

California Chess Journal

Volume 2005.1

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The California Chess Journal is the official publication of CalChess, the governing body for chess in Northern California. It is published at least 4 times annually and is available at our website www.calchess.org.

Your CalChess Board
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CalChess has recovered its funds, full steam ahead!

As you will see in the President's Letter (page 5), CalChess has recovered its funds and is back on track. The 2005 CalChess Scholastics will take place in Oakland in April (see page 2). CalChess will be using the May 6-8 to launch the San Francisco Chess Festival, and is currently discussing additional events, and is soliciting the views of the membership on what other events we should hold.

Would you like to see a team competition, similar to the US Amateur teams? Should we re-establish weekend tournaments on vacant holiday weekends such as Martin Luther King Day and Thanksgiving Weekend and Memorial Day? How about an open FIDE rated event, now that FIDE has lowered its rating floor to 1600?

We are setting up a poll on our website where you can weigh in with your opinions. Your elected CalChess officers want to hear your opinions, so that we can best serve all of the membership.

We look forward to seeing you all at the San Francisco Chess Festival on Mother's Day Weekend!

MattheW Ho wins fal coner prize

San Jose high school student Matthew Ho is the 2005 Falconer award winner. Ho, who represented the United States in the World Youth Championships in Greece last fall (and in Spain in 1998), received \$2259, matching his 2259 rating on the December 2004 USCF rating list. Previous recipients of the Falconer, given to the top player in Northern California under 18, include Michael Pearson and Vinay Bhat (3 times), and Nicholas Yap. This award is made possible by the generosity of longtime MI Trustee Neil Falconer. —John Dolandson

Kasparov Retires!

As we went to press, news arrived that Garry Kasparov has formally retired from professional chess. He finished first in the Linares Supertournament, despite today's loss in the last round to Topalov, who also scored 8/12.

He plans to devote more time to Russian politics. An appreciation of his career will appear in our next issue.



DeGuzman wins People's Open

See coverage on page 4

USCF Executive Board coming to town!

The USCF Executive Board Meeting is on April 2 and 3, 2005 at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave in Berkeley. The meeting is open to the public from 3—6 PM each day. This is your chance to see the board at work and let them know how you feel about the decisions and direction of the United States Chess Federation.

30TH CALCHESS STATE SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA APRIL 16, 17 ♔ 2005

BLITZ AND BUGHOUSE: Friday April 15th.

LOCATION: Oakland City Center and adjoining Marriott Oakland City Center 1001 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94607 Phone: 1 510-451-4000 Room rate \$119 1-4. To guarantee room rate, please make your reservation before March 25th and please mention Chess so the tournament gets credit for your room.

GENERAL INFO: All players in rated sections must be current members of the United States Chess Federation. We will run the tournament according to the United States Chess Federation Rule Book and any modifications made for scholastic competition.

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00 for all players, checks made payable to must be received by 4/8. After 4/8 all entries are \$50. There will be a \$20 additional fee on bounced checks. **Do not staple checks to entry forms!**

A special late registration will take place at the Oakland City Center in the West Hall on Friday, 4/15 from 6 to 7 PM. No registrations will be accepted on Saturday, 4/16. A \$10 fee will be charged for any changes requested after noon on 4/15. No refunds will be made after noon on 4/15. One half round bye will be permitted if requested before 4/15. Please check our internet site for confirmation of your entry and to see if you are in the correct division. (www.chesslogic.com)

SECTIONS:

4-12 Sections: High School Championship, High School Premier, Junior High Championship, Junior High Premier, Elementary Championship, Elementary Premier- Play Saturday AND Sunday

Six games- Saturday 10am, 1pm, 4pm Sunday 10am, 1pm, 4pm
Time Control: Game in 75 minutes

K-3 Sections: Primary Championship, Primary Premier, K-1 Championship- Play Saturday Only

Five Games- Saturday 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm with awards to follow.
Time Control: Game in 30 Minutes

PRIZES: Great Trophies to top 25 players in each Section. In the case of a tie the US Chess Federation tie break methods will be used. Trophies to all ties for 25th place. Trophies will be awarded to the top 10 schools and top 2 USCF Registered Clubs in all but the K-1 division (team score=4 best from each school, USCF Club score=4 best from each club); **NOTE: Players cannot compete for both a school and a club.** If player is eligible to compete for a school with two other players, s/he cannot compete for a USCF Club. **NOTES:** 1. All games in K-6 Championship (Open), Junior High School (K-8) and High School (K-12) Sections must be recorded. Players should bring chess clocks. 2. In the last round players from the same school may face each other to determine individual championships even if it affects team championship prospects. 3. Limited number of commemorative T-shirts for sale: Pre-purchase=\$14 At the tournament=\$18. 4. 30th Anniversary commemorative chess sets and boards will be available for sale at tournament. 5. A playoff will be held if there is a tie in the High School Section for the representative from CalChess to the Denker or Polgar Tournaments. Tournament time controls and rules will apply for the playoff. Any contender not participating in the playoff will forfeit the opportunity to represent Cal Chess at the Denker Tournament of State High School Champions. 6. Any player using a telephone (pay or otherwise) without a monitor or a TD present will be subject to immediate dismissal from the tournament. This policy was made necessary after 20 false 911 calls several years ago. 7. Late Arrival Forfeits will occur 30 minutes from the announced round start time or 15 minutes from the actual start time, whichever is later. 8. At the CalChess State Scholastic Championships analog clocks have preference in all sections. Both players may agree to use a digital clock

Tournament news

Michael Franett Memorial

By Michael Aigner

Three International Masters and nine other chess players with dreams (some more realistic than others) of someday becoming an IM descended on the Mechanics' Institute during the first couple of weeks of 2005 to play in the Michael Franett Memorial IM norm tournament.

Michael Franett was a Seattle based chess enthusiast who frequently played in major tournaments. He may best be remembered as editor of Inside Chess magazine. Mechanics' Chess Room director IM John Donaldson organized this Category III round-robin in his memory.

The Franett Memorial continued a long tradition of events featuring GM and IM norms in San Francisco dating back to the Pan Pacific International in 1995. More recent tournaments include the Imre Konig Memorial in 2002, which was won by then-IM Varuzhan Akobian, and the Mark Pinto International just last summer, which was dominated by SM David Pruess.

Twelve players participated in the Franett Memorial: IMs Vinay Bhat, Ricardo DeGuzman and Odondoo Ganbold; SMs David Pruess and Alan Stein; WGM Camilla Baginskaite; FMs Richard Lobo and Frank Thornally; WFM Tuvshintugs Batchimeg; and NMs Michael Aigner, Matthew Ho and Nicolas Yap. The FIDE ratings of the combatants ranged from IM Bhat at 2410 down to NM Yap at 2189. The average rating of the field was 2308 FIDE and 2353 USCF. Four of the players were foreign: IM DeGuzman from the Philippines, IM Ganbold and WFM Batchimeg representing Mongolia, and FM Lobo playing under the British flag.

The purpose of an IM norm tournament is to provide the opportunity for deserving players to earn one of the norms required for IM title. While there are several other ways to become an International Master, the most common method is to score three so-called norms in tournaments of nine or more rounds against current IMs and other masters, including several foreign players. Each norm represents a performance rating in excess of 2450 FIDE. Moreover, an aspiring player must also raise his own FIDE rating above 2400 before applying for the title. Going into the Franett Memorial, three players had previously earned IM norms: SM Pruess, SM Stein and FM Lobo. The necessary score for this IM norm tournament was 8.0 out of 11.

Unfortunately for those seeking norms, the competition was extremely fierce both from the IMs at the top and the lower rated players. IM Bhat defended his top ranking by overcoming a slow start to finish with an undefeated 9.0/11. Bhat was especially unrelenting against his fellow International Masters and those with the best chance of earning a norm, scoring 4.5/5 against opponents over rated 2300 FIDE.

IM Ganbold and SM Pruess shared second place at 7.5

points. Both exhibited extraordinary fighting character and ended up with seven wins, three losses and merely one draw. For Pruess, the "plus four" score (seven wins minus three losses) was merely a half point away from his final IM norm. The critical game to determine both first place and possibly the final norm for SM Pruess saw the aspiring International Master play against his friend IM Bhat. Despite never being one to take a draw, especially not with the white pieces, Pruess probably wishes he had drawn this game and ended up with the necessary 8.0 points instead of merely 7.5.

SM David Pruess (2394) vs. IM Vinay Bhat (2410)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Ndb5 a6 8.e4 Nb4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bxf6 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 axb5 12.Rd8+ Kf7 13.Rxc8 Kxf6 14.a3 Na2 15.e5+ Kxe5 16.f4+ Kxf4 17.Be2 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Ke5 19.Rf1 b4 20.axb4 Ra1+ 21.Bd1 Nd7 22.Rf7 Nf6 23.Rcx8 Rxf8 24.Rxf8 Ne4 25.Rc8 Kf4 26.Rf8+ Ke5 27.Rc8 Rc1 28.Rb8 Rb1 29.Rc8 Rc1 30.Rb8 Nxc3 31.Kd2 Rxd1+ 32.Kxc3 Rd7 33.Kc4 Kd6 34.Rh8 h6 35.Kd4 Kc6+ 36.Ke3 Re7 37.Ke4 Kb5 38.Ke5 Kxb4 39.Kd6 Rf7 40.Rh7 b5 41.h4 Kc3 42.g4 b4 43.g5 hxg5 44.hxg5 b3 45.g6 Ra7 46.Rh3+ Kb4 47.Rh4+ Ka3 48.Rf4 b2 49.Rf7 Rxf7 0-1

FM Stein was flirting with a possible IM norm as well before falling short at 6.5 points. He defeated both of the second place finishers but failed to score enough points against the rest of the field. Also finishing with 6.5 was the journeyman of Northern California weekend chess: IM DeGuzman.

Since nobody achieved an IM norm in this tournament, perhaps the most noteworthy achievement was the performance of the two juniors: Matthew Ho and Nicolas Yap. Despite being rated at or near the bottom, both finished with excellent scores. 15-year old Yap ended up with more wins than losses at 6.0 out of 11. Ho, a high school junior, came home exactly at 50%. Certainly they each gained much valuable experience and rating points. Perhaps merely to demonstrate that the sky is the limit for both of these young stars, they each managed to hold the tournament champion IM Bhat to a draw! The following two games show these rising stars exhibiting skill not only in openings and tactics but also in strategical play and endgames.

Franett Memorial Games

SM Alan Stein vs. NM Nicolas Yap

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.d3 Nf6 7.a4 a5 8.Na3 0-0 9.Nc4 Nd7 10.Bd2 b6 11.Qc1 e5 12.Bh6 f6 13.c3 Qe7 14.Re1 Rd8 15.b3 Rb8 16.d4 cxd4 17.cxd4 exd4 18.e5 Bxh6 19.Qxh6 Bb7 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Ng5 Nf8 22.Ne4 Qg7 23.Qf4 c5 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Nd6 g5 26.Qe5 Ng6 27.Qe6 Rf8 28.Nd7 Bd5 29.Qxd5 Qxd7 30.Re6 Rbd8 31.Rae1 Nf4 32.Qe5+ Qg7 33.Qxg7+ Kxg7 34.Re7+ Kg8 35.Ne4 h6 36.Rb7 Nd5 37.f3 Rf7 38.Rxf7 Kxf7 39.Kf2 Nf4 40.Rh1 Kg6 41.h4 Nd3+ 42.Kg3 Rc8 43.h5+ Kg7 44.Nd6 Rc6 45.Nf5+ Kf7 46.Rd1 Nf4 47.Kg4 Nxc2 48.Rg1 Ne3+ 49.Nxe3 dxe3 50.f4 gxf4 51.Kxf4 Re6 52.Kf3 e2 53.Re1 Kf6 54.Kf2 Kg5 55.Rg1+ Kxh5 56.Ke1 Kh4 57.Rh1+ Kg5 58.Rg1+ Kf6 59.Rh1 Kg7 60.Rg1+ Rg6 61.Rh1 Rg3 62.Kxe2 Rxb3 63.Rd1 Rb4 64.Rd6 h5 0-1

IM Ricardo DeGuzman vs. NM Matthew Ho

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Bf5 8.Qb3 Qb6 9.Nc3 dxc4 10.Qxc4 Ne4 11.e3 Nd7 12.Nh4 Nd6 13.Qe2 Be6 14.Rd1 Bc4 15.Qc2 Rfd8 16.b3 Ba6 17.f4 e6 18.Nf3 Nf5 19.Na4 Qa5 20.Bd2 Qc7 21.Rac1 Rac8 22.g4 Ne7 23.h3 b6 24.b4 Nd5 25.Qb3 Bf8 26.Nb2 Qb8 27.a4 Bb7 28.Nd3 c5 29.f5 exf5 30.gxf5 Bh6 31.Nde5 Nxe5 32.Nxe5 cxd4 33.exd4 Bxd2 34.Rxc8 Qxc8 35.Rxd2 Qc1+ 36.Rd1 Qe3+ 37.Qxe3 Nxe3 38.Rc1 Nxc2 39.Rc7 Bd5 40.f6 Nf4 41.Rxa7 Rd6 42.Nd7 h5 43.Rc7 Nxc3+ 44.Kh2 Nf2 45.a5 bxa5 46.bxa5 Ng4+ 47.Kg3 Nxf6 0-1

Three special prizes were awarded for quality chess play, as judged by Mechanics' Grandmaster-in-Residence Alex Yermolinsky and NM Steve Brandwein. FM Alan Stein won the best game prize for his 30 move brilliancy against IM DeGuzman. Watch for the thematic exchange sacrifice on move 16 and the king hunt that ensues. WGM Camilla Baginskaite won the prize for best opening novelty on the black side of a Sicilian Najdorf against FM Thornally. IM Odondoo Ganbold outplayed the young NM Ho in an instructive endgame bishop against knight.

FM Alan Steinv vs. IM Ricardo DeGuzman

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Qf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rae1 e5 12.Qe2 d6 13.f4 h6 14.fxe5 hxg5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Rxf6 gxf6 17.Qh5 Qb6+ 18.Kf1 Qd4 19.e5 Qf4+ 20.Kg1 f5 21.g3 Qd2 22.Re2 Qc1+ 23.Kf2 Re8 24.exd6 Be6 25.Re3 g4 26.Qg5+ Kh7 27.Bxf5+ Bxf5 28.Qxf5+ Kg7 29.Qg5+ Kh7 30.Ne4 1-0

FM Frank Thornally vs. WGM Camilla Baginskaite

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.g3 e5 7.Nde2 Nbd7 8.Bg2 b5 9.h3 Be7 10.g4 Nc5 11.Ng3 b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bh4 14.a3 Bxg3 15.fxg3 Qb6 16.Qd2 b3 17.Qe3 a5 18.cxb3 Ba6 19.Be4 0-0 20.Bd2 Rfb8 21.b4 axb4 22.Bxb4 Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Rc8 24.Bc3 Rc4 25.Qg2 Qe3+ 26.Kd1 Bb5 27.Qd2 Qf3+ 28.Kc2 Qe4+ 29.Kb3 Rb4+ 0-1

NM Matthew Ho vs. IM Odondoo Ganbold

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.c3 d3 6.Qxd3 Bg7 7.0-0 d6 8.Bb3 h6 9.Re1 Nge7 10.Bf4 0-0 11.Nbd2 Kh8 12.Rad1 Bg4 13.h3 Be6 14.Qe3 Kh7 15.e5 Nf5 16.Qe2 Re8 17.Qb5 dxe5 18.Bxe5 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Nd6 20.Qc5 b6 21.Qd4 Bxb3 22.axb3 Qf6 23.Ndf3 Qf5 24.Qg4 Qxg4 25.Nxc4 a5 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Ne3 Rd8 28.Kf1 Nb7 29.Rxd8 Nxd8 30.Nd5 Ne6 31.Ke2 Kg8 32.Kd3 Kf8 33.Nd2 Ke8 34.Ne4 Kd7 35.g3 Kc6 36.Ne7+ Kb5 37.Nd5 Nc5+ 38.Nxc5 Kxc5 39.Ne3 b5 40.f4 c6 41.f5 g5 42.g4 Kd6 43.Ke4 Bf6 44.Nc2 Kc5 45.Ne3 Bh8 46.Nc2 Kd6 47.Ne3 Be5 48.Nc2 Bg3 49.Kf3 Bf4 50.Ne1 Kd5 51.Nd3 Bd6 52.Ke3 c5 53.Nf2 c4 54.bxc4+ Kxc4 55.Nd3 a4 56.Kd2 Kb3 57.Kc1 a3 58.bxa3 Kxc3 59.Nf2 Bxa3+ 60.Kd1 Kd4 61.Kd2 Bb4+ 62.Ke2 Bd6 63.Nd3 b4 64.Ne1 Kc4 65.Nd3 b3 66.Nb2+ Kd4 67.Kd2 Bb4+ 68.Ke2 Bc3 69.Nd1 b2 0-1

IM Vinay Bhat vs. FM Alan Stein

Trompowsky Defense

Notes by FM Eric Schiller

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.Bxf6 gf 4.d5 Qb6 5.Qc1 e6 6.e4 Bh6!?

This leads to very exciting play, even though neither side has developed many pieces yet!

7.Qxh6 Qxb2 8.Ne2 Qxa1 9.Nec3 Qb2 10.Be2

10.Qxf6! Rg8 11.Kd2 Qb4 12.Bd3 Qd4 13.e5! a6? (13...Nc6 14.cd bc 15.Ne4) 14.Ne4 1-0, Soto vs. Ramos, Lima (Peru) 1998.

10...Ke7

10...Qb6 11.Qxf6 Rf8 12.d6 Qd8 13.Qg7 b6 14.Nd5 and White won, Casagrande vs. Banas, 1995;

10...d6 avoids a lot of the problems seen in the game. But White can still build an attack. 11.O-O Na6 12.de Bxe6 13.Qxf6 Black has nothing better than castling into an attack, though White's pieces are mostly too far away to present an immediate threat.

11.d6+!

The sacrifice draws the king out into the open. Black must capture, or else Qxf6 will be deadly.

11...Kxd6 12.Qxf6 Qc1+

There is nothing better. The threat of Nb5+ is too strong. 12...Nc6? loses immediately to 13.Nb5+; 12...a6 13.Nb5+ ab 14.Qxb2 wins the queen.

13.Bd1 Rg8 14.Nd2! Kc6 15.Qxf7 Rxc2 16.Qf8!

White is winning after this move.

16...Na6 17.e5! Kc7 18.Nb5+ Kb6 19.a4! Nb4 20.Nc4+ Ka6 21.Nc7#

President's Letter

Dear CalChess members,

You will be glad to hear that CalChess has recovered all of its money from Richard Peterson.

For the past several months, CalChess, Richard Peterson and Elizabeth Shaughnessy have been involved in a dispute relating to the affairs of CalChess, during which allegations of alleged wrongdoing were asserted by all parties. Upon further investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding these disputes, CalChess, Mr Peterson and Mrs. Shaughnessy have agreed to withdraw any and all such claims and/or allegations, and are pleased to report that they have resolved their dispute in its entirety. In light of the above, the 30th annual CalChess Scholastic Chess Championship will proceed as previously scheduled in Oakland, CA on April 15, 16 and 17, at the Oakland Marriott Hotel.

To clarify, the Oakland tournament has been and is organized and conducted by Chess Education Association (CEA) an entity headed and controlled by Mr. Peterson. CEA and CalChess are separate entities and neither is authorized to speak for the other, or obligate the other. Entry fees and/or other payments related to the Oakland tournament should therefore be made payable to CEA and not to CalChess. CalChess has agreed that the winners in the various classes at the Oakland tournament shall be recognized as the official State Champions for the calendar year 2005, including for Denker and Polgar tournament purposes, and that CEA may call this tournament the 30th Annual CalChess Scholastic Championship.

The struggle of the past seven months has shown that CalChess is a strong and viable organization able to withstand erroneous charges. I wish to thank my fellow board members, past and present for their forbearance during some very difficult times. I also wish to thank those many members who supported us throughout that time both financially and emotionally. And for those who did not, we hope their negativity was based not on ill will but on misinformation or lack of information and that we can now go forward as a unified body in the interest of bringing chess to both adults and kids.

The person, however, who deserves the most thanks and who worked as hard as it is possible for a human being to work on our behalf is our attorney, Neil Falconer. He was unstinting in his time and energy. He came to our assistance pro bono, realizing that we had no money to pay. But for his efforts, we would not be where we are today, looking forward to an exciting new era for CalChess.

On May 6, 7 and 8, 2005 CalChess will hold a Scholastic Chess Festival, The Golden Gate Scholastics, at Fort Mason. This will not be the official State Championship but we hope our scholastic community will attend for a weekend of competitive and/or recreational chess in solidarity with CalChess the official affiliate of the USCF and its elected leaders. We want to put the past seven months behind us and go forward to serve our members again. The Festival will be a celebration.

Elizabeth Shaughnessy
President, CalChess

From the editor

This issue is a few days late and a bit rushed. The developments described above by the President required us to move quickly to incorporate details of the 30th Annual CalChess Scholastic Championships, and also the new San Francisco Chess Festival. Thanks to Mike Aigner, we have a lot of annotated games and there is plenty of coverage of the Berkeley People's Open. This issue doesn't have hyperlinks, a technological limitation that we will overcome starting in the next issue which will be composed with appropriate up-to-date software that we couldn't acquire because of our now-resolved financial situation. So please enjoy this issue, knowing that many improvements will be coming in the next issue, which is scheduled for late April after the Scholastics.

Please send suggestions, story ideas, and especially photos and games for inclusion in future issues. I'd like to keep the contents as topical and local as possible, but that depends on receiving tournament reports, photos and games. We don't have a formal letter-to-the-editor page, but all submissions will be considered for publication. Once we get the web-based technologies implemented, we'll have reader polls and other interactive features. We are still in the process of migrating to electronic format, and have just scratched the surface of what is possible! So let me know what you want by emailing me at editor@calchess.org. —*Eric Schiller.*

People's Open

32nd Annual People's Chess Tournament

by Michael Aigner and Richard Koepcke

President's weekend saw the continuation of a tradition in Berkeley that dates back to the days of protests against wars of a previous era. The 32nd edition of the People's Tournament was held in the beautiful Pauley ballroom at the M.L. King student union on the campus of UC Berkeley. A total of 146 players competed in the main tournament held on Saturday through Monday while another 159 youngsters came on Monday for the annual Young People's Tournament. Both events were organized by the Berkeley student government. Richard Koepcke directed the adult tournament while Mark Shelton ran the scholastic event.

The People's tournament has several unique features. One of which is that the Reserve section is a two day, five round event where as the rest of the tournament is a three day, six round event. This difference in playing schedule is due to the need to clear space in the playing hall for the Young People's event, which is always held on Presidents day.

The other unique feature is tournament ambience, namely drumming outside, that usually starts up in the afternoon and runs through to evening rounds. For some reason, this years event missed out on the drums, undoubtedly to the relief of all, except perhaps the editor of this publication.

In this years event, we only got eight entrants for the expert section, two of whom were not planning on playing the last two rounds of the event owing to personal conflicts on the last day. Although it is technically possible to run a six round event under such conditions, the possibility of getting to round six with no legal pairing options was too high to ignore. Hence the tournament director elected to combine the Expert and Open sections for this tournament.

The combined open and expert section featured 28 players, of which 9 were masters. Top seeded Filipino IM Ricardo DeGuzman was held to a surprising draw in round 1 by teenager Drake Wang but then recovered to defeat four other opponents, including NM Michael Aigner and FM Bela Evans. The win over Evans was the last game to finish in the entire tournament, and featured a rather unique Rook + Bishop ending that is included in this report. DeGuzman's 5.0 out of 6 score was sufficient for clear first place. Aigner scored four victories in six rounds to overcome the defeat at the hands of DeGuzman and finish in second place at 4.5 points. Tied for third and under 2300 honors were NM Andras Erdei of Hungary and local superstar junior NM Nicolas Yap. Since the expert Daniel Naroditsky section was combined with the open, 3.5 points was sufficient to win first place expert. Four players achieved this score: veterans Victor Ossipov and Alexander

Levitán plus 10th graders Drake Wang and Daniel Schwarz.

The competition was just as fierce in the lower sections. Mechanics' Institute member Yefim Bukh won Class A with 5.0 out of 6. Varun Behl won his first five games in Class B before taking a lost round draw that clinched first place.

IM Ricardo DeGuzman vs. FM Bela Evans

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.O-O O-O
6.b3 c6 7.c4 a5 8.Nc3 Na6 9.Bb2 d5 10.e3 Be6 11.Qe2
Nc7 12.cxd5 Ncxd5 13.Ng5 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bf7 15.Nxf7
Rxf7 16.Rfd1 e6 17.Rac1 Rd7 18.Be1 Nd5 19.Bf3 Bf8
20.e4 Nc7 21.Bc3 Bg7 22.exf5 exf5 23.Qc4+ Nd5
24.Bd2 Kh8 25.Be3 f4 26.Bxf4 Nxf4 27.gxf4 Rxd4
28.Rxd4 Qxd4 29.Qxd4 Bxd4 30.Kf1 Rd8 31.Kg2 Kg7
32.Bg4 Kf6 33.h4 c5 34.a4 Re8 35.Kf3 Re7 36.Kg3 Kg7
37.Kf3 Kf8 38.h5 Kg7 39.hxg6 hxg6 40.Bh3 Kf6 41.Bf1
Rh7 42.Kg3 Rg7 43.Bc4 Re7 44.Rh1 Kg7 45.Kf3 Rd7
46.Re1 Bf6 47.Re6 Bd8 48.Re8 Rd4 49.Re6 Rd7 50.Re5
b6 51.Re6 Rd4 52.Rc6 Rd7 53.Be6 Rd4 54.Ke3 Be7
55.Rc7 Kf6 56.Bc4 Rxf4! Sidestepping 56...Bd6? 57.Rf7#
57.Rc6+! 57.Kxf4 Bd6+ 58.Ke4 Bxc7= 57...Kg5 58.Rxb6
Bf6 59.f3 Bd4+ 60.Ke2 Rf6 61.Rb5 Ra6 62.Kd3 Kf4
63.Bd5 g5 64.Kc4 g4 65.fxg4 Kxg4 66.Bb7 Ra7 67.b4
axb4 68.a5 Kf4 69.a6 Ke3 70.Rb6 Kd2 71.Rh6 Bf2
72.Rh3 Bd4 73.Rh2+ Ke3 74.Rg2 Kf4 75.Re2 Kf5
76.Kb3 Kf4 77.Re1 Kg3 78.Rf1 Kh4 79.Kc4 Kg5 80.Rf3
Kh4 81.Kb5 Ka5 82.Rd3 Kf4



83.Rh3?! 83.Kb6! b3 84.Kxa7 b2 85.Rd1 Be3 86.Rf1+! An important finesse. (86.Rb1? c4+ 87.Kb8 c3 88.Rf1+ Ke5 89.Re1 c2 90.Rxe3+ Kf6 91.Rf3+=) 86...Ke5 87.Re1! Kf4 88.Kb8 c4 89.a7 Bxa7+ 90.Kxa7 c3 91.Be4 White wins. DeGuzman had written the king move on his scoresheet, but then changed his mind. Probably he saw the miracle draw but missed 87.Re1 in his calculations.

83...Ke5 84.Rh5+ Kf6 85.Bd5 c4? 85...Kg6! 86.Kxc4 Bc3 87.Bb7 Ke7 88.Rd5 Kf6 89.Rd3 Ke5 90.Kc5 Be1 91.Kb5 Bf2 92.Kc6 Bg1 93.Kc7 Bf2 94.Kb8 Bg1 95.Rd5+ Kf6 96.Rd1 Ke5?

Evans, with just 15 seconds on his clock and the 5-second delay, finally cracks and blunders. 97.Rxg1. Resigns.

Notes by FM Richard Koepcke.

Michael Aigner vs. Nicolas Yap
Annotations by NM Michael Aigner.

1. f4 Playing against one of the young rising stars of local chess is always a difficult proposition with either color. My opening move was not so much a statement of confidence in the Bird's opening but instead an attempt to play on my terms rather than play into my opponent's preparation.

1... Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. d3 d6 6. e4 c5 7. Nc3 Nc6.

The Bird's opening often transposes into other more common variations. In this game, neither player was surprised to see a closed Sicilian on the board. This could also have arisen after the standard move order: 1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 d6 6. f4 Nf6 7. Nf3 O-O.

8. Be3!? Application of basic opening principles suggests White should, in the words of a longtime friend of mine, "castle now and philosophize later."

8... Rb8. If Black tries 8... Ng4? then 9. Bg1 Be6 10. h3 Nf6 11. Bf2 and both sides lose a tempo shuffling their minor pieces. However, White's bishop and rook pawn are better placed on f2 and h3 than they were on e3 and h2. For example, White might later play Nc3-d1-e3. **9. h3 b5.** Black expands on the queenside as he should against the closed Sicilian. If he can open some lines, then the g7 bishop and b8 rook converge on the b2 square to yield a significant positional advantage.

10. Ne2 b4 11. O-O a5 12. Nd2. Denying Black the opportunity to undermine the e4 pawn with the pawn break c5-c4. **12... Qc7 13. g4.** While Black marches forward on the queenside, White typically plays on the kingside using pawn advances such as f4-f5 and h4-h5. His goal is simple: checkmate. Two important squares in the closed Sicilian are d4 and f5. Practice shows that if one player controls both of these squares, then he usually can claim a theoretical opening advantage. More commonly, one player controls d4 and the opponent fights for f5. In this game, White has gone to great lengths to deny Black access to the d4 square, even playing Nc3-e2 for this purpose. White's last move fights for the other key square. Consequently, White has a comfortable position because he maintains control over both d4 and f5.

13... Ba6 14. Rb1 Nd7 15. Nf3 a4?! Black continues playing on the queenside, perhaps under the false impression that his kingside structure is resilient to attack. This game demonstrates the true power of such an attack. Black instead should have played more cautiously and fought for control of the critical f5 square. For example: 15... e6 16. Qe1 f5! 17. Qh4 Rbe8 or 16. g5 f5! 17. gxf6.e.p. Nxf6. In each case, both knights defend the kingside via f6 and e7.

16. h4! Qb6? This pointless queen move simply loses a tempo. No better was lashing out with 16... h5 17. gxh5 gxh5 18. Ng3, leaving Black's kingside wide open with most of his army stuck on the other side of the board. Black should engage in a plan involving e7-e6 and f7-f5 before it is

too late. **17. h5? Nd4?** It is often said in both chess and life that patience is a virtue. In this case, White's impatience would have brought his attack to a screeching halt after 17... Nf6! since the threat of gaining a tempo with Ng4 is difficult to parry. Let's consider three options: (a) 18. hxg6? Nxc4! 19. gxh7+ Kh8 20. Bc1 f5! controls the vital f5 square; (b) 18. g5? Ng4! (Nxc4 wins a pawn but opens the h-file for White to use later) 19. Bc1 c4+ 20. d4 e5! overpowers the d4 pawn; (c) 18. Nh2!? Bc8 19. f5 Nd4 takes advantage of the central knight outpost. In each variation, Black wins a tempo by forcing one of White's minor pieces to retreat and also fights for one of the two critical squares in the closed Sicilian: d4 and f5. A more precise way for White to pursue the attack was 17. g5, which prevents defenses based on Nf6. Of course, White still intends to push h4-h5, possibly on the next move.

18. Ng3 Nb5 19. Qd2 Qc7 20. Qf2 c4. Black continues to ignore the kingside while losing yet another tempo with his queen. On the other hand, White's queen prepares for an invasion of the kingside via h4. At this point, White is prepared to sacrifice his entire queenside as long as he gains enough time for a mating attack. **21. hxg6!** Let the attack begin! **21... hxg6 22. Ng5 a3 23. e5!!** Suddenly all of White's pieces come alive! The e5 pawn is poison due to tactics that often more resemble a game of bughouse than one of classical chess: 23... dxe5? 24. N3e4! and now (a) 24... Rfc8 25. fxe5! Nxe5 26. d4; (b) 24... Rfd8 25. Nxf7! Kxf7 26. Ng5+ Ke8 27. Ne6; (c) 24... Nf6 25. Qh4! Rfe8 26. Nxf7! Kxf7 27. Ng5+ Kg8 28. Bd5+! e6 29. fxe5 exd5 30. exf6 Bxf6 31. Rxf6. Finally it becomes clear that the game will be decided on the kingside and not by calm positional play on the queenside. **23... e6 24. N3e4! d5.** After 24... Rfc8 White wins with 25. Qh4! Nf8 26. Nf6+! Bxf6 27. exf6 Qd8 (only move) 28. Ne4 Nh7 29. Rf3! The mating pattern of Nf6+, exf6, Qh6 and Qg7# also appears in many other variations. **25. Qh4 Rfe8 26. dxc4** Alternatively, White crashes through with the direct 26. Qh7+ Kf8 27. Bc5+ Nxc5 28. Nf6 Ke7 29. Qxg7 Rf8 30. Nfh7. **26... dxe4 27. cxb5 Bxb5 28. Rfd1 Nf8 29. Nxe4 Nh7.** Black is busted here. For example, 29... Bc6 allows 30. Nf6+! Bxf6 31. exf6 Nh7 32. g5 Kh8 33. Qh6! Rg8 34. Kf2! with a forced mate ending with Qxh7+ and Rh1#. **30. Qf2.** At first glance, it may appear that White is retreating. There is no checkmate on the h-file, but the following variation would have been the most precise way to win: 30. Rd2! Bc4 31. Kf2! g5 (Black must sacrifice a pawn to live) 32. fxg5 Bxe5 33. Rh1 f5 34. gxf6.e.p. Instead, White chooses to consolidate by defending c2 and then convert his superior minor pieces and extra pawn into a full point. **30... Bc6 31. g5 Rec8.** White wins more material and the game. Although it looks rather ugly, Fritz suggests 31... Bxe4 as the most stubborn defense.

32. bxa3 bxa3 33. Bb6 Qe7 34. Nd6 Ba4. If 34... Bxg2, then the zwischenzug 35. Nxc8 wins an exchange. **35. Nxc8 Rxc8 36. Rd2 Nf8 37. Ba5 Rc4 38. Rb7 Nd7 39. Bf1 Rc8 40. Od4 Bf8 41. Oxa4 Oc5+ 42. Rf2 1-0**

Sac-ing in Sacramento

Sacramento Chess Club Weekend

Swiss #14

By Michael Aigner

The annual mid December tournament in Sacramento drew 40 chess players who had either already finished their Christmas shopping or who were procrastinating. The proximity of the playing site to Arden Fair Mall made it possible for some parents to shop while their children played.

Two masters and a young future master headlined the Master/Expert section. Perhaps not surprisingly, NM Michael Aigner, NM Jim MacFarland and expert Daniel Schwarz scored a combined 9-0 against the rest of the section. Aigner defeated both of his challengers to finish with a perfect score. MacFarland and Schwarz shared second place and top under 2200 after they drew their last round encounter in a bizarre endgame of two minor pieces plus three extra pawns against two rooks.

Everyone else played in the Reserve section. In reality, this tournament became the Freshman Challenge as the top three finishers were all 9th graders. Tyler Wilken swept the field in convincing fashion to take clear first place. Fellow freshmen Arnav Shah and Matt Zavortink shared 2nd-4th place and top under 1800 honors with adult player Alonzo McCaulley. Second place under 1800 went to Jojo Zhao who is, you guessed it, another 9th grader. The Class C winner was Arcadio Rubi while Jerry Chen and Aaron Fischer shared the under 1400 prize.

This tournament is part of a long series of adult and scholastic weekend events in the Sacramento area. As usual, it was well organized and directed by John McCumiskey. Complete results are available at the Sacramento Chess Club website: http://sacramentochessclub.org/weekend_events/sccws14.htm

In the first game below, teenager Daniel Schwarz gives his opponent a lesson in the closed Sicilian. Notice how White slowly pushes back the Black forces until he finds a decisive tactic on move 24. The second game features the battle between the tournament's two masters.

Daniel Schwarz (2088) vs. Hebert Garcia (1916)

Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #14 (2)

Annotations by NM Michael Aigner.

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 e6 6. Be3 Qa5!? 7. Ne2 Nge7

More common is 7... Nd4 8. O-O Ne7 and now White can choose between 9. Nc1 (intending to move to b3) and 9. Bd2 (x-raying the Black queen).

8. Qd2 h5 9. h3 a6 10. O-O Nd4

This may look similar to the variation given above, but the inclusion of h5 and h3 greatly benefit White since the Black king has nowhere to hide. Schwarz doesn't hesitate to show his aggressive intentions.

11. f4 d6 12. Nc1 Bd7 13. Nb3 Qc7 14. Qf2 Nec6 15. Kh1 Rc8 16. e5 Nxb3?!

The theory of the closed Sicilian gives two critical squares: d4 and f5. With the text move, Black loses control of the central d4 square and pretty soon has trouble holding his position together.

17. exd6 Qxd6 18. axb3 Bd4?

Black offers more resistance with 18... Nd4 19. Ne4 Qc7 20. b4! Bc6 21. Kh2 Nf5 22. Bxc5 Bxb2 23. Rab1 Bg7. White's position is preferable since the Black king is stuck in the center, but at least Black's pieces are active enough that proving an advantage is difficult.

19. Ne4 Qe7 20. c3

Now White owns the critical d4 square.

20... Bxe3 21. Qxe3 Nd8 22. d4! c4

Black can't play 22... cxd4 23. Qxd4 and now the threats of Qxh8 and Nf6+ are too strong. Fritz gives 22... Bc6 as best, but that simply loses a pawn after 23. Nxc5.

23. d5! exd5

Another attempt is 23... f5 24. Qd4 O-O 25. d6 Qg7 26. Nc5 Qxd4 27. cxd4 Bb5 28. bxc4 Bxc4 29. Rfc1 Bb5 30. d5! Kf7 31. dxe6+ Nxe6 32. Nxb7 h4 33. Kh2. Unfortunately for Black, he is down a pawn and the White pieces are just too active.

24. Nd6+ Kf8 25. Qxe7+ Kxe7 26. Nxc8+ Bxc8 27. Bxd5 cxb3 28. Kg2 Ne6 29. Bxb3

The rest of the game is simply technique: the art of converting a winning position into a point on the pairing sheet without yielding too much counterplay.

29... Nc5 30. Bd5 Rd8 31. Rad1 Na4 32. Rf2 Be6 33. Bf3 Rb8 34. Re2 Kf8 35. Rd4 Nb6 36. Kf2 Kg7 37. g4 hxg4 38. hxg4 Na8 39. Rd6 Nc7 40. Re5 b5 41. f5 gxf5 42. gxf5 Ne8 43. Rxa6 Bc4 44. Be2 Nf6 45. Re7 Rh8 46. Bxc4 bxc4 47. Rb7 Rh2+ 48. Ke3 Rh3+ 49. Kd4 Rh4+ 50. Kc5 Rf4 51. Kb5 Rxf5+ 52. Kxc4 Nd5 53. Kb3 Ne3 54. Raa7 Rf2 55. Rd7 Kg6 56. Rd3 Nf5 57. c4 f6 58. c5 Re2 59. c6 Ne7 60. c7 Nc8 61. Ra8 Nb6 62. c8=Q 1-0

James MacFarland (2208) vs. Michael Aigner (2285)

Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #14 (2)

1. d4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 g6 4. c4 Bg7 5. Nc3 O-O 6. Nh3 d6 7. d5 Nbd7 8. Nf4 Ne5 9. b3 c5 10. Bb2 Rb8 11. O-O a6 12. a4 Bd7 13. Qc2 b6 14. e3 Qe8 15. Ne6 Bxe6 16. dxe6 Qc8 17. f4 Nc6 18. Nd5 Nxd5 19. cxd5 Nb4 20. Qd2 Bxb2 21. Qxb2 Rf6 22. Qc3 Qf8 23. e4 fxe4 24. Bxe4 Qg7 25. h4 Rff8 26. Qxg7+ Kxg7 27. g4 h6 28. g5 Rbc8 29. Rac1 hxg5 30. hxg5 Rh8 31. f5 gxf5 32. Rxf5 Rcf8 33. Rcf1 Rxf5 34. Rxf5 Rf8 35. Rxf8 Kxf8 36. Kf2 Na2 37. Ke3 Nc3 38. Bf3 b5 39. a5 b4 40. Kd3 Kg7 0-1

Here White lost on time. But Black wins by force from the final position with a timely pawn sacrifice: 41.Ke3 Kg6 42.Kf4 c4! 43.bxc4 b3 44.Bg4 b2 45.Bf5+ Kg7 46.g6 b1Q 47.Bxb1 Nxb1 48.Kf5 (48.c5 Nc3! stops the pawns) Nc3.

A new Gambit

by FM Eric Schiller

Eric Schiller vs. Ossipov
People's Open, Berkeley 2/19/2005

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nc3 d5 4.Ne5 Nf6 5.g4

A new gambit, improvised at the board. It strikes me as rather a gonzo gambit, so I'm going to name it after the late, great Hunter S. Thompson, who died while the tournament was going on. I name it the Dutch Hunter Gambit.



5...Nxg4 6.Nxg4 fxg4 7.e4 dxe4 8.Qxg4 Nc6 9.Bb5 Qxd4 10.Be3 Qf6

10...Qe5 was the move we expected. After castling on the queenside I felt I would add sufficient compensation for the pawns.

11.Qxe4 Bd7 12.O-O-O

I was satisfied the compensation for single pawn. Even at this point I'm starting to look at combinations involving capturing the bishop at d7 with my rook. Sooner or later, I'm going to make this idea work

12...Bd6 13.Rhg1 g6 14.h4. This is a bit ambitious, but I was uninterested in trying to squeeze something out of moving my knight to d5. 14.Nd5 Qg7 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Nb4 is a computer suggestion but it is hardly in the spirit of gambit play.

14...Qf5 15.Qh1. I'm not sure this was objectively best but it seems to me that keeping pressure on the long diagonal from the corner of the board might lead to good things, and the queen could support the advance of the h-pawn as well. 15...O-O-O 16.Rg5 Qf7 17.Ne4 Bf4 A critical position. I had of course anticipated that my opponent might want to get these bishops off the board, and had intended all along to leave my Rook at g5. As far as I was concerned, getting rid of Black's defender on the d-file was worth the exchange. Finally I could go back to my obsession with the exchange sacrifice at d7, even if it had to be added to an exchange sacrifice at g5.



18.Nc5! Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Qxf2?

Oh happy day! I was hoping for this, though I thought my opponent would have spotted my tactical reply.

19...Qf5 was the move I expected, and feared. 20.Nxb7! I don't think there is anything better than this, though it leads to a position where Black has some advantage 20...Qxb5 21.Nxd8 Rxd8 22.Bxd8 Kxd8 23.Qf3 was what I had in mind. Objectively Black is better, but with so many weak pawns, I figured that as long as I kept queens on the board I had good practical chances.

20.Nxb7!

20...Kxb7?

20...Qb6! 21.Nxd8 Qxb5 22.Nf7 I certainly would have been happy with this position, down a mere pawn but with much more active pieces and plenty of weaknesses to work against.

21.Rxd7! Finally I am able to carry out my main idea, though it really isn't a sacrifice as I regained the material immediately and return with a profit. 21...Rxd7? This makes it easy as I force a winning endgame.

21...Kb8 was a better plan, even though after 22.Bxd8 Nxd8 23.Qe4! Black is still in deep trouble.

22.Qxc6+ Kb8 23.Qxd7 Qe1+ 24.Qd1 Qxd1+ 25.Kxd1 Kb7 26.Bc4 White went on to win without difficulty.

26...Re8 27.Ke2 Kc6 28.Be3 a5 29.a4 Kd6 30.Bd3 Rb8 31.b3 Rf8 32.Bd2 Ra8 33.Ke3 Ke7 34.Kf4 Kf7 35.Bc3 h6 36.Bc4 Ke7 37.Ke5 Rf8 38.Bd3 Rf3 39.Bxa5 Rh3 40.Bxg6 Rxh4 41.Bxc7 Rg4 42.Be4 Kd7 43.Bb6 Rg5+ 44.Kf4 e5+ 45.Kf3 h5 46.Bf2 Rg4 47.a5 Kc7 48.a6 Rf4+ 49.Ke3 Black resigned.

San Francisco Chess Festival



CalChess.org
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SAN FRANCISCO CHESS FESTIVAL 2005



San Francisco Chess Festival

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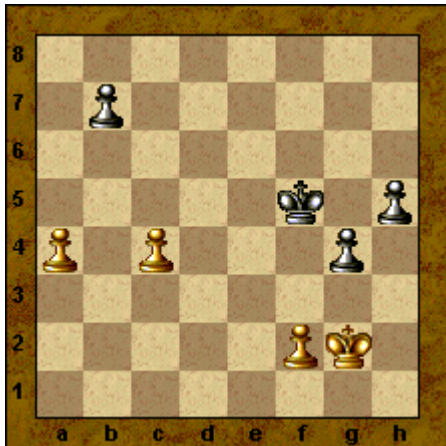
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Event	Schedule	Prizes	Eligibility	Entry Fee*
S.F. Masters	5 games: Fri, May 6: 7:00 Sat-Sun, May 6-8: 11, 4	Cash prizes to top 4: \$500, 250, 150, 100	Invitation only	Grandmasters and International Masters free, others \$50.
Golden Gate Scholastics (K-12)	6 games: Sat-Sun, May 7-8: 10:30-1:30-4:30	Trophies and medals to top individuals, school teams and clubs	Open to all registered students in grades K-12. In non-rated section, must be unrated, or rated under-1600 (USCF)	\$30 per player in rated section, \$20 per player in non-rated section
Golden Gate Scholastics (K-6)	6 games: Sat-Sun, May 7-8: 10:30-1:30-4:30	Trophies and medals to top individuals, school teams and clubs	Open to all registered students in grades K-6. In non-rated section, must be unrated, or rated under-1100 (USCF)	\$30 per player in rated section, \$20 per player in non-rated section
Golden Gate Scholastics (K-3)	5 games Sat., May 7: 10:30, 12:00, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00	Trophies and medals to top individuals, school teams and clubs	Open to all registered students in grades K-3. In non-rated section, must be unrated, or rated under-600 (USCF)	\$30 per player in rated section, \$20 per player in non-rated section
Golden Gate Open		Medals and book prizes	Open to all	\$15 per player
S.F. Blitz Championship	Fri., May 6: 7:0-10:00	Trophies and medals. \$100 to winner	Open to all	\$10 per player
Golden Gate Bughouse	Fri., May 6: 7:0-10:00	Trophies and medals	Open to all	\$10 per team

* if paid or postmarked by April 30. All \$10 after that, except Blitz and Bughouse (\$5 more)

Endgame Tips

Study by Troitsky



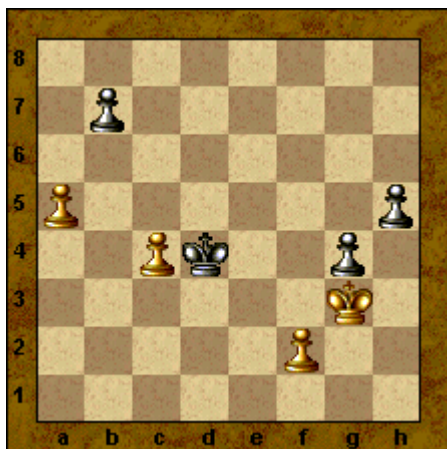
White to move and win

To a large extent, this position merely requires counting. White can force through a queen on the queenside unless the Black king defends there. If that happens, however, White may be able to pick off the Black pawns on the kingside. There is, however, one very important question that White must consider: assuming each side is going to get a new queen, what squares will the Black king and queen be on when that takes place? In this case, with White to move, there may be a tactic, namely, a skewer. Considering that Black threatens to play ...h4, after which White never be able to capture either the g- or f-pawns, White must act decisively.

1.a5! Ke5

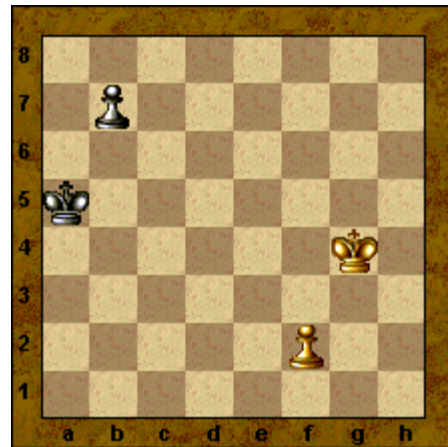
1...h4 lets White promote easily. 2.c5 h3+ 3.Kg3 Ke5 4.c6 # If Black captures, then a6 wins, if Black plays ...Kd6, the pawn cannot be caught after it captures at b7: 4...Kd6 5.cxb7 Kc7 6.a6 Kb8 and now White eliminates the kingside pawns with 7.f3! gxf3 8.Kxh3 f2 9.Kg2 f1=Q+ 10.Kxf1 Ka7 11.Ke2 and the king approaches.

2.Kg3 Kd4

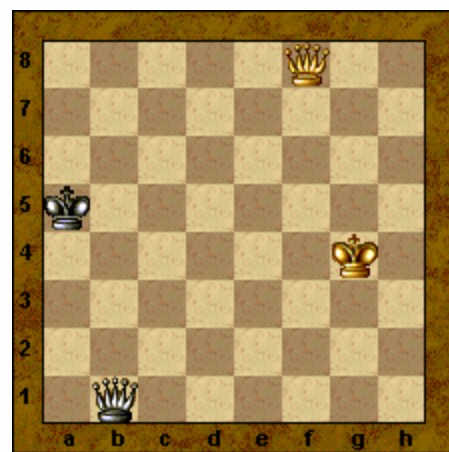


Now it becomes clear that White will win the kingside pawns and promote at f8, while Black will win the c-pawn and promote at b1. If the Black king is on the b-file on the 4th-6th ranks, then White will be able to skewer with Qb8+. And if the king is not on one of those squares, can it be forced there?

3.Kh4 Kxc4 4.Kxh5 Kb4 5.Kxg4 Kxa5



Assuming that neither king moves, they will be in place when the queens appear. Remember our question: can the Black king be forced to the b-file on the 4th-6th rank, allowing the skewer? It is easy to see that a check at a8 will do the trick. So the remainder is simple and forced, since Black cannot afford to waste a tempo moving the king. **6.f4 b5 7.f5 b4 8.f6 b3 9.f7 b2 10.f8=Q# b1=Q**



10...Ka4 leads to a winning queen and pawn endgame, but it is the only alternative. 11.Qf1 Kb3 12.Qb1 and the king walks over to help the queen eliminate the remaining pawn.

11.Qa8+ The king must move onto the deadly b-file, when Qb8+ skewers the queen.

Notes by FM Eric Schiller

Reviewed by Eric Schiller

Black is still OK!

Hungarian Grandmaster Andras Adorjan is one of the game's most colorful and provocative authors. His contributions to opening theory can be found in both conservative and cutting-edge openings. He has not only been among the world's best players, but has also served as a second to star players including Garry Kasparov.

In this new book, Adorjan argues strenuously that playing Black is not a disadvantage at all. As in an earlier book, *Black is OK*, he sets forth both philosophical and psychological reasons, as well as specific opening examples demonstrating the possibilities open to an enterprising player in the opening phase of the game.

The book covers all sorts of territory, as you can see by looking at the contents list in the right column. It has opening analysis of critical lines, but the prose is fascinating, too. Adorjan includes a blog-like technique, responding to email opinions he solicited while writing the book. I am among the respondents, agreeing with the basic premise of the book that it is, indeed, good to play Black.

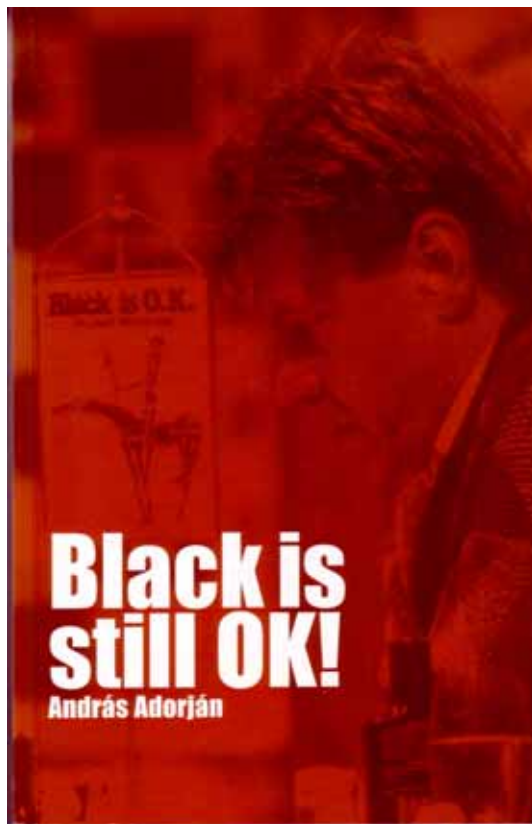
So, you can't expect me to disagree, but don't worry. Adorjan has included a philosophical opponent, the distinguished theoretician Grandmaster Evgeny Sveshnikov, to debate the concept of "advantage of the first move".

Adorjan has no fear of controversy, and is therefore an ideal proponent of the heretical view that Black is OK! He doesn't stop there, but takes on Garry Kasparov with a pointed critique of some of his decisions on and off the board. For all his criticism, he properly titles the chapter Garry the Greatest, and no question mark is applied. Adorjan greatly respects the contributions made by the World Champion, for whom he once served as an important assistant. At the same time, he holds nothing back in criticizing what he considers to have been wrong moves.

Most of the book translates philosophy to action, covering many aspects of a variety of openings. An entire chapter is devoted to a thematic tournament, played with the stipulation that there would be no draws before move 30. Included were traditional openings such as the Nimzo-Indian, but also innovative lines including the Danube Gambit (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.d5 b5) and the Perenyi Gambit in the Sicilian Najdorf. My only criticism of the book is a lack of an opening index! So many different openings are covered that it is a bit hard to remember where things were discussed.

There is much more in this book. The openings of the World Champions are examined statistically, and amateur and club games get the same treatment. From all of the dimensions of chess, Adorjan finds arguments to support his claim that **Black is still OK!**

I recommend this most enjoyable book to players of all levels. Beginners will find some analysis a bit tough to follow, as there is use of advanced "Informant" symbols at times, but many of the games have prose notes and often the moves speak for themselves.



Black is Still OK! by Andras Adorjan

Bt. Batsford, 2005

224 pages, \$22.95 list

ISBN: 0713488700

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OK Lord, You win again...

Battle of Santa Clara

Santa Clara County High School and Junior High Chess Championship

By Michael Aigner

The annual Santa Clara County High School Championship took place on February 5-6 at the Academic Chess BlackKnight Palace in San Jose. All high school students in the county were eligible to play in this USCF rated tournament organized by the county chess league. After playing league matches against other schools throughout fall semester, this event provided one last opportunity for high school chess players to compete against each other on the 64 squares.

As is often the case at scholastic tournaments, ratings meant little or nothing. Perhaps then it shouldn't be a great surprise to see a 1054 rated player finish in clear first ahead of one A player and three B players. Certainly Dmitry Nikitin of Los Altos High School proved that he was at the top the class by scoring 5.5 out of 6 despite facing four of the top eight seeds. Nikitin defeated top rated Elisha Garg (1826) in a crazy tactical skirmish in round five. His only blemish was a fourth round draw against second seed Arnab Shah (1758) of Gunn High School (Palo Alto). Shah took clear second place at 5.0/6 while Marvin Shu (1686) of Saratoga High School earned the third place trophy with 4.5 points.

Many people expected the team competition to be a showdown between the league's two division winners during the fall semester: Western Division champion Gunn High School and Northern Division champion Saratoga High School. Unfortunately due to academic commitments and illness, Saratoga was unable to field several of its top players. This allowed Gunn to walk away with the team trophy. Saratoga won the second place trophy on tiebreaks ahead of Lynbrook High School (San Jose).

One difference from previous years was the addition of an U1000 section on Saturday and a Junior High Championship on Sunday. Justin Hsu of Gunn High School won the small U1000 section with a perfect 5-0 score.

The Junior High tournament featured all of county's top K-8 players. Despite facing three of the four players rated immediately below him, top seeded Michael Zhong (1779) of Egan Middle School (Los Altos) had no trouble in distancing himself from the field with a 5-0 result. Kenneth Law (1410) of Miller Middle School (San Jose) took second place with 4.0/5, losing only to Zhong in the last round. Third place and under 1400 honors were shared at among the following five players that each scored 3.5/5: Jeff Young, Greg Bodwin, Steven Zierk, Vijay Mohan and Avinash Kumar. Redwood Middle School (Saratoga), led by third place finishers Young, Mohan and Kumar, easily won the first place team trophy ahead of Egan Middle School.

Chess dad Stayton Chock of Saratoga capably organized this tournament. Albert Rich of Academic Chess directed the 65 players in three sections. For complete results, check out the CalChess Tournament website. http://www.calchess.org/tournament_results/SCCHSChamp.htm

In the first game below, High School section winner Dmitry Nikitin demonstrates a wild tactical playing style that can best be compared to the strong Russian Grandmaster Alexander Morozevich. The second game features Junior High champion Michael Zhong defeating Steven Zierk by one tempo in a pawn race at the end of a game with multiple opportunities for both sides.

Elisha Garg (1826) vs. Dmitry Nikitin (1054) Santa Clara County High School Championship (5)

Annotations by NM Michael Aigner.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 d5?!

In this quiet line of the Giuoco Piano, White seeks to obtain counterplay on the queenside with b4 and a4. Black's central response seems thematic (strike in center when opponent attacks on flank) but there is one drawback: Black hasn't castled yet.

The aggressive d5 move seems tempting for young tactical players, including this author. Check out <http://www.fpawn.com/LERAMay98.html> for the annotated game Childress - Aigner from the expert section of a 1998 LERA tournament. **6. exd5 Nxd5 7. Qb3 Be6 8. Ng5?**

Experienced chess players are often programmed to never take a hanging pawn on b2 or b7. Yet in this case, there's more to the position than simply the b7 pawn: 8. Qxb7 Nde7 (the only move that doesn't lose more material) 9. Bxe6 fxe6 10. Bg5 wins a pawn and cripples Black's pawn structure. **8... O-O 9. Qxb7 Qf6?** Now Black should play 9... Na5 and now the Black queen is uncomfortable on b7. Note that by capturing the b7 pawn on the previous move, White can meet Na5 with the timely check Qb5+. The text loses a piece, but not without giving Black some compensation. This compensation sets the tone for the rest of the game. **10. Ne4 Bxf2+! 11. Nxf2 Na5! 12. Qb5 Nxc4 13. dxc4 Nb6 14. c5 Bc4 15. Qb4 a5 16. Qa3 e4? 17. Be3?** White starts believing Black's attack! And after the logical defensive move Be3, Black indeed has compensation. More precise was capturing the knight: **17. cxb6 e3! 18. Bxe3 Rae8 19. Qc5! b6!? 20. Qxc4! Rxe3+ 21. Kf1 Rd8 22. Na3.** White is still defending, but has two extra pieces for her troubles. Understandably, this position is difficult to play over the board without the help of a computer program. **17... Nd5 18. Bd4 Qg5 19. b3 Qxg2 20. bxc4 e3 21. Rf1 exf2+ 22. Rxf2 Rfe8+**

Black is winning here as long as White can't untangle her pieces and find shelter for the king. **23. Kd1 Ne3+?**

Black can win a rook with the cute tactic 23... Qg4+ 24. Kc2 (24. Kc1 Re1+ is too dangerous) Nb4+! 25. cxb4 Qxd4 (forking both of White's rooks). **24. Bxe3 Rad8+**

25. Nd2

The alternative 25. Rd2 Qf1+ 26. Kc2 Qf5+ 27. Kb2 Rb8+ requires White to give up her queen with 28. Qb3 or allow a repetition of moves. This queen sacrifice is a reasonable option since White has a rook and two minor pieces for Black's queen.

25... Qg1+ 26. Kc2 Qxa1

Black also won a rook this way, but there is a difference: White has now successfully untangled her forces and can hope to equalize the game.

27. Bd4 Re1 28. Qb3 Qd1+ 29. Kd3 Qg4 30. Nf3??

White must accept a repetition of moves with 30. Kc2. The text is Black to move and mate in four!

30... Qe4+ 31. Kd2 Qe3+ 32. Kc2 Qc1+ 33. Kd3 Re3#.

Steven Zierk (1488) vs. Michael Zhong (1779) Santa Clara County Junior High Championship (5)

1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bc4 Nc6 5. d3 g6 6. Be3 e6 7. O-O d5 8. e5 dxc4 9. exf6 cxd3 10. Qxd3 Qxd3 11. cxd3 b6 12. Nb5 Kd7 13. Bf4 a6 14. Nc3 Bd6 15. Bxd6 Kxd6 16. Ng5 Nd8 17. Rad1 h6 18. Nge4+ Kc7 19. d4 cxd4 20. Rxd4 Nc6 21. Rd6 Bb7 22. Rfd1 Rad8 23. Na4 Nd4 24. R6xd4 Bxe4 25. Rc1+ Bc6 26. Rdc4 Rd6 27. Nc3 b5 28. Rf4 Kb6 29. Ne4 Rd4 30. f3 e5 31. Rg4 h5 32. Rg5 Bxe4 33. fxe4 Rxe4 34. Kf2 Rf4+ 35. Ke3 Rf5 36. Rxf5 gxf5 37. Rf1 f4+ 38. Ke4 Re8 39. Rd1 h4 40. Rd5 Re6 41. Rxe5 Rxe5+ 42. Kxe5 h3 43. g4 f3 44. g5 f2 45. g6 fxg6 46. f7 f1=Q 47. Ke6 g5 48. Ke7 g4 49. f8=Q Qxf8+ 50. Kxf8 g3 51. hxg3 h2 52. g4 h1=Q 53. g5 Qg2 54. Kf7 Qxg5 0-1



Do you like really big trophies? Then don't miss the 30th Annual CalChess Scholastic Championships in Oakland, April 16-18! See page 2 for details, and page 24 for an entry form!



International News

The end? Garry Kasparov speaks.

In 2002 I joined with FIDE in Prague to try and unify the World Championship. Over the past two and a half years, unification matches have been scheduled four times and each time the deadlines have come and gone while the financial guarantees were ignored.

Four times I have put my life on hold to schedule three months for preparation, play, and recuperation. The loss of earnings is easy to understand, but the hidden damage is psychological. These postponed and cancelled events have been deeply unsettling to me both professionally and personally. Our global chess federation has rarely thought enough to even keep me informed, let alone compensate me financially or even apologize for these repeated frustrations.

I called a halt to negotiations last night, but resentment at my treatment by FIDE has been building for the past three months. My life has been totally disrupted for two and a half years thanks to this on-again, off-again match and I must go on without this constant interference.

Perhaps the last straw was watching the Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee currently underway in the Netherlands. I was forced to give up my invitation to play in this event when FIDE insisted that the match would take place in Dubai on conflicting dates. It breaks my heart to watch such a great event from the sidelines. It hurts me, and I believe chess is poorly served as well.

Some details might help clarify how I reached this state of exhaustion and disillusionment. In September 2004, FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov publicly announced that he had the funds for my match with Rustam Kasimdzhanov to take place in Dubai in January 2005. It turned out that this was completely untrue.

At a press conference at the Russian Championship in Moscow two months later I told the media that there were no contracts, no financial guarantees, and that FIDE was giving disinformation. A FIDE official present loudly "whispered" that I was lying, a remark that made its way to ChessBase.com and the chess world. Needless to say, it turned out that the lies were solely on the FIDE side of the story and it speaks volumes about the organization that no apology to me was forthcoming and that this official is still working for FIDE.

I was concerned enough about the lack of tangible progress in organizing the match to write an open letter to the FIDE Congress in October 2004. The FIDE Presidential Board refused to read or circulate this letter at the Congress, apparently believing that no news was good news.

At that time the Turkish Chess Federation was ready to take over the championship organization. President Ali Nihat Yazici had considerable momentum and was ready to proceed with procuring sponsorship guarantees. But FIDE insisted on giving Dubai even more time, even though it had been independently verified that supposed sponsor, HH Sh. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was not going to fund the event and had never intended to.

Far too late, FIDE appointed the Turkish Chess Federation and work began in early December with deadlines looming. The first deadline passed on December 29th and more have passed since. As of today I have no contract with FIDE signed by either player, I have no financial guarantee, and I know from experience that drafting these documents can take considerable time.

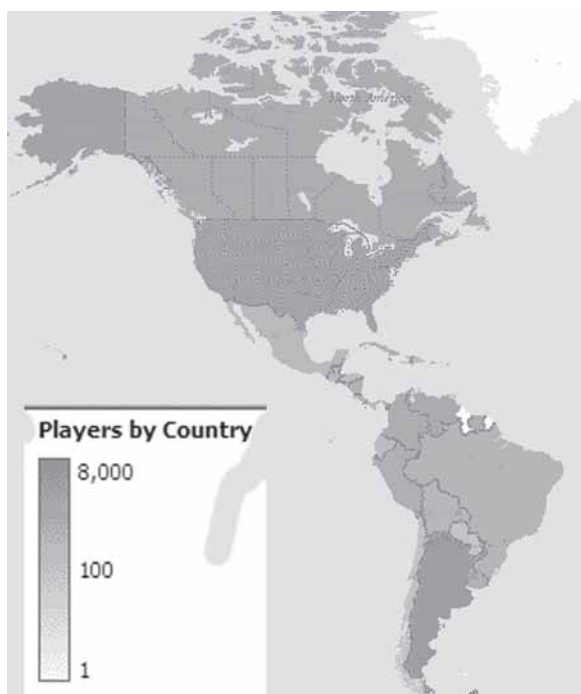
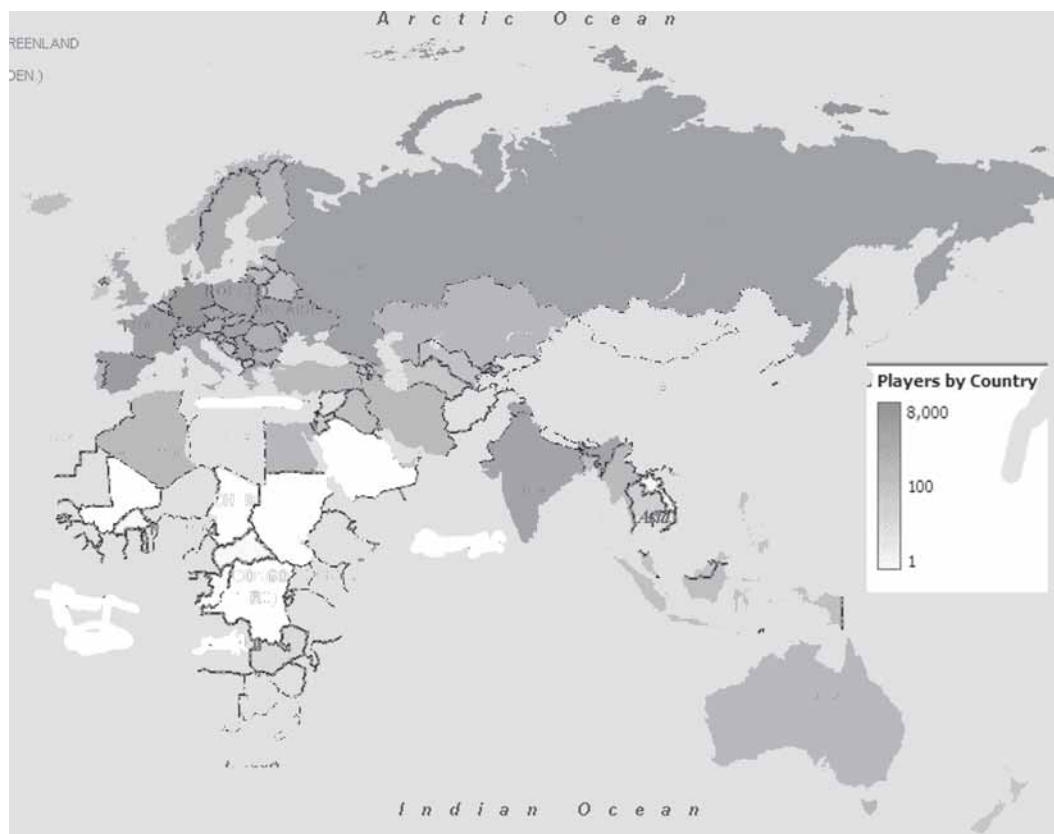
I feel great sympathy for Mr. Nihat Yazici, an honorable man who has worked very hard on behalf of chess and on behalf of this match. I believe he may well have eventually come up with an acceptable form of guarantee, but I cannot wait any longer to reclaim control of my life. I will apologize to Ali and those in the Turkish government and business community assisting him and will do my best to lend a hand to Turkish chess in the future.

It's not about money or winning the title; it's about my disillusionment with the process and the others on which it depends. In 2002 I dreamed of a legitimate chance to revive – and reclaim – the real World Championship title. That no longer seems to be possible. Even if by some miracle the match is held and I win, I would bear a great deal of responsibility and still have no opportunity to unify the title. FIDE has proven itself incapable of the task while others are unwilling.

As for unification, I cannot see an avenue to contribute further. For those who saw me as an obstacle, I will be one no longer. I am not giving up on chess. I will compete as well and as long as I am able to play my brand of chess. I will continue to serve chess and those who love our game. I have now held the #1 ranking for 20 years and I will defend my position against any opponent. My only retreat is from the battlefield of chess championship politics.

Garry Kasparov. Moscow – January 18, 2005

The World of Chess



Chess is most popular in modern industrialized nations. There are some countries which rank surprisingly high in number of FIDE-rated players, but in general, it seems that chess is most popular in the countries with the most money.

It is clear that despite decades of effort, FIDE hasn't made as much progress in Africa as it would like. This is probably due to extreme poverty in so many African nations. Of course, the map has blanks in countries which are not members of the world chess federation. In some countries, such as China, there are relatively few FIDE rated players, despite having a very strong base. With only about 300 players, it trails even Finland!

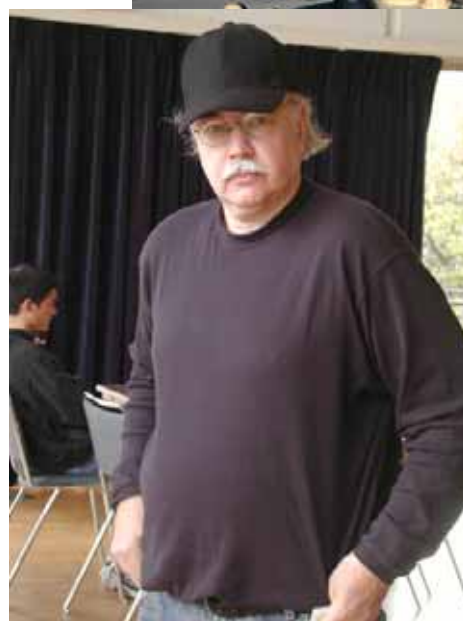
The top chessplaying nations, in terms of number of rated players, are Germany (7787), Russia (7077), Spain (3767), France (3219) and Poland (2358). As for the good old U.S. of A., we come in 10th at a mere 1463.

On the other end of the scale, Haiti has just one rated player, while Rwanda and Madagascar have 2 each, while Somalia and Aruba each check in with 3.

Of course, this is just an indication of interest in the game. In the next issue we'll look at the relative strength of each of the chessplaying nations. You'll see that size and strength don't necessarily go together. In some nations it is very difficult to get a rating unless you are a strong player!

People's Photo Gallery

Thanks to photographers Mark Shelton and Richard Shorman



Thanks to the good folks at www.chessdryad.com for permission to use the photos!

Ursula Foster in Memoriam

from the Modesto Bee

miracle."

Ursula Lowenbach Foster, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust, died Monday of cancer at her Modesto home. She was 77.

Her older brother, Ernst, died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz. As a tribute to him, Mrs. Foster spoke frequently at Modesto-area schools, describing the terror of hiding from the Nazis for nearly two years during World War II.

Martha Loeffler, one of The Bee's "Our Turn" columnists, often visited schools with her friend Mrs. Foster. They both spoke about the Holocaust, but it was Mrs. Foster who lived through it.

Loeffler described Mrs. Foster as a shy woman who consented to speaking appearances out of a desire to ensure that no one ever forgets the Holocaust. She spoke primarily to high school students.

"She had a whispery, quiet voice,"

Loeffler said. "The kids invariably leaned forward to not miss a word.

"I truly believe her legacy will be the imprint that she left on the minds and consciences of these students that she talked to. They will not forget her."

Ursula was 11 when she and Ernst and their parents fled Germany to escape persecution by the Nazis. The Lowenbach family went to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands. Two years later, the Germans occupied the country.

"I remember there was a curfew and we had to stay inside from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m." Mrs. Foster told The Bee for a Holocaust project in 1991. The project, with stories reported and written by Loeffler, coincided with a U.S. commemoration called Days of Remembrance for Victims of the Holocaust.

Mrs. Foster's recollections continued: "And we had to sit in the back of the bus and could only shop in certain stores and certain times."

She kept the yellow patch that she wore under Nazi order. On the patch in big black letters was the word "Jood," or Jew.

The last time she saw her brother was July 14, 1942. He had turned 18 and, as required, registered at Nazi headquarters. The Nazis sent him to the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, and he died there the next year.

In January 1943, just after Ursula's 16th birthday, two Nazis appeared at the Lowenbachs' door, ordering her to register at Nazi headquarters because she was now 16.

One of the Nazis sat next to Ursula, stroking her hair with one hand and holding her hand with the other. "Just then (he) stood up and said, 'You know, this girl looks like my kid sister,' and the two Nazis left the house. It was a

She and her parents went into hiding in a Christian couple's house, where the Lowenbachs and 12 other Jews survived at least one close call with the Nazis. The 15 Jews spent their days crowded in a large bedroom, and every night they climbed down to a dark, dank and rat-infested hiding place.

"I was one of the youngest and smallest," Mrs. Foster recalled in 1991, so I had to be the first one to go in and crawl to the far end of the crawl space. There wasn't room to sit or stand, and I remember being afraid that I would suffocate. ... How I hated it there!"

Anne Frank, one of Ursula's classmates in Amsterdam, also went into hiding -- only to be discovered and sent to a concentration camp, where she died of typhus. She left behind the now-famous "Diary of a Young Girl," in which the author mentions Ursula by name.

Allied forces liberated the Netherlands in early 1945. "When Miepje and Piet (the Christian couple) came into the room and told us the news, we were almost too overwhelmed to say anything," Mrs. Foster recalled. "Then we all laughed and cried and hugged each other and danced around the room."

She was born Jan. 12, 1927, in Han-over, Germany, and had lived in Modesto since 1951. She was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom.

Mrs. Foster, besides being a homemaker, volunteered for a number of organizations, including Memorial Medical Center. She also drove cancer patients to and from medical appointments. And she promoted literacy, by delivering books to shut-ins and reading to underprivileged children.

She was a tournament chess player who competed around the United States and had been ranked among the top 50 female players in the country.

She and her husband enjoyed trips to Lake Tahoe, and she enjoyed crossword puzzles and other word games.

She is survived by her husband Duane Foster of Modesto; children, Clifford Lester of Anaheim and Rick Lester of Monterey; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Lakewood Memorial Park, Hughson. Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Remembrances may be made to Congregation Beth Shalom, 1705 Sherwood Ave., Modesto 95350-4224; or Community Hospice, 601 McHenry Ave., Modesto 95350.



Reader Games

S. Svoboda vs. A. Dembling

Fall Marathon, 2004

Nimzoindian Defense

annotations by IM John Donaldson

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5
6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.f3 0-0 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.Bd2?!

This commits the Bishop to a passive square. The main line runs 10.0-0 Na5 11.e4 Ne8 12.f4 f5 or 12...Ba6 13.f5 f6 . Note Black must prevent the f-pawn coming to f6; 13...Bxc4? 14.Bxc4 Nxc4 15.f6 Nxf6 16.Bg5 with a crushing attack.

10...d6

More energetic is 10...Na5 11.Ng3 (11.0-0 Ba6) ...Ba6 12.Qe2 d5 13.cxd5 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Qxd5 15.0-0 Qc4 with good play.

11.0-0 Na5 12.Ng3 Ba6 13.Qe2 Rc8 14.d5 e5?

This gives White a free hand. A better try is 14...Qd7!?

15.Nf5 Re8 16.e4 Nb3?

Necessary was 16...Nh5. Black cannot allow Bg5, pinning the Knight, in the Saemisch.

17.Bg5! Nxa1 18.Qf2!?

Possible was 18.Rxa1 but Svoboda has bigger game in mind!

18...Rc7?!

Black had to try something radical like 18...h6 19.Bxh6 (19.Bh4 Kh7 20.Rxa1 g6 21.Ne3 g5 22.Bg3 Nh5) 19...Nh5.

19.Qh4 h5

This doesn't work well and neither does 19...Nb3 20.Nxg7! At this point it is hard to suggest improvements. 20.f4!

20.Rxa1 was possible but the text is more to the point.

20...Bc8 21.Ng3?!

21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.fxe5 wins immediately.

21...Bg4 22.h3 Qd7

On 22...exf4 then 23.Rxf4 Bd1 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Rxf6, with Nf5 coming, is decisive.

23.f5

If 23.fxe5 then 23...Nh7!. 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.hxg4 Qxg4 25.Qxg4+ hxg4 26.Rxa1 was also possible.

23...Nh7 24.hxg4 f6

Maybe 24...Nb3 25.gxh5 (25.Nxh5 f6 26.Be3 with g5 coming isn't so clear.) 25...Nxg5 26.Qxg5 f6 had to be played.

25.Be3 Nb3 26.gxh5 Qe7 27.h6

Now the second wave of the attack picks up.

27...Ng5 28.Nh5?

28.hxg7! Qxg7 29.Nh5 won on the spot.

28...Qd8?

28...gxh6! and Black is still alive. Now White finishes the job.

29.Nxg7 Rxg7 30.hxg7 Kxg7 31.Qh5 Rg8 32.Kf2 Rh8

33.Qg6+ Kf8 34.Bxg5 f6 35.f6 Rg8 36.Qh6+ Kf7

37.Qh7+ Kf8 38.f7. White won.



Steinitz vs. Chigorin match coverage



Steinitz vs. Lasker

Did they really play on such a chess table?
No room for a clock or scoresheets!

Calendar

The official, up-to-date chess calendar is always available at our website (www.calchess.org). This page is just provided as a reminder of things to come. In future issues, hypelinks will be provided to make it easier for you to go quickly to the information pages at the website.

**30th Annual CalChess Scholastic
Chess Championships
April 16-18 in Oakland
See page 2 for details!**

**San Francisco Chess Festival
Fort Mason, San Francisco
May 6-8, 2005
See page 10 for details!**

Mar 12	Sat	5th Max Wilkerson Open G/45	San Francisco
Mar 12-13	Sat-Sun	East Bay Chess Club March Swiss	Berkeley
Mar 18-20	Fri-Sun	Far West Open	Reno, NV
Mar 26	Sat	Blacknight Chess Center Quads	San Jose
Apr 2-3	Sat-Sun	North Central California Chess Championships	Stockton
Apr 2-3	Sat-Sun	Walter Lovegrove Senior Open	San Francisco
Apr 16	Sat	5th Imre Konig Memorial G/45	San Francisco
Apr 23-24	Sat-Sun	Vallejo Chess Tournament (CalChess Discount!)	Vallejo
April 30	Sat	Blacknight Chess Center Quads	San Jose
May 14	Sat	5th Charles Powell Memorial G/45	San Francisco
Jun 4-5	Sat-Sun	42nd Arthur Stamer Memorial	San Francisco
Jun 25	Sat	5th William Addison Open G/45	San Francisco

Cal Chess Scholastic Events Schedule

Mar 12	Sat	Lake Forest Elementary Scholastic	Sacramento
Mar 12	Sat	Lud Williams Memorial Scholastic (NR)	Stockton
Mar 13	Sun	Fox School Scholastic Chess Tournament	Belmont
Mar 19-20	Sat-Sun	East Bay Chess Club March Scholastic Swiss	Berkeley
Mar 26	Sat	Calaveras County Scholastic	Calaveras
Mar 26	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Mar 26	Sat	Blacknight Chess Center Quads	San Jose
Mar 26	Sat	Tournament for Teachers	Cupertino
Apr 2	Sat	Chess for Kids (Sanger Academy)	SangerAF
Apr 2-3	Sat-Sun	North Central California Chess Championships	Stockton
Apr 15-17	Fri-Sun	30th CalChess State Scholastic Championships	Oakland
Apr 15-17	Fri-Sun	California Northern Regional Scholastic Championships	San Jose
Apr 30	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Apr 30	Sat	Blacknight Chess Center Quads	San Jose
Apr 30	Sat	Tournament for Teachers	Cupertino
May 6-8	Fri-Sun	Golden Gate Scholastic Championships	San Francisco
May 21	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Jun 18	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Jul 30	Sat	Hayward Library Scholastic Tournament (Not Rated)	Hayward
Jul 30-31	Sat-Sun	Mechanics' Institute Providian Junior Championship	San Francisco
Aug 13	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco

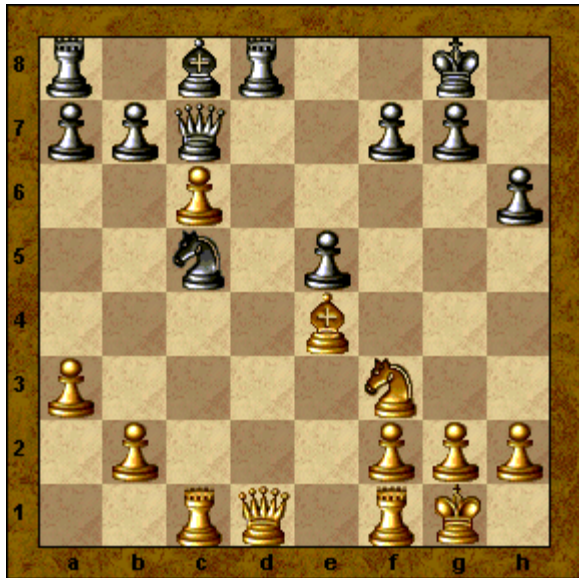
For details, visit www.calchess.org

Test Your Chess

Let's celebrate the chess of veteran Viktor Korchnoi, one of the greatest players who never managed to win a World Championship match. Even in his 70s, Korchnoi remains a powerful force at the board. I don't think that any World Champion has been as highly rated at such an advanced age! In each position, it is White to move. The goal is to find the best move. Can you match wits with the great Korchnoi?

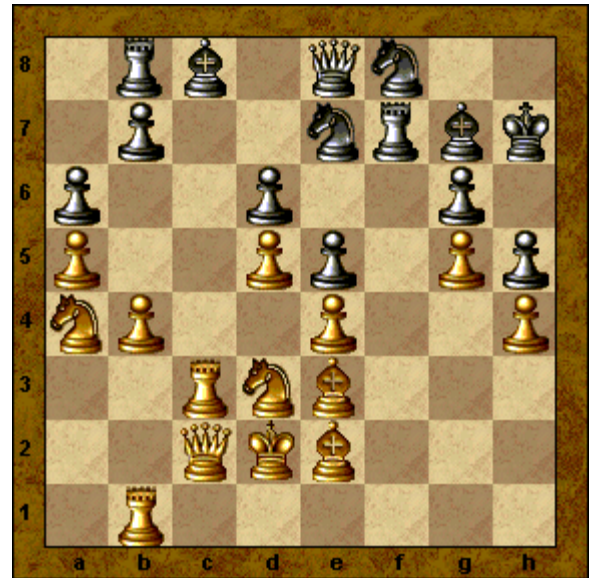
Korchnoi vs. Robatsch, 1963.

The lady is under attack! Should you rescue her?



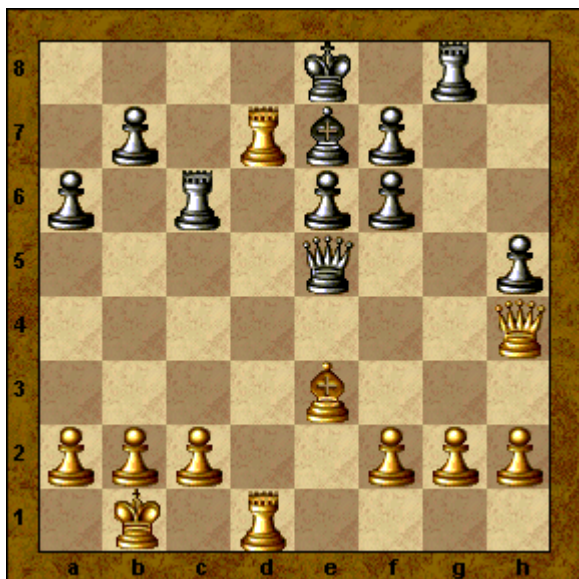
Korchnoi vs. Paoli, 1965.

Is moving the bishop to a7 the correct strategy?



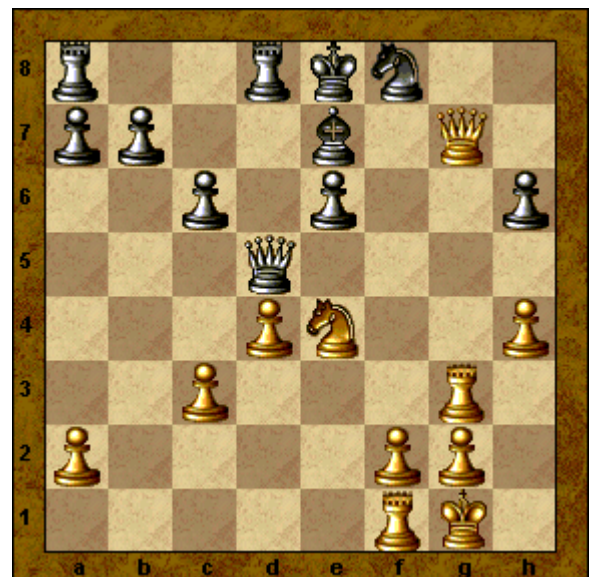
Korchnoi vs. Kulchinsky, 1949.

Doubled rooks on the d-file win, with help!



Korchnoi vs. Peterson, 1965.

Finish Black off with finesse!



The Lighter Side

From Burton's translation of the Arabian Nights tales

She [Tawaddud] said, It hath reached me, O auspicious King, that when the damsel was playing chess with the expert in presence of the Commander of the Faithful, Harun al-Rashid, whatever move he made was speedily countered by her, till she beat him and he found himself checkmated. Quoth he, "I did but lead thee on, that thou mightest think thyself skilful: but set up again, and thou shalt see." So they placed the pieces a second time, when he said in himself, "Open thine eyes or she will beat thee." And he fell to moving no piece, save after calculation, and ceased not to play, till she said, "Thy King is dead!—Checkmate." When he saw this he was confounded at her quickness and understanding; but she laughed and said, "O professor, I will make a wager with thee on this third game. I will give thee the queen and the right-hand castle and the left-hand knight; if thou beat me, take my clothes, and if I beat thee, I will take thy clothes." Replied he, "I agree to this;" and they replaced the pieces, she removing queen, castle and knight. Then said she, "Move, O master." So he moved, saying to himself, "I cannot but beat her, with such odds," and planned a combination; but, behold, she moved on, little by little, till she made one of her pawns a queen and pushing up to him pawns and other pieces, to take off his attention, set one in his way and tempted him to take it. Accordingly, he took it and she said to him, "The measure is meted and the loads equally balanced. Eat till thou are overfull; naught shall be thy ruin, O son of Adam, save thy greed. Knowest thou not that I did but tempt thee, that I might finesse thee? See: this is check-mate!" adding, "So doff off thy clothes." Quoth he, "Leave me my bag-trousers, so Allah repay thee;" and he swore by Allah that he would contend with none, so long as Tawaddud abode in the realm of Baghdad

Which of the following films does *not* have a chess scene?

1. 2001: A space odyssey
2. Austin Powers
3. Bad Company
4. Bedazzled
5. Black Hawk Down
6. Blade
7. Blade Runner
8. Blazing Saddles
9. Casablanca
10. Casper
11. Dawn of the Dead
12. George of the Jungle
13. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
14. Hercules in New York
15. Independence Day
16. Natural Born Killers
17. Play it again, Sam
18. Play Misty for Me
19. Rambo III
20. Rocky VI
21. Searching for Bobby Fischer
22. Shaft 2000
23. Stalag 17
24. Star Wars
25. Superfly
26. Superman II
27. The Front
28. The Luzhin Defense
29. The Seventh Seal
30. The Three Musketeers
31. Twins
32. X-Men

Answer next issue!

The next issue of the California Chess Journal will appear at the end of April and will focus on the national, state and local championships. The following issue will feature CalChess players at the HB \$500,000 tournament.



Bonus question: which film is this from?

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