

GM Ian Rogers Teaches Top Kids at Mechanics Institute

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by Michael Aigner

Grandmaster **Ian Rogers** visited the **Mechanics' Institute** last weekend in conjunction with a meeting of the **Ken Whyld Association** of chess historians. Known as the strongest player



The elite chess class is hard at work!
From left to right: GM Rogers with students Samuel, Greg, Yian, Kyle and Tanuj.)

ever from Australia, GM Rogers achieved a peak FIDE rating of 2618 in 1999 (*about top 50 of the world back then*). He faced many of the world's top players in the 1980s and 1990s, earning a **draw as black versus Anatoly Karpov** and **swindling a checkmate against Viktor Kortschnoi!**

On Sunday, October 11, GM Rogers (*seated next to FM Naroditsky at right*) took time from his busy schedule to **tutor some of the Bay Area's elite juniors**. The lecture carried on the inspiration of the **San Francisco School of Chess**, a program *seeking to boost promising young chess players in Northern California both through interactions with GMs and IMs as well as their fellow juniors*. Sunday's topic quickly caught the attention of the audience: the **rapid improvement of teenager Magnus Carlsen** to 2800 and beyond. The class delved deeply into Carlsen's openings and middlegames from the recent **Nanjing tournament**, with lengthy variations and occasional jokes flying around the room from all sides.

The group was small and intimate, yet highly competitive with *five of six students ranked in the top three of the nation for their age!* These kids no doubt comprise the **present and future stars for the San Francisco Mechanics** squad in the **US Chess League**. The team has a seemingly endless supply of underrated juniors for the next few seasons. If the kids keep improving like this, next year's team may field a GM plus three 2300+ rated juniors! (*a.k.a. Panda and the three bamboo sprouts*)

- FM **Danya Naroditsky**, 2378, #1 age 13 (*Board 3*)
- NM **Greg Young**, 2272, #2 age 14 (*Alternate*)
- NM **Yian Liou**, 2226, #2 age 12 (*Board 4*)
- **Kyle Shin**, 2088, #6 age 11
- **Samuel Sevian**, 2079, #1 age 8
- **Tanuj Vasudeva**, 1904, #3 age 8

