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Selected Best State Magazine/Newsletter in 2014 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

Darwin Porth at the Wood River Weekend Progressive in Hailey, Idaho on National Chess Day, October 11, 2014. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

On the back cover:

Jazon Samillano gets his photo taken with Morgan the Dog at the PCC October G60 on October 25, 2014 in Portland, Oregon. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Chesstoons:

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

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The Gresham Open Is Returning!

Increased Prize Fund!

January 3-4, 2015

5-Round Swiss--Time Control for All Rounds: Game in 2 hours, 5 second delay (G/120; d5)

Registration: Sat 9-9:45; **Rounds:** Sat 10, 2:15, 6:30 ; Sun 10, 2:15

Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room; 26000 SE Stark, Gresham
Check www.mhcc.edu/maps for directions to playing site

One ½ point bye available if requested at registration.

\$1,900 (Based on 60 entries)

1st \$400; 2nd \$230; 3rd \$145; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: \$135 – \$90

Entry Fee (checks or cash; no credit or debit cards): \$40

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF/ICA required (OSA); **NW Grand Prix.**

Gresham Open (January 3-4, 2015) Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ USCF ID # _____ Exp _____ USCF Rating _____ OCF/WCF Exp _____

Email _____ Bye Round _____

Entries: Payable to Portland Chess Club; mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave., Portland, OR 97212

Oregon Chess News

National Chess Day Portland Chess Club Fall Open

By Brian Berger

October 11-12, 2014 — Portland, OR.

The preregistration list for the Portland Chess Club's Fall Open tournament gave no indication as to the real number of players to show, when an additional 23 chess aficionados waltzed in to up the total to 44. And on hand to meet the challenge of the unexpected surge were Chief TD Neil Dale, and Assistant TD Grisha Alpernas, further assisted by the able Mike Morris.

Also on hand, but not registered as a player, was the much talked about, and highly suspect, Morgan the Dog; who, unlike the last tournament when he showed signs of being under-the-weather, seemed to be his old self; i.e., especially "nosey" about the top players, their whereabouts, and their openings. Not one to normally impugn the integrity of man or animal, I have had grave suspicions concerning the odd behavior exhibited by Morgan, most noticeably in tournaments where his owner, Jerrold Richards, showed marked improvement in his rating performance.

Well, this tournament was a case in point, seeing Richards adding 130 points to his pre-tournament rating, and splitting 2nd, and the U1600 and U1400 prizes, with three other players in the Reserve

Section: Nicholas McLaughlin, Jazon Samillano and Michael Strigul! Just what hanky-panky is going on between rounds, when Morgan has been seen (conferring?) with his owner in secretive chats, I will leave to your imagination—but I'm just saying, someone needs to keep an eye on that dog.

Staying with the results of the Reserve Section, the overall winner and happy recipient of the \$200 prize was Kian Patel, with an ending score of 4.0. And lastly, in the U1200/unrated category, Alexandre Dossin collected \$100 for his 2.0 points.

The Open Section saw a tie for 1st/2nd by Bindi Cheng and Joe Roback, each ending with 4.0 points and \$250. And it was our own Grisha Alpernas (now living in Salem), who showed that not only is he a highly competent TD, but he knows a thing or two about slinging chess pieces, by winning best in the U2000, pocketing the \$150 prize for his 3.0 points, and losing only to 1st place co-winner, Joe Roback. It is also interesting to note that, of the 25 entrants in this section, nearly half were rated as Expert and above, with Bindi Cheng from British Columbia, bringing with him a 2506 rating.

Not registered for the tournament, but playing in the same room as the other players, were Oregon State Champion, Nick Raptis, and the Washington State Champion, Nat Koons, in what appeared to be a challenge match. I've no word at the time of the writing of this article as to the winner (very hush-hush), but expect some accounting of the final results to emerge in *Northwest Chess*. The only indication that it was a give-and-take battle was a rumor of a tie score by the middle of the match.

Some exceptional rating gains were seen in this tournament, starting with the already mentioned, highly suspect, 130 points gain by Morgan the Dog's owner, Jerrold Richards, which saw Morgan the Dog jumping for joy in the club's parking lot after the prizes were

announced. Joe Roback, coming in as an A player, gained Expert when he tacked on 108 points to his pre-tournament 1923 rating. And the always animated Michael Strigul, saw a humongous boost of 215 points added to his previous 1216 rating, by sitting still long enough to accumulate 3 wins and a draw.

In closing, I might mention (although I did not cover this event), that the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation held its 2014 All Stars tournament in Salem, the Friday before the Fall Open. And to give you some idea of how addictive chess can be to many of you, four of those players who attended that event were entered in this tournament the next day—Aaron Grabinsky, Gavin Zhang, Liam Booth and Victor Alexandre Dossin. That's real dedication to the game we all love!

Raptis vs. Koons State Champions Match

By Nat Koons

On October 11th & 12th Nick Raptis and I arranged to play a six-game match in Portland. Nick and I are, at the moment, the respective Oregon and Washington State Champions, so it seemed like an especially appropriate time to hold a match that we've been meaning to play for years. I would like to thank the Portland Chess Club for hosting us, and the Washington Chess Federation, and especially the efforts of Josh Sinanan, for securing a prize fund and making it all happen. Although the match ended in a 3-3 tie, it was not for lack of fighting spirit and I think the games reflect this. No draws!

FM Nick Raptis (2380) –
NM Nat Koons (2293) [D11]
State Champions Match Portland, OR
(R1), October 11, 2014
[Nat Koons]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3

Nick's favorite Catalan-type setup.

4...dxc4 5.Bg2 Bf5 6.Nc3 e6?!

Too compliant. It's better to play Nbd7 and make White work to recapture the pawn.

7.Ne5 Bb4 8.Nxc4?!



(L) James Tsai vs Michael Strigul.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

Also inaccurate. It's much better to castle first, as the Be4-d5 that Black uses in the game would not work due to f3+e4.

8...Be4 9.f3 Bd5 10.Ne5 c5 11.a3 cxd4



Position after 11...cxd4

12.axb4?!

And here Qxd4 is better. At the very least White will end up with two bishops, and he will avoid the backward c3-pawn.

12...dxc3 13.Qa4+ Nc6 14.bxc3 0-0 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.b5 Bd7 17.Qb3 Qc7 18.Be3 Rfc8 19.Ra3 Nd5 20.Bd4



Position after 20.Bd4

20...e5!

Simple and effective. Something will have to give on the queenside.

21.Qxd5 exd4 22.Qxd4 Bxb5 23.0-0 Bxe2 24.Re1 Bb5 25.f4 Rd8 26.Qf2 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Qxa7 Re1+ 29.Kf2



Position after 29.Kf2

29...Qc4!

The last good move, forcing the win.

30.Qa8+ Re8 31.Kg1 h5

0-1

Standings: Koons 1, Raptis 0. A good start!



(L) Nat Koons vs Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Brian Berger

NM Nat Koons (2293) –
FM Nick Raptis (2380) [C05]
State Champions Match Portland, OR
(R2), October 11, 2014
[Nat Koons]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Bd3!?

Nick is a real master of the closed French positions, so I thought to try this line, where White avoids e5 and simply develops.

4...c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Ngf3 cxd4 7.cxd4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3

But here is the drawback, because White is somewhat passive compared to similar positions, especially this Be3.

10...Nb4 11.Bb1 b6 12.a3 Nbd5 13.Qd3 Bb7 14.Re1 Re8? 15.Neg5! h6



Position after 15...h6

16.Nxf7

Of course! White has been playing for exactly such an opportunity.

16...Kxf7 17.Ne5+ Kg8 18.Qg6 Bd6!

A good defensive move, removing the bishop from a vulnerable square and

threatening to exchange on e5.

19.Qf7+ Kh8 20.Ng6+ Kh7 21.Nf8+ Kh8 22.Ng6+ Kh7 23.Ne5+ Kh8 24.Bxh6 Rg8

Since sacrificing on f7 I spent a good deal of time looking for a forced win. At a couple of moments Qxb7 would have led to a somewhat favorable position, but I wanted a little more. Lacking any sense of danger...



Position after 24...Rg8

25.Bg5??

A real blunder, but the idea is not bad. First White should play Ng6+ Kh7 and only then Bg5. Black remains tied up, for instance Qc7 can be met by Re4! And both the queen and rook are immune, meanwhile Rh4 is a killer threat.

25...Bxe5! 26.dxe5 Qd7!

Now the position is completely turned around, and even the Rg8 turns out to be well placed. Amazing!

27.Qg6 Qe8 28.Qd3 Qh5 29.Bd2 Nd7 30.Qg3 g5 31.Be4 Nc5 32.Bf3 Qh4 33.Qxh4+ gxh4 34.b4 Nb3 35.Rad1 Raf8 36.Re4 Nf4 37.Rxf4 Rxf4 38.Bxf4

Bxf3 39.Rd3 Bxg2

0-1

Standings: Koons 1, Raptis 1. A missed opportunity!

FM Nick Raptis (2380) –
NM Nat Koons (2293) [E18]
State Champions Match Portland, OR
(R3), October 11, 2014
[Nat Koons]

1.Nf3 e6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.c4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.d4 Na6 8.Bf4
Qc8 9.a3 d5 10.Ne5 Rd8 11.cxd5 exd5
12.Rc1 c5 13.Qa4 Qe6 14.Nb5 Ne4
15.Rfd1 f6 16.Nf3 Bf8



Position after 16...Bf8

17.h4?!

In this very normal looking “old-style” Queen’s Indian, I think White should seriously consider the funny-looking dxc5. It seems to activate black pieces, but either Naxe5 or Bxc5 will give White the d4-square for his knights, not to mention b4 will quickly kick Black out of c5 anyway. In addition, if Black captures bxc5 then White plays b4 anyway, and Black will again lose some squares. With the game move White waits, restricting Black from playing ...g5 (which is a possible answer to White’s e3), but overlooking another move.

17...Qe8! 18.Nd2?

Nc3, giving up a pawn, is necessary. White is worse but the black pieces are still passive.

18...Bc6 19.Qxa6 Bxb5 20.Qb7 Rd7 21.Bc7



Position after 21.Bc7

21...Rc8

The bishop is caught.

22.Qxa7 Rdx7 23.Qxb6 Bxe2 24.Nxe4
Bxd1 25.Nxc5 Qe1+ 26.Kh2 Bxc5
27.dxc5 Qd2 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Qe3
Qxe3 30.fxe3 Bb3 31.Rc3 Rb8 32.Kg1
Rb5 33.Bf1 Rb8 34.Ba6 Be4 35.Bxc4
dxc4 36.Rxc4 Rxb2 37.Rb4 Rb7

0-1

Standings: Koons 2, Raptis 1. Back on track!

NM Nat Koons (2293) –
FM Nick Raptis (2380) [E71]
State Champions Match Portland, OR
(R4), October 12, 2014
[Nat Koons]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3
0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 Na6 8.Qd2 c5 9.d5
Kh7



Position after 9...Kh7

10.f4?

Too aggressive! I thought that ...h6 and ...Kh7 is too slow and created a target (the exposed king), but truthfully White should not suddenly switch to the four-pawns setup. Better is simply Nf3, and Black must struggle for counterplay.

10...e6 11.Bd3 exd5 12.exd5 Nb4 13.Bb1
Re8 14.Nge2

The last in a series of awkward moves. White needs to play g4 and f5 to make use of his development.

14...Nh5 15.0-0 f5

...and now that will not happen.

16.a3 Na6 17.Bd3 Bd7 18.Rae1 Nc7



Position after 18...Nc7

19.g4?

Very impulsive.

19...fxg4 20.f5 Bxf5 21.Bxf5?

Not my original intention, which was hxg4 Bxg4 Bxg6+ (idea Qd3). The only problem is hxg4 Qh4! and Black has at least a perpetual. I have worked very hard to open my kingside to expose my own king!

21...gx5 22.Qd3 Qh4!

Very strong, attacking Re1.

23.Rxf5 Rxe3! 24.Rxh5+ Rxd3
25.Rxh4 Re8 26.Rxg4 Rd2 27.Rf1 Re7
28.b3 Rd3 29.Re4 Be5



Position after 29...Be5

30.Rxe5?!

Rather than suffer in a passive position, I risked this in positional sacrifice in time pressure. Well, positional sacrifice implies position compensation, and I didn't get that...

30...dxe5 31.Kh2 e4 32.Rf8?

This fails to slow Black's reorganization.

32...Ne8! 33.Rf4 Nd6 34.Rf6 Nf7
35.Kg2 Ng5 36.d6 Rg7 37.Nd5 Nxe3+
38.Kh2 Ng5 39.Ndf4 Nf3+ 40.Kh3
Nd4+ 41.Kh4 Nxe2 42.Nxe2 Rd7 43.Nf4
R3xd6 44.Ne6 e3 45.Nf8+ Kg7 46.Nxd7
Rxf6

0-1

Standings: Koons 2, Raptis 2. All tied up once again, but the momentum is in Nick's favor.

FM Nick Raptis (2380) –
NM Nat Koons (2293) [A39]
State Champions Match Portland, OR
(R5), October 12, 2014
[Nat Koons]

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7
5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4
Ng4 9.e3 Nge5 10.b3 d6



Position after 10...d6

11.Nxc6!

Not the most common move, but I think it very effective. Black loses the ... b5 source of counterplay, and the c6-pawn will be target. In the resulting position I did not manage to find a good development scheme, and Nick pushed me off the board.

11...bxc6 12.Bb2 Rb8

A one-move threat!

13.Qd2 Qa5 14.Rad1 Qb4 15.Ba1 Bg4?! 16.f3 Bd7 17.f4! Ng4 18.h3 Nf6 19.g4! Rfc8



Position after 19...Rfc8

20.Na4

A very interesting decision. Black would have problems in the endgame...

20...Qa3?

...but that still better than this!

21.e4! Be6 22.Rc1 c5? 23.Nc3! Rd8 24.f5 Bc8 25.e5 Ne8 26.Nd5 Rb7 27.f6+-



Position after 27.f6

27...exf6 28.exf6 Bf8 29.Ne7+ Rxe7 30.fxe7 Bxe7 31.Bd5

1-0

Standings: Koons 2, Raptis 3. A fiasco!

NM Nat Koons (2293) –

FM Nick Raptis (2380) [B77]

State Champions Match Portland, OR

(R6), October 12, 2014

[Nat Koons]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6! 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4 Ne5 11.Bb3 h5 12.0-0-0 Qa5 13.Bh6 Rfc8 14.Bxg7 Kxg7

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 14...Kxg7

15.g4

No comment needed!

15...hxg4 16.h5 Rh8!?

Well, this stops White's immediate threats, but Black is giving up on his counterplay for the moment. Nevertheless, White needs to show something because his pawn structure is crumbling. I've lost more than one game to Ignacio Peres because I couldn't do that...

17.h6+!

Marooning the rook.

17...Kf8 18.h7?

A square too far! Probably f4 is better, when White has plenty of play.

18...g5!

Now of course Qxg5?? Nd3+!

19.Rh6 Ng6?! 20.fxg4 Bxg4 21.Rf1 Nf4



Position after 21...Nf4

22.Rxf6!

On the attack!

22...exf6 23.Qh2 Kg7 24.Rh1 Nh3 25.Qg3 Qe5 26.Qxg4 Nf2



Position after 26...Nf2

27.Qh5!

If Nxh1 Qxf7+ Kh6 Nf5+ Qxf5 exf5 and Qg6+- 1-0

1-0

Final Standings: Koons 3, Raptis 3. A fair result!

Note: This was in the Oregon Chess News section because it was played in Oregon — Editor.

PCC October G/60

By Brian Berger

October 25, 2014 — Portland, OR.

The gods of thunder and rain during October's Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club became metaphors, reminding mere chess mortals that, although they might believe they have things well in hand, and have control of the 64 squares of their small universe, it is an ego driven hubris; much like believing Nature's forces are controllable, yet in their sudden upheaval, finding their world put asunder by powers beyond their understanding; in their case, watching in panic as rooks and bishops are plucked from their grasp and blown to their opponents side of the board. (A bit dramatic, but you understand my drift; and I needed to bring in the first great storm of the season, which blew more than rooks and bishops all over the Portland area).

Although the draw was modest for this event, 16 players as opposed to

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(L) Jerrold Richards vs Ethan Wu.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

last month's 26, there was no lack of eagerness to prove their tactical and positional powers. Most amazing was a player long suspected by this reporter as the brain behind Jerrold Richards' rapid rise of rating, who, until this tournament, had hidden in the dark recesses of the background—watching and calculating the various strengths of players his owner might be paired with, to then feed this information to Richards in clandestine meetings.

Although not officially a member of the U.S. Chess Federation, nor registered to play in this tournament, Morgan the Dog was "outed" and captured in photos by this reporter when he chose to come out of the shadows and challenge the overall winner of the tournament, Mike Goffe, (3.5/4) for the unofficial right to call himself "the best player there."

Although Goffe was at first incredulous of the challenge (to say nothing of a talking dog), he accepted Morgan the Dog's offer to determine who was best. (O we whose pride interrupts our thinking process). To say this was a contest is to use the word in the kindest way, for it was really more like likening the power of a rabbit to that of an elephant. Or to use another metaphor, Goffe found himself floundering in the ocean's deepest depths without so much as an inner-tube to keep him afloat!

Morgan the Dog's mastery of the board was phenomenal! It was as if Bobby

Fischer had sat down with a 600 rated player, to explain to him some of the finer points of chess. So crushing was Morgan the Dog's attack, that Goffe barely got any of his pieces off the back rank before he was mated. Shaking Morgan the Dog's paw, Goffe showed his sportsmanship by asking for his paw print, which Goffe now has hanging on his wall at home.

So impressed was Jazon Samillano with Morgan the Dog's chess playing prowess that he asked Jerrold Richards if he could have his photo taken with him, which I am sure will soon be posted on his Facebook page.

But getting back to this report's original intention, to cover the this tournament's official results, there was a tie for 2nd/3rd with John Acken and Martin Neal, both with 3.0 points, giving them each \$28 to squander as they might. And a four-way tie occurred for the U1800 prize, when Dagadu Gaikwad, Alexander Uan-Zo-Li, Masakazu Shimada and Ethan Wu finished with 2.5 points, watering down the prize money to \$7 each—which is to say, coffee and donut change.

Although not showing the phenomenal increase in rating points which he accumulated in a recent tournament (130), Jerrold Richards did acquire another 24 points in his rating for his two wins, and tied for the U1500 prize with Jack Woo McClain, each of them wallowing under the weight of \$14 in greenbacks. Perhaps Richards could have done better, but as was noted, Morgan the Dog was on his

own mission to prove something, and so was too preoccupied to do much "legwork" for his owner.

Lastly, credit must be given to TD Neil Dale, who managed to maintain his composure throughout this tournament, even to the point of allowing Morgan the Dog to play an unsanctioned game with the amenable



(L) Alex Grom vs Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Mike Goffe, whose perspective on chess will be forever changed by his surreal encounter with this uncanny canine specimen.

Portland Chess Club Championship

By Brian Berger

Starting Tuesday, September 30 and continuing each Tuesday thereafter until October 30, and under the capable command of Chief TD Mike Morris, sixteen players contended for this year's Portland Chess Club Championship, each hoping to have his name engraved on the large trophy which takes up a good section of the club's trophy table. Although favored to once again have that honor, Oregon State Champion Nick Raptis had to share the honor this year with Brian Esler and the third man in the 3-way tie for 1st, upset winner Alex Grom.

Grom's performance was somewhat jaw-dropping, and unexpected, when he managed to beat two experts (Mike Janniro and Mike Morris) and FIDE Master Nick Raptis, losing only one game (his first) to the 2182 rated Esler—this after entering with a pre-game rating of 1813. That shot up dramatically to 1938 after the smoke cleared. But what is even stranger about Grom's stellar performance during this tournament is his later showing at the Oregon Class Championships, when after entering the A Section, he lost all three of his opening day games to 1800-plus rated opponents, ending with a 0.0 score. Go figure; was it fatigue, or the fickleness of the chess gods?

Far down the ratings ladder from those who dwell at the base of Mt. Olympus were the two old war-horses Arliss Dietz and Hugo Hartig that, at any given time, can raise heck with much higher-rated



players. This tournament they managed two wins apiece, splitting the U1800 prize, and happy they showed up on the winners' list.

I might mention that I also participated, but that is all I am going to mention.

Oregon Class Championship

By Brian Berger

November 1-2, 2014 — Portland, OR.

Once again the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel served as the Oregon Chess Federation's venue of choice, this time for the 2014 Oregon Class Championships. Sixty-five eager players filed into the plush ambience of the registration area, as Chief TD Grisha Alpernas and Assistant TD Michael Morris processed the entrants, with additional help from Jason Cigan, David Yoshinaga and Carl Haessler.

Except for a minor malfunction of a printer, which caused a slight delay in getting the pairings posted on time, all else went smoothly, and five class sections filled one large room, furnished with well-padded comfortable seating, linen-draped tables, and suitable lighting—except for some of the seating nearest the windows, which at night, can be much dimmer than the central playing area, but seemed to elicit no complaints.

What is so nice about playing at the DoubleTree, is that players receive free parking passes to the covered parking structure for the duration of each day's games; plus, ice-water is to be had in the registration area (with real glasses to drink out of), a restaurant and snack-bar just a few steps away, and large screen televisions hung throughout the facility—to say nothing of the many VERY clean restrooms which provide no-waiting for those in a hurry.

The tournament was conducted as a 5-round Swiss in five sections—Master/Expert, Class A, Class B, Class C, and U-1400, with prizes based on at least 10 entries in each class, and time controls of 40/90, SD 30, d5 for rounds 1-3; and 40/120, SD 60, 5d, for the final two games—ample playing time to allow for the best that a player has to offer, but seemingly too long for many others, who played as if they were in a Game 60.

In the Master/Expert Class, Aaron Grabsinsky and Yogi Saputra exhibited their fast rising skills by splitting 1st and 2nd with 4.0 each, which netted them \$195

and automatically seeded them into the 2015 Oregon Closed Championship. Taking 3rd place prize money of \$65 was Phillip Seitzer, with 3.5 points. No great rating shifts occurred except in the case of Saputra, who posted at 2124—75 points above his pre-tournament rating.

The A Section saw Seth Talyansky finish undefeated (3 wins and 2 draws), giving him the 4.0 points needed to secure 1st place, and a most welcome windfall of \$240. Only a half point behind was Frederick Davis, who earned \$120 for his two day effort. And sharing the 3rd place prize were Michael Goffe, Allen Chalfen, Dagadu Gaikwad and Corey Tache; each with 3.0, and each with enough money (\$15) to cover their mileage costs.

The B Section showed the highest participation number, with 18 players vying for \$630 in prize money, and the chance to claim “king of the hill” status. The honor for best of the B's fell to two players—James McAleer and Aaron Nicoski, each reaching 4.0 without a loss. Their efforts paid off to the tune of \$270, and the privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder as kings of the hill. And trailing just behind were David Yoshinaga and John Acken, collecting \$45 for their 3.5 points.

The C Section had a stand-alone winner in the person of Jack Woo McClain, who turned his 4.0 points into hard cash, to the tune of \$260—a lot of money for a very young player, who should have taken pity on a second-round player who must be nearly seven times his age (name withheld for embarrassment reasons), and is struggling with the nuances of endgame play. And also in the money were Jake Winkler and Josiah Perkins—the latter, who wears a dashing beret adjusted to a jaunty angle, and enjoys embarrassing old men (whether in



(L) Robert Coffin vs Dave Prideaux. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Reno or Portland) by not staying at the board for more than a few seconds each move, while the rest of the time kibitzing the other players in the room (Ah, to be so young and confident again), each coming in with a respectable 3.5 points, entitling them to \$97 of prize money to be spent as they see fit (another beret?).


Jerrold Richards (of Morgan the Dog fame), was also competing in the C Section; but unlike the venues that allow for Morgan to wander at will amongst the playing field, no such privilege is offered at the DoubleTree, and so Richards was without his greatest playing asset. Minus such asset, Richards' recent rapid ascent in the ratings took a hefty hit. I won't go into the lurid details, but will just say, I saw it coming. No offense intended Jerrold, as I have been avidly seeking my own asset, to help combat the array of berets I have encountered.

Finally, in the U-1400 Section, the 1st place prize was split between Tony Midson and Karl Wallulis, their 4.0 points earning them \$135 each. And Robert Coffin tied for the 2nd prize money with Harry Buerer, each of their 3.0 points bringing in \$22.50 to be frivolous with.

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Idaho Chess News

Wood River Weekend Progressive

By Adam Porth

The Wood River Weekend Progressive, in Hailey, Idaho, commenced on National Chess Day, October 11, and was a pleasant event for beginners and veterans alike. This is the fourth year of the event with the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) participating in co-sponsorship (ICA was not involved with 2011 or 2013). Results from this year and previous years include:

2014: Jeffrey Roland (Open) & Dylan Porth (Reserve); **2013:** Jarod Buus (Open) & Quentin Van Law (Reserve) (called National Chess Day); **2012:** Caleb Kircher & David Sawyer (Open) & Jacob Nathan (Reserve); **2011:** Adam Porth (Open) & Desmond Porth (Reserve); **2010:** Jeff Baggett (Open) & Nick Bruck (Reserve); **2009:** Jeffrey Roland (Open) & Nick Bruck (Reserve).

This year, Jeffrey Roland was able to capture his second event title with Dylan Porth entering the fray in the reserve (scholastic) section. The National Chess Day event has evolved into a challenging tournament with games getting progressively longer (G/30 - G/90) as the rounds continue. Endurance is a must! I wonder what a reversed progressive would be like?

The Blaine County School District (BCSD) Chess Rage strives to provide a variety of tournament types including Blitz, Bughouse, Chess960, opening theme tournaments, using Swiss pairings and round-robins. Progressive tournaments are not very common. Education and experience is the primary

goal of the club's tournaments.

Ten of the twenty players were from the Boise area and the rest were from the Wood River Valley. The rated event is attractive to out-of-towners because of the Trailing of the Sheep festival provides players, friends, and family with an extravaganza of Basque and Peruvian sheep-herder culture and history. There is sheep shearing and sheep dog demonstrations, music, dancing, and the running of the sheep through downtown Ketchum. Food is exceptional with lamb-meat pizzas and mutton burritos.

The tournament began with players squaring off in a G/30 round. After the games were all finished, Jarod Buus commented that the scholastic players in the open section should have been encouraged to "win some money and play in the reserve section." Meaning, the high school players in the BCSD Chess Rage were very competitive and stretched the abilities of the veteran players. It is tough to be a Class B or C player and lose or draw to a Class E or F player that is clearly underrated.

The largest upset occurred between Wesley Brimstein (846) and Cory Longhurst (1483). After missing a mate in one opportunity, Wesley persevered and finally won with seconds on the clock. With time controls becoming increasingly longer by ½ hour intervals, virtually no-one flagged during the tournament.

In the reserve section, the games seemingly looked like a blitz tournament with scholastic players reacting with immediate moves. Dylan Porth (9th grade), however, worked patiently with first time player Abby Davis (1st grade) and helped her learn about openings and checkmates during and after the game. In

a surprise, Journey Iverson fell prey to Dennis Delaney in a variation of Scholar's Mate. Even veteran players are caught off-guard by this sneaky opening where the queen and bishop (or the knight) work together to target Black's f7-square.

The Scholastic Reserve section finished early and games were paused in the Open section to clap and applaud the 11 scholastic players which won \$50, \$33, and \$16 respectively for 1st - 3rd place. Dylan Porth (1st place), 3-way tie for 2nd place with Dennis Delaney, River Shepard, and Darwin Porth sharing the cash awards. Players were also awarded plaques, ribbons, and medals for their seven-hour efforts.

When the Open section re-commenced, Jeffrey Roland was unstoppable and scored a perfect tournament (4.0 points). Players from Boise rallied the Wood River hosts and also took 2nd place (Jarod Buus 3.0 points) and 3rd place (Corey Longhurst 2.5 points). Cash prizes were \$75, \$50, and \$35. It wasn't a piece of the million-dollar tournament also being played in Las Vegas that weekend, but it certainly made for a great weekend in Wood River!

The BCSD Chess Rage wishes to thank the ICA and Jeffrey Roland for bringing a rated tournament to our area.

Jeffrey T Roland (1728) – Jarod N Buus (1640) [A36]

Wood River Weekend Progressive
Hailey, ID (R3), October 11, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]
Game/60;d5

1.g3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bg2 d6 5.d3 g6 6.e3 Bg7 7.Nge2 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 Rb8 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.h3 Be6 12.Nf4 Qd7 12...Bd7

13.Kh2 a6



Position after 13...a6

14.Nfd5?!

14.d4!? cxd4 15.exd4 Nxc4 16.d5 Bf5 17.g4 White wins a piece, though Black may well have enough compensation in the form of pawns and piece activity.

14...b5 15.cxb5 axb5

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(L) Jeffrey Roland vs. Jarod Buus. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

15...Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxb5

16.d4

16.Nf6+ Bxf6 17.Rxf6

16...Nxd5 17.Nxd5 cxd4 18.exd4 Nc4

19.Nf6+ Bxf6 20.Rxf6 Bf5?

20...d5!



Position after 20...Bf5

21.d5?

21.b3! Nb6 22.g4 Kg7 (22...Be6 23.d5) 23.gxf5! Kxf6 24.Bh6 gives White a vicious attack for the exchange.

21...Kg7?!

21...Rfe8! 22.g4 Be4

22.Qd4 Ne5 23.Qh4 Rfc8 24.g4 Rc2??

24...Bd3 25.Bh6+ Kg8 26.Rf2 f5 27.gxf5 Bxf5 28.Raf1



Position after 24...Rc2

25.Qh6+?

25.Rxf5! gxf5 26.Bh6+ Kg8 27.Qf6 and mates.

25...Kg8 26.gxf5 Qe7?

The right idea, but right now it loses to an intermezzo. 26...Nf3+! first is an important finesse in move order. 27.Kg3 (27.Kh1 Qe7! 28.Re6



(#Diagram-analysis after 28.Re6)

28...Rxc2! (28...fxe6 29.fxc6! Rf8 30.Be3) 29.Kxc2 Nh4+ 30.Kh1 fxe6 is also a bit unclear, but likely settles to equality.) 27...Qe7! 28.Be3



(#Diagram-analysis after 28.Be3)

28...Qe5+!? Another move order finesse. (28...Qxf6 29.Bxf3 probably favors White: 29...Qxb2 30.fxc6 hxc6 31.Rd1!) 29.Qf4! (29.Bf4 allows Black clarity: 29...Rxc2! 30.Kxc2 Qe2+ 31.Kg3 (31.

Kh1 Qe4!-) 31...Ne1 32.Rxe1 Qxe1+ and Black delivers perpetual check.) 29... Qxf6 30.Bxf3



(#Diagram-analysis after 30.Bxf3)

30...Rc4! 31.Qh6 Qxb2 32.fxc6 hxc6

27.fxc6 hxc6 28.Bg5 Nf3+ 29.Rxf3 Qe2 30.Rg3 Re8 31.Bf6 1-0

Treasure Valley Chess Championship

The 7th Annual Treasure Valley Chess Championship (TVCC) was held at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho, on October 25, 2014. Jeffrey Roland was Chief Tournament Director and Jamie Lang was Assistant Tournament Director.

This event was sponsored by the Idaho Chess Union (ICU) and was rated by Rocky Mountain Chess. Entry in this tournament was by invitation only and open only to players who reside in the Treasure Valley. Entry was free, and prizes were "nothing" except for bragging rights and the joy of playing competitive chess, the latter being available to all the players in the event.

Idaho State Champion Caleb Kircher (Nampa), fresh off his participation in the Millionaire Chess Open in Las Vegas, won the event with a perfect 4-0 points. James Inman (Nampa) was second place (by tie-break) and James McGarvey (Boise) was third place (by tie-break) each scoring 3-1 points.

Twelve players total played in the four-round Swiss System tournament (eight from Boise and four from Nampa).

Caleb Paul Kircher (1850) – James Inman (1719) [B10]
Treasure Valley Chess Championship
Boise, ID
(R3), October 25, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Ne5 Nf6 5.d4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxd7 Qxd7 8.0-0 8.c3 is more common here. 8...a6 9.Ba4



(L) James Inman vs. Caleb Kircher. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

9.Be2

9...e6 10.Bf4 Bd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.c3 0-0 13.Re1 Rac8 14.Qd3 Ne7 15.Nd2 Nf5 16.Nf3 g6?!

There's no urgent need to move kingside pawns. Here it creates weakness on the dark squares and delays Black's minority attack by a move. More to the point is something like 16...b5 17.Bb3 b4 18.Ne5 (18.cxb4 Qxb4) 18...bxc3 19.bxc3

17.Ne5 b5 18.Bb3 b4 19.cxb4?!

19.g4!?

19...Qxb4 20.Rad1 a5 21.g4 Ng7?!

21...Nd6

22.a3 Qd6?!

22...Qb7 keeps pressure on the b-file and supports ...Nd7 to challenge the strong e5-knight.

23.Ba4! Rc7 24.Qd2?!

24.Qe3 or; 24.Rc1

24...h5?

24...Ne4 For example: 25.Qxa5 f6 26.Nd3 (26.Nf3? Qf4) 26...Rc4 with an opportunity for immediate repetition: 27.Qa7 Rf7 28.Qa8+ Rf8 29.Qa7

25.gxh5

25.f3

25...Ngxh5

25...Nfxh5!?

26.Kh1

26.f3

26...Ne4 27.Qe3 f6?

27...Qe7 28.f3 Nd6

28.Nxg6 Rff7 29.Rg1 Rg7 30.Rdf1

30.Rg2 Nhg3+ 31.hxg3 Rxg6 32.Rh2

30...Kh7?

30...Nhg3+! 31.fxg3 Rxg6



Position after 30...Kh7

31.Bd1

31.Be8! enters highly favorable complications: 31...Nhg3+ 32.Rxg3! Nxg3+ 33.fxg3 Rxg6 (33...Rc8 34.Nf4 Rxe8 35.Nh5+-) 34.Qd3 f5 35.Bxg6+ Kxg6 36.g4 Rf7 37.Rg1 looks winning.

31...Nhg3+ 32.fxg3 Rxg6 33.Rf4

33.Bf3!?

33...Rcg7?!

33...Rh6

34.Bc2

34.Rh4+ Kg8 35.Bh5 Rg5 36.Bf3 f5 37.Rc1

34...f5 35.Rh4+ Kg8 36.Bxe4 dxe4 37.Rc1 Qa6?

37...Rc7

38.Qb3?!

38.Qf4! aims at b8 and allows either Qe5 or Rh5/Qh4, in either case increasing White's advantage.

38...Rc7?!

38...Qb7



Position after 38...Rc7

39.Qb8+ Qc8 40.Qxc8+ Rxc8 41.Rxc8+ Kf7 42.Kg2 e5 43.Rh7+ Rg7 44.Rc7+ 1-0

Millionaire Chess Open and Western States Open

Observations on the 2014 Millionaire Chess Open

By August Piper

The October 2014 Millionaire Chess Open! A million-dollar prize fund—guaranteed!

In the months and weeks before this tournament took place, a disclosure that you were planning to enter it would typically elicit snickers, rueful head-shakes, or remarks questioning your judgment and good sense. The thought behind these reactions was that any event taking place in Las Vegas would be well and truly saturated with sleaze and bad taste. Moreover, according to skeptics, such a large prize fund would irresistibly lure cheaters and other disreputables. Industrial-strength dishonesty would abound.

Set against these beliefs, however, one saw the high-minded goals of the tournament organizers, Grandmaster Maurice Ashley and his business partner Amy Lee, who aspired to elevate the public perception of chess. The tournament book stated their mission: “To provide for the highest quality chess tournament that is orderly, creates a playing atmosphere allowing the players to concentrate without distraction, and places a high premium on preventing cheating.” They wanted to “provide the level of exposure the game deserves, to showcase the thrills and excitement that make chess beloved around the world.”

The question, then, is whether this inaugural effort achieved those goals; did dishonesty and sleaze triumph over the organizers’ aspirations? I offer, from the vantage point of a player in the tournament, the following observations.

What sight greeted us as we first entered the huge ballroom at the Planet Hollywood Hotel? Colorful flags representing the more than 40 home countries of entrants stood furled, as if at attention, along one wall. Along another, from larger-than-life-sized posters, world champions gazed out at the long tables draped in brilliant white cloths accented by purple satin runners. On these tables, hundreds of identical sets and digital clocks—precisely aligned

and positioned—waited. As you can see from the (millionairechess.com) website (round one), the overall impression was of order, seriousness of purpose, dignity, and attention to detail.

Several small touches helped make the tourney memorable. The first of these occurred just before round one, when a professional singer led the more than 500 entrants and guests in the National Anthem.

Another little flourish: the player judged to be the best-dressed in each round received a prize at the start of the next one—dinner for two at one of the hotel’s excellent restaurants. A ten-year-old boy netted one of these prizes. He wore a natty grey suit, a blue tie, and a Bavarian-style hat (you know, one of those with the little broom on the side). I wondered if he took his mother to dinner...

These best-dressed awards attempted to advance one of the organizers’ goals. On page 6 of the Tournament Book, we read:

In the interest of presenting the best possible image of chess to the public, the organizers strongly request that players dress [at a minimum] in casual business attire (slacks, shirt, and jacket). We strongly [ask] players not to wear tank tops, shorts, or old T-shirts while playing.

The organizers obviously had no ability to enforce these requests. However, their moral suasion must have very significantly affected the overall quality of the participants’ attire. That is, although of course some ratty sweatshirts and jean-shorts slunk around, one also saw many suits and ties and handsome shirts and jackets on male players, and tasteful dresses on female players.

This tastefulness extended as well to the tournament staff. All wore black slacks and shoes and purple (the royal color, much in evidence here) polo shirts with “staff” on the back. Quite a few of them constantly circulated throughout the hall; they wordlessly discouraged, by their mere presence, players’ and spectators’ undesirable behavior. And another small flourish: the handsome young women in their purple and black uniforms who carried trays with cups of water to the

competitors. All in all, the ambiance was gracious, even rather dignified.

In the Millionaire Open, “undesirable behavior” meant, foremost, talking in the playing hall; even casual conversations would draw raised eyebrows from the staff. And no food or opening of food wrappings were allowed at the tables. The result was that the room was very, very quiet.

Incidentally, speaking of quiet, on October 14, the British Broadcasting Company produced a radio article on this tournament. The announcer commented—sotto voce—on the quiet and decorum during play. He warmly introduced Grandmaster Ashley as the first African-American grandmaster—“and a bit of a showman.” The grandmaster demonstrated the accuracy of that characterization by saying, “A million dollars and Vegas go together, and chess needs to get a new facelift. It’s been a kind of sedate sport, but this is the United States: we do things big, we do things grandiose, and if you’re going to get any kind of public attention in the US, you’ve gotta bring the excitement, and a million dollars in Vegas spells excitement.” The announcer went on to talk about “the red carpet, the photographers on hand to add a bit of glamour,” and he noted that “the first twenty grandmasters even got the stretch limo welcome.” No quiet and decorum here!

The Millionaire Open organizers took significant steps to combat another form of undesirable behavior—cheating. We saw the first lines of defense as we approached the ballroom doors. There, signs announced that no electronic devices of any sort would be allowed in the hall. (Other signs forbade weapons, which I found somewhat laughable: would your opponent draw a pistol to discourage you from playing the Benoni Gambit?) Cellphones and even Mon Rois were to be turned in and retrieved only after the round. People entering the ballroom had to pass through metal detectors; if the detector beeped, men in dark suits passed an airport-style wand over your body. Once the round started, one could leave the playing site only to visit the restrooms.

The second lines of defense were rather ingenious. Players were required to



It was almost impossible to get pictures as they didn't allow cameras in the playing hall! This picture shows Idaho's State Champion, Caleb Kircher playing Black, and Idaho's Jacob Nathan in the hat watching. This was likely taken between rounds. Photo credit: Richard Nathan.

record their moves on carbonless-copy scoresheets. When the game was over, each player had to sign both carbonless copies and give them to a specific staff member. This monitor then asked both players, who were standing together in front of her, to verbally attest to the outcome. After recording the result, she stamped their hands. Outside the playing room, the men in suits checked the stamps, and only then allowed the players to pass out through the metal detectors.

Like oil on glass, this tournament ran smoothly. Before it started, Ms. Lee made herself available to answer entrant's questions. During the tournament, each round except the first began exactly on time. And the prize checks were mailed out punctually.

Did the Millionaire Open 2014 achieve its goals? It's not clear that the public perception of chess could ever be changed by just one single event. Nevertheless, Ms. Lee and Grandmaster Ashley attempted to do so, and for this I believe we chess players owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. They clearly made monumental efforts to bring this well-organized, very enjoyable, distraction-free tourney, whose

safeguards against cheating were quite impressive, to fruition. Furthermore, I suspect that a high-profile event like this will expose some new people to the game. For this, too, the organizers deserve our most sincere thanks.

What of the future? I have spoken to several players who did not enter this first tournament; having heard about the event's success, they are voicing regrets for not attending. They are already making serious plans to attend Millionaire Chess Open 2015....

Games Submitted by Readers

George W Lundy III (1619) – Angelo V Fleming (1675) [B50]
Millionaire Chess Open U1800
Las Vegas, NV (R2), October 9, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bd3 Nf6 4.c3 g6 5.Bc2 Nc6 6.d3

6.0–0 keeps some options open for the d-pawn.

6...Bg7 7.h3 0–0 8.0–0 b5 9.d4 cxd4

10.cxd4 Nh5?

10...Nb4! 11.Bb3 Bb7 (11...Nxe4?? 12.Qe1) 12.a3 Na6 13.e5∞

11.Be3 a6 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.a3 Rc8 14.Ne2 Na5 15.Nd2 Nf6 16.f3 Nd7 17.Ra2 Qc7 18.b3 Nf6 19.Qb1 Qd7 20.Rc1 Nc6 21.Bd3 Nh5 22.Rac2

22.g4 Nf6 23.b4±

22...Nb8?!

22...e5 23.d5 Nd4∞

23.b4

23.a4!?!±

23...Rxc2 24.Rxc2 Rc8 25.Nb3 Rxc2 26.Qxc2 Nc6 27.f4 e6 28.f5?!

28.g4 Nf6 29.Nc3

28...Nf6?!

28...exf5 29.exf5 Ne7±

29.g4?!

29.fxe6 fxe6 30.Nd2±

29...exf5 30.exf5 Ba8

30...Nd5±

31.Kh2

31.Ng3

31...Qb7



Position after 31...Qb7

32.Be4?!

But 32.Ng3 Nd5 is also unpleasant for White.

32...Nxe4

32...Qe7! 33.Bxc6 Bxc6



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 33...Bxc6)

34.Bf2 a) 34.Qxc6 Qxe3-+: 35.Nc3 (35.Nbc1 Ne4 infiltrates.) 35...gxf5 36.gxf5 Nh5 37.Qa8+ Bf8 38.Qg2+ Kh8-+; b) 34.Bf4? Nxc4+! 35.hxc4 Qh4+ 36.Kg1 Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Qf2+ 38.Kh3 Bg2+ 39.Kh2 Bf1+ 40.Kh1 Qg2#, 34...Bh6 35.Nc3 Bf4+ 36.Kg1 (36.Bg3?? Nxc4+ 37.hxc4 Qh4+-+)

33.Qxe4 Ne7

33...Qb8! 34.d5 Be5+ 35.Bf4 Ne7 36.Bxe5 dxe5 37.Nc3 Qd6

34.Qxb7 Bxb7 35.fxc6 hxc6 36.Bf4 Nc8 37.Nc3 Kf8 38.Kg3 Ke7 39.Kf2 Nb6 40.Be3 Nd5

40...Nc4

41.Nb1?

41.Nxd5+ Bxd5 42.Nd2

41...Nxe3 42.Kxe3 Bf6 43.Kf4 Bd5 44.N1d2 g5+?!

44...Ke6

45.Kg3

Possible is the more centralizing alternative 45.Ke3, since 45...Bg2 46.Kf2 Bxh3?? 47.Kg3 wins for White.

45...Ke6 46.Kf2 Be7?!

46...Bg7

47.Nc1 f5 48.Ne2 f4?

48...Bb7

49.Nc3?

49.h4!

49...Bf6 50.Ne2 Bb7 51.Nf3 Bxf3?! 52.Kxf3 Kd5 53.h4 gxh4 54.Kxf4 h3 55.Kg3 h2?

55...Kc4 56.Kxh3 Kb3

56.Kxh2 Bg5 57.Kg3 Ke4 58.d5?

58.Kf2 White should hold.

58...Kxd5 59.Nf4+ Ke5

59...Ke4

60.Ne2?!

60.Nh3

60...d5 61.Ng1 Ke4 62.Nf3 Bf4+

62...Be3

63.Kg2 d4?!

63...Bc1

64.g5 d3 65.g6 Bh6



Position after 65...Bh6

66.Nd2+??

66.Kf2 holds: 66...Bg7 67.Ng5+ Kf5 68.Nf3 Bb2 69.Ke3 Kxg6 70.Kxd3 Bxa3 71.Ne5+ Kf5 72.Nc6 -- 73.Nb8

66...Kf5?

66...Ke3! 67.Nf1+ Ke2 68.Ng3+ Ke1+

67.g7??

67.Kf2 Kxg6 68.Nb3 Kf5 69.Nc5 Ke5 70.Nxd3+

67...Bxg7 68.Kf3 Bb2 69.Nb1

(#Diagram after 69.Nb1)

69...

1/2-1/2

69...Bc1! wins fairly easily. Perhaps Black assumed the d-pawn was falling to Ke3.

Chris L Reynolds (1678) –

George W Lundy III (1619) [A35]

Millionaire Chess Open U1800
Las Vegas, NV (R5), October 11, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nc3?!

4.e4 is a route into the Maroczy Bind against the Accelerated Dragon.; 4.d5 reaches Benoni positions.

4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Nxc6 Bxc3+!?

6...bxc6; 6...dxc6!?

7.bxc3 bxc6 8.Bf4?!

8.Qd4 Nf6 9.Bh6±

8...Nf6 9.Bh6 Qa5 10.Qc2 d6 11.e3 Rb8 12.Bd3 Ng4 13.Bf4 0-0 14.0-0 Be6 15.Rab1 Ne5 16.Bxe5 Qxe5 17.Rb3 Rb6 18.Rfb1 Rfb8 19.Qb2 Qc5 20.Qe2



Position after 20.Qe2

20...d5

20...Qa5

21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Rxb6 Rxb6 23.Rxb6 axb6 24.Qb2 Bd7 25.Qb4 e6 26.Kf1 Kf8 27.a3 f6 28.c4 Qxb4 29.axb4 dxc4 30.Bxc4 b5 31.Bb3 Ke7 32.Ke2 h5 33.h4 e5 34.Kd3 Be6 35.Bxe6 Kxe6 36.e4 g5 37.hxc5 fxc5 38.Ke3 Kf6 39.Kf3 g4+



Position after 39...g4+

40.Kg3??

40.Ke3! h4 (40...Kg5 41.g3 h4 42.Ke2! h3 43.Kf1) 41.Ke2 h3 (41...Kg5 42.g3!) 42.gxh3 gxh3 43.Kf3 h2 44.Kg2 Kg5 45.Kxh2 Kf4 46.Kg2 Kxe4 47.Kg3; Also 40.Ke2

40...Kg5

Now White lacks the key g2-g3 drawing resource.

41.f3 h4+ 42.Kf2 Kf4 43.fxc4 Kxg4 44.Ke2 Kg3 45.Kf1 Kf4 0-1

Caleb Paul Kircher (1856) –

Seth Talyansky (1963) [B01]

Millionaire Chess Open (U2000)
Las Vegas, NV (R1), October 9, 2014

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.Be2 Bxe2 6.Qxe2 Qxd5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qd7 9.d3 e6 10.Be3 Bb4 11.a3 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 0-0 13.0-0 Rfe8 14.Bg5

Nd5 15.c4 Nde7 16.Rad1 e5 17.c3 h6 18.Be3 Ng6 19.Ne1 Rad8 20.Nc2 Qf5 21.Rfe1 e4 22.d4 b6 23.Rf1 Nh4 24.Ne1 Na5 25.f3 exf3 26.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 27.Rxf3 Qe6 28.d5 Qe7 29.Qa2 c5 30.Rdf1 Rf8 31.Qf2 Nxc4 32.Bxh6 gxf6 33.Rg3+ Kh8 34.Qf4 Rd6 35.Qxc4 Rg8 36.Qf4 Rxxg3 37.hxxg3 Rxd5 38.Qxh6+ Kg8 39.Rf4 Rg5 40.Rh4 Qe1+ 41.Kh2 Qxxg3+ 0-1

**Hiva Menberu (1913) –
Caleb Paul Kircher (1856) [B14]**
Millionaire Chess Open (U2000)
Las Vegas, NV (R5), October 11, 2014

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.d4 cxd5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.c5 Ne4 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Nd2 e5 12.Nc4 0-0 13.b4 exd4 14.Qxd4 Qg5 15.Rd1 Nf6 16.h4 Qg6 17.Ne5 Qf5 18.Bc4 Be6 19.a4 Bxc4 20.Nxc4 Qg4 21.g3 Qf3 22.0-0 Qg4 23.Rfe1 Qh3 24.Ne3 Rfe8 25.b5 Rac8 26.a5 h5 27.Rd2 Re6 28.Rc2 a6 29.c6 bxc6 30.bxa6 Ng4 31.Nxxg4 Qxxg4 32.Rc5 f5 33.Qd7 Rce8 34.a7 f4 35.Rg5 R6e7 36.Qxe7 1-0

Western States Open

By **Brian Berger**

(Disclaimer) This coverage is somewhat biased and truncated in favor of our Northwest brethren; but no facts have been altered.

Of the 175 players who came to compete at the 32nd annual Reno Western States Open, 19 were from Oregon, and 20 from Washington. Held at the Sands Regency Hotel, its mezzanine ballroom was of adequate size for the number attending, but lacked good lighting in some areas due to partitioning rails which separate the ballroom in several places. Even so, seating was comfortable, and the organizers made sure there was plenty of ice-water to quench the thirst, and urns of coffee at the start of each game—supplemented in the mornings by trays of sweets.

The Reno Chess Club was the sponsoring affiliate, and the tournament officiated by Chief TD Jerome Weikel, assisted by Fran Weikel, who ran a tight ship and pretty much kept to schedule. A total prize fund of \$25,000 had been advertised based on 275 entries, and although that attendance number was not reached, a still hefty sum of \$16,250 was guaranteed.

In the Open Section, a strong field of 51 players saw the first six top boards share 1st place: GM Melikse Khachiyan, IM Andrey Gorovets, GM Alexander Ivanov, GM Alex Yermolinsky, GM

Enrico Sevillano and GM Walter Browne, each with 4.5 points. Against such a strong lineup, Oregon's Aaron Grabinsky (2272-2284) showed why he is such a tough customer to beat, finishing with 4.0 points, (together with six other players), losing only to GM Alexander Ivanov and GM Walter Browne.

Other Oregon and Washington players in the Open Section were: Gil Shafirri WA (2157-2164) 3.0, Paul Barton WA (2123-2133) 3.0, Viktors Pupols WA (2200-2200) 2.5, Frederick Kleist WA (2084-2076) 2.5, Paul Romero OR (2027-2024) 2.5, and Steven Merwin WA (1945-1947) 2.5.

The A Section saw two California players, William Sartorio (1796-1924) and Raymond Muller (1781-1915), tie for 1st place with 5.0 each. Although not in the money, six Oregon and Washington players were entered in this section: David Murray OR (1831-1832) 3.0, Randall Smolensky OR (1819-1816) 3.0, Robert Bond WA (1944-1906) 2.5, Joseph Kiiru WA (1922-1891) 2.5., Steven Buck WA (1712-1715) 2.0, and Mika Mitchell WA (1848-1815) 1.5.

Taking 1st in the B Section was Scott Poling of California (1766-1871) with 5.5 points, followed closely by Michael Torres NM (1753-1839) 5.0, Richard Hanlen WA (1745-1791) 4.5, Alex Grom OR (1800-1813) 4.0, and James Nelson OR (1600-1710) 4.0. Of the other 11 players from Oregon and Washington who entered this section, four showed a minor or substantial ratings increase: Aditya Kannan WA (1597-1674) 3.5, Ewald Hopfenzite OR (1652-1656) 3.0, Russell Crewshaw OR (1542-1608) 3.0, and Joshua Grabinsky OR (1634-1641) 2.5.

Oregon's Josiah Perkins (1495-1625) and California's 8 year old, Alekhine Nouri (1418-1618), tied for top prize in the C Section with 5.0 each. Great performances by two young (one very young) players. Close on their heels were Jazon Samillano (1594-1624) of Oregon and Tony Ebarb (1537-1592) of Arizona, each finishing with 4.5, and tying for 3rd place. August Piper WA (1505-1524) was not far behind, when he and Dave Juchau



Playing hall (with no people). Photo credit: Brian Berger.

(1486-1515), also of Washington, came in with 4.0 points each. And three others from Washington and Oregon showed some elevation in their ratings: Brian Berger OR (1518-1526), Robert Miller OR (1392-1450), and Carol Mayer-Kleist ((1400-1410) of Washington, all scoring 3.0.

The D Section saw an outright win by another Oregon player, Hailey Riley (1310-14110), who with a 5.0 final score, led by a 1/2 point Washington player Stephen Weller (1234-1342) 4.5, and by a full point, Timothy Sheehan (1316-1326) 4.0, also from the Washington area.

All told, including the side events featuring a Wednesday clock simul by GM Sergey Kudrin, and on Thursday, free lectures by IM John Donaldson, together with another simul by GM Alex Yermolinsky, or the option of a blitz tournament at the same time, it was a chess wonderland for those who just can't get enough chess.

To wrap this up (and this from personal experience), avoid cute kids with even cuter hats; somewhere in their DNA lurks disaster for their chess opponents. A conversation I overheard while walking behind two such individuals, sounded as if two GM's were conferring on the merits of various opening novelties. Also, much missed was Morgan the Dog, whose owner seldom leaves the confines of his home in Oregon's Columbia Gorge, but has recently told this reporter that Morgan the Dog seemed to be hankering for bigger venues than Game 60's, and the siren call of the big city and bright lights could be seen in his eyes.

Washington Chess News

US Chess League

By Josh Sinanan

Hi Sluggers Fans,

Here are the games and recaps from weeks seven and eight of the Sluggers matches.



Week 7: 10-8-2014

Recap: Carolina Cobras vs. Seattle Sluggers

The Sluggers sent in our “B” team, consisting of the four middle players on our roster, to face the deceptively dangerous Carolina Cobras. Despite a strong showing on the outer boards, the Sluggers did not fare so well on the middle boards and lost a close match after Curt and Roland suffered snake bites. We are still trying to extract the cobra venom and will need to find an antidote quickly in order to make the playoffs!

Board 1: FM Tian Sang played his first-ever match on the first board against newly minted IM Kassa Korely, who currently attends Duke University. Out of an exchange Ruy Lopez, Tian chose the somewhat rare continuation with 5...Qd6, which seemed to catch Korely off guard. Black improved on two previously played games with 11...Nh6! instead of 11...h5, and soon had achieved comfortable equality with the bishop pair and control of the semi-open d-file. In an opposite sides castling position, Tian annouched his aggressive intentions with 15...g5?!, but could not find a good follow-up and soon found himself defending on the queenside against Korely’s counterattack. White soon obtained a decisive advantage after Black’s ill-timed 23...c5?!, which allows an opening of the b-file. In his time pressure, Korely missed his opportunity and Tian was able to remedy the situation a few moves later by keeping the file closed. Soon the rooks and bishops were exchanged and the players entered a drawn queen and pawn ending which featured two sets of doubled c-pawns.

Nice effort by Tian!



Tian Sang. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

IM Kassa Korley (2486) – FM Tian Sang (2325) [C68]
USCL Week 7 ICC, October 8, 2014
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Qd6 6.Na3 Be6 7.Ng5 Bd7 8.Nc4 Qg6 9.d3 f6 10.Nf3 0-0-0 11.Be3



Position after 11.Be3

11...Nh6 12.Nh4 Qg4 13.Bxh6 Qxh4 14.Be3 Be6 15.b3 g5 16.Qe1 Qh5 17.Qc3 Qf7 18.Na5 Bd6 19.a4 Qe7 20.Nc4 Bb4 21.Qb2 Rd7 22.c3 Bd6 23.b4



Position after 23.b4

23...c5 24.b5 Bxc4 25.dxc4 a5 26.Rad1 Qe6 27.Qe2 Rhd8 28.Rd5 c6 29.bxc6 bxc6 30.Rd2 Be7 31.Rb2 Rb7 32.Rxb7 Kxb7 33.h3 Kc7 34.Rb1 Rb8 35.Rxb8 Kxb8 36.Kf1 Kc7 37.Ke1 h5 38.Kd2 g4 39.hxg4 hxg4 40.Kc2 f5 41.exf5 Qxf5+ 42.Qd3



Position after 42.Qd3

42...e4 43.Qd1 Bg5 44.Bxg5 Qxg5 45.Qh1 Qf5 46.Kb3 Qxf2 47.Qh7+ Kb6 48.Qd7 Qf1 49.Qd8+ Kb7 50.Qd7+ Kb6 51.Qd8+ Kb7 1/2-1/2

Board 2: The battle of the “Curt’s,” in which our FM Curt Collyer played Carolina’s NM Ilker Bozkurt, began with the exchange variation of the Queen’s Gambit Declined. Both sides played quite logically in the opening, with White securing the central e5 squares as an outpost for his knight after threatening to launch the minority attack on the queenside via Rb1-b4. Black responded prophylactically with 13...a5 to discourage b4 and played the maneuver Nf8-e6, g6, Ng7 to solidify the light squares on the kingside and prepare the exchange of light-square bishops on f5. Curt thwarted this attempt at simplification with 15.g4! and seemed to have a solid grip on the position with most of Black’s queenside unable to develop. Out of desperation, Black tried to break free with the risky pawn break 15...c5?!, which seriously weakens the d5 pawn and allows infiltration on the b5 square. Soon White had built up a clear advantage with control of the bishop pair and a looming kingside attack, while Black’s queen could only watch from the sidelines on a7. It has been said many times that one bad move can ruin an entire position, and



Curt Collyer. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

unfortunately for Curt and the Sluggers, such a move happened on move 28. Had Curt instead played 28.Bxd7 first before capturing on g6, Black simply has no threats and will soon face unstoppable material loss on the kingside. After this unfortunate miscalculation, Black won material and the game.

**FM Curt Collyer (2302) –
NM Ilker Bozkurt (2383) [D35]**
USCL Week 7 ICC, October 8, 2014

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Bf4 c6 6.Qc2 Nf6 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3 Nbd7
9.Nf3 Re8 10.0-0 Nf8 11.h3 Ne6 12.Bh2
g6 13.Rab1**



Position after 13.Rab1

**13...a5 14.Ne5 Ng7 15.g4 c5 16.Bb5
Rf8 17.Rbd1 cxd4 18.exd4 Ne6 19.Kg2
Qb6 20.Qd3 Rd8 21.Na4 Qa7 22.f3
Bd7 23.Nxd7 Nxd7 24.f4 Nf6 25.f5 Ng5
26.Qe3 Nge4 27.Be5 Nd7**



Position after 27...Nd7

**28.fgx6 Nxe5 29.Qh6 fgx6 30.Rf5 gxf5
31.Qe6+ Nf7 32.Qxe7 Qb8 0-1**

Board 3: NM Roland Feng played the French against NM Joshua Mu, who recently defeated GM Ben Finegold in week 10 of the regular season. Out of a classical variation, Mu went for a sideline with 6.Bg5, which has a good score for Black in practice. Roland responded well with a counterattack on the queenside and even managed to trade off his “bad” French bishop on d7. In an attempt to justify his unorthodox opening play, Mu opened the queenside with Rb1-b4-b5 and activated his rooks before Black could complete his development. On move 20, Roland could have obtained a permanent structural advantage with 20...Nxd2 followed by 0-0, when White’s



Roland Feng. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

weak pawns on a2, c2, and e5 would prove difficult to defend. Instead, Roland traded knights on e3, which allowed the zwishenzug 21.Rb7!, and suddenly his position was critical. Two moves later, Roland blundered with 22...0-0 since he missed that after 23.Rxd7, Black doesn’t have time for 23...Bxe3 because of 24.Rd6!, winning a piece. After this unfortunate error, White had two minors for a rook and stood better since the rooks lacked any clear targets to attack. In a wild middle game, White’s queen became very active and won several important pawns that the queen and rooks, being terrible defenders, simply could not defend. After a tactical time-pressure skirmish, Mu landed the decisive blow with a queen and rook invasion onto the seventh rank.

**NM Joshua Mua (2252) –
NM Roland Feng (2305) [C11]**
USCL Week 7 ICC, October 8, 2014

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7
5.Nf3 c5 6.Bg5 Qb6 7.dxc5 Nxc5 8.Bb5+
Bd7 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bxd7+ Nbx7 11.Rb1
h6 12.Bd2 Nb8 13.b4 Ncd7 14.b5 Qc7
15.0-0 Nb6 16.bxa6 bxa6 17.Rb3 N8d7
18.Rfb1 Bc5 19.Nd1 Nc4 20.Ne3**



Position after 20.Ne3

**20...Nxe3 21.Rb7 Qc6 22.Bxe3 0-0
23.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Bxc5 Rfc8 25.Bd6
Qa4 26.Ne1 Rc4 27.a3 a5 28.Qf3 Rac8
29.Qb3 Qd7 30.Qb5 Qd8 31.Qb6 Qg5
32.Qxa5 Re4 33.Qb5 Rcc4 34.Qe8+
Kh7 35.Qxf7 Qd2 36.Nf3 Qxc2 37.Rf1
Qe2 38.Bb4 Rg4 39.h3 Rg6 40.Be7 Rc7
41.Nh4 Rg5 42.Qxe6 Rxe5 43.Qg6+
Kh8**

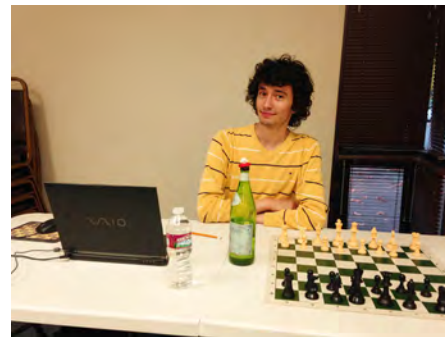
[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 43...Kh8

**44.Rb1 Rc8 45.Bf6 gxf6 46.Qxf6+ Kg8
47.Rb7 Rc1+ 48.Kh2 Rg5 49.Qf7+ 1-0**

Board 4: NM David Golub began with his favorite first move, the flexible 1.Nf3, against USCL veteran NM Craig Jones, who has now played 70 league games over the course of his career. The game entered a symmetrical Four Knights English in which White opted to open the center with 4.d4, going for early sharp complications instead of the long maneuvering game for which the opening is known. Jones responded with the rare and probably inferior counter-break 5...d5, the 8th most popular move according to my database. After a few exchanges in the center, it was clear that White stood better due to Black’s weak scattered pawns on a7, c6, and e5. David found the most accurate continuation with 12.Ba6, threatening to win a pawn with Bb7, and it was clear that Jones would have to shed some material to complete his development. White soon won a clear pawn in the center and had Black scrambling to find any counterplay. Perhaps Jones was counting on winning the a2 pawn, for which David had planned Ra1-Rxa7, regaining the material with interest. David consolidated nicely and soon traded off the bishops and one set of rooks to reach a winning rook and pawn ending, which he converted without too much difficulty despite a few stalemate tricks near the end.



David Golub. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

**NM David Golub (2270) –
NM Craig Jones (2232) [A31]**
USCL Week 7 ICC, October 8, 2014
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4

5.Nxd4



Position after 5.Nxd4

5...d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd2 e5 9.e4 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Be6 12.Ba6 Rb8 13.Bxe5 Rb6 14.Bd3 Bb4+ 15.Ke2 f6 16.Bd4 c5 17.Be3 c4 18.Bc2 Rb7 19.Ba4+ Kf7 20.Bc6 Re7 21.f3 Rb8 22.Bd5 Bd6



Position after 22...Bd6

23.Bxe6+ Kxe6 24.Rxd6+ Kxd6 25.Bf4+ Re5 26.Rd1+ Ke6 27.Rd2 g5 28.Bxe5 fxe5 29.Kd1 h5 30.Kc2 g4 31.Kc3 gxf3 32.gxf3 Re8 33.Rg2 Kf6 34.h4 a5 35.Rg5 Rd8 36.Kxc4 Rd2 37.Rxh5 Rxb2 38.a3 a4 39.Rh6+ Kg7 40.Rh5 Rb3 41.Rf5 Rxa3 42.Kb4 Ra1 43.Rxe5 a3 44.Rf5 Kg6 45.h5+ Kg7 46.Kb3 Kh6 47.e5 Kg7 48.f4 Kh7 49.e6 a2 50.Re5 Rb1+ 51.Kxa2 Rb8 52.e7 Re8 53.Re6 Kg7 54.h6+ Kf7 55.f5 Kg8 56.Kb3 Kh8 57.Kc4 Kg8 58.Kd5 Kh7 59.Kd6 Ra8 60.e8Q Rd8+ 61.Ke7 Rd7+ 62.Qxd7 1-0

Final score of the match: Carolina 2.5 - Seattle 1.5

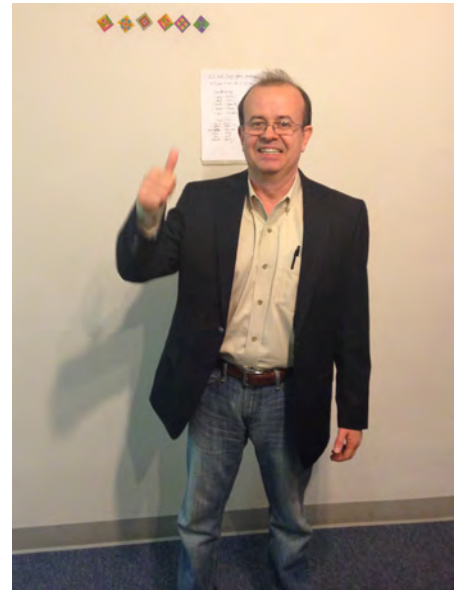


Week 8: 10-15-2014

Recap: Seattle Sluggers vs. Rio Grande Ospreys

The Sluggers decided to quit messing around and unloaded the clip on the Rio Grande Ospreys, led by victories from Orlov, Koons, and Golub. With this win we avenged our week four loss to the Ospreys and sent a message to our opponents that we are not to be trifled with! The match even featured the ultra rare K+B+N vs. K checkmate, much to the delight of the fans.

Board 1: IM Georgi Orlov played a rematch with GM Anton “Lightning Quick” Kovalyov in the same opening that the two had debated in their first meeting, the Catalan. Georgi drew on his experience from a game that he played against former world champion GM Mihail Tal in the 1990 New York Open, for which he narrowly missed a brilliancy prize by sacrificing the exchange and almost trapping Tal’s knight! In a main line of the closed Catalan similar to the Tal game, Georgi sacrificed a pawn for the bishop pair after Kovalyov somewhat riskily surrendered control of the center with 10...dxc4. White had excellent compensation for the pawn and soon had his rooks controlling the semi-open c- and e-files with strong pressure on Black’s backward pawns. Soon the queens were swapped and a critical position resulted in which Black chose to give back two pawns to ease the pressure on his position and enter what he hoped was a drawn rook and minor piece ending with pawns all on the kingside. Unfortunately for Kovalyov and the Ospreys, this type of position requires exactly the same type of Karpovian precision that Georgi regularly teaches to his students. White’s rook and bishop coordinated better than Black’s knight and rook and Georgi masterfully made progress by centralizing his king. Despite a significant advantage on the clock, the young GM was not able to hold things together and soon lost



Georgi Orlov. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

another pawn. Now two pawns down and without a shred or counterplay, Kovalyov had no choice but to throw in the towel.

IM Georgi Orlov (2528) – GM Anton Kovalyov (2717) [E06]
USCL Week 8 ICC, October 15, 2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.Qc2 b6 8.Nbd2 Bb7 9.e4 Na6 10.a3 dxc4



Position after 10...dxc4

11.e5 Nd5 12.Nxc4 b5 13.Nd6 Bxd6 14.Ng5 f5 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.Re1 Nac7 17.Bd2 a5 18.Rac1 b4 19.axb4 axb4 20.Qc4 h6 21.Nf3 Rfd8 22.Ne5 Nb5 23.Nxc6 Bxc6 24.Qxc6 Qxc6 25.Rxc6 Nxd4



Position after 25...Nxd4

26.Rc4 Nb3 27.Bxb4 Ra4 28.Rd1 Kh7

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29.Bf1 Rda8 30.Ba3 Rxc4 31.Bxc4 Na5
32.Bxd5 exd5 33.Rxd5 Nc4 34.Bb4
Nxb2 35.Rxf5 Nd3 36.Bc3 Rc8 37.Bd2
Rd8 38.Be3 Nb4 39.Rf7 Kg6 40.Rb7
Nd5 41.Bd4 Nf6 42.Bb2 Rd2



Position after 42...Rd2

43.h3 h5 44.Be5 Re2 45.Bd4 Re4 46.Bb2
Re2 47.Kg2 Rd2 48.Kf3 Rd3+ 49.Ke2
Rd7 50.Rb5 Rd5 51.Rb6 Kf7 52.Rb4
Rd7 53.Bd4 Nd5 54.Rc4 Ne7 55.Kf3
Nf5 56.Bc3 Ne7 57.Ke4 Rd6 58.Be5
Rd2 59.Bd4 Re2+ 60.Kf4 Kg6 61.Rc5
Rd2 62.Rg5+ Kf7 63.Ke3 Ra2 64.Rxh5
Kg6 65.g4 Nc6 66.Bc3 1-0

Board 2: FM Costin Cozianu made his return after a five-week break and some mouse-slip counseling against Rio's MVP points leader GM Andrey Stukopin. The game began with a main line of the heavily analyzed Giuoco Piano, in which Stukopin opted for the quiet 7.Bd2 variation, in which White typically achieves a small edge. Costin was able to breathe a sigh of relief when Stukopin castled instead of playing 10.Qb3, which is well known to be White's most dangerous option. After some liquidation, an isolated queen's pawn position was reached in which White obtained a lead in development and pressure down the half-open c-file to compensate for his weak isolani on d4. A few moves later, the knights were swapped and the players entered a heavy-piece ending with two rooks and a queen apiece, each vying for control of the other's second rank. On move 25, Costin decided to exchange queens to relieve the pressure against his f7-pawn after which he doubled his rooks on White's second rank to limit the GM's options. Costin soon sacrificed his lead doubled-pawn and traded off a set of rooks to reach a 1 vs. 2 pawn down rook ending with pawns all on the kingside, which he seemed confident to hold. Despite Stukopin's best attempts to create winning chances, there simply weren't any with the reduced material count. On move 71, Costin sacrificed his last pawn to set up the 6th-rank defense and easily held the drawn Philidor position.

GM Andrey Stukopin (2631) –
FM Costin Cozianu (2466) [C54]
USCL Week 8 ICC, October 15, 2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+
8.Nbxd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5



Position after 9...Nxd5

10.0-0 0-0 11.Rc1 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5
13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.Qa4 Bxf3 15.Nxf3
Rad8 16.Rc5 Qe4 17.Re1 Qf4 18.Qb5
Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Rxd4 20.Qxb7 Rd2
21.Rf1 Rfd8 22.g3 Qd4 23.Rxc7 Rxb2
24.Qf3



Position after 24.Qf3

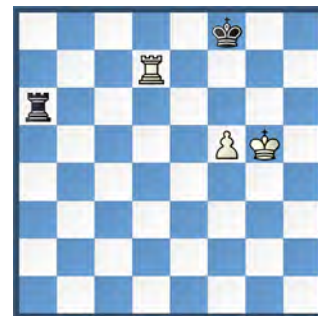
24...Qf6 25.Qxf6 gxf6 26.Rxa7 Rdd2
27.a3 Ra2 28.Ra4 f5 29.Ra5 f4 30.gxf4
Rd3 31.Kg2 Raxa3 32.Rg5+ Kf8 33.Rg3
h5 34.Re1 Rxxg3+ 35.fxxg3 Kg7 36.Re5
Kg6 37.g4 hxg4 38.hxxg4



Position after 38.hxxg4

38...Rb3 39.Rd5 Ra3 40.Kf2 f6 41.Rd6
Kf7 42.Rd7+ Ke6 43.Rd2 Kf7 44.Re2
Rb3 45.Re3 Rb4 46.Kg3 Ra4 47.Rc3
Rb4 48.Rc7+ Ke8 49.Kf3 Ra4 50.Ke3
Rb4 51.Ra7 Rc4 52.Ra5 Ke7 53.Rd5
Ke6 54.Rd4 Rc1 55.Re4+ Kf7 56.Ra4
Rc5 57.Ra7+ Ke8 58.Ke4 Rb5 59.Rc7
Ra5 60.Rb7 Rc5 61.Kd4 Ra5 62.Ke4
Rc5 63.Kd4 Ra5 64.f5 Kf8 65.Rc7
Ra4+ 66.Kd5 Rxxg4 67.Ke6 Ra4 68.Rc6
Kg7 69.Rc7+ Kf8 70.Rd7 Rb4 71.Kxf6
Rb6+ 72.Kg5 Ra6

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 72...Ra6

73.f6 Ra1 74.Kg6 Rg1+ 75.Kf5 Rf1+
76.Kg6 Rg1+ 77.Kf5 Rf1+ 78.Ke6 Re1+
79.Kf5 Rf1+ 80.Kg6 Rg1+ 81.Kf5 ½-½

Board 3: Current Washington State Champion NM Nat Koons played his first game as a Slugger since 2006 against FM Robert Miramontes. Nat joined the team mid-season to help strengthen our middle boards in the hopes of making a run at the playoffs. The game transposed to a Nimzo-Indian Defense in which Black exchanged early on c3 and proceeded to setup his pawns on the central dark squares d6 and e5. To avoid being saddled with weak doubled c-pawns, Nat found the trick 8.c5! followed by cxd6, setting up a Grunfeld-like pawn center with pawns on c3, d4, and e4. Since he also had the bishop pair, Nat's position was quite pleasant and Miramontes soon had to allow the doubling of his f-pawns to relieve some of the tension. Nat played the somewhat sophisticated queen sortie Qb1-b5-f5-h3, transferring her majesty over to the kingside where Black's pawns looked like juicy targets. In a better position with more space and some attacking chances, Nat played the routine centralizing move 29.Rbd1? which released his pressure along the b-file and allowed Black to trade queens, leading to an equal endgame. A few moves later, the center became blocked with pawns and each side tried to activate their rooks, which led to the opening of the b-file and mutual attacking chances. Having now reached an unclear position with mutual time pressure looming, Nat caught a lucky break when Miramontes 45...fxe4 instead of Rxe4, which allowed Nat to blockade the e-pawn with his king. Perhaps shaken by his mistake, Black soon made an even bigger one with 47...Nf6??, which allowed 48.Rxf6, winning two minor pieces for a rook. Combined with his strong central passed c- and d-pawns, Nat's advantage soon became decisive since Miramontes had to give his rook to stop the pawns. Now with a bishop and knight vs. three pawns, the position was a technical win for a player of Nat's caliber, and he mated Miramontes with K+B+N vs. K in only 34 moves, easily staying within the 50-move rule.



L-R: Josh Sinanan, Costin Cozianu, David Golub, Curt Collyer, Tian Sang. Photo credit: Duane Polich

NM Nat Koons (2293) –
 FM Robert Miramontes (2221) [E21]
 USCL Week 8 ICC, October 15, 2014
 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Nc3
 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 d6 6.Qc2 Nbd7 7.e4 e5



Position after 7...e5

8.c5 0-0 9.cxd6 cxd6 10.Bd3 Re8 11.0-0
 Qc7 12.Re1 Nb6 13.Bg5 Nh5 14.Rac1
 h6 15.Be3 Bg4 16.Nd2 Rac8 17.Qb1
 Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.c4 Nd7 20.h3 Bh5
 21.Qb5 g5 22.Rb1 b6 23.h4 a6 24.Qf5
 Bg6 25.Qh3

[Diagram next column]



Position after 25.Qh3

25...Kg7 26.Nf3 f6 27.g3 fxd3 28.fxd3
 Nf8 29.Rbd1 Qd7 30.Qxd7+ Nxd7
 31.g4 Re7 32.Kf2 Bf7 33.Rc1 Nf8 34.h5
 Ne6 35.Bf1 Nf4 36.d5 Be8 37.Nd4 Bd7
 38.Kf3 Rc5 39.a4 Ra5 40.Rb1 Rxa4
 41.Rxb6 Ra3+ 42.Re3 Rxe3+ 43.Kxe3
 Bxg4 44.Rxd6 f5 45.Kf2

[Diagram next column]

45...fxe4 46.Ke3 Nxe5 47.Be2 Nf6
 48.Rxf6 Kxf6 49.Bxg4 Rc7 50.Nc6 a5
 51.Nxa5 Rc5 52.Nb7 Rxc4 53.d6 Ke5
 54.d7 Rc3+ 55.Ke2 Rd3 56.d8Q Rxd8
 57.Nxd8



Position after 45.Kf2



Position after 57.Nxd8

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57...Kf4 58.Bh5 g4 59.Ne6+ Kf5
60.Ng7+ Kf6 61.Ne8+ Kg5 62.Bf7 h5
63.Nd6 h4 64.Nxe4+ Kf5 65.Nf2 h3
66.Ke3 h2 67.Nh1 Kg5 68.Kf2 Kf4
69.Kg2 g3 70.Nxg3 h1Q+ 71.Nxh1 Ke5
72.Kf3 Kd4 73.Nf2 Ke5 74.Bg6 Kf6
75.Be4 Ke5 76.Ke3 Kf6 77.Kf4 Ke6
78.Nd3 Kf6 79.Bf5 Kg7 80.Kg5 Kf7
81.Kf4 Kf6 82.Nc5 Kg7 83.Ke5 Kf7
84.Ne6 Ke7 85.Bg6 Kd7 86.Nd4 Ke7
87.Nc6+ Kd7 88.Kd5 Kc7 89.Bf7 Kb6
90.Nd4 Ka5 91.Kc5 Ka4 92.Nb5 Ka5
93.Bb3 Ka6 94.Nd6 Ka5 95.Nb7+ Ka6
96.Bd5 Ka7 97.Kb5 Kb8 98.Kb6 Kc8
99.Be6+ Kb8 100.Nc5 Ka8 101.Bd5+
Kb8 102.Be6 Ka8 103.Bh3 Kb8 104.
Na6+ Ka8 105.Bg2# 1-0

Board 4: NM David Golub faced expert Simon Vasquez III and once again employed his favorite Najdorf Sicilian using the move order 2...a6 to avoid some tricky lines of the Closed Sicilian that White has at his disposal after 2...d6.

His approach worked out nicely as the game transposed back to the Open variation and Vasquez chose the inferior setup with Be2 and Nf3 followed by short castling, after which White lacks a clear plan. Black soon equalized with the central pawn break 13...d5 but chose to play the somewhat awkward 17...Qe8?! when perhaps the more natural 17...Qd6 was better. Soon two sets of minor pieces were exchanged and David obtained a slight advantage due to his extra space courtesy of his e4-pawn and the activity of his heavy pieces on the kingside. Even though White didn't really seem to do anything wrong, he suddenly found it difficult to meet the

direct threats that Black was setting up on the kingside, with moves such as 22.Qc8 and 23.Rg5. In a model attack reminiscent of some classic attacking games, Black lifted both of his rooks onto the 5th rank and began a strong attack against White's suddenly deserted kingside. 26...Rh5 was the start of a well-calculated and irresistible invasion along the h-file, to which White lacked any playable defense. David's attack crashed through with the blunt but strong sacrifice 27...Rxh3!!, shattering the white king's pawn shield. White tried to give back some material to stop mate with 29.Ng4, but this was too little too late as Black's knight, queen, rook, and pawn weaved a mating net around the white monarch. A brilliant win by David!

**Simon Vasquez III (2169) –
NM David Golub (2270) [B92]**
USCL Week 8 ICC, October 15, 2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 cxd4
5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.h3
h6 9.Be3 Be6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.a4 Rc8
12.Nd2 0-0 13.a5 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5
15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Bf3 Nf6 17.Bb6



Position after 17.Bb6

17...Qe8 18.Re1 Bxf3 19.Nxf3 e4 20.Nd4
Bc5 21.Bxc5 Rxc5 22.c3 Qc8 23.Qb3
Rg5 24.Kh1 Re8 25.Nc2 Ree5 26.Ne3
Rh5 27.Kh2



Position after 27.Kh2

27...Rxh3+ 28.gxh3 Rh5 29.Ng4 Nxg4+
30.Kg2 Qf5 0-1

**Final score of the match: Seattle 3.5 -
Rio Grande 0.5**



The players watch the games on a screen.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

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Chess Groovies

By NM Daniel He and NM Samuel He



L-R: Samuel He, Daniel He.
Photo credit: Samuel He

Hello Northwest Chess magazine readers! We both have noticed the lack of submissions to the magazine lately, so we've decided to start something new: to write a monthly chess column for the magazine. The column will be called "Chess Groovies" and its main purpose is to give the reader something entertaining to read and also hopefully help them improve at chess! We intend on including interesting and instructive games, creative openings, and more!

One of the best ways to improve at chess is to know the major themes, such as knowing how to get control of an open file. This month, we will discuss one of the most important themes of chess strategy, preventing your opponent's threats before focusing on your own, known as prophylaxis. By doing this, your opponent would have little play and after that, you can focus on creating your own threats. Admittedly, when I first learned of this theme a couple years ago, I was confused as how this strategy works completely. In this article, I will show you a very instructive game using this theme which I learned a lot from. The second game will be one of my own from tournament play using the theme. This theme is pretty difficult to fully understand, but I hope you can learn a lot about it from these two games!

One simple way to practice prophylaxis is each move, ask yourself: If it were my opponent's move, what would he play?

This would give you an idea of what kind of threats he would like to create. Knowing this, you can decide if it is worth preventing. To get the most benefit from this game, I would suggest setting the game up on an actual board.

**Tigran V Petrosian –
Anatoly S Lutikov [E92]**
26th USSR Ch. Tbilisi (R7), 1959
[Samuel He]

Tigran Petrosian, one of my favorite players, was a master of prophylaxis. This game, he plays his own Petrosian System against the Kings Indian, one that attempts to restrict Black.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4

This move order prevents the Grunfeld Defense, a common opening played by GMs.

4...0-0 5.d4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.d5

This is the key move in the Petrosian System. White's plan here is to gain space on the queenside while Black's is to play on the kingside with ...f5.

7...Na6 8.Bg5!

Black wants to play ...f5, but currently, the knight on f6 is in the way, so Black must move the knight first before getting to play ...f5. Here, White sees this plan and prevents it with Bg5!

8...h6 9.Bh4 c5 10.Nd2

With the ...f5 threat temporarily stopped, White brings his f3-knight over to start preparing for threats on the queenside, the side where he has the advantage.

10...Bd7



Position after 10...Bd7

Here, White must think: "If it were Black's move, what would he play?" Seeing the bishop on the a4-e8 diagonal suggests that he wants to play ...b5. This is logical with ...Nc7, ...a6, and if needed, ...Rb8. Here, White must consider stopping this threat. The natural move in such positions is to play a4, but here, Black gets the b4-square for his knight. Counting the pieces, it is clear that White has more defenders of the b5-square, so Black's "threat" is nothing to be worried about, so 0-0 should be a fine move. However, Petrosian finds an interesting idea...!

11.Nb5!?

Not only does this move threaten to win the d6-pawn, it also stops Black's plan completely! If ...Bxb5, then cxb5 and White gets a great c4-square for his other knight.

11...Be8

The purpose of this move is clearly to defend the d6-pawn. However, White still must be careful and consider what Black would play if it were his move. ...Nc7 comes to mind, trading off the strong knight and preparing ...a6 and ...b5 at the same time. Realizing this, Petrosian begins his own threats!

12.a3!

Now, if Black plays his predicted ...Nc7, White can retreat the knight back to c3. If ...a6, White can begin his threats first with b4! with the queenside battle favoring him.

12...Qd7

What's the purpose of this move? Clearly to get out of the pin! What's the purpose of that? To play ...f5! With this in mind, White's next move – which may look weird at first – becomes completely logical.

13.g4!

Here, take a look at all of Black's pieces. The e8-bishop is useless. The queen on d7 looks misplaced, and the g7-bishop is also doing nothing. Admittedly, White's pieces aren't really useful at the moment, but after a few more moves, White's advantage of his queenside would make the strength of the White pieces more obvious.

13...Nc7

Black understands that getting ...f5 played successfully would be unlikely, and decides to fight for the queenside. Trading the knights off would definitely favor Black since the b5-knight is the main attacker on the queenside currently.

14.Nc3

Correctly keeping the knight on the board.

14...a6

What is Black threatening? Clearly ...b5! but this time, the threat is real. Real threats must be prevented! White's next move should be fairly obvious, especially now that the black knight can no longer reach b4 with the a6 pawn.

15.a4! Qc8

Black's position is so cramped that this move probably has no other purpose

than to move the queen off the misplaced square, blocking the e8-bishop.

16.h3!

In some lines, White's queen or bishop would have to move, making the g4-pawn undefended. Since Black has no immediate threats, protecting the g4-square is at least a little beneficial to the white position.

16...Rb8

Here, Black's threat of b5 is real again. The move I – and most others - would first consider here is a5, preparing to react to b5 with axb6, giving Black a weak pawn on a6. In most positions of this kind, this is the best – and sometimes only move. However, Black gets some play with the rook on the b-file. However, here, after a bunch of exchanges on b5, White ends up with a strong square on c4 for his knight.

17.Qc2!

Calmly developing his queen to a slightly stronger square.

17...Bd7?!

I don't see why ...b5 cannot be played immediately...

18.b3!

Solidifying the c4-square for his knight if b5 is played in the future.

18...b6?

Black is wasting moves which don't even help his position in any way. Black should just play ...b5 immediately, which gives him at least a bit more counterplay than b6.

19.Nd1!?

This is the beginning of a very creative plan which I admire very much! With the retreat of a defender of b5, how will white defend against Black's b6-b5?

19...b5



Position after 19...b5

20.a5!!

I was very shocked when I saw this for the first time. However, as I took a look at this position more and more, I see that this move gives Black zero counterplay. One example line is 20...bxc4 21.bxc4, and the b5 square is completely blocked

off thanks to the strong c4-pawn. Now consider Black's pieces again. The bishops did not get any better, but Black's c7-knight has only moved to a far worse square. Here, it is completely useless!

20...Kh8

Black wants to give ...f5 another try now that the queenside is blocked off in White's favor. Sadly, the f6-knight has no other square to move to which doesn't lose the d6 pawn, so ...Kh8 with ...Ng8 is the only option.

21.Bg3

The only inaccurate move played by Petrosian the whole game! While this move is not exactly bad, the bishop wasn't attacked and probably won't be for the whole game, so there is no reason to retreat to g3. Interestingly, the bishop returns to h4 in a few more moves. It is important to make sure each move you play is as beneficial to your position as possible. Here, Ne3 would be stronger.

21...Ng8 22.Ne3 Ne7 23.Bh4 Qe8



Position after 23...Qe8

24.b4!!

Completely unexpected, but very strong! This requires a lot of calculation, but at the end of each line, White has a large advantage. To summarize the lines, the main point is that White threatens to get a pawn to d6, forking the knights.

24...Nc8 25.bxc5 dxc5 26.cxb5!

Threatens to win the c5-pawn.

26...Nxb5

Black, who has been completely passive all game, must've thought this was an opportunity to gambit a pawn (c5) for a strong knight on d4. However, following his style of not allowing any counterplay, there is no way Petrosian would allow this!

27.Bxb5!

Clearly, the black knight is the only piece that has a chance of creating real threats. A bishop on b5 looks threatening, but it is completely harmless once a knight gets to c4, blocking off the diagonal.

27...Rxb5 28.0-0 f5

Does he finally get some counterplay!?

29.f3!!

This is another critical idea to remember to prevent Black's counterplay. For example, after ...f4, simply moving the knight to c4 makes both of the black bishops dead. If ...fxe4 or ...fxg4, simply recapture with the f-pawn. After that, the "threatening" ...Rf4 is harmless if White plays Bg3!, and both Black's bishops are still useless. Here, take some time to analyze the alternates to the f3-move Petrosian played. You will see that each move gives a Black bishop – or both – unnecessary counterplay.

29...Rf7

Doing nothing.

30.Ndc4

Here, White's position is fairly simple. White moves his inactive knight on d2 to a much stronger square.

30...Rb4 31.Be1!

This strong move is also easy to find. The bishop wasn't doing anything on h4, and moves to the better square of c3 while attacking Black's rook!

31...Rb7 32.Bc3

Here, I recommend for you to consider ...fxe4, ...fxg4, and ...f4 again for Black. Notice that Black still can't create any counterplay with this!

32...h5!

Black finally begins a threat that can actually become dangerous. Not only does Black attack the g4-pawn, he opens up the h6-square for his bishop. Since this threat is real, Petrosian can no longer ignore the threat. With his superior-placed pieces, the opening of the position benefits him!

33.gxf5 gxf5 34.exf5

White's pawn structure looks terrible and his king looks pretty unsafe. However, take a closer look at this position and you will see there is absolutely no way Black can take advantage of this!

34...e4!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice to try to get some counterplay.

35.Kh2!

Calmly realizing that the threat is not real, and moves the king to a safer square off the open g-file.

35...exf3 36.Rxf3 Bd4

Even after a sudden change of the position, all of Black's pieces except for the d4-bishop all are useless, and the d4-bishop is pinned!

37.Qd3

Forcing a trade of Black's only active piece.

37...Bf6 38.Rg1 Kh7 39.Bxf6

The rest of the game is fairly easy to understand, with Petrosian finding a crushing win.

39...Rxf6 40.Qc3 Qf8 41.Rg6!

The pin on the f-file allows this strong penetration of the rook.

41...Rf7 42.Rg5! 1-0

Samuel He (2192) –

Srisa Changolkar (2048) [A46]
World Open (U2200) Arlington, VA
(R3), July, 2014
[Samuel He]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3!?

I have seen GM Mark Hebden play this move with success and thought it would be interesting to try. The point of the move is in some lines, the dark squared bishop is better placed on g5 rather than my usual f4.

3...c5 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bh4 b6 6.e3 Bb7

Here, I intend on playing solidly by developing my pieces first before getting space in the center with e4.

7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0

I am trying to delay Nbd2 as long as possible, hoping black will play the inaccurate cxd4, when I would play cxd4! When the knight can get to the superior square of c3 rather than d2.

8...0-0



Position after 8...0-0

9.Nbd2 cxd4!

Correcting playing this move only after I have played my knight to d2.

10.cxd4!?

The logical and natural move is to capture with the e4 pawn. However, I enjoy playing positions with symmetrical pawn structures, so although this move is theoretically worse, it fits my style.

10...d6 11.Bxf6!

While this move is not a great move, I believe the idea behind it is very strong, even though I wasted a move with Bh4. The point is that if I wait for black to finish his development with Nbd7, it is almost impossible to find any way to

gain an advantage, and I was ambitious to win and was willing to do anything to imbalance the position.

11...Bxf6 12.Qe2

This position is pretty easy to play for White. My rook gets to the open c-file faster and in some lines, I can create annoying threats on the queenside with Ba6.

12...Nd7 13.Rac1 e5!?

Logical move, trying to open up the position to favor the two bishops. However, learning from the Petrosian game, I learned to prevent Black from getting what he wants. If I play the “natural” dxe5, Black simply recaptures with the d-pawn and he has ...Nc5 when Black is clearly more active in the open position.

{Best for Black here is probably the prophylactic 13...a6! — Dubisch}

14.Ba6!

What would Black do if it were his move? Obviously, as I have the c-file, he would like to play ...Rc8 to also get control as well. Therefore, I must try to find ways to prevent this, and with the bishop move, he has to deal with the threat. If 14...Bxa6 15.Qxa6, the rook can't move as it no longer defends the a7-pawn.

14...Qb8 15.Bb5!

Now, Black would like to get his other rook over to c8. If this cannot be achieved, then Black's rook on a8 and his queen on b8 would be extremely passive. With Bb5, I threaten to win the knight, making it even harder for Black to get a rook to the c-file.

15...Rd8 16.Bc6!?

This interesting move has the intention of getting a strong passed pawn on the c-file. If Black doesn't allow this, I can get the other rook on the c-file by Rc2 and Rfc1.



Position after 16.Bc6

16...Nc5!?

While this move looks creative, it isn't that strong as Black's knight moves to an even more passive square on b7. Notice that the white pawn on d4 prevents the black knight from going to either c5 or e5, making it passive.

17.Bxb7 Nxb7 18.Ne4 Be7 19.Nc3!

The knight is headed for the strong d5-square and White would be completely winning strategically. Interestingly, if White plays the careless, but natural 19.dxe5 dxe5, Black is actually better as the bishop and knight both become more active. Even the “passive” rook on d8 gets a strong file.

19...Re8 20.Nd5 Bd8 21.Qb5!

It is surprisingly hard to prevent the queen from coming to d7...

21...Re6

Black has almost no more useful moves. The bishop on d8 cannot move as it would allow Nc7, winning. If the bishop cannot move, the queen cannot either as the c-file is controlled by the white rook. Obviously, if the queen can't move, the rook in the corner can't either. The pawn on d4 prevents the knight from going to c5, so all the black pieces besides the e6 rook are completely useless!

22.Rc2 a6 23.Qd7 Na5 24.b4 Ra7



Position after 24...Ra7

25.Qc8

Even when the queens are traded, I still get full control of the c-file and Black has multiple weak pawns, notably the one on b6.

25...Qxc8 26.Rxc8 Nb7 27.Nxb6 Kh7 28.Nd5

Here, I am simply up a pawn.

28...Bf6 29.Rc7!

Preventing the knight from moving, which also prevents the rook from moving!

29...exd4 30.Nxf6+ Rxf6 31.Nxd4 d5 32.Rfc1

White has full control of the c-file and Black has a weak d5-pawn and unmovable queenside pieces. The rest of the game is pretty easy.

32...Rb6 33.Rxf7 Ra8 34.Rcc7 1-0

These two games illustrate prophylaxis very well. I hope you all learn something new from this article and try to use this strategy in your own games!

Journal of Chess Research Launches with De Groot Gala!

by FM Loren Schmidt

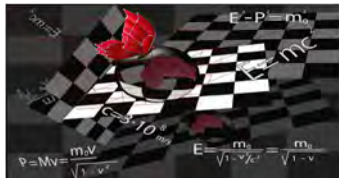
Journal of Chess Research

Preview Issue October 26, 2014 ISSN 2372-9619

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Featured Article

On the Shoulders of Adriaan de Groot:
Status of Chess Research in the Early 21st Century
Frank A. Niro, Cornell University



Synopsis Article

Deep Blue Cannot Play Checkers:
The Need for Generalized Intelligence for Mobile Robots
Troy D. Kelly, U.S. Army, and Lyle N. Long, Pennsylvania State University

Exclusive Interview

Dr. Julie A. Brown of Ohio University discusses her research into the Role and Significance of Digital Gaming, including Online Chess, and How it Impacts the Aging Process

Featured Academic Discipline

Mathematics: Pythagoras, Fibonacci and Bernoulli Play Chess

Official Publication of the International Society for Chess Research
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The first academic journal devoted to scholarly work related to chess held its launch party on October 26th in St. Louis. Members of the Editorial and Advisory Boards were joined by representatives of the USCF, FIDE, and other major chess organizations as well as members of the Webster University chess team, winners of the Pan-American Intercollegiate for the past four years. Beaucoup GMs, including their coach, Susan Polgar!

As a scholar who has published academic work related to chess, served on thesis and dissertation committees of those researching chess, and been a guinea pig in numerous chess experiments, I can only say, “About time!”

Significantly, the first issue includes a retrospective on the Dutch psychologist Adriaan de Groot, whose centennial we celebrated at the St. Louis launch party. De Groot’s seminal work *Thought and Choice in Chess* (1946, English edition 1965) melded his academic work with his avocation (played for the Netherlands in the 1937 and 1939 Olympics) by exploring the differences between the thought patterns, analytical skills, and memories of masters and amateurs. His work established an academic standard that made chess research respectable and hence laid the groundwork for later studies, including the famous Chase and Simon analysis of “chunking,” which helps explain how strong players can remember more about a chess position, including the ideas and plans suggested by pawn structure and piece placement. Consider the following position cited in the first issue of the *Journal of Chess Research*:



De Groot’s work played a role in my own development as a scholar and chess teacher. When I encountered de Groot’s work for the first time, I was investigating the phenomenology of skilled performance, but I was relying on solely qualitative data from my own experiences and those in the writings of other chessplayers. *Thought and Choice in Chess* provided the first research-based supporting data and suggested pathways for my further investigations. It also helped me to understand the importance of pattern recognition—both tactical and strategic—in teaching young players.

“I am de Groot!”



Working with strong players looking at this position without sight of the board, de Groot found that they quickly recognized the relationship between the WK on a1 and the counterpart on h8 and readily found the simplifying combo 1.Rxd4 Rxd4 2.Rxd4 Rxd4 3.Qxd4+ Qxd4+ 4.Bb2, winning the Q back and cashing out to a winning K+P ending.

NW players should note that a number of Editorial Board members have NW connections, including myself (Dr. Loren R. Schmidt, FM and Professor of English and Philosophy at Heritage University in Topenish), Dr. Alexey Root (WIM and Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Texas-Dallas but formerly of Seattle), and most of all Managing Editor Frank Niro (former editor of *NW Chess*, former Executive Director of the USCF, and the driving force behind the *JCR*). Incidentally, Alexey was my first chess student, way back in 1975 in Lincoln, NE, when she was all of nine! She inspired me to coin the term “Hope Chess” to describe one stage she went through in her development as a player.

Call for Papers:

Academic journals require content, and new academic journals need first-rate content to build their scholarly reputations. In the words of Frank Niro, the *JCR* seeks to “fill the gap in the multi-faceted world of chess—the lack of sufficient scholarly research.” While research exists, much of it appeared in untranslated, out-of-print, or inaccessible books and journals. Some of my own research published in Japan has never appeared in the U.S., nor is it available on the net. In other cases, a promising line of research lacked replication, so the conclusions remain tenuous, as with questions of whether playing and studying chess provide benefits to children and seniors. In still others, work that might appear significant to an audience with knowledge of chess and chess-related research might not be easy to publish because the relevant journals lack peer reviewers with the knowledge to judge the quality and/or significance of the research. For example, Dr. Hilario Blasco Fontecilla has had difficulty publishing studies of the effects of chess on children with ADHD for exactly this reason.

The journal intends to fill those gaps and thus contribute broadly to awareness and understanding of the impact of chess on human development, psychology, cognition, philosophy, sociology, aging, business strategy, education, and technology. Manuscripts that make strong empirical and theoretical contributions to the field of chess-related research are invited from scholars throughout the academic community, both in the United States and abroad, and the review process will not be tied to any particular discipline or national context.

If you would like to submit an article or a query about a potential article, contact Managing Editor Frank Niro: editor@chessresearch.org

The *Journal of Chess Research* is the official publication of the International Society for Chess Research. For more information, please consult the journal website: <http://www.chessresearch.org/>

Mailing address: Journal of Chess Research, 3735 Palomar Centre Drive, Suite 150, Lexington, KY 40513

The sponsoring organization is the International Society for Chess Research. Membership and subscription information may be found on the International Society for Chess Research website: <http://www.chessresearchsociety.org/>

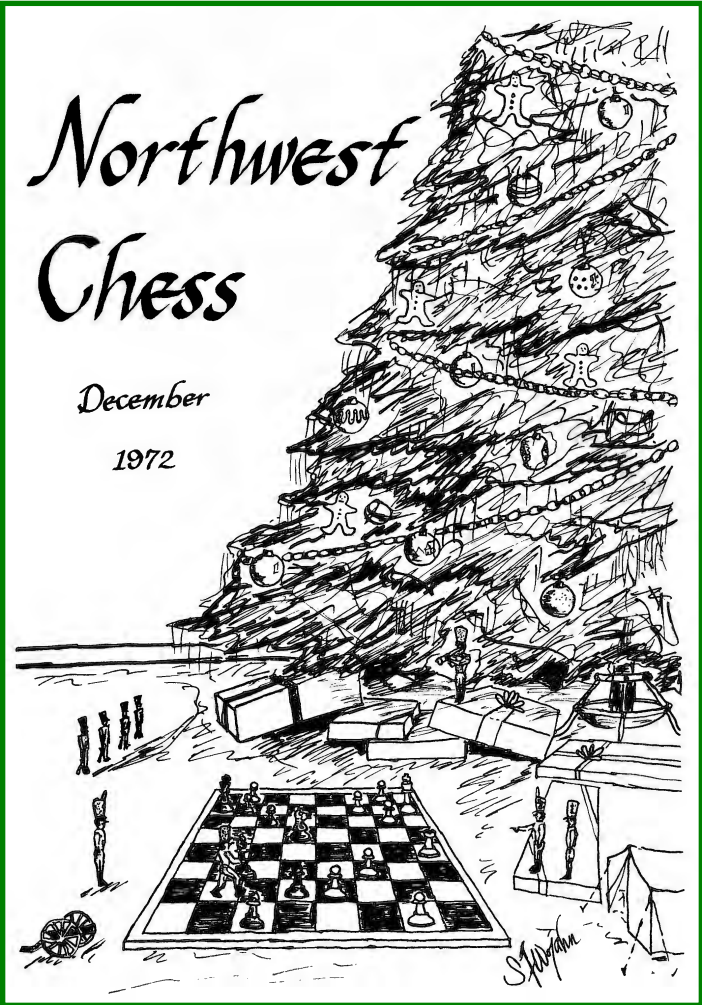
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Answers to the November issue Crossword puzzle:

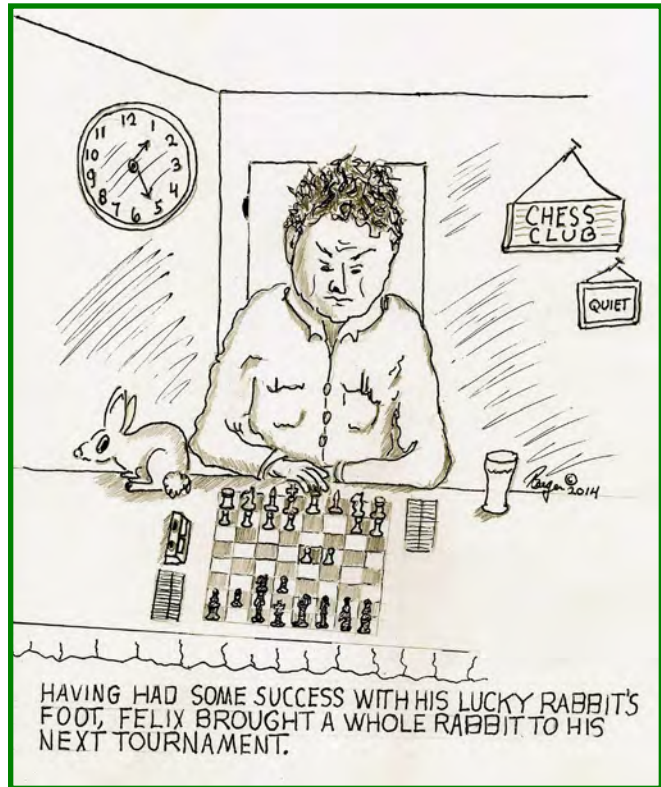
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Cover of Northwest Chess issue 301, December 1972. Editor Russell Miller, Cover by Steve Wojohn.



2014 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaia Memorial

Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, administrator

New Leaders, 200 Point Barrier Broken Again, One Month to Go

We have leadership changes all over the board this month. Just not among the Masters. Expert Jason Cigan took over second in Oregon, while Toshihiro Nagase displaced Paul Bartron for first in Washington's Expert class. Idaho's combined M/X/A class saw a change when Cameron Leslie became a Washington resident, with Caleb Kircher taking over second spot. Among A class players, Oregon's Michael Goffe and Dagadu Gaikwad leapfrogged into the top two spots. Class B has a new second place player in Oregon, Ethan Wu. Jerrold Richards moved up a class and right into the top spot in Washington's Class C, displacing long-time leader August Piper, while Liam Booth assumed second place in that class in Oregon. Arlene Hiatt also moved up a class, taking over the lead in Idaho's Class D race. Also in Class D, Karl Wallulis made a big jump into the second spot in Oregon, while both Alec Beck and Ethan Hu moved up a spot in Washington as a result of Richards' rise. Finally, in Idaho's Class E and below, Hiatt's move upward allowed Daniel Duan and Harold Wetmur to assume the top two places.

In the overall competitions, Jeffrey Roland has moved into a tie with Brad Bodie in Idaho, Mike Hasuike has opened up a greater lead over Nick Raptis by joining the 200 point club, and Stephen Buck has reclaimed the lead over Ralph Anthony in Washington, while both have broken that 200 point barrier again.

All of this could just be ephemeral, as the SCC Extravaganza and Washington Class were both multiplier events in Washington later in November. Multiplier events tend to stir things up in the Grand Prix. Coming up in December, we have the final eight events of the year, including three two-day events on the same weekend (12/13-14) in Portland, Seattle and Boise. None of the final month's events are multiplier events, but they still offer points that could make the difference in those close races throughout the leader board. A person willing to travel a bit (and invest four weekends) could add up to 30 points to his or her total in December.

We have already surpassed the record for most multiplier events in a year (19), with two more to go, and we have set a new record for most players involved in the Grand Prix with 687 and counting. We should pass the 700 mark by the time the Washington Class is in the books. The record for total number of GP events in a year will fall before this one is done, and record for the total number of points awarded may be surpassed if turn-outs are good the final two months. Don't forget the end of the year just signals the start of a new year of competition, which starts off on the right foot every year with the Gresham Open, a 2x event on the first weekend of January.

Statistics below are current through November 2.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Raptis	Nick	162	1 Pupols	Viktors	163.5
			2 Grabinsky	Aaron	82.5	2 Lessler	Peter	124.5
			3 Haessler	Carl A	42	3 Feng	Roland	116.5
			4 Russell	Corey J	13.5	4 Golub	David	80
			5 Gay	Daniel Z	5	5 He	Samuel	56
Experts								
			1 Bjorksten	Lennart	76.5	1 Nagase	Toshihiro	133
			2 Cigan	Jason	69	2 Bartron	Paul R	126
			3 Heywood	Bill	62	3 He	Anthony B	123.5
			4 Parnon	Calvin J	32	4 Smith	Micah	113
			5 Sherrard	Jerry D	31	5 Haining	Kyle	83
M/X/Class A								
1 Bodie	Brad	55						
2 Kircher	Caleb P	23						
3 Havrilla	Mark A	18.5						
4 Gorman	Cody A	17.5						
5	Two tied at	6.5						
Class B								
1 Roland	Jeffrey T	55						
2 Inman	James	26						
3 Buus	Jarod N	20.5						
4 Hamilton	Brett B	15.5						
4 Edvalson	Paul	15.5						
Class A								
			1 Goffe	Michael P	88.5	1 Buck	Stephen J	216.5
			2 Gaikwad	Dagadu B	84.5	2 Zhang	Eric M	124
			3 Brahmarouthu	Abhinav	68	3 Olson	Travis J	109.5
			4 Austin	Jeff J	66.5	4 Zhang	Brendan	104.5
			5 Talyansky	Seth D	63.5	5 Ramasamy	Vikram	99

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ronald M	41.5	1	Berger	Brian F	111.5	1	Anthony	Ralph J	209
2	Amen	Chris	16.5	2	Wu	Ethan	90	2	Thomas	Arjun	98
3	Porth	Adam	14	3	Shimada	Masakazu	79	3	Jones	Davey V	84
4	Lombardi	George	13.5	4	Zhang	Gavin	78	4	Padhi	Pratik	80
5	Zaklan	David A	12.5	5	Grabinsky	Joshua	74.5	4	Raffel	Brian	80
Class D			Class C								
1	Hiatt	Arlene	41.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	200	1	Richards	Jerrold	132
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	29.5	2	Booth	Liam K	60.5	2	Piper	August	125.5
3	Nathan	Jacob A	14	3	Dietz	Arliss	54.5	3	Tan	Alan	76.5
4	Faulkner	Graeme K	11	4	Strigul	Michael	53	4	Lee	Addison	73.5
5	Handeen	Bjorn J	10.5	5	Markowski	Gregory A	51	5	Rajagopal	Maneesh	72
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Duan	Daniel L	15.5	1	Buerer	Harry F	78.5	1	Beck	Alec W	72
2	Wetmur	Harold R	13.5	2	Wallulis	Karl J	38.5	2	Hu	Ethan	60
3	Porth	Dylan	9.5	3	Riley	Hailey	37	3	Hitchcock	Brandon	59
4	Siek	Justin	9	4	Prideaux	Dave	36	4	Haining	Breck	58.5
5	Faulkner	Joetta	8.5	5	Kenway	Geoffrey W	27	4	Mahajan	Rushaan	58.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Bodie	Brad	55	1	Hasuike	Mike L	200	1	Buck	Stephen J	216.5
2	Roland	Jeffrey T	55	2	Raptis	Nick	162	2	Anthony	Ralph J	209
3	Weyland	Ronald M	41.5	3	Berger	Brian F	111.5	3	Pupols	Viktors	163.5
3	Hiatt	Arlene	41.5	4	Wu	Ethan	90	4	Nagase	Toshihiro	133
5	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	29.5	5	Goffe	Michael P	88.5	5	Richards	Jerrold	132
6	Inman	James	26	6	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	84.5	6	Bartron	Paul R	126
7	Kircher	Caleb P	23	7	Grabinsky	Aaron	82.5	7	Piper	August	125.5
8	Buus	Jarod N	20.5	8	Shimada	Masakazu	79	8	Lessler	Peter	124.5
9	Havrilla	Mark A	18.5	9	Buerer	Harry F	78.5	9	Zhang	Eric M	124
10	Gorman	Cody A	17.5	10	Zhang	Gavin	78	10	He	Anthony B	123.5
11	Amen	Chris	16.5	11	Bjorksten	Lennart	76.5	11	Feng	Roland	116.5
12	Three tied at		15.5	11	Grabinsky	Joshua	74.5	12	Smith	Micah	113

From Our Business Manager

Please note that the advertising and copy deadline has changed to the 5th of each month, which is five days sooner than it used to be.

Northwest Chess Knights donors prior to 2014 will be removed from the list printed in the magazine, as of next year. Please consider renewing your support or making a new donation.

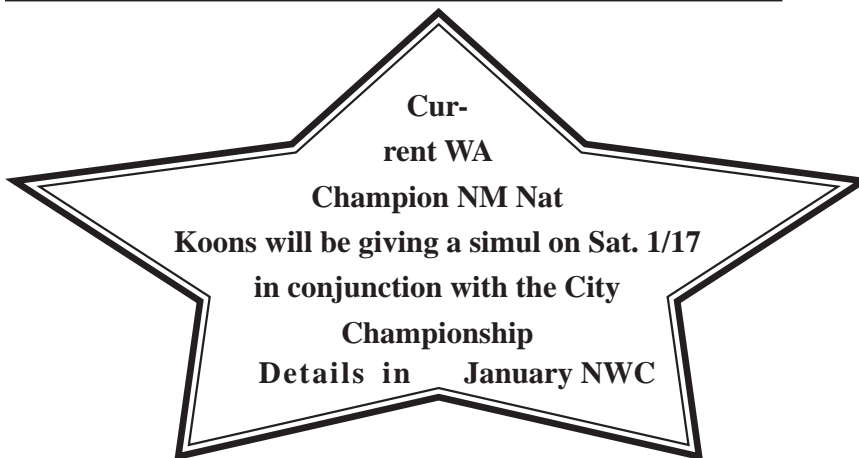
This month you're probably noticing a change in *Northwest Chess* magazine ... the paper may be a little different, and the size is slightly different too. That's because our previous printer, Snohomish Publishing Company, went out of business. We welcome Sound Publishing Inc. of Everett, Washington as our new printer/printer. They're a large and well-respected company, and you may be familiar with some of their other publications ... see "Our Titles" at <http://www.soundpublishing.com/>. If you have any comments, suggestions or problems with your subscription, email info@nwchess.com. As a little holiday gift, everyone with a WCF, OCF or ICA family membership is receiving a copy of the magazine this month, whereas normally extra family members don't receive a copy. Feel free to share your copy with a chess-playing friend, thanks for subscribing to *Northwest Chess*, and Happy Holidays!

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

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.



SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

C.B. Bagley Mem.: 12/5, 12, 19.
Patzers' Challenge: 12/26.
January Thaw: 1/2, 9, 16, 23.
G/15 Championship: 1/30.
Cabin Fever: 2/6, 13, 20, 27.

Dec. 6, Jan. 3

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee 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.

Saturday Quads

Dec. 21, Jan. 25

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.

Sunday Tornado

January 11

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/7, \$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.

SCC Novice

Jan. 16-18

Format: 2-sec., 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/2, SD/1 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/60); d5. **EF:** *Championship* \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/8, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add** \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1–Sat. 10 a.m., G/64). **Prize Fund:** \$1000 (b/52, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** *Championship* \$225-140, X 90, A 70; **Reserve (U1800)** \$125-80, C 60, D 50, E & under 40, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Seattle City Championship

SCC 2015 Weekend Schedule

Novice: Jan 11, Apr 11, July 19, Oct 11.

Quads: Jan 3 & 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25, May 30, June 27, July 18, Aug 15, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 7, Dec 5.

Tornado: Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 15, Apr 12, May 17, Jun 7, Jul 12, Aug 30, Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 20.

Seattle City Championship 16-18 January. **Seattle Spring Open** 20-22 March.

SCC Adult Swiss 2-3 May. **Emerald City Open** 12-14 June.

Seafair Open 24-26 July. **Seattle Fall Open** 18-20 September.

SCC Extravaganza 13-15 November.

Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Nov 28-30** Washington Class Championship, **Lynnwood, WA.** (see <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

☞ **Dec 13-14** Northwest Chess Open, **Seattle, WA.** Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. 5 Rd Swiss: TC = 40/90 SD 30 No Delay. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m. 12/13 or preregistered. Rounds Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00. Entry Fee: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st 125, 2nd 75, under 2000, \$75.00, under 1800 \$75.00 under 1600 \$75.00 under 1400 \$75.00. Under 1200 \$ 50.00. Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit. Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at www.uschess.org. State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up. This is a fund raising event for Northwest Chess magazine. ½ point bye available in advance or by the end of Round 1. TD - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration (when available). (Also see quarter-page ad on page 22)

☞ **Dec 13-14** Western Idaho Open, **Boise, ID.** Site: Library! Plaza Business Mall, 3085 N. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704. 5SS. Game/120;d5. 2 Sections: "Open" and "U1400 Reserve". Prizes (based on 30): Open: \$200, \$100, \$75. Reserve \$100, \$75, \$50. Entry Fee: \$30 (\$25 if under 18 or 60+ years old) if registered by December 8, 2014. Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after December 8, 2014. E-mail entry will lock in advance entry rate. USCF Membership required. Register & check in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. Saturday, December 13, 2014. Those not paid and checked in by 8:45 a.m. may not be paired in first round. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive first round bye as long as they arrive before 1:15 p.m. Round Times: Saturday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Half-point bye (maximum 1) available in any round. Must notify TD before round 2 is paired. Entries: Jeffrey Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706, E-mail: jroland@cableone.net, www.idahocheessassociation.org. Make all checks payable to Idaho Chess Association. No Computer, No Smoking, Wheelchair access.

☞ **Dec 13-14** Portland Winter Open, **Portland, OR.** 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 10:00, 2:30 and 7:00 on Saturday, 10:00 and 2:30 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.

☞ **Dec 20** Christmas Congress, **Fife, WA.** Site: Fife Library, 6622 20th St E, Fife, WA. Format: 4 Round Swiss in 1 Section. Time Control: G60 +5s. Entry Fee: \$25. Prize Fund: 60% of entry fees: First 25%; 2nd 15%; and U2000, U1700, & U1400 20% each. Registration: 9:00 to 9:45 AM. Rounds: 10, 1, 3:15, and 5:30. Byes: 1 half point bye available. Information: USCF and WCF or OCF membership required. NS NC NW. Please bring your own sets and clocks. Entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E B St, Tacoma, WA 98445, 253-535-2536, ggarychess@AOL.com.

☞ **Dec 27/Jan 31** 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.

☞ **Dec 27** Washington G/60 Championship, **Seattle, WA.** Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133. Phone: (206) 417-5405. Format: 4 Round Swiss in one section. Time Control: G/60, d5. Dual Rated: Regular and Quick Chess rated. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Prize Fund: \$600 (based on 40 paid entries). 1st \$180, 2nd \$120, 1st U1800 \$75, 1st U1600 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75, 1st U1200/Unrated \$75. Entry Fee: \$30 if postmarked or online by 12/24, \$35 after 12/24 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. Registration: 9:00-9:45 AM. Rounds: 10:00 AM, 12:45 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:15 PM. Byes: One half-point bye available; request before end of round 2. USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted. 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/onlineregistration.

Jan 3 Idaho Blitz Chess Championship, **Boise, ID.** Open to all players from any state. Top Idaho placer is recognized as "Idaho Blitz Chess Champion", which is a new title starting 2015. Site: Library! Plaza Business Mall, 3085 N. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704. EF: \$10 (made out to ICA). Prizes (Guaranteed): 1st Place \$75 plus title of Idaho Blitz Chess Champion; 2nd Place \$50; 3rd Place \$25. USCF Membership required, event is USCF-rated. Time Control: Game/5;d0. On-site Registration: 10:30am-11:45am. Early e-mail registration encouraged to save time: jroland@cableone.net (but pay entry at event). Rounds: 12 double-round Swiss System (may be decreased if not enough players but will not be increased). Players play two 5-minute games against each paired opponent, one with White and one with Black. Rounds 12:00pm-6pm (approximately) with a 30-minute break after half-way point.

☞ **Jan 3-4** Gresham Open, **Gresham, OR.** (Full-page ad on page 3)

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Morgan plays the French Defense