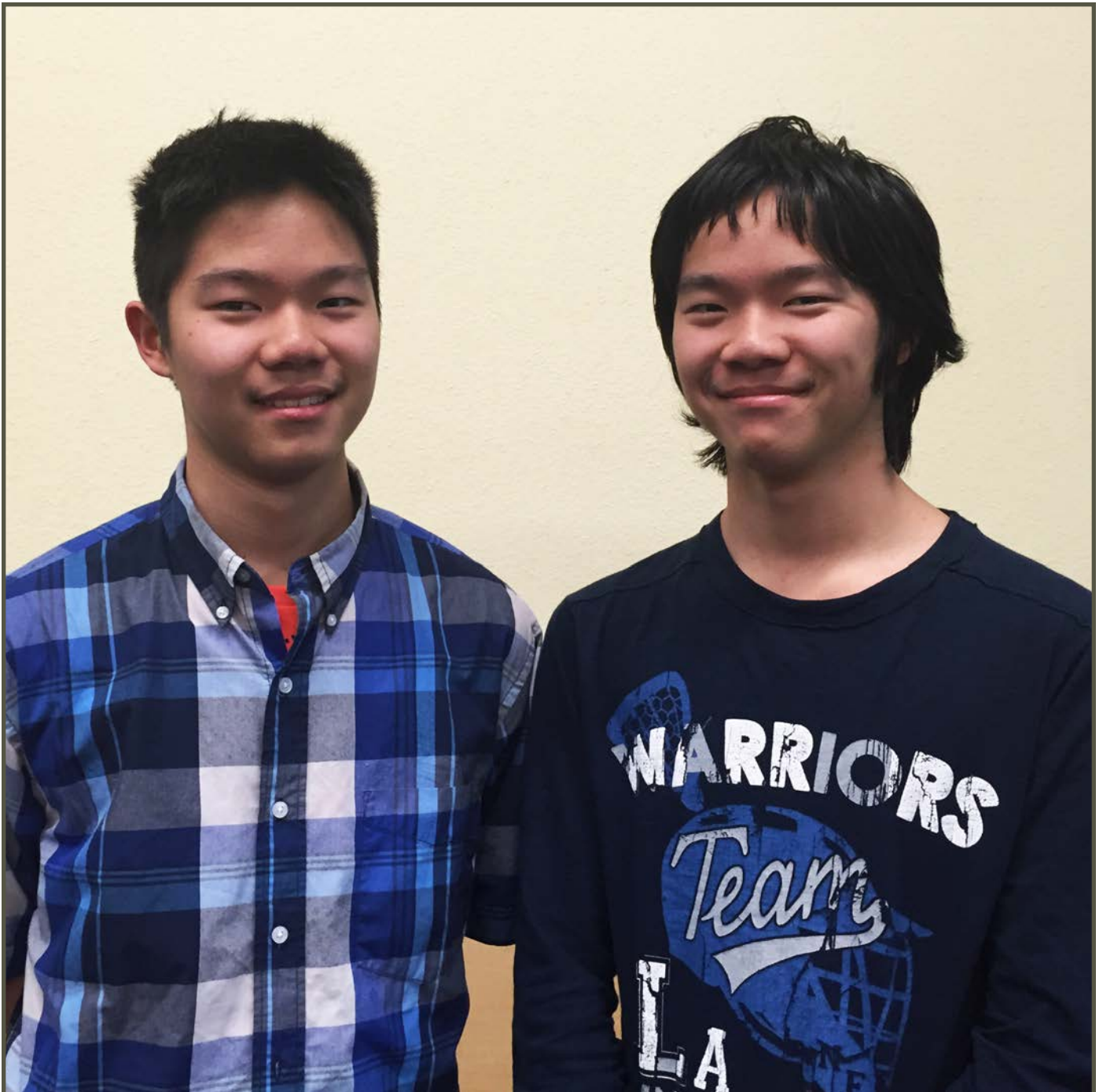




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February 2016

**Chess News and Features
from Washington, Oregon,
and Idaho**



Northwest Chess

February 2016, Volume 70-2 Issue 817

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.
Office of record: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501
152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501
152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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Selected Best State Magazine/Newsletter in 2014 and 2015 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

Daniel He (left) and Samuel He (right) tied for first place with 4.5/5 at the Washington Junior Closed, with Daniel He winning the playoff.

Photo Credit: Li Wang.

On the back cover:

Wesley Brimstein (left) and Andre Murphy (right) "The Shell Shockers" win the Santa's Bughouse tournament played on December 17, 2015 in Hailey, Idaho.

Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Chesstoons:

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

Northwest Chess Knights

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See our quarter page ad in the February Issue
of Chess Life, or visit www.renochess.org

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ENTRY FORM - 5th Annual Larry Evans Memorial (formerly Far West Open) - Reno, Nevada - March 25 - 27, 2016

Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89501

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF I.D. Number _____ Exp. Date _____ **All pre-registered players please check in at tournament desk on arrival.**

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (CIRCLE) 1 2 3 4 5 6

----- OPEN SECTION -----			"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
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Departure Date _____
- One Bed Two Beds S NS

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Washington Chess News

Nick Raptis Shining Star of SCC's Fall Open

By Carol Kleist

This article was timely submitted by Carol and should have gone into the November 2015 issue.—Editor.

The Seattle Chess Club's annual Fall Open (September 23-26, 2015) welcomed a record attendance of 78 players this year! We had expected 40 to 50, but all undaunted, on Saturday morning, parents and players helped move extra tables and chairs to an additional room down the hall, and all players had their boards. And to end this introduction in a happy major key: with the increase in attendance the prize fund grew by 35%!

The Northwest's Nick Raptis cheerfully dominated the tournament, taking clear first with four-and-a-half points. The young newcomer to the NW from Minnesota, Joseph Truelson, also won clear first in the Reserve (under 1700) with four and a half. But watch out for the women! Of the total of ten prize winners in the Reserve, three were women or, if you please, 30%!

The Open saw a strong field of eight Masters and ten Experts, with three Masters rated over 2300! Simultaneously, many 1600 and lower rated players chose to play up in the open section. Four points earned a three-way tie for 2nd place by IM Ray Kaufmann, who has played extensively in CA, and who attained and held his Senior Master title (rating over 2400) for most of 2014, NM Bryce Tiglon (see March 2015 issue of *Northwest Chess* for a bio), and Expert Dereque Kelly, returning to active play after some time. NM Viktors Pupols was having an excellent tournament, with three-and-a-half points after four rounds, and would have had a chance to tie for first place, but was unfortunately unable to play the final round.

Second Place Reserve was also shared three ways, with the women happily taking two thirds of the cash. These three winners were Inchara Shivalingaiah, Mu Lin from OR, and Catherine Smith. Inchara is new to US Chess, but she is FIDE rated; and Catherine had to win her

endgame in the last round against another woman, the runner-up, Kerry Van Veen.

Additional prizes included the Under 2000 and Under 1800 shared by Jr. player James Wang and Sr. Steve Buck, the one who helps keep Tacoma Chess alive.

U1550 and U1450 prizes were shared by Jr players Owen Xuan and Ethan Wu, and the U1350 prize shared by another female prize winner, Jr player Sophie

Tien, along with Jr. player Jeffrey Kou and James Jaffe. The Unrated prize went to Casey Bruner.

The eager Nick Raptis was the first one at the board on Sunday morning, ready to go, (one half hour earlier than most players arrived), awaiting his opponent, Samuel He, who also had three points. Nick won, remaining on Board One.

The eager Nick Raptis was the last one at the board Sunday night, attaining the draw he needed to win the tournament. His opponent, Bryce Tiglon, who had taken a half-point bye, and now had three-and-a-half points to Nick's four, did not easily give up the draw, and if Bryce could win, he'd have first place. So they played their interesting endgame on, the only game still going until Bryce had only a Bishop left, and a lonely King with no pawn subjects. Then the cheerful Nick accepted his prize check from Fred.

Perhaps the clue here for Nick's opponents is that just as important as preparing against Nick's favorite openings is to find out what he has for breakfast, or what he does for exercise, to supply the boundless energy.

**Langing (Frank) Hou (1660) –
Jason Yu (2012) [C68]**

Seattle Fall Open
Seattle WA (R2), September 19, 2015
[GM Emil Anka]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nc3

5.0-0 is a more common move here.

5...f6 6.0-0 Bg4

6...c5!?

7.h3 Bh5 8.d3 Bd6 9.Be3 c5!

[Diagram top of next column]

With the idea of Ne7-c6-d4, great plan!

10.Qe2N Ne7 11.Rac1!?



Position after 9...c5

11.Nb1 Nc6 12.c3 Qd7 13.Nbd2 0-0-0
11...Nc6 12.Nd5 Nd4! 13.Bxd4 cxd4

Black got a clearly better game.

14.c3 c6 15.Nb4



Position after 15.Nb4

15...Bxb4!?

Creative idea with Qe7, Pg5 and 0-0-0. The downside is, it gives away the bishop pair, for a knight which doesn't do much on b4. Simpler was 15...0-0! 16.Nc2 c5 with clear advantage as Black.

16.cxb4 Qe7 17.a3 g5! 18.g4

White needs to be aware of his king safety! 18.Rc5! 0-0-0 19.a4 Kb8 20.Rfc1 Rc8

18...Bg6 19.Kg2 h5! 20.Rh1 Qd7

Interesting was 20...0-0!? 21.Nd2 Rh6 22.Nc4 Rdh8 23.f3 Kb8 due to ...Bf7-e6 followed by ...Qh7 and White needs to solve coming challenges.

21.Nd2 Bf7 22.f3 0-0-0 23.Nc4

23.Nf1 h4, while preventing Ng3, also locks up the kingside.

23...Bxc4! 24.Rxc4 Rh6!

Black has a clear plan with Rah8, Qd7 and hxg4.

25.Rcc1 Rdh8

The critical moment of the game.

26.Rcf1??

The losing move White misses a defense with 26.Kg3! Qh7 27.Qg2 and after 27...Kb8 (27...hxg4 28.fxc4 ♖) 28.Qf1 ♗ Black is better, but it is hard to find a way to break into White's position.

26...Qh7!-+



Position after 26...Qh7

White will lose a pawn (at least); Black is winning!

27.Kf2 hxg4 28.fxc4 Rxb3 29.Rxb3 Qxh3 30.Ke1 Qg3+ 31.Kd1 Rh2 32.Qf3 Qf4!



Position after 32...Qf4

The best move!

33.Qxf4 gxf4 34.Kc1 Rg2 35.Rh1 Rxc4

Black is up by two pawns; the win should not be a problem.

36.Rh8+



Position after 36.Rh8+

36...Kc7

The best was the nicest 36...Kd7! 37.Rh7+ Ke6! 38.Rxb7 f3! 39.Kd2 Rg1! with f2-f1/Q, and it is over.

37.Rf8 f3

37...Rg6-+

38.Rxf6 Rg1+ 39.Kd2?

39.Kc2 Rg3 40.Rf5 Kd6 41.a4 ♗ was the best chance as White.

39...Rg2+! 40.Kc1 f2! 41.Kd1 f1Q+

41...b5-+

42.Rxf1 Rxb2

Black is winning, it just takes a little bit longer.

43.Rf7+

43.Rf5 Kd6 44.Rf6+ Ke7 45.Rh6 Kd7 46.Rh7+ Kc8 47.Re7 Ra2 48.Rxe5 Rxa3 49.Kc2 Rc3+ 50.Kd2 Rb3-+

43...Kb6 44.Rf5 Rb3 45.Kc2 Rxa3 46.Rxe5 Rc3+! 47.Kd2 Rb3 48.Rc5 Rxb4 49.Rc4?

It was no defense anyway. 49.Rc1 a5 50.e5 a4 51.e6 Kc7 52.Re1 Kd8-+

49...Rxc4 50.dxc4 c5! ... 51.e5 Kc6 52.Kd3 Kd7 53.Ke4 Ke6 54.Kf4 b5 55.cxb5 axb5 56.Ke4 d3 57.Kxd3 Kxe5 58.Kc3 b4+ 59.Kc4 Ke4 60.Kb3 Kd3 61.Kb2 c4 62.Kc1 b3 63.Kb2 Kd2 64.Kb1 c3 65.Ka1 c2 66.Kb2 c1Q+ 67.Kxb3 Kd3 68.Kb4 Qc4+ 69.Ka5 Qb3 70.Ka6 Kc4 71.Ka7 Kc5 72.Ka8 Kc6 73.Ka7 Qb7# 0-1

2015 Washington State Women's Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2015 Washington State Women's Championship was held December 12-13 at the Seattle Chess Club. Seven players took part in one open section:

- Women's FIDE Master Chouchanik Airapetian (2080 US Chess, 2086 FIDE, Armenia)
- Badamkhand Norovsambuu (2038 US Chess, 2017 FIDE, Mongolia)
- Women's Candidate Master Naomi Bashkansky (1976 US Chess, 1695 FIDE, United States)
- Kerry Van Veen (1548 US Chess, United States)
- Minda Chen (1337 US Chess, 1522 NWSRS, United States)
- Karen Schmidt (813 US Chess, United States)
- Developmental Instructor Anjali Walsh (680 US Chess, 1311 NWSRS, Ireland)

The tournament was co-organized by WCF Member-at-Large Chouchanik Airapetian and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Carol Kleist directed the event.

Congratulations to WFM Chouchanik Airapetian for winning the tournament with 3.5/4 points! "Chouchan" is originally from Armenia and has played in several U.S. Women's Championships over the course of her chess career. She now lives in Mercer Island with her husband and two children, where she teaches and promotes chess full time through education. For her victory, Chouchan is seeded into the Invitational section of the 2016 Washington State Championship.



L-R (regardless of row): Carol Kleist, Minda Chen, Naomi Bashkansky, Kerry Van Veen, Karen Schmidt, Anjali Walsh, Chouchanik Airapetian, Badamkhand Norovsambuu.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Northwest Chess Open

By Duane Polich

A total of 37 players participated in the third Northwest Chess Open held on December 12-13 at the Seattle Chess Club. The annual event is organized as a fund raiser for *Northwest Chess* magazine with the extra proceeds as well as encouraged donations going to one of the last monthly state chess publications in print. The magazine started out as the *Washington Chess Letter*, then the *Northwest Chess Letter* and became *Northwest Chess* (the magazine), as the official state publication of the Washington and Oregon Chess Federation, as well as the Idaho Chess Association and for a time the British Columbia Chess Federation. NWC Publisher and event organizer Duane Polich participated in the event acting as the house player to avoid byes if possible.

When the dust settled, young up and coming phenom 11-year-old Anthony He stood on top with 4.5/5 points, drawing only with James Soetedjo and earning himself \$150.00. Second place was tied down by Huso Hadzic, a former Washington Open winner, with 4.0/5 points, good for \$90.00. The other prize winners were James Soetedjo, under 2000, Anshul Ahluwalia, under 1800 and Samuel Deng, under 1600, each with 3.5/5 points. Aniruddha Barua took the under 1400 prize with 3.0/5 points also good for \$90.00. A trio of sisters participated in the



Anthony He. Photo credit: Duane Polich.



Top boards during round four of the Northwest Chess Open Photo credit: Travis Olson.

event with Stephanie and Sophie Velea taking the under 1200 prize with 2.0/5 points, good for \$30 each. Their sister Anne-Marie finished just behind with 1.5/5 points. Jihoon Lim took the unrated prize with 3.0/5 points. The last published rating I believe was used to determine the prizes. Richard Burrows got a one-year subscription to *Northwest Chess* magazine for best performance from a non cash prize winner.

The event was capably directed by Travis Olson. The event was unusual as it did not require a state membership, only a US Chess membership in order to play. This was done to encourage any non-members to play. Of course they were encouraged to join their state federation. Also notable was that the time control was 40/90, sudden death 30 with no time delay, which led to confusion on how to set the electronic clocks. Use of analog clocks with flags (remember those) were encouraged which then led to the younger players asking how to set these clocks.

Special thanks to those who made donations to *Northwest Chess* including Anthony He and Huso Hadzic who contributed a portion of their winnings. To Leslie Cameron, who paid additional entry fees and Sridhar Seshadri, who has made numerous contributions in the past. Also, to NWC Editor Jeffrey Roland, Games Editor Ralph Dubisch, prolific writer Brian Berger and business manager Eric Holcomb, all who also spend considerable time proofing the magazine on a monthly basis. Thanks to those that have contributed articles and stories to the magazine as they are especially encouraged.

Also, thanks to the Seattle Chess Club and to Carol Kleist, who directed the Washington Women's Championship, which ran simultaneously with this event.



Top boards during round one of the Northwest Chess Open. Photo credit: Travis Olson.



25th Annual North American Open

By Breck Haining

The 25th annual North American Open was held at Bally's in Las Vegas, NV, December 26-30, 2015. The North American Open is one of the largest annual tournaments held in the US. This year's tournament had over 740 participants. The open section, which is played in nine rounds, is highly competitive. This year's tournament was no exception. Competing in the open section were:

- 12 Grandmasters from 7 different federations: GM's Varuzhan Akobian (USA), Oliver Barbosa (PHI), Alexey Dreev (RUS), Bai Jinshi (CHN), Gata Kamsky (USA), Victor Mikhalevski (ISR), Nikola Mitkov (MKD), Enrico Sevillano (USA), James Edward Tarjan (USA-OR), Batchuluun Tsegmed (MGL), Jeffery Xiong (USA), and Jianchao Zhou (CHN);
- 19 International Masters from 10 different federations: IM's Dionisio Aldama (MEX), John David Bartholomew (USA), Jorge Baules (PAN), Michael Bodek (USA), John Daniel Bryant (USA), Mark Ginsburg (USA), Keaton Kiewra (USA), Ruifeng Li (USA), Andranik Matikozyan (ARM), Maximilian Meinhardt (GER), Eylon Nakar (ISR), Denys Konstantinovic Shmelov (UKR), Istvan Sipos (HUN), Andrew Tang (USA), Kesav Viswanadha (USA), Chen Wang (CHN), Darwin Yang (USA), Kaiqi Yang (CHN), and Angelo Young (PHI);
- One Woman Grandmaster from China: WGM Jue Wang;



GM James Tarjan.
Photo credit: Breck Haining.



Roland Feng. Photo credit: Breck Haining.

- 28 FIDE Masters from four different federations: FM's Robby Adamson (USA), Pedram Atoufi (IRI), Joel Banawa (USA), Alex Bian (USA), Michael Brown (USA), Nicolas Checa (USA), Olivier Chiku-ratte (CAN), Joshua Colas (USA), Roland Feng (USA-WA), Kazim Gulamali (USA), Dale Haessel (CAN), Konstantin Kavutskiy (USA), Alexandre Kretchetov (RUS), Aravind Kumar (USA), Julian Landaw (USA), Awonder Liang (USA), Gregory Markzon (USA), Ali Morshedi (USA), William Schill (USA-WA), Joshua Sheng (USA), Michael Song (CAN), Guannan Terry Song (CAN), Rayan Taghizadeh (USA), Alexander Velikanov (USA), Sean Vibbert (USA), Cameron Wheeler (USA), Justus Williams (USA), and Eugene Yanayt (USA);
 - Jennifer Yu; and
 - 43 non-FIDE-titled players, including Lennart Bjorksten (USA-OR), Daniel He (USA-WA), and Samuel He (USA-WA). (A 44th non-FIDE-titled player was registered to play in the open section, but was withdrawn from the tournament after forfeiting the first round.)
- GM Alexey Dreev, GM Gata Kamsky, and IM Eylon Nakar tied for first place, each scoring 7.0/9 points. They were awarded first, second, and third place in this order on tie breaks. Washington State Champion Roland Feng tied for 14th place.
- Forty-two chess players from the Northwest competed in the North American Open this year: six in the open section, seven each in the U2300, U2100, and U1900 sections, eight in the U1700 section, five in the U1500 section, and two in the U1200 section. The under sections were played in seven rounds. Kudos to Vikram Ramasamy, who tied for first place in the U1900 section; to Davey Jones and Sean Zlatnik, who both tied for tenth place in the U1700 section; and to
- Three Women International Masters from two federations: WIM's Agata Bykovtsev (USA), Annie Wang (USA), and Mo Zhai (CHN);
 - Two Women FIDE Masters from the US: WFM's Ramya Inapuri and



Anthony He (left) vs. Viktors Pupols. Photo credit: Breck Haining.

Eugene Chin, who tied for second place, and Evan Ruan, who tied for sixth place, in the U1500 section. Honorable mention goes to Anthony He, who played up a section and ended the tournament with a plus score. The table below provides additional details.

Section Score State Notes

Open

Roland Feng 5.5 WA tied for 14th place
James Edward Tarjan 4.5 OR
William Schill 4.0 WA

Samuel He 3.5 WA
Lennart Bjorksten 3.5 OR
Daniel He 3.0 WA

U2300

Kyle Haining 4.5 WA tied for 13th place
Anthony Bi He 4.0 WA was eligible to play in the U2100 section
Viktors Pupols 3.5 WA
Carl Haessler 3.0 OR
John Rosell 3.0 WA
Noah Fields 2.5 WA

Jerry Dean Sherrard 1.5 OR
U2100
Masayuki Nagase 4.0 WA
Naomi Bashkansky 4.0 WA
Justin Yu 4.0 WA
Toshihiro Nagase 4.0 WA
Pratik Padhi 3.5 WA
Sangeeta Dhingra 2.0 WA
Alden Gregory Ortolano 1.5 WA

U1900

Vikram Ramasamy 6.0 WA tied for 1st place
Noah Yeo 4.5 WA
Eric M Zhang 4.5 WA
Juan Hector Perez 4.5 WA
Joseph Kiiru 4.5 WA
Numan Abdul-mujeeb 3.5 WA
Zachary Zhang 2.0 WA

U1700

Davey Jones 5.0 WA tied for 10th place
Sean Zlatnik 5.0 OR tied for 10th place
Jazon Samillano 4.5 OR
Dan Dalthorp 4.5 OR
Alexander Mihai Popescu 4.0 WA
Clement Earl Falbo 3.5 OR
Joey Yeo 2.5 WA
Lanqing Hou 2.0 WA

U1500

Eugene Chin 5.5 WA tied for 2nd place
Evan Ruan 5.0 WA tied for 6th place
Cheyenne Zhang 3.5 WA
Katherine Arustamian 3.0 WA
Asher Thakur 2.5 WA

U1250

Mark Dalthorp 4.0 OR
Eamon Thakur 3.5 WA

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Washington Junior Closed

By David Hendricks

Congratulations to Daniel He for winning the WA Junior Closed for a third straight year! He and his twin brother Samuel He actually tied with a 4.5 score after five rounds of the round robin with time controls G/90;d10, beating all opponents, and drawing against each other. Then they had to go head to head in an Armageddon style playoff round with White getting 15 minutes, and Black getting 12 minutes with draw odds, both with a 10 second delay. Daniel chose white after a coin flip, and after hard play with no blunders on either side, Samuel's time expired first. Daniel gets seeded into the 2016 Washington State Championship.

The third place prize was split between Vikram Ramasamy and Derek Zhang.

The tournament was held Jan 8-10, 2016 at the Hendricks house, Bellevue library, and Redmond library.

Crosstable

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Team	Grd	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Daniel He	13978473	2241	RED	11	W4	W3	D2	W6	W5	4.5
2	Samuel He	13978467	2240	RED	11	W5	W6	D1	W4	W3	4.5
3	Vikram Ramasamy	14318587	1976	NJH	8	W6	L1	L4	W5	L2	2
4	Derek Zhang	14081435	2121	OMS	8	L1	D5	W3	L2	D6	2
5	Jason Yu	14759436	2015	OPW	4	L2	D4	W6	L3	L1	1.5
6	Ananth Gottumukkala	14090705	1792	ADU	13	L3	L2	L5	L1	D4	0.5

Playoff

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Team	Grd	Rd 1	Tot
1	Daniel He	13978473	2241	RED	11	W2	1
2	Samuel He	13978467	2240	RED	11	L1	0



Daniel He (left) vs. Samuel He (right) in the Armagedden playoff game that decided who qualified for the 2016 Washington State Championship. Photo credit: Li Wang.



Samuel He, Daniel He, Derek Zhang, Jason Yu, Ananth Gottumukkala, Vikram Ramasamy at the 2015 Washington Junior Closed.
Photo credit: David Hendricks.

All Star Recognition for Bryce Tiglon

By Josh Sinanan

December 17, 2015 — Seattle, WA

I'm happy to report that another Slugger has been recognized as an All Star by the US Chess League. Congratulations to Bryce Tiglon for being named second team All Star for board four! Roland Feng and David Golub were also recognized as honorable mentions for board three.

Here is the report from the USCL website: <http://uschessleague.com/wp/2015/12/17/2965/#more-6174>

Second Team: NM Bryce Tiglon (SEA)

This was another fairly easy decision as Seattle's postseason berth came about largely to their great play on the bottom boards with Tiglon scoring several huge wins during the regular season (along with Roland Feng and David Golub delivering on board three quite a bit). The Sluggers didn't quite have the firepower at the top that several other squads had, but that isn't the only recipe for success as they are far from the first team who has seemingly snuck up on many others with consistent strong play on the bottom

boards.

Like his teammate Golub, the top All Star on the same board from last year, it will definitely be interesting to see if Tiglon can continue his great pace in 2016. It is rarely easy for players to maintain such consistently strong results when making the jump from board four to three, facing players who are often a hundred to two hundred points stronger than they did prior. But Golub as well as Levy Rozman from Manhattan have shown that it is entirely possible to do so, and if Seattle's playoff hopes in 2016 once again hinge on their lower boards, then he may be an important ingredient to their success.

Record: 6.5 / 8 (81%)
Performance Rating: 2345



Archival photo of Bryce Tiglon that was provided by Bryce for the bio in the March 2015 issue of Northwest Chess.

Manager's Note: The Sluggers have consistently had the best board four in the league. Bryce no doubt will return to the roster next season as a board three, much like David did this past season.

Here are some of Bryce's games from the season.

**Rick Sun (2093) –
Bryce Tiglon (2305) [C91]**
USCL Week 3 Internet Chess Club
(Board 4), September 9, 2015

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.d4
d6 9.c3 Bb7 10.Nbd2 exd4 11.cxd4
Nb4 12.a3 Nd3 13.Re3 Nxc1 14.Rxc1
c5 15.d5 Ng4 16.Re2 Bf6 17.Nf1 Ne5
18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Qd2 Qb6 20.Ne3 Rae8
21.Ng4 Bd4 22.Qg5 Kh8 23.Rce1 Qa5
24.e5



Position after 24.e5

24...f5 25.Bc2 fxc4 26.Qh5 g6 27.Bxg6
Re7 28.Rf1 Rg7 29.Qh6 Qd8 30.Bc2
Bxe5 31.Be4 Qf6 32.Qh5 Bc8 33.g3 Bf5
34.Bxf5 Qxf5 35.Qh6 Qg5 36.Qe6 Re7
37.Rxe5 Qxe5 38.Qxg4 Qg7 39.Qd1
Qd4 40.Qh5 Re1 0-1

**Seetharam Mareddy (1879) –
Bryce Tiglon (2305) [D90]**
USCL Week 5 Internet Chess Club
(Board 4), September 22, 2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5
5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bd2 Nb6 7.e3 0-0 8.Be2
Nc6 9.0-0 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5
Bxe5 12.Qc2 Qe7 13.Bf3 c6 14.Ne2
Qh4 15.Ng3 Qc4 16.Qb1 Qb5 17.Bc3
Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qe5 19.Qb4 c5 20.Qb5
Be6 21.Rfd1 Bc4 22.Qa5 Ba6 23.Ne4

Rac8 24.Nd6 Rc7 25.a4 Rd8 26.Nb5
Rcd7 27.Nxa7 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+
29.Bxd1



Position after 29.Bxd1

29...Qd6 30.Bf3 Nc4 31.Ne8 Qd2
32.Ne7+ Kf8 33.Nxg6+ Kg7 0-1

**Bryce Tiglon (2305) –
Armando Cortez (1995) [B46]**
USCL Week 6 Internet Chess Club
(Board 4), September 30, 2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Nxc6
bxc6 9.Qe2 Bb4 10.e5 Nd5 11.Nxd5
cxd5 12.Qg4 Bf8 13.Re1 g6 14.Bg5 Bg7



Position after 14...Bg7

15.Qb4 Bf8 16.Qh4 Bg7 17.Re3 d6
18.Bf6 0-0 19.Rh3 h5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7
21.Qf6+ Kh6 22.Be2 1-0

**Uyanga Byambaa (2204) –
Bryce Tiglon (2305) [C58]**
USCL Wildcard Round
Internet Chess Club
(Board 4), November 4, 2015

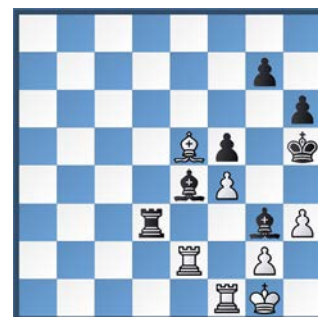
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5
5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7

8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 10.f3 Bh5 11.Qxe5
a6 12.Bd3 Nd7 13.Qg3 Bxg5 14.b4 Bh4
15.Qh3 Ne5 16.bxa5 Nxd3 17.cxd3 Bg6
18.f4 f5 19.Rb1 Rb8 20.Ba3 Re8 21.Qf3
Bf6 22.d6 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 c6



Position after 23...c6

24.Nd5 Qxa5 25.d7 Red8 26.Ne7+ Kf7
27.Bd6 Rxd7 28.Nxc6 bxc6 29.Bxb8
Qxa2 30.Qxc6 Qd5 31.Qxd5+ Rxd5
32.Rfc1 h6 33.Rc6 Bf6 34.Rxa6 Rxd3
35.Rd6 Ra3 36.d4 Rd3 37.Ba7 Bh5
38.h3 Rd2 39.Kg1 Be2 40.Rd7+ Kg6
41.Rdb7 Be4 42.R7b2 Rd3 43.Rc1 Bd5
44.Rbc2 Be4 45.Re2 Be7 46.Bc5 Bh4
47.Bd6 Rxd4 48.Be5 Rd3 49.Rc7 Bg3
50.Rc1 Kh5 51.Rf1



Position after 51.Rf1

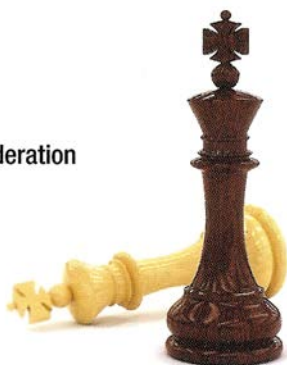
51...g5 52.Rb2 Bd5 53.Bb8 g4 54.hxg4+
Kxg4 55.Be5 Be4 56.Rb6 Kh5 57.Bg7
Bh4 58.Rxh6+ Kg4 59.Bf6 Bg3 60.Rg6+
Kh5 61.Rg5+ Kh6 62.Bg7+ Kh7 63.Be5
Kh6 64.Ra1 Bb7 65.Rb1 Be6 66.Rxf5
Kg6 67.Rf6+ Kh5 68.Rxc6 Kg4 69.Rg6+
Kf5 70.Rg5+ Ke4 71.Bb8 Bh4 72.Re5+
Kd4 73.Ba7+ Kc3 74.Re3 Kc2 75.Rxd3
Bf2+ 76.Kxf2 1-0

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Seattle Sluggers Recap of 2015 Season

Below is a recap showing the final and complete results of the Seattle Sluggers at the U.S. Chess League for 2015. Complete results and all the games can be found at <http://uschessleague.com/>

2015 Schedule

Week	Date	Color	Opponent	Result
1	26-Aug	B	Dallas Destiny	Loss 2.5-1.5
2	1-Sep	B	Minnesota Blizzard	Win 3-1
3	9-Sep	W	Arizona Scorpions	Win 2.5-1.5
4	16-Sep	W	St. Louis Arch Bishops	Tie 2-2
5	22-Sep	W	Lubbock Tornadoes	Loss 2.5-1.5
6	30-Sep	B	Rio Grande Ospreys	Tie 2-2
7	7-Oct	W	Las Vegas Desert Rats	Tie 2-2
8	14-Oct	W	San Francisco Mechanics	Loss 2.5-1.5
9	21-Oct	B	San Diego Surfers	Win 3-1
10	28-Oct	B	Arizona Scorpions	Win 3-1
			Regular Season Record	5.5 - 4.5
Wildcard	4-Nov	W	San Francisco Mechanics	Loss 3-1

2015 Roster (January Rating List)

1	GM Giorgi Margvelashvili	2615
2	IM Georgi Orlov	2528
3	IM Michael Lee	2492
4	FM Costin Cozianu	2466
5	FM Marcel Milat	2357
6	IM Ray Kaufman	2356
7	NM David Golub	2321
8	FM Roland Feng	2295
9	NM Bryce Tiglon	2258
10	FM William Schill	2215
11	Anthony He	1974

Manager: Joshua Sinanan

Assistant Manager: Tian Sang

Washington President's Cup

February 13-14, 2016

Highest Finishing WA resident in Open section seeded into the 2017 Washington Premier Championship

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133.

Two Sections: Open and Reserve (under 1600).

Open: 4 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** 40/120, SD/30, d10.

Reserve: 5 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** Saturday 30/90, SD/30, d10; Sunday 40/120, SD/30, d10.

USCF February 2016 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

Prize Fund: \$1,550 (based on 50 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 1st U1900 \$150, 1st U1700 \$150

Reserve: 1st \$250, 2nd \$200, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200/Unrated \$150

Entry Fee: \$65 if postmarked or online by 02/10, \$75 after 02/10 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

Rounds: Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

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

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

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Dan Mathews, 749 Somerset Lane, Edmonds, WA 98020-2646. **Phone:** (425) 218-7529.

E-mail: danomathews01@gmail.com. **Online Registration:** www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration

The 2015 Elmars Zemgalis Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

By Murlin Varner, Administrator

No standings to see this month. The final results require a bit of bookkeeping and corrections before they can be released. With deadlines so near the first of the month, that work is not yet done. Look for the final results to be in the March issue. If you are a winner, there is a good chance you will have received your check even before you see your name in glorious print!

The 2016 Grand Prix will be named in honor of Richard Gutman, a long time Oregon player who passed away last spring. Richard played in his final tournament last March (the PCC Spring Open). He has 191 events listed on the US Chess website since 1991, and played in many others before that. He earned his National Master Certificate in 1993 as a result of an outstanding performance in the Western States Open in Nevada. During that event, all six of Richard's opponents were rated 2294 and above. Richard scored wins over Lawrence Chachere (2374) of New York and John Watson (2447) of California. He also drew with Selby Anderson (2298) of Texas and Gjon Feinstein (2294) from California. Richard's peak rating from that event was 2209. At the time of his death, Richard had a 2000 rating with US Chess and a 2039 FIDE rating.

The 2016 Richard Gutman Memorial Northwest Grand Prix started the first weekend with a bang, as two events in Seattle and Gresham drew a total of 72 entrants. Snow in the Portland area had a negative effect on the number of people completing the Gresham Open (16 of 41 withdrew), but the 2x multiplier should ease some of the pain. By the end of February, there will have been 17 different GP events, including the PCC G/45 Quads, a new addition to the GP lineup. Among those 17 events will be three others with multipliers, the Seattle City Championship (2x) the Washington President's Cup (2x, Seattle) and the 24th Annual David Collyer Memorial Open (3x) in Millwood, WA.

Next month, the final results from 2015 and the latest from 2016. Go, play, earn points!

10th Annual Grand Pacific Open

C\$5000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund; FIDE rated

Easter: March 25-28, 2016

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

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

Sections: Open (FIDE and CFC rated); U1900 (CFC rated); U1400 (CFC rated)

Entry Fees: C\$80 by Feb. 15, C\$90 by Mar. 21, C\$100 on site. Discount C\$20 if in U1400 section.

Prizes: C\$5000 guaranteed.

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

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

Misc: Equipment provided. C\$102 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "MAR16CHESS") See www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and side events.

Oregon Chess News

Oregon Junior Open

By Owen McCoy

The Oregon Junior Open was held on the cold, rainy morning of December 5, 2015, at Portland Community College. Luckily for the players, it was held in the nice warm cafeteria. Consisting of a rating range of 801 points, the Open section drew players mainly from the Portland area, but I and a few others traversed up from Eugene to join the festivities. In fact, two of the players that showed up (Owen McCoy and Gavin Zhang) had been playing in the Oregon Junior Closed for three of the weekends in November (which you will have read all about by now.) As you will know from that article, neither I nor Gavin came first in that tournament, and apparently we both wanted to try our luck again.

Round one saw everything go smoothly, with the higher rated players squeezing out wins one by one. There were, however, two exceptions: First, Konner Feldman (1448-1448) after a long time defending managed to hold higher rated Colin Liu (1726-1724) to a draw. And second, Alejandro McClain (1165-1201) scored a monumental victory against Sean Uan-zo-li (1571-1531).



A crowd gathers to watch Alexandra Botez (WFM) playing blitz against anyone willing to try their luck against her. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.

In round two, I somehow managed to escape and win after blundering a rook against Alex Yeo (1676-1724). Like the first round, many of the higher rated players won this round. And also like the

first round, there were some exceptions. Firstly, Val Trachuk (1617-1596) held Gavin Zhang (1877-1842) to a draw after a tremendous struggle. Second, and no less notably, Colin Liu was once again held to a draw, this time by Victor Dossin (1548-1554).

In round three, I really did not deserve to win but yet again somehow managed to, this time against Andrea Botez (1776-1789). (I'm sensing a trend, and it's starting to scare me. I might not be so lucky next time.) Meanwhile, The ferocious struggle between Gavin Zhang and James Hansen (1679-1691) eventually petered out to a draw, leaving myself with sole first with 3.0/3, with James trailing closely with 2.5.

So naturally, we played each other in the last round. To tell you the truth, I was DEAD TIRED after waking up at 6:30 am to get on the road, and my three two-hour-long games didn't help with much. You can probably imagine why I was somewhat relieved to finish my final game in roughly 45 minutes. I consequently accepted TD Andrei Botez's kind offer to let me take the money and hit the road, which I ended up doing. Therefore, I was not able to see who got what place on tie-breaks, but Andrea Botez, Alex Yeo, and



Chief TD Andrei Botez presents the first place trophy to Owen McCoy. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.

Colin Liu all finished with 3.0/4, and they in turn were also joined by Simon Venter (1592-1622) who came up from behind to join the trophy winners. (Side note: Simon says that he hasn't played chess for a year, which is true, but from the way he is finishing these days, one would think that he spent that time studying chess.)

The advanced section was won by David Roshu (1242-1381) who did not finish with a perfect score but still finished undefeated and got just about as close as one can get to perfect. Places two-four were given to Nikhil Samudrala (1370-1413), David Ma (1360-1379), and Thomas Schuff (1150-1279). Fifth place was awarded to Christopher Ng (1017-1216) who added almost 200 points to his rating.

The novice section was completely dominated by Alexandre Boyce (850-1052) who won all of his games and proved himself to be far ahead of the rest of the section. Second, third, and fourth places went to Riya Majmudara (840-907), Ethan Zhang (841-887), and Calia Lancaster (717-823) respectively. Each finished with 4.0/5. Scout More Imboden (850-877) scored 3.5/5 and took home the fifth place trophy.

Most of these players will not be going away anytime soon, and more are always coming. What that means for you, dear reader, is that you get to look forward to a progressively longer article about this tournament every year! Thanks again to TD Andrei Botez for making this happen.

Portland Winter Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—December 12-13, 2015

By the time I arrived at the Portland Chess Club at 9:15 am, a crowd of players was already gathering to sign up for the December Winter Open. Usually at that time of morning one can count on seeing only the TDs and a couple of players hanging around. I sensed it was a harbinger for the day's final attendance figures (that indeed it was) which, when the first pawn was moved to e4, totaled 48 avid wood-pushers!

But before that first pawn was pushed, Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten and Chief Assistant TD Mike Morris endured a mini "perfect storm" of registration problems consisting of long lines of waiting registrants, the club's phone ringing off the hook from callers running late because of weather induced accidents on



A room full at the Portland Winter Open. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

the freeways, and computer glitches—the combination of which caused the tournament to start about 45 minutes late.

Perhaps the horrible weather outlook for the day caused some to put aside other activities, deciding instead to turn to indoor recreation. Others, perhaps, needed one more chess fix before the chaos of the holidays. Whatever the reasons, the Portland Chess Club had a packed house, causing extra boards to be distributed to accommodate the near overflow of players. That done, it was "game on."

But before I get into who did what to whom, I just want to say I was happy to see some new faces, and also some that do not as a rule play very often. But of course, one can usually count on the countenance of Morgan the Dog to reveal itself (that is if he can wake Jerrold Richards up in time on tournament day). And sure enough, a somewhat soggy (due to the heavy rain that day) Morgan could be seen wending his way through the gathering throng, greeting familiar faces (while inspecting their hands for a possible treat) and willing to nuzzle

unfamiliar attendees to let them know that, even though he is a widely known celebrity in the chess world (elite players acknowledging his presence whenever he is invited to attend major tournaments), he has not let it go to his head.

Coincidentally, of the 48 players attending, both the Open and Reserve section each contained 24, as even a distribution as one could hope for. And heading the Open section was the always dangerous Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2367-2366), who, although held to a draw by Raymond Fletcher III (1966-1974—2.5/5) of Virginia, still took the top money prize of \$180 for his near



(L) Andrea Botez vs Jonathan Hurkett at the Portland Winter Open. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Assistant Chief TD Mike Morris at the Portland Winter Open.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

perfect score of 4.5/5, keeping intact his status in the food chain as a top predator.

Nipping at his heels was the young Seth Talyansky (2056-2066), whose final score of 4.0/5 cemented him in second place and made him richer by \$120. And lastly the Open section prize for the best player U2200 was shared three-ways by Stewart Taylor (1967-1975), Danny Phipps (1823-1836), and David “The Calculator” Murray (1796-1791), each of whom scored 3.0 points and made off with \$30 of the divided prize fund.

The Reserve Section was led by Jazon “The Filipino Phenom” Samillano (1696-1745) who, sporting a longer hair style than the military crew-cut he is known for (perhaps, like Samson, regaining some of his past playing strength with his growing mane) finished the tournament with a score of 4.5/5, a half a point higher than the winner of second place, Michael Rabadan (1168P-1456P—4.0/5). Rabadan, a provisional player out of Washington, and a new face on the tournament scene, powered his way through the five rounds without a loss, beating and drawing 1500 and 1600+ players (me included in the loss column 1583-1560—3.0/5), pumping up his provisional rating a whopping 288 points! and also gaining \$90 in the process.

In my defense for the unexpected loss to a substantially (on the books) lower-rated player, I would point out I was in good company, as I am sure none of his other opponents realized, at first, that they were

facing someone who would normally be considered a B-rated player. So those of you yet to meet this guy—be forewarned.

Sharing in the U1600 prize money were Javkhantugs Nyamdorj (1474P-1548P) and Sean Zlatnik (1577-1576), both of whom turned in a score of 3.5/5, and both pocketing \$30. While in the U1400 category, Byron Wong (1366-1445) showed great improvement in his play by taking out a couple of 1500+ players, ending with a final score of 3.0/5, \$60, and a substantial boost in his rating. And because Michael Rabadan walked away with the second place prize money, the U1200/unrated prize of \$60 went to Rolly Gutierrez (unrated-1425P) for his 3.0/5 finish.

Finally, TD Lennart Bjorksten (2155-2155) sat in for two extra games—the first against Michael Moore (1567-1565), and the second against Rick Nicoski (1339-1339), winning both.

December 2015 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—December 19, 2015

In stark contrast to the recent, near record-breaking attendance (48) of the Portland Chess Club’s Winter Open, December’s Quad 45 drew only 12 players, down from an average crowd

of 20 or more. Perhaps the previous tournament (lasting two days) was a bit draining, or perhaps it being a month in which last minute shopping and holiday plans take precedence, were influencing factors in the low turnout—but this did not to impede the enthusiasm of those present, who seemed eager to get down to the business of pushing pieces.

Usually this tournament is officiated by that efficient TD pair of Mike & Mike (Micah Smith and Mike Lilly), but this day saw the absence of Lilly, who has evidently (once again) decided to retire from tournament directing. Consequently, an early arriving Danny Phipps helped in the registration process, and the games were soon underway.

A Quad was formed of the four highest rated players, while the other eight players were gathered in a Small Swiss. And leading the Quad was none other than “The Raptor” himself, Nick Raptis (2366-2368—3.0/3). Seeing as the next highest rated player (Stewart Taylor (1975-1977—1.5/3) was nearly 400 rating points lower than that of “The Raptor,” it was not surprising that “The Raptor” made short work of his three opponents, the other two being Steven Witt (1884-1883—1.0/3) and Gerald Weaver (1835-1827—0.5/3).

Coming in first in the Small Swiss was a tough-to-beat Ethan Wu (1777-1804), who made it a clean sweep by winning all three of his games. Second in line were three players, all of whom scored 2.0/3 points—Ronald Kirsch (1770-1764) from Washington, Chris Burris (1785-1762), and James Tsai (1513-1550). And tying at 1.0/3 points were Brian “Just Glad To



(L) Steve Witt talking shop with FM Chuck Schulien. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

PCC December 2015 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—December 26, 2015

The day after Christmas would not seem an auspicious time to hold a chess tournament, considering the need to recover from the wear-and-tear upon one's body and soul (to say nothing of one's wallet) during this "merriest?" of seasons. But that is in fact the day that the Portland Chess Club scheduled their monthly Game 60—who'd have thunk?

Surprisingly, 20 hardy players appeared by 10:00 am, most looking as if the season had left them unscathed, and that the day after Christmas was just fine with them. And early in the registration process came the team of Morgan and Jerrold (Morgan the Dog and Jerrold "I Just Want To Make 1600 Before It's Over" Richards—1342-1462), both appearing robust and eager—Morgan the Dog quickly appraising the competition, then giving advice to Richards regarding possible opponents.

This day, Morgan the Dog's considerable contributions to Richards' better understanding of the game (which at times seemed a task better left to the gods), appeared to have finally reached those portions of Richards' brain which control hand and eye coordination, together with tactical awareness, leading



(L) Stewart Taylor vs Nick Raptis at the December 2015 PCC Quad 45.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Be Here" Berger (1560-1532), Byron Wong (1445-1334), and Jimmy Dee (1191P-1246P) of Washington.

On a personal note, it seems that, unlike the younger players who like the quickness of Quad 45, it is becoming a roadblock to holding on to any future gains in my rating, as this time control (and the likelihood of facing underrated, younger opponents) plays havoc with some of us older guys, who find being rushed puts limits on the quality of our creative, tactical thinking. It has caused my rating to fluctuate like the reading on a seismograph, recording 7.0-points on the Richter scale—on average, wiping 30 to 50 hard-earned rating points.

But the rewards offset these petty grievances, and those are, being able to play the game I love (no matter the time controls), and reporting for *Northwest Chess* on the outcome of the many tournaments I attend—which trump ratings any day!

A second fun part of the monthly Quad 45 is the blitz tournament that follows the finish of the Quads. If game in 45 seems a pedestrian time control for the speed and adrenaline junkie, then game/3-minutes with a two-second delay could be Nirvana for you (and just a heart attack for others). And this time, seven heart-attack-proof players went ten rounds head-to-head, toe-to-toe and pawn-to-pawn.

There were no tie scores in this rush-to-judgment tournament, with Nick "The

Raptor" Raptis (2464-2456) taking first place with an 8.5/10 finish, kept from a perfect ending by a draw with Jason Cigan (2134-2140—6.0/10) and a loss to Carl Haessler (2069P-2094—3.5/10). And coming in second was Seth Talyansky (2139-2152) with 7.0/10 points, followed by third place finisher Jason Cigan.



Morgan the Dog gives Jerrold Richards some advice before the tournament at the PCC December 2015 Game 60 tournament. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Marcus Leung vs Nicholas Richardson at the PCC December 2015 Game 60 tournament.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

him to win three of his four games (one against the always formidable Roland Eagles—1716-1700), placing him in a group of four players with scores of 3.0/4, and upping his rating by 120 points, while also receiving an acknowledgement of his skills with a cash award of \$35 for winning the U1500 prize (that I would guess would go into Morgan the Dog's food fund).

Other players scoring 3.0/4 were second place winner Stewart Taylor (1977-1982), third place winner Gerald Weaver (1827-1819), and U1800 winner Ethan Wu (1804-1808), each receiving \$35 in prize money as an after-Christmas bonus. But the Big Dog in the tournament was (you guessed it) Nick Raptis (2368-2369), better known as "The Raptor," who cleaned house with a perfect 4.0/4, giving him a whopping one point rise in his rating and lining his pocket with green stuff, in the amount of \$60! (No exclamation point was needed here, but I wanted it to appear better than it was).

Although this reporter (1532-1558—2.0/4) was not a recipient of any part of the large amount of cash being thrown around, I did manage to steal a game from the extremely tough Moshe Rachmuth (1904-1882—2.5/4), in an ending which found my opponent in time trouble, and where I was somehow able to queen a pawn just before he was about to. Given I had earlier beat his son, Perry Rachmuth (378-377—0.5/4), this could be construed as family maltreatment, so I hope Moshe will forgive me.

Mike Morris was Chief TD, and between him and some additional help from Mike Lilly (who seems to come in and out of retirement from TDing, depending on the needs of the club) during the registration process, the tournament got underway on time. Thanks guys.

Gresham Open

By Brian Berger

What was billed as the 2016 Gresham Open, which took place over January 2-3, 2016, lived up to the nickname given it by players who have known it in past years (before global warming was in the news), that being the "Siberian Open." Attendees to this year's tournament were given a taste of the reason why it was so named, when on the first day the temperature was in the freezing range, while Columbia Gorge winds nearly knocked one off their feet, adding a wind-chill factor that made it feel somewhere near twenty-below zero.

I was one of the old-timers who had experienced these conditions before—but it had been a while, and I had had more meat-on-the-bone back then. Still, true chess aficionados would not be dissuaded from attending by mere wind and cold, and so, 41 players thumbed their noses at the weather, and gathered to do battle. I might add, that some were not aware that Gresham has its own unique weather patterns (sort of like an Oregon Bermuda Triangle), and what might be a rather calm and cool day elsewhere in the Portland

area can be upped a couple of notches for this area.

But few knew (perhaps no one) what was in store for them the next morning of this two-day Open, as snow had not been in the forecast when this whole thing started—but snow it did! Now we would see those players with true dedication to their calling, and those pretenders who actually drew the line on what was acceptable playing conditions. Chalk me up in the latter, as I remember some hairy driving conditions associated with this kind of weather, and decided to play it safe—as did at least 14 other players. But those that chose to attend not only battled for glory and prize money, but probably for their lives, as freezing rain hit at tournament's end, combining with the previous mentioned weather conditions—and as of this writing, the number who reached home safely is still in question.

Because of the many missing players on the second day of the tournament, some players who did not do all that well still ended up winning or placing in their class—a pleasant surprise for daring the elements. And among those with lower ratings who were in the money, were: Harry Buerer (1244-1236), who with a score of 1.0/5, claimed the U1300 cash prize of \$85.42; Jerrold "I Just Want To Make 1600 Before It Is Over" Richards (1462-1412), who split the U1500 second place prize with Nicholas Richardson (1390P-1361P), to the tune of \$30.75 each for their final scores of 1.0/5; and Geoff Kenway (1381-1385), who took first in the U1500 with his score of 2.0/5, pocketing \$85.42 in the process.

Switching to the big boys, the familiar name of Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2375-2383) took the most marbles, turning in a perfect score of 5.0/5, and gladly accepting the first place prize of \$239.17. And it was William Schill II of Washington (2283-2278—4.0/5), and Jason Cigan (2123-2136—4.0/5) who split the second and third place prize money, each receiving \$128.12, perhaps earmarking it for tire chains.

Those in the money for the upper class prizes were Brent Baxter (1901-1931—3.5/5), who won \$85.42 for taking first in the U2100, Alan Rhoades (1712-1775—3.5/5) winning the same amount for taking the U1900, and Jack McClain (1627-1724—3.5/5) who also took home \$85.42 for coming in first in the U1700 class.

Also in the money for upper class prizes were Paul Bartron (2074-2061—3.0/5) and Danny Phipps (1836-1867—3.0/5), who tied for second place in the U2100,



(L) Praveer Sharan battles Corey Tache in a first round end game that went to the wire--Tache winning, but Praveer giving the 1800-plus player some worrisome moments at the 2016 Gresham Open. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

earning each \$30.75, while a tie also split the U1900, second place money between Roland Eagles (1700-1749—3.0/5) and David “Any Opening Works For Me” Yoshinaga (1700-1731—3.0/5), each receiving \$30.75 for being brave enough to laugh in the face of Mother Nature. And finally, Ari Bluffstone (1596-1626) made \$61.50 for second place U1700, turning in a final score of 2.5/5.

Much praise must go to Chief TD Mike Morris and to Jason Cigan and Lennart Bjorksten, who gave of their time to help out during the registration process (and were instrumental in getting things rolling on time), and to the Portland Chess Club for their sponsorship. Next year I will have snowshoes at the ready, and an Eskimo parka to make it from my car to the tournament building at Mt. Hood Community College, if the need arises.

**Seth Talyansky (2066) –
Roland Eagles (1700) [B46]**

2016 Gresham Open
Gresham, OR (R2), January 2, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6
5.a3 Qc7 6.Nc3 a6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3
Bd6**

8...d5 is more natural, and offers roughly equal chances in the coming battle.

9.Qg4 Bb7?

9...Kf8±

10.Qxg7 Be5 11.Bf4 Bxf4?!

11...Bxg7 12.Bxc7 limits the immediate material loss to one pawn... but is that better? White is a very solid pawn ahead, and Black will be grovelling for the rest of the game.

**12.Qxh8 0-0-0 13.Qxh7 d5 14.g3 Nf6
15.Qh4 Be5**



Position after 15...Be5

16.exd5

This isn't terrible, but... Why? Congestion on the long diagonal helps White, and opening the black half of the c-file seems a bit too friendly to me.

16...cxd5 17.0-0 d4

17...Rg8

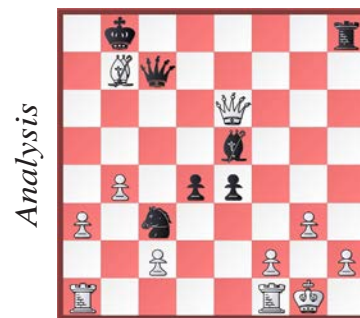
18.Ne4 Nd5 19.b4?

Seriously weakening the other long diagonal. 19.Rfe1!?

19...Rh8 20.Qg5 f5 21.Qg6 fxe4 22.Bxe4

22.Qxe6+? Kb8 23.Bxe4? Nf4!+, e.g. 24.Qf5 Bc8 trapping the queen.; 22.Bxa6!? Nc3∞, though things could end in equality rather abruptly: 23.Qxe6+

Kb8 24.Bxb7



(#Diagram-analysis after 24.Bxb7)

24...Ne2+ 25.Kg2 Bxg3 (or 25...Rxb2+ 26.Kxb2 Bxg3+) 26.fxg3 (26.hxg3?? Nf4+!-) 26...Rxb2+ 27.Kxb2 Qxg3+ 28.Kh1 Qh4+ 29.Kg2 Qg3+

22...Kb8 23.f4??

23.Rae1

23...Bxf4!

Also 23...Nxf4!

24.Qxe6

Probably the best chance for White is 24.gxf4. Yes, it loses, but the best moves for Black are not entirely obvious, and there is more than one critical decision point coming up. 24...Nxf4 (24...Ne7 25.Qxe6 Rg8+ 26.Kf2 (26.Qxg8+!? Nxb8 should favor Black — the queen and knight work well together — but these kinds of material imbalances can prove tricky to handle for both sides.; 26.Kh1? Rg6) 26...Qxf4+ 27.Ke1 Qe3+ 28.Kd1 Bxe4 29.Qd6+ Kc8 30.Qxa6+

a) If White tries to avoid this line with 30.Qe6+ Kd8 31.Qd6+ Ke8 32.Qb8+ Kd7 33.Qa7+ and Black has the choice of forcing the exact same position obtained from 30.Qxa6+ with 33...Kc8, or to seek even better chances with 33...Ke6 34.Qxa6+ Bc6 35.Qc4+ Kd7;

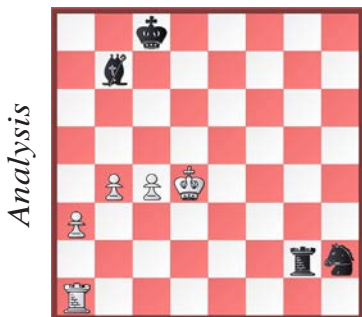
b) 30.Qc5+ Nc6;

30...Bb7 31.Qe2 Nd5! This is probably worth playing out for White, as the worst case is likely a thrilling test of whether Black knows how to mate with bishop and knight. 32.Qxe3 Nxe3+ 33.Kd2 (33.Ke1 Ba6! 34.Rf6 Rg1+ 35.Kf2 (35.Kd2



(L) Seth Talyansky vs Roland Eagles. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

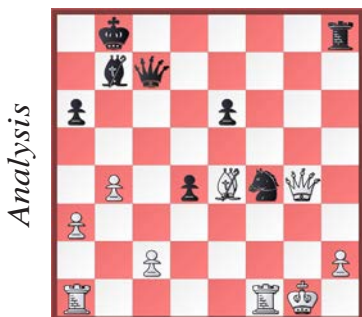
Rg2+ 36.Kc1 Rxc2+ 37.Kb1 Bd3-+) 35... Rg2+ 36.Kf3 Bb7+ 37.Kf4 Nd5+ 38.Ke5 Re2+ 39.Kxd4 Nxf6) 33...Rg2+ 34.Kd3 Nxf1 35.Kxd4 Nxb2 36.c4



(#Diagram-analysis after 36.c4)

This is a highly unusual material imbalance. Black should have all of the winning chances, but White might be allowed some fun with those three passed pawns, too.) 25.Qg4

(25.Rxf4 Qxf4 26.Bxb7 (If White's best defense is 26.Qg3 Qxg3+ 27.hxg3 Bxe4, sell your shares.) 26...Qxh2+ 27.Kf1 Rf8+ 28.Ke1 Qf2+ 29.Kd1 Qf1+ 30.Kd2 Rf2#)



(#Diagram-analysis after 25.Qg4)

25...Nh3+! (25...Ne2+ 26.Qxe2 Bxe4 27.Rf2 Qg7+ 28.Kf1 d3 29.Qxe4 Qxa1+ 30.Qe1 Qd4 gives Black enough activity for equality — but no more.) 26.Kh1 (26.Kg2 Qxc2+ wins the house.) 26... Ng5!! The only winning move, and one that could be a bit difficult to visualize, as it retreats the knight to an unprotected square. 27.Rf2 Nxe4-+

24...Be3+ 25.Kg2 Qxc2+ 26.Kf3 Nc7 27.Qe5 Bxe4+ 0-1

Lennart Bjorksten (2129) – William Schill II (2283) [E67]
2016 Gresham Open
Gresham, OR (R4), January 3, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.h3 c6 9.b3 Qa5 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.Rc1 Re8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Be3 Nf8 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Nd2?!

15.Qd2!? Rd8 (15...Kh7 16.Rfd1±) 16.Qb2∞ seems a more flexible piece placement, allowing White to challenge

the d-file.

15...Nh5± 16.Bc5 Ne6 17.Ba3 f5 18.e4 f4 19.g4 Nf6 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.Nf3 c5! 23.Rc3 Bf8 24.Rd3 Nd4 25.Qd2 a5 26.Bb2 Bd6 27.Rd1 Be6 28.Re1 Bc7 29.Bc3 b6 30.Rc1 Rad8µ 31.Bb2 Rd7 32.Nxd4 exd4 33.e5?

33.f3±

33...Qxe5 34.Bc6?



Position after 34.Bc6

34...f3! 35.Bxf3 Qh2+ 36.Kf1 Bf4 37.Qe2 Bf7 38.Be4 Rde7 39.f3 Qh1+ 40.Kf2 Bxc1 41.Kg3

41.Bxc1 Qxc1-+

41...Bxb2

41...Qg1+ 42.Qg2 Bf4+ 43.Kxf4 Qxg2 mates shortly.

42.Rd1

White's hope: the queen is trapped...

42...Rxe4

...or maybe not.

0-1

Danny Phipps (1836) – Phillip Seitzer (2176) [D17]
2016 Gresham Open
Gresham, OR (R5), January 3, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5

So far main line Slav, the Czech variation preventing 6.e4. 5...Na6 here is the Smyslov variation, allowing e4 but getting some play with ...Bg4 and ...Nb4: 6.e4 Bg4 7.Bxc4 e6 8.0-0 Nb4, though perhaps you actually need to be Smyslov to appreciate this.

6.Ne5

The Krause Attack, planning f3/e4 and/or Nxc4.

6...Na6

[Diagram top of next column]

6...Na6 is generally played against the Dutch line, 6.e3, when it goes by the name Lasker Variation. 6...e6 7.f3 Bb4 8.e4 Bxe4 is a wild piece sacrifice line.

Played against 6.Ne5, it introduces a hybrid line somewhere between the



Position after 6...Na6

Smyslov idea and acquiescing to the Krause plans. It seems to work best if White continues Krause style with...

7.f3

A possible gambit: 7.e4!? Nxe4 8.Bxc4 e6∞; 7.e3 looks like the reliable way to meet 6...Na6: 7...Nb4 (7...e6 8.Bxc4±) 8.Bxc4 e6 (8...Nc2+?? 9.Qxc2) 9.0-0



(#Diagram-analysis after 9.0-0)

9...Bd6 (9...Nc2? 10.e4!+-; 9...Bc2 10.Qe2±) 10.f3 Nc2 (10...Bxe5 11.dxe5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Nd7 13.e4 Nxe5 14.Bb3 Bg6 15.Be3 with excellent compensation for the pawn.; 10...Nd7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.e4 Bg6 13.Be3±) 11.Rb1±

(But now 11.e4!? is decidedly complicated and significantly less effective than it was meeting 9...Nc2. 11...Nxa1 12.exf5 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Nd5 15.Ne4∞)



(#Diagram-analysis after 11.Rb1)

11...Nd5 (11...Bxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5 (12... Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Nd7 14.e4 Bg6 15.Bf4±) 13.e4 Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Nde3 15.Qe2 Nxc4 (15...Nxf1? 16.Qxc2 Ne3 17.Bxe3 Qxe3 18.exf5 is much better for White.) 16.Qxc2 Bg6 17.f4! with initiative.) 12.e4 (12.Bxd5 cxd5 13.e4 dxe4 14.Nxf7! Kxf7 15.fxe4 Nxd4 16.exf5 with complications

favoring White, e.g. 16...exf5 (16...Nxf5 17.Qb3; 16...Qh4 17.fxe6+ Kxe6 18.h3) 17.Nb5) 12...Nde3 13.Qe2 Nxf1 14.Qxc2 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Qd4+ 16.Qf2 Qxc4 17.exf5 and the two pieces should prove a bit stronger than the rook.

7...Nd7! 8.Nxc4

8.Nxd7 Bxd7 9.e4 e5 10.Bxc4 exd4 11.Qxd4 Nb4 12.Ke2∞

8...e5! 9.e4

9.dxe5 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qxc4 11.e4 Qc5 12.exf5 Qxe5+ 13.Kf2 Bc5+ 14.Kg2 Nb4∞

9...exd4 10.Qxd4

10.exf5 dxc3 11.bxc3 Qf6 12.Qd4 Qxf5 13.Bd3 Qe6+ 14.Qe3 White's compensation for the pawn — the bishop-pair — is not sufficient for equality, but it is something.

10...Nb4 11.Qf2?

11.Na3 Be6+ White has weaknesses and Black is better coordinated; if this is the best White has, Black's opening has to be judged a success.



Position after 11.Qf2

11...Nc5!+ 12.Ne5

12.Qd2 also doesn't look like much fun for White.

12...Qf6 13.Bf4 Be6 14.Bg3 Nb3 15.Rd1 Bc5 16.Qe2 Nd4 17.Ng4

If White wants to extend the game for a few more moves, 17.Rxd4 is necessary.

17...Nbc2+ 18.Kd2 Qg5+ 0-1



(L) Oscar Petrov vs Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Harry Buerer vs Praveer Sharan. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



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Idaho Chess News

BCC #12 Chess Tournament

The Boise Chess Club (BCC) #12 Chess Tournament was held at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho, on December 5, 2015. Jeffrey Roland was the tournament director. As with all BCC chess events entry was free and was open to everyone. Prizes were nothing other than the reward for playing competitive US Chess-rated competition. The four-round Swiss tournament had a time control of G/30;+30, which means game in 30 minutes plus 30 seconds added each move.

Chong-Jin Ong (Boise, 1731) won the event with a score of 3.5 points. This was the first time Chong-Jin ever played in a BCC event and his ninth US Chess-rated event of his life since he began playing rated chess back in 2007.

Jarod N. Buus (Nampa, 1710), Jacob Ari Nathan (Idaho Falls, 1527), and James Inman (Nampa, 1770) tied for second through fourth places with three points each. James Liu (Boise, 1209) was sole fifth place with 2.5 points.

Chong-Jin inspired additional young players (his students) to play in the event and thus the tournament added even



Chong-Jin Ong. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

more youth, wonder, and enthusiasm to the mix of otherwise normal competitive chess that is offered at BCC tournaments regularly. Some young players have been coming for a while to these tournaments, but this time with a total of six young players (almost half of the playing field) the event felt very balanced between kids and adults.

With a time control that adds 30 seconds per move it is impossible to be in time trouble that would prevent the need for players to record (with this time control US Chess requires both players to always record) because even if one has only one second on their clock, once they move they instantly have 31 seconds with which to record the move and be thinking about their next move. If one has a good position this is easy to do. If one has a difficult position it's not so easy but is physically very easy to do if not for the complexity of the position.

It is not yet known when the BCC #13 ("lucky 13") tournament will happen. But it is known that FM David Lucky will be giving a 20-board lecture and simul on January 30, 2016, at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise. BCC has regular meetings every Monday night at All About Games starting at 4:00 p.m. and going until 10:00 p.m. These meetings are open to everyone and are completely free with nothing to join. It's just people getting together for fun free chess and sometimes stimulating conversation.

The Idaho Chess Association (ICA) was founded in 1947 on the idea that healthy local club activity stimulated players to improve and then come together for the big state tournaments. It is hoped that players from Boise, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls and everywhere else there is local club activity, will considering playing in the upcoming Idaho Closed State Championship that will happen over President's Weekend (February 13-15) in Twin Falls. The details for the event can be found on page 31 of this issue.

Jarod N. Buus (1710) – Justin Siek (1270) [C70]
BCC #12 Boise, ID
(R1), December 5, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Bc5 6.Nxe5 Bxf2+?!

6...Nxe5 7.d4 Bxd4 8.Qxd4 d6±, though White must watch out for the Noah's

Ark trap (c7-c5-c4).; 6...Qg5!?! 7.Bxf7+ (7.Nxf7?? Qxg2 8.Rf1 Qxe4+ 9.Qe2 Qxe2+ 10.Kxe2 Nd4+ 11.Kd1 Nxb3-+; 7.d4 Qxg2 8.Qf3 Qxf3 9.Nxf3 Nxd4±; 7.Ng4∞, though Black certainly has development to compensate for the pawn.) 7...Kf8



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 7...Kf8)

8.Bd5!?! (8.Bxg8 Kxg8 9.Ng4 d5∞ could be a wild ride.) 8...Qxe5 (Not 8...Qxg2?, when 9.Qf3+ should make White happy.) 9.c3∞ White has two pawns, has disturbed the black king, and will establish a pawn center to compensate for the piece. Is it enough? Answering that requires practical testing. Volunteers?

7.Kxf2 Nxe5 8.Rf1 Qh4+

8...c5 9.d4! cxd4 10.Bf4±

9.Kg1 Qxe4?

9...Bb7 10.d4 Nc4 11.a4±; 9...Nf6 10.d4±



Position after 9...Qxe4

10.Nc3?

10.d4! Bb7 11.Qd2! and White wins a piece. 11...c5 12.Re1 Qxd4+ 13.Qxd4 cxd4 14.Rxe5+-

10...Qd4+ 11.Kh1 Nf6 12.d3 0-0?!

More enterprising, and perhaps surprisingly safer, is 12...Bb7 intending O-O-O.

13.Qe2?!

13.Bg5±; 13.Rxf6!?! gxf6 14.Ne4∞

13...Re8?



Jarod Buus (left) versus Justin Siek (right). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

13...Bb7 14.Bg5 Rae8!??∞



Position after 13...Re8

14.Be3?

14.Rxf6! gxf6 15.Ne4 Ng6 (15...Kg7 16.Be3 Qxb2 17.Rf1 with a winning attack. White's minor pieces are simply better than Black's rooks here.; 15...Qb6?? 16.Be3 Qc6 17.Bd5!) 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Qxe8+ Nf8 18.Bg5!± White completes development and ends up with the bishop-pair and better pawn structure, though there's still a game to be played.

14...Qh4 15.Rf4 Qh6?

15...Neg4! 16.h3 Rxe3! (16...Qg3!?? introduces some highly obscure complications, i.e. 17.Rxg4 Nxc4 18.Bf4! Nf2+ 19.Kg1 Nxc3+ 20.Kh1 Rxe2 21.Bxg3 Re3 22.Rf1! and the only thing

particularly clear about the position is that both sides must be very precise to survive.) 17.Qxe3 Bb7!? 18.Kg1 Nxe3 19.Rxh4 g5! and Black regains the exchange (20.Rd4 Nf5; 20.Rh6 Kg7) and keeps a small material advantage.

16.Raf1?

16.Rf5! Qg6 17.Rg5 Qh6 18.Qf1! Neg4 19.Rxg4 Rxe3 20.Ne4! White has more than enough compensation for the pawn. Black's attempt to mitigate the pressure fails: 20...Rxe4 21.Rxe4! Bb7 22.Re7 Rf8 23.Rae1. Now Black is too passively placed to claim anything for his exchange, and 23...Ng4?? definitely backfires due to 24.Qxf7+.

16...Neg4!

Here we go.

17.Rxg4 Rxe3 18.Qf2?

18.Rh4 Qxh4 19.Qxe3 Bb7 20.Kg1 Re8μ

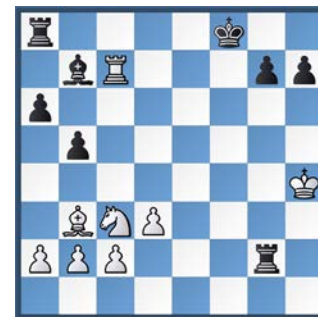
18...Qxh2+! 19.Kxh2 Nxc4+ 20.Kg1 Nxf2 21.Kxf2 Re5

Perhaps it's time for a safe consolidation of the material edge: 21...Re8+

22.Kg3 Bb7 23.Rxf7 Rg5+ 24.Kh4 Rxc2 25.Rxd7+ Kf8?!

25...Kh8 is prudent.

26.Rxc7



Position after 26.Rxc7

26...Bf3??

One final incautious move changes everything. 26...Rb8±

27.Rf7+ Ke8 28.Rxf3 Rd8 29.Kh3 Rg5 30.Ne4 Rg1 31.Kh2 Rg4 32.Rf1

A good battling game from the start, and not as one-sided as the rating difference would suggest.

1-0

Alex James Machin (1696) – James Inman (1770) [D02]
BCC #12 Boise, ID
(R4), December 5, 2012
[Ralph Dubisch]



James Inman. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.d4 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6
5.0-0 e6 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.Nbd2 Be7
9.Re1 0-0 10.Rc1 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4
12.Bxd4 Ba3 13.Rb1 Re8 14.c4



Position after 14.c4



James Inman (left) and Alex Machin (right). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

14...Qc7?

Allowing the doubling and isolating of the f-pawns can't be right here. Better 14...Bb4; or 14...e5.

15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.cxd5 Bxd5 17.Bxd5
exd5 18.Nf3

18.e3± first, giving the queen access to g4, is a little more accurate.

18...Rad8

18...Bb4 19.Rf1 Qe7 20.e3 Qe4, while still good for White, may give some activity for the destroyed pawn structure.

19.e3 Qe7 20.Nd4 Qd7?!

20...Qe4±



Position after 20...Qd7

21.Qh5±

21.b4!, by threatening to absorb the a3-bishop, essentially forces Black to open the b-file for the white rook. 21...a5 22.bxa5 bxa5 23.Qf3. It's hard to imagine Black surviving this for long, with the pawn f6 hanging, the white knight heading to f5, and possible infiltration along the b-file.

21...Re5 22.Qh6 Bf8 23.Qxf6 Bg7
24.Qc6 Qh3 25.Qc2 Rc8 26.Qe2 Re4
27.Nf3 Qd7 28.Red1 d4 29.Qd3 Qf5
30.Nxd4??

30.Nd2 Re5 31.Nc4 Qxd3 32.Rxd3±

30...Bxd4 31.exd4??

31.Rdcl Rxc1+ 32.Rxc1 Bc5±



Position after 31.exd4

31...Re1+! 0-1

Chris Amen (1701) –
Jacob Ari Nathan (1527) [C07]
BCC #12 Boise, ID
(R4), December 5, 2012
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5
5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6
8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qc7
11.Qe2 Bd6?

11...a6±



Position after 11...Bd6

12.h3?

12.Nb5 Qb8 (The move both players were probably counting on/afraid of, 12...Bxh2+?, turns out very badly for Black: 13.Kh1 Qb8 14.f4 Bg3 (14...a6 15.Nd4 Bg3 16.Nf5, among others.) 15.Qd3 Bh4 (15...Nh5 16.Nd6+ is a winning attack, e.g. 16...Ke7 17.Rd1 Bxf4 18.Bxf4 Nxf4 19.Qa3.) 16.Qh3+— wins the piece.) 13.Nxd6+ Qxd6 14.Rd1±

12...a6 13.Bg5 Be7 14.c3 0-0 15.Rae1
Re8 16.Bb3 b5 17.Bc2 Bb7 18.f4 Bd5
19.Qf2

[Diagram top of next page]

19...Bc4?!

19...b4!? 20.Qh4 h5!∞ since 21.Bxf6?
Bxf6 22.Qxh5? Bxd4+.

20.Qh4 h6

20...h5 21.Rf2∞

21.Rf3



Position after 19.Qf2

21.Bxh6! g6 (21...gxh6 22.Rf3 offers a very strong attack.) 22.Rf3±

21...Nh7 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Qf2 Nf6 24.Nc6 Qc7 25.Ne5 Bd5 26.Rfe3 Rad8 27.a3 Nd7 28.Qh4 Nxe5 29.fxe5 Qc4 30.Qh5 Qf4 31.R3e2?!

31.Rd3∞



Position after 31.R3e2

31...Rd7?!

31...g6! 32.Qg4 (32.Bxg6? fxg6 33.Qxg6+ Kh8 34.Rf1 Qg5±) 32...Qxg4 33.hxg4 Bc4 gives Black a plus.

32.Rf2 Qg3 33.Ref1?!

33.Rd1∞

33...Qe3



Jacob Nathan (left) and Chris Amen (right). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

33...Red8

34.Kh2 Bc4?

34...Rf8∞



Position after 34...Bc4

35.Rf3?

35.Rxf7 Qg5 (35...Bxf1 36.Rxd7 with Qg6 coming, White wins. 36...Qf4+ (36...Rf8?? 37.Rxg7+) 37.Kh1 Rc8 38.Qg6 Bxg2+ 39.Kxg2 and Black's only reasonable follow-up check exchanges queens.) 36.Qxg5 hxg5 37.Rxd7 Bxf1 38.Bg6 and White has both an extra pawn and a huge bind on the black king.

35...Qg5 36.Qxg5 hxg5 37.R1f2 Red8 38.Kg3 Bd3 39.Bxd3 Rxd3 40.Kg4 Rxf3 41.Kxf3 Kh7 42.Ke3 Kg6 43.g4?!

43.b3

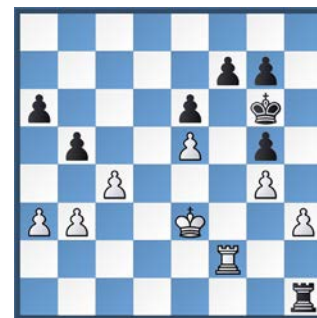
43...Rd1 44.b3 Rh1 45.c4

[Diagram top of next column]

45...Rb1?

45...Rxb3+ 46.Kd4 Rxb3!? 47.c5 Rg3 (or 47...Rxa3!?) 48.c6 Rxg4+ 49.Kc5 Rc4+ 50.Kd6 f5 51.exf6 gxf6 52.c7 e5 leads to an interesting, and roughly balanced, rook vs pawns ending.

46.c5 Rxb3+? 47.Kd4 Rxa3 48.Rc2 Ra4+



Position after 45.c4

48...Rxb3 49.c6 Rh8 50.Kc5 and White is probably winning.

49.Kc3 f6

49...Ra3+ 50.Kb4 Rxb3 51.c6 Rh8 52.Kc5 is the same position as the end of the last note.

50.exf6?

50.c6+-

50...gxf6??

50...Rc4+ 51.Kd3 Rxc2 52.fxg7 Kxg7 53.Kxc2 Kf7 and the best White can manage is to reach a queen ending down about three pawns: 54.c6 Ke7 55.h4 gxh4 56.g5 h3 57.g6 h2 58.g7 h1Q 59.g8Q Qxc6+-; 50...Kxf6, getting into the square of the c-pawn, is also logical.

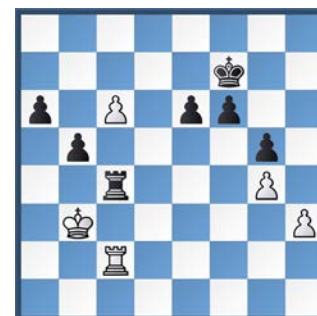
51.Kb3?

51.c6 ends up in another rook vs pawns ending, though this one appears more favorable to the rook. 51...Ra3+ 52.Kd4 Rxb3 53.c7 Rh8 54.c8Q Rxc8 55.Rxc8

51...Kf7??

51...Rd4 52.c6 Rd8 53.c7 Rc8 54.Kb4 f5∞

52.c6 Rc4



Position after 52...Rc4

53.Rxc4??

53.c7+-

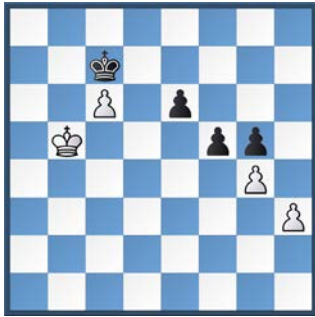
53...bxc4+ 54.Kxc4 Ke7 55.Kc5 Kd8 56.Kb6 Kc8 57.Kxa6 Kc7??

57...f5+, as 58.gxf5 exf5 59.Kb5 g4 is too far away.

58.Kb5 f5

[Diagram top of next page]

59.Kc5??



Position after 58...f5

59.gxf5 exf5 60.Kc5 f4 61.Kd4 Kxc6
62.Ke4 Kd6 63.h4 is a useful draw.

59...f4

Now, finally, it's all over.

**60.Kd4 e5+ 61.Ke4 Kxc6 62.h4 gxh4
63.g5 Kd6 0-1**

Christmas Blitzkrieg & Santa's Bughouse

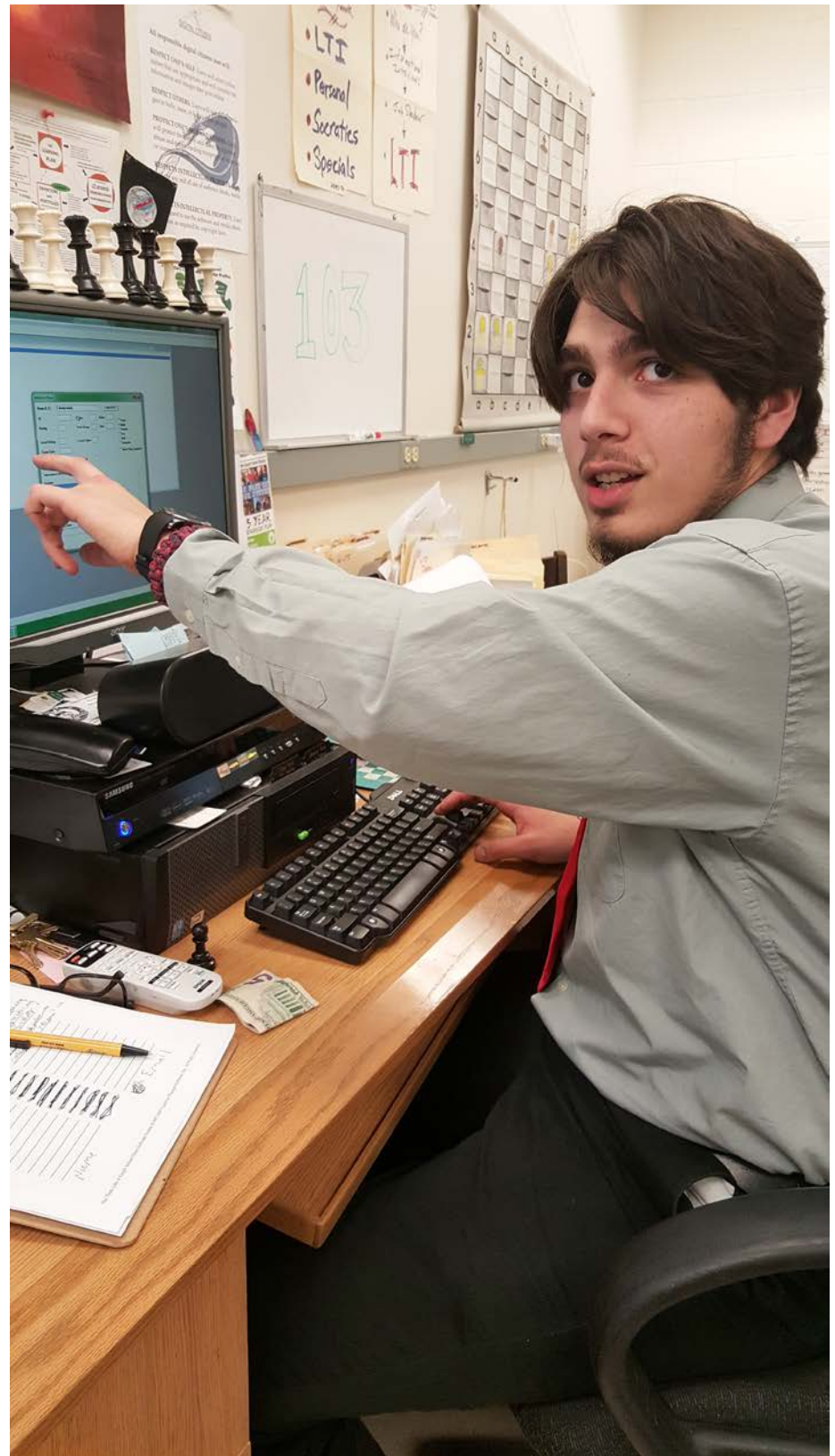
By Tyson Spellman

It was a winter wonderland in the Wood River Valley where students from area schools competed in Blitz and Bughouse tournaments. Silver Creek High School, Hailey, Idaho, housed two chess tournaments on December 10 and 17. Both are usually hosted by the BCSD Chess Club but instead this year they were directed by Silver Creek High School student Tyson Spellman as a senior project. This was the eighth year of the K-12 Christmas Blitzkrieg tournament where 17 players played Blitz, or very fast chess. Games were only 5 minutes for each player! First, Second and Third place all received trophies and prizes the prizes are as follows: First place prize was a brand new 22 inch wooden walnut/maple chess board (>\$100 value donated by the PowerHouse), second place was a green and red chess set, and third place was a book "from the library of Dan Mayers" on the King's Gambit. The former Blitz Champion, Desmond Porth, failed to defend his title as he was graduated and not qualified to play. SCHS Senior Levi Catangatang grabbed the title with force. Levi played a perfect tournament with 8 wins. Second place was Wesley Brimstein (6.5) and third place was Dylan Porth (6.0). Organizers gave the top elementary student a first place ribbon and second place ribbon, Darwin Porth and Dave Walters, respectively.

On December 17, the K-12 Santa's Bughouse Tournament was played. There were 18 players and 9 teams total. The team names were created by the players: *Unknown*, *The Pigs*, *Qfins*, *Weeping*

Angels, *Lightning*, *Master Dragons* *Dana-na-na*, *Shell Shockers*, *Greasy Bag Tie*, and *The Dish Rags*. The former champions were Wesley Brimstein and Andre Murphy. They successfully

defended their title and are Bughouse Champions for the second year in-a-row, despite missing the early showing of Star Wars in order to finish the tournament! The Shell Shockers (Wesley and Andre)



Tyson Spellman learning how to use WinTD. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Dylan Porth(left) and Otto Olson(Right) are teammates for Bughouse. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

were first. The Second Place team was Dylan Porth and Otto Olsen, aka The Dish Rags. Third Place team was River Shepard and Tyson Spellman, aka Greasy Bag Tie. First and Second place received trophies as well as new chess sets and books “from the library of Dan Mayers,” *Winning With The Kalashnikov*, by Neil McDonald.

Tyson Spellman learned how to play chess only a month ago and has been a chess addict since. He goes over historical games, plays himself, and plays nearly every day in the classroom with friends. His first tournament was in West Jordan, Utah with the BCSD Chess Team in November. He said, “The tournament was an awesome success and everyone had a fun time and many new kids decided to join the local chess club because of the tournament which is incredible and invaluable [to a growing program].” Tyson sported a red tie and dress shoes. “He was probably the best dressed TD I have ever seen, but this indicated his efforts to be as professional as possible,” said mentor, Adam Porth. Tyson also gave all participants candy canes and a free ice cream coupon (Snowbunny Drive-Inn) which he secured from local businesses. Tyson also exclaimed, “Tournament Directing and organizing isn’t as easy as it looks. There are many rules and regulations you have know and have readily available for whenever a player asks a question or has a disagreement. You

also have to learn how to use a program called WinTD, which crashes much of the time and to top it all off, you have to do a bit of public speaking. Public speaking isn’t the worst thing in the world but not

easy either. I would do it again because all in all it was a great experience and it allowed me to do something you don’t normally get to do every day and that is, inspire kids with chess.”



Simon Shira checking the king. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Over 14 inches fell this night!
Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Chess Club's Perpetual Tournament Trophy overlooks the Blitz championship.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Otto Olson (left) and Tyson Spellman (thumb's up) present the Powerhouse donated chess board to Blitz Champion Levi Catangatang. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

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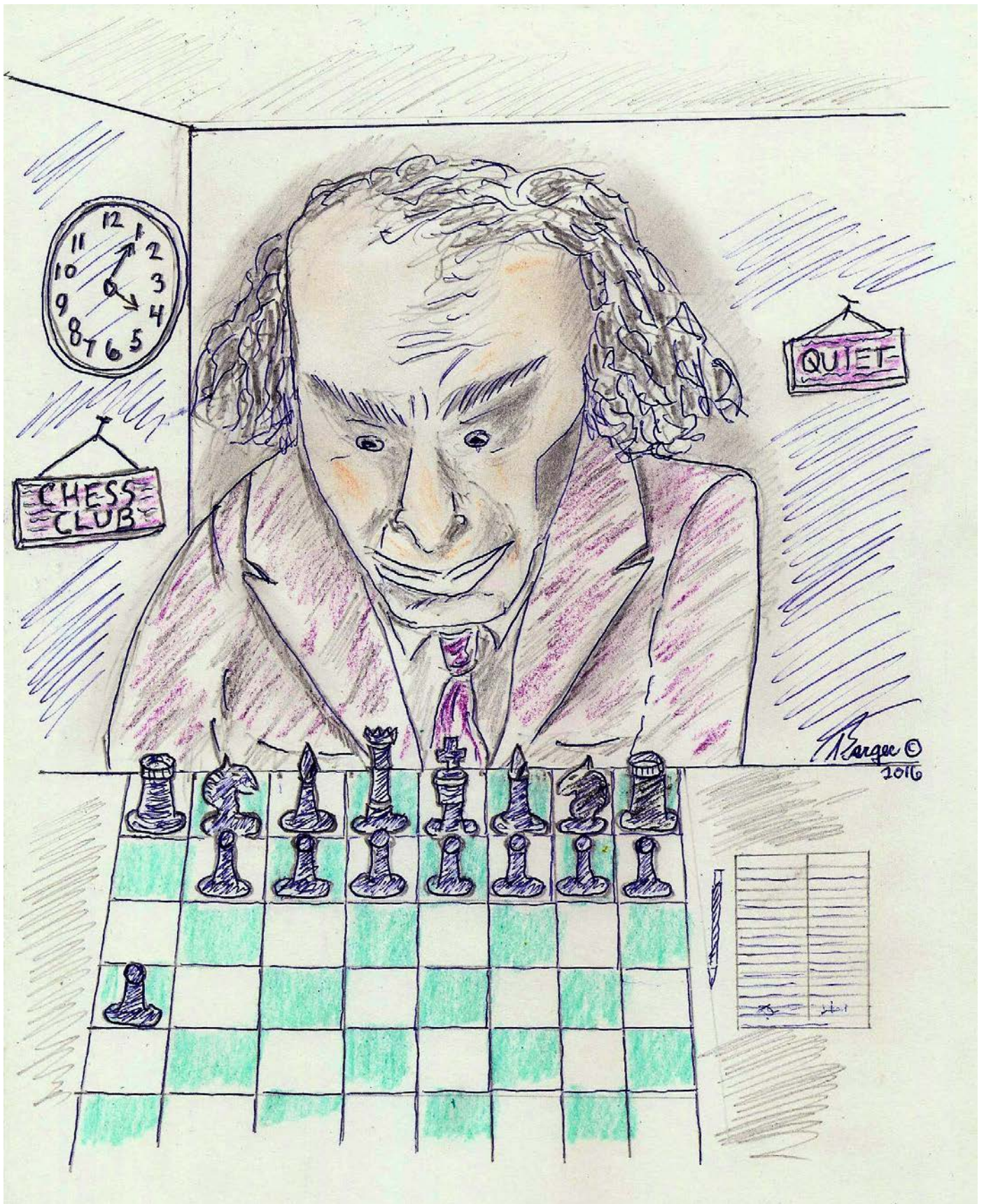
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RALPH HAD AN IMPOSING PRESENCE, WHICH COULD NOT MAKE UP FOR HIS INEPT GAME.

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 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

WCF @ SCC

February 13-14

President's Cup

Future at the SCC

On-Line Registration: We hope to have our website set up to take registrations for the Spring Open in March! EFs will be \$2 to \$3 higher to defray costs and counteract the higher percentage of advance EFs expected.

Membership Sale: From March 9th through 23rd, membership dues will be cut by 20% across the board.

Music-Playing Chess Kids: The date of the concert will be May 14 and the venue will be near the corner of 96th & Linden.

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.

Seattle Spring Open

March 18-20 or 19-20

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 with a 5 second delay (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open Reserve (U1950)

First	\$220	First	\$120
Second	\$160	Second	\$80
U2100	\$100	U1750	\$70
		U1550	\$60
		U1350	\$50
		Unrated	\$20
Plus Score Pool – \$120			

Entry Fees: \$36 if rec'd by 3/16 (\$26 SCC memb., \$31 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$45 at site (\$35 SCC memb., \$40 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

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

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

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

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

Feb. 21, Mar 13 **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Feb. 27, Apr 2 **Saturday Quads**
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:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

March 25-27 **SCC Team in Reno!**
Join the SCC Team(s) at the Larry Evans Memorial. We will compete against teams from San Francisco, Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

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

The Hotel

Nexus on Northgate Way less than a block from the club is offering a \$109 chess rate (1 king or 2 queens) during the winter months. Includes complimentary hot breakfast and free shuttle to downtown/U-District.

Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2016 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

☞ **Jan 21, 28 and Feb 4, 11, 18** Spokane Winter Championship, **Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121). Registration: 6:30-7:15, Jan. 21. Rounds start by 7:30 each week, 1/21 to 2/18. E.F. \$16. US Chess rated. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). Contact: David Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

☞ **Feb 13-14** President's Cup, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-page ad page 12)

☞ **Feb 13-15** Idaho Closed State Championship, **Twin Falls, ID.** IDAHO RESIDENTS ONLY! Chief TD: Barry Eacker. Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd No., Twin Falls, ID 83301. 6SS, 30/120;d5, SD/60;d5. Annual ICA Business mtg beginning at 8:30 AM prior to rnd 3. Rounds: 9, 4, 10, 4:30, 8, 3. One ½ pt Bye, Rounds 1-5. One zero-point bye available in last round. Must Notify TD before rnd 2 pairing. Reg & Ck in: 7:30 -8:30 Sat Feb 13. One Section: Open. EF: \$25 if registered by February 7, 2016. \$20 for Seniors (60+) and Juniors (under 18) if registered by February 7, 2016. \$30 for EVERYONE if registered after February 7, 2016. Current US Chess and ICA membership required (ICA rates posted online at www.idahochessassociation.org.) Prizes: Trophies or plaques, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall – 1st ,X; 1st-2nd, A thru F; 1st Junior; 1st Senior; 1st Unrated. HR: call Darlene and mention chess tournament at 208-737-6280. Do not register for hotel online. Calling Darlene gives ICA credit and allows us to have the event at this site. Contact: Barry Eacker, mol64@cableone.net, 208-733-6186, 963 Delmar Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301. NC,NS, W.

☞ **Feb 20** Tacoma CC Winter Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry fee: \$25.00 advance, \$30.00 at site, \$22.00 for TCC members. Prize fund: \$40.00 each quad. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m. One half-point bye available. US Chess/WCF memberships required. NS NC W. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com or web: tacomachess.org.

☞ **Feb 20/Mar 19** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR.** 3-round quads, G/45;d10. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Some/all sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The most current (“live”) US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12pm, and 2pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, free entry for players who are unrated in US Chess. US chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during on-site registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee for one of the next three PCC Quad 45 or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Any scholastic player who wins their section with a perfect score will also receive a trophy or a medal if they win or tie for first in their section without a perfect score. OSCF State Qualifier. Optional blitz tournament afterwards.

☞ **Feb 27-28** The 24th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Millwood, WA.** (new location) 5SS, Rd. 1: G/90 d5; Rds. 2-5: G/115 d5. Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood, WA 99212 (I-90 Exit 287; one mile north to Euclid. Turn left go two blocks). EF: \$27 if received by 2/26; \$33 at door Under 19 \$5 less. \$SGTD: \$350-225-125. Ex — \$100; A; B; C; D; E/Unr: \$100-70; Biggest Upsets: \$100-50 (non-provisional ratings only). One prize per player except for biggest upset. Reg.: Feb. 27 10:00-10:40 am. Rds.: 2/27: 11 — 2:30 — 7:00; 2/28: 9:00; 1:30. One 1/2 point bye available. ENT: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. INFO: www.spokanechessclub.org, kmkorsmo@comcast.net. W.

☞ **Feb 27/Mar 26** Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and US Chess membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500 \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400 \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: e-mail email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

☞ **Mar 5** Northwest Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry fee: \$25.00 advance, \$30.00 at site, \$22.00 for TCC members. Prize fund: \$40.00 each quad. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m. One half-point bye available. US Chess/WCF memberships required. NS NC W. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com or web: tacomachess.org.

☞ **Mar 12-13** Portland Spring Open, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Format: US Chess rated, two days, two sections (Open and U1800), 5-round Swiss. Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, d5. Byes: 2 half-point byes available if requested before 1st round. Entry fee: \$35, \$10 discount to PCC members. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Limited to first 50 entrants. Rounds: Saturday 10:00, 2:15 & 6:30; Sunday 11:00 & 3:15. Prizes: \$650 based on 40 total entries. Open: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75; Reserve: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75; U1600, U1400, U1200/unrated each \$50. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results. Memberships: US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA required and can be purchased or renewed at registration, OSA. OCF Invitational Qualifier. OSCF State Qualifier.

Mar 25-27 Larry Evans Memorial, Reno, NV. (Full-page ad page 3)

Mar 25-28 10th Annual Grand Pacific Open, **Victoria, BC** (Half-page ad page 13)

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