with 3.5 points in a tie for 2-3rd and under 1800.

First under 1600 was David Kazuma Fujii (1521) with 4.5 pts, 1st under 1400 was Alan Wolf (1255) with 4.0 pts.

Taking the top under 1200 section was Robert Wyatt (1148) with 4.0 pts, who tied with Zozimo Kiwan (991) who was first under 1000 with the same 4.0 score. Top under 800 was Dylan Jacob Smith (717) with 3.5 pts; top under 600 honors went to Alex Hamilton (494) with 3.0 pts.

The Blitz event was won by NM Ian Schoch (2467) with 6.5 pts. Top under 2100 was Richard Yi (2067) also with 6.5 pts. Christopher Bolin (1579) took top under 1600 with 6 points.

The mixed doubles contest was won by the team of Shijie Chen (2230) & Ke Chen (1919) with 6 points.

This event did not take place in 2013 and the name of the hotel was changing hands. Fresno club members feel next years event will draw more players and experience a larger turnout.

Fresno life club members Dennis & Marian ran the chess book and equipment store with a nice selection of materials.

Come out for the 6th annual event next August. Fresno is midway between LA & the Bay Area and Sacramento and is considered the capital of central California and the 5th largest city in the state.

The Fresno Chess Foundation has recently received our full nonprofit status as a 501 (c) (3). Donations to our foundation are tax deductible. This also means future Central California Open event could be bigger and better than ever!

**White:** Galen Balcom (1639)  
**Black:** Jesse Turner (1950)  
A57 Benko Gambit

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5  
4.cxb5 a6 5.Nc3 axb5 6.Nxb5  
Qa5+ 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Bd2 d6  
9.e4 Nbd7 10.Nf3 g6 11.Be2  
Bg7 12.0-0 13.Qc2 Rfb8**

## Central California Open

### Open

1	IM Ricardo De Guzman	4.5
2-3	GM Enrico Sevillano IM Ray Kaufman	4
U2200	Julian Lin Rayan Taghizadeh	3.5

### U2000

1	David Pan	4.5
U1800	Enoch Israel	4
2-3	Brett Becker & Owen Overton	3.5
2nd	Glen Rudelis	
U1800	Andrew Peng Robert Angres William Sartorio Isaac Ruddell Gene Mora	

### U1600

1	David Fujii	4.5
2-3	Blake Wong Christopher Bohlin Alan Wolf	4
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Prarthan Ghosh	3.5
U1400		

### U1200

1-2	Robert Wyatt Zozimo Kiwan	4
3	Bryan Wong Anthony Faulks Dylan Smith	3.5
U600	Alex Hamilton	3

**14.Rab1 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Rxa6  
16.a3 Nb6 17.e5 Ng4 18.exd6  
exd6 19.Ne4 Qa4 20.Qxa4  
Nxa4 21.b4 f5 22.Neg5 c4  
23.Ne6 Bf6 24.Nfd4 Ne5  
25.Rfc1 Nb6 26.Nc6 Nxc6  
27.dxc6 Kf7 28.Ng5+ Bxg5  
29.Bxg5 Rxa3 30.Be3 d5  
31.c7 Rc8 32.Bxb6 c3 33.Kf1  
d4 34.Bxd4 Rxc7 35.b5 1-0**

## People's Tournament

One of the few bay area traditional tournaments is the People's Tournament. It has been going on annually since the 1970s.

This year's tournament took place July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Clara Convention Center. 177 players participated in the six round event.

In the Open section for players rated 2000 and above, National Master Faik Aleskerov took clear first place with 5 points. Four International Masters tied for Second. They are Darwin Yang, Andrey Gorovets, John Bryant and Vladimi

Mezentsev. Winning the under 2300 prize was National Master Michael Aigner. Seven players tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place under 2300. They are Allan Beilin, Jack Qijie Zhu, Rayan Taghizadeh, Pranav Nagarajan, Julian Lin, Paul Richter and Art Zhao. Josiah Stearman won the U2100 prize with Hunter Klotz-Burwell and Vikram Ganesh tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> under 2100.

Yuan Wang won the A Section for players under 2000. Tied for second in the A section were Hovik Manvelyan, Rahul Desirazu, Yuri Granik, Ivan Ke and Srinath Goli.



177 Players competed at the People's Tournament. Photo by Richard Shorman

## People's Tournament

### Open

1	NM Faik Aleskerov	5
2-4	IM Darwin Yang IM Andrey Gorovets IM John Bryant IM Vladimi Mezentsev	4.5
U2300	NM Michael Aigner	4
U2100	Josiah Stearman	
2 <sup>nd</sup> U2300	NM Allan Beilin NM Jack Qijie Zhu NM Rayan Taghizadeh Pranav Nagarajan Julian Lin Paul Richter Art Zhao	3.5
2 <sup>nd</sup> U2100	Hunter Klotz-Burwell Vikram Ganesh	3.5

### A

1	Yuan Wang	5
2-5	Hovik Manvelyan Rahul Desirazu Yuri Granik Ivan Ke Srinath Goli	4.5

### B

1	Seaver Dahlgren	5.5
2-5	Stephen Ho Jonathan Xu Brandon Ho Amir Dhami Kevin Pan	4



C		
1	Sunny Kahlon	5.5
2-4	Dmitri Dobrynin Lee Cooper Shivansh Tomar	4.5
5	Steven Hwang Sativik Singireddy Prarthan Ghosh	4

D		
1-3	Shawn Knapp Sudha Kowtha Vishal Mehta	5
U1200	Pratheek Sankeshi Jason Zhong Nishan Chatterjee Robert Thayer	4

The B Section also had a clear winner. That was Seaver Dahlgren with 5.5 points. Five players tied for second place. They are Stephen Ho, Brandon Ho, Jonathan Xu, Amir Dhami and Kevin Pan.

Winning the C section was Sunny Kahlon with 5.5 points. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> were Dmitri Dobrynin, Lee Couper and Shivansh Tomar. Three players tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place. They are Steven Hwang, Satvik Singireddy and Prarthan Ghosh.

Shawn Knapp, Sudha Kowtha and Vishal Mehta won the D Section for players under 1400. Taking top under 1200 were Pratheek Sankeshi, Jason Zhong, Nishan Chatterjee and Robert Thayer.

The tournament was organized by Salman Azhar and Judit Sztaray with Bay Area Chess. The Chief Tournament Director was Richard Koepcke.

The following are some games from the event. Analysis computer assisted.

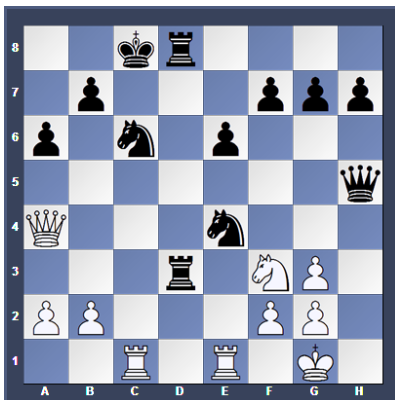
The first two games are wins by International Master Vladimi Mezentsev from rounds 4 and 5.

**White:** IM Mezentsev(2444)  
**Black:** Julian Lin (2146)  
B52 Sicilian Defense

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 e6 8.d4 d5 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.c4!?**

An interesting pawn sac.

**10...Qxc4 11.Na3 Qd5 12.Nb5 0-0-0 13.Qa4N a6 14.Nc3 Qh5 15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.Bf4 Rd3 17.Rac1 Rhd8 18.Bg3 Bd6 19.Ne4 Bxg3 20.hxg3 Nxe4 (diagram)**



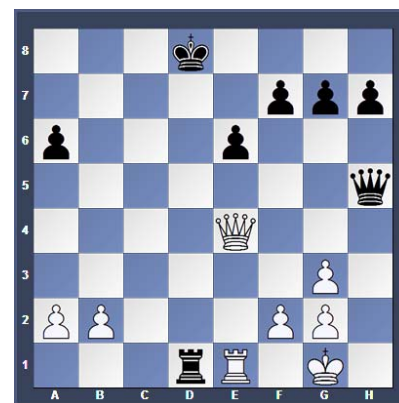
**21.Rxc6+ Kb8 22.Qxe4 bxc6 23.Ne5 Rd1 24.Nxc6+ Kc7 25.Nxd8 Kxd8? (diagram)**

25...Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 Kxd8 would lead to approximate



Tournament winner NM Aleskerov  
Photo by Richard Shorman

equality.



**26.Qh4+! 1-0**

26...Qxh4 27.Rxd1+ K~  
28.gxh4 and White is a rook up.

**White:** NM Manvelyan(2347)  
**Black:** IM Mezentsev(2444)  
D43 Semi Slav

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bf4 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.Qc2 Na6 8.a4N Nb4 9.Qb1 Bd7 10.axb5 cxb5 11.b3!? Be7 12.bxc4 bxc4 13.Bxc4 Rc8 14.Nd2!?**

(diagram)



**14...Rxc4! 15.Nxc4 Qc8  
16.Qb3 Nd3+ 17.Kd2 Nxf4**

Black has received two bishops for the rook.

**18.g3 Ng6 19.Rxa7 0-0  
20.e5!?**

Another option was 20.Rha1.

**20...Ng4 21.Nb6 Qc6!  
22.d5 Qc5! 23.Rxd7**

White has won a piece, but his king is in the open.

**23...Rb8! 24.Nca4! Qxf2+  
25.Kc1 Bg5+ 26.Kb1  
N6xe5 27.Rc7**

White is aiming to trade down. 27.dxe6 was worthy of consideration.

**27...exd5! 28.Rc8+ Rxc8  
29.Nxc8 Nc4 30.Qd3!?**

(diagram)



**30...Nge5**

The queen has to give up protection of the f5 square.

**31.Qxd5 Qf5+ 32.Ka1 Qxc8  
33.Rb1 g6 34.Nc5 Be7  
35.Rb5?!**

35.Na4 was necessary.

**35...Bxc5 36.Rxc5 Qa6+  
37.Kb1 Qb6+ 38.Kc1 Qb2+  
39.Kd1 0-1**

39.Kd1 Ne3+ wins the queen.

In the third round, Jack Qijie Zhu scores an upset win against a Grandmaster.

White: Jack Qijie Zhu(2170)  
Black: GM Browne(2481)  
A00 Sokolsky Opening

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b4 d5 3.Bb2  
Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.c4 Nbd7 6.c5  
c6 7.Nc3 e5 8.d4 e4**

With pawns locked in the center the pointing rule applies - White should attack on the queenside and Black on the Kingside.

**9.Nd2 Be7 10.Qc2N g6  
11.h3 h5 12.Nb3 Qc7 13.b5**

**0-0 14.a4 b6 15.Na2 Rfc8  
16.Nb4! cxb5 17.axb5 bxc5  
18.Nc6**

An important in-between move.

**18...Bf8 19.dxc5 a6!  
20.Qc3!**

White gets great pressure along the a1-h8 diagonal.

**20...axb5 21.Rxa8 Rxa8  
22.Bxb5 Rc8!? 23.0-0!  
Qb7 24.Ncd4 Nxc5**

With 24...Bxc5 25.Bxd7 Bxd7 26.Nxc5 Rxc5 27.Qxc5 Qxb2 28.Qd6 Kg7 and White would be up an exchange, which would be preferable for Black to the piece down in the game.]

**25.Na5 Qa8 26.Nxf5! Ncd7  
27.Bc6 Qb8 28.Ng3**

And white emerges a piece up.

**28...Bb4 29.Qd4 Bc5  
30.Qa4 Qxb2 31.Bxd7 Rc7  
32.Bb5 d4 33.Nc4 Qc3  
34.Ne2 Qd3 35.Nxd4 Bxd4  
36.exd4 Qxd4 37.Rd1 Qc5  
38.Ne3 Kg7 39.Be2 Qe5  
40.Qd4 Qg5 41.Rb1 Rd7  
42.Qc3 Kh7 43.Rb8 1-0**

## ***Mechanics' Summer Tuesday Night Marathon***

By John Donaldson

*Reprinted with permission.  
From the Mechanics' Institute  
Newsletter. For games and  
additional details about the  
event please visits:*

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

FIDE Master **Andy Lee** repeated as the winner of the **Tuesday Night Marathon**, taking the 91-player summer edition last night with a score of 7–1. The Berkeley resident's big wins were over IM **Elliott**

**Winslow** and FM **Frank Thornally**. His only draw was with top-seed **Hayk Manvelyan** in round 7, the other lost half point coming from a round-two bye.

National Master **Romy Fuentes** upset Manvelyan in the last round to join Winslow, who defeated NM **Keith Vickers**, in a tie for second at 6½-1½.

### Mechanics' Summer Tuesday Night Marathon

1	FM Andy Lee	7
2-3	IM Elliott Winslow	6.5
	NM Romulo Fuentes	
U2200	Hans Niemann	
U2000	Michael Askin	
	Eric Steiger	
U1800	Sos Hakobyan	
U1600	Togtokh Oyuntseren	
U1400	David Ross	
U1200	Bryan Hood	
Unr	Arun Raghavan	

*The CalChess Journal accepts submissions pertaining to chess, especially chess in Northern California. All Organizers are encouraged to send in a story, pictures and games (with or without notes) from their events. Articles, games and photographs should be submitted in electronic form to [tom@calchess.org](mailto:tom@calchess.org)*

## Sacramento Championship 2014

Every year in early July, the Sacramento Chess Club holds their Championship. The event took place from July 4<sup>th</sup>-July 6<sup>th</sup>. 90 Players competed in the six round event.

Two players tied for first in the Master-Expert section. They are Bryon Doyle and WFM Uyanga Byambaa each scoring five points. Bryon won the trophy on tie-breaks. Tied for third and the 1<sup>st</sup> under 2200 prize were Andy Applebaum and Jimmy Heiserman. Winning second place under 2200 were Julian Lin and Art Zhao.

In the Reserve section for players under 2000, three player tied with 4.5 points. They are Bernie Lu, Ziad Baroudi and Bayaraa Bekhtur. Lu won the trophy on tiebreaks. Rico Adkins and Seaver Dahlgren won the U1800 prizes.

The Amateur section had a clear winner – Srinivas Susarla with 5 points. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place were Nikhil Chatterjee, William Lombard III and James Mayfield. Mark Burgan won the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1200-1399 prize and Lorraine Eastham won the U1200 prize.

The tournament was directed by National Tournament Director John McCumiskey.

Below are some games from the event. Analysis computer

assisted.

In the first game, Bryon Doyle gets a nice attack and shows his tactical skills in this game from round three.

**White:** Applebaum (2078)  
**Black:** B. Doyle (2177)  
A43 Benoni

**1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 Bg7 6.Nge2 0–0 7.0–0 Nbd7 8.a4N Ne5 9.Ng3 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 Ng4 11.h3 Ne5 12.Qe2 e6 13.Be3**

13.f4 was a possible alternative.

**13...Qh4! 14.Qe1 exd5 15.Nxd5** (diagram)



**15...Bxh3! 16.f4**

16.gxh3? Nf3+ --

**16...Ng4 17.gxh3 Qxh3 18.Rf3 Qh2+ 19.Kf1 Qxc2**

Black has a lot of pawns and good play for the piece.

## Sacramento Championship

### Master-Expert

1-2	Bryon Doyle	5
	WFM Uyanga Byambaa	
3	Andy Applebaum	4.5
	Jimmy Heiserman	
U2200	Julian Lin	4
	Art Zhao	

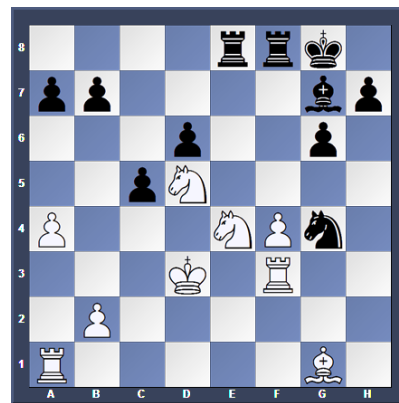
### Reserve

1-3	Bernie Lu	4.5
	Ziad Baroudi	
	Bayaraa Bekhtur	
U1800	Rico Adkins	4
	Seaver Dahlgren	

### Amateur

1	Susarla Srinivas	5
2-3	Nikhil Chatterjee	4.5
	William Lombard III	
	James Mayfield	
U1400	Mark Burgan	4
U1200	Lorraine Eastham	3.5

**20.Bg1 Rae8 21.Qe2 Qxe2+ 22.Kxe2 f5 23.Kd3? fxe4+ 24.Nxe4** (diagram)



**24...c4+! 25.Kxc4 Rxe4+--+ 26.Kd3 Ree8 27.Bxa7?**

**Ne5+! 28.Ke4 0-1**

28...Nc6+ 29.Kd3 Nxa7-+

Next are two games from tournament winner WFM Uyanga Byambaa. The first is her fourth round game where her King's Indian crashes through on the Kingside. The second is her fifth round game which turned out to be a very exciting Dragon.

White: G. Cridland (2010)  
Black: WIM Byambaa (2171)  
E99 Kings Indian Defense

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7  
4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3  
e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7  
9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5  
11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.Rc1  
g5 14.c5 Ng6 15.cxd6 cxd6  
16.Nf2 h5 17.h3 Rf7**

So far a very standard Kings Indian with the normal buildup for each side.

**18.Nb5!?**

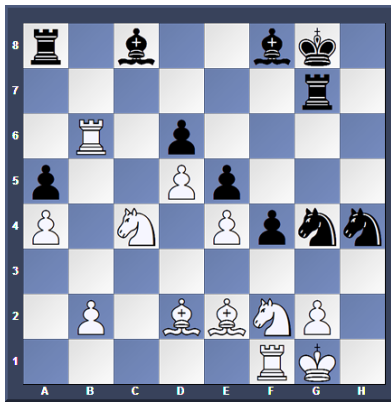
with the idea of relocating the knight to c4.

**18...a6 19.Na3 Bf8N  
20.Nc4 b6 21.a4 a5  
22.Qb3 Rb7 23.Na3 Nh4  
24.Rc6 g4 25.hxg4 hxg4  
26.fxg4 Rg7!**

Black lets White in on the queenside in exchange for more open lines on the kingside.

**27.Qxb6 Qxb6 28.Rxb6  
Nxc4 29.Nc4?! (diagram)**

29.Nxc4 Bxc4 30.Kf2 and  
White would still be ok.



**29...f3! 30.gxf3 Nxf3+  
31.Bxf3 Ne3+ 32.Ng4 0-1**

White is hurting after  
32...Nxc4-+

White: P. Seitzer (2174)  
Black: WIM Byambaa (2171)  
B76 Sicilian Dragon

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6  
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2  
Nc6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5  
Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4  
e5 13.Bc5 Be6! 14.Ne4**

14.Bxf8 Qxf8 and Black would have great compensation for the exchange in the two bishop and all the open lines leading to the White King.

**14...Re8 15.h4 Nf4 16.Nd6  
Re7 17.g3 Nd5N**

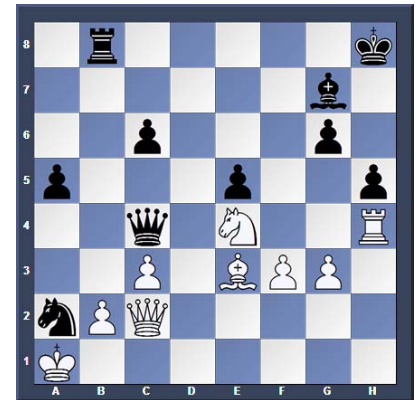
17...Nh5 had been played previously preventing h5.

**18.h5 Rd7 19.hxg6 fxg6  
20.Qh2!? h6 21.Ne4 Nb4  
22.Rxd7 Nxa2+ 23.Kb1  
Qxd7 24.Bh3**

24.c4! Nb4 25.Bxb4 Qd1+  
26.Ka2 a5 27.Ba3 Qxf3±  
would have been better.

**24...a5! 25.Bxe6+ Qxe6  
26.c3 Rb8 27.Qc2 Qc4  
28.Rh4 Kh8 29.Be3! h5  
30.Ka1? (diagram)**

30.Bd2 a4 31.Ng5 e4 32.Rxe4  
Qd5 33.f4 and Black would still have challenges extricating the knight from a2.



**30...Nb4!-+ 31.Qb1 Qb3!  
32.cxb4 axb4! 33.Qf1 Qxe3  
0-1**

USCF President and WIM Ruth Haring makes quick work of her opponent in this game from the final round.

White: Murugappan (1928)  
Black: WIM R. Haring (2003)  
B07 Pirc Defense

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6  
4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Bxf3  
6.Bxf3 Nbd7 7.Be3 e5  
8.Qe2N Be7 9.0-0-0 Qa5  
10.Kb1 0-0**

With kings on opposite wings and queens on the board it will be a race to see who

breaks through first.

**11.g4 exd4 12.Bxd4 Ne5  
13.h4 b5 14.Bxe5 dxe5  
15.Rdg1!?**

15.g5 immediately might have been better.

**15...Rfd8 16.g5 Ne8 17.h5  
Nd6! 18.Nd1?**

The difficult to find 18.Ka1 was the only move to hold the balance.

**18...Nc4!—+ 19.Qe1**  
(diagram)

19.Bg4 Qa4! (or 19...Bxg5)  
20.b3 Qa3 21.bxc4 Rxd1+!  
22.Rxd1 Qb4+ 23.Kc1 Bxg5+  
—+



**19...Qxe1 20.Rxe1 Nd2+  
0-1**

Black wins a piece.

In this game from the fourth round, Philip Seitzer steadily increases pressure on the queenside eventually leading to the win of material.

White: D. Legvold (2029)  
Black: P. Seitzer (2174)  
B50 Sicilian Defense

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6  
4.Be2 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4  
6.cxd4 d5 7.e5 Ne4 8.Nc3  
Bf5 9.0-0N**

Previously seen was 9.Qb3 putting pressure on the b and d pawns.

**9...e6 10.Qb3 Rb8 11.Qa4  
Be7 12.Be3 0-0**

Black has his pieces on good squares and a solid grasp on the e4 square.

**13.a3 Nxc3! 14.bxc3**

Black has created a nice target on the c-file.

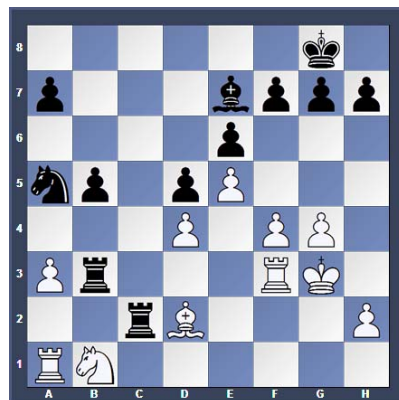
**14...Qa5 15.Qb3 Qc7  
16.Nd2 Rfc8 17.g4 Bg6  
18.f4?**

The text move drops the c-pawn. Better was 18.Rfc1.

**18...Na5! 19.Qd1 Qxc3  
20.Rf3 Bd3 21.Bxd3 Qxd3  
22.Qa4 Qc3 23.Ra2 b5!  
24.Qd1 Qc1!**

Forcing a queen trade and still keeping an initiative on the queenside.

**25.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 26.Kg2  
Rbc8! 27.Kg3 R1c2 28.Ra1  
R8c3 29.Nb1?! Rb3  
30.Bd2? (diagram)**



**30...Rbb2! 31.Rf2**

31.Bxa5? Rg2+ 32.Kh3 Rxh2+  
33.Kg3 Rbg2#

**31...Nb3! 0-1**

Black wins the rook on a1.

In the following second round game from the Reserve Section, Charles Conti plays a nice mating combination.

White: C. Conti (1795)  
Black: A. Howe (1731)  
A44 Old Benoni

**1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.e4 Nf6  
4.Nc3 d6 5.h3 a6 6.a4 b6N  
7.Nf3 Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0±**

Black is cramped and lagging in development.

**9...Nbd7 10.Be3 Ne8  
11.Qd2 Ndf6!? 12.Nh2 Nc7**

Another idea was 12...Nxe4  
13.Nxe4 f5 14.Ng5 f4 15.Ne6  
Bxe6 16.dxe6 fxe3 17.fxe3  
Nc7∞

**13.Ng4**

Trading off a kingside

defender.

**13...Bxg4 14.hxg4 h6 15.g3  
Qd7 16.g5! hxg5 17.Kg2 b5  
18.f3 b4 19.Nd1 g4 20.Nf2  
gxf3+ 21.Bxf3 Nce8!?  
22.Rh1! g5?**

Better was 22...Nh7 with some chances to hold.

**23.Bxg5! Nh7?! (diagram)**



**24.Rxh7! Kxh7 25.Rh1+  
Kg8 26.Bxe7 Qxe7 27.Qh6!  
f6 28.Qh8+ Kf7 29.Bh5#  
1-0**

In another game from the Reserve section, Adith Srivatsa plays a very nice Kings Indian Defense with a brilliant sacrificial attack that crashes through on the kingside.

White: S. Maruvada (1733)  
Black: A. Srivatsa (1489)  
E97 Kings Indian Defense

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7  
4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2  
e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7  
9.b4 b6!? 10.a4 Nd7  
11.Nd2N f5 12.f3 f4 13.Nb3  
g5 14.Ba3 Qe8 15.c5**

Whites buildup on the Queenside has been a little slow allowing Black good attacking chances on the other wing.

**Rf6 16.Nb5 Qh5 17.Nxc7!?**

17.Qc2 Rh6 18.h3 Nf6 19.Nxc7  
Bxh3 20.gxh3 Qxh3 21.Bd1 g4  
22.Qg2 and White should hold  
on the kingside.

**17...Rh6 18.h3 (diagram)**



**18...Nxc5!! 19.Bc4 Bxh3!  
20.Qc2**

Possibly a better attempt would be 20.bxc5 Bxg2!  
21.Kf2 Qh2 22.Ke1 Nf5!  
threatening ...Ne3 23.exf5  
e4!<sup>∞</sup> and Black's attack keeps  
going.

**20...Nxe4?!**

20...Nxb3! 21.Bxb3 g4  
22.Nxa8 gxf3 23.Rxf3 Bg4  
24.Raf1 Qh2+ 25.Kf2 Bxf3  
26.Kxf3 Rg6!→

**21.fxe4 Bg4! 22.Qc3 Qh2+  
23.Kf2 Qh4+ 24.Kg1 f3!  
25.Rxf3 Bxf3 26.Nxa8  
Qh2+! 27.Kf2 Qxg2+  
28.Ke3 Bxe4 0-1**

After 28...Bxe4 29.Be2 Rh3+  
30.Kd2 Rxc3-+ Black gets  
back their material with  
interest.

## Barber and Denker Qualifier Tournament

On the weekend of June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Bay Area Chess ran the selection tournament to determine who would represent Northern California in the Barber and Denker Tournaments. Each year every state affiliate across the United States selects one player to represent it in the Barber K-8 Tournament of Champions and the Denker High School Tournament of Champions. Each of those tournaments take place during the U.S. Open in August.

The event took place at the Courtyard Marriott in Foster City. Twelve players competed in the Barber Qualifier for K-8 and nine players competed in the Denker Qualifier for High School students. The tournament was five rounds.

The Denker High School qualifier was won by National Master Colin Chow with a perfect 5/5 points. This earned him \$300 to help with the expense of competing in the national event.

The Barber K-8 Qualifier was won by Fide Master Cameron Wheeler with 4/5 points. He declined being the representative to the national tournament so National Master Siddharth Banik was

given the honor.

The tournament was organized by Salman Azhar and Judit Sztaray with Bay Area Chess. The Chief Tournament Director was Justin Easterday.

The National Tournaments took place in August in Orlando, FL alongside the U.S. Open. NM Chow placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Denker Tournament and NM Banik placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the Barber Tournament.

Below are some of the best games from the event. Analysis computer assisted.

In the first game, NM Colin Chow plays a nice combination to win his 4<sup>th</sup> round game.

**White:** NM Colin Chow(2234)  
**Black:** Neel Apte (2181)  
B30 Sicilian Defense

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Bc4 d6 6.h3 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.d3 Bd7**

9...Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Bd7 was played in Stripunsky – Teplitsky, Montreal 2004 with an even position.

**10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Ne2 Qb6 12.c3 d5!? 13.exd5 exd5 14.Bb3 Bc5 15.cxd4 Bxd4**

## Barber and Denker Qualifier

Denker

1	NM Colin Chow*	5
2-4	NM Kesav Viswanadha Jack Qijie Zhu Hunter Klotz-Burwell	3

Barber

1	FM Cameron Wheeler	4
2-6	NM Siddharth Banik* NM Vign Panchanantham Josiah Stearman Christopher Pan Ladia Jirasek	3

\*State Representative

**16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Be3±**

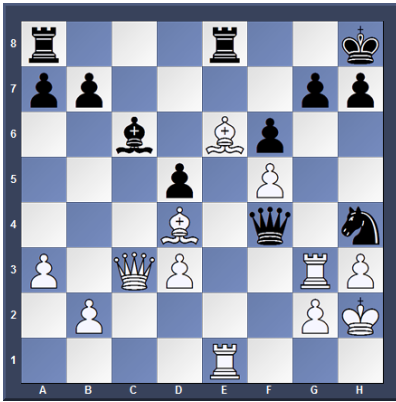
The two bishops give White an edge.

**17...Qb4 18.a3 Qd6 19.Bd4 Bc6 20.Qd2 Nd7 21.Qc3 Qg6 22.Re3! f6 23.Rae1! Kh8 24.Bd1 Ne5 25.f4!? Nf7 26.Bg4 Nh6 27.Be6 Nf5! 28.Rf3 Rfe8 29.Kh2 Nh4?**

Better was 29...h5.

**30.Rg3 Qh6 31.f5 Qf4?**  
(diagram)





**32.Bxf6! 1-0**

White will mate quickly after  
32...h5 33.Bxg7+ Kh7 34.Qf6!

In the next game, NM Banik steadily improves his position and eventually crashes through in this 4<sup>th</sup> round game.

**White:** Chris Pan (1969)  
**Black:** NM S. Banik (2230)  
B92 Sicilian Defense

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6  
6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3  
Be6 9.0-0 0-0 10.f3 Nbd7  
11.a4 Nb6 12.a5 Nc4  
13.Bxc4 Bxc4**

The position is roughly even. Black has the two bishops in exchange for the backwards d-pawn and hole on d5.

**14.Re1 Rc8N 15.Nd2 Be6  
16.Bb6 Qd7 17.Nf1! Qc6  
18.Ne3 Bd8 19.Bxd8  
Rfxd8 20.Ned5!? Nxd5  
21.exd5 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 Bf5  
23.Qc1 Re8 24.Re2 h6  
25.Ne4!? Bxe4 26.fxe4  
Re7**

Black has more options as  
White is tied down protecting

the a and c pawns.

**27.b3 Qc3! 28.Re3?**

28.Qe1 would have been better. The text move drops a pawn.

**28...Qxc2 29.Qa3 Rec7  
30.h3?! Qd2! 31.Rg3?**

better was 31.b4.

**31...Qf4 32.b4 Qxe4  
33.Rd1 Rc2 34.b5 axb5  
35.Qxd6?** (diagram)



**35...R8c3! 36.Rxc3 Qxg2#  
0-1**

FM Cameron Wheeler secured  
is perfect score with this nice  
win in the final round.

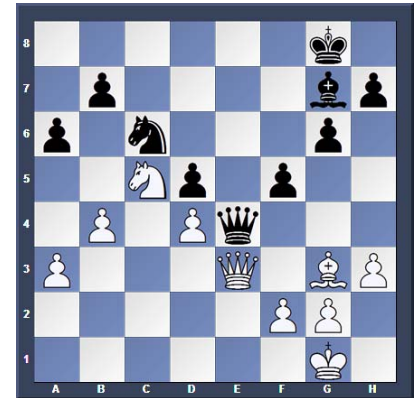
**White:** NM  
Panchanatham(2328)  
**Black:** FM Wheeler (2395)  
D13 Slav Defense

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5  
cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Nc6  
6.e3 Bf5 7.Nf3 a6 8.Rc1 g6  
9.h3N Bg7 10.Bd3 Bxd3  
11.Qxd3 0-0 12.0-0 Re8  
13.a3 Rc8 14.Na4 Ne4  
15.b4 f6 16.Nd2 Nxd2  
17.Qxd2 e5 18.Bg3 exd4!**

**19.exd4 f5**

Black has long term pressure  
on the d-pawn.

**20.Nc5! Qe7 21.Rfe1 Qf7  
22.Nb3 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1  
Re8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8  
25.Qe3!? Qe4! 26.Nc5**



**26...Bxd4! 27.Nxe4 Bxe3  
28.Nf6+ Kf7 29.Nxd5 Bc1  
30.a4 Ke6 31.Nc7+ Kd7!  
32.b5!?! f4!?! 33.Nxa6!  
bxa6 34.bxc6+ Kxc6  
35.Bh4 Kc5+**

White has maintained  
material equality, but the  
Black King is far better than  
Whites.

**36.Bd8 Kb4 37.a5 Kb5  
38.h4!?**

38.f3 would keep Black's  
f-pawn as a potential target.

**38...Bd2 39.Bc7 f3!  
40.gxf3 Bxa5--+ 41.Be5  
Kc4 42.Kf1 Bc3 43.Bd6  
Bb4 44.Be5 Kd3 45.Bc7 a5  
46.Bxa5**

If the a-pawn isn't taken now,  
White might not get another  
chance.

**46...Bxa5 47.Kg2 h5!**

**48.Kg3 Bc7+ 49.f4 Ke2!  
50.Kh3 Bxf4 51.f3**

Hoping for 51...Kxf3??  
Stalemate.

**51...Be5 52.Kg2 Bf6  
53.Kg3 Ke3 54.f4 Bxh4+  
55.Kxh4 Kxf4 0-1**

Hunter Klotz-Burwell earned  
a nice win in his second round  
game.

**White:** Klotz-Burwell (2093)  
**Black:** Joshua Cao (2094)  
B22 Sicilian Defense

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5  
4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6  
6.Bb3 c4!? 7.Bc2 Qc7  
8.Qe2 g5!?**

Black was clearly in a fighting  
mood!

**9.e6**

9.Nxg5 Nxe5 and Black would  
gain a center pawn for a wing  
pawn and the open g-file.

**9...f6**

9...dxe6 10.Nxg5 Qe5 was  
played in Tiviakov-Van Wely,  
Enschede 2005

**10.Na3 g4N 11.Nb5! Qb8  
12.Nfd4 Ne5 13.b3 a6  
14.Na3 cxb3 15.Bxb3 dxe6  
16.Nxe6 Qd6 17.Nd4 Nd5!?  
18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.Qxc4! e6  
20.0-0 Bd7 21.Re1 Be7?**

a better try was 21...Nb6

**22.a4! Rc8 23.Qe2 Nf4!?  
24.Qxg4 e5 25.Qg7! Ng6?**

25...Rf8 was necessary.

**26.Ba3 Rc5 1-0**

27.Bf7+ Kd8 28.Bxg6 wins a  
lot of material.

Rayan Taghizadeh plays a nice  
Kingside attack in this game  
from the fourth round.

**White:** Taghizadeh (2167)  
**Black:** A. Seela (2024)  
B01 Scandinavian Defense

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3  
Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Bc4 Nf6  
6.Nge2 Bf5 7.0-0 e6  
8.Ng3 Bg6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.f4  
Qd8 11.Be3 0-0 12.f5 exf5  
13.Nxf5 Bxf5 14.Rxf5±**

White has gained the two  
bishops, more space and lots  
of pieces with quick access to  
the kingside while Black still  
lags in development.

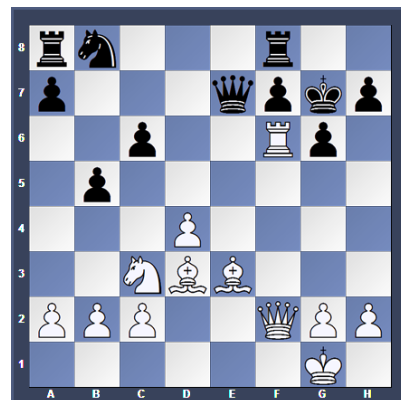
**14...Qd7N 15.Raf1 b5!?**

15...Na6 was a better try with  
the idea of ...Nb4-d5. If  
16.Bxa6 bxa6 17.Qxa6 Ng4  
gives Black some counter  
chances for the pawn.

**16.Bd3!**

If I were Black's King, I would  
be a little nervous.

**16...g6? 17.Rxf6! Bxf6  
18.Rxf6 Kg7 19.Qf2 Qe7  
(diagram)**



**20.Bh6+! Kxh6 21.Qh4+  
Kg7 22.Rxg6+! hxg6  
23.Qxe7 +- Na6 24.Qe5+  
Kg8 25.Ne4! Kh7 26.Nf6+  
Kh6 27.Ng4+ Kh7  
28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Qh6 f5  
30.Qxg6+ Kh8 31.Nf6  
Rxf6 32.Qxf6+ Kg8  
33.Bxb5 cxb5 34.Qxa6 b4  
35.Qd3 f4 1-0**

In round 5, Christopher Pan  
scores a nice upset win.

**White:** Stearman (2073)  
**Black:** Chris Pan (1969)  
C34 Kings Gambit

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Nf6  
4.e5 Nh5 5.Be2 d6 6.exd6!?  
Bxd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 Bg4  
9.c4N c6 10.Nc3 Re8  
11.Qd3±**

White has given up a pawn  
but doesn't have much in the  
way of compensation.

**11...Nd7 12.Bd2 f5! 13.h3  
Bxf3 14.Bxf3**

In light of what comes,  
14.Rxf3 might have been  
better providing protection to  
the queen.

14...Ng3 15.Rfe1 (diagram)



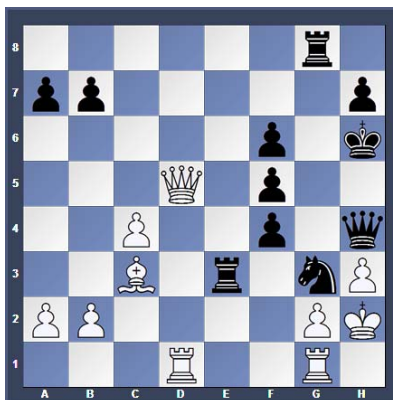
15...Ne5! 16.Bd5+! cxd5  
17.dxe5 Rxe5 18.Nxd5 Re4!  
19.Bc3!? Bc5+ 20.Kh2  
Qh4 21.Nf6+

21.Nxf4 would pick up a pawn  
reestablishing material equality,  
but Black would still be a little  
better with many well placed  
pieces.

21...gxf6 22.Qd5+ Kg7  
23.Qxc5 Rg8 24.Rad1 Kh6  
25.Rg1?

The position is very sharp.  
Unfortunately, 25.Qf2 was  
the only move to hold.

25...Re3! 26.Qd5 (diagram)



26...Nf1+! 27.Rgxf1 Rxf3+!  
28.gxf3

28.Kg1 Rh1#

28...Qg3+ 29.Kh1 Qxf3#  
0-1

Jack Qijie Zhu wins his second  
round game while keeping his  
king in the center frustrating  
his opponents hopes of a  
normal Sicilian queenside  
attack.

White: Jack Qijie Zhu (2143)  
Black: A. Dasika (2062)  
B96 Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6  
6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Bd7 8.Qf3  
Nc6 9.Nb3

9.0-0-0 led to equality after  
9...Nxd4 10.Rxd4 Bc6 in  
Vuckovic - Markovic, Banja  
Koviljaca 2013]

9...Be7 10.Bh4N b5 11.g4!?  
h6

11...b4 12.Ne2 Nxe4! 13.Bxe7  
Nxe7+ and the knight is  
immune because of the  
skewer ...Bc6.

12.Bg3 0-0 13.h4 b4  
14.Nd1 d5 15.e5 Ne4!  
16.Bd3 Nxf3 17.Qxf3 a5  
18.g5 h5 19.g6! fxf6?!

There was no need to  
immediately resolve the  
tension. Better was 19...a4.

20.Qxf6! Bxf4+ 21.Kd2  
Rxf4 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.Rg1  
g5 24.Nc5! Rf7

24...Nxe5 25.Qh8+ Ke7  
26.Qxe5 Rc8 27.Nxd7 Qxd7  
would lead to an unclear  
position with Black having  
three pawns for a piece.

25.Rf1! Nxe5 26.Qh8+ Ke7  
27.Qxe5 Rxf1 28.Bxf1  
Qh8?!

28...Qc8 would be a better  
option.

29.Nxd7 Kxd7 30.Bb5+  
Ke7 31.Qc7+ Kf6 32.Ne3!  
Kg6 33.Bd3+ Kh6 34.Qf7!  
1-0

## *Fuentes, Gallegos and Sun Win Mechanics' Stamer Memorial*

By John Donaldson

*Reprinted with permission. From the Mechanics' Institute Newsletter. For games and additional details about the event please visits: [www.chessclub.org](http://www.chessclub.org)*

### The 51st Stamer

**Memorial** held June 7 and 8 ended in a three-way tie for first among National Masters

**Romy Fuentes** and **Paul Gallegos** plus

Expert **Jerome Sun**. The three winners, who scored 5–1 and took home \$283.33 apiece, reached their scores by different

routes. **Gallegos** won his first four games, including wins over **Sun** in round three and **Fuentes** in round four, before taking half-point byes

the last two rounds.

**Fuentes** beat IM **Elliott Winslow** in a long hard game in the last round, while **Sun** won quickly over fellow Expert **Uyanga Byambaa**.

IM **Winslow**, **Ganesh Viswanath** and **Arunesh Saras** tied for third at 4½–1½, taking home \$141.66 for =3rd, 1st under 2000 and first under 1800.

The big rating gainers in the 47-player field were **Christopher Woojin Yoo**, going from 1287 to 1459 (172 points), and **Lorraine Eastham** from 1038 to 1205 (167 points).

## 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Stamer Memorial

1-2	Paul Gallegos Romulo Fuentes Jerome Sun*	5
3	Elliott Winslow Ganesh Viswanath** Arunesh Saras***	4.5
U1600	Simona Nayberg Christophery Yoo****	3.5
U1200	Advait Namburi Lorraine Eastham	

\*This player also won U2200

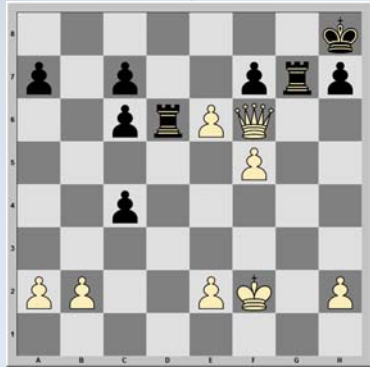
\*\*This player also won U2000

\*\*\*This player also won U1800

\*\*\*\*This player also won U1400

## Tromsø Olympiad Tactics

*The Chess Olympiad took place from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup> in Tromsø, Norway. The U.S. Men's team (Captained by IM John Donaldson) placed 14<sup>th</sup> and the Women's team placed 8<sup>th</sup>. GM Sam Shankland turned in an amazing performance winning the Gold Medal for alternate. Below are some positions from games played at the Olympiad. Solutions on page 32.*



N. Dzagnidze – M. Socko  
White to play



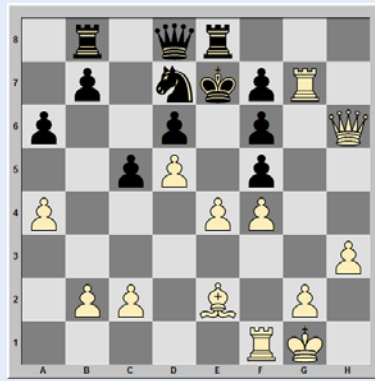
T. Kantans – G. Milos  
Black to play



A. Colovic – F. Azahari  
White to play



M. Karttunen – A. Filippov  
Black to play



D. Kotic – C. Burgos Figueroa  
White to play



R. Rapport – A. Onischuk  
White to play



I. Cheparinov – L. Arias  
White to play



F. Ashiku – J. Nelis  
White to play



V. Kramnik – V. Topalov  
White to play

## *Two Generations of Contra Costa County Chess Whizzes Achieve Major Milestones*

By Beth Slatkin

Ten-year-old Josiah Stearman and 22-year-old Sam Shankland have each accomplished landmark achievements in the game of chess this month, but on opposite sides of the globe. While Shankland, the Grandmaster (GM) from Orinda, was steaming full speed ahead toward his first gold medal at the 41st Chess Olympiad in Tromsø, Norway, Josiah Stearman of Martinez was playing back-to-back tournaments in San Diego and Los Angeles -- six in one week -- in an all-out push toward making National Master before his 11th birthday on August 30th.

Both succeeded in their quests: Playing the "virtual fifth" board on the US team, Shankland won eight of his ten games at the 2014 Olympiad held during the first two weeks of August, drawing the other two and ending with a score of 9/10. His stellar performance earned him his first individual gold medal at the world's most prestigious chess tournament. Three days later, Stearman became a National Master at the age of 10.

With a 159-point deficit



GM Shankland (left) and NM Stearman (right) Photos courtesy of Beth Slatkin

earlier in the summer, the odds of making National Master before he turned 11 had seemed unlikely for the young champion. But Stearman's wins this month over several Masters and a surprising draw with an IM (International Master) catapulted him 96 rating points to put him over the top, at 2215. To attain a National Master rating, a player must have a rank of 2200.

Aside from being world-class chess champions, the two have something else in common: Both learned the game under the tutelage of instructors at the Berkeley Chess School, and have participated as members of the school's prestigious

Berkeley Bishops chess team.

"No two students could better exemplify the ethos of the Berkeley Chess School than Sam and Josiah," said BCS founder and president Elizabeth Shaughnessy. "We aim to develop young minds and productive citizens through the game of chess."

Shankland, who started studying with BCS instructor Stephen Shaughnessy at the relatively ripe age of nine (to Josiah's 4 1/2) in an after-school chess class at Orinda's Glorietta Elementary, won his first tournament at the age of 12 and achieved the rank of National Master in June 2006. Following a rapidly accelerating series of wins at

national and world tournaments during his college years, Shankland attained his GM status - the highest ranking a chess player can attain - at the same tournament hall where he'd spent a good deal of his childhood: Berkeley's Hillside School, home to the Berkeley Chess School for many years, and still the site of its Berkeley Friday night classes and tournaments.

A 2014 graduate of Brandeis University, Shankland is now ranked #1 in California and eighth in the US, and was recently featured on the cover of Chess Life magazine. Last year he was awarded the prestigious Samford Prize, which offers a \$42,000 stipend for a top young US chess player to spend a year developing his or her game, providing access to top coaches and competitive international tournaments.

Stearman was recently named a member of the United States

Chess Federation's 2014 All-American Team, which honors the top young chess players in the country. Last year, Stearman and his fellow BCS student Callahan McCarty-Snead, 8, (one of the top ten players in the US in his age group), travelled to the United Arab Emirates to participate in the 2013 World Youth Chess Championships. It was Stearman's second World Youth tournament: in 2011, at the age of 8, he competed in Brazil. Stearman's father has played and continues to play a seminal role in Josiah's development as a chess player, according to BCS president Shaughnessy.

In the 32 years since it began, the Berkeley Chess School has shepherded thousands of students of all incomes and backgrounds into using critical thinking and careful deliberation to achieve their goals, said Shaughnessy, herself a former member of the Irish Women's Chess Team.

BCS also encourages graciousness, honesty, courtesy, and "old fashioned good manners" both on and off the board, she added. "Sam has grown into a courteous young man who has worked hard to achieve excellence in his chosen field and has been recognized internationally for his success. Josiah is a gifted boy with impeccable manners and a great sense of fun, who plays soccer and baseball as well as chess. It is clear that he will be successful at whatever he chooses to do in life."

"BCS has never been an organization bent on producing state or national champions, and yet we have produced state champions every year since 1986! I am so proud of them both, so grateful to have had the chance to work with them, and wish them the best of all that life has to offer," she said.

## *Upcoming Scholastic Tournaments*

Sat, Oct 25th, 2014	Burlingame Swiss	Chinggis Chess Club, Burlingame
Sun, Oct 26th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Thu, Oct 30th, 2014	Hanley Chess Academy Quads	Posh Bagel, San Jose
Sat, Nov 1st, 2014	Spooky Swiss	Hillside Elem., Berkeley
Sun, Nov 2nd, 2014	Fremont Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Fremont
<b>Sun, Nov 2nd, 2014</b>	<b>U.S. Kids Class Champ</b>	<b>Santa Clara Convention Center</b>
Sat, Nov 8th, 2014	Weibel Fall Quads and Grand Prix #2	Weibel Elem., Fremont
Sat, Nov 8th, 2014	Sacramento Quads	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Sun, Nov 9th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Thu, Nov 13th, 2014	Hanley Chess Academy Quads	Posh Bagel, San Jose
Sat, Nov 15th, 2014	Milpitas Chess4Less Kids Swiss & Quads	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sun, Nov 16th, 2014	Foster City Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Foster City
Thu, Nov 20th, 2014	Hanley Chess Academy Quads	Posh Bagel, San Jose
Fri, Nov 28th, 2014	California Kids Class Champ	Hilton, Santa Clara
<b>Sat, Dec 6th-Sun, Dec 7th, 2014</b>	<b>Grade Level State Champ</b>	<b>University of the Pacific, Stockton</b>
Thu, Dec 11th <sup>h</sup> , 2014	Hanley Chess Academy Quads	Posh Bagel, San Jose
Sat, Dec 13th, 2014	Weibel Fall Quads and Grand Prix #3	Weibel Elem., Fremont
Sat, Dec 13th, 2014	Sacramento Quads	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Sun, Dec 14th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sun, Dec 21st, 2014	Fremont Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Fremont
Sat, Dec 27th, 2014	Milpitas Chess4Less Kids Swiss & Quads	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sun, Dec 28th, 2014	Cupertino Kids Swiss & Quads	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino

*For details please visit [calchess.org](http://calchess.org)*

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**2014 UNITED STATES CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Friday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Santa Clara Convention Center**

**\$20,000 Prize Fund** (b/277, 73% Guaranteed)

*For details please visit [calchess.org](http://calchess.org)*



## *Upcoming Regular Tournaments*

Sat, Oct 25th-Sun, Oct 26th, 2014	43rd Carroll Capps Mem.	Mechanics', San Francisco
<b>Fri, Oct 31th-Sun, Nov 2nd, 2014</b>	<b>US Class Championship</b>	<b>Santa Clara Convention Center</b>
Sat, Nov 8th, 2014	Milpitas Super\$wiss	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sat, Nov 8th, 2014	Sacramento Super\$wiss	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Sat, Nov 15th, 2014	14th Pierre Saint-Amant Mem. G/45	Mechanics', San Francisco
Sun, Nov 16th, 2014	Cupertino Duper\$wiss	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sat, Nov 22nd-Sun, Oct 23rd, 2014	Berkeley Open	Hillside Elementary, Berkeley
Fri, Nov 28th-Sun, Nov 30th, 2014	California Class Champ	Hilton, Santa Clara
Sat, Dec 6th, 2014	14th Guthrie McClain Mem. G/45	Mechanics', San Francisco
Sun, Dec 7th, 2014	Cupertino Duper\$wiss	Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino
Sat, Dec 13th, 2014	Milpitas Super\$wiss	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sat, Dec 13th, 2014	Sacramento Super\$wiss	Courtyard, Rancho Cordova
Fri, Dec 19th-Sun, Dec 21st, 2014	Winter Champ	Bay Area Chess Center, Milpitas
Sat, Dec 27th-Sun, Dec 28th, 2014	CA Senior/Non-Senior Open	Holiday Inn Express, Sacramento

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## *Tromsø Olympiad Tactics – Answers*

- White has a choice of queening combinations: 1. Qxg7+ Kxg7 2. e7 +- or 1.Qe7 fxe6 2.f6! Rxe7 3.fxe7 +-
- Black mates after 1...Qf3! with the threat of ...Qg2# when 2.Bxf2 loses to 2....Qxf2 3.Kh1 Qxh2#. The only way to delay mate is with 2.Qf1 giving up the queen.
- Black mates after 1.Qh6! when there is no way to stop mate by the knight on f6.
- 1...Bf2!! and the White queen is lost since 2.Qxf2 loses to 2...Nfxg4+ 3.hxg4 Nxc4+ +-
- White mates in five with 1.Rxf7+ Kxf7 2.Qh7+ Kf8 3.Qh8+ Kf7 4.Bh5+ Ke7 5.Qg7#
- White wins a piece with 1.Bxe5! when any recapture leads to the queen fork 2.Qc4+ winning the bishop by 3.Qxg4 after the king moves.
- White gives up the queen with 1.Nxf8! and the game continued 1...Rxd1 2.Nxc6+ Kh7 3.Rfxd1 Qa8 4.Nxe7 Qxe4 5.a5 +- and the a-pawn will queen or force the win of material.
- White crashed through with 1.Nxd5! Play continued 1...exd5 2.e6! Ne5 3.Bxe7+ Kxe7 4.Qf6+ Kf8 5.Qxe5 Qxa2 6.Qf6! +-
- White won with 1.Qxb8 Rxb8 2.Re8+ Kh7 3.Rxb8 Qd1+ 4.Kh2 Qh5+ 5.Bh3 Qf3 6.d8(Q) +