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The California Chess Journal is the official publication of CalChess, the USCF affiliate representing Northern California. The Journal is published as a downloadable PDF file at our website ([www.calchess.org](http://www.calchess.org)).

Contact [editor@calchess.org](mailto:editor@calchess.org) with any questions, comments, submissions or other communications. We welcome stories about chess activity in Northern California and any other items that might be of interest to our chess community.

**CalChess Website gets new look**

CalChess Vice President Eric Hicks gave the CalChess Website a makeover using cutting-edge technology. You will find all of the old content there, but in a new format, and a host of features! Visit often and let us know what you think!



**\$500,000 prizes awarded in the HB Global Challenge!**

Over 1600 players went to Minneapolis to compete in the richest open tournament ever held. Coverage begins on page 5.

**Walter Browne wins 2005 U.S. Senior Open!**



Grandmaster Walter Browne of Berkeley demonstrated that "six-time" is not finished yet!

# Northern California Tournament Calendar

by Michael Aigner, CalChess Clearinghouse Coordinator

The following clubs offer weekly rated play. See [www.calchess.org](http://www.calchess.org) for other local chess clubs.

weekly	Mon	East Bay Chess Club Mini-Marathon (EBC)	Berkeley
weekly	Tue	Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon (MIC)	San Francisco
weekly	Tue	Visalia Chess Club (VIC)	Visalia
weekly	Wed	Sacramento Chess Club	Sacramento
weekly	Thu	Burlingame Chess Club (BCC)	Burlingame
weekly	Thu	Kolty Chess Club (KCC)	Campbell
weekly	Fri	Berkeley City Chess Club, (EBC)	Berkeley
Jul 16	Sat	5 <sup>th</sup> Charles Bagby Memorial G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Aug 6	Sat	5 <sup>th</sup> Vladimir Pafnutieff Memorial G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Aug 20-21	Sat-Sun	Bernardo Smith Amateur (Under 1800) (MIC)	San Francisco
Sep 3-5	Sat-Mon	<b>CalChess Labor Day Festival (CalChess)</b>	San Francisco
Sep 24-25	Sat-Sun	Vallejo Chess Tournament (VAC)	Vallejo

## Scholastic Tournaments

Jul 9	Sat	Berkeley Chess School Summer Quads (BCS)	Berkeley
Jul 10	Sun	<b>Coastside Scholastic and Adult Beginner Chess (CCC)</b>	Half Moon Bay
Jul 16	Sat	<b>Weibel Summer Quads #2 (SAK)</b>	Fremont
Jul 22	Fri	<b>SCS Saratoga Friday Night Tournament (SAK)</b>	Saratoga
Jul 23	Sat	<b>East Bay Chess Club Scholastic Quads (EBC)</b>	Berkely
Jul 24	Sun	<b>Coastside Scholastic and Adult Beginner Chess (CCC)</b>	Half Moon Bay
Jul 30	Sat	Hayward Library Scholastic Tournament (SAK)	Hayward
Jul 30-31	Sat-Sun	Mechanics' Institute Providian Jjnior Championship (MIC)	San Francisco
Aug 5	Fri	<b>SCS Saratoga Friday Night Tournament (SAK)</b>	Saratoga
Aug 7	Sun	<b>Coastside Scholastic and Adult Beginner Chess (CCC)</b>	Half Moon Bay
Aug 13	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads (MIC)	San Francisco
Aug 21	Fri	<b>SCS Saratoga Friday Night Tournament (SAK)</b>	Saratoga

## Summer Chess Camps

- Jul 11-15: Davis - ZokaZoki Chess Workshop #1
- Jul 11-15: Palo Alto - JCC Palo Alto Summer Chess Camp #1
- Jul 11-22: Berkeley - Berrkeley Chess School Camp with IM Sam Collins
- Jul 18-Aug 5: Los Gatos - Saratoga Recreation SCS Summer Camp 2005
- Jul 20-22: 2nd Davis Chess Camp
- Aug 1-5: 6th Mechanics' Institute Chess Camp for Intermediate and Advanced Players
- Aug 1-5: Davis - ZokaZoki Chess Workshop #1
- Aug 8-19: Berkeley - East Bay Chess Club Summer Camp
- Aug 5-19: Palo Alto - JCC Palo Alto Summer Chess Camp #2

**CALCHESS DISCOUNT!**



President: Elizabeth Shaughnessy  
 Vice-President: Eric Hicks  
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 Secretary: Roger Poehlmann  
 Board Member: Jacob Green  
 Board Member: Joe Lonsdale  
 Board Member: Eric Schiller  
 Board Member: Steve Stacy  
 Event Clearinghouse: Michael Aigner  
 Webmaster: Elizabeth Shaughnessy

BCC	Burlingame Chess Club	<a href="http://www.burlingamechessclub.com">www.burlingamechessclub.com</a>
BCS	Berkeley Chess School	<a href="http://www.berkeleychessschool.org">www.berkeleychessschool.org</a>
CCC	Coastside Chess Club	<a href="http://www.coastsidechess.us">www.coastsidechess.us</a>
EBC	East Bay Chess Club	<a href="http://www.eastbaychess.com">www.eastbaychess.com</a>
KCC	Kolty Chess Club	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/kolty/">www.angelfire.com/ca2/kolty/</a>
MIC	Mechanics' Institute CC	<a href="http://www.chessclub.org">www.chessclub.org</a>
SCC	Sacramento Chess Club	<a href="http://www.sacramentochessclub.org">www.sacramentochessclub.org</a>
SAK	Success Chess,/ Alan Kirschner	<a href="http://www.calnorthernyouthchess.org">www.calnorthernyouthchess.org</a>
VAC	Vallejo Chess	<a href="mailto:frrstbjb@juno.com">frrstbjb@juno.com</a>
VIC	Visalia Chess Club	<a href="mailto:fffiela@aol.com">fffiela@aol.com</a>

# Chess News

## **Game of the Century? Garry Kasparov vs. Valdimir Putin**

Having retired from tournament competition Garry Kasparov has taken on a new opponent, Russian President Vladimir Putin. He is devoting all of his efforts to defeating Putin in the 2008 Russian elections. As usual, he has chosen a formidable opponent, and understands that he will not be able to achieve results overnight.

"Today our goal is not to lose immediately. Not to get mated in one. Our goal is to survive." And survival may not be easy. First he was assaulted with a chessboard, and in a recent campaign trip to North Ossetia, he had ketchup-covered eggs tossed at him.—Various news sources

## **U.S. Senior Open Championship**

In the Senior Open, all hinged on my last-round game with my nemesis Walter Browne, who habitually gets White vs. me. He followed his game versus Karpov in Queen's Indian; I found the wrong way. Browne is the new US Senior. Champ, qualifying for the US Championship. GM Anatoly Lein was second, GM Arthur Bisguier, FM Joe Bradford, IM Roman Pelts, and defending champ Fabio La Rota (who escaped my attack) played too in the strongest Senior Open ever. —Tony Saidy

## **GM Hikaru Nakamura Named 2005 Samford Chess Fellow**

(CROSSVILLE, TN) Hikaru Nakamura, a seventeen year old grandmaster (AGM@) from White Plains, New York, has been selected as the nineteenth FRANK P. SAMFORD, JR. CHESS FELLOW. Already ranked among the world's elite players, Hikaru is currently the highest rated player in the world at 17 years and under with a FIDE (International Chess Federation) rating of 2613 on the January 2005 rating list.

The Samford Fellowship identifies and assists brilliant young American chessmasters by providing the resources and funding needed to enhance their skills and reach their full potential. The total value of the Fellowship is approximately \$32,000 per year. The prize is awarded for one year, renewable for a second year.

The winner was chosen by the Samford Fellowship Committee, consisting of Frank P. Samford III (son of Samford Fellowship founder Frank P. Samford, Jr.), former U.S. Chess Champion Grandmaster Arthur Bisguier and International Master John Donaldson. The winner's potential was determined based on his chess talent, work ethic, dedication and accomplishments. —USCF Press Release

## **Dmitry Gurevich takes National Open title in playoff**

This year's event drew 697 players to the Riviera Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The five-day chess festival offered not only chess but also the Polgar Simul and breakfast, game analysis by GM Arthur Bisguier, chess lectures and International Chess Camp by GM Susan Polgar, and tournament rules workshop by Tim Just.

GM Nick E. De Firmian of Denmark, IM Benjamin Finegold of Michigan, GM Dmitry Gurevich of Illinois, GM Dashzeveg Sharavdorj of Texas all tied for first with 5.0. GM Dmitry Gurevich won the Edmondson Cup in a blitz playoff against GM De Firmian.—USCF (See Michael Aigner's coverage on page 13.)

## **Californian ties for US Cadet Title**

Kings Island, Ohio was the site of the 2005 U.S. Cadet on June 12-16, 2005 where a close battle was waged between Elliott Liu (2230), from California, and Sarkis Agaian (2123), from New York. A double round robin was played to determine the title of U.S. Cadet Champion and it was so close that a playoff was used to determine first place and the scholarship. Although both Liu and Agaian are considered co-champions, Liu earned the four-year scholarship which was offered by University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC). The tournament was organized by the United States Chess Federation and the Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau and directed by Mike Anders.

# CalChess Labor Day

## CalChess Labor Day Tournament Official State Championship

September 3 – September 5 2005

San Francisco, California

### A Six Round Swiss System Tournament in Six Sections

#### Prizes

Championship: \$700+Trophy-\$350-\$200

Under-2400: U2400: \$300

Expert: \$400+Trophy-\$200-\$100

A: \$400+Trophy-\$200-\$100

B: \$400+Trophy-\$200-\$100

C: \$400+Trophy-\$200-\$100

D/E \$400+Trophy-\$200-\$100

Unrated: 1st place trophy

Prize fund based on 160 fully paid entries, not counting free entries and unrated entries.

**Registration:** Sat 8-9:30 am, Sun 8-9 Sets and boards provided. Please bring clocks. USCF membership required

**Rounds:** 2-Day Schedule: Sun 9:30, 11:45, 2:00, 4:45; Mon 10:00, 3:30 . 3-Day Schedule: Sat 10:00, 4:00; Sun 11:00, 4:45; Mon 10:00, 3:30 1/2 pt byes Available for any round upon request, rds 5 or 6 must be requested before rd 1.

**Time Control:** 2-Day Schedule: Rounds 1-3, G/60; Rounds 4-6 30/90, G/60. 3-Day Schedule: 30/90, G/60 all rounds.

**Entry Fee:** Postmarked by 8/29: \$65 (jrs \$55). On site: \$75 (jrs \$65). USCF required, \$5 CalChess discount (must be current). Players may play up one section for \$10 (jrs \$5). GM/IM free entry. Unrated players, \$20 in D/E section or may play in Master the for regular fee. Re-entry fee: \$40. After rounds 1-2 of 3 day schedule, new start in 2-day schedule.

**Location:** Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Van Ness at Pine San Francisco

**Hotels:** Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (415-441-4000), limited number of rooms at the CalChess rate (\$99) if booked by 8/2/2005. Hotel may sell out. If so, try nearby hotels: Cathedral Hill (415-776-8200), Richielieu(415-673-4711), Majestic (415-441-1100), Vagabond Inn (415-776-7500).

**Information:** Richard Koepcke 650-964-2640: Email: richardkoepcke@aol.com

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Entry Form Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entry Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Play up 1 section (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cal Chess Discount: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ USCF renewal (\$45) \_\_\_\_\_

Rating \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2 pt bye Rds 1 2 3 4 5 6 Total: \_\_\_\_\_ -

USCF ID \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule 2-Day \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Day \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Richard Koepcke, P.O. Box 1432, Mountain View, Ca 94042

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# Reflections on the HB Global Challenge

by Daaim Shabazz, Ph.D. (Photos by Eric Schiller, Daaim Shabazz and HB Press Office)



Surprise winner of the \$50,000 first prize: GM Izoria of the Republic of Georgia



This fabulous watch, valued at over \$7,000, was an additional prize awarded to the winner of the Global Challenge.

On a Tuesday afternoon, GM Maurice Ashley called me with some breaking news. He told me not to post on The Chess Drum until the official press release was made public. However, he gave me a sneak preview. He started off talking about a big open tournament and then uttered, "... half-a-million dollars." I responded "whooooa" and immediately perked up. He mentioned that this tournament would change the landscape of chess.

Ashley would trumpet this event as ground-breaking, but he wouldn't reveal details. He told me not to reveal this "secret" until the negotiations were complete, so I did a 10-day countdown to the day of the big announcement. On September 17th, Ashley sent the official press release which accented its importance: "There will never again be another first. This is the tournament that you will be telling your grandkids about!" So it was only immediately a firestorm of discussion



Daaim Shabazz with organizer Grandmaster Maurice Ashley



The games were displayed using state-of-the-art technology. The organizers spared no expense to make this a great tournament!

followed—both with antagonists and advocates. There was even one chess player who went on an online crusade to discourage people from attending the tournament. Others were discussing the entry fee which stood at \$345. To provide incentive, Ashley gave all types of discount incentives



United States Champion Hikaru Nakamura faces off against Alexander Belyavsky before their fateful encounter

as an encouragement to play.

Minneapolis was an interesting place to have the tournament. It is not known as a chess city, but Ashley had developed a relationship with the chess community from previous visits. Minneapolis is known as a clean city with its network of skyway tunnels. This system becomes important since the city is beset with bone-chilling, frigid temperatures in the winter. The city is very clean and the tournament venue was spacious. The tournament hall was a chess pavilion with boards stretching as far as one could see. Minnesota State Auditor Pat Anderson. Ashley took the stage and stated that the tournament's fruition was part of a longheld dream come true. Of course it will stand as a historic event for a number of reasons... prize fund, strength of players and... a wedding proposal!

Toward the end of the opening ceremonies Damon Garrett told Maurice Ashley that it was urgent that he had a chance to speak. The New Jersey native runs an organization called "Chess for Life!" and he certainly made sure that chess will remain a part of his family's historical trivia. After being given the floor in front of more 1000 witnesses, Damon directed a message to his girlfriend Alexandra followed by a question... "I applaud you. Will you be my wife?" Alexandra immediately agreed and a thunderous applause followed. With the attractive couple now the center of attention, Mulohon exclaimed, "Wow. What a way to start a tournament!"

The tournament hall was huge and an estimated 1250 boards were set up for battles. This was a welcome feature because many players forget their sets or have some weird set or board they would like to use. This worked out very well. Brian Mulohon even made some of these sets complimentary after the tournament. However, he created a stampede as chessplayers bolted over to the table and started grabbing at the sets and boards like starved people getting rations after three weeks of not eating! Nevertheless, the sets provided a sense of class, consistency and contributed to the rounds starting on time.

One of the other things that made the HB Global interesting was the festive environment which seemed to encourage social interaction (despite the no-talk rule). There were the usual champions of faraway lands hoping to win part of the big prize fund. Each player had a different story to tell about their journey and I was able to meet Jorge Rentería from Columbia who agreed to tell me his story. After the interview, he told me so many interesting things about his small city of Chocó, an Afro-Columbian enclave meaning "many rivers." He spoke proudly of his fellow Columbian players including IM Miguel Mosquera, an Afro-Columbian who he mentions will become a Grandmaster.

Of course, there was exciting chess. GM Alexander Beliavsky was perhaps the most impressive. As the senior player in



Alexandra agreed to tie the knot after Damon's marriage proposal in front of nearly 1700 chess players. Photo by Daa'im Shabazz.



Grandmaster Artur Jussupow (Yusupov)



The audience at the closing, Photo by Daa'im Shabazz.



International Master Jay Bonin



FIDE Master Bela Evans

the tournament, he was able to show good form and stave off the onslaught from young, hungry lions. GM Gata Kamsky was also in good form as he entered his first major international tournament (since retirement) and tied for joint 2nd. Of course, all eyes were on Nakamura who has really created a buzz with his exciting style of play. Not only did he play 1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 against Harikrishna, but also played it against GM Nikolai Mitkov in the 8th round (drawing after getting an edge). HB Global winner GM Zviad Izoria, an unheralded player from the Republic of Georgia, won the tournament upsetting the top seed GM Ilya Smirin and beating Beliavsky in a hard-fought game. One story creating a buzz was Filipino Daniel Laylo's second round victory over GM Alexander Motylev of Russia.

There were no new sensations in the crowd, but some well-known GMs dotted the HB Global landscape. GM Loek van Wely was there with his wife Marion Adriaans, but both almost forfeited in round three because they thought the start time was an hour later. Despite coming 40 minutes late, van Wely was still able to beat IM Li Wenliang and Adriaans was able to draw with me in a wild Benko! GM Alex Moissenko of the Ukraine made the trip as well, but was upset by NM Alan Stein in the third round and could not catch up to the field.

All-and-all, the tournament was a rousing success. In the first instance of holding such a tournament, there will be glitches and unforeseen problems. However, GM Maurice Ashley handled all the inquiries with the attention and class exemplary of a true chess ambassador. This was despite everyone competing for his attention... requesting pictures, autographs and interviews. HB Global Director Brian Molohon was also very professional and had a terrific (almost cherubic) approach to resolving all issues at hand. It was really a pleasant sight.

Interviewing Ashley the next morning, he described the reaction from Grandmasters as a "love fest" and the tentative word is that the tournament will be held again. We hope that there will be another HB Global Chess Challenge. Thanks to GM Ashley, Mr. Molohon and the HB Foundation... thanks for the vision and execution! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!



## A great escape in Minneapolis!

### Siyuan Shen vs. Eric Schiller English Opening [A14]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.b3 c5 4.Bb2 Nf6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.O-O O-O 8.d3 d4 9.e4 e5 10.h3 h6

A new move, but nothing special. 10... Qc7 is an old Cecil Purdy game. 11.Qe2 Bd7 12.Nbd2 a6 13.Kh2 b5 14.Nh4 g6 was already a bit better for Black in Koshnitsky vs. Purdy, Sydney (Australia) 1934.

11.Nh4 Kh7 12.Nf5 g6 13.Nxe7 Qxe7 14.Bc1 Ng8 15.a3 Be6 16.Nd2 f6 17.f4 Bd7

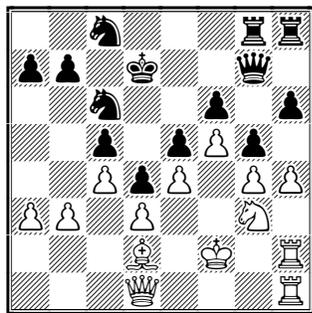
17...exf4 18.gxf4 Bd7 would have been wiser. I had originally overlooked that 17...Qd7?! 18.f5! gxf5 19.exf5 Bxf5? 20.Rxf5 Qxf5 21.Be4 wins the queen.

18.f5 g5 19.Bf3 Qg7 20.Bh5 Nge7 21.Rf2 Be8 22.Bxe8 Rxe8 23.Nf1 Qf7 24.g4 Rb8

Computers like this move, but in hindsight I don't. 24...Rh8 might have saved me a tempo over the game.

25.Rh2 Rh8 26.Ng3 Kg7 27.Bd2 Qf8 28.Qc2 Kf7 29.Kf2 Ke8 30.h4 Kd7 31.Rah1 Qg7 32.Qc1 Rbg8 33.Qd1 Nc8

The dance of the knights begins. Eventually, both of my knights will target White's pawn at e4.



34.Rh3 Nd6 35.R1h2 Ne8

This knight is instructed to sacrifice himself at e4 a bit later in the game. The plan involving retreating both knights to the back rank gives this game an artistic bent that I'm very proud of. **36.Qh1**

The pressure is intense! I thought my position was busted, but then I came up with a plan.

36...gxf4 37.Rxh4 Nd8!?

Headed for g5. 37...Qe7 38.Bxh6 is the computer choice, but then I'd be just a pawn down, with absolutely no counterplay.

**38.Bxh6**

38.g5 fxf5 39.Rxh6 Rxh6 40.Rxh6 Nf6!

**38...Rxh6**

This gives White a bigger advantage, but allows me to try a deep plan to get out of the mess with a draw. Alternatives were simply hopeless, as White would have no problems to solve.

**39.Rxh6 Qg5!**

The point! I'm not interested in the g-pawn. 39...Qxg4? 40.Rh7+ Kc8 41.Ne2! Black is busted.

**40.Qf3**

A very sensible move, but it allows a glimmer of hope in a deep line.

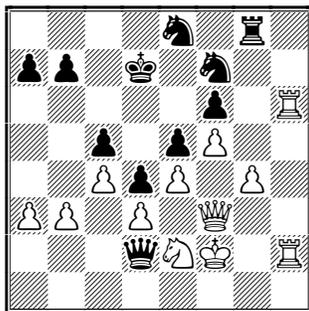
40.Rh7+! Kc8 (40...Rg7 41.Rxg7+ Nxf7 42.Rh7!) 41.Qd1! Qe3+ 42.Kg2 would probably have won for White.

**40...Qd2+ 41.Ne2?**

41.Kf1 Qc1+ 42.Kg2 Qb2+ 43.Qe2 Qxb3 44.Rh7+ Kd6 45.Rh8 would have preserved the win. However, the move chosen in the game seems cleaner. The danger is not yet evident.

**41...Nf7!**

I'm back in the game!



**42.Rg6**

This is an obvious move, leading to a new queen for White. But I have worked out the details of a shocking reversal! 42.Rh7 Ned6! 43.g5 Kd8! leaves White with nothing better than 44.Rxf7 Nxf7 45.gxf6 and then 45...Ng5

gives Black the advantage!

42.R6h4? Ng5! White is busted.

**42...Ng5! 43.Qg3**

43.Rxg5 Qxg5 is even.;

43.Rxg8 Nxf3 44.Rh7+ Kd8 (44...Kc6 45.Rxe8 Qe3+ 46.Kf1 Nd2+ 47.Ke1 Nf3+ 48.Kf1) 45.Rhh8 Qe3+ 46.Kf1 Qxd3

**43...Rxg6!**

Yes, I'm going to let White have a new queen!

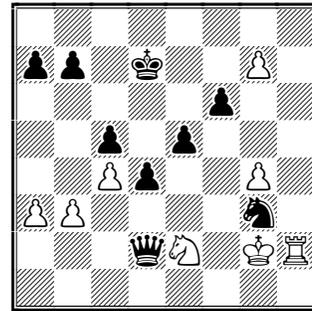
**44.fxg6 Nd6!**

Suddenly the plan is clear, I'm going to sac a knight to get a fork against the king and queen. Even so, White will have an extra rook. So what is the point? **45.g7**

45.Kf1 was White's other option. I intended to snatch the d-pawn and had figured that I could wind up just down a pawn or so. 45...Qd1+ 46.Qe1 Qxd3 47.g7 Ndx4 and after 48.g8=Q Qf3+! 49.Qf2 Nxf2 50.Rxf2 Qh3+ 51.Kg1 Nf3+! 52.Rxf3 Qxf3 his queen can't get back, so I have either some perpetual or will manage to gain three pawns for the knight. A draw would have been likely.

**45...Ndx4+ 46.dxe4 Nxe4+ 47.Kg2 Nxf3**

White can no longer avoid a draw without risking a loss!



**48.g8=Q**

Forced. 48.Kxg3? Qe3+ 49.Kh4 Qg5+ 50.Kg3 Qxg7 Black wins.

**48...Qxe2+ 49.Kxg3**

49.Kh3 Qf3! and White must use a perpetual to save a draw!

**49...Qe3+ 50.Kg2 Qe2+ Draw agreed.**

# Oops! Big money blunders and oversights

by Eric Schiller

The pressure of half a million dollars in prizes in the HB Global Challenge led to quite a few mistakes, oversights, and outright blunders. Here is a selection. Can you spot what the distinguished combatants missed?



Novikov vs. Harper

White did manage to win after 34.Rd2, though only because Black missed 34...Qc1! What forced win did GM Novikov miss?



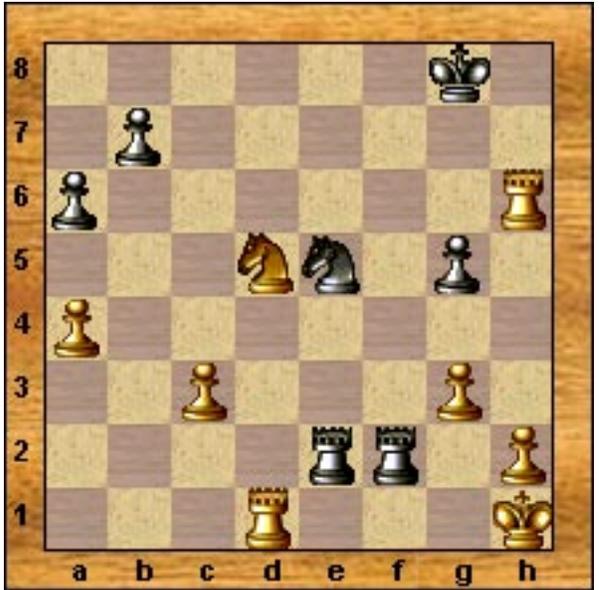
Kojima vs. Frey

White played 21.Nd1?, which should have cost him the game if Black had spotted 21...Bf3!! Instead, Black captured on g2 and lost. What's the right plan?



Mageshchandran vs. Rogers

White played 38.Ng5? here and the game was quickly drawn after 38...Qg4+ 39.Kg2. Instead, White could have played a more promising plan.



Van de Mortel vs. Tapia

White has just captured Black's pawn at h6. Black replied 43...Nf3? and lost after 44.Nf6+ Kg7 45.Ng4 Nd2 46.Nxf2. How could Black have avoided that mortal injury?

*Solutions on page 12!*

# Games from the HB Global Challenge

## Zviad Izoria vs. Leonid Sokolin

OLD INDIAN: TARTAKOWER A53

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.d5 Ne5  
6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qb3 Qc8 8.e4 Bd7 9.f4 e6 10.Be2 exd5  
11.fxe5 Nxe4 12.cxd5 Nxc3 13.Qxc3 c6 14.e6 fxe6  
15.Bh5+ Kd8 16.Bg5+ Kc7 17.Bf4+ Kb6 18.Qb3+ Ka6  
19.Be2+ b5 20.a4 Kb6 21.dxc6 Qxc6 22.Be3+ Bc5 23.Rc1  
[1:0]

## Alexander Belyavsky vs. Zviad Izoria

CATALAN E11

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7  
6.Bg2 O-O 7.O-O c6 8.Qc2 b6 9.Rd1 Ba6 10.b3 Nbd7  
11.Bf4 Rc8 12.Nc3 Qe8 13.e4 dxc4 14.h3 Bb4 15.Re1 h6  
16.bxc4 Bxc4 17.a3 Be7 18.Nd2 Ba6 19.Qa4 Bd3 20.Re3  
Bb5 21.Nxb5 cxb5 22.Qxa7 g5 23.Bc7 Ra8 24.Qb7  
Qc8 25.Qxc8 Raxc8 26.Be5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 Nd7 28.Nf3  
Rc5 29.Rb3 Nxe5 30.Nxe5 Rxe5 31.Rab1 Rd8 32.Rxb5  
Rxb5 33.Rxb5 Bc5 34.Rb3 Rd2 35.Rf3 Ra2 36.Bf1 Bxa3  
37.Bc4 Ra1+ 38.Kg2 Bc5 39.Rc3 Re1 40.Kf3 Kg7 41.Rc2  
h5 42.Rd2 Rc1 43.Be2 Kf6 44.Kg2 h4 45.gxh4 gxh4  
46.Rd7 Rc2 47.Kf1 Kg6 48.e5 Rb2 49.f4 Rb4 50.Bd3+  
f5 51.exf6+ Kxf6 52.f5 exf5 53.Rh7 Rf4+ 54.Ke2 Rf2+  
55.Ke1 Rf3 56.Bf1 Kg5 57.Rh5+ Kxh5 58.Be2 Kg5  
59.Bxf3 Kf4 60.Bc6 Kg3 61.Bd7 f4 [0:1]

## Hikaru Nakamura vs. Alexander Belyavsky

SEMI-SLAV D45

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2  
Bd6 7.g4 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nd5 9.Bd2 b5 10.Be2 Bb7 11.Ne4  
Be7 12.Nc5 Nxc5 13.dxc5 Qc7 14.a4 O-O 15.h4 a5  
16.Rc1 bxa4 17.Bd3 h6 18.Qxa4 Ba6 19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.b4  
Qa7 21.bxa5 Bd8 22.O-O Bxa5 23.Bxa5 Rxa5 24.Qxc6  
Ra6 25.Qb5 Rb8 26.Qe2 Ra2 27.Rc2 Nc3 28.Qd3 Rxc2  
29.Qxc2 Qxc5 30.Rc1 Rc8 31.Kg2 Qc4 32.Nd4 e5 33.Nf5  
Qxg4+ 34.Kh2 Kh8 35.Rg1 Qh5 36.Rxg7 e4 [0:1]

## Igor Glek vs. Hikaru Nakamura

SCANDINAVIAN B01

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 c6  
6.Bd2 Bf5 7.Ne4 Qc7 8.Nxf6+ gxf6 9.g3 e6 10.Bg2 Nd7  
11.O-O O-O-O 12.Re1 Bd6 13.c4 e5 14.Nh4 Bg6 15.c5  
Bf8 16.b4 exd4 17.Qb3 Kb8 18.Bf4 Ne5 19.b5 Bxc5  
20.bxc6 b6 21.Rac1 Bd6 22.Red1 d3 23.Nxg6 hxg6  
24.Rc3 Rhe8 25.a4 g5 26.Bxe5 fxe5 27.Rcxd3 e4 28.Rd5  
Qxc6 29.Rxg5 Bc7 30.Rgd5 Rxd5 31.Rxd5 Qe6 32.a5  
[0:1]

## Gata Kamsky vs. David Pruess

FRENCH: CLASSICAL C11

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3

Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.Bd3 b4 10.Nd1 Qb6 11.O-O  
Nxd4 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.Bf2 a5 14.Bh4 g6 15.Nf2 Bg7  
16.Ng4 Ba6 17.Rae1 Bxd3 18.cxd3 h5 19.Nf2 Rc8 20.Kh1  
Rc6 21.Qd1 O-O 22.g4 hxg4 23.Nxg4 Rfc8 24.Qf3 Rc2  
25.Qh3 Rxb2 26.Bf6 Rcc2 27.f5 exf5 28.Bxg7 Kxg7  
29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.e6 fxe6 31.Qxg6+ [1:0]

## David Pruess vs. Ronald Henry

VERESOV ATTACK DO1

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 c5 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.e4 e5 6.Nxd5  
cxd4 7.Qf3 f5 8.exf5 Nc6 9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Ne2  
Bd7 12.O-O a6 13.Bd3 Rc8 14.Rfe1 Qg5 15.Rad1 Rg8  
16.Ng3 Kd8 17.c3 Qg4 18.Be4 Bc5 19.Nf6 Qxf3 20.Bxf3  
Rxg3 21.hxg3 Bxf5 22.Bg4 Bxg4 23.Nxg4 Bd6 24.cxd4  
exd4 25.Nf6 Be5 26.Nxh7 f6 27.f4 [1:0]

## Stein Alan vs. Zarnicki Pablo

CZECH DEFENSE B07

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Qe2  
e6 7.g4 Bg6 8.Bg2 d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Ne5 Nc6 11.Nxg6  
hxg6 12.g5 Nh5 13.Nxd5 Nxd4 14.Qc4 Nxc2+ 15.Qxc2  
exd5 16.Qa4+ Qd7 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Bxd5 Bb4+ 19.Kf1  
Kc7 20.Rg1 Rad8 21.Bxf7 Bd2 22.Rg4 Rhf8 23.Bxg6 Nf4  
24.Be4 Nxh3 25.f3 Kb8 26.Rg2 Bf4 27.Bxf4+ Nxf4 28.Rh2  
Ne6 29.g6 Ng5 30.Re1 Rde8



31.Kf2? (34.Rhe2!) 31...Re5? (31...Nxe4+!) Agreed  
Drawn.

## Dmitry Gurevich vs. Tigran Ishkhamov

ANGLO-INDIAN A32

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bg2  
Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Qb6 8.e3 d5 9.cxd5 Nxd4 10.exd4 Nxd5  
11.Bxb4 Nxb4 12.O-O O-O 13.Nc3 Bd7 14.a3 Nc6 15.d5  
Ne7 16.dxe6 Bxe6 17.b4 Rfd8 18.Qf3 Rac8 19.Na4 Qb5

20.Qxb7 Qxa4 21.Qxe7 Rd3 22.Rfe1 Re8 23.Qc5 Rxa3  
24.Rad1 Rf8 25.Bc6 Qa6 26.b5 Qa5 27.Qe7 Ra2 28.Re3 a6  
29.bxa6 29...Qxa6 (29...Ra1) 30.Bb7 (30.Rd8!?) 30...Qb6  
31.Bd5 [½:½]

### **Robby Adamson vs. Enrico Sevillano**

SICILIAN SVESHNIKOV B33  
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5  
6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7  
11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.O-O O-O 14.c4 f5 15.Qf3  
bxc4 16.Nxc4 d5 17.exd5 e4 18.Qe3 Qf6 19.Bc2 Bb7 20.d6  
f4 21.Qh3 Qg5 22.Rad1 Rad8 23.d7 f3 24.g3 f5 25.Nd6  
Bc6 26.Bb3+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ Rxf7 28.Bxf7 e3 29.Rfe1 e2  
30.Rd6 Rxd7 31.Bg6 Qxg6 32.Rxd7 Bxd7 33.Qh4 Be6  
34.Qd8+ Bg8 35.Qd3 Qg4 36.a3 Bxb2 37.h3 Qe4 38.Qd2  
Qe5 [0:1]

### **Miles Ardaman vs. Grigory Serper**

BIRD-LARSEN AO1  
1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 c5 3.e3 a6 4.c4 d4 5.exd4 cxd4 6.f4 g6  
7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Na3 Nh6 9.Nc2 Nc6 10.Bd3 Qd6 11.g3 O-O  
12.Ba3 Qc7 13.Qe2 Re8 14.O-O e5 15.fxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5  
Rxe5 17.Qg2 Rh5 18.Rfe1 Bh3 19.Qf3 Be5 20.Re4 Bf5  
21.Rxe5 Bg4? (21...Qxe5!) 22.Rxh5! Bxf3 23.Rxh6 Qa5  
24.Bb4 Qg5 25.Rh4 a5 26.Nxd4 axb4 27.Nxf3 Qf6 28.Rf1  
Rxa2 29.c5 Qe7 30.Bc4 Qxc5+ 31.d4 Qc6 32.Rf4 b5  
33.Bxf7+ Kg7 34.Rf2 Qc1+ 35.Kg2 Rxf2+ 36.Kxf2 Qd1  
37.Kg2 Qe2+ 38.Kh3 Qf1+ 39.Kh4 Qe2 40.g4 h6 41.Kg3  
g5 42.Rf5 Qe7 43.h4 gxh4+ 44.Kh3 Qd6 45.Kxh4 Qe7+  
46.Kh5 Qd6 47.d5 Qc5 48.Be6 Qe3 49.Rf7+ Kh8 50.Kg6  
Qe4+ 51.Kxh6 Qf4+ 52.Ng5 Qf6+ 53.Kh5 [1:0]

### **Julio Becerra Rivero vs. Dean Ippolito**

RUSSIAN GAME C43  
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7  
6.Nxd7 Bxd7 7.O-O Qh4 8.c4 O-O-O 9.c5 g6 10.Nc3 Bg7  
11.Ne2 Rhe8 12.Be3 Ng5 13.Rc1 Bg4 14.c6 Kb8 15.Qa4  
Bf8 16.Bf4 b6 17.Nc3 a5 18.Bg3 Qh5 19.Nb5 Bf3 20.Nxc7  
Bd6 21.Nxe8 Qh3 22.c7+ Kb7 23.cxd8=N+ Kb8 [0:1]

### **Nick De Firmian vs. Valerij Filippov**

SICILIAN SVESHNIKOV B33  
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5  
6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.c3  
Bg7 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nc2 Be6 14.Nce3 Ne7 15.a4 Nxd5  
16.Nxd5 O-O 17.Be2 bxa4 18.Rxa4 a5 19.O-O Rb8 20.b4  
axb4 21.cxb4 e4 22.b5 Qe8 23.Ne3 d5 24.f4 Qd8 25.Nc2  
d4 26.Nxd4 Qb6 27.f5 Bc8 28.f6 Bxf6 29.Rxf6 Qxf6  
30.Nc6 Rb6 31.Rxe4 Bb7 32.Rg4+ Kh8 33.Qd4 Qxd4+  
34.Nxd4 Rg6 35.g3 Rxg4 36.Bxg4 Rd8 37.Nb3 Kg7 38.Kf2  
Kf6 39.Ke3 Ke7 40.Na5 Bd5 41.Nc6+ Bxc6 42.bxc6 Kd6  
43.Bd7 Ra8 44.h3 Ra4 45.Kf3 h6 46.Ke3 f6 47.h4 Rb4

48.h5 Rc4 49.g4 Kc7 50.Kd3 Rc5 51.Be8 Rd5+ 52.Ke3?  
Ra5 53.Bd7 Ra3+ 54.Kd2 Kd6 55.Ke2 Ke7 56.Kd2 Rg3  
57.Ke2 Rg2+ 58.Kd3 [0:1]

### **Igor Glek vs. Stephen Muhammad**

SCANDINAVIAN BO1  
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6  
6.g3 Bg4 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.O-O O-O-O 9.d5 Nb4 10.Bf4  
Qc5 11.Be3 Qd6 12.Qc1 Nbx5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Rd1  
Qf6 15.Bg5 Qf5 16.Nh4 Qe6 17.Qd2 Bxd1 18.Rxd1 h6  
19.Be3 g5 20.Qd4 Bg7 21.Qa7 c6 22.Bc5 gxh4 [0:1]

### **Renier Gonzalez vs. Joel Benjamin**

CARO-KANN: ADVANCE B12  
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 g6 4.c3 Bg7 5.f4 Nh6 6.Nf3 f6  
7.Be2 O-O 8.O-O a5 9.h3 Na6 10.g4 Nc7 11.Be3 Nf7  
12.a4 fxe5 13.fxe5 Bh6 14.Qd2 Bxe3+ 15.Qxe3 Ne6  
16.Nbd2 Qb6 17.b3 Bd7 18.c4 Rae8 19.Rf2 Nfd8 20.c5  
Qb4 21.Rd1 Rf4 22.Nf1 Re4 23.Qd2 Rf8 24.Ng3 Qxd2  
25.Rxd2 Ref4 26.Rf1 Nf7 27.Rdd1 Nfg5 28.Nxg5 Nxg5  
29.Kg2 Ne6 30.Rxf4 Rxf4 [0:1]

### **Artur Jussupow vs. Dmitry Gurevich**

QUEEN'S INDIAN E14  
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 b6 5.O-O Bb7  
6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 cxd4 8.exd4 d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Ne5  
O-O 11.Qh5 Nf6 12.Qh4 g6 13.Bg5 Nc6 14.Ba6 h6  
15.Bxh6 Nd5 16.Qh3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bxa6 18.Nxc6 Qd6  
19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Rfe1 Bc4 22.Qh6 [1:0]

### **Sean Nagle vs. Alexander Beliavsky**

SEMI-SLAV D45  
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2  
Bd6 7.g4 Bb4 8.Bd2 b6 9.Rg1 Bb7 10.cxd5 Bxc3 11.Bxc3  
Nxd5 12.Be2 Rc8 13.g5 c5 14.Rd1 O-O 15.Rg4 Qe7  
16.Rh4 g6 17.Qa4 Bc6 18.Qa3 f6 19.gxf6 Rxf6 20.dxc5  
Rxf3 21.Bxf3 Qxh4 22.Bxd5 exd5 23.Qxa7 Rf8 24.Rd2  
Qxh2 25.cxb6 Qg1+ 26.Ke2 Bb5+ [0:1]

### **Emory Tate vs William Hook**

FRENCH COO  
1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 b6 4.Nc3 Ne7 5.d4 Qd7  
6.Bb5 c6 7.Ba4 a5 8.Bb3 Ba6 9.a4 h6 10.h4 Nc8  
11.Ne2 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Na6 13.O-O Qb7 14.c3 Na7  
15.Bc2 c5 16.Be3 Nc6 17.Bd3 Nc7 18.Ne1 O-O-O  
19.f4 f6 20.h5 f5 21.g4 c4 22.Bc2 Ne7 23.Ng2 g6  
24.Nh4 gxh5 25.gxf5 Rg8+ 26.Kh2 Rg4 [1:0]

### **Solutions to Blunder Quiz from page 10.**

- 1 34.Bb6! Nxb6 35.Rc1! Nd7 36.Bb5!
- 2 21.exf6 Bf3 22.Nc5! Qxc5 23.Qxc5 dxc5  
24.fxc7+ Rxc7 25.Rexf3
- 3 38.Qa8+ and then grab the a-pawn. Black  
has no threats!
- 4 43...Kg7! 44.Rh5 and then 44...Nf3!

# Las Vegas International Chess Festival

by Michael Aigner

National Open at the Riviera hotel on the Las Vegas Strip is the largest annual adult chess tournament west of the Rocky Mountains with about 700 entries, and 2005 was no exception. The open section featured 10 Grandmasters and several more International Masters while the class sections featured adults and kids, sandbaggers and overrated players alike. Most people attended with two goals: to have a good time and perhaps to win part of the \$50,000+ prize fund.

IM Nick De Firmian, IM Ben Finegold, GM Dmitry Gurevich and GM Dashzeveg Sharavdorj all tied for first with 5.0 out of 6 in the Open section. Gurevich won the Edmondson Cup in a round-robin blitz playoff. Local masters were shut out of the prize money, but IM John Donaldson and FM Alan Stein could be frequently seen on the top boards.

Two South Bay juniors managed to achieve greater success. Rohan Agarwal scored 5.5 out of 6 in the under 1600 section, merely giving up a draw in the fifth round to another local player. Charles Sun also scored 5.5 out of 6, but that was sufficient only for a share of first place in the under 1400 section. Congratulations to both Rohan and Charles!

Local players were also successful in the side events. NM Albert Rich defeated the three Polgar sisters (Susan, Sofia and Judit) in a simultaneous exhibition. The sisters alternated moves and faced 81 opponents. This author scored well against titled players in the blitz and G/10 championships, picking up a win against the young southern Californian GM Varuzhan Akobian.



GM Judit Polgar  
Ranked #8 in world!



GM Susan Polgar



IM Sofia Polgar

## Polgar sisters vs. Albert Rich (2207)

Simultaneous exhibition

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 Bg4  
5. Nbd2 Nbd7 6. Bd3 e5 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8.  
O-O exd4 9. exd4 Be7 10. a3 Bh5 11. Qc2  
Nf4 12. Bc4 Nb6 13. Bb3 Ne2+ 14. Kh1  
Bg6 15. Qd1 Nxd4 16. Nxd4 Qxd4 17.  
f4 Nd5 18. Qf3 Bd3 19. Re1 f5 20. Bxd5  
Qxd5 21. Qe3 Qd6 22. b4 Kf7 23. Nf3 Be4  
24. Ne5+ Kg8 25. Bb2 Bf6 26. Rad1 Qe6  
27. Rd2 h6 28. Qg3 g5 29. Red1 Bd5 30.  
Re2 Rh7 31. Qf2 Be4 32. Red2 gxf4 33.  
Rd6 Qb3 34. Rxf6 Qxd1+ 35. Qg1 Qe2  
36. Rg6+ Rg7 37. Rxg7+ Kxg7 38. Bd4  
Rg8 39. Nd3+ Kf7 40. Nxf4 Qd2 41. Be3  
Rxc2 42. Bxd2 Rxd2+ 43. Ng2 Rxc2 44.  
Qxc2 Ke6 White resigned.



GM Varuzhan Akobian vs  
Michael Aigner.

## Varuzhan Akobian, (2646) vs. Michael Aigner (2298)

US Game/10 Championship

1. d4 f5 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bf4 Nf6 4.  
e3 g6 5. Bd3 Bg7 6. Nf3 c6 7. O-O  
O-O 8. h3 Ne4 9. Ne2 Nd7 10. c4  
e6 11. Qc2 h6 12. Ne5 Bxe5 13.  
Bxe5 Nxe5 14. dxe5 Nc5 15. Nd4  
Nxd3 16. Qxd3 g5 17. c5 Qe7 18.  
Qc2 f4 19. Rfe1 Bd7 20. Rad1 Qh7  
21. Rd3 Qg7 22. Rb3 Rab8 23. Ra3  
Qxe5 24. Rxa7 Qg7 25. Nf3 e5 26.  
exf4 e4 27. Ne5 gxf4 28. Nxd7 f3  
29. g4 Qxd7 30. Qc3 Qc7 31. Qb3  
Rf7 32. Re3 h5 33. a4 hxg4 34. a5  
gxh3 35. a6 Rg7+ 36. Kh1 Rg2  
White resigned.

# Letter to the Editor

Now that all my grades are turned in I can write a letter to the editor of the CCJ. Let's say this is an official letter that I would hope to see published in your new letters-to-the-editor section. First, a big thank you for covering the scholastic scene this Spring with the two major events and the fledgling SF Festival. I like the layout and the muted colors of the new CCJ. I still wish it were printed and mailed. I guess I remain old fashioned and prefer magazine in hand.

Second, I do have a few comments on the articles--

1) You added an editorial note following my commentary that "The legal settlement between the CalChess President, Elizabeth Shaughnessy and Richard Peterson, dictated that the CEA CalChess States become the sole tournament for the selection in 2005." You wrote: "The settlement was between CalChess and Peterson, not any specific individual." Yet, the CalChess website, under the direction of CalChess webmaster and President, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, reports: "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."

2) I appreciate Eric Hick's report on the tragic conflicts that have arisen in the scholastic community in Northern California in the past few years and I especially thank him for his kind remarks. I know he tried to be objective and factual in his report, but he relied on his recent return to our community and information apparently gleaned from secondary sources. Eric Hick's discussing the intensity of youth competition wrote it was ". . .because scholastic chess is nowhere else like it is in Northern California." I am not sure when the last time Eric has been to a National Chess competition or talked with organizers from throughout the country, but what has happened in Northern California in terms of increased involvement of young people in competitive organized tournament chess is typical. I recommend Tom Braunlich's well-researched article published in July 2004 Oklahoma State Chess Journal, "Scholastics and the Soul of Chess." I thank Mike Goodall for passing this article on to me last year and I would be happy to send a copy to any interested party. Let me be clear, I am not degrading anything Eric said about the changes in the youth chess scene since he was an active scholastic player way back when, but the changes are not a unique phenomena to Northern California.

There are a few corrections I do feel compelled to make on Eric Hick's personal insights on "Murky Politics of This Years Scholastic Championship." Eric wrote: "The title of Scholastic Director was created upon the request of Alan Kirshner for himself." Ray Orwig held this title before he passed it on to me and it existed in the bylaws of the Northern California Chess Association (before it was to assume the name CalChess) and far before I served in that position. I did make a mistake Ray never made--I kept my status as an official member of the CalChess Board and this probably precipitated the Board's belief that it should control scholastic chess. This culminated in a CalChess Board that had been almost solely concerned with adult chess being taken over by scholastic chess people.

Eric also wrote that I made it "a requirement that most of the kids in Success Chess attend the state championship." I do not know how many time I have written him in the past that this is not true. Success Chess is divided, as are many sport organizations, into a Club and Team. The competitive Team is required to attend the States, but this constitutes about 10% of our membership or about 250 players. Yes, about 500 SCS players have attended the major competitive event in the last couple of years, but this has been due to choice not compulsion. I can only speculate why a few owners of other chess companies continue to propagate this myth that Success Chess requires most of its students to attend the State Championships. Granted, I do hold that the "proof of the pudding is in the eating"--translation, the success of chess instruction is how well all students play while having fun and improving critical thinking, not just the most talented. Success Chess instructors do encourage all their students to scrimmage under tournament rules during the weekly lessons and to test their mettle periodically against others in true tournament conditions. I do expect that FM Bela Evans will continue this approach as the new Success Chess School President when I leave on August 1.

While once again I thank Eric for his kind words about the success I had between 1995 and 2000 in bringing the State championship from about 350 players to over 1000, I must take umbrage with his statement that this was in large part due to the requirement that most SCS members must attend the State Championships. There was no Success Chess School until 2000 the year I stopped organizing the States and that year SCS had only four schools, a far cry from the 70 programs we presently run. I know by his praise that he meant no harm in his commentary, but I needed to set the record straight.

Although there are a few other minor errors in Eric Hick's commentary, these do not distract from the general value of the article. I think "Murky Politics of This Years Scholastic Championship" was a worthwhile read.

Chess is Forever,  
Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D

## **Elizabeth Shaughnessy replies ...**

Dear Alan,

A reply to your letter is warranted because of a few misconceptions contained in it. One pertains to me, the second pertains to the history of CalChess.

I am glad of the opportunity to address these misconceptions to the same audience that you address them to. I have not had this opportunity in the past since you have your private mailing list. I will be as brief as possible.

First, I would like to make it very clear to you that the legal settlement was not between Elizabeth Shaughnessy and Richard Peterson but between CalChess and Richard Peterson, editorial inaccuracies notwithstanding. I expect most people know that but your disputing it might lead them to think otherwise. As President of CalChess I was of course a major player in the settlement and the recovery of the funds, but I was always representing CalChess and never myself personally.

Second, Eric Hicks had his facts correct regarding the scholastic director according to those who served on the CalChess board then. They remember that Ray Orwig was in fact the scholastic liaison to the board, one in a series of scholastic liaisons and that the position of Scholastic Director was created for you at your request. Your belief may differ from the memories of board members but that does not make it true. To me it is a small matter and I certainly do not want to quibble over what might seem a play of words.

although the title of Scholastic Director came with much greater control over scholastic events. Please do not get me wrong. I think you did a fine job as the first and essentially the last (Ray did not last the year in the position after you) scholastic director. I just do not want history distorted, not even by playing on words. I want, as you do, to set the record straight.

Opinions about adult chess versus scholastic chess are opinions and as such everybody is entitled to his or her own. As to whether you require your students to play in tournaments that is your own and your student's affair.

You can do whatever you and your students agree to.

Elizabeth Shaughnessy

## **We welcome your opinions!**

The California Chess Journal welcomes letters to the editor on any topic related to chess in Northern California. All submissions should be by email to [editor@calchess.org](mailto:editor@calchess.org). The editor reserves the right to reject letters or edit for clarity, brevity, good taste and accuracy, and to prevent libel. No profanity, attacks on private individuals, or letter-writing campaigns, please. Letters to the editor are accepted in email form only, and must contain an email address and phone number where the writer can be reached to confirm the legitimacy of the submission.

## **Next CalChess meeting: September 5, 2005**

CalChess will hold its next meeting during our Labor Day Championships on September 5, 2005, at the Golden Gate Holiday Inn in San Francisco. Details of the meeting will be posted at our website, [www.calchess.org](http://www.calchess.org). The agenda for the meeting will include election of board members. All CalChess members are eligible to vote at the meeting.

# Parents vs. Kids—Kid's Rule!

by Pratap Chillakanti

Cool Chess Center (<http://www.coolchesscenter.org>) organized unique, first of its kind, Parents vs. Children Chess match on June 19th. The attendance at the event was not large because it happens to be a Fathers day and also many of the people had to attend graduation parties. Numerous people called and inquired if the vent could be postponed by a week so that they can participate. To be fair to the people who registered, it was decided to go ahead with the current schedule as there will certainly be a Rematch! Richard Koepcke was the TD for the match and he did a great job in doing the Pairings right for this unique format of matches. Megan Torres was also there with her laptop helping with the event. A special thank to both of them. Eric Schiller was also present there and numerous people had engaging conversations with him and ended buying some of his great books on chess.

The parents were matched with children based on their relative strengths. Each pair of parent-child played two games. It suffices to say that Parents were no match to these children. Some parents commented that it was time for them to put some serious effort into relearning Chess all over again. They want a REMATCH!

There will be a rematch, sometime in October. This should give many parents an opportunity to actively participate in matches along with their children.

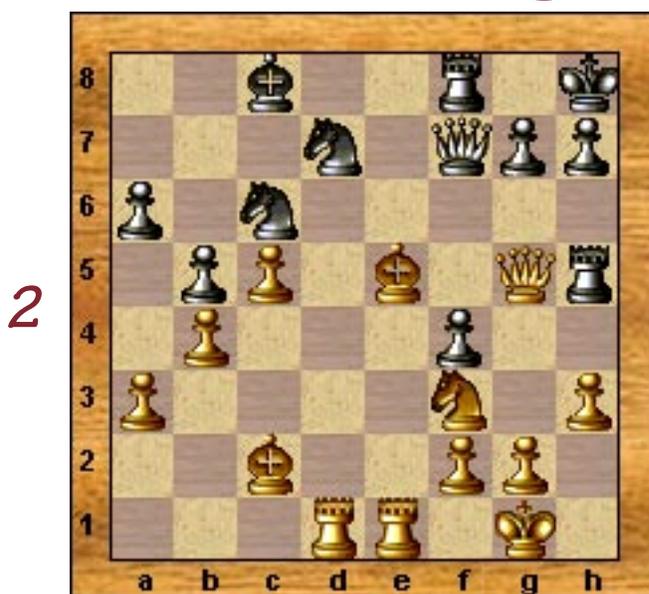
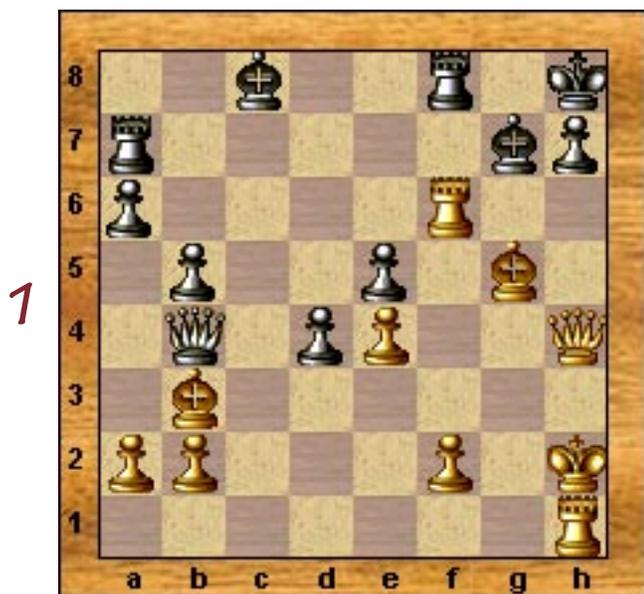
The event had the support of CalChess and numerous Tournament Directors who promoted the event to their respective communities.

All in all, an auspicious start to a series of a unique events.

## June 2005 Top USCF Players

1	Nakamura, Hikaru	NY	2756	26	Shulman, Yury	NY	2609
2	Kaidanov, Gregory	KY	2722	27	Christiansen, Larry M	MA	2608
3	Ehlvest, Jaan	NY	2698	28	Fishbein, Alexander	NJ	2592
4	Kamsky, Gata	NY	2696	29	Sevillano, Enrico M	NV	2590
5	Gulko, Boris	NJ	2693	30	Matikozyan, Andranik	CA	2585
6	Onischuk, Alexander	MD	2685	31	Gurevich, Dmitry	IL	2582
7	Ibragimov, Ildar	CT	2683	32	Fedorowicz, John P	NY	2580
8	Yudasin, Leonid G	NY	2664	33	Khachiyan, Melikset	CA	2577
	Becerra, Julio J	FL	2664	34	Perelshteyn, Eugene	MA	2576
10	Miton, Kamil	NY	2660	35	Sokolin, Leonid M	NJ	2575
11	Goldin, Alexander	KY	2657	36	Ramirez, Alejandro	FL	2565
12	Novikov, Igor	NY	2656		Kosteniuk, Alexandra	FL	2565
<b>13</b>	<b>Yermolinsky, Alex</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>2651</b>	38	Frias, Victor J	NY	2562
14	Shabalov, Alexander	PA	2649	39	Polgar, Zsuzsa	NY	2554
15	Akopian, Varuzhan	CA	2646	40	Lapshun, Yury	NY	2550
16	Kudrin, Sergey, Gm	CT	2644	41	Ivanov, Igor V	UT	2549
17	Ivanov, Alexander	MA	2638	42	Sher, Miron	NY	2542
18	Wojtkiewicz, Aleks	MD	2630	43	Kreiman, Boris	CA	2539
	Stripunsky, Alexander	NY	2630	44	Zaitchik, Gennady	PA	2537
20	Benjamin, Joel	NY	2628	45	Altounian, Levon	AZ	2534
21	De Firmian, Nick E		2619	46	Palatnik, Semion	TN	2530
	Wolff, Patrick G	VA	2619	47	Smetankin, Stanislav	IL	2526
	Kiriakov, Petr		2619	48	Milman, Lev	NY	2517
24	Finegold, Benjamin P	MI	2613	<b>49</b>	<b>Mezentsev, Vladimir A</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>2516</b>
25	Serper, Gregory	WA	2611	50	Sagalchik, Gennady	NY	2513
					Gonzalez, Renier	FL	2513
				52	Rohde, Michael A	NY	2512
				<b>53</b>	<b>Browne, Walter S</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>2511</b>

# Grandmaster Leonid Shamkovich's Legacy



White to move in each game. Find the best continuation. Solutions on the next page.

International Master John Donaldson writes:

Grandmaster Leonid Shamkovich passed away recently. Shamkovich, who was born June 1st, 1923, in Rostov-on-Don, was a two-time champion of the Russian Federation (in 1954 and 1956). He took part in several USSR championships (best result – equal 5th in 1964/1965) and became a Grandmaster in 1965. In 1974 Shamkovich immigrated to Israel and in 1976 moved to the United States. Along with Anatoly Lein, Shamkovich launched the wave of immigration from the Soviet Union that transformed American chess. He took part in several U.S. championships and was twice U.S. Open Champion (1976 and 1977). Shamkovich qualified for the 1979 Interzonal in Brazil and played on the 1980 U.S. Olympiad team in Malta. Besides his many successes as a player GM Shamkovich was a well-respected writer who wrote several books on the opening and middlegame including the Modern Chess Sacrifice.

1. 37. Qxh7+!! Kxh7 38.Kg3 discovered check 38...Rh6 39.Rhxh6+ Black resigned, Shamkovich vs. O'Kelly, Palma de Mallorca 1966.
2. 30.Bxg7+ Kg8 31.Bb2+!! Rxc5 32.Nxg5 Qh5 33.Bb3+ Black resigned, Shamkovich vs. Antoshin, Chigorin Memorial, Sochi 1967.
3. 27.Rxd4!! Rxe4 28. Rdx4 Qg7 29.Re7 Qd4 30.Rb1 Kg8 31.Bb2! Rb8 32.Bxd4 Rxb1 33.Bg7 and Black resigned in anticipation of Nf6 mate! Shamkovich vs. Martz, Lone Pine Masters 1975.
4. 17.Rxc5 Rxc5 18.Qd4 Qc8 19.e4 Nf6 20.Bb4 b6 21.Rg5 Ke7 22.Rxc5 bxc5 23.Bxc5+ Ke8 24.Qd6 Black resigned, Shamkovich vs. Aleksandrescu, Timisoara 1972.



Shamkovich vs. Kholmov  
Caro-Kann Defense [B17]  
29th Soviet Championship, Baku 1961

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bd3 h6 9.N5f3 c5 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Ne5 Bd6 12.Ngf3 0-0 13.g4 c4 14.Nxc4 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Nxg4 16.Rg1 e5 17.0-0-0 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Kh8 19.Rxg7 Kxg7 20.Rg1+ Kf6 21.dxe5+ Bxe5 22.Qxh6+ Ke7 23.Re1 Be6 24.Nxe5 Rfe8 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qf6 Rec8 27.Ng6+ Ke8 28.Bb5+ 1-0

Shamkovich vs. Kolarov  
Panov Attack [D42]  
Varna, 1970

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Bc2 Ncb4 11.Bb1 Nf6 12.Bg5 Bd7 13.a3 Nbd5 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Ne5 Bc6 17.Ba2 Nh5 18.Qf3 Ndf6 19.d5 Bxd5 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Rad1 Bf8 22.Nxf7 Qb6 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Ng5 Qxb2 25.Bxd5+ Nxd5 26.Qxd5+ Kh8 27.Rb1 Qc3 28.Rxb7 Nf6 29.Qd6 a5 30.Qe7 Rg8 31.Qxh7+ 1-0



Shamkovich vs. Lebrede  
English Opening  
Mexico City, 1978

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bb5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bd6 8.d4 Bd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be2 Re8 11.c4 exd4 12.exd4 Bg4 13.Be3 Qf6 14.Qd2 Re4 15.h3 Bh5 16.Rab1 Rae8 17.Rxb7 Bf4 18.Rb3 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Rxd4 20.Qc2 Rd6 21.Bxc6 Rxc6  
(See Diagram)  
22.Qe4! Be5 23.f4 1-0



# **Machinations at the Mechanics**

from reports by International Master John Donaldson

## **The 2005 Stamer Memorial**

**June 4-5, 2005**

Prize Winners:

1st Overall: Mezentsev - \$400

2nd Overall: De Guzman - \$250

3rd Overall and Top Under 2200: Mar, Odondoo, Wang, Ossipov and Tserendorj - \$70 each.

Top Under 2000: P. Perepelitsky and Oza - \$75 each.

Top Under 1800: Young - \$125

Top Under 1600 and Top Under 1400: Gurtovoy, Parker, M. Chillakanti and P. Chillakanti - \$56.25 each

Top Under 1200: Falk - \$60

## **The 5th Charles Powell Memorial**

**May 14, 2005**

Game/45, Rated 1/2 K

Prize Winners:

1st Overall: De Guzman - \$200.

2nd Overall: Ossipov - \$100

Top Under 2200 and Top Under 2000: Schwartz, Vayntrub, E.Perepelitsky and Shankland - \$41.25 each.

Top Under 1800: Liang - \$70

Top Under 1600 : Tsai, Lupton and Chinchwadkar - \$21.66 each.

## **The 5th Imre Konig Memorial**

G/45 Rated 1/2 K, April 16, 2005

Prize Winners:

1st Overall: Yermolinsky - \$400

2nd Overall: a three-way tie between Atalik, Beulen and De Guzman - \$66.66

Best Under 2200: Bukh - \$90

Best Under 2000 and Best Under 1800: a three-way tie between Da Cruz, Soo Hoo and Chan - \$48.33 each.

Best Under 1600: a three-way tie between Parker, Tamondong and Brown - \$21.66 each.

## **Coming up!**

Charles Bagby Memorial - July 16

Vladimir Pafnutieff - August 6

Bernardo Smith Amateur Under 1800 - August 20-21

The following game, in which San Francisco Chronicle readers were invited to suggest moves for White for the first 30 moves, pitted Chronicle columnist George Koltanowski against Paul Keres. It looks to have been played in 1964, the same year that Keres annotated his victory over Robert Byrne (Buenos Aires 1964) as a guest columnist for the Chronicle.

Koltanowski, vs. Keres, Neo-Gruenfeld Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nb4 7.d5 c6 8.Ne2 cxd5 9.a3 Qa5 10.0-0 d4 11.Nxd4 N4c6 12.Nxc6 Nxc6 13.Bd2 Qd8 14.Nc3 0-0 15.Be3 Be6 16.f4 Bc4 17.Rf2 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qa5 19.e5 Rfd8 20.Qe1 Bd5 21.Bf1 Qa4 22.Rb2 b6 23.Bf2 Bb3 24.Bg2 Rac8 25.Bxc6 Rxc6 26.Bd4 Bd5 27.Qd1 Qa6 28.Rd2 Qc8 29.Qf1 Rc4 30.h3 h5 31.f5 Qxf5 32.Qxf5 gxf5 33.Kf2 Bb7 34.Rb2 e6 35.Rb4 Rdx4 36.cxd4 Rc2+ 37.Ke3 Rc3+ 38.Kf4 Kg7 39.Kg5 Rxc3+ 40.Kxh5 Rxh3+ 41.Kg5 Rg3+ 0-1

# United States Chess League

by International Master John Donaldson

Remember the National Telephone League? Founded by Bill Goichberg in the mid 1970s it ran for several years before fizzling out in the early 1980s. Now IM Gregory Shahade, founder of the successful New York Masters series which ran for over four years, is bringing the League back via the Internet. Go to <http://www.uschessleague.com> and you will discover that all the groundwork is in place for the start later this year. Eight teams (New York, San Francisco, Miami, Boston, Dallas, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Boston) have signed up with GMs Larry Christiansen, Alexander Stripunsky and Julio Becerra among the top rated players competing.

## Eastern Division:

1. Baltimore Kingfishers
2. Boston Blitz
3. New York Knights
4. Philadelphia Masterminds

## Western Division:

1. Carolina Cobras
2. Dallas Destiny
3. Miami Sharks
4. San Francisco Mechanics

## A Chess Poem

by NM Dennis Fritzing

famous once

people i didn't know  
would come up to me and say "hello"  
because i was famous once.

when i played i had nerves of steel,  
icewater in my veins for real--  
that's why i was famous once.

i blue-skyed many a game,  
which brought me points and fame--  
like i said, i was famous once.

in the depths of the tournament hall  
i would play and beat them all--  
that's why i was famous once.

but age brought a sudden chill--  
after that, it was all downhill--  
now it's just "i was famous--once

## USCL Schedule

WEEK 1 - August 31st 2005

Carolina Cobras vs San Francisco Mechanics

WEEK 2 - September 7th 2005

San Francisco Mechanics vs Dallas Destiny

WEEK 3 - September 14th 2005

New York Knights vs San Francisco Mechanics

WEEK 4 - September 21st 2005

San Francisco Mechanics vs Miami Sharks

WEEK 5 - September 28th 2005

Boston Blitz vs San Francisco Mechanics

WEEK 6 - October 5th 2005

San Francisco Mechanics vs Baltimore Kingfishers

WEEK 7 - October 12th 2005

San Francisco Mechanics vs Carolina Cobras

WEEK 8 - October 19th 2005

San Francisco Mechanics vs Philadelphia Masterminds

WEEK 9 - October 26th 2005

Dallas Destiny vs San Francisco Mechanics

WEEK 10 - November 2nd 2005

Miami Sharks vs San Francisco Mechanics

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS - November 9th 2005

League Championship Round 1 - November 16th

League Championship Round 2 - November 17th

Visit the Mechanic's Institute Website at [www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org) to subscribe to their excellent newsletter, download games from MI events, check out information on past and future events!

# Kasparov is still retired

by Eric Schiller

(Continued from the previous issue)

The circumstances of Kasparov's forfeiture in 1983, and the annulment of the match in February 1985, created a rift between Kasparov and the world chess federation that still has not entirely healed two decades later. Kasparov was more than merely antagonistic toward the officials who had provided such obstacles to his championship challenge. He became very active in chess politics, supporting opposition candidates trying to unseat Campomanes. Needing to prepare for his title defense against Karpov in 1986, Kasparov didn't have much time to play chess.

The 1986 World Championship match was held in two parts. The Park Lane Hotel in London was host for the first half of the 24 day match, which then moved to Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in Russia. The organizer of the London half was Kasparov's friend and Ray Keene, while Karpov would be unfriendly turf in the second half of the match, having very close ties to Leningrad.

As in the previous contest, there was a great deal of politics. This time many real politicians were involved as the funding of the event by the British government as well as the London newspaper *The Times*, whipped the local press into a frenzy. Rivals of the sponsoring newspaper wanted to print as much negative material as possible about the match. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had initially ruled that money designated for the match could not be used. The money had been granted by the Greater London Council, and administrative unit that Thatcher was in the process of dismantling. The GLC went out with a bang, including a hefty donation to the world chess championship.

To her credit, Thatcher was persuaded by eminent chess authorities and others that chess performs a socially useful function. It was pointed out to her that many of the hard-working members of the chess community were helping to keep people who were on public assistance, known there as "the dole", from engaging in antisocial behavior. Chess took up a lot of their time and kept them out of trouble. She decided in the end that the amount of money involved, though considerable, was being put to good use. Or, at least, that's one perspective on events!

There were many adventures off the board, and to appreciate the full flavor of the match I suggest you consult the newspaper coverage of the time, which was very partisan in that truly British manner of press. For Kasparov, however, it was all about the chess and defeating his arch enemy yet again.

Kasparov's delegation, headed up as usual by his mother, did an excellent job of both technical and psychological preparation. This was extremely important, because Kasparov was to be surprised in the very first game when Karpov advanced his queen pawn, instead of his usual king's pawn opening. Karpov had decided to adopt this strategy throughout the match, but there was no way for Kasparov to know that.

Kasparov managed to hold the game, using his new weapon, the Gruenfeld defense. The second game was a wild affair but it too ended in a draw. After another draw, Kasparov drew first blood in game four, the Karpov roared back in game five. It was clear already that this was going to be a close match. Game eight saw the momentum shift Kasparov's way. But Kasparov could make no further progress in the London half of the match. He led 6.5-5.5 after 12 games, giving him a clear advantage going to the Leningrad half of the match.

Kasparov was back in Russia, but it was not home turf. This was Karpov territory. The Kasparov's team encountered many obstacles while setting up to play the second half of the match. Karpov was right at home, and attacked the second half of the match with vigor. After a draw in game 13, Karpov played what he considers one of the best games of his career in a positional masterpiece in the ancient Spanish game. However, he let the game slip away and Kasparov's lead grew. Kasparov held the next game as Black, and was ready to do battle as White in game 16, looking forward to another battle in the Spanish game. The two players did not disappoint, and although the very complicated game was not played perfectly, both players displayed tremendous skill. Kasparov, whose notes to this game run a full 20 pages, prevailed in one of the great chess battles of all time.

Exhilarated but exhausted by this contest, Kasparov took a timeout. He later regretted this. It did not create a good psychological foundation for the 17th game which he lost. Things went from bad to worse in the next game as Kasparov got into trouble and then failed to find some of the exits that were presented to him thanks to less than accurate play by Karpov.

Kasparov and his team decided to switch openings at this point to something less confrontational, in hopes that this might perhaps calm down. The 20th game was a quiet draw. Kasparov was the titleholder, and had no objection to finishing the 24 game match with an even score because he would retain his title in that case. Another draw followed, but in the 22nd game Karpov made a fatal error (Game #17). Kasparov wrapped up his title defense by drawing the 23rd game and winning the final one. Yet again, 13 points!

After the title defense Kasparov had his hands full with his support of the ill-fated campaign to unseat Campomanes. At the chess Olympiad in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Kasparov played excellent chess and scored seven and a half out of 11 points but he was preoccupied with the chess politics. The future of the World Chess Federation was being decided, and Kasparov wanted it to travel down a path he supported. The insurgents, headed by Brazilian Lincoln Lucena and Ray Keene, were crushed in the election, so Kasparov attempted to gather up the world's top chess players in a new organization called the Grandmaster Association. This also took a great deal of his time although he was able to finally returned to the chess board and play, while the same time preparing for yet another contest with Karpov.

The 1987 match against Karpov was held in truly neutral territory, the Spanish city of Seville. Everyone expected in other close contest, and it came down to the very last game. With his back up against the wall, Kasparov needed a win in the final game to keep his title. He displayed nerves of steel, and his cold calculating play led to victory..

With the match out of the way, Kasparov finally had the luxury of enjoying his World Champion title. He toured the world, playing in many top tournaments, giving exhibitions, and promoting chess. However, his political battles continued and it was only his enormous reserve of energy which enables him to continue to play at the highest level. He dominated the World Cup tournaments organized by his Grandmaster association. The fights with FIDE continued.

At the Olympiad in the Salonika (Thessaloniki), Greece, Kasparov was demolishing his opponents after board as usual. But when he wasn't playing, he was organizing meetings of friends and allies to continue his fight for reform. The first words I heard from him when we met up were: "Are you ready to fight?" In fact, I was at the event as the representative of the American chess players union, ProChess, and was indeed ready, willing and able. But I had no idea how obsessive Kasparov would be about these things. I was almost literally dragged out of a number of very pleasant social occasions for meetings which always included impassioned speech by Kasparov on the ways and means of reform.

I recall one such meeting in particular. As we were discussing proposals for the Grandmaster Association with a few top players from Russia, Europe and America, Kasparov's trainer entered the room with a pile of papers containing analysis for Kasparov's preparation for his upcoming game with the Bulgarian Grandmaster Kiril Georgiev. Kasparov, who was still angry that Georgiev had defeated him in a tournament in Canada earlier in the year, simply threw the papers on the floor muttering that he didn't need this to beat that ... (I conveniently forget the exact words he used here)! The next day he sat down and eventually won their game. It never occurred to him that any other outcome was even remotely possible. Garry Kasparov does not forget a loss! Or forgive it!

Kasparov always enjoys center stage, and managed to generate a little bit of controversy about the awarding of the brilliancy prize, considering his own efforts to be far superior to that any others in the huge international event. However, he was upstaged when one of the Soviet female stars eloped with the captain of the American team! This happened just before the end of the event and nearly caused an international incident. There's a great deal of controversy about what actually went down at the Olympiad, and the roles of everyone from the American delegation, to the consulate, to the KGB, and although I was present and observing all this, I still can't sort it all out. As usual, Kasparov didn't let any of the distractions affect his play.

The following year, 1989, was marked not so much by human play, since Kasparov simply dominated the

chess world throughout the year, but by his first major match against a computer. In New York City he faced off against a program named Deep Thought. This was a very advanced machine at the time, with a whopping six processors, capable of looking at two million positions every second. Back then, these were impressive numbers. Kasparov won both games without difficulty.

With chess world temporarily enjoying the stability of a three-year World Championship cycle, in 1990 Kasparov had to sit down and face his nemesis Karpov in yet another match. This time it was split between New York City and Lyon, France. The atmosphere of New York half of the 1990 World Championship was unlike anything to chess world had previously experienced. The match was held in a theater next to a newly built hotel in midtown Manhattan.

The hotel had generously provided a huge space for the press and VIP guests. As the press chief, I flew to New York before the match while the building was still been built. I had to put on a hard hat to lay out the most spectacular chess press facilities ever seen. A full floor of the building was devoted to the press center and hospitality suite.

Computer facilities were everywhere as modems were starting to replace fax machines. The press staff included young American master Billy Colias, and Adam Black, who had worked with me in London. Adam was more than an assistant, as he had to take over several days a week, as I fulfilled teaching obligations at Wayne State University in Detroit. The staff was treated to first class working conditions, and the press room was made all the more attractive by the presence of the ladies from the Edelman media-relations company.

There was a constant flow of not only journalists, but also many celebrities and important political figures. From Steve Martin to Norman Mailer, it wasn't hard to spot celebrities in the sellout crowd every day. Both the theater and all of the large lecture halls were completely full, despite the \$100 top ticket price. American chess that never seen anything like it.

Kasparov was well prepared for this match, and can credit his eventual victory to his hard work in the months leading up to the event. You can see this preparation paying off in the second game. The rest of the match was balanced but Kasparov rode his one-game advantage to match victory in yet another close contest. This was to be his final championship match against Anatoly Karpov.

For the next couple of years Kasparov continued his total domination of international chess, winning prestigious super-tournaments in Tilburg, Dortmund, and Linares, as well as minor events. This in no way diminished his appetite for reform of international chess, and as relations with the world chess federation deteriorated further, he embarked upon a bold plan to remove control of the World Champion title from FIDE.

### **The Schism (1993-2000)**

In 1993, a series of international events and scandals led to a schism in the chess world. As FIDE tried desperately to find a bidder for its World Championship match, anger was growing. The official regulations for the bids were being violated the left and right, and the whole process was turning into a farce. Kasparov reacted by forming yet another organization, the Professional Chess Association, this new, but short-lived organization enlisted Ray Keene to approach the London Times about sponsoring yet another world chess championship.

Kasparov defended his position by pointing out that the actions of the World Chess Federation were amoral, unprofessional, did not fulfill the interest of chess, and misused funds. He pointed out that that organization did not in fact invent or control the world chess championship for most of chess history. It took over in 1948, organizing the three-year cycle more or less to the tastes of the Soviet authorities. He argued that the only way to become the world chess champion is to beat the defending titleholder. The road to the World Championship must therefore pass through Garry Kasparov if it is to be legitimate.

In late February, an announcement was made that Kasparov would defend his title against Nigel Short, the British star who had defeated Anatoly Karpov in a match within the FIDE cycle. The players agreed to conduct this match outside the jurisdiction of the world chess federation, under the auspices of the new Professional Chess Association which both players were supporting. The Times of London sponsored the event, generating even more of the factional newspaper warfare than in 1986.

The organizers managed to secure a magnificent playing site for the match, the famous Savoy theater in London's Strand. This theater was right next door to another famous landmark, Simpson's-in-the-Strand, which had seen important chess players doing battle since the days of Morphy. Citizens became the headquarters for the press center, where I was presiding as usual.

Since London is an attractive and exciting city, there was no shortage of spectators and international chess celebrities at the event. No one really considered Nigel Short to at any chance of wrestling the title away from Kasparov, but everyone still wanted to see the spectacle.

The press center had a definitely American slant, as I brought a number of American commentators and technical workers with me, including Grandmaster Joel Benjamin who would eventually be part of the IBM team that prepared Deep Blue for the 1997 match. The friendly and a generally upbeat atmosphere of the press center was dimmed only once, when our typesetting wizard, ML Rantala broke the sad news that the young American master and fellow Chicagoan Billy Colias, an important part of the match staff are 1990, had tragically died in New York of an accidental overdose.

The gloom did not last long however, as the inevitable slew of bizarre incidents kept everyone off balance. The newspapers loved scandal, and did their best to dig up dirt on just about anyone connected to chess. Fortunately, a lot of material that might have been grist for their mill remained undisclosed, as it took place in the press center after closing hours.

One of the most unusual things I've ever seen at a world chess championship was the sight of the challenger coming into the closed press center just to hang out with some of his friends. Since the match was going very poorly for Nigel, everyone tried to cheer him up a bit. Most of the press room staff were chess masters, and to our surprise Nigel actually sat down and played some blitz games against us! I only played one-game, in which he took me apart quite methodically, but the real fun event was an informal match against one of London's most notorious swindlers (in the chess sense), an international master who challenged Nigel to a match in which the loser of each game would have to remove an article of clothing. At the end of a number of games, Nigel was still wearing always close including a scarf, while his opponent was down to his underwear when the match concluded. The games have not been preserved for posterity.

There was, of course, a great effort by the Professional Chess Association to establish itself as a bona fide organization. In this respect, the fact that Kasparov had to concentrate on the match and could not spend time promoting the cause proved quite damaging. The official head of the PCA, a New York lawyer named Bob Rice, turned out to be a complete disaster both in terms of media relations and organization.

Immediately after the event concluded he stood up before one of the greatest collections of chess workers and organizers ever assembled to proclaim that this new organization would be inclusive and would make use of the enormous amount of talent in the room. No one was fooled however, and immediately after exiting the room many of these talented and highly qualified people immediately dismissed the organization as one that was doomed to failure within a few years. Unfortunately for Kasparov, these predictions turned out to be entirely accurate.

Kasparov stubbornly refused to admit that he put the wrong people in charge of the organization, and though it did manage to organize a few tournaments and two world chess championship matches, it was never taken seriously by the chess world. Nevertheless, during its short life the PCA did help promote a series of super tournaments, including one in the ancient Russian city of Novgorod.

Kasparov won this event with an undefeated score. In Novgorod he even managed to defeat the latest threat to his title, his protégé Vladimir Kramnik. Kasparov had championed the career of the young man, getting him named to the Olympiad team for 1992.

The 1995 PCA title match was held in the World Trade Center in New York City. Long before the tragedy of September 11, the landmark buildings earned a special place in chess history as the attention of the world turned to the contest between Kasparov and his brilliant Indian rival, Viswanathan Anand. One game, in particular, entered the books as one of the most influential games for opening theory ever seen in a World Championship contest. Kasparov breezed to match victory winning 4 games losing 1 and drawing 13.

After that, things quickly went downhill for the Professional Chess Association. Kasparov spent the next

few years trying to get a number World Championship match set up, and restore some order to the World Championship cycle. He did not manage to succeed in these efforts, which did get as far as a candidate's stage in which Alexey Shirov earned the right to challenge Kasparov for the title. However, there was not enough interest in this match to generate the sponsorship needed to pull off a title match, so it never took place.

Kasparov continued his career as a tournament player, winning almost every event he played in. His domination of the chess world both on the rating lists and enjoyment results was absolute. At times, he had much more to prove against human opposition. So he decided to set his sights on defeating the most powerful computers in the world.

In 1996 he faced off against IBM's famous Deep Blue computer. He defeated the machine easily by score of four games to two. This match, held in Philadelphia, has almost been forgotten. Most people around the world are aware that Kasparov lost a match to the program in 1997, but don't recall that he won the earlier match.

The 1997 rematch was a milestone for chess and computing. Kasparov sat down in May, this time in New York City, facing a machine capable of calculating 200 million positions every second. That's 100 times the computing speed of the Deep thought machine he faced in 1989! The computer had been specially programmed for opening play by a really a team headed up by U.S. champion Grandmaster Joel Benjamin. Indeed, it was the human's choice of openings and excellent preparation that was as responsible for Kasparov's defeat as anything the machine actually calculated on its own.

That didn't matter to the press or public however. They simply saw Kasparov defeated by a machine in a million dollar match. There has been a great deal of controversy about how the machine arrived at its moves and whether any improper activities took place. There are entire books devoted to this match with many details, and all I have to say is that if anything improper did take place, Grandmaster Benjamin had nothing to do with it. I've known Joel since he was a kid, and he has always been respected as one of the most honest American players, deservedly so.

Since IBM never released the full transcript of the machine's thinking, I side with those who still have suspicions about the conduct of that match, but this is just an impression and the destruction of evidence by IBM means that will never know the answer. Suffice it to say that if this was indeed a scientific experiment, it should have been replicated. That's the essence of science.

Kasparov did not just play chess, worry about international chess organizations, and represent mankind against the silicon beast. He also worked tirelessly to promote chess. Of the official World Champions, perhaps only Wilhelm Steinitz was as committed to the promotion of the game. Kasparov traveled throughout the world giving exhibitions lectures interviews and trying to convince the business world that chess is a game worthy of their sponsorship.

Often his journeys took into schools, and not just elite private institutions. He traveled to inner cities and remote regions, where ever chess was growing. Although Kasparov can be quite stubborn on many issues he always showed great flexibility in dealing with kids.

For example, in one simultaneous exhibition in Harlem, New York, he traveled by limo through some of the most dangerous neighborhoods, to spend the afternoon playing against children at a local school. On the way, whenever we were stopped in traffic, people would come up to gawk at the fancy car, even stroking it or petting it!

Kasparov had agreed to play 30 games simultaneously, but when we arrived, almost 60 kids were lined up ready to play. Kasparov didn't want to disappoint any kids, but realize that would take too much time to complete that many games in one session.

He conferred with me and with American champion Maxim Dlugy, and we came up with the idea that Kasparov would play all of the children, but once he achieved a completely winning position, he would put down a marker, and then either Max or I would finish off the game. The kids were delighted that they were all able to get a chance to play.

At the end of the exhibition Kasparov revealed his gentler side. In one of the last games he had an equal endgame that could be won by pressuring the young man to move quickly. This is the privilege the master

has at a simultaneous exhibition, since the rules stipulate that the challengers must move as soon as the master reaches the board. At this point Kasparov asked someone who knew the player if the opponent was “a good kid”. After getting an affirmative answer, Kasparov generously offered a draw which was quickly accepted

Across the United States in Arizona, Kasparov also devoted time and energy to scholastic chess. He attended a statewide event known as the Governor’s Cup, gave a simultaneous exhibition and a short lectures. He also had a brief meeting with the state governor at which he lobbied for more chess and schools and supportive chess in general. As usual, and hundreds of kids were thrilled to see the greatest chess player of all time visit their small city of Peoria, Arizona.

At this event, Garry also had an opportunity to display his extraordinarily detailed knowledge of chess history. At a dinner with the organizer of the Arizona, Judge George Anagnost, someone brought up the claim made by the late Grandmaster and raconteur Miguel Najdorf, that he had played chess against ten of the World Champions. In a discussion that went on for nearly an hour, Kasparov provided a champion by champion analysis of this claim. In the end, we were all convinced that Najdorf might have played against eight or nine of the champions, but not all 10. Kasparov himself had thrashed Najdorf at their game in Bugojno in 1982.

Faced with the problems surrounding the World Championship, Kasparov wasn’t particularly active in 1998 but in 1999 he racked up his usual string of first-place victories in major international tournaments. These included victories in the famous tournament series in Wijk aan Zee, Holland (Game #23) at the last tournament to be sponsored by the firm Hogeveens before its transformation into the Corus Tournament the following year. He won again in Linares, and also secured first-place in a super strong tournament in Sarajevo. The Sarajevo was one of many advanced Kasparov competed in that were designed to bring international attention to a serious humanitarian cause.

He also reached out to the public at large, by taking on the entire world in an online game where anyone could vote for the moves to be played against the World Champion. The MSN game was watched by millions of people throughout the world. It was hoped that this superb event would bring Microsoft into the picture as a sponsor of future chess events, but this never panned out.

As the 20th century drew to a close, Kasparov had ruled the chess world for 15 years or so. Emanuel Lasker held the title of World Champion for an incredible 27 years, from 1894 to 1921. Kasparov’s 15 years, however, were filled with contests at the highest possible level, as professional chess had grown into a major sport. The financial rewards of chess tournaments attracted a lot of hard-working talent, and there were many legitimate contenders to be dealt with.

### **The Once and Future Champion (2000-2004)**

in the year 2000, Kasparov managed after five years to get any other World Championship match organized. Again, it was Ray Keene who came to the rescue together with many leading figures in British chess and politics. His opponents would be none other than his protégé Vladimir Kramnik! Although many people felt that Alexey Shirov would be the appropriate opponents since he had defeated Kramnik in the short-lived attempt to get a championship organized in the late 1990s, the organizers felt that Kramnik’s credentials were superior at the time the match was being organized.

Kramnik had played against Kasparov 23 times, and their score was dead even. By contrast, Kasparov had a record of blowing Shirov off the board in almost every encounter. The chess world was still in chaos, with the World Chess Federation having shifted to any lottery-type knockout tournament. In stark contrast to the tradition of chess, a single slip in a single game was usually enough to eliminate even the most formidable chess player. Short matches were decided by games played at increasingly rapid time rates. The fate of the World Championship often rested on a blitz game. Very few people in the chess world or outside world credited the winner of this event with the honor of being included in the list of undisputed recognized World Champions that has existed since 1886.

As usual, the match in 2000 had its fair share of controversy. It wasn’t played in a grand hotel or majestic theater. It was squeezed into the television studio on the banks of the Times River, with room for just a

couple hundred spectators. Nevertheless, just to get the match organized and funded was a major coup for Keene and his fellow organizers, including Sir Jeremy Hanley, a very prominent British politician. I was for once on the scene this time not in the press office, but on stage as one of the three arbiters of the match. I was deeply honored to be invited to officiate at the match, and was particularly pleasantly surprised that I was made most welcome by Kramnik. After all, I been associated with Kasparov for almost two decades at that point.

My first and major task was to write the rules for the contest. Since this match was not held under the auspices of the World Chess Federation, it was felt that a fresh set of rules, agreed to by both players, should contain not only specific conditions about playing the match, but also a fresh set of rules of chess. These would not differ in substance from the standard international rules, as FIDE's rules have been developed over many decades and are recognized by almost all chess players as the standard rules of chess. We simply made a few adjustments to reflect modern practices for example the elimination of adjournments. Those interested in the rules and regulations can see them in detail in my book *The Official Rules Of Chess*.

As an arbiter, I had to spend a lot of time with both players. There are always tensions in match, but in an unprecedented display of cooperation, both players helped draft regulations that would simply rule out improper actions. Some of these rules were quite strict. For example, when a player left the stage to go back to the toilets, one of the arbiters had to accompany them.

Before each game, our magnificent security man, Roy "Knuckles" Snell, a former professional boxer who appeared on American television, would use state-of-the-art technology to sweep not only the players private rest area, but a full body search as well, sweeping for electronic gadgets, which might be able to convey chess information.

Each had a private area, where they could rest, unseen by the public or their opponents. The arbiters constantly observe those areas by a closed-circuit television. While Roy was doing his James Bond thing, I was carefully examining all the refreshments the players would be consuming in their rest areas. For Kasparov, all that was provided was chocolate and mineral water. By contrast, Kramnik had a huge variety of beverages and snacks, scientifically chosen by his trainer. The players were free to consume anything they wished. Unlike FIDE, the championship match had no rules for drug testing, which was being implemented by FIDE in the foolish hope that they would thereby be granted entrance into the Olympic Games.

Kasparov's play in this match was simply terrible. As usual, the press were filled with speculation on the inner workings of the chess players minds. All sorts of theories were put forward to explain Kasparov's seeming collapse, including the usual absurd allegations that the match was rigged. As part of my duties, I had players under observation at each game.

To all those who engage in fantasy conspiracy theories, I point out that if they were any sort of collaboration, these two individuals would have earned not merely an Oscar for their performances during the match, but a lifetime achievement award. 15 games of chess, most lasting more than three hours, with the players observed even when they would simply remove a shoe in their rest area to scratch their foot. If Kasparov and Kramnik have the skills to carry out such a deception, they could each earned millions and millions of dollars, and rack up a few Oscars, in Hollywood!

In many ways this match was all about one opening variation. Kramnik had prepared, as Black, a variation of the Spanish Game (Ruy Lopez) known as the Berlin Wall. This particular variation of the opening was considered inferior for Black in most manuals on opening play, but Kramnik realized that the position was very hard to break down. Kasparov's preparation only went far enough to convince himself that he had a superior game in these opening lines, and he put much of his effort into other strategies, considering that his skills would be sufficient to win games where he was granted such an advantage.

Kramnik, on the other hand, made a deep study of the middle game and endgame strategies and positions that characterize the Berlin Wall. No matter what Kasparov throughout it, the Berlin Wall stood, proving as difficult to demolish as its namesake, the wall that divided East and West Germany during the Cold War. Kasparov grew increasingly frustrated, because for some time he had been enjoying many victories at the chess board that had been greatly assisted by his thorough preparation at home. When he lost faith in his

preparation, he was unable to bring his usual optimistic powerful play to the chess board.

Although Kramnik didn't win as Black in the Berlin Wall, he did score victories in the second and 10 game which proved sufficient to win the match by a score of 8.5-6.5. Kasparov at times didn't seem to make much effort, and clearly was preoccupied with some off-the-board matters. Both players have presented their views on the match in various publications, and there are many other perspectives in coverage by chess journalists.

My own view can be summed up in a quote that appeared on the front page of the London Times on November 3rd. I said that Kasparov was still feeling the effects of his lost to deep Blue and was obsessed with chess computer programs. I described it as an addiction, and added that in my opinion, Kasparov was getting unused to playing humans. In a World Championship match he had the mindset of a player who was up against a machine, not a human player. Humans and computers play chess quite differently, and part of the human being involves the kind of optimistic, aggressive play scene in Kasparov's games from the 1980s.

One must always respect opponents' skills, but you can't play chess if you live in fear that your opponents will always find the best move. It was that psychological atmosphere that brought an end to the playing career of Grandmaster Keene. In the 1980s he started to play very cautiously making many short draws. This was not out of laziness as some charge. It was because in each case he would look at the board and realized whatever plan he wanted to pursue would not succeed, because he saw the best moves for the opponent.

Most of Kasparov's masterpieces have come when he plays with a little bit of risk and abandon. Sometimes the sacrifices are not completely sound, in the opinion of computers. But at the chess board, the psychological pressure of being on the defensive makes a lot of unsound tries work. In the match against Kramnik, it was as if Kasparov was saying to himself, "Why bother? He's just going to play (series of moves) and I won't have any advantage".

That said, there may also have been outside factors involving some ugly, and as far as I have ever known, unfounded, allegations by his critics. One of the major sources of criticism was an international master, Ricardo Calvo, who had been himself persecuted by chess authorities, only to be defended by Kasparov. Unfortunately, Calvo, who was also a friend of mine for a long time and whose cause I also championed, turned against his former friend and ally. He has since passed away, and it would be unfair for me to comment on the specifics of his allegations.

So, on November 2nd, 2000, Kasparov graciously handed his title belt to Kramnik, vowing revenge as soon as it could be arranged. The only problem was that he had abandoned the rematch privilege attached to title matches in the past. Kramnik felt that it was time that the chess world returned to some sort of sensible World Championship qualification cycle, and after the match I sat down with both players and we discussed ways in which this might be accomplished.

As is so often the case in the chess world the sponsoring organization, Braingames, quickly fell apart, as far as its involvement with chess is concerned. In many ways it was a miracle the match ever got played. They had chosen totally inept CEO, who mishandled many aspects of the event. Braingames would not pay the staff until a general strike was called, and at the end of the event tried to rip off some workers, including all the arbiters, with a very bogus and transparent exchange rate rip-off. This was particularly distressing to my colleagues Yuri Averbakh of Russia and Andrzej Filipowicz of Poland, both senior citizens, who had to slog through rainy London to meetings with bank officials to finally obtain their fees.

The company eventually decided to put its effort into Chinese chess, and tried to target a market in China. It handed the chess operations over to another group, Einstein TV, which proved to be a total disaster. This group even reneged on its promises to many of those involved with the 2000 match, that they would be involved in future events. It was eerily reminiscent of the days of the Professional Chess Association!

For Kasparov, however, the defense of the World Championship title was no longer is concerned area the returned to tournament play. If he could not be World Champion, Garry was determined at least to hang onto his No. 1 ranking in the world. He did this in convincing style, winning tournament after tournament including Corus and Linares.

To be continued ...

# Scholastic Chess News

## CalChess Scholastics is being rated

CalChess President ElizAbeth Shaughnessy has addressed the issues concerning the 2005 CalChess Scholastics. The delay in rating was the fault of the outside organizer, but the USCF has promised to make sure that all of the kids get their games rated. We don't know exactly when that will happen, but are pleased to report that the matter has been taken care of. Your CalChess Board is now working on next year's event, which we intend to make the best scholastic even ever held in California!

## 2005 Pan-American Youth Championships

Four U.S. players claimed medals at the 2005 Pan-American Youth Chess Festival in Balneario Camboriu, Brazil. Robert Hungaski achieved the Silver in the Boys Under-18. Julia Kerr brought home the Silver in the Girls Under-16. Ray Robson won the Silver in the Boys Under-12. And Christopher Heung took the Bronze in the Boys Under-10.

### U.S. Team results:

Stephanie Heung- U12-Girls- 11th Place  
Julia Kerr- U16-Girls- Tied for 2nd - Silver Medal  
Anjanie Sriram - U16-Girls- 35th Place  
Alanna Katz- U18-Girls- 9th Place  
Christopher Heung- U10-Boys- 3rd Place - Bronze Medal  
Ray Robson- U12-Boys- Tied for 1st-2nd - Silver Medal  
Christian Tanaka- U12-Boys- 5th Place  
Michael Yee- U12-Boys- 4th Place  
Marc Arnold- U14-Boys- Tied for 4th (9th on tiebreaks)  
Peter Yeh- U16-Boys- Tied for 18th (26th on tiebreaks)  
Robert Hungaski- U18-Boys- 2nd Place - Silver medal  
Igor Schneider - U18-Boys- 7th Place

Congratulations are due the U.S. team, coached by Aviv Friedman (Head of Delegation) and Armen Amartsoumian, which took 5th place overall. This is an excellent showing considering the relatively small size of the U.S. delegation -12 players- compared to delegations such as Argentina and Ecuador with 41 and Brazil with 119. 380 players from 14 countries gathered for this annual FIDE (World Chess Federation) event. The U.S. Chess Trust helps to sponsor the American representatives.

The official website for the tournament is <<http://www.interspace.com.br/jardel/14A.php>>

USCF Press Release

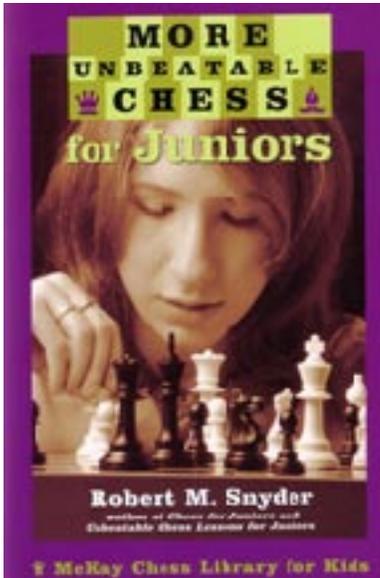


Finally, an online site for kids to play chess! Both live and turn-by-turn options are offered. Membership is free for a limited time. Check out the only site designed just for kids and coaches at [www.chess.ac](http://www.chess.ac)

# Book Reviews

by Eric Schiller

## A great book for advanced scholastic players



### More Unbeatable Chess for Juniors

by Robert Snyder

- Paperback: 304 pages
- Publisher: Random House
- ISBN: 0812936574 \$14.95

The new book "More Unbeatable Chess for Juniors" by Robert Snyder continues his series aimed at junior high school and high school chess players. Snyder is perhaps the only author who targets that particular segment of the chess community and he has once again done an excellent job in presenting chess instruction for that group. This is not a book for beginners, but it is a perfect book for intermediate players rated from about 1200 to 1600. He covers a wide variety of strategic and tactical devices, and while the same advice is available in many forms in many fine books, he offers a level of explanation and detail which is appropriate to his audience. The 24 lessons are well chosen and the annotations are clear and to the point. It is clearly a bargain at under \$15 list price. He does not just use familiar games, but includes some obscure games of exceptional instructive value, for example in Chapter 13 devoted to exploiting small advantage is in development and space, a particularly difficult topic for intermediate players. Often the player recognizes the advantage, but has no idea how to turn that advantage into a win. The author also includes his own games, and of course his familiarity with these games allows them to delve into many of the subtle points. My only very small quibble is that the openings of the sample games don't seem typical of the games played at that intermediate level, many would be more appropriate for slightly lower or more advanced players. But I don't think the purpose of the book is to provide a wide coverage of chess openings, rather Snyder is trying to get across important themes. I highly recommend this book for intermediate chess players in junior high school or high school.

### The Bobby Fischer I Knew, and other stories

*Anecdotes from the first line of American chess*



Arnold Denker  
and Larry Parr

### The Bobby Fischer I Knew, And Other Stories

by Arnold Denker, Larry Parr

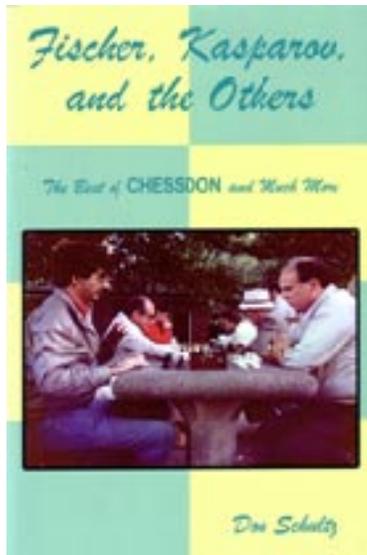
- Paperback: 404 pages
- Hardinge Simpole Limited
- ISBN: 1843820803 \$39.95

The chess community is full of fascinating stories and anecdotes and every once in awhile we are treated to entertaining and informative compilations of adventures on and off the chessboard. This year we have been treated to two exceptional volumes. The first, "The Bobby Fischer I knew and other stories" by Arnold Denker and Larry Parr contains over 300 pages of stories, photos and games from the American chess scene. The book contains a tremendous amount of material that I'm sure you've never seen anywhere else.

The most difficult aspect of putting together such a book is to avoid the all too frequent concentration on stories about people who really haven't had any impact on the game, but simply happened to have been around the chess scene for a long time. It isn't easy to diligently select only material that really is of some interest to the majority of readers. Legendary American Grandmaster Arnold Denker, who lived one of the longest and most productive chess lives, and former Chess Life editor Larry Parr have done a magnificent job of presenting fascinating material and unknown games that are entertaining and instructive. I wish they had been presented in algebraic notation, but that's the only small flaw I can find in this book, reprinted by the firm of Hardinge Simpole, whose mission is to "rescue from oblivion any worthwhile publication by the pen of an acknowledged master of chess writing"

I can't even begin to list the varied contents of this wonderful book, but if you have any interest in the American chess world, go out and buy it. It will give you countless hours of entertainment and you'll learn about many fas-

cinating figures, both famous and obscure, and how they have enriched our chess history. Many of the games in this book are not in databases and I hope that they will eventually be entered into our collective chess encyclopedia. As for the stories, each and every one of them is worth telling, and you'll likely be able to use them to entertain people even if they aren't chessplayers.



### **Fischer, Kasparov and the Others**

- Paperback: 404 pages
- ChessDon Publishing
- ISBN: 0967077516 \$12.95

"Fischer, Kasparov, and the others" is a substantial revision of Don Schultz's earlier book "CHESSDON". It is a collection of anecdotes, stories, and reports from the battlefields of chess politics. Whether you are familiar with the Machiavellian plots of the international chess world, or have no idea just how down and dirty those battles can be, you'll find this book provides a great and entertaining education. These are the recollections of Don Schultz, former president of United States Chess Federation and a major figure at times in the World Chess Federation. The political nature of the book is made clear by the list of endorsements on the back cover. Most people have never heard of the majority of them, unless you happen to be involved in the international struggle for the future of the chess world, or the American slice of it..

It is entirely fitting that the first chapter of the book is titled "The Manipulators". Even the world's best chessplayers are often mere pawns on the board of the politicians. The current president of the World Chess Federation is the President of the Republic of Kalmykia, and his predecessor was a close pal of the Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Schultz has plenty to say about many of these colorful figures. I will leave it to others to critique the historical facts of the book. The author and I have been on opposite sides in some of these battles, and on the same side in others. Well, you know, in chess sometimes you play with the white pieces and sometimes you play with the black pieces! I was present at some of these events and my recollection does sometimes vary from the views presented by "chessdon" (as the author is known online), but one nice thing about the chess world is that many avenues of communication are possible so that all perspectives can be considered. Definitive history, perhaps not, but essential reading, absolutely!

The book is not just politics, you'll learn a lot about famous chess players such as Garry Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, Bobby Fischer and Yasser Seirawan. Unless you are a member of the United States Chess Federation you may not care much about the discussion of internal politics. However, if you have any interest in the workings of the chess world this book is a great read. It doesn't contain any chess moves or chess games, this is all about the strange world of international chess. If you are under the impression that Bobby Fischer is the strangest thing to emerge from the chess scene, this book will put you straight!





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