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Steven Breckenridge gives 52-board Simul



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On the front cover:

Steven Breckenridge giving a 52-board Simultaneous Exhibition at the Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club in Beaverton, Oregon on December 21, 2013. This picture taken by event organizer, Sean Tobin, was taken when Breckenridge was at his board. Tobin made a move and took the picture at about the same time.

Photo credit: Sean Tobin

On the back cover:

A water bottle belonging to Corey Longhurst taken at the Western Idaho Open chess tournament in Boise on December 14, 2013 at 6:37 PM.

Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger, of West Linn, Oregon.

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Idaho Chess News



Open Section winners. Cody Gorman (2nd-3rd tie), Jaime Crosby (1st), Caleb Kircher (2nd-3rd tie). Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Western Idaho Open

The 2013 Western Idaho Open chess tournament was held at Boise State University (BSU), Jordan Ballroom, Student Union Building in Boise, Idaho on December 14-15, 2013. The tournament director was Jeff Roland (Boise).

The format of the tournament was a five-round Swiss System and the time control was game in two hours with a five-second delay. There were two sections -- Open and Reserve (U1400). Three players that could have played in the Reserve Section "played up" into the Open Section, and two of those three placed in the top five of the Open Section. The Open Section had 13 players, and the Reserve Section had 10 players.

Jaime Crosby (Meridian) won the Open Section with a perfect score of 5.0 points. Caleb Kircher (Nampa) and Cody Gorman (Eagle) tied for 2nd-3rd place with 3.5 points.

Zane Roberts (Boise) won the Reserve (U1400) Section with 4.5 points. Adam

Porth (Bellevue), Lucas Knoll (Mountain Home AFB) and Dylan Porth (Bellevue) were 2nd-4th place with 3.5 points each.

The Buckendorf Award winners were Benjamin Jin (Boise) in the Open Section and Desmond Porth (Bellevue) in the Reserve (U1400) Section. This award is a book donated from the Glen Buckendorf Jr. Library and is given to the player in each section that didn't otherwise win a prize. This prize was started by the late Glen Buckendorf Jr. several years ago.

The playing site at BSU was a fantastic venue to play chess. Each game had its own table separated by plenty of room between tables so that players did not feel constricted. There were several businesses



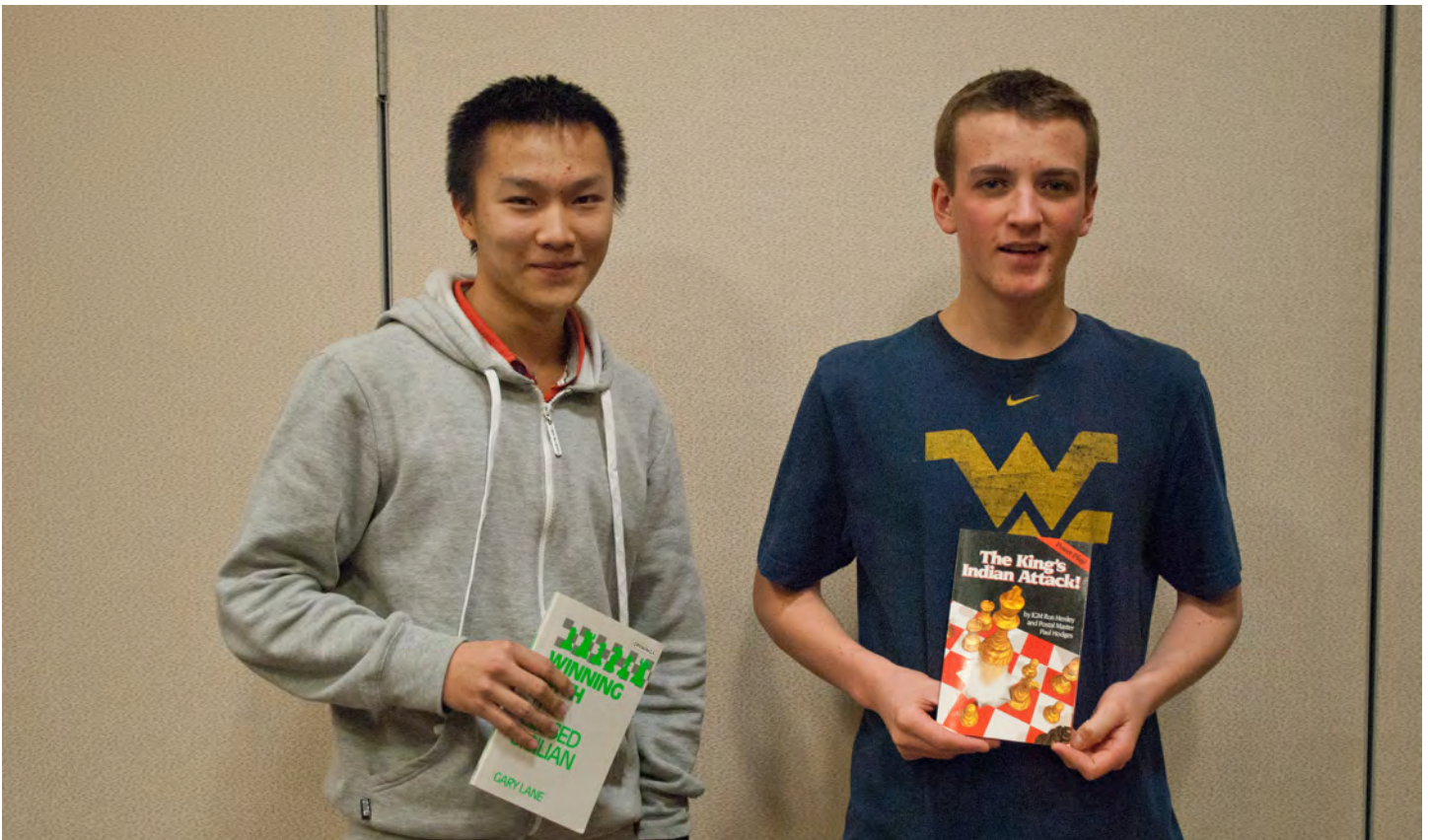
Jeff Roland taking the above picture. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

that served food just down the stairs, so it was quick and easy to eat between rounds. There were great places to hang out, analyze games, or relax between rounds in the halls, and parking was free for the entire weekend for players in the tournament.

Idaho Chess Association thanks BSU and the BSU Chess Club for such a great playing site and great playing conditions.



Reserve (U1400) Section winners. L-R: Zane Roberts (1st), Adam Porth (2nd-4th tie), Dylan Porth (2nd-4th tie), Lucas Knoll (2nd-4th tie).
Photo credit: Jeff Roland



Buckendorf Award winners. L-R: Benjamin Jin (Open), Desmond Porth (Reserve). Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Corey Kenneth Longhurst (1493) – Jacob Nathan (937) [C70]
 Western Idaho Open (Open) Boise, ID
 (R5), December 12, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bd6

With a little opening knowledge, Black can avoid moves like this. Although it protects the e-pawn, it also blocks the d-pawn and thus restricts the c8-bishop. Better is a central counter-attack like 4...Nf6

5.c3 Nf6 6.d3 b5 7.Bc2 Bc5?!

7...0-0

8.h3?!

This both misses an opportunity to play 8.d4 and spends a move to prevent an incursion on g4 that is not a serious threat. 8.d4! exd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Nc3 gives White good central control. 10...d5 11.Bg5 dxe4 12.Bxe4 and White is very active.

8...Bb7?!

8...d5 looks about even. Two different possibilities: 9.-- a) 9.0-0 dxe4 10.dxe4 0-0; b) 9.d4!? dxe4!? (or 9...exd4 10.e5

Ne4 11.cxd4 Bb4+) 10.Nxe5 (10.dxc5 Qxd1+ 11.Bxd1 exf3 12.Bxf3 e4) 10...Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1 Nd5 13.Bxe4 Bb7 with compensation.

9.b4?!

9.d4 exd4 (9...Bd6!? goes back to plan A: strong-point e5 and hang tough.) 10.cxd4 Bb6 11.Nc3

9...Bb6 10.a4 h6

See the previous note about White's 8.h3. 10...0-0; 10...d5; and even 10...d6 are decent candidates.

11.Bb2 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Nbd2

13.Na3! bxa4 14.Nc4 is a bit unusual for the Spanish, but looks like an edge for White.

13...d6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nb3?!

This is the beginning of a piece migration to the queenside, just when Black is about to demonstrate that all the action is on the kingside. 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Bb3 looks equal.

15...Rxa1 16.Qxa1 Ne7

16...Nh5

17.Re1?!

This is an attempt to guard the e-pawn to allow the advance d3-d4. It doesn't work. 17.Na5 is all right.

17...Ng6 18.d4?

18.c4 bxc4 19.dxc4 Qe7 is a bit unclear, but probably offers a slight edge to Black.

18...Nf4

Or 18...exd4 19.Nbxd4 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 wins material. This is one reason why 17.Re1 doesn't work.

19.dxe5 dxe5

19...N6h5!?

20.Na5 Bc8! 21.Kh2

[Diagram top of next page]

21...Nh7

21...Bxh3!! 22.gxh3 Qd7 23.Ng1 Qd2! wins nicely.

22.Nc6

22.Qd1 doesn't seem much of an



L-R: Corey Longhurst, Jacob Nathan. Photo credit: Jeff Roland



improvement: 22...Qf6 23.c4 Qg6 24.g4 Bxf2 25.Nxe5 (25.Rf1 Nxb3!) 25...Qf6 26.Nd3 (26.Rf1 Nxb3!) 26...Qh4

22...Qf6 23.Na7

On 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.Nxe5 Nxb3! is one of several available crushing attacks.

23...Ng5 24.Nxe5



24...Nfxh3! 25.Nxc8 Qf4+ 26.Kh1 Nxf2+ 27.Kg1 Ng4+ 28.Nxb6 Nh3+ 29.gxh3 Qh2+

An impressive attack by the young competitor.

0-1

Kenneth Sanderson (1581) – Tom R Booth (1599) [C14]

Western Idaho Open (Open) Boise, ID (R5), December 15, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 a6 8.Nf3 c5 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.c3 c4?!

Releasing the tension in the center, this apparent space gain tends to underline just how bad that c8-bishop really is. Perhaps 10...f6!?

11.Ng3 Nf8 12.Nh5 Rg8?!

12...f5 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Be2 Qf7 15.Nd2 Ng6 +=

13.Be2 b5 14.b4

By no means bad, but White might consider b3, either now or after castling, with the idea of taking on c4 and opening the b-file. Black's decision to deny kingside castling with 12...Rg8 leaves the black king without a safe haven.

14...f6?

Opening the f-file can really only help White, and worse, this lets White get in a4 first to gain the initiative on the queenside. 14...a5! will force White to choose between



L-R: Kenneth Sanderson, Tom Booth. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

the conservative 15.a3 and the wild opening of the queenside with 15.a4. 15.a3 (15.a4 axb4 16.axb5 Na5 17.0-0 b3 18.Qc1 is pretty unclear.) 15...Qa7 16.Rb1 axb4 17.axb4 Qa3 18.Qd2 Qa2 allows Black to mitigate the disadvantage of the bad bishop through control of the open a-file.

15.0-0

15.a4 right away has some appeal.

15...fxe5 16.fxe5 Bd7 17.Qd2 Kd8

17...h6 at least denies White the g5-square.

18.Bd1?!

18.Ng5! Be8 19.Nf6!! gxf6 20.exf6 Qd6 21.f7 Rg7 22.fxe8Q+ Kxe8 23.a4 White is better on both sides of the board.

18...Be8 19.Ng3 Bg6

A better try is 19...a5! Now, due to the unguarded state of the a1-rook, White doesn't have the choice of pushing the a-pawn one or two squares. 20.bxa5 seems forced, and any remaining edge to White is relatively small.

20.a4! bxa4

20...Ra7!?

21.Bxa4 Be8 22.Ng5 h6 23.Bxc6 Bxc6



24.Rf7??

Although this is a losing blunder, oddly it is the right idea. White should get the

g5-knight to a safer post on d6 first, and then the threat of Rf7 causes all sorts of mayhem. 24.Nf7+ Kc7 25.Nd6 Nd7 26.Rf7 with a winning bind: 26...Qg5 (26...Qh4 27.Qa2!) 27.Qxg5 (Or 27.Qa2 again with infiltration threatened via a5.) 27...hxg5 28.Nh5 The pawn e6 is falling, and with it the rest of Black's game.

24...Qxg5 25.Qxg5+ hxg5 26.Nh5 Be8 27.Rxg7 Rxg7 28.Nxg7 Bb5 29.Rf1 Ke7 30.Nh5 Nh7 31.g4 Rf8 0-1

Corey Kenneth Longhurst (1493) – Jaime Crosby (2244) [C14]

Western Idaho Open (Open) Boise, ID (R1), December 14, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.a3?! 0-0 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.h3?!

10.Nf3 is roughly equal.

10...c5 11.Nf3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 e5 13.Nb3 Nc6?

13...Be6 14.0-0 Nc6 15.f4 e4 16.Bb5 Black stands a little bit better here.

14.Qd2?

14.Nxd5! Nxd5 15.Bc4 removes the problem of the big pawn center. Black can get some activity and space for the pawn, but with many minor pieces already exchanged, the compensation may not be quite enough.

14...a5

14...Be6

15.Na4 e4?

15...Be6 is still a better choice. Black should be careful about advancing one of the center pawns before it leads to a clear plus.

16.Bb5 Ne5?



16...Qc7; or 16...Be6 =

17.0-0-0

17.Nb6! a4 (17...Rb8 18.Nxd5) 18.Nd4
White has established a blockade on d4, fixed the center pawns so that the c8-bishop remains bad, and is incidentally forking the a8-rook and a4-pawn.

17...Be6 18.Nxa5?

18.Nd4

18...Rfd8?

18...Bd7! 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 White has some serious problems on the queenside.

19.Nb3 Qc7 20.Qc3

20.Nc3 offers defensive chances.

20...Nc4 21.Nac5?!

21.Qg3!

21...Bf7 22.Qb4 b6

22...Rdc8 with an attack on the c-file. For example: 23.Rhe1 (23.c3 b6 24.Na6 Qf4+) 23...Nxa3! 24.bxa3 b6

23.Na6

23.Na4!?

23...Qf4+ 24.Kb1 Qxf2 25.Rdf1 Qg3 26.Nd4 Qe5? 27.Nc6 Qg5?

27...Qd6 28.Nxd8 Qxd8 White has a plus, but it's complicated.

28.Rxf6??

28.Bxc4 dxc4 29.Nxd8 Rxd8 30.Qxb6 is a pretty straightforward material advantage.

28...Qxf6 29.Nxd8 Rxd8

29...Qxd8



30.b3??

30.Bxc4 dxc4 31.Qe1 Qg6 Black is clearly better, but there's game left.

30...Ne3??

Of course 30...Qb2# ends the discussion. It's actually interesting to consider why



L-R: Jaime Crosby, Corey Longhurst. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Black missed this. There's a similar thing in the next round; 30.b3 probably came as a complete surprise, but Black was likely thinking that the white queen defended the mate on b2, and since the queen didn't move, that mate was not part of the equation. Both players first saw that the mate was defended, then essentially ignored that factor, focusing instead on the fact that the knight was now attacked.

31.Qd2 d4 32.Nb4 Rc8 33.Rc1 Qe5??

After something like 33...Rc3, or just 33...h6, Black still has the initiative.

34.Ba6??

34.Ne6! hits d4, e5, and e7, with unclear complications. This could have been the cost of missing the mate on move 30.

34...Rc3 35.Kb2

35.Na2!?

35...h6 36.Bb7



36.Na2 Rc5 37.c3 dxc3+ 38.Nxc3 Qe6

36...Nxc2! 37.Qxc3

37.Ne6 Qd6 (Or 37...Qb5 38.Nxd4 Rxb3+ 39.Kxc2 Rb2+ 40.Kc3 Qa5+) 38.Nxd4 Rxb3+ 39.Kxc2 (39.Nxb3 Qxa3+ 40.Kxc2

Qxb3#) 39...e3! 40.Nxb3 exd2 41.Nxd2 Qc7+; 37.Rxc2 Rxb3+ 38.Kc1 e3 39.Qe2 (39.Qd3 Rxd3 40.Nxd3 e2 41.Nxe5 e1Q+ 42.Kb2 Qxe5) 39...d3 40.Nxd3 Qa1#

37...dxc3+ 38.Kxc2 Qd4 39.Rd1 Bxb3+ 0-1

Kenneth Sanderson (1581) –

Jaime Crosby (2244) [B98]

Western Idaho Open (Open) Boise, ID (R2), December 14, 2013

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Nb3 Rc8 12.a3 b5 13.Qe2 h6 14.Bh4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxh4 16.Qg4 Bf6 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Qg7 Ke7



19.Qg3

19.Bg6! Rhf8 20.Rhe1 b4 21.axb4 (21.a4!?) 21...Nxb4 22.Nd4 yields unclear mutual attacks, but I think Black has to tread very carefully to avoid accidents.

19...b4 20.axb4 Nxb4 21.Qf2 Bb5 22.Kb1 Bxd3 23.cxd3 Qb7 24.Rd2 Rc7 25.Rc1 Rhc8 26.Rxc7+ Rxc7 27.Qf3 Qb5 28.Nc1 Qa4



In an eerie echo of the move 30.b3 in the previous game, here Black threatens 29...Rxc1+ followed by mate. Neither 29.Rd1 nor 29.Qd1 prevents this; in fact the only move to even delay the mate is 29.Qb7, pinning the rook to prevent the sacrifice, but obviously at ruinous cost in material.

29.b3 Qa3

Of course 29.b3 did nothing to prevent the basic threat: 29...Rxc1+ 30.Kxc1 Qa1# Once again we have to assume the surprise factor — Black didn't consider the move to be a defense, and was thus surprised out of even thinking that his original idea still worked! A big difference between missing the mate in this game and in the last game is that here it risks very little, and the game ends logically in a few more moves.

30.Qd1 Nd5 31.Ne2 Ne3 32.Ra2 Qxa2+ 33.Kxa2 Nxd1 0-1



L-R: Jaime Crosby, Benjamin Jin. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Jaime Crosby (2244) – Benjamin Jin (1381) [B10]

Western Idaho Open (Open) Boise, ID (R5), December 15, 2013 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Qb6?

Both a poor move on its own, and worse, the start of a bad plan to exchange the light-squared bishops. 6...b5 7.Bb3 a5 and; 6...Qa5 7.Nf3 (Or 7.Nc3 b5!? (7...Na6 +=) 8.b4! Qxb4?! 9.Bxb5! Bxb5 10.Rb1 and White keeps the extra pawn, for the moment.) 7...Nxd5 both offer decent play, and several other moves are possible.

7.Nf3 Bb5?

It may not be inaccurate to label this as the decisive error already, at move seven.

8.d3 g6 9.0-0 Na6



L-R: Jaime Crosby, Kenneth Sanderson. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

10.Bxb5+



Certainly a strong plan, exchanging with gain of time, but White can win a piece here: 10.Be3! Qa5 (10...Nc5 11.b4) 11.Qd2! (Or 11.Qe1! Nb4 12.Bd2) 11...Nb4 (11...Qxd2 12.Bxb5+) 12.a3 Bxc4 13.dxc4 e6 14.Bd4 and the house of cards collapses.

10...Qxb5 11.Nc3 Qb6 12.Ne5!

No less strong for being obvious.

12...Rd8 13.Qa4+ Nd7 14.Re1 Nac5 15.Qc4 Nxe5 16.Rxe5 Bg7 17.Re2 Nd7 18.Bg5 Bf6 19.Bh6 Ne5 20.Qe4 Rd6



21.Bf4 Nd7 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.Qc4 0-0 24.Ne4 1-0

Adam Porth (1306) – Zane A Roberts (1210) [B34]
Western Idaho Open (Reserve) Boise, ID (R3), December 14, 2013 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.Nd2 d5 8.c4 d4!?

8...Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 is still in flux.

9.b3

9.Qa4!? +=

9...e5 10.Ba3 Ne7 11.0-0 0-0 12.h3 Qc7 13.Qf3?

13.c5 f5 and both sides can claim to be having fun.

13...Rb8?

13...c5 is += or better.

14.Rac1?

14.Bc5! keeps the white bishops relevant.

14...c5 15.Rb1?

15.Ra1 Qa5 16.Bc1 Nc6 17.Qe2 Nb4 18.Bb1 White is passively placed, but is at least hanging onto material.

15...Qa5 16.Bc1 Qxa2 17.Bb2 Qa5 18.Qd1 Qb6 19.Ra1 Nc6 20.f4?!

20.Ba3 But White does not have compensation for the pawn.

20...f6

20...exf4 is also good.

21.f5 Bh6 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.Ra3 Be3+ 24.Kh2 Bxd2?!

What's the rush?

25.Qxd2 Qc7 26.Qh6 Qh7 27.Bc1 Qxh6 28.Bxh6 Rf7 29.Bd2 Kg7 30.g4 Rfb7 31.Rb1 g5 32.Kg3 Bd7 33.Kf2 Rh8 34.Kg3 Be8 35.Ra6

[Diagram next page]

35...Nb4?

35...Bd7 36.Bc2 Rb6 37.Ra2 Be6 38.Rba1 Kg6 Black is clearly better: he has an extra pawn, and the knight is more valuable than



L-R: Zane Roberts, Adam Porth pose for the camera after only two moves had been made. Photo credit: Jeff Roland



the white bishop. In this kind of blocked position, the bishop-pair is not worth much.

36.Bxb4 cxb4?

36...Rxb4 37.Rxa7+ Bf7 38.Bc2 Rbb8 39.Rba1 =+

37.Rba1 Kf7?

37...Kg6 38.Rxa7 Rxa7 39.Rxa7 Bf7 =

38.Rxa7 Rxa7 39.Rxa7+ Ke6??



39...Kg6 40.Ra8 Rg8 41.Rb8 Bf7 42.Rxb4 White has an edge.

40.Rb7?

40.c5! shows that the black king has waltzed into a mating net. 40...f5 (40...Bd7 41.Bc4+ Ke7 42.Bb5 Rd8 43.c6 wins.) 41.gxf5+ Kf6 42.Ra6+ Kg7 43.c6 Bf7 44.c7 Bxb3 45.Rc6 Rc8 46.Ba6

40...Bc6 41.Rxb4?

41.Ra7 Kd6 42.Ra5 Kc7 43.Ra6 Kb7 44.c5 =+

41...Ra8?!

41...Kd6! 42.c5+ Forced, due to the threat of ...Kc5. (42.Rb6? Ra8 43.b4 Kc7 44.c5 Ra3) 42...Kxc5 43.Rc4+ Kb6 44.Rc1 Bb5 and White's scattered pawns are a huge disadvantage.

42.c5 Ra1?!

42...Ra5 and the white c- and e-pawns are vulnerable, which may confer a very slight edge to Black.

43.Bc4+ Kd7

[Diagram next column]

44.Bb5??

44.Rb6 Rc1 45.Kf2 Rc2+ 46.Kf3 Kc7 47.Ra6 This is a likely draw, as neither side can make progress without opening some doors of opportunity for the other player. 47...Rc3+ 48.Kf2 Bxe4 49.Rxf6 Rxb3



50.Re6 for example.

44...Bxb5 45.Rxb5 Kc6 46.Rb6+ Kxc5 47.Rxf6 d3 48.Rf2 Rb1 49.h4 Rxb3

49...gxh4+ 50.Kxh4 Kd4 51.Kg3 Ke3

50.hxg5?

50.Kf3 gxh4 51.Ke3 d2+ 52.Kxd2 h3 Black is winning, but at least it looks close.

50...d2+ 51.Kh4 d1Q 52.g6 Qh1+

52...Qd8+ quickly forces mate: 53.g5 (53.Kh5 Rh3#) 53...Qh8+ 54.Kg4 Qh3#

53.Kg5 Qxe4 54.g7 Rg3 55.Rc2+ Kd4

Simpler is 55...Qxc2 56.g8Q Rxb3+ 57.Kxg4 Qg2+

56.Rc4+ Kxc4 57.g8Q+ Qd5 58.Qc8+ Qc5 0-1

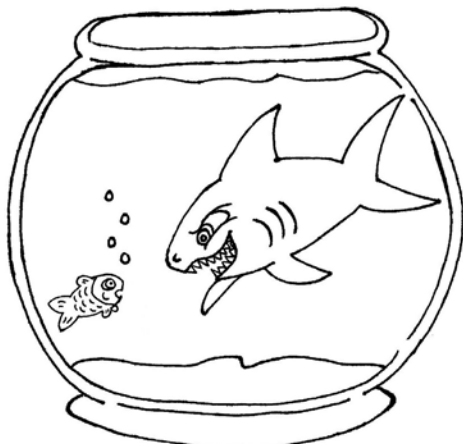
Fishbowl part deux

Crosstable

Moscow, ID - December 28, 2013

By Mark Havrilla

The Library of the University of Idaho has a lounge named Fishbowl. I could not pass up the opportunity to set up a chess tournament there for the simple reason of calling it...the Fishbowl!



Sketch by Charlynn Havrilla

Originally I had planned to organize a quad between school semesters so Tim Moroney and Kairav Johsi could participate. I like one day events so I can have at least one day of rest before returning to work. The four player quad quickly grew to six, yet I wanted to keep it a one event anyway, hence the three rounds.

Friday before the tourney, I invited the players over to my house for an apple wood

##	Player	Residence	Rating	1	2	3	Score
1	Timothy M. Moroney	Pullman, WA	2027	D3	W5	W2	2½
2	Cameron Leslie	Moscow, ID	2045	W4	D3	L1	1½
3	Mark Havrilla	Moscow, ID	1946	D1	D2	-H-	1½
4	Haluk Beyenal	Pullman, WA	1831	L2	-H-	W5	1½
5	Kairav R. Joshi	Moscow, ID	1901	-H-	L1	L4	½

smoked prime rib dinner. If we were going to play the “game of kings”, why not have the “steak of kings?” Unfortunately due to freezing fog weather, John Julian had to cancel. I was more bummed out that he did not get a chance to dinner with us than with him missing the tourney! We played a blitz tourney after dinner, but I cannot remember the results.

Due to having 5 players, Haluk, Kairav and I took a bye. Tim Moroney and I met in the first round where I played an offbeat French defense. He used a lot of clock time in the opening, so I felt my opening choice paid off. Pieces were quickly traded and a peace treaty was signed. Cam Leslie beat Haluk Beyenal in a sharp Nimzo-Indian where the a2 to g8 diagonal played a critical role. Kairav had a bye.

In the second round I rolled the dice and played the Baltic Defense in answer to Cam’s Queen’s Gambit. He quickly got into trouble by taking my b7 pawn with his Queen, and a draw was soon agreed. Tim Moroney essayed the English opening against Kairav, which quickly transposed to the Accelerated Dragon. He slowly squeezed Kairav for the point. Haluk had

a bye.

In round 3 the top 2 players faced off for the Fishbowl title. Tim defended against Cam’s Queen’s Gambit with the Semi-Slav. The opening quickly transposed into a Stonewall Dutch, where it seemed to me that Cam was slightly better. I’ll leave further details of that game to Tim’s game analysis, which he’ll submit for Northwest Chess magazine.

Kairav played the white side of Haluk’s Dragon variation of the Sicilian. Haluk won the exchange in the middlegame. He then unleashed the powerful Dragon bishop on the g7 to a1 diagonal by weakening the b2 square by pushing his a-pawn all the to a3. Haluk won the game in style.

**Haluk Beyenal (1831) –
Cameron Leslie (2020) [E20]**
Fishbowl part deux Moscow, ID
(R1), December 28, 2013
[Cameron Leslie]

Haluk and I have played blitz together many times, and I know him as an aggressive player who is constantly mating me. So I was pretty pumped for this opportunity to play him a long game over the board. I knew from our blitz games that we would probably play a Nimzo-Indian where he would try to build what I call “The big center.” The extent of my theoretical knowledge is this: when White builds the big center in the Nimzo-Indian, throw everything at it!

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 0-0 5.e4 d5

Here we go! Just as expected.

6.e5 Nfd7 7.Be3!?

This however was not expected. The normal moves here are 7. a3 and 7. cxd5 with sharp play as Black tries to open the position as quick as possible.

7...f6

I spent quite a bit of time here trying to decide whether to play 7...f6 or 7...c5, both are in the spirit of the position. Eventually I decided to play 7...f6 because, well, I’m not sure why I decided on it but like I said earlier. Number one priority is to nuke the center before White can consolidate his space and get developed.

[While both the ...c5 and ...f6 breaks have



L-R: Haluk Beyenal, Kairav Joshi. Photo credit: Mark Havrilla

good points, I prefer a third option: 7... dxc4! because, well, I like to be a pawn up! The point is 8.Bxc4 Nxe5! and of course 9.dxe5 Qh4+ forking the c4-bishop. — Dubisch]

8.cxd5?!

This move looks a little suspect, opening up the position. Maybe something like 8.f4 was better. 8.f4 fxe5 9.dxe5 White is forced to play this. Because... (9.fxe5 Qh4+ 10.Bf2 (10.Ke2 and there is no doubt who is in control here.) 10...Qxf2#) 9...Nb6 with complex play.

8...fxe5?!

Now its my turn to go astray. Much stronger is the pawn sacrifice 8...Nb6! 8...Nb6 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.f4 Nd5 For a pawn, Black is castled and will develop with threats. A dream position.

9.dxe6 Nb6 10.Qb3 Qe7

Planned when I played 8...fxe5. Now I expected 11. d5

11.0-0-0

This shocked me. Haluk stays true to form! The position is going to open up quickly and Black will be making threats much sooner than White. 11.d5 c6 12.Bxb6 axb6 13.0-0-0 Bxc3 Something like this where I thought I would have good chances based on White's exposed king.

11...Bxc3 12.Qxc3 Nd5 13.Qd2 Bxe6

Storm clouds are gathering around White's king. 14...Nxe3 is threatened.

14.Bg5 Qe8

Sadly the computer considers this to be White's best. All it does is force the queen to where she wants to go. The Queenside.

15.Bc4? Qc6 16.Qc2 h6!

My best move of the game. It forces the bishop to either go kingside and be of no help, back to d2 and lose control of d4 or... sacrifice!

17.Bxh6 Nb4?



My worst move of the game! As soon as I played it I said, "What about 18. d5?..."

18.Bxe6+?

Loses on the spot. 18. d5 much more interesting. 18.d5 Nxd5 (18...Bxd5 19.Bxd5+ Nxd5 20.Qxc6 Nxc6 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Rxd5; 18...Nxa2+ 19.Kb1 Nc3+ 20.bxc3 Qb6+ 21.Kc1 Bf5 22.d6+ Kh8



Taken at the Blitz tournament at the dinner the night before the tournament. L-R: Tim Moroney, Cameron Leslie. Photo credit: Mark Havrilla

23.Qb3 gxh6 24.Qxb6 cxb6) 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.Qxc6 Bxc6 21.Be3 This is probably the best Black can get when White is very much back in the game.

18...Qxe6

But now the rest is a mop up.

19.Qxc7 Qxh6+

19...Rc8 is much cleaner but once I saw 19...Qxh6+ 20. Kb1 Qg6+ followed by Nc2, Na6 and Rc8 I stopped looking.

20.Kb1 Qg6+ 21.Ka1 Nc2+ 22.Kb1 Na3+ 23.Ka1 Na6 24.Qc3 Nc2+ 25.Kb1 Rac8 26.Qb3+ Kh8 27.Nh3 Nab4 0-1

Timothy Moroney M (2027) – Mark Havrilla (1947) [C03]
Fishbowl part deux Moscow, ID (R1), December 28, 2013
[Mark Havrilla]

1.e4 e6

I have played the Caro a lot against Tim in blitz and hoped to surprise him with the French. He burned a lot of clock time in the opening so I felt my choice was a good one!

2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 dxe4 6.Bxe4 Nf6 7.Bf3 0-0 8.Ne2 Nb8

e5 is better methinks.

9.0-0 c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nb3 Bd6

I was planning to answer Bg5 with Qc7

12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Qc7 14.Nd3 Nc6 15.Re1 Rd8 16.Qe2 Bd7 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.Rad1 Qc7

I offered a draw here and he accepted.

½-½

Cameron Leslie (2020) – Timothy Moroney (2027) [D45]
Fishbowl part deux Moscow, ID (R3), December 28, 2013
[Timothy Moroney]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6 4.e3

This is the first time Cam and I have encountered each other in a tournament game. He elects for a slow and solid setup as White. The more aggressive and dynamic 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 made an appearance in the 5th game of the World Championship in Chennai.

4...Bd6 5.Nf3 f5 6.Be2 Nd7 7.b3 Ngf6 8.Bb2 0-0 9.0-0 Ne4 10.Qc2

I felt as though White had mixed up his opening plans. The knight on c3 is blunted by Black's center pawns and blocks its own dark-squared bishop. The queen on c2 targets e4, which is well under Black's control, and might prefer the c1 square where it can support Bb2-a3 and seek to trade Black's strong bishop.

10...Qf6?

But this is entirely the wrong way to utilize Whites un-coordination. If Black wishes to be aggressive, 10...Rf6 is better. Otherwise 10...Qe7 is a solid waiting move. 10...Qe7 followed by ...b6 would be a more positional approach.

11.a4 Rf7?!

I had underestimated White's return to the Bb2-a3 idea and now become too focused on proving my attack. I should have admitted my mistake and allowed the trade, or returned with 11...Qe7.

12.Ba3 Bb8

12...Bxa3 13.Rxa3 a5 preserves Black's

chance at remaining solid.

13.cxd5!

White notices an unprotected piece on c8. This tactical blow forces Black to concede his only positional strengths.

13...Nxc3

13...exd5 14.Nxd5 Bxh2+ (14...cxd5 15.Qxc8+) 15.Nxh2 cxd5 leaves White with an advantage. He will use the c-file and two bishops to pressure Black's weak dark squares, d-pawn and queenside.

14.Qxc3 exd5 15.b4

White has a ready-made minority attack on the queenside.

15...g5 16.b5



16...Rg7

The rook seeks out the g6-square, where it can defend the weak c6-pawn along the rank while making threats against White's king. An immediate sacrificial attack falls short after 16...g4 17.Nd2 Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 Qh4+ 19.Kg1 Rf6 20.Be7 skewering the rook.

17.Rfc1 Rg6 18.bxc6 bxc6

Simplest may be 19.g3, stopping any dreams Black may have had at a sacrifice on h2.

19.Rab1 Bc7

If instead 19...g4 20.Rxb8 Rxb8 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.dxe5 leaves Black with many weak pawns, a bad bishop, and a difficult time coordinating his pieces.

20.Rc2?

It is difficult to see how White can break through on the queenside. g2-g3 is still necessary to halt Black's kingside counterplay before continuing. After the game Mark Havrilla suggested 20.a5 for White, taking away the b6 square from Black's knight and freeing a4 for the bishop to attack c6 (or perhaps it was on the previous move, but the outcome is similar). Black should respond to this with 20.a5 g4 21.Nd2 Bxh2+ 22.Kf1 f4 23.exf4 Qxf4 with good counterplay against the weakened White king.

20...g4 21.Nd2 Bxh2+ 22.Kf1

22.Kxh2 Qh4+ 23.Kg1 Rh6 24.f4 g3 White will be mated soon.

22...Bc7

Black now has an extra pawn and returns to



With two enemy rooks and a queen on his seventh and eight ranks, and in desperate time trouble, Felix cracked.

what is remarkably a defensible queenside. I was surprised during the game that White had no clear breakthrough.

23.Bb5 Bb7 24.Bc4

A clever tactic, unleashing a hidden attack on the b7-bishop.

{But better is 24. Bd3!—Dubisch}

24...Nb6

Securing the queenside once again.

25.a5 Nxc4 26.Rxb7 Bxa5

White resigned. One last attempt at making life difficult for Black could be made by 27.Bb4, when the tricky move 27...Nd6 frustrates the b7-rook and leaves Black clearly ahead. Less clear would be 27...Bxb4 28.Qxb4 Nxd2+ 29.Rxd2, requiring Black to play accurately to shut down White's counterplay.

0-1

Winter Solstice Round Robin

By Barry Eacker

Sixteen players from Southern and Western Idaho attended the 2013 Winter Solstice Round Robin chess tournament held December 28, 2013 at the Hub Insurance Community Room in Twin Falls, Idaho. Two sections of eight players each with a G/15 time control was the format. Fred Bartell of Twin Falls was nearly perfect in the A section with a 6.5/7 score. Tom Booth of Caldwell finished second scoring 6.0/7, his only loss coming against Bartell in round eight. The B section was won by Steve Hinton of Twin Falls with a 5.5/7 tally, followed closely by ten-year-old

McLean Weig of Paul at 5.0/7, who was competing in his first ever tournament. Ironically, Hinton's sole loss came against Weig in round eight.

McLean's father Hans participated in the event and finished a respectable 3.0/7, his first tournament result. The Weigs recently moved from Nevada to Southern Idaho and Hans searched out local chess events so McLean could have some fresh competition to help hone his abilities. McLean gained 43 points in his inaugural competition (new players start at 1000 for their initial ratings), finishing with an impressive five wins and only two losses, both to higher rated opponents.

The Traveling Porth Chess Troupe of Bellevue played another tournament in their perpetual road trip ala Caissa. Desmond Porth was third place in the B section scoring 5.0/7 but lost to McLean Weig on head-to-head tiebreak. Porth also gained 43 rating points. Billy Olsen of Bellevue tested the icy waters of OTB chess for the first time, gaining a sole draw for his efforts.

Many thanks to Hub Insurance for the use of the site and a Big Thank You to IM John Donaldson, who for many years has supported chess in Idaho, once again with autographed copies of "Alekhine in the Americas" which were the top prizes in each section. As has become customary, almost all players met at Peking for social hour (or two) and great Chinese food following the event.

The tournament was sponsored by the Idaho Chess Union, hosted by the Magic Valley Chess Club, and rated by Rocky Mountain Chess.

Daniel “Dan” Eric Mayers

Source: Wood River Chapel
(www.woodriverchapel.com)



Date of Birth:
Tuesday, September 19th, 1922

Date of Death:
Thursday, January 2nd, 2014

Chess champion Dan Mayers passed away at his home in Sun Valley on Thursday, January 2. He was 91.

Mayers (known locally as ‘Thunderbunny’) grew up in New York City, raised by his father Lewis, a lawyer, and his mother May, a physician. Early in his life he devoted himself to chess, and won the New York City High School Championship in 1939.

In 1953 Mayers played against 9-year-old Bobby Fischer at the Brooklyn Chess Club, and won. It was the earliest recorded game of Fischer, who went on to become the world chess champion.

After graduation with a degree in geology from the University of Arizona in 1944, Mayers was drafted into the U.S. Army, and was assigned to work at the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos. While there he developed an interest in magic.

After studying at Harvard, Mayers set off on what would become a lifetime of traveling. During a business trip to Europe he met his wife Barbara, and they moved to Mexico where their first children Vanda and Randell were born.

In 1958 they moved to England, and it was here that Mayers embarked on creating a unique wilderness garden called Lorien, with a vast collection of azaleas and

rhododendrons from around the world. Gayle and Darrel were born in Sussex.

Apart from chess, Dan had many other interests and passions. He was successful as a distributor of emeralds and amethysts from Africa. He was also an aficionado of the Japanese shakuhachi flute, and became the president of the International Shakuhachi Society.

After his wife Barbara had passed away he moved to spend his final years in Sun Valley, but continued playing chess to the end of his life. In 1996, he won the British Senior Championship, and in 2004, he won the U.S. Senior championship. Just days before he passed away he was competing in the North American Open at Bally’s Casino and Resort in Las Vegas.

He is survived by his four children, Vanda Gerhart, Randell Mayers, Gayle Schumacher and Darrel Mayers, and ten grandchildren.

The following game is from “The Unknown Bobby Fischer” by IM John Donaldson and IM Eric Tangborn.

Dan E Mayers – Robert James Fischer [C33]
Blitz Game 1953 Brooklyn Chess Club
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 Bb4 6.e5 Ne4 7.Qh5 0–0 8.Nge2 d5 9.Bb3 g6 10.Qh6 Bg4 11.Bd2 Nxd2 12.Kxd2 g5 13.h4 gxh4 14.Rxh4 Bf5 15.Rah1 Be7 16.Rg4+ Bg6 17.Qxh7# 1–0

Jay Simonson appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the ICA

December 31, 2013

Jay Simonson was appointed by the ICA Board of Directors on December 31, 2013 to be the Secretary/Treasurer of the ICA to serve until the term vacated by Patrick Abernathy on September 23, 2013 runs out, which is March 30, 2014.

Jay Simonson held the position of Secretary/Treasurer in 2001-2002 before becoming Vice President in 2003, President in 2004 during perhaps the most tumultuous time in the history of the ICA, took a much-needed year off in 2005, Vice President again in 2006-2008, President again in 2008-2012. Jay retired from the Board in 2013, but

has been drafted back. Thank you, Jay, for your continued willingness to help when needed.

Jamie Lang declares ICA candidacy

January 3, 2014



Picture taken in 2012, courtesy of Jamie Lang’s Facebook page.

Jamie Lang declared his intention to run for a position on the ICA Board of Directors 45 days ahead of the election at the 2014 Annual Business Meeting in Twin Falls on Sunday, February 16, 2014 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM, as per the Bylaws. This means he only needs to win by a simple majority.

“I would like to be considered for the position of Trustee for Tournament Organization. I have been a chess player for almost 20 years, and participated in my first tournament in November of 2001. I have hosted four invitational tournaments at my home in Meridian, Idaho. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as Trustee in planning and organizing ICA tournaments in the future. Thanks, Jamie”

No other candidates have declared for any of the five ICA Board positions up for election. However, others may still run and win, but must do so by two-thirds majority.

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Breckenridge 10-Board Blindfold Simul

By Brian Berger

On Friday, December the 13th, what turned out to be a first for many of the ten opponents who gathered at Sean Tobin's, Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club in Beaverton, for a ten-board blindfold simul by FIDE Master Steven Breckenridge, turned out to be a first for Breckenridge also.

Familiar with playing up to eight boards blindfolded, against high rated players, Breckenridge had never attempted ten boards, this time pitting his memory against under 1600 rated opponents. What ensued was both instructive and exciting—instructive for Breckenridge, and exciting for those playing against him.

First, never attempt a personal record blindfold simul when you are less than fully rested. Second, expect the unexpected move when you are faced with under-1600 players. Third, play fewer Ruy Lopez openings thereby more easily identifying which game is on which board. So much for the instructive parts.

Now for the exciting parts. First, watching a master player rattle off moves without hesitation in the early stages of the simul. Second, observing the faces of the youngsters and adults as they contemplated their next move, probably wondering how anyone blindfolded could possibly keep track of so many games.

As mentioned in the instructive comments, Breckenridge's fatigue and gradual disassociation with what game was on what board finally led to some humorous exchanges with helpers Sean Tobin and Mike Hasuike—quote: "I don't remember this game, there were too many weird moves."

Eventually, as the tenuous thread connecting the games in Breckenridge's mind further frayed and separated, a resignation was conceded on board 9, making Eric Lindell a happy man.

What followed was a series of draw offers either from Breckenridge or those emboldened by what they probably perceived as a man bailing water, and the simul ended on that note.

A more than gracious Breckenridge made

some funny remarks about his disconnect and vowed never again to play so many Ruy Lopez openings.



*Nikhar Khamesra awaiting his move.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



*Steven Breckenridge blindfolded.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



*Steven greeting players before the simul.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*

Winter Open 2013

By Brian Berger

Thirty Players descended on the Portland Chess Club for the Winter Open held on December 14-15.

With registration assistance from Mike Morris, round one got off to a good start, the balance of the tournament handled nicely by by Chief TD Grisha Alpernas.

Of the 12 players in the Open Section, Clemen Deng showed he could hold his own against a tough crowd, taking round one from Lennart Bjorksten, drawing rounds two, four, and five with Brian Esler, Bill Heywood and Calvin Parnon, while losing only to Vljako Lakic. Impressive when all opponents mentioned sport ratings over 2000—a performance which upped Deng's pre-tournament rating of 1867 to a post 1920 and gaining him a share of the under 2000 prize, which he split with Frederick Davis. **WATCH OUT FOR THIS GUY!**

FIDE Master Steven Breckenridge was in town which drew the attention of Master Nick Raptis. When all was said and done Raptis emerged the clear winner with 4.5, drawing only with Breckenridge who finished second with 3.5. Even had Breckenridge not taken a bye in the 4th round, a draw against Lennart Bjorksten in round five would have scotched any hope of a tie for first.

Finally, sharing 3rd place, were Brian Esler and Vljako Lakic, each ending with 3.0.



L-R: Steven Breckenridge, Bill Heywood. Photo credit: Brian Berger

The Reserve section attracted an 18-player field, dominated by William Sercombe, with four wins and one draw. Starting with a win against the top rated Aaron Nicoski (1776), Sercombe blew through the competition drawing only with Valentin Molchanov and posting a whopping 197 point gain in rating—1497 to 1694.

Sharing 2nd place prize money (\$43.75) were Aaron Nicoski, Valentin Molchanov and Jake Winkler, each with a 3.5 followed closely by Adam Culbreth and Mike Hasuike, posting 3.0. Dylan Mounts, with 2.5, took the under 2000 prize.

It might be noted that because of a lack of opponents in the fourth round, a rare cross-section pairing was made between Reserve section Adam Culbreth, and Open section Sean O'Connell, ending in a win for O'Connell.

The prize fund for the tournament was somewhat diminished due to the less than expected turnout (30 instead of 40). But what prizes were awarded were readily pocketed, and most players seemed to have had a good time.

Carl Haessler
Chess Master

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L-R: Nick Raptis, Steven Breckenridge. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Breckenridge 52-board Simul

By Brian Berger

Following on the heels of his ten-board, blindfold simul, Steve Breckenridge was once again at the Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club in Beaverton on December 21, this time to take on 50 players eager to test their chess skills against a FIDE Master. Sartorial in suit and tie, Breckenridge entered a room overflowing with players of all ages, each hoping to achieve their 15 minutes of fame with the Master.

The number of parents and curious onlookers swelled the playing room to near capacity, many having to stand to view the games. And, although billed as a 50-board simul, two more players were added at the last minute, extending by 15 minutes the advertised 1:00 PM starting time.

With all players in place, Breckenridge, accompanied by the event organizer, Sean Tobin (chief architect of Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club), strolled center stage. After introducing Breckenridge to the applauding crowd, and thanking him for agreeing to take on this Herculean task, Breckenridge encouraged those gathered to give Tobin a round of applause for his organizational efforts.

Introductions aside, Tobin set down the ground rules for the simul, and the battle commenced. Breckenridge, playing white on all boards, began at a brisk pace to move down the rows of players, each player needing to move only when Breckenridge stood before him/her. With only one pass offered to each player during the course of the simul, most were diligent to be prepared for their next move. Even so, things began to slow by the second hour, Breckenridge taking more time at certain boards which presented more interesting positions.

As hour two flowed into hour three, many of the younger players began exhibiting nagging signs of under-stimulation (leaving their chairs, talking), obviously not used to games lasting so long. By this time, Breckenridge had removed his coat, and could be seen every now and then on his knees before a board, a position brought on (I was told later) by some tight-fitting shoes. And, though by this time many of the games had been terminated, the pace had not substantially increased, as Breckenridge was encountering more concentrated resistance among some of the better players.

By hour four, most of the parents who still had a child playing who had not been eliminated, realizing the time they had allotted for the event had been nowhere near long enough, had to withdraw their



In the foreground is Nathan Khingratsaphone - the lone winner vs Steven. Photo credit: Sean Tobin

budding Carlsens, leaving Breckenridge to deal with the last of the resistance. Now well into the fifth hour, just a few boards remained, and finally it was over.

Bragging rights fell to just seven players, only one of which managed a win against the superb showing of Breckenridge's mastery of the board—Nathan Khingratsaphone. In a game comprised of only 39 moves, Breckenridge had miscalculated on an exchange, making Khingratsaphone a happy man. Managing hard fought draws against the Master were Mike Goffe, Nic Sinkewitch, Galen Pyle, Geoff Kenway, John Martin and Gary Robinson, each with a story to pass on.

Although a modest entrance fee was asked

of those participating in the simul, monies to go to Breckenridge for his lengthy effort, the ever gracious Master donated his earnings to the Cedar Hills Crossing Chess Club to help in purchasing new equipment and to finance free entrance to the TGIM and TGIF tournaments held each month at the club.

As if nearly six hours of standing on your feet and playing chess were not enough for Breckenridge, he promptly entered the rated Blitz tournament scheduled to start immediately after the simul, and proceeded to top a field of 12 players.

Many thanks go to Steven Breckenridge for giving of his time and for an outstanding day of chess.



L-R: Carl Koontz, Brian Berger and Adam Culbreth. Photo credit: Sean Tobin



Steven Breckenridge (White) vs. Larry Olson (Black). Photo credit: Sean Tobin



Photo credit: Sean Tobin

A Poem

by Brian Berger

The Chess Tournament

It was the day of the tournament,
And lined around the hall,
Were eager players awaiting their turn,
To view pairings on the wall.

But one more eager than most that day,
Was a kid named Jimmy Lee,
Who hankered to show the gathered throng,
That no one could play like he.

He knew the moves, had studied them all,
Till the board was familiar ground;
No opening could catch him unawares,
His preparation totally sound.

So when he was paired to an aging soul,
Who limped in approaching him,
Jimmy could not contain his delight,
And counted an easy win.

Opening with white, he suckered him in,
With the sacrifice of a pawn,
Then tore up his center with lightning
speed,
While barely stifling a yawn.

But slowly he felt a chill in his blood,
His attack was petering out,
The old man let him overextend,
And white's pieces were facing a rout.

Fight as he may, he could not gain ground,
And his fate began to loom;
Every trick he had tried to turn the tide,
But could not delay his doom.

Suddenly his queen had no place to go,
A trap he had not foreseen,
And with its demise would go his attack,
And a game he could not redeem.

Jimmy Lee's loss left a wiser lad,
Who vowed not to underrate,
The next old man who smiled at his moves,
For it might be then too late!

December Game/60

By Brian Berger

Once again Korneljijs Dale was the lone TD for the December Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club on December 28, 2013. With Jerrold Richards offering his assistance to help input the registration data, the tournament got off to a good start.

Twenty players placed their money on the line for a chance to win a prize, and perhaps, a bit of glory. Dagadu Gaikwad won both, blasting through the competition with a perfect 4.0, finding himself \$60 richer, and upping his rating from 1678 to 1799.

Ending with 3.0 and \$35 each were Clemen Deng, Yuriy Kamsha and Aaron Pikus, with Jeffery Sun also pocketing \$35, being the lowest rated of the three players who scored 2.5. This fine showing by Sun also boosted his pre-tournament rating of 1164, a whopping 151 points to a post 1315.



L-R: Aaron Pikus, Jimmi Blevins.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

Jason Cigan at North American Open

by Jason Cigan

On December 26-29, I played the under 2100 section of the North American Open in Las Vegas. After an up-and-down first three days, I found myself two wins away from a share of second place. I have annotated my last two games below.

**Dan Quicera (1915) –
Jason Cigan (2074) [B43]**
North American Open Las Vegas, NV
(R6), December 29, 2013
[Jason Cigan]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 Bc5 8.Nb3
Be7 9.Qf3**

This move makes a strange impression. The f-pawn is begging to advance to f4, and any kingside-oriented plan will be more potent after the insertion of 9.f4 and the automatic reply 9...d6.

9...0-0 10.Bf4

Not a dangerous plan. White could have made more sense of his previous move with 10.Qh3 with not so subtle threats against the Black kingside. He will of course get a second chance to play f2-f4 here.

10...d6 11.Rfe1 Nc6

Already Black is more comfortable.

12.Rad1

It is natural to complete development, but this allows a forcing sequence with favors Black.

12...e5 13.Nd5

Any bishop retreat would drop an exchange to ...Bg4.

13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Nb4 15.Bg3?

A clear mistake. Black will gain the bishop pair in any event but now he will also harass White's kingside pieces with a pawn-storm. More natural choices included 15.Qe4; or 15.Bd2, with a slight plus to Black in either case.

15...f5+

White is not quite losing a piece – ...e5-e4 is not yet a threat—but his dark-squared bishop is in a rough spot.

16.h3



The insertion of 16.Qh5 Qd8, when Black is indeed threatening to win either bishop, would have left White in a dire situation.

16...Nxd3?!

There is really no need to rush this exchange. Of course 16...e4?? 17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.Qxe4 forking the knight and bishop is not what Black is looking for, but the subtle; 16...Bg5 again threatens a killer fork on e4 and maintains the tension. Of course the light-squared bishop is not running away anywhere.

17.Qxd3?!

White returns the favor. 17.cxd3 gives White a chance to play for the c-file, and though Black retains an edge White is still fighting.

17...f4 18.Bh2 Bf5 19.Qd2 Bf6

Taking the pawn right away is less accurate due to 19...Qxc2 20.Bxf4 when the dark-square bishop breaks out of prison.

20.Qb4?

Now White's house will burn down on the queenside, as he is granting Black at least one tempo toward a minority attack.

20...a5 21.Qb5 Rfe8 22.c3 a4 23.Nd2 a3

White is busted.

24.Ne4

24.c4 Ra5! 25.Qb3 b5! is the key point I had planned, with the idea 26.cxb5? Bc2 27.Qb4 Ra4+.

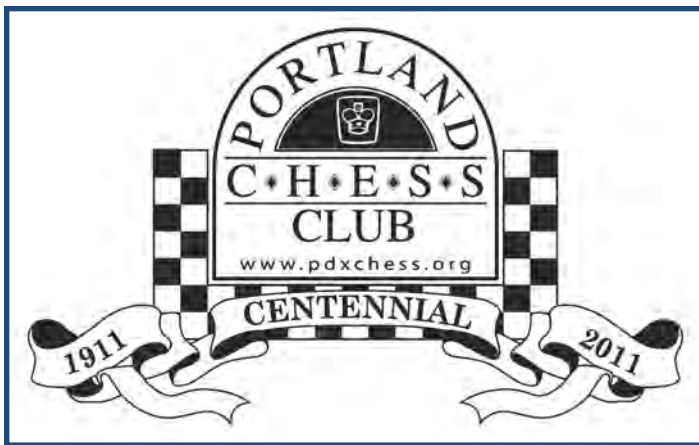
24...Bxe4 25.Rxe4 axb2 26.Qxb2 Qxc3

All of the endgame scenarios White can enter are equally bleak.

27.Qxc3 Rxc3 28.Rb4 Rxa2 29.Rxb7 Rcc2

The doubled rooks on the seventh, as is often the case, decide the game.

30.Rf1 Bh4 31.Rb8+ Kf7 32.g3 Bxg3



32...fxg3 is more practical, as it should transpose but gives White the chance to go wrong with 33.fxg3+?? Kg6 with mate on the horizon.

33.Bxg3 fxg3 34.fxg3+ Kg6 35.Rf3 Rg2+

Gaining a tempo, so that Black's next rook move will come with a mate threat.

36.Kh1?

This should lose instantly.

36...Rgd2?

I miss my chance! 36...Rge2 wins instantly, as now my idea 37.Kg1 e4 38.Rf4 e3 39.Rg4+ Kf5 leaves White fully tied down as the pawn is secure on e3.

37.Kg1 e4

37...Rd1+

38.Rf4 Rxd5?!

Not so accurate. There is no need to allow counterplay or any chance to trade down to a less clear single-rook ending. 38...Ra1+ 39.Rf1 Ra3 is total domination.

39.Rg4+ Rg5 40.Rd8 Rxc4 41.Rxd6+ Kf5 42.hxc4+ Kxc4 43.Rd7 g5!

Ensuring the win.

44.Rxh7 Kxc3 45.Kf1 g4 46.Re7 Ra1+!

The practical solution. Black can shed a pawn to reach a Lucena position.

47.Ke2 Kg2 48.Rxe4 g3 49.Rh4 Ra8 50.Rh7 Kg1 51.Rh6 g2 52.Rb6 Rh8

White resigned. 0-1

Jason Cigan (2074) –

Evgeny Nahutin (1978) [A42]

North American Open Las Vegas, NV
(R7), December 29, 2013

[Jason Cigan]

This 7th-round matchup was a "money game" – the winner would get a chunk of the prize fund and, as it turned out, a share of second place in the U2100 section.

1.d4 g6 2.e4 d6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Be3 e5 6.Nge2 Ngf6

Transposing to a Samisch King's Indian.

7.f3 exd4

This release of the central tension is not in the spirit of Black's setup. White's

biggest problem in the Samisch is the awkwardness of finding a good square for the g1-knight (currently on e2) and taking on d4 grants it a beautiful post. It can hardly be kicked from d4, as any advance of the c-pawn will leave the d6-pawn ripe for the picking. I am tempted to call this an improved Maroczy structure for White, as Black is missing the e-pawn

instead of the c-pawn – this leaves Black with no semi-open c-file to create play on, no central majority to point to, and great difficulty engineering a pawn break against the bind.

8.Nxd4 Ne5 9.Qd2 h6?

A senseless move. Black will now never be able to castle short, as the h6-pawn will hang. Castling was the natural move. The only reason I can conceive of for this move is to prevent Bh6, but any player who wants to play this type of pawn structure with Black needs to know the typical trick 9...0-0 10.Bh6? Nxe4! 11.Nxe4 Qh4+†

10.Be2 b6

Black is going for a Hippo setup, but this structure lacks its usual resiliency when the e-pawn has been exchanged rather than parked on e6.

11.0-0 Bb7 12.Rfd1 Qe7?!

This allows White to play his typical trump in Maroczy-like positions – knight to d5 – with devastating effect. If the queen wanted to make a safer exit from the back rank then 12...Qd7 was a possibility, but the most principled plan is surely; 12...h5!?, avoiding some tactical tricks after the queen comes to d7 and hinting at some slow but sure kingside counterplay. Castling is not an urgent matter for Black, as his king is about as safe in the center as would be on the queenside.

13.Nd5 Qd8

13...Qd7 does lose a pawn to 14.Bxh6 (But White might do better to deviate with 14.Rac1!± and he retains an initiative is worth at least a pawn.) 14...Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Rxh6 16.Nxf6+ Kd8 17.Nxd7 Nxd7±, but in truth this pawn-down queenless position is an improvement over what happens to Black in the game, as he is no longer in danger of coming under attack and White's advantage is a long way from being realized.

14.Rac1 Kf8

Not a choice one wants to make! Black is committed to hunkering down now, and to this end 14...a6, preventing Nb5 ideas and passing the move to White, might have

been preferable.

15.b4

15.Nb5!? looks more to the point, but it is not clear if it is an improvement after 15...Ne8 16.f4 c6 17.fxe5 Bxe5±.

15...c5

15...Nxd5 16.cxd5+– was simply not an option. A sample line is 16...a6 17.f4 Nd7 18.e5 dxe5 19.Ne6+ fxe6 20.dxe6 with no hope for Black.

16.Nb3

Black has some holes on the light squares and would like to keep this bishop; however, he must capture on d5 to avoid losing the d6-pawn.

16...Bxd5 17.cxd5 Kg8 18.bxc5 bxc5 19.Rb1 Kh7

Black's king has castled kingside by hand, but White now controls the queenside.

20.Na5



20...Re8

Black cannot contest the b-file. 20...Rb8 21.Nc6 Nxc6 22.dxc6 Rxb1 23.Rxb1 Qc7 24.Rb7 is unplayable.

21.Bb5 Ned7?

Now Black is losing. He had to leave his best piece where it stood with 21...Nfd7±, when Black still has no counterplay but is surviving for now.

22.Bf4 Qe7

It is not much to look forward to, but Black should at least try to hang on to the pawn with 22...Bf8

23.Nc4+–

White wins. The rest stands without explanation.

23...Ne5 24.Bxe5 dxe5 25.Bxe8 Nxe8 26.Qa5 Nd6 27.Nxd6 Qxd6 28.Rb7 f5 29.Rc1 fxe4 30.fxe4 Rf8 31.Qxa7 Qf6 32.h3 Qf2+ 33.Kh1 Rg8 34.Qxc5 Qxa2 35.d6 Qa6

Black lost on time. 1-0

Gresham Open

Gresham, OR – January 4-5, 2014

By Brian Berger

Once again the Gresham Open beckoned

regional chess enthusiasts, drawing a field of 50 players, many of whom have made it an annual pilgrimage for many years. But there were also new faces amongst the crowd, giving hope that this yearly tournament will continue to flourish in the coming years, and causing Chief TD, Kornelijis (Neil) Dale, to wax nostalgic about his own longtime participation in the event.

“In the many years that I have directed this tournament, said Neil, “never have I had so much wonderful help from Jon and Barbie Fortune, Grisha Alpernas and Mike Morris. I want to thank them all, and also thank the players who came to play in what has sometimes been called the Siberian Open.”

This writer can attest to Dale’s description of this event being known among seasoned Gresham Open players as the “Siberian Open,” as I recall many times crunching through snow-covered roads and slipping on icy patches, while coming to or leaving this venue (a taste of which could be felt and seen even at this event, when freezing temperatures left a frost on many roadways, and the wind from the gorge could be felt even through heavy clothing). Of course, this was before global warming began to modify the winters, to the point where we don’t need snowshoes or traction devices to safely compete. Darn, now I’m waxing nostalgic!

Aaron Grabinsky again showed why he is a growing force to be reckoned with, taking first place (\$297.50) with 4 1/2 points, and in the 4th round, giving Nick Raptis his only loss out of a final score of four wins. Also joining Raptis with 4.0 points each were, Lennart Bjorksten, Paul Bartron, James Chan and Micah Smith, all walking away \$100.30 dollars richer.

Also exhibiting a growing talent was Aaron’s brother, Joshua Grabinsky, one of six who ended with 3 1/2 points, boosting his rating of 1405, to 1553. And, as icing on the cake, he also pocketed \$106.25--not bad for weekend of doing what you love!

In the money too was Mark Hanna, who, as the lowest rated in a field of eight others who scored 3.0 points, also found himself a \$106.25 prize winner. In all, a total of 20 players won money prizes--amounting to 40% of the participants!

As a personal aside, I would like to bring up an annoyance which I have noticed in recent tournaments, but was particularly bothersome at this venue, and that is the participation of individuals who come sick (I’m speaking mostly of colds), and proceed to sneeze and cough in your face, or wipe their nose with their hands, and then move the pieces. Mostly it is confined to children, whose parents should be more aware of how this might affect opponents, but can also be seen in adults who continue

to cough throughout a game.

Common etiquette in these situations would be to remove your child, or yourself, from exposing others, and play at another time when sickness is not an issue. It it a great disservice to your opponent, and in many instances, can be the tipping point between a won or lost game.

There, I’ve said it! But I believe I have spoken for many, who have quietly continued to deal with this annoyance without comment.

**Brian F Berger F (1508) –
Maxwell S Sun (1999) [C50]**
Gresham Open Gresham, OR (R1),
January 4, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0–0 d6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.Nbd2 h6 8.Be3 Bb6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qc1 g5 11.Nh2 g4 12.Bxb6 axb6 13.hxg4 Nxg4 14.Bb5?

Although White will still face a stiff kingside attack, he does better to preserve the knight with 14.Nhf3

14...Nxh2 15.Kxh2?

15.Bxc6+ bxc6 16.Kxh2 Qh4+ 17.Kg1 Rg8 18.f3 Still good for Black, of course, but the attack is not yet decisive.

15...Qh4+ 16.Kg1 0–0–0



17.Bxc6?

Bad, but the only other defense merely delays the end: 17.g3 Rdg8 18.Kg2 Nd4 19.Rh1 Qg4 20.Bc4 Qe2 With threats of both ...Bf3+ and ...Rxc6+, Black is winning. Only two defensive tries make any sense at all: 21.— (21.Kg1 Bf3 22.Rh3 Bg4 23.Rh4 Qxd2 24.Qxd2 Nf3+ 25.Kg2 Nxd2; 21.Rh3 Bg4 22.Rh2 Bf3+ 23.Kg1 Rxc6+! 24.fxg3 Qe3+ 25.Kf1 Ne2) ; 17.f3? Nd4 forks b5 and e2.]

17...bxc6??

The perils of the automatic recapture: Black misses forced mate. 17...Rhg8! 18.g3 (18.Bd5 Rxc2+ 19.Kxc2 Rg8#) 18...Rxc3+ 19.fxg3 Qxc3+ 20.Kh1 Qh4+ 21.Kg2 Rg8#

18.Re1

18.f3 is similar to the note to White’s move 15. 18...Rhg8 19.Rf2

18...Rhg8 19.Re3 Bg4?!

19...Rdf8; or 19...Rg5

20.Rg3

20.a4 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.a5 bxa5 23.Rxa5 unclear.

20...h5

20...f5 21.exf5 Rg5 22.Qe1 Rh5 23.f3 Bxf5

21.Nf3 Qf6 22.Nh2 Be6 23.Qe3 h4! 24.Qf3 Qh6 25.Qe3 Qf6 26.Qf3 Qh6 27.Qe3 Qh7! 28.Rxc6 Rxc6 29.Kh1 f5 30.a4 f4 31.Qf3 Rg3 32.Qe2 Rg7 33.Qf3 Rg3 34.Qe2 Rg7 35.Qf3 Qg6 36.a5 h3 37.g3?!

37.gxh3 seems to maintain the status quo. Black still has the initiative, but is still searching for a clear win.

37...bxa5

Or 37...fxg3 38.fxg3 bxa5

38.Rxa5

38.g4?! Bxg4 39.Nxg4 Qxg4 40.Qxg4+ Rxc6 41.Rg1 Rxc6+ 42.Kxc6 Kb7 is a winning king and pawn ending for Black.

38...Kd7 39.Ra1

39.Ra8 c5 40.g4 Bxg4 41.Nxg4 Qxg4 42.Qxg4+ Rxc6 43.Rh8 Rg2

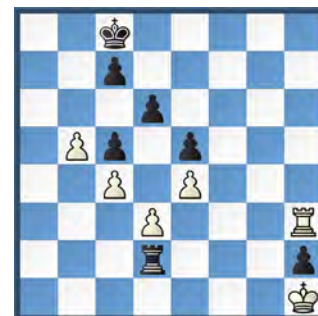
39...fxg3 40.Qxg3 Qf6 41.Qf3 Qxf3+ 42.Nxf3 Rf7 43.Ng5 Rxf2 44.Nxe6 Kxe6 45.Rc1 Kf6 46.b4 h2?!

The win is easier with the pawn on h3. 46...Kg5!

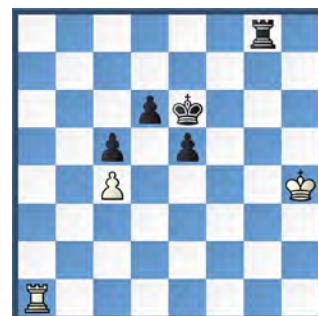
47.c4 Ke6

47...Kg5

48.b5 c5 49.Re1 Rd2 50.Re3 Kd7 51.Rh3 Kc8



52.Rxh2 Rxd3 53.Rb2 Rd4 54.b6 cxb6 55.Rxb6 Kc7 56.Rb1 Rxe4 57.Rc1 Rg4 58.Kh2 Kd7 59.Kh3 Rg8 60.Kh4 Ke6 61.Ra1



61...e4 62.Rd1 e3 63.Re1 Ke5 64.Rxe3+ Kf4 0–1



L-R: Lennart Bjorksten, Stephen Buck. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Stephen J Buck (1823) – Lennart Bjorksten (2173) [E14]
 Gresham Open Gresham, OR
 (R2), January 4, 2014
 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 b6 2.e3 Bb7 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d5 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 0-0 10.Rc1 Ne4 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Qc2 c6 13.b4 a6 14.Bb2 Re8 15.Ne5 Rc8 16.a4 b5?

Better is 16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 c5 though White still has an advantage.

17.a5?

White gets a plus by improving his piece placement first: 17.Bg4 Nef6 18.Bf5 g6 19.Bh3 Rc7 20.a5

17...Rc7?

17...Nxe5 18.dxe5 c5! and Black may even have a slight pull.

18.Nd3 Re6?

Black's last two took moves are almost designed as an invitation for White to win material.



Starting with the queen avoids the tactic. 18...Qh4

19.Nc5

19.Nf4! wins material: 19...Rd6 (19...Rh6

20.Nxd5) 20.Nxd5 Rxd5 21.Qxe4

19...Rh6

19...Ndx5 20.dxc5 Qg5 21.Bd3 White has a plus, but it's a game.

20.Nxe4 Qh4 21.h3 dxe4 22.d5!?

22.Rfd1 Rg6 23.Bg4!?! h5 (23...Nf6 24.Bf5! Rg5 25.d5! Rxf5 26.dxc6 Ne8 27.cxb7! Rxc2 (27...Rxb7 28.Qc8!) 28.Rxc2 and White wins.) 24.g3 Qg5 25.Bxd7 Rxd7 26.Qxe4 Re7 Black is a little short on compensation for the pawn.

22...c5 23.Bg4 Bxd5



24.Bxd7

24.Rfd1! Be6 25.Qxe4 Bxg4 26.Qe8+ (26.Rxd7!? Bxd7 27.Qe5 Rg6 28.Qxc7 Qe4! 29.g3 Be8 30.bxc5 seems wild and dangerous, with mate threats for both players and a bit of an unclear conclusion.) 26...Nf8 27.Rd8 Qe7 28.Qxe7 Rxe7 29.hxg4 c4 White looks pretty good here, with control of the only open file, back rank pressure, and a target on a6.

24...Rxd7 25.Qxc5 Be6?

25...Qd8! 26.Qc3 Rg6 27.Rfd1 Bc4 28.Rxd7 Qxd7 looks completely equal.

26.Qe5 Rg6 27.Rc8+ Rd8 28.Rxd8+?

28.Qxe4! Qg5 29.Rxd8+ Qxd8 30.Qf3

28...Qxd8 29.Kh2 Bc4?

29...h6 30.Bc3 Qh4 is equality again.

30.Rd1 Qf8 31.Qxe4 f5?

31...Rd6

32.Qb7 h6 33.Qc7! Qxb4 34.Rd8+ Kh7 35.Qe8

This is starting to look grim for Black.

35...Re6



36.Bxg7?

36.Rh8+ Kg6 37.Bxg7! is the right way. 37...Qd6+ 38.f4 game over.

36...Kxg7 37.Rg8+ Kf7??

37...Kf6 Black is surviving.

38.Rh8! Qd6+ 39.g3?

39.f4! is much better, combining defense with offense (guarding e5 and g5). 39...Rg6 40.Rh7+ Kf6 (40...Rg7 41.Qb7+) 41.Rd7!

39...Kf6?

A subtle difference: 39...Kg6! 40.Qg8+ Kf6 41.Rxh6+ Ke5 42.Qh8+ Kd5 43.Qd4+ Kc6 44.Qb6+ Kd5 45.Qd4+ with a draw.

40.Rxh6+

40.Rh7! Ke5 41.Rd7 Qa3 42.g4! is a winning attack, according to the computer.

40...Ke5 41.Qh8+ Ke4 42.Rh4+ Kf3 43.Rf4+ Ke2 44.Qh5+ Ke1?

A great drawing idea, but 44...Kf1! is the accurate way to execute it. 45.Rd4 Qxd4 46.exd4 Re2 47.g4 f4 forces the draw.

45.Rd4 Qxd4 46.exd4 Re2



47.Qg5?

47.Kg1! Rxf2 48.g4 Rf1+ (48...f4 49.Qh4!) 49.Kg2 and White has good winning chances.

47...Rxf2+ 48.Kg1 1/2-1/2

Washington Chess News

Roland Feng NWC Fundraiser Simul

Seattle—December 13, 2013

By Joshua Sinanan



NM Roland Feng. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan

On behalf of Northwest Chess Magazine, thanks again for taking part in the Roland Feng Northwest Chess Fundraiser simul! 11 players took part in the event. Special thanks to Roland Feng for giving the simul and to Fred Kleist and the Seattle Chess Club for hosting the event!

The final score from the simul was NM Roland Feng 10, Simul Players 1, which came from a lucky checkmate by Travis Olson. For his effort, Travis was awarded a classy chess medal. No draws were achieved this time. The simul took a little over an hour to complete.

Ralph Anthony – Roland Feng [C11]

Roland Feng Simul Seattle, WA
December 13, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Be2 b5 9.0-0 b4 10.Na4 Be7 11.c4 cxd4

11...bxc3 12.bxc3 is an advantage for White, but is better than the game line.

12.cxd5! dxe3 13.dxc6 Nc5?

13...Nb6 14.Nxb6 Qxb6 15.Rc1 when the c6 pawn is far more annoying than the one



Ralph Anthony. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan

on e3, but this is the lesser evil. The game move should lose immediately.

14.Qxd8+ Kxd8



15.Nb6

15.c7+! Kxc7 (15...Kd7 16.Rfd1+ Kc6 17.Rac1; 15...Ke8 16.Nb6 Ra7 17.Nxc8) 16.Rfc1 wins for White here. Black must jettison a piece, since 16...Kc6 17.Nd4+ Kd5 18.Rxc5+!! leads to mate: 18...Bxc5 19.Bf3+ Kxd4 (19...Kc4 20.b3+ Kxd4 21.Rd1#) 20.Rd1+ Kc4 21.Be2#

15...Rb8 16.Nxc8

16.Nc4 should offer White a comfortable endgame despite the two black bishops. The one on c8 is not currently an asset, and the white rooks get activity more quickly than their black counterparts.

16...Rxc8 17.Rfd1+ Kc7 18.Nd4

18.Bxa6! is a nice tactic. 18...Nxa6 19.Rd7+ Kxc6 20.Rxe7 can't be bad for White.

18...Rhd8 19.Rac1 Rb8 20.Nc2?

20.f5! is close to equal.

20...Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 b3 22.Nxe3??

22.axb3 Rxb3 23.Kf1 when Black has a clear advantage, but still has some technical hurdles before he can claim a win.

22...bxa2 23.Bc4 Rxb2 24.Bxa2 Rxa2 0-1



NM Roland Feng. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan



NM Roland Feng. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan

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Washington Junior Closed

Crosstable



Daniel He. Photo credit: David Hendricks

Daniel He of Redmond won the six player round-robin event that took place January 3, 4, and 5 in Sammamish, Bellevue, and Redmond respectively. Daniel now qualifies to play in the Championship Section of the Washington State Championship—a 10-player round robin tournament held at the Seattle Chess Club over two weekends, February 8-9 and February 15-17.

**Samuel He (2126) –
Marcell Szabo (2089) [E90]**
WA Junior Closed Redmond, WA
(R4), January 5, 2014
[Samuel He]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.h3

This is the Makagonov System, a system which Black must play very accurately to not end up with a passive position.

6...e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.Bg5

The point of this move is to pin the f6-knight, making f7-f5 difficult. The natural move is to play h6, but after Be3, g4 h4-h5, Black's g7-bishop would be completely useless, as well as f7-f5.

8...a5 9.g4 Nc5 10.Nd2 Qe8!

This is the most accurate way to play f7-f5 as Black has no weaknesses on the kingside.

11.Be2 Nfd7 12.h4

[Diagram next column]

12...f5!?

I was very surprised by this move as I had thought 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.Bh5 was winning,

#	Name	Rtng	Grd	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Daniel He	2206	9	D3	W6	W5	W4	D2	4.0
2	Marcell Szabo	2093	7	W6	W5	W4	L3	D1	3.5
3	Samuel He	2088	9	D1	L4	W6	W2	W5	3.5
4	Ethan Bashkansky	2104	10	L5	W3	L2	L1	W6	2.0
5	Roland Feng	2274	7	W4	L2	L1	D6	L3	1.5
6	Kyle Haining	2042	8	L2	L1	L3	D5	L4	0.5



but Black does not have to recapture immediately.

13.gxf5 h6! 14.Be3 gxf5 15.f3!?

I considered 15.exf5 at first, but after 15...e4! I think Black is better as his g7-bishop becomes active and the e5 square for his knight. 15.f3 keeps Black's pieces passive. My future planning would be preparing 0-0-0 and attacking the weak kingside.

15...Qe7 16.Qc2 Nb6?!)

I don't see what the purpose of this move is as the knight has no real threat on b6. 16...Nf6 would be a better move and threatens ...Nh5 with threats on the kingside.

17.0-0-0 Kh7?

This move allows some strong exchanges which gives me the advantage.

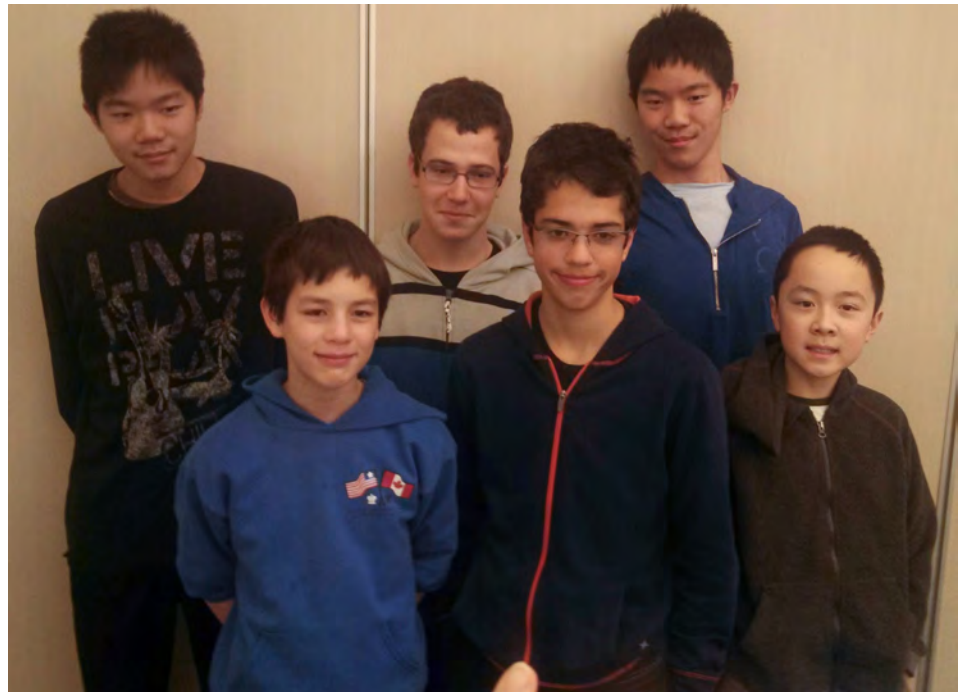


18.Bxc5! dxc5 19.exf5! Bxf5 20.Bd3

Here, it is clear White has a strong position. Black has doubled pawns and also an isolated e-pawn. Black's g7-bishop is blocked and the knight on b6 is misplaced. White has the e4 square for his knights and the g-file. The only weaknesses are the f3 and h4 pawns, which are not too difficult to defend.

20...Bxd3 21.Qxd3+ Kh8 22.Rdg1

Threatening to play Rg4 and Rhg1, creating threats on the g-file and also defending the h4-pawn at the same time.



Back row L-R: Daniel He, Ethan Bashkansky, Samuel He
Front row L-R: Kyle Haining, Marcell Szabo, Roland Feng. Photo credit: David Hendricks

22...Rf4!

The best way to create threats. Black may try attacking the c4-pawn, bring the rook to d4, or attack h4-f3.

23.Rg4!

In this position, Black's rooks are more active than White's. If White can trade off the rooks, the strength of White's minor pieces would be clearer.

23...e4?!

Usually, this type of move is very strong, opening up the diagonal for the bishop. However, in this position, the counterplay with it is not very clear, and White ends up being up a pawn.

24.Ndxe4 Rxe4 25.fxe4 Nd7 26.Ng3

White's king position is a little open, but luckily, Black cannot really take advantage of it without weakening his own king.

26...Qe5 27.Rf1 Rf8 28.Nf5!

Trading rooks would favor Black as Black's pieces, especially his queen, are more active at the moment. With Nf5, the knight prevents any attack from Black.

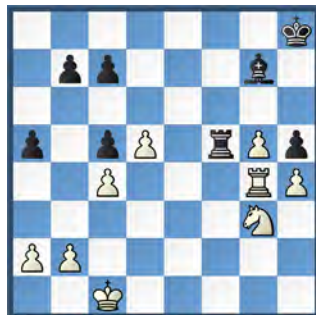
28...Nf6 29.g5 Ng4 30.Qe4 Nh2!

A very tricky move. White now has to be very careful not to mess anything up.

31.Rf2 Qxe4 32.Nxe4 Ng4 33.Rf1 Nh2 34.Rf2 Ng4 35.Rg2!

No draw!

35...Rxf5 36.Rxe4 h5 37.Ng3



37...hxe4?

According to the computer, ...Bxb2+ is the best move, giving White only a +0.97 advantage. However, I had calculated that the endgame is still better for me as the knight is superior to the bishop. ...hxe4 gives a similar position in the game, except I am up a pawn.

38.Nxf5 Be5 39.Nh6 Bf4+ 40.Kd1 g3 41.Ke2 Kh7 42.Kf3 Kg6 43.Kg2

Now that White's king has stopped the g3-pawn, the Black bishop is forced to guard it. On the other hand, White's knight has more freedom to move. At this point, both players had little time left, but at the end, White was able to win.

1-0

Northwest Chess Open

by Duane Polich

The Northwest Chess Open was held at the Seattle Chess Club on December 14-15. A total of 39 players took part in the event. The event was won by veteran master Viktor Pupols and up and coming Kyle Haining when the two drew in the last round and ended up with a total of 4 points—good for \$100.00 each. Masayuki Nagase and Ryan Ackerman shared the under 2000 prize with 3.5 points each. Travis Olson and Gabriel Tafalla shared the under 1800 prize with 3.5 points. Kevin Chen, Brian Raffel and Jason Cross, playing in his first tournament shared the under 1600



L-R: Kyle Haining, Viktor Pupols.
Photo credit: Duane Polich

Washington President's Cup

February 15-16, 2014

Open Winner seeded into the 2015 Washington Premier Championship

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133. (206) 417-5405.

Two Sections: Open and Reserve (under 1600).

Open: 4 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** 40/2, SD/1, D/5

Reserve: 5 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** Saturday 40/90, SD/30, D/5; Sunday 40/2, SD/1, D/5.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Prize Fund: \$1,200 (based on 40 paid entries).

Open: FIDE rated 1st \$225, 2nd \$150, 1st U2000 \$125, 1st U1800 \$125

Reserve: 1st \$175, 2nd \$150, 1st U1400 \$125, 1st U1200/Unrated \$125

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 02/12, \$60 after 02/12 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 - 9:45 AM.

Rounds: Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Reserve: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Byes: One half-point byes available (Open Section), two half-point byes available (Reserve Section). Request before end of round 2. USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. Chess Magnet School JGP. NS. NC. W.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Dan Mathews, 749 Somerset Lane, Edmonds, WA 98020-2646.

Phone: (425) 218-7529. **E-mail:** danomathews01@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/online-registration.

and under 1400 prize and split \$150.00. Jason Zhang and Chris Peterson shared the under 1200 prize good for \$37.50 each. The event was a fundraiser for Northwest Chess Magazine and between the simul and the tournament, almost \$400 will be contributed to the magazine. Special thanks go out to David Bragg, Fred Kleist for the help and the use of the Seattle Chess Club and to Dan Mathews for helping with the event. Thanks to everyone who donated.

**David Golub (2238) –
James Wang (1716) [D45]**
Northwest Chess Open Seattle, WA
(R2), December 14, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.b3 0–0 8.Be2 e5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nb5 Bb8 11.Ba3 Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Nxd2 Re8 14.Rc1



14...exd4?

14...a6! 15.Nc7 Bxc7 16.Rxc7 exd4 17.exd4 Nf8! 18.Bxf8 (18.Nf3 Ne6 19.Re7 Rxe7 20.Bxe7 Ne4 looks good for Black.) 18...Kxf8 19.f3 is equal.

15.Nxd4 a6 16.Nf5 Nb6 17.Ne7+ Kh8 18.Nxc8 Rxc8 19.Rxc8+ Nxc8 20.0–0 Nd6 21.Rc1 h6 22.Nf3 Nfe4 23.Kf1 Ba7 24.Bxd6 Nxd6 25.Rd1 Rc8 26.Rxd5 Ne4 27.Bd3 Nf6 28.Re5 Rd8 29.Ke2



29...Rd5?!

29...Nd5 30.Bc4 Nc3+ 31.Kf1 Rd1+ 32.Ne1 Rd7 with a clear advantage for White.

30.Bc4

Or 30.Re7 Rd7 31.Rxd7 Nxd7

30...Rd7 31.Rf5 b5 32.Ne5 Rc7 33.Bxf7 Rc2+ 34.Kf3 Rxa2 35.g4 a5? 36.Ng6+ Kh7 37.Rxb5 a4 38.Rb7 axb3 39.Nf8+ Kh8 40.Bxb3 Rb2 41.h4 Rb1 42.h5 Rb2 43.Ng6+ Kh7 44.Rxa7 Rxb3 45.Ra8 Ng8 46.Kf4 Rb5 1–0

**Brian Raffel (1619) –
Ralph Anthony (1701) [B09]**
Northwest Chess Open Seattle, WA
(R4), December 15, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.e5 dxe5 7.fxe5

White has a pull in the queenless middlegame after 7.dxe5 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Ng4 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.Ke2 due to having more kingside space and Black's dark-square bishop lacking prospects.

7...Ng4



8.h3?

8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.d5 a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Bf4 +=

8...cxd4 9.Nb5?

Slightly better is 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.Qxd4 (10.Nxd4 Ngxe5) 10...Ngxe5 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.0–0 Nxf3+ 13.Rxf3 Bf5 but this leaves



TACOMA CHESS CLUB
Since 1891



Tacoma CC Semi-Class Saturdays

Saturday, March 8, 2014, and continues **on Saturday, March 15, 2014**

Format: Two sections. Limited to 26 players. Approx. the top rated 40% play in the Premier section and the rest become the Reserve section.

Schedule: Round 1 **12PM**, Round 2 **5PM**, Round 3 **12PM**, Round 4 **5PM**.

Registration: **11:15AM** and in advance.

Entry fee: \$40 by **February 27**; \$50 at site.

Premier section prizes: \$150, \$120, \$90.

Reserve section prizes: \$90, \$90, \$60.

Half-point byes available in Reserve section at registration only.

Tacoma CC March Open Back-to-Back Sundays

Sunday, March 9, 2014, and continues **on Sunday, March 16, 2014**

Format: One section. Limited to 20 players.

Prizes: 1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$90; 1st 1400-1800 \$90, 1st Under 1400 or Unrated \$90; Best game by a non-prize winner \$60.

Schedule: Round 1 **9:15AM**, Round 2 **2PM**, Round 3 **9:15AM**, Round 4 **2PM**.

Registration: **8:45AM** and in advance.

Entry fee: \$50 by **February 27**; \$60 at site.

Half-point byes available at registration only.

For each event: USCF rated. Four rounds. NW Grand Prix event. Swiss System. Time Control: Game in 90 minutes, with 30 seconds increment each move.

Location: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Avenue in the DTI Soccer Store Building.

TD: H. G. Pitre. **Mail entries to:** H. G. Pitre, **700 Crockett Street Apt 105, Seattle, WA 98109**

Email: hgpitre@gmail.com or **phone:** 206 284 9314

White with little for the pawn.

9...Nxe5 10.Bf4

10.Nbxd4 0-0 11.Be2 Qc7 12.0-0 Rd8

10...Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 e5

11...0-0 12.0-0-0 (12.Nc7 e5! 13.Nxa8 exf4 14.0-0-0 Nc6 15.Qxf4 (15.Qb3 Be6 16.Qxb7 Qxa8) 15...Be6 16.Nc7 Be5) 12...e5 13.Bd2 Nc6

12.Bg3?!

12.Bg5 f6 13.Bc4 a6 14.Na3 Qe7 15.Bd2 White has given up material and is being driven back. This is not a good combination.

12...a6 13.Bc4 0-0 14.Qa3?



14.Na3 Qa5+ 15.Kf2 Nc6 16.Kg1 Bf5 doesn't really offer much for White, either.

14...Bf5

Simply crushing is 14...axb5! 15.Qxa8 bxc4 16.Qxb8 Qg5 : 17.Bf2 Qxg2 18.Rg1 Qe4+ 19.Kd2 Bh6+ 20.Kd1 d3 is soon

mate.

15.Nd6 Bxc2?

Two extra pawns are enough. It's time to develop and use the big center: 15...Nc6 16.Nxf5 gxf5 17.0-0 b5 18.Be2 Qg5 and it's hard to see where White is going to find any play at all, let alone actual compensation for the material.

16.0-0 Bf5 17.Nxf5 gxf5 18.Rxf5 Nc6 19.Qf3



19.Qd3!? Ne7! 20.Rxf7 Rxf7 21.Qf3 Qe8 22.Rf1 Kh8 23.Bxf7 Qc6

19...Qe7?

Suddenly White stands very well indeed. Black must instead find 19...d3! giving back one pawn to simplify. 20.Qxd3 (20.Bxd3 Nd4 favors Black. For example 21.Qg4 Nxf5 22.Qxf5 Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Qg6; 20.Bxf7+!? Kh8 21.Qh5 Qd6 and Black has defended.) 20...Qxd3 21.Bxd3 Nd4

22.Rh5 f5 and Black nurses one extra pawn into the endgame.

20.Qg4

20.Qe4 Qd6 21.Raf1 gives White plenty of compensation — bishop-pair, white square blockade, piece activity, f7 pressure, kingside attack — for the pawns.

20...h6??

Loses instantly. Both 20...Qc5 21.Bd3; and 20...Qb4 21.Bd3 offer White good compensation, though.

21.Bh4 h5 22.Qg3 Qc5 23.Bf6 1-0



L-R: Duane Polich, Kyle Haining.
Photo courtesy of Duane Polich

8th Annual Grand Pacific Open

C\$5000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Easter: April 18-21, 2014

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC.

Round Times: Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am.

Sections: Open (FIDE and CFC rated); U1800 (CFC rated).

Entry Fees: C\$80 by March 10, C\$90 by April 14, C\$100 on site. Discount C\$20 if rated U1400 or unrated. Add C\$20 if playing up a section (must be rated at least 1600). Family discounts available.

Prizes: C\$5000 guaranteed.

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess. Mail to Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria, BC V8Y 1C6.

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

Misc: Equipment provided. C\$99 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APR14GPO"). See www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and side events.

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39th Annual Keres Memorial

C\$4000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund, FIDE rated

Victoria Day Weekend, May 17-19, 2014

Location: Executive Airport Plaza Hotel, 7311 Westminster Hwy. Richmond, BC

Round Times: Sat. 12:00 noon, 5:15pm, Sun. 10:00am, 5:00pm, Mon. 10:00am, 3:15pm

Entry Fees: Open & U2000: C\$90 by Apr. 7, C\$100 by May 12, C\$115 on site. U1600 C\$55 by Apr. 7, C\$65 by May 12, C\$80 on site. C\$20 to play up a section (can only play up 200 points). GM, IM, WGM, please refer to website or contact us directly.

Prizes: C\$4000 Guaranteed

Registration: on line at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess. Mail to Victoria Chess 4381 Wildflower Lane, Victoria, BC V8X 5H1 Canada

Misc: All equipment provided. Special C\$119 room rate at Executive Airport Plaza Hotel (1-800-663-2878 Quote "Keres Memorial Chess"). Free parking for hotel guests, C\$5/day otherwise. FIDE (Premier Section) and CFC rated (all sections).

Website: www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com for more information.

The 2013 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix Final Standings

Murlin Varner, Bearer of Glad Tidings

It is all over for another year, and the new year is underway. It's time to announce the 2013 winners. Let's look at them in reverse alphabetical order (since my last name starts with a V, I kinda like reversing the usual order of things).

Washington

The top finisher overall was **Ralph Anthony**, with 301.5 points. This sets a new record, surpassing **Geoff Gale's** 279.5 total from 2005. Many other records were set in the 2013 Grand Prix, but I will get to those later. Ralph gets a full winners share for being overall leader, plus his winners share for Class B. The second highest point total in Washington went to **Viktors Pupols**, with 213 points. Viktors will receive the first place prize for the Master Class. **Stephen Buck** had the third highest total and receives the second prize in Class B.

August Piper was the fourth highest point collector in Washington, but ends up out of the money. GP rules state that a person's class is determined by the year's peak official rating. Since August had a modicum of success during the middle of the year, he spent three months in Class B, enough to strand him there behind Ralph and Stephen, a victim of timing. Stephen's rating actually surpassed 1800 in late 2013, but not until after the December official ratings were set. Therefore, he didn't move up during 2013, allowing **Anthony He** to hold on to the Class A top prize, and denying August the second Class B prize. Anthony edged out **Frederick Davis** by just half of a point for that Class A prize!

Jerrold Richards earned the top Class C prize due to spending just one month up from Class D, knocking **Breck Haining** out of the money in Class C and allowing **Freya Gulamali** to claim first in Class D and Below. But the Haining family was not left out in the cold, as **Kyle Haining** took top honors in the Expert Class. Other winners were **Daniel He** in the Master Class, edging **David Bragg** by just three points, **Bryce Tiglon**, second in the Expert Class, **Eric Zhang**, second in Class C, and **Jason Yu** in Class D and Below, who edged out **Brian Chen** by a single point.

While not all funds have been received at the time of this writing, the tentative prize payouts are as follows: First place winners in Washington will receive approximately \$158.92, while second place is good for \$79.46. Washington prizes are enhanced by a \$250 donation from the WCF, plus \$10 donations from the Tacoma and Spokane Chess Clubs.

There was one additional prize category in Washington due to a donation by **Georgi Orlov**. He made a \$250 donation earmarked for the top three Washington females under 21, in honor of his wife (after whom 2013's Grand Prix was named) and her efforts toward developing the talents of young female chess players. The top prize of \$125 went to **Freya Gulamali** with 124 points, with **Sujatha Chalasani** receiving \$75 (113.5 points) and **Becca Lampman** receiving \$50 (109 points). These winners will receive their funds directly from Mr. Orlov. Thank you Georgi, for your support of the Grand Prix and youth chess.

Oregon

We see a very familiar name in the top spot in Oregon, as **Nick Raptis** has claimed top honors yet again. With 181.5 points, Nick outpaced Master Class second place finisher, **Carl Haessler**, by over 100 points, the largest margin of victory in any class, any state. Nick also receives two winner's shares as his state's overall champion. The Oregon Expert Class has something that hasn't happened very often, a tie for first and second, as both **Lennart Bjorksten** and **Jason Cigan** earned 84 points this year.

Oregon's Class A has been a very tight race all year long. **Michael Goffe** emerged as the winner, with 61 points, just 2.5 ahead of **Andrew Trattner**. In turn, Andrew just edged out **David Yoshinaga** (58) and **Clemen Deng** (56.5) by similar small margins. The remaining winners in Oregon all managed to accumulate fairly comfortable margins. Class B was lead by **Brian Berger** (113) over **Christopher Burns**, Class C by **Mike Hasuike** (122) over **Ethan Wu** (75.5), and Class D and Below by **Harry Buerer** (89.5) over **Dave Prideaux** (56). Ethan and Christopher both lead their third place competitors by 7.5 points, while Dave finished 6 ahead of third.

Tentative first place prizes in Oregon will be \$85.08, while second place should earn \$42.54. Oregon prizes are enhanced by a \$250 donation from the OCF.

Idaho

Many winners in Idaho this year are repeating from last year (the first year of Idaho's participation in the GP). This includes their overall winner, your editor, **Jeff Roland**. As the first Idahoan to score over 100 points in the GP, Jeff takes home the overall prize as well as first in Class B, just like last year. **Cody Gorman** was a distant second in Class B, also just like last year. The top class in Idaho is a combined Master/Expert/Class A grouping, and again we have the same winners as last year, with **Cameron Leslie** taking top honors with 85.5 points and **Caleb Kircher** again coming in second at 46.5. Cameron was second overall in Idaho and Caleb was third.

Class C also has a repeat champion in **Ron Weyland**. Ron gains most of his points playing in Spokane rather than in Idaho, but imported points are just as good as the home-grown kind. **Hank Harris** is a new winner, edging out **Ryan Gallivan** for second Class C by just 1.5 points. Class D is a family affair, with father **Adam Porth** finishing in front of son **Desmond Porth** 39-36.5. Adam placed second in Class D last year. Finally, in Class E and Below, we have two new winners. First goes to **Harold Wetmur** (30.5) and second to **Arlene Hiatt** (26.5). **Isaac Blake** finished just 2.5 points out of the money in this class.

Idaho's prize fund paid out approximately \$26.45 for first in each class and \$13.22 for second. Idaho's prize fund is enhanced by a \$100 donation from former Idaho resident Frank Niro.

Records

I mentioned Ralph Anthony's individual record above, but that was not the only record broken this year (just the oldest). The overall Grand Prix set a record for most events (87) and most events with multipliers (17). This improved on the previous records of 80 (2006, 2009) and 16 (2009). We also set records for most players involved – 716, beating last year's total of 651 by a sound margin; and for the most entries into GP events, with 2508, compared to 2011's total of 2233. We did not surpass 2011's total for points awarded, because in 2011, we had a 4x event, two 5x events and even one 6x event. This year we had four 4x events, but none higher. We gave out 23,002 points in 2011 compared to 21,593.5 in 2013.

If you wish to see the complete results for the 2013 Grand Prix, please visit the Northwest Chess website.

Some major events are on the calendar for February, to help you get off on the right foot for the 2014 edition of the Grand Prix. These include the Idaho Closed in Twin Falls (15-17), the Washington President's Cup in Seattle (15-16, a 2x event), and the Dave Collyer Memorial Open in Spokane (22-23, a 3x event!). With all the events from January (6, two of which were 2x events) and four others besides these from February, you have no excuse to be behind in point acquisition.

Upcoming State Championships Explained...

Washington

The 2014 Washington State Championship is set to take place February 8-9 and 15-17 at the Seattle Chess Club.

Format: Two invitation-only 10-player Round Robins by rating: Championship and Premier. The field of each section will be determined by seeding and by the highest rated players to respond to the invitation based on the January 2014 USCF rating list. Both sections will be USCF rated and FIDE rated. Fred Kleist will be the TD.

Time control: 40/2, SD/1 with a 5-second delay.

Entry Fee: Free!

Schedule: Rounds 1-8: Feb. 8, 9, 15, 16 at 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Round 9: Feb. 17 (President's Day) at 5:00 PM.

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107 St. Seattle, WA 98133

Prizes: The initial prize fund for each section is guaranteed by the WCF, and will be increased based on donations.

Championship: \$1500, Premier: \$1000
Prize distribution (each section): 1st 45%,

2nd 25%, 3rd 15%, 4th 10%, 5th 5%
Brilliance Prizes: \$300 (\$100 for best game in each section)

The winner of the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Champion.

Seeds:

Championship:

FM Igancio Perez 2246 (State Champion)
NM Michael Wang 2219 (Open Champion)
FM Curt Collyer 2299 (Challenger's Cup Champion)

Michael Omori 2163 (Premier Champion)
FM Tian Sang 2330 (Championship Runner-up)

NM Daniel He 2226 (Junior Closed Champion)

Premier:

NM Bryce Tiglon 2228 (Invitational Champion)

Marcell Szabo 2089 (Junior Open Champion)

Oregon

The Oregon Championship (aka Oregon Closed) will be held in the Portland Chess Club on February 8, 9, 15, 16 at 10 AM and

5 PM, and February 17 at 5 PM.

Final list of participants for Oregon Closed is (ratings as of January 1, 2014):

FM Nick Raptis	2375
Aaron Grabinsky	2165
Steven B Deeth	2142
FM Corey J Russell	2232
Daniel Zachary Gay	2210
Carl A Haessler	2206
Lennart Bjorksten	2173
Brian Esler	2146
Jason Cigan	2074
Corbin Zachary Yu	2220

First alternate:

PAUL L ROMERO 2046

The drawing of starting numbers will be held in the Portland Chess Club on January 25 (Saturday) at approximately 6:30 PM (right after the G/60 tournament).

Idaho

Idaho's State Championship is simply a 6-round Swiss System tournament held over President's Weekend in Twin Falls, Idaho that is open to all residents of Idaho. See the Idaho Closed State Championship tournament ad on page 31 for details.

*Be sure to like 'Northwest Chess' on Facebook!
Also, check out nwchess.com/blog/*

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

↘ Address ↙
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←
 Seattle WA 98133
 ↗ Infoline ↖
 206-417-5405
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

Feb. 1, Mar. 1 & 29 **Saturday Quads**
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Feb. 1, Mar. 1 & 29 **Mini-Quads**
Format: 2-SS, 4-plyr sections. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$6 (+\$4 for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future mini-quad. **Reg:** 10:45-11:15a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-2:15. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Feb. 1, Mar. 1 & 29 **GM Emil Anka Game Analysis**
 Starts at 5:30 p.m. For K-12 students. See www.chesssport.com for details.

February 22 **GM Emil Anka Event**
 See www.chesssport.com for details.

Feb. 23, Mar. 16 **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

April 27 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/1, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Seattle Spring Open

March 21-23 or 22-23

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 with a 5 second delay (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$950 is based on 50 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open **Reserve (U1950)**

First	\$200	First	\$120
Second	\$150	Second	\$80
U2100	\$100	U1750	\$65
		U1550	\$55
		U1350	\$45
		Unrated	\$15

Plus Score Pool – \$120

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 3/19 (\$24 SCC memb., \$29 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$42 at site (\$33 SCC memb., \$38 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: **Open**—Sat. 11- noon; **Reserve**—Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am.

Rounds: **Open**—Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5; **Reserve**—Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 1 in Open, 2 in Reserve (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

Attendance at 2013's events

3-Day Wknd Tnmts (6)—ave. 54.5; Tornos (12)—ave. 22.2; Quads (12)—ave. 17.6; 2-Day Wknd Tnmts (1)—13; Novice (3)—ave. 4.7.

WCF Events at the SCC

Feb. 8-9 & 15-17

WA State Championship & Premier

Feb. 15-16

WA President's Cup

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with a large sign proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2014 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♣ **Feb 15-17** A State Championship Event! Idaho Closed State Championship. **Twin Falls, ID. IDAHO RESIDENTS ONLY!** Chief TD: Barry Eacker. Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd No., Twin Falls, ID 83301. 6SS, 30/120;d5, SD/60;d5. Annual ICA Business mtg beginning at 8:30 AM prior to rnd 3. Rounds: 9, 4, 10, 4:30, 8, 3. One ½ pt Bye, Rounds 1-5. One zero-point bye available in last round. Must Notify TD before rnd 2 pairing. Reg & Ck in: 7:30 -8:30 Sat Feb 15. One Section: Open. EF: \$25 if registered by February 9, 2014. \$20 for Seniors (60+) and Juniors (under 18) if registered by February 9, 2014. \$30 for EVERYONE if registered after February 9, 2014. Current USCF and ICA membership required (ICA rates posted online at www.idahochessassociation.org.) Prizes: Trophies or plaques, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall – 1St ,X; 1st-2nd, A thru F; 1st Junior; 1st Senior; 1st Unrated. HR: call Darlene and mention chess tournament at 208-737-6280. Do not register for hotel online. Calling Darlene gives ICA credit and allows us to have the event at this site. Contact: Barry Eacker, mol@q.com, 208-733-6186, 963 Delmar Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301. NC,NS, W.

♣ **Feb 15-16** Washington President's Cup, **Seattle, WA.** See half-page ad on page 24.

♣ **Feb 22/Mar 29** Portland CC Game in 60. **Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: e-mail portlandchessclub@gmail.com, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

♣ **Feb 22-23** 22nd DAVE COLLYER MEMORIAL, **Spokane, WA.** The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of former presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the Twenty-Second Dave Collyer Memorial tournament. Location: Basement Conference Room, St. Anne's Children's Center, 25 W. Fifth Ave., Spokane. A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: 8:30-9:30, Feb. 22. Mandatory player meeting at 9:45 (except for sleep in). Rounds: 10 (or 12)-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: Game/115. Entry fee: \$27 if received by 2/21, \$33 at the door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. All registrants must check in by 9:30 unless a first-round bye was granted or player is playing in the "sleep in" section. Late arrivals might not be paired in first round. Special "Sleep In" option: Anyone interested in sleeping in can play their round one game commencing at noon under G/60 time control and join the regular event for round two. Registration for this option ends at 11:40 a.m. Feb. 22. \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. There will be a special door prize for every entrant. PRIZES: FIRST \$350, SECOND \$225, THIRD \$125. Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100; \$100 first, \$70 second in A, B, C, D, E/unrated. Biggest Upsets: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates & directions: www.spokanechessclub.org

♣ **Mar 8-9** Portland Spring Open, **Portland, OR.** (Details tentative based on last year.) Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. This USCF-rated, two-day tournament is played in two sections (Open and U1800), has five rounds, and offers long time controls and lots of cash prizes: Time Control: 40/90 SD/30, 5 second delay if clock allows. Two half point byes available for Rounds 1-4 if requested at registration. Entry Fee: \$35; members of the Club get \$10 discount. Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required and can be purchased/renewed at registration (other state memberships OK for out-of-area players). Registration: 9:00-9:45am on Saturday. Rounds at 10, 2 and ASAP on Saturday, 10 and ASAP on Sunday. Prizes: based on 40 entries and adjusted proportionally if different number of players, total prize fund is \$650 (each section's prize fund \$325). Open section: 1st place - \$150, 2nd place - \$100, best result for rated under 2000 - \$75. Reserve section: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, best results for rated under 1600, under 1400, and under 1200 or unrated - \$50 each. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results.

♣ **Mar 8, 15** Tacoma CC March Open Back-to-back Saturdays, **Tacoma, WA.** See half-page ad on page 25.

♣ **Mar 9, 16** Tacoma CC March Open Back-to-back Sundays, **Tacoma, WA.** See half-page ad on page 25.

Apr 18-21 8th Annual Grand Pacific Open, **Victoria, BC.** See half-page ad on page 26.

May 17-19 39th Annual Keres Memorial, **Richmond, BC.** See half-page ad on page 27.

