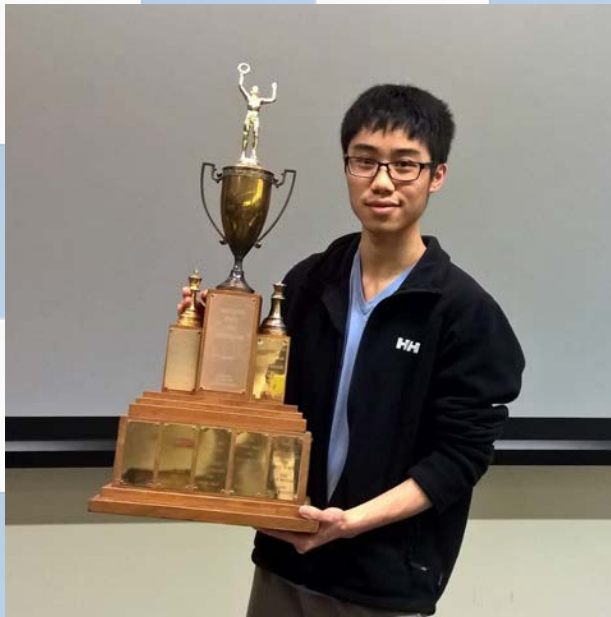




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April 2016

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



Michael Lee (Washington)

Three State Champions



David Lucky (Idaho)



Carl Haessler (Oregon)



Northwest Chess

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

On the front cover:

The three State Chess Champions in victory pose on February 15, 2016. Michael Lee (Washington) by Wei Feng, Carl Haessler (Oregon) by Grisha Alpernas, and David Lucky (Idaho) by Adam Porth.

On the back cover:

Viktors Pupols at the 2016 Washington Closed State Championship, Championship Section by Wei Feng.

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

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Washington Open

A NW Grand Prix Event

May 28-30, 2016

Revised 3/11/2016

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2017 state championship.

Washington Open
\$7,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked
by April 30 / by May 21 / at site

Open	EF \$110 / \$120 / \$130
Reserve (U1800)	EF \$100 / \$110 / \$120
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Medal Only	EF \$55 / \$65 / \$75

Medals awarded to top three in each section. (Juniors under age 21 only.)
Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.
Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.
Canadians may pay C\$ at par for entry fee only.

	Open	Reserve	Booster
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2nd	\$500	\$350	\$250
3rd	\$350	\$300	\$200
4th	\$300	\$200	\$150
5th	\$250	\$150	\$100
	U2100	U1650	U1200
1st	\$250	\$200	\$100
2nd	\$150	\$100	\$60
	U1900	U1500	U1000
1st	\$250	\$200	\$100
2nd	\$150	\$100	\$60
		Unrated	
1st		\$100	
2nd		\$60	

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Top female (per section)	\$60
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WCF Tournament Coordinator
749 Somerset Lane
Edmonds, WA 98020-2646
Phone: (425) 218-7529

Email: danomathews01@gmail.com

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Lynnwood Convention Center

3711 196th Street SW
Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701, Phone (888) 778-7155

Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/online/registration
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Format: Three sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.

Rating: USCF rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). USCF May 2016 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of USCF or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Unrated players may only win top five prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section.

Registration: Saturday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes. Please use entry form on NWC website for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events, and byes requested – or use online registration.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Sat 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Mon 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sun 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2:00 PM Monday, May 30, 2016.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 40/120 and SD/30 with 10-second delay.
2-day schedule: G/60 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 40. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Hotel Info/Rates: see Northwest Chess website or contact Dan Mathews.

Washington Open G/15 Championship: Sat 5/28 at 8:00 PM. Format: 5 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 7:00-7:45 PM. Rounds: 8:00, 8:40, 9:20, 10:00 and 10:40 PM. TC: G/15,d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. Miscellaneous: USCF Quick rated. Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required.

Washington Open Blitz Championship: Sun 5/29 at 9:00 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:00-8:45 PM. Rounds: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 PM. TC: G/5,d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. Miscellaneous: USCF Blitz rated. Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required.

Washington Open Scholastic (May 28): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone: (425) 868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Washington Chess News

In Memoriam Burrard “Buz” Wayne Eddy 1940-2016

by Russell “Rusty” Miller

Burrard “Buz” Wayne Eddy was born January 2, 1940 in Tacoma, Washington to Robert Wayne Eddy and Frances Ruth (Keeling) Eddy. He died March 4, 2016 in Lynnwood, Washington. A chess exhibition by Arthur Dake at Maryhill Museum near Goldendale, Washington on August 25, 1957 that he attended during a family drive in Eastern Washington really hooked Buz onto chess.

He was part of junior chess team from Seattle area who traveled to Idaho and California for a series of chess matches in 1958. Buz was a member of the West Seattle High School chess team.

From the late 1950s to early 1970s he was a very active chess player, organizer, and tournament director. He was editor of *Washington Chess Letter* from June 1959 to May 1960 and editor of *Northwest Chess Letter* from May 1966 to October 1966. He directed a number of Washington Championship tournaments in 1959 and from 1964-1969.

He did WCF Master points for a number of years and used them to decide who played in the Washington Championship for several years. He was the assistant tournament director for 1966 U.S. Open Chess Tournament held in Seattle. He played in the U.S. Open in 1958 in Rochester, Minnesota scoring 4-8 to place 121st out of 139 players.

He married Sharon Leah Owens, June 22, 1973 in Yakima. They had three children, Douglas Wayne (who died at birth), Stephen and Laurel. Sharon, Stephen and Laurel survive him living in Lynnwood.

Washington State Championship 2016

By Josh Sinanan

Here are the final results of the 2016 WA State Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers sections in order of tie-breaks.

Championship

IM Michael Lee 2505 8.0 1st

FM Tian Sang 2354 7.5 2nd

IM Ray Kaufman 2359 6.0 =3rd-4th

FM Roland Feng 2425 6.0 =3rd-4th

NM Bryce Tiglon 2350 5.0 5th

NM Daniel He 2249 4.5

FM Nick Raptis 2396 3.5

LM Viktors Pupols 2206 2.5

FM Costin Cozianu 2451 1.5 (withdrew)

Derek Zhang 2179 0.5

Premier

FM John Readey 2266 6.5 1st

NM Kyle Haining 2202 5.5 2nd

NM Samuel He 2262 4.5 3rd

NM Mike MacGregor 2211 4.0 =4th-5th

Anthony He 2135 4.0 =4th-5th

NM Josh Sinanan 2205 3.5

FM David Bragg 2202 3.5

FM William Schill 2265 2.5

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian 2090 2.0

FM Ignacio Perez 2264 1.5 (withdrew)

Invitational

Neo Olin 2038 7.0 1st

FM Nikita Chetrari 2298 6.5 =2nd-3rd

Masayuki Nagase 2000 6.5 =2nd-3rd

FM Paul Bartron 2064 5.5 4th

Jason Yu 2008 4.0 =5th

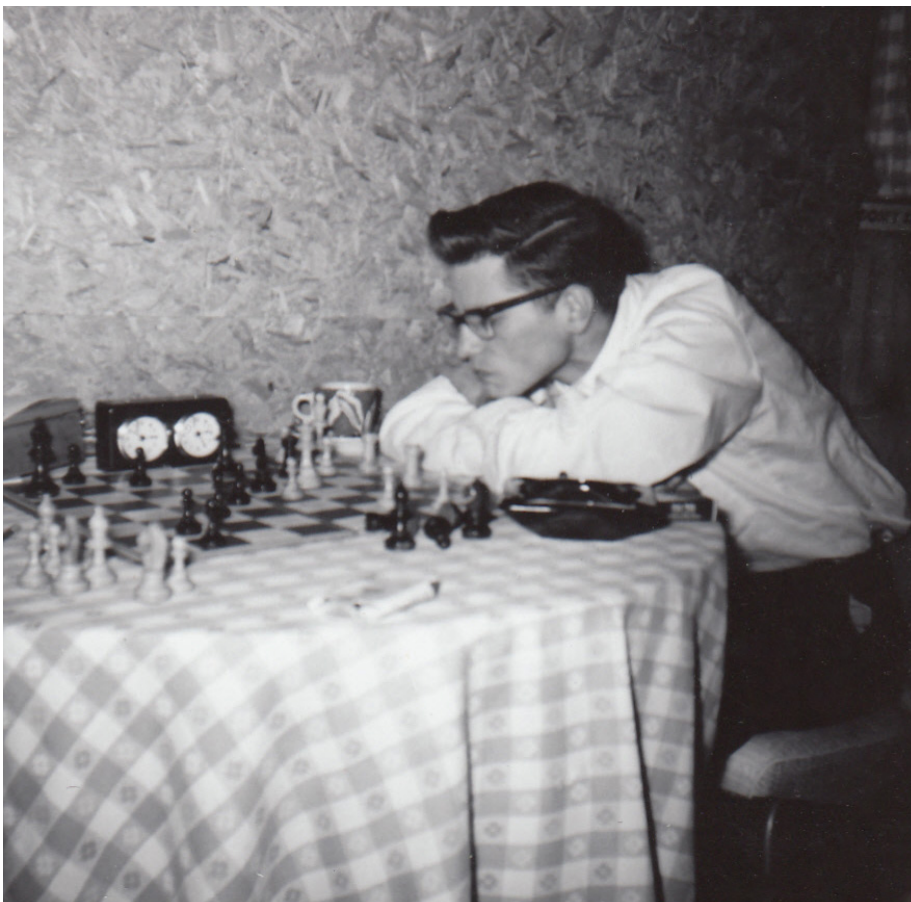
Toshihiro Nagase 2023 4.0 =5th

Sangeeta Dhingra 1928 4.0 =5th

David Arganian 2000 4.0 =5th

Alan Bishop 2007 2.0

Damarcus Thomas 2020 1.5



Burrard “Buz” Eddy, March 1964. Photo courtesy of Russell Miller.

Challengers

Vikram Ramasamy 2010 7.0 1st

WCM Naomi Bashkansky 1979 5.5
=2nd-3rd

Brent Baxter 1916 5.5 =2nd-3rd

Mary Kuhner 1933 4.5 4th

Travis Olson 1961 3.5 5th

Brendan Zhang 1932 3.0

Noah Yeo 1900 2.5

Eric Zhang 1827 2.5

Mark Smith 1896 2.0

Michael Hosford 1933 0.5 (withdrew)

Thanks to everyone for taking part and making this such a wonderful event! Any feedback/suggestions to improve the tournament are welcome.

A View from the Challengers' Section

by Mark Trevor Smith

For several years, the WA State Championship has included three ten-player round robins: Championship, Premier, Invitational. In 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, I played in the Invitational because my middle-A-class rating ranked me within the top 30 in the state who decided to play. This year, though, so many strong players signed up that I soon got squeezed out of the top 30. When a new fourth section, the Challengers, was announced, I hung on by my fingernails, and just barely qualified. (A disappointed player rated 1895 had to yield to my astronomical 1896.)

The 2016 tournament was held in Microsoft Building 99 in Redmond over two weekends, Feb 6-7, 13-15. This marvelous location, obtained for us by Cha Zhang (whose son Eric was seeded

into the Challengers section as the WCF Nominee), features, among many other amenities, a large airy room with huge windows, a convenient parking garage, and easy access from state highway 520. To maintain an elegant atmosphere, the Washington Chess Federation set up 20 beautiful wooden sets and boards. While some players did not like being locked out if they exited the building, even a semi-claustrophobe like me was not at all bothered, since the main room and adjoining corridors and smaller rooms were so spacious. Always greedy for more oxygen (and more men's room access) than the average human, I was quite comfortable.

The tournament was the strongest ever, with an overload of masters in the championship section, most of them rated over 2300. Even a 2300 rating, though, did not guarantee a berth among the top ten.

Our new state champion is international master Michael Lee, who won seven and drew two and added a few points to his 2500+ rating. From what I could see, he never had a bad position. He favored the English when White and the Benko Gambit or Sicilian when Black. Second place went to Tian Sang.

The second section, the Premier, was won by John Readey. The third section, the Invitational, was won by Neo Olin. The fourth section, the Challengers, new this year with an average rating of 1927, was won by Vikram Ramasamy.

I love it when I am lower rated than my opponent. In my second round, I was proud to win a piece, but then threw away my advantage right after time control during my opponent's spirited counter-attack. The silver lining is that after letting my advantage slip, I scored a spectacularly scintillating mate-in-four that I hoped for, prepared, and executed.

Mark Trevor Smith (1896) –
Michael James Hosford (1933) [A04]
Washington Closed Challengers
Redmond, WA (R2), February 6, 2016
[Mark Trevor Smith]

1.Nf3 d6 2.g3 e5 3.d3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0–0
Be7 6.Nc3 0–0 7.e4 c6

Michael spent 23 minutes on this move, giving me a time advantage that lasted until move 33.

8.a4 a5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bd2

Having provoked a weakness, the bishop retreats for later work. He will be key when the fireworks start, as will the weakened square g6.

10...fxe4 11.dxe4 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.Qe1
Nfd7= 14.Nh2 Na6 15.Nd1

Heading for f5 or g4.

15...Nac5 16.Ne3 Bg6 17.f3 Ne6 18.Bc3
Qb6 19.Kh1 Nd4 20.Rd1!

I spent 30 minutes on this move, partly in preparation for my next move; the configuration of pieces is auspicious for White. Nothing protects Black's knight on d7, his bishop on e7, or his bishop on g6. As the British GMs like to say, LPDO (loose pieces drop off) 20.f4 is already good, says computer.

20...Nf6



Position after 20...Nf6

20...Nc5

21.f4!

Slightly better, objectively, would be Nhg4, but my move is strong and shocking and tempts Michael into snatching a poisoned pawn; he is already in time trouble, with only 22 minutes left for 20 moves

21...Nxe4?

21...Rae8 would hold equality 22.Nhg4 Nxe4 (22...Nxe4? 23.Bxa5 Nxe3+ (23...Qxb2 24.f5 Nxf5 25.Nxf5 Bxf5 26.Bxe4) 24.Qxg3 Qxa5 25.f5 Nxf5 (25...Bg5 26.fxg6 Qxa4) 26.Nxf5 Bxf5 27.Nxh6+) 23.hxg4 c5 24.b3=.

Of course 21...exf4 is bad because both my bishop and my rook attack the knight on d4.

22.Bxd4



Playing area action at the 2016 Washington Closed. Photo credit: Wei Feng.

Now the lines of force against d4, e7, g6, e4, working with the powerful Nc4 to attack Black's queen, win material.

22...exd4 23.Nc4 Qc5 24.Bxe4

If the h-pawn had stayed on h7, Black would be better off here.

24...Bxe4+ 25.Qxe4 Qxc4 26.Qxe7+-

And another loose piece drops off.

26...Qd5+ 27.Kg1 Rae8 28.Qh4?

The engine cold-bloodedly snatches more material, but I thought some defensive help might be necessary to my king. 28.Qxb7! Re2 29.Rf2 Rfe8 30.Qa6 and White has a huge advantage.

28...Re2 29.Rf2

29.Nf3 Qe4 30.Rxd4 Qxc2 31.Rdd1±

29...Rfe8 30.Qg4?

A blunder that would allow Black equality if he played ...Rf2 30.Rdf1 retains the +6 advantage 30...d3 31.cxd3 Qxd3 32.Qg4.

30...d3?

30...Rxf2= 31.Kxf2 d3 32.cxd3 Qc5+ 33.Kf1 Qc2

31.Rxd3 Qc5

Black is playing vigorously with only two minutes for nine moves (albeit 10-second delay)

32.Qf3 Qxc2 33.Ra3?

I see an opportunity to swap queens 33.Ng4! h5 34.Rxe2 Rxe2 35.Kf1 Re6 36.Nf2.

33...Qxb2?

33...Rxf2 34.Qxf2 Re2 35.Qf3 Rxh2 and now Black would have the advantage.

34.Qb3+ Qxb3 35.Rxb3 Re1+ 36.Rf1 R1e7

36...R8e3 37.Rxb7 Rxb3+ 38.Kf2 Rxf1+ 39.Kxg3

37.Rfb1 b5 38.axb5 a4 39.Ra3 cxb5 40.Nf3?

Blindness, although by now I have almost no time left. 40.Rxb5 Re1+ 41.Nf1.

40...Re3 41.Ra2?

A huge blunder, handing over the advantage to Black. 41.Rxe3 Rxe3 42.Kf2 Rb3 (42...Rd3 43.Rxb5 a3) 43.Rxb3 axb3 44.Nd2 is the move I blindly missed in my calculation 44...b2 45.Ke2.

41...Rxf3 42.Rxb5 Rxb3+ 43.Kf2 Rxh3

43...Ree3 44.Rxa4 Ref3+ 45.Ke2 Rxh3

44.Rxa4 Rf8 45.Rb7

While hoping for some doubled rook action against g7, I'm almost ready to shake Michael's hand soon and congratulate him on his resourceful attack in time trouble, but...

45...Rf7?=-

45...Rc8!

46.Rb8+?

Wrong rook. 46.Ra8+ Rf8 47.Raa7 Kh8 48.Rxg7 Rxf4+ 49.Kg2 Ra3 50.Rh7+ Kg8 51.Rag7+ Kf8=.

46...Kh7 47.Rd8

You can call it hope chess, or you can call it hypnotizing the opponent: if I can get my king or my pawn to f5, I can double rooks on the eighth rank and checkmate! Impossible, you say? But watch how nearly it happens that way.

47...Rd3

Michael has only 12 minutes left in the sudden-death, but I have only nine.

48.Ke2

Heading for f5.

48...Rd5 49.Ke3 Re7+ 50.Kf3 Rd3+ 51.Kg4 d5?

51...Rf7

52.Raa8



Position after 52.Raa8

52...Rf7?=-

Allowing mate in four. 52...Rd4 pinning the f-pawn would keep Black's advantage, as would ...Re4 53.Rh8+ Kg6 54.Ra6+ Kf7 This variation reveals Black's escape route.

53.Rh8+

My hope has paid off, as the particular mate, an amusing version of the one I originally saw around move 47, flows like a musical stream. I saw the whole thing in a chunk.

53...Kxg6 54.Ra6+ Rf6 55.f5+

The point: neither king nor rook can capture.

55...Kf7 56.Ra7#

It certainly was a shame that I threw away the advantage I had earned in the middle game; however, without my errors, I never would have had the opportunity to execute this most elegant checkmate pattern.

1-0

I finished the first week-end with an even score after losing to an impressively persistent and imaginative Naomi Bashkansky, who finished the tournament just three points short of expert. I offer fatigue as an excuse for not doing very well in the remaining games. Or, more exactly, for faltering too often after maintaining an equal position for 3-4 hours. I will not use my age, 69 going on 70, as an excuse. Or will I?

This tournament is even more demanding than a typical week-end tournament because it goes nine rounds over two week-ends, and there are no half-point byes allowed. In fact, if a player misses a round, that player is not allowed to play any more games and will be banned from the tournament the following year. The organizers are strongly considering a refundable deposit, maybe as high as \$200, to discourage withdrawals, of which there were three this year.

Since I enjoy playing one tough game in a day, but not two (and therefore usually take at least one half-point bye in a typical Swiss), this tournament was an especially challenging Challengers for me. Some self-disciplined strategies helped me survive: eating very little, walking as much as possible, drinking tons of water, napping between rounds. Even more important, perhaps, were the psychological tricks: remembering how much I love the game, detaching my ego from the intrinsic fascination of the positions whether I'm ahead or behind, not berating myself for mistakes. Hey, even Svidler and Nakamura make mistakes sometimes. And have you seen what Champion Magnus Carlsen can do (or not do) when in poor form?

The number of young, sometimes very young, players with master ratings, or on their way to master ratings, is truly impressive. I can only marvel at the skill and persistence of those like Kyle Haining and Bryce Tiglon (both of whom, incidentally, profited from my donations of rating points in past years) in the top section. I happened to be on the scene when Jason Yu first appeared at Chess4Life a few years ago, and now he's an ascending expert in the Invitational section. Meanwhile, we in the Challengers had to battle Eric Zhang, a strong A-player only nine years old, whom I was lucky to draw.

I wonder if the youngsters can imagine what we oldsters already know: the lifelong joys of this game. A friend of mine from the over-65 crowd on the tennis courts, who used to be a B-player and who remembered Viktors Pupols from Last Exit days 30 years ago, stopped

by to spectate for a few hours. You could see, in his eyes and in his posture, the pleasure of his attention to every game.

Next year, if somehow I don't qualify, I plan to attend and help out, if I can, hard-working TD Fred Kleist. He and WCF President Josh Sinanan, aided by others including Nick Raptis and Cha Zhang, made sure that all was ready. From my point of view everything went smoothly, although there was one little moment of confusion with the security guards, of which most players were probably unaware. Walking around the room, which overflowed, nine different times, with 20 hard-fought games, including those by strong masters, many of them legends of the Northwest, is a pleasure almost as great as watching Carlsen and Company on the internet. Too bad I was so distracted by my own long, long, long, hard-fought games.

Tian Sang (2354) – Roland Feng (2419) [A03]

Washington Closed Championship
Redmond, WA (R6), February 13, 2016
[Tian Sang]

Before this round, the defending champion FM Roland Feng already lost to the top seed IM Michael Lee, while I also conceded a few draws, so we were playing for a decisive result. The game is indeed a quite exciting fight, with many critical moments.

1.f4!?

The main reason of the first move is to avoid French Defence, which Roland has deep preparation of and I was not able to crack in the last two encounters. Besides, as a Dutch player, why not try it with one extra tempo?

1...Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.d3 d5

My opening choice definitely surprised my opponent, who played slowly from the beginning. At some point in the game, I was up 40 minutes in time, which is extremely rare for a rapid expert like Roland.

4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.Qe1



Position after 7.Qe1

It is a typical Leningrad Dutch position, with colors reversed! White's main plan

is to advance e4.

7...d4

A natural way to disrupt e4.

8.Na3 Nc6 9.Nc4!?

In the previous round against FM Cozianu, I played Bd7 (as Black) in a similar position, to prevent Nb5. Though I considered 9. Bd2 here, I felt the text move was more active.

9...Nb4!?

When there is something to attack, Roland won't miss it. 9...Be6 10.Nce5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qc7=

10.Qd1

Moving the queen back loses a tempo, but since black's b4 knight has to leave too, it is still balanced.

10...b5!?

The bold move, which fits Roland's style, causes immediate complications. Intuitively White should be fine, who controls the important h1-a8 long diagonal as well as the key e5 square.

11.Nfe5

Freeing up the bishop on long diagonal is certainly tempting, but moving the other knight to e5 can be more accurate. 11.Nce5 Bb7 12.c3 dxc3 13.bxc3 Nc6 14.Rb1!±

11...Nbd5 12.e4!?



Position after 12.e4

Perhaps a little bit too aggressive, I just went for a very dynamic line largely based on intuition. 12.Na3 a6 13.e4 Nb6=

12...dxe3!?

Black compromised. It is better to accept the challenge. All the lines, though complicated, seem to favor Black slightly. 12...bxc4 13.exd5 cxd3 White faces a tough choice how to recapture d3-pawn or even playing c4. 14.cxd3 (14.Qxd3 Bb7 15.Nc6 Qd6 16.Qb5 Bxc6 17.dxc6 Nd5±) 14...Bb7! (Of course d5 pawn is untouchable: 14...Nxd5?? 15.Nc6+-) 15.d6 Bxg2 16.dxe7 Qxe7 17.Kxg2 Nd5 18.Qf3 Nb6±

13.Nxe3 Bb7 14.Qe2

14.c4!±

14...Qc7 15.a4 a6 16.Re1 Nb6 17.b3!

White has a slightly more comfortable game. Several things White can potentially exploit: b5 weakness, both long diagonals, and the e-file.

17...Rfd8 18.Bb2 Nbd5?



Position after 18...Nbd5

18...Bxg2 19.Qxg2 bxa4 20.bxa4 Nfd5∞

19.Nxd5?

Missing a brilliant shot; I was clearly eyeing f7, but somehow did not figure out the right move order that works. 19.Nxf7!! Kxf7 (19...Nxf4 20.gxf4 Kxf7 21.f5±) 20.Nxd5 Nxd5 (20...Bxd5 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Bxd5+ Rxd5 23.Qe6+ Kf8 24.Qxd5±) 21.Qe6+ Kf8 22.Bxg7+ Kxg7 23.c4!±



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 23.c4)

19...Nxd5



Position after 19...Nxd5

20.f5!?

A very ambitious pawn sacrifice, also a very risky move (given that my opponent is an excellent tactician). The idea is to damage Black's kingside pawn structure for attacking chances. Besides, it would be interesting to try h4-h5, etc.

20...gxf5

Black has no choice but take the pawn; otherwise heavy fire will come along the f-file.

21.c4! Nf6?

Black backs off from the sharp line after a long thought, handing White a positional advantage. The following line demands enormous calculation and courage for both sides. 21...bxc4 22.bxc4 (The trick does not quite work, but it would require Black to play with computer-like precision: 22.Nxf7?! c3! (22...Bxb2? 23.Nh6+! Kh8 24.Qxb2+ c3 25.Qc1→) 23.Qe6 Bd4+! 24.Kh1 Rf8!⚡) 22...Nf6 (22...Nb4? 23.Nxf7!+-) 23.Bxb7 Qxb7 24.Rab1 Qc7 25.Qf3 e6 26.g4!↑ Objectively, Black can hold with precise defense; however, it is often hard to do so practically.

22.axb5 axb5 23.cxb5±

White won the pawn back with some interest, a passed b-pawn.

23...Rxa1 24.Bxa1?!

Recapturing with rook is better. Somehow I could not decide whether to put the rook on the a-file or on the e-file, both of which have a good reason. 24.Rxa1 (threatening Ra7) 24...Bxg2 25.Kxg2!± White's knight is going to the c6-outpost.

24...e6?!



Position after 24...e6

The pawn move is desirable for eliminating the unpleasant tactical combination possibility of Nf7, but Black should trade the bishops first, because there is a very subtle difference. 24...Bxg2! 25.Qxg2 e6=

25.Nc4!

Good timing to open a1-h8 long diagonal. Most importantly, b6 is an obvious threat now. 25.Nc6 Bxc6 (25...Ra8 26.Be5 Qb6 27.d4!±) 26.bxc6 Nd5∞

25...Bd5

25...Bxg2 26.b6! That is the difference! White pushes b-pawn before recapturing, which would have been impossible had Black traded the bishops first. 26...Qd7! Resourceful! 27.Kxg2 It is hard to precisely assess the position, but White should be much easier to play, thanks to

the strong far-advanced b-pawn.

26.Be5 Qb7 27.Qb2?



Position after 27.Qb2

It was played based on the inaccurate assessment of the complicated line 27...Bg2. White can obtain a simple advantage: 27.b6! Nd7 28.Bc7

27...Ne8?

Too passive. 27...Bxg2! 28.Bxf6 Bxf6 29.Qxf6 Rxd3!±

Although Black's king looks exposed, it is not in any serious danger, for White does not have enough pieces to attack. I had expected the exact position, but I am not sure if there is anything better than perpetual, as Black's counterattack is real, threatening Bh1 or Bh3 mate!

28.Bxg7 Nxb7 29.Qf6!± Rb8 30.Bxd5

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There is an interesting computer line:
30.Nd6 Qd7 31.Qe5! f6 32.Ne4!!±

30...Qxd5



Position after 30...Qxd5

31.Ne5

Very natural but not the best. 31.b6! Qxd3 32.Qe5 Qd4+ 33.Qxd4 cxd4 34.Ra1 Ne8 35.Ra7± d3! 36.Kf1 Nf6 37.b7 Kg7 38.Nd6 Nd7 39.Ke1. White has winning chances in the endgame, thanks to the powerful b-pawn.

31...Qd4+ 32.Kg2 Rf8?

Again, too passive! An active rook is usually the key of a successful defense, a principle not only applying to the endgame. 32...Rb7∞ White has tons of options how to proceed. It is good to skip the detailed analysis and assume Black has just enough resources to defend.

33.Re2?

White did not punish Black's mistake. 33.Qe7! This effectively finishes off Black by double threats Nd7 and b6.

33...Nh5?

Black could have saved the game by launching a big counterplay. 33...Qd5+! 34.Kh3 Qxb3 35.Nd7 Qxd3! 36.Qe7 Ra8±

34.Qg5+ Ng7 35.Qf6 Nh5 36.Qg5+ Ng7

It would be a 3-fold repetition after Qf6.

37.Qe7!±



Position after 37.Qe7

White rejects the repetition! There is no reason not to press for a win with such a clear advantage.

37...Nh5?

More resilient is 37...f4!? 38.b6 Qd5+

39.Re4! Nf5 40.Qg5+ Ng7 41.Qf6 Nh5!
42.Ng4!! White should win the endgame.

38.b6!+-

Heading to promotion, nothing ahead!

38...Qd5+ 39.Kf2 Qd4+ 40.Kf1! Qd5 41.b7 Qh1+ 42.Kf2 Qxh2+ 43.Ke1

The alternative king move also wins. 43.Ke3 Qxg3+ 44.Kd2 Nf4 45.Qxf8+ Kxf8 46.b8Q+ Kg7 47.Qb7+-

43...Qh1+ 44.Kd2 Rb8□



Position after 44...Rb8

Finally b-pawn is stopped. Here is a practical puzzle to solve. White must be winning, but what is the best way?

45.Nd7!

Simple and clean. Another line wins by force too. 45.Qxf7+ Kh8 46.Qxe6 Qxb7 47.Nf7+! Kg7 48.Nd6! Qxb3 49.Nxf5+ Kf8 50.Qh6+ Kg8 51.Qxh5+-

45...Qxb7 46.Qg5+ Ng7 47.Nf6+!

It would be a huge blunder to win the exchange. 47.Nxb8?? Qxb8±

47...Kf8

47...Kh8 48.Rh2! Mate in a few moves.

48.Nxh7+ Ke8

The alternative does not help either. 48...Kg8 49.Nf6+ Kf8 50.Rh2!+-

49.Qxg7 Qb4+ 50.Kd1!

Necessary to bypass Black's final trick. White is not afraid of giving up b3-pawn under check. 50.Ke3? Qd4+! 51.Qxd4 cxd4+ 52.Kxd4 Rxb3 although White is still technically winning, it will be much more difficult

without the queens.

50...Qxb3+ 51.Ke1 Rb6 52.Ng5!

Best to let the knight join the attack.

52...Kd8 53.Nxf7+ Kc8 54.Qf8+ Kb7 55.Nd6+ Kc7 56.Qe7+ Kc6



Position after 56...Kc6

57.Nc4!

The knight dominates. Black has a few more checks but no perpetual, as White's king will find the shelter at h2.

57...Qc3+ 58.Kf2 Qd4+ 59.Kg2 Qd5+ 60.Kh2 Rb7 61.Rxe6+ Kb5 62.Qxb7+

[Diagram top of next page]

A nice finish. Even after winning this game and all the rest games (five in a row), I was unable to close the half point gap with the leader IM Michael Lee,

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Position after 62.Qxb7+

who apparently had no problem winning very drawish games. I have to accept the fact that I have become the highest-scored second place finisher (+6=3) in the Washington State Championship history. Nevertheless, I am very happy about my overall performance in the tournament.

1-0

Michael S. MacGregor (2211) – Ignacio Perez (2258) [B78]

Washington Closed Premier
Redmond, WA (R2), February 6, 2016
[Michael MacGregor]

I want to thank personally the tournament organizers, tournament director, volunteers, and players who made this year's Washington State Chess Championship possible. Not only was it the strongest field I can remember (on average) but it also hosted four 10-player sections. I played in the Premier Section. Historically I recall only a couple of masters (2200+) playing in this section, it being mostly comprised of Experts. This year had eight Masters and two Experts in the section. In this tournament I won or lost every game (no draws). I won several games against opponents against whom I had never won a game and then lost games against some to whom I had never lost before. I've presented this game in round two because it was against Ignacio Perez, against whom I had never had a victory. Since he did not appear for round five and was withdrawn from the tournament, none of his games counted for the tournament but only for rating.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7

Harassing the bishop with 6...Ng4?? is a well known blunder because of 7.Bb5+ losing material.

7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4

Controlling d5 and the a2-g8 diagonal. Alternatively 9.0-0-0 permits 9...d5 with a more open and different game which, I believe, eases the pressure on Black.

9...Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3

Reaching the well known Yugoslav Attack in the Dragon Variation of the Sicilian Defense. It keeps the center closed and allows both sides to parry for wing attacks against the opponent's king, leading to some exciting, although tactically demanding, chess play.



Position after 11.Bb3

11...Ne5 12.h4 Qa5 13.Kb1 Rfe8

Moving the rook off the h6-f8 diagonal so a future Bh6 move by White can be responded to by Black with Bg7-h8, keeping the bishop (without sacrificing the exchange), which also can be lethal in an attack against White's king.

14.Nde2

This was a common setup used by Anatoly Karpov to give added support to the knight on c3, which may be subject to an exchange sacrifice (in the future) to splinter White's pawns (after some more pieces have moved). By supporting this knight White re-emphasizes control of d5, keeping the center closed, so his wing attack can proceed. Also, if tactically opportune, the knight can be used to fight for h5 (Nf4 or Ng3) or re-routed to d5 via f4.

14...b5 15.Bh6 b4 16.Bxg7 bxc3

16...Kxg7 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 h5=



Position after 16...bxc3

17.Qh6 Be6+- 18.Bxf6 exf6 19.Nxc3

White has won a pawn and isolated Black's d-pawn, which is undefended. White should have a decisive advantage in any potential endgame. Any opening of the h-file with the queens on the board would be decisive also.

19...Nc4

Threatening Nxb2 Kxb2 Qxc3+ winning the pawn back with attack.

20.h5

White's attack is faster.

20...g5

Closing the h-file at the expense of another pawn. 20...Nxb2 21.Nd5 is decisive.

21.Qxf6

Now Nxb2 Kxb2 would just lose a piece because the queen from f6 defends the knight on c3.

21...Na3+ 22.bxa3 Rxc3

22...Qxc3 23.Qxg5+ Kf8 24.Rd3 Qe5 25.Qh6+ Ke7 26.g4+-.

23.h6

23...Rxd6.

23...Kf8

23...Qe5 24.Qxe5 dxe5 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.Rh5 Rb8+ 27.Kc1 Kf8 28.Rxg5 Rbc8 29.Rd2+-.

24.Rxd6 Bxb3 25.axb3 Qxa3? 26.Rd7

Threatening mate and removing the rook

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from the queen's capture, thus making Black's rook tactically available.



Position after 26.Rd7

26.Qxc3 Qxd6

26...Rxb3+ 27.cxb3 Qxb3+ 28.Qb2

Black has no spite checks; the mate in one remains, forcing the exchange of queens down a rook.

1-0

The Game of Kings

By Roland Feng

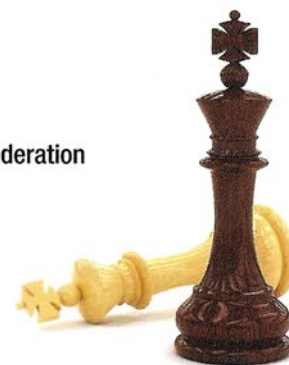
*It goes by the name of the "game of kings"
Noble knights and robust bishops appear
Intense concentration this game does bring
Whilst the pawns and towers charge without fear
A fast and vicious assault does begin
Led by the white king to conquer it all
While the opposing side defends to win
Knowing their foe's rashness will make them fall
Like bowling pins, white pawns start to collapse
Followed by the queen, bishops, rooks and knights
Too late does white realize it was a trap
But comfort is found since 'twas a good fight
The royal game has many comb'nations
Far more than all atoms of creation*

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Oregon Chess News

2016 Oregon Closed

By Grisha Alpernas, OCF Tournament Coordinator, Oregon Closed Chief TD and Chief Arbiter

By the time you read this article, the Oregon Closed 2016, which for the first time was run in a new format with two sections (Championship and Invitational), feels like a history: the tournament successfully concluded on February 15 and is already rated not only by US Chess but also by FIDE. During the tournament I was posting the standings on Facebook to keep NW chess community informed, and all the games from both sections of the Oregon Closed were distributed to all participants and to *Northwest Chess* (should be available on their web site <http://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/index.htm>). Therefore, rather than trying to recall the progress and day-by-day excitement of the tournament I would like to share some more fundamental thoughts.

But first — congratulations to Carl Haessler for winning yet another “Oregon Champion” title with seven points! It was not an easy task and the final result was

not clear until the very last games: Carl played Michael Pendergast, who needed a win to get to the first place, but the tough draw in their game left Mike $\frac{1}{2}$ point behind sharing 2nd — 4th with Lennart Bjorksten and Ben Smail. Ben joined the trio with his last round win, while Lennart had a chance to share the championship title with a win in his last game — but was fighting for a draw against Jeff Austin in the longest game of the tournament that lasted 97 moves.

There was less drama in the Invitational section. After a relatively slow start with two draws, Bill Heywood managed to score 5.5 points in the next six games to finish in first place. Jerry Sherrard was close second, $\frac{1}{2}$ point behind.

Overall the tournament was a success with pretty strong and competitive fields in both sections: Championship section had only players with Master and Expert ratings, while Invitational had four players with the rating over 2000 and five more with ratings above 1900 (all that based on the January rating list). Unfortunately, some Oregon high-rated players declined to play in the tournament, but more about that later. This year February was high sickness month, which caused a few last

moment withdrawals and forced us to have only nine players in the Invitational section. Another unfortunate situation was a withdrawal of Phillip Seitzer after round five from the Championship, and while I can understand the emotional toll that an unsuccessful start of a tournament can cause, this cannot and should not serve as an excuse for withdrawing — especially from an invitational event and round-robin tournament.

Now, as promised earlier, some thoughts and ideas that I would like to share with the chess community.

I can understand when a player is forced to withdraw from a tournament due to illness, family emergency, unexpected job-related emergency that forced the player to travel far away, and similar circumstances. However, I would suggest to OCF board to prepare a change in by-laws that would explicitly state that anyone withdrawing from an invitational event without a valid reason would not be eligible to play in the same event for a period of time — for example one year for the first occurrence, five years for the second one. It seems to me that adopting such a rule in all three chess federations in Pacific NW would provide an additional



Championship Section L-R: Seth Talyansky, Jeff Austin, Mike Morris, Jose Gatica, Corey Russell, Benedict Smail, Lennart Bjorksten, Phillip Seitzer. (Missing: Carl Haessler and Michael Pendergast). Photo credit: Grisha Alpernas

level of consistency in sportsmanship among our players.

The selection of players was once again a long and tiring process. It involved several hundreds of emails, numerous phone calls, and even “snail-mail” letters. A large part of the effort and time was because of the players who declined their invitation, in some cases after several weeks of thinking about it or after first accepting it and later changing their mind. I can understand that people have other obligations with their families, jobs, and communities, and therefore I expect some of the players to decline invitations. Precisely for that reason I try to start early so that people have enough time to plan for it and I have enough time to go down the rating list for additional candidates. Having said that, it feels like an unnecessary waste of time and effort: trying to contact the same people year after year, waiting for their replies (sometimes for weeks), sending reminders, and then getting the same negative answer. I would propose to OCF Board a modification to the players’ selection rules so that players who decline an invitation to the Oregon Closed will not be considered for the next year’s Oregon Closed — unless they contact OCF Tournament Coordinator before December 1 and express desire and ability to play. Something similar to current treatment of inactive players.

Quite a few people asked whether Bill Heywood gets a seat in the next Oregon Closed Championship section

as the winner of this year’s Invitational section. That would require a change in the Bylaws, but in my humble opinion it would be the right thing to do and I will recommend it to OCF Board.

Speaking of how we select qualifiers: it is time to revisit the overall approach if we really want the Invitational section to be a section with seated (seeded) players rather than just highest-rated who did not qualify for the Championship. Let me explain. With the current rules, Nick Raptis was the “qualifier” for three different spots in the Invitational, Carl Haessler — for one more, and both of them also qualified for seated spots in the Championship, thus taking away four seats from the Invitational. Lennart Bjorksten qualified for two seats in Invitational, meaning that one of them was lost even if Lennart did not end up playing in the Championship. That means that just between three of these players five possible qualifier seats were lost. In reality more seats were lost because Lennart, Seth Talyanski (one spot) and Jose Gatica (one spot) ended up qualifying by rating for Championship, while Aaron Grabinsky and Clemen Deng declined invitations. Consequently, none of the players in the Invitational section qualified through a tournament! Since one of the original ideas of the Invitational was to provide additional motivation for players to participate in large open tournaments throughout the year, it seems that the defined formula did not quite work. I do not have a solution, but I think that it would be worthwhile to

start a conversation about it.

Another factor that we should take a new look at is application of penalty points to the rating of people that did not play the prescribed number of games in Oregon. While that rule seems to be very reasonable for players in the Portland Metro area, it puts a significant burden (or disadvantage) on players that live east of the Cascades, on the coast, or in the South Oregon (Medford, Klamath Falls). Players in those areas have far fewer opportunities to play locally, and are burdened with significant costs to participate in Portland area events, especially in the multi-day tournaments. Again, I do not have a solution, but we should start exploring it.

Finally, it may be worth exploring changing the dates of the Closed. Between February viruses, Valentine’s Day, Super Bowl, and the fact that the President’s Day is not a holiday for many organizations (e.g. higher education institutions) it is not easy to assemble players and to have availability of TDs to give temporary relief to the main TD. Something to think about. (Special “Thank you!” to Dave Yoshinaga and Mike Janniro for helping me on Saturday evenings.)

I would like to finish on a positive note. Despite all the issues that we were facing, it was a very successful tournament with numerous interesting and educational games, and I am looking forward to the next year’s competition.



Invitational Section L-R: Carl Koontz, Gregory Freeze, Gunther Jacobi, Sean O’Connell, Steve Surak, Bill Heywood, Moshe Rachmuth, Steven Deeth, Jerry Sherrard. Photo credit: Grisha Alpernas

Benedict A. Smail (2218) – Phillip Seitzer (2176) [D17]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R1), February 6, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4
5.a4 Bf5 6.Nh4 Bd7 7.e4 e6 8.Bxc4 Nxe4
9.Nf3 Qa5 10.Qd3 Bb4

10...Nd6

11.0-0 Nd6

11...Nxc3? 12.bxc3 Bxc3 13.Rb1 gives White more than sufficient compensation for a small material investment.

12.Bb3 Na6 13.Ne5 0-0-0 14.Na2 Be8
15.Nxb4 Nxb4 16.Qc3



Position after 16.Qc3

16...Ne4?

16...Qb6 17.Bf4±

17.Qe3

17.Qe1! Rxd4 18.Nc4 Rxc4 (18...Qc5 19.Be3) 19.Bxc4 Nf6 20.Bf4±

17...Nd6 18.Qe1 Qb6 19.a5 Qxd4
20.Bg5 f6 21.Bxe6+ Kb8 22.Rd1 Qc5
23.Be3 Qb5??

23...Qxe5 24.Qxb4 Bh5 introduces considerable complications. 25.Rde1 (or 25.Rxd6!? Rxd6 26.a6!∞) 25...Qb5 26.Qd4∞

24.Nc4! Nf7 25.Rxd8+ Nxd8 26.Bf4+ Ka8 27.Nd6 Qc5

27...Qa4 28.b3 Qxa5 29.Bc4

28.Bc8

28.Bc4+– clears the way for the white queen to penetrate to e7 while keeping an eye on the d5 square.

28...Nd5 29.Bg3±

29.a6 Nxf4 30.Qe7 is likely winning for White, but requires computer-like precision to navigate the treacherous quicksand.

29...Bg6 30.a6 bxa6 31.Qe2

[Diagram top of next column]

31...Nf7??

31...h5 32.h4 a5 33.Ra1 Rf8±

32.Bb7+ Kb8 33.Ne4+ Kxb7 34.Nxc5+ Kb6 35.Nd7+



Position after 31.Qe2

35.Qxa6+ Kxc5 36.Rc1+ Kb4 37.Qc4+ Ka5 38.Ra1+ Kb6 39.Ra6+ Kb7 40.Qxc6#

35...Kb7 36.Nc5+ Kb6 37.Rc1

37.Qxa6+

37...Ne5 38.Qxa6+ 1-0

Benedict A. Smail (2218) – Lennart Bjorksten (2155) [E46]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R3), February 7, 2016
[Lennart Bjorksten]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Nge2 c6

A curious-looking move that has scored quite well for Black according to the databases. Black wants to play ...d5, but playing ...c6 first gives the bishop a good retreat square on c7.

6.a3 Ba5 7.b4 Bc7 8.d5

A rare move. White stops Black from playing ...d5 by going there first!

8...cxd5 9.cxd5 Be5?!

Very provocative. White now has to play f4 or admit that Black's opening play is justified, but f4 loosens White's kingside.

10.f4 Bc7 11.Nd4

Not the strongest. The principled way to challenge Black's play is with d6, with a small edge for White.

11...e5 12.fxe5 Bxe5

After moving six(!) times in the first twelve moves, the bishop lands happily on a strong square where it can be a thorn in White's side. Black gets away with all these bishop moves because White has been pushing pawns instead of developing pieces.

13.Be2 Qc7

Black could have won a pawn by playing ...Bxh2 first, but this kind of pawn is very dangerous to take. The capture would instantly activate White's rook, which would otherwise take at least three tempi to develop, and it would give White a strong attack. I wouldn't seriously consider ...Bxh2 unless white castles first.

14.Ncb5

White needs to develop his pieces. After

Bb2, Black would have a hard time proving any advantage.

14...Qb6 15.Bf3 Re8



Position after 15...Re8

16.Kf1?

This is just ugly. Sure, White had to deal with the threat of Black playing ...a6 followed by ...Bxd4, and he didn't want to give up the h2-pawn, but if the best move you can find looks like a clunker, then you should force yourself to look harder for a way to make something else work. I was expecting White to play a4, threatening a5.

16...d6

Time for Black to develop his queenside pieces.

17.Qd3 Bg4

Exploiting the downside of White's queen move. Most moves have disadvantages as well as advantages, and you can find lots of good moves by eyeing not just what your opponent is threatening, but also what he's giving you.

18.Nc3 Nbd7 19.Bd2 Rac8 20.Kf2 Bh5

Black wants to put a piece on e4. To that end, he'd like to trade bishops, but not at the cost of putting a white pawn on f3. Now White either has to trade bishops on h5 or allow Black's bishop to go to g6 and hit the e4 square from there.

21.Na4 Qd8 22.Rae1 Bg6 23.Nf5?



Position after 23.Nf5

White's position was probably lost already, but this hastens his demise. Now Black has a tactic that wins a piece.

23...b5!

Taking advantage of the overloaded

queen.

24.h4

White concedes that the piece is lost, and decides his only hope is an all-out attack on Black's kingside. Unfortunately for him, Black's pieces are well placed for kingside action.

24...bxa4 25.g4 Bb2

Clearing the e5-square for the knight.

26.Qb1 Ne5 27.h5 Nfxg4+ 28.Ke2 Bxf5 29.Qxf5 Nh6 30.Qb1 Nxf3 31.Kxf3 Qf6+ 32.Ke2 Bc3

Simplifying in a won position. The rest of the game is efficient conversion of a winning advantage.

33.Rhf1 Qd4 34.Qd3 Qg4+ 35.Rf3 Bxd2 36.Qxd2 Nf5 37.Kf2 Nh4 38.Rg3 Qf5+ 39.Kg1 Nf3+ 40.Rxf3 Qxf3 41.h6 Re4 0-1

Michael J. Morris (2176) – Carl A. Haessler (2239) [C41]

Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R5), February 13, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e5 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 c6 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.a4 Qc7 10.Qe2 a5 11.Bg5 Nc5 12.Rad1 Be6 13.Nd2 Rad8 14.Be3



Position after 14.Be3

14...Rd7?!

14...Nfd7 ... and boring.

15.Bxc5 Bxc5 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Qc4 Bd4 18.Qxe6+ Kh8 19.Nf3 Rfd8 20.Qb3 h6 21.Rde1

21.Rd3! because 21...Bxc3?! 22.Qxc3 Nxe4 23.Rxd7 Rxd7 24.Qe3! Nf6 25.Nxe5±

21...Ba7 22.Qe6 Re8 23.Qc4 Nh5 24.Rd1 Rf7 25.Ne2±

[Diagram top of next column]

25...Rxf3!?

Quite unsound, but Black was in trouble already, and this is the old-school way to generate practical chances.

26.gxf3 Qe7 27.Qd3 Qh4 28.Qd7 Nf6 29.Qxb7!

Well played by White so far to reach a clearly winning position. Now Black



Position after 25.Ne2

single-mindedly sets up a terrific cheapo.

29...Bd4 30.c3 Qxh3!? 31.cxd4 Qxf3 32.Ng3 Ng4



Position after 32...Ng4

White is up a rook here, but misses the point entirely. Why not threaten to take a second rook — with check?

33.Qxc6??

33.Rd2, among others, defends against the tactic and wins.

33...Ne3!! 34.Qxe8+ Kh7 35.fxe3 Qxg3+ 1/2-1/2

Steven B. Deeth (2062) – Bill Heywood (2048) [E40]

Oregon Closed Invitational
Portland, OR (R3), February 7, 2016
[Bill Heywood]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nge2 0-0 6.a3 Be7 7.Ng3 d6 8.Bd3 e5 9.d5 Nb8 10.0-0 a5

Slowing b4 and planning to exchange the inactive Queen's Rook.

11.Bd2 Nbd7 12.b4 c6

After 12...g6 13.e4 Ne8 14.Bh6 Ng7 15.Qd2 Black will be hard pressed to get in the f5 break.

13.e4 Ne8 14.Nce2 Bg5 15.Bc3 axb4 16.axb4 Rxa1 17.Qxa1 g6 18.Rd1

18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Qa4 Bb7 (19...Qb6 20.Ra1) 20.Rd1 h5 21.Nf1 h4 22.h3 f5 23.f3 leads to complex play where White pressures the center and queenside.

18...cxd5 19.cxd5 h5 20.Nf1 h4 21.h3 f5 22.f4!?

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 22.f4

22.f3 was safer but Steven prefers a dogfight.

22...exf4 23.exf5 gxf5 24.Nd4 Ne5 25.Ne6 Bxe6 26.dxe6 Qf6 27.Bb1?

Position after 27.Bb1

27.Bc4 ! 27...Kh7 28.Kh1 (28.Qa7 Nf3+) 28...f3 29.gxf3 Bf4 30.Nd2 Qg5 31.Rg1 Qh5 32.Qf1 Bxd2 33.Bxd2 Nxc4 34.Qxc4 Qxf3+ 35.Kh2 leaves an unclear position with chances for both sides.

27...Qxe6

Removing the linchpin of White's attack.

28.Ba2?

White's bishop remains active after 28.Bxe5! 28...Qxe5 29.Qa3

28...Nc4 29.Nd2 d5 30.Nf3 Bf6 31.Nd4 Qe3+ 32.Kh1 Ned6 33.Re1 Qg3 34.Bxc4 dxc4 35.Ne2

35.Re6 Ne4

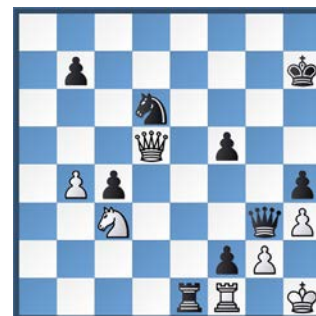
35...Bxc3 36.Nxc3

Afterwards, Steven felt the endgame was hopeless after 36.Qxc3. He hoped to activate his Queen since Black king is somewhat exposed. However...

36...f3 37.Rg1 f2 38.Rf1 Re8 39.Qd1

39.Nb1 Qd3 40.Nd2 c3

39...Re1 40.Qd5+ Kh7



Position after 40...Kh7

Black's "all-around" good knight protects f7, f5, and b7 while preventing 41. Qc4

0-1



Trophy Table at the 2016 Presidents' Weekend Tournament. Photo credit: Jeff Dobbins.

Presidents' Weekend Tournament

By Owen McCoy

On the cold rainy morning of February 13, 208 scholastic chess players from around Portland and some from as far as Eugene gathered at the familiar location of Robert Gray Middle School in Portland, Oregon. At around 8:30am the players in the top section, called Roosevelt (1300+), shook hands and started their clocks. (All of the sections, you will notice, were named after U.S. Presidents in honor of Presidents' Day.) The Roosevelt section at the start numbered a strong 30, with names such as Owen McCoy (1990-1994) and Gavin Zhang (1862-1882) topping the field. Indeed, the two of us were leading the tournament with three points each going into round four and, after drawing our game, each received a small envelope of cash for shared 1st-2nd places. The 3rd place prize money was split between Roshen Nair (1532-1626), Colin Liu (1757-1754), Jack Woo McClain (1689-1694), James Hansen (1675-1686), and Andrea Botez (1767-1762). Also, the U1450 class prize went to David Ma (1400-1488) who finished with 2.5/4.

The next section was named Lincoln (U1300), and Sinan Grehan (1297-1406) emerged the clear winner with 4.5/5 points. Following close behind was Phillip Vianna (1241-1313), also finishing undefeated with 4.0/5. 3rd through 5th places were given to Nathaniel Tan (1255-1317), Hunter Key (1116-1265), and Christopher Ng (1271-1295) respectively. All three of them finished with 3.5/5.

These winners were also rewarded with money.

McKinley (U1100), and all of the following sections, awarded trophies to their winners, of which are as follows. 1st place went to Sean Cvetkovic (1042-1295) with a perfect 5.0/5 score. 2nd place was awarded to Erin Cheng (1091-1195) losing only to Sean. However, George Ankeney (970-1118) and Ryyu Joy (994-1080) also had 4.0/5. 5th place was given to Josiah Liebert (933-1065) on tie-breaks, but Benjamin Chong (1007-1074) also had 3.5/5 at the end.

The following two sections (U900 and U600) both had to be divided into smaller subsections due to the large number of players in each of them. The Jefferson subsection (U900-A) was won by Dominic Thompson (842-1111) with a perfect 5.0/5 score. Nicholas Ginter (725-959), Marc Pascal (842-997), Ethan Burger (500-1080), and Mitchell Kenney (700-1030) got 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th places respectively, as all of them finished with 4.0/5.

The Madison subsection (U900-B) was topped by Jonathan Vann (818-972) with 4.5/5. 2nd place went to Matt David (775-879), but Owen Schlimgen (791-896) also finished with 4.0/5. William Jordan (729-842) and Tate Woodward (895-908) had 3.5/5, and earned 4th and 5th places respectively.

The winner of the Monroe subsection (U900-C) was Ronak Suri (735-869) finishing with 4.0/5 after drawing two games and winning the rest. Brodie Wright (500-902), Ben Ankeney (757-838), Mats Fisher (741-802), and Kyle

Fennelly (649-778) all had 3.5/5 at the end, and were awarded the four remaining places.

The U600 section also had to be divided into 2 smaller subsections. Trystan Van Der Lee (603-820) swept the Washington subsection (U600-A) with a perfect 5.0/5 score. Benjamin Mustonen (441-686), Carson Mccutchen (698-746), and Sarah Cooper (536-694) finished 2nd, 3rd, and 4th (in that order) with 4.0/5 points each. Robert Maslennikov (549-677), Trent Woodward (574-663), and Matthew Gatherum (523-612) all tied for 5th place with 3.5/5. Zoey Tang (400-638) came in clear first in the Adams subsection (U600-B) with 4.5/5, while Carson St. Amand (496-708), Aleah Sanchez (585-687), and Jeeva Moorthy (590-681) all tied for second with 4.0/5. Nao Joy (598-618), Joshua Gaudette Dumlao (528-584), and Henry Westlund (400-613) tied for 5th with 3.5/5 points.

Additionally, the team awards were as follows:

U1300/U1100:

- 1st: Robert Gray Middle School (12.0)
- 2nd: Delphian School (9.0)
- 3rd: Access Academy (7.5)

U900:

- 1st: Astor K-8 (13.0)
- 2nd: Holy Trinity School (10.5)
- 3rd: Da Vinci Middle School (10.0)

U600:

- 1st: Hope Chinese Charter School (12.5)
- 2nd: Independence Library Club (11.0)
- 3rd: Holy Trinity School (10.0)

Big thank you to all of the tournament organizers, especially Jeff Dobbins and Susan Jewell, and all of the parents that volunteered as TDs. This tournament is a great way to bring players from all over Oregon and Washington to compete, make friends, and most importantly, HAVE FUN!! See you next year!

February 2016 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 20, 2016

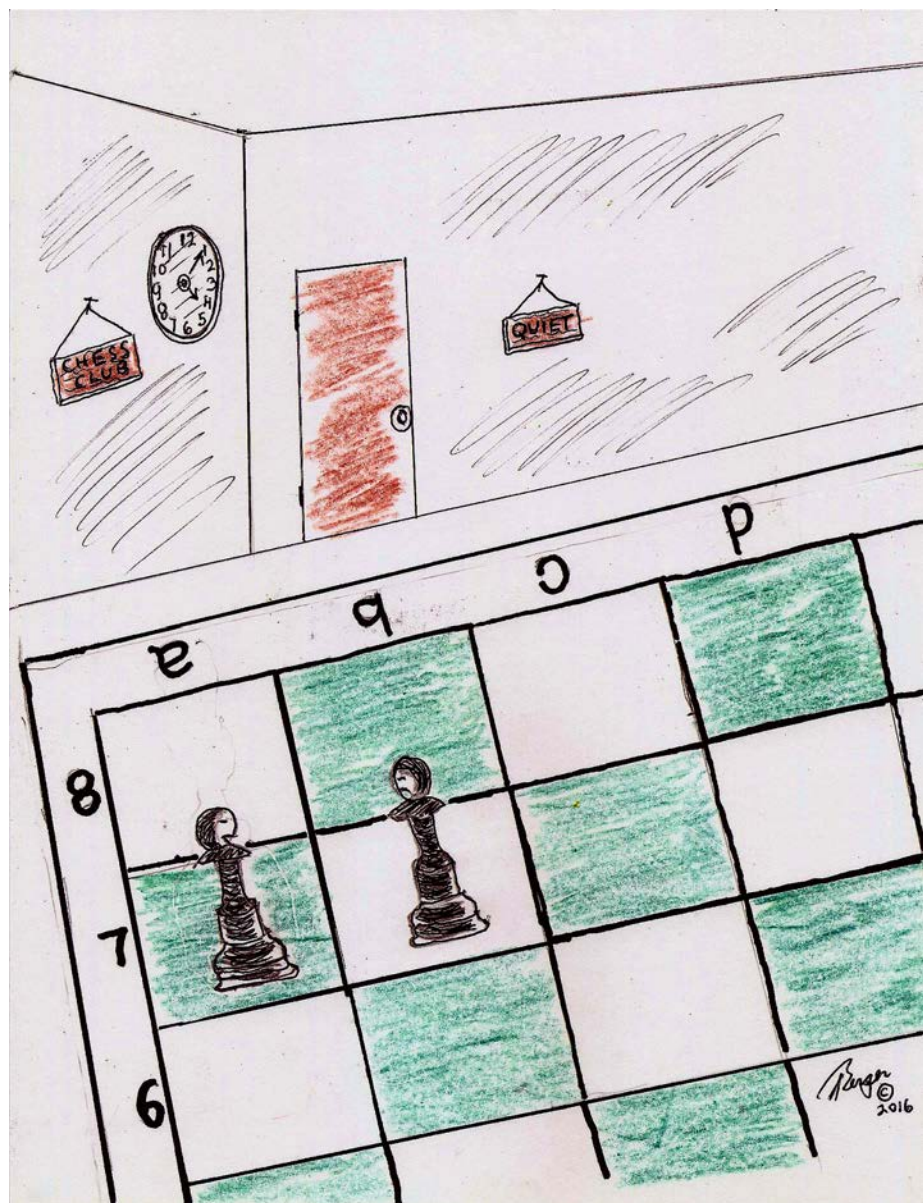
February's Quad 45 at the Portland Chess Club was met with a cool, sunny day—a sight not seen for a good while in the Portland area, inundated as it had been by an almost constant pattern of grey skies and rain, rain, rain.

And another warming sight was the many players (20 on the final count) who showed up to “capture pieces and take names”—or at least that was the plan. But as plans go, some fell short of their goal and needed to be reworked—mine included!

Here I was, pumped by recent victories and within a few points of getting my previous B-rating back, only to find my opponents had other plans for me—ones that actually worked. The first case in point being my first round game against the lowest-rated player in my quad, Jeremy Le Grove (1492-1602), who ultimately took first in Quad Three with a final score of 3.0/3, and also took what should have rightfully been mine (or so I had “planned”), a \$10 discount on his next entry and the choice of a chess book.

Of course, I didn't know it then, but this first game foretold what was to come, another loss to Mike Hasuike (1500-1500—1.0/3), and a draw with the always cagey Arliss Dietz (1539-1540—1.5/3). And so, the moral of this story is (as Robert Burns once wrote), “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” (*“The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men. Gang aft agley,” is the original Burns version. — editor.*) So it's back to the drawing-board for me, and better laid plans.

This quad met the pattern for the other quads, in that the winners all had scores of 3.0/3—a rare occurrence in this tournament—or any other for that matter! And near mirroring my own performance was that of Roland Eagles (1785-1731), rated the highest in Quad Two, and of late showing great progress towards an A-rating. Here he does me one better



I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT I AM MERELY A PAWN, IN SOME LARGER, GRANDER PLAN.

by finishing with a perfect 0.0/3, and in the process, losing to the quad winner, Daniel Friesen (1766-1824—3.0/3)—who also received \$10 off his next entry and was allowed to pick a chess book of his choice—and to Andrea Botez (1651-1694—2.0/3) and Robert Allyn (1719-1706—1.0/3).

Quad Four winner Praveer Sharan (1423-1424—3.0/3) was more indicative of what is expected from a player rated many hundreds of points higher than his competition, convincingly dispatching opponents whose provisional and regular ratings reached no higher than 744. And making up that group were Geordyn Allyn (744-719), Deva Wheeler (634P-635P) and Eddie Park (536P-562P), all turning

in a score of 1.0/3. And, of course, the winner also received the above prizes, plus a trophy for being a scholastic player who won his quad.

Quad Five was almost a battle of the unrated, except for Sage Park, who entered with a provisional rating of 480, having already played 15 games. But it was one of the unrated players, Mir-Yusef Langroodi (unrated-1012P), who took all the marbles, turning in a perfect score and garnering the same prizes as Sharan in Quad Four. Sage Park came in second with 2.0/3 points, and an upped provisional rating (526), while the other two players, Soumik Chakraborty (unrated-356P) and Aaron Stevens (unrated-101P), both playing in their



(L) Eddie Park vs Diva Wheeler at the February 2016 PCC Game 45.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

first US Chess Federation tournament, received their first provisional ratings—Stevens being higher rated for winning one game.

Of course, you are now asking, “What happened in Quad One?” Well, I saved that for the last because of a change in the line-up, and a powerhouse performance by the man little seen in actual tournament play, but who is known better as the father and nurturer of two shining lights in women’s chess—Alexandrea Botez and her sister, Andrea.

It seems that Ethan Wu (1808-1807), having lost his first game to the tournament’s top dog—Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2399-2400—3.0/3)—took ill, and had to withdraw from further play, leaving an opening for Andrei Botez (1746P-1771P), who agreed to become a house player for the balance of the tournament—the quad being changed from a round robin to a Swiss because of this.

There was more than a hint of the real rating strength still to be revealed by this 15 game “provisional?” player, but securing two draws from two 1900+ opponents tells part of the tale—those opponents being Raymond Fletcher III (1946-1950—1.5/3) and Danny Phipps (1924-1903—0.5/3), who are no pushovers when it comes to pushing the right pieces. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing more of what Andrei Botez has kept so well hidden from public view, preferring up till now to devote all of his time to his daughters, and the running of the Silver Knights Chess Club in Happy Valley, Oregon.

Once again the tournament saw Chief TD Micah Smith and his off and on Chief Assistant TD, Mike Lilly, putting together a well-run and fun Quad 45. Mike Lilly tells me that we will be seeing more of him once again, but that he would like some volunteers to come forward who would be willing to occasionally take on the duties of Assistant TD, as the workload for the balance of the year will require some help. You can contact him at mjlilly@mac.com.

February 2016 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 27, 2016

I usually start these articles by first giving the weather report for tournament day. And so as not to disappoint the many avid followers of my reports, who hang on my every word as if truth can be found nowhere else, I shall fulfill your expectancy.

Most players that morning would have awakened to what had been a steady drumming of raindrops throughout the night, but was soon to give way to flashes of sunlight filtering through a grey cloud cover—a sign, perhaps from the heavens, that

glory and renown would come to those who played chess that day. And so, 23 “true believers” felt compelled to answer the call.

The weather report taken care of, I can now divulge a personal storm which took place on board seven during the first round, where the god of lightning and thunder, in the form of Megan Cheng (1169-1198—1.0/4), was storming my un-castled king with bolts of bishops and flashes of knights coming from every angle—an unanswerable rain of strikes that reduced my pieces by two rooks and a knight in the first four minutes on her clock, compelling me to cry UNCLE! and resign—leaving me feeling that there would be little glory and renown for me that day.

The feeling was accurate, as my feeble attempt for glory was again dashed in the the third round in a game with Kushal Pai (1262-1349—2.5/4), who gained a pawn early and refused to give it back, leading to another deflation of my ego and a win for Pai.


Normally, two losses in four games would not be too bad, if it were not for the fact that Megan Cheng was rated 376 points lower than me, and Kushal Pai, 283. But these are the chances one takes with younger players at the age of 73, and in a Game 60, when one needs all of the neurons one can muster, and hopes that they are sending the right messages quick enough.

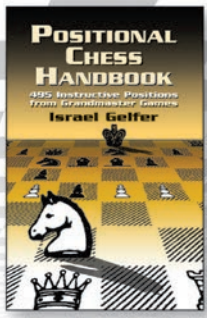
Before continuing with the tournament results, a brief aside is in order; and that is, just when I could have used his advice on my chess play that day, Morgan The Dog was nowhere to be seen. Perhaps he was on another of his world tours to promote chess by giving 50-board simulms to an admiring and awestruck audience. Or perhaps (and this is more likely), Morgan was dealing with the ups and downs of his companion, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before its Over” Richards, whose grasp of the game under the tutelage of Morgan has shown (at

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(L) Carter Lancaster vs Jon Strohheln at the February 2016 PCC Game 60.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

times) a rating improvement, but for the most part (much like mine), continues to go up and down like a playground seesaw, and decided to keep him home so as not to embarrass himself. Which, now that I am thinking about it, would have been good advice for me.

For the most part, winners followed in the order of playing strength, with some upsets (similar to mine) not affecting the final outcome. And topping that order of playing strength was none other than the “Raptor” himself, Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2379-2380—4.0/4), who offered chess lessons to four players for the mere cost of an entrance fee—a bargain in this day and age! And to help with lunch money for “The Raptor,” a first place prize of \$66 was awarded—which should cover the cost of quite a few hamburgers for this still growing menace of the 64-squares.

Claiming second place was the man from Virginia, Raymond Fletcher III (1959-1936—3.0/4), whose three wins netted him \$38 and change. And also with a score of 3.0/4 was third place winner Daniel Friesen (1824-1823—3.0/4),

he too pocketing \$38.50, followed by another \$38.50 winner, Roland Eagles (1731-1764—3.0/4), who claimed his money for winning first U1800. And lastly, \$38.50 was also awarded to

Jeremy Le Grove (1602-1609—3.0/4), for taking first U1500.

For an explanation of the above awards and prize money distribution, which might seem odd at first glance, I give you the official reasoning in the words of Micah Smith, who was queried by Chief TD Mike Janniro and Chief Assistant TD Mike Lilly, as to his opinion in the matter:

“The prizes look correct. The players eligible for the second and third place prizes and under prizes get whatever gives them the most money. They either get an under prize, or you pool some or all of the second, third, and under prizes and split them. This is an unusual case since they get \$38.50 either way, so I think technically you (could) say there was a four-way split for the second, third, U1800/unrated, and U1500/unrated prizes.”

So there you have it folks, another thoroughly thorough report from your roving reporter (and occasionally winning chess player)—better known as Brian “Just Glad To Be Here” Berger.



(L) Erin Cheng vs Arliss Dietz at the February 2016 PCC Game 60.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.



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Idaho Chess News

Idaho Closed State Chess Championship

By Jeffrey Roland

The 2016 Idaho Closed State Chess Championship was held in Twin Falls, Idaho at the Shilo Inn over the February 13-15, 2016 President's Day weekend. Thirty-six players plus one local house player (who played only one game) were in attendance.

Anyone can become state champion!

Idaho is a little bit different than Oregon and Washington in that there are no qualifying events to be able to play in the state championship event. It is open to all with only one restriction, you must live in Idaho. Of course, you must also pay the entry fee, be a current member of US Chess, and be a current member of the ICA, but otherwise, it's open to everyone. Thus each year, anyone can become the Idaho State Chess Champion if one enters and wins the tournament. The event is a six-round Swiss System with one half-point bye available in rounds one through five.

Complete Prize List

David Lucky (Eagle, 2381) won first place overall and the title of Idaho State Chess Champion for the second year in a row with a perfect score of 6.0/6 points.

Nicholas B. Hawkins (Boise, 1749) earned second place with 5.0/6.

James Inman (Nampa, 1762) was third with a score of 4.5/6 points.

Lloyd Landon (Idaho Falls, 1842) took first place Class A with 4.0/6 points.

Jarod N. Buus (Nampa, 1720) picked up first place Class B with 4.0/6.

Jeffrey T. Roland (Boise, 1782) captured second place Class B with 4.0/6 points.

Jacob Ari Nathan (Idaho Falls, 1548) received first place Class C with 4.0/6 points.

Wesley Nyblade (Heyburn, 1474) snagged second place Class C with 3.5/6.



*FM David Lucky getting ready to make the first move of his first game.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

Adam Porth (Bellevue, 1337) earned first place Class D with 3.0/6 points.

Wesley Nyblade III (Heyburn, 1217) took second place Class D with 3.0/6 points.

Temiloluwa Aderogba (Eagle, 1122) finished first place Class E with 2.5/6 points. (Note that Class E class includes all classes below that too, but does not include unrated).

Darwin Albert Porth (Bellevue, 463) was second place Class E with 2.5/6 points.

Samir Saltaga (Twin Falls, Unrated) snatched first place Unrated with 2.5/6 points.

John Carr (Victor, 1740) grabbed Top Senior with 4.0/6 points.

Savanna Naccarato (Sandpoint, 1699) secured Top Woman with 4.0/6 points.

Carmen Pemsler (Eagle, 1693) picked up Top Junior with 3.0/6 points.

Tournament Directors

Barry Eacker (Twin Falls) was originally slated to be Chief Tournament Director at this year's event, but at the last minute,

only about four hours before I was leaving Boise for the event, Barry informed me that he was not able to do it due to complications from his shoulder surgery.

So I stepped up to the plate and took this on as Chief Tournament Director, with Jay Simonson as my right-hand-man (or Chief Assistant TD). Adam Porth and Alise Pemsler (Eagle) were also Assistant TD's.

We had some interesting printer issues. For the first round, we had no printer (our assumption that you could just plug it into the USB drive proved to be false). Then we got the "Glen Buckendorf" laptop computer which did work with the printer for round two. This worked until the printer ran out of ink! Once we got ink for it, we spent the wee hours of the night after the fourth round and after installing a new print cartridge to make the round five pairings and after what seemed like almost a half-hour of it "doing something", instead of spitting out the round five pairings, a picture of two pairs came out! Really!!! So we posted that and said, "Here are the pairings!" And then, we basically ran the tournament without print-outs having players read from the screen to get their pairings. It is easy to take for granted, but print-outs on the wall are very nice to have at tournaments.



L-R: Alise Pemsler, Jay Simonson, Jeffrey Roland, Adam Porth. This is the Tournament Directing Staff. Photo credit: Dylan Porth.

18-time State Champion Larry Parsons missing

Since the US Chess records online histories are shown (1992 forward), Larry Parsons has played in every Idaho Closed State Championship from 1992 forward except for 2004 and now 2016. We do not know why he didn't make it in 2004, nor why he didn't make it this year, but Larry Parsons was definitely missed. Larry also usually played in the Idaho Closed before the US Chess online records show. The bottom line is that Larry Parsons and the Idaho Closed really go together in the annals of Idaho Chess history.

Girls! Girls! Girls!

Six women participated in this year's event. While we haven't tracked this number in the past, it is plainly obvious that this is an all-time record high and we welcome the power of women in our state championship. Congratulations to Savanna Naccarato (Sandpoint), Carmen Pemsler (Eagle), Christine M. Smith (Meridian), Temiloluwa Aderogba (Eagle), Dylan Porth (Bellevue), Chanisara Tonghiri (Bellevue), and to Alise Pemsler (Eagle), who didn't play herself this time, but who was present and encouraged the girls to play! So, the bar

has been set. Next year, let's get seven or more!

Was this the best-ever Idaho Closed yet?

The answer is yes!! But that is always the answer in my opinion. "Now" is always the best time for anything. There is no time like the present, and this year's Idaho Closed produced some fantastic games and some great memories and moments. It is not enough to play once (and even win the title) and then never again. In order to get the most out of chess (and life too for that matter), one must keep playing always, keep going in there and participating. Each game, each player, each moment is special and ours to enjoy, but only if we do.

The final moments of the 2001 Idaho Closed State Championship featured that marvelous game between Glen Buckendorf, Jr. and Garrett Reynolds in the last round and on top board. Those who witness this game will never forget it. It was truly amazing. Glen won a difficult R+B vs. R ending on the 50th move of the insufficient losing chances claim made by Reynolds (and twice Glen forgot to hit his clock, letting precious seconds evaporate, with Garrett having something like nine seconds with a five-second delay). Then Glen became Idaho State Champion with a span of 50 years (1951-2001) between his first and his last time of achieving it. This is probably the largest span of years between championship titles ever in any state. Moments like this have to be experienced first-hand and the only way to do that is to go to the events and play!



Five women at the Idaho Closed. L-R: Temiloluwa Aderogba, Dylan Porth, Carmen Pemsler, Chanisara Tonghiri, Savanna Naccarato. Not pictured is Christine Smith who left before the awards ceremony. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Christine M. Smith.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

This year, there were some great moments too, like the David Lucky vs. Nicholas Hawkins game (annotated later in this issue by Nicholas Hawkins). And of course there were many great moments in this year's event. Idaho's best chess players (and "not-so-best" chess players) were primed and ready to "play the game!"

It definitely "felt" to me like this was the best-ever Idaho Closed State Chess Championship. Maybe in fact it was, or maybe it was just because of the "now is the time" effect mentioned above, but one thing seems certain, that next year's event has great promise to be the best-ever event again too because it is likely that everyone (or close to it) who played this year wants to come back and do it again next year. Those who play will have a chance to experience what for themselves what will likely be the best-ever event at that time. It is this miracle of truth that keeps me coming back for more and organizing more events for Idaho.

Twin Falls is the spot!

It is usually debated each year where to have the State Championship. Two cities always come into the discussion, Boise and Twin Falls. Some like the alternating approach (which I actually came up with for the first time back in the 1980's when I was President then...it was a new idea then), but now I feel it is best to have the event in Twin Falls every year. Here's part of the reason why.

Not counting the local house player, Aleksandr Vereshchagin from Twin Falls, the 36 players of this year's event's

home cities breaks down as follows: Bellevue (5), Boise, (5), Caldwell (1), Coeur d'Alene (1), Eagle (3), Filer (2), Hansen (1), Heyburn (2), Idaho Falls (3), Meridian (4), Mountain Home (1), Nampa (2), Pocatello (2), Sandpoint (1), Twin Falls (2), Victor (1). It is a little over 120 miles from Twin Falls to Boise, and Twin Falls is basically right smack in the middle of the lower part of Idaho.

The event seems very balanced and getting players from all over the state, so it makes sense for us to hold the State Championship in Twin Falls. In fact, I have already signed the contracts and committed the ICA to play the 2017 Idaho Closed in Twin Falls over the February 18-20, 2017 President's Day weekend, so Idaho players should start now to plan to play in it. For the first time in many years, nobody even questioned the wisdom of the event being held in Twin Falls. It was clearly the right spot.

Annual Business Meeting

There will eventually be minutes to explain the details of what happened in this year's Annual Business Meeting. But I can at least announce the election results now.

Four Trustee positions were up for election and here are the results. Terms of office will commence March 31, 2016:

Kevin Patterson, Trustee for Web Development and Maintenance

Jamie Lang, Trustee for Tournament Organization

Barry Eacker, Trustee for Tournament Organization

Alise Pemsler, Trustee for Scholastic Development

Craig Barrett (Boise) retires from the board after many years serving as Trustee for Scholastic Development. His term expires on March 30, 2016. Craig has done a fantastic job putting on these Scholastic tournaments for years. It is no small task to produce a Scholastic Championship tournament (or even the Triple Crown) and to maintain the cool clear thinking necessary to deal with the issues and pressures that come up. I am forever grateful for the many years (countless years) he has given to the Idaho Scholastic chess program. He will be greatly missed. And I personally don't possess the words necessary to express my thanks to him, but I know what I feel.

The other three officers are Jeffrey Roland, President; Adam Porth, Vice President; and Jay Simonson, Secretary/Treasurer which were not up for election this year, but will be up for election at the 2017 Annual Business Meeting.

Clinton Morris Reid (1518) – Caleb Paul Kircher (1922) [B21]

Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R1), February 13, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.e4 c5 4.Bc4
4.dxc5!?

4...cxd4 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 dxc3 7.Nxc3 d6 8.Ng5

8.Qb3!?! Na5! (8...e6?! 9.Rd1 and White is better.; 8...Kf8!?! tempts 9.Bxf7?! Na5 when Black picks up a piece, though there are still some obscure attacking lines available for White. However a simple retreat like 9.Be2 leaves White with evident compensation for a pawn.) 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Qa4∞; It's also hard to argue against basic development: 8.Be3!?

8...Ne5 9.Bb3 h6 10.Nf3 Bg4 11.Ba4+ Kf8



Position after 11...Kf8

12.Nxe5!?

A cool tactic, which unfortunately only



Gregory Callen coming all the way from Coeur d'Alene playing in his first-ever US Chess rated tournament. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

succeeds in exchanging pieces in a material down position.

12...Bxd1 13.Nd7+ Qxd7 14.Bxd7 Bc2 15.f3 e6?!

15...Bd4+ 16.Kh1 Nf6

16.Bf4

16.Be3 with reasonable compensation in the form of weak d6 and contained bishop on c2.

16...Ke7 17.Rac1 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Kxd7 19.Rxc2 e5 20.Bc1 Rc8 21.Bb2

21.Rd1 seems less passive.

21...Rc4 22.f4?!

22.Rd2 Nf6 23.Rfd1 Rc6 24.Ba3 Ne8

22...Ke6?

22...exf4 23.Rxf4 Ke6 24.Rcf2 f6

23.fxe5 dxe5 24.Rcf2?

24.Rd2 Ne7 25.Ba3 Rc6 26.Rdf2 is active. 26...f5 27.Bxe7 Kxe7 28.exf5 g5

24...Rh7 25.Ba3

25.Rd2

25...Rxc3 26.Bb4 Rc4 27.a3 Rxe4 28.Rc2 f5 29.Rc8 Nf6 30.Rd1 Rd4 31.Re1 b6?

31...Rhd7; or 31...e4+.

32.Rc6+ Kf7 33.Bc3 Rd7 34.Bxe5 Ne4



Position after 34...Ne4

35.Re1

35.Rf1 White is very active, with threats of g4 or, after ...h5 to prevent this, h4 with dark square control. It's surprisingly difficult for Black to make the h7-rook relevant.

35...Re7 36.Bb2 g5 37.Rd1?

37.Rf1

37...h5?

37...Re6! 38.Rd7+ Ke8 39.Rxh7 Rxc6 40.Kf1 a5 with Black well on the road to victory.

38.a4?

38.Rd5 eliminates most of Black's edge.

38...f4?

38...Re6 again.

39.Rd8 g4 40.Ba3 Nc5 41.Bb2?

41.Bxc5 bxc5 42.Kf2 Active rooks.

41...Re6! 42.Rcc8 Kg6 43.Rd5 Rhe7 44.Rg8+ Kh6

44...Kf7

45.Rh8+

45.Bc3

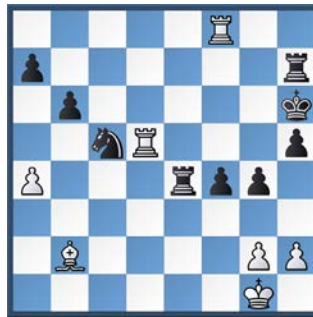
45...Rh7

45...Kg6

46.Rf8 Re4??

46...Rd7 47.Rxd7 Nxd7 48.Rxf4 Nc5

49.Rd4 Re4



Position after 46...Re4

47.Rf6+ Kg7 48.Rg5+ 1-0

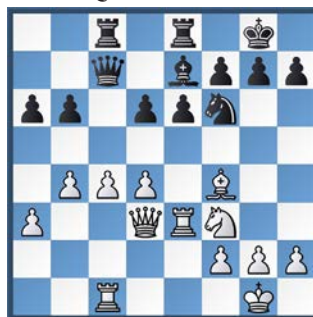
Christine M Smith (1656) – Dr. Ching-E Nobel Ang [E12]

Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID (R1), February 13, 2016 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bf4 a6 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3 d6 9.b4 Nbd7 10.0-0 c5 11.Re1 cxd4 12.exd4 Qc7 13.Rc1 Rfe8 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxe4 16.Rxe4 Nf6 17.Re3

17.Re1

17...Rac8 18.Qd3?



Position after 18.Qd3

18...Nd5! 19.Re4 Nxf4!

19...f5 20.cxd5 fxe4 21.Qxe4 Qxc1+ (21...Qd7 22.dxe6 Rxc1+ 23.Bxc1 is not bad for White.) 22.Bxc1 Rxc1+ 23.Ne1 Bg5 24.f4 Bxf4 25.Qxf4 Rxe1+ 26.Kf2 Rf8 27.Qxf8+ Kxf8 28.Kxe1 exd5 looks like it will fortress-up soon.

20.Rxf4 d5 21.Ne5 f6?!

21...Rf8

22.Rh4 fxe5 23.Qxh7+ Kf7



Position after 23...Kf7

24.Rg4?

24.Qh5+ g6 (24...Kf8 25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.Qh5+ is a nice clear draw for both players.) 25.Qh7+ Kf6 26.Rc3! exd4 (26...e4?? 27.Rg4 Rg8



(#Diagram-analysis after 27...Rg8)

28.cxd5!! Qxc3 (28...Qd6 29.Rxc8+-; 28...Bd6 29.Rxc7 Rxc7 30.Qh6) 29.Rf4+ Kg5 30.Qh4#) 27.Rxd4! Ke5?? (27...Rf8∞, though there's probably a draw by perpetual check in there somewhere.) 28.Qxg6!! Kd6 (28...Kxd4 29.Qd3+ Ke5 30.Qg3+ Ke4 31.Re3+ Kf5 32.Rf3+ Ke4 33.Qg4+ Ke5 34.Qf4#) 29.Rxd5+ Kc6



(#Diagram-analysis after 29...Kc6)

30.Qe4!!+-

24...Bf6 25.Qg6+ Ke7 26.dxe5 Qxe5 27.g3 Qf5 28.Qxf5 exf5 29.Rf4 d4 30.Rxf5 Ke6 31.Rd5 Rcd8 32.Re1+ Kf7 33.Kf1 Rxe1+ 34.Kxe1 Rxd5 35.cxd5 Ke7 36.Ke2 Kd6 37.f4 Kxd5 38.Kd3 g5 39.a4 gxf4 40.gxf4 Ke6 41.Ke4 Kd6 42.f5 Kc6 43.h4 a5 44.bxa5 bxa5 45.h5 Kc5 46.Kd3 Kb4

Or the simpler 46...Kd5+-.

47.h6 Kxa4 48.Kc4 Ka3 49.h7 a4 50.Kd5



Position after 50.Kd5

50...Kb3?

50...d3!+, e.g. 51.Ke6 d2 52.Kxf6 d1Q 53.h8Q Qd4+.

51.Ke6 Bh8 52.f6 d3 53.f7 d2 54.f8Q d1Q 55.Qxh8 Qg4+ 56.Ke7 Qb4+ 57.Kf7 Qc4+ 58.Kg6 Qg4+ 1/2-1/2

Jarod N Buus (1720) –
Clinton Morris Reid (1518) [C06]
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R2), February 13, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nf6
5.e5 Nfd7 6.c3 Nc6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nf1?!

Rather slow.

8...f6

Black can profit by quickly bringing pressure to bear on d4 and b2: 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Qb6. White will likely be trying to invent a gambit here, as it's very hard to defend the attacked pawns.

9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Ng3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qb6
12.0-0 Bd6 13.Re1 0-0 14.a3



Position after 14.a3

14...Bxg3?

Black surrenders his good bishop for a relatively passively-placed white knight. 14...Bd7∞ is much better.

15.hxg3± e5? 16.dxe5 Ng4 17.Qc2+-
Nd4 18.Nxd4 Qxd4 19.Be3 Qxe5 20.Bc5
Qh5 21.Bxf8 Bd7 22.Be7

22.Bxg7 Qh2+ (22...Kxg7 23.Re7+)
23.Kf1 Qh1+ 24.Ke2 Qh5 (24...Qxg2
25.Bd4) 25.Bc3 Re8+ 26.Kd2 Nxf2
27.Rxe8+ Bxe8 28.Re1 Qh6+ 29.Re3+-
Black's attack simply runs out of pieces.

22...Qh2+ 23.Kf1 Re8 24.Qc5 Qh1+
25.Ke2 Qxg2 26.Rf1??

In order to maintain the huge material advantage to which he's become accustomed, White must find 26.Kd2! Nxf2 27.Re2, when 27...Nxd3 28.Rxg2 Nxc5 29.Bxc5 leaves White with an extra rook.

26...Ne5! 27.Kd2 Nf3+ 28.Ke2 Ne5
29.Kd2 Nf3+ 30.Ke3 Ne5 31.Kd2

Here either side could have claimed a draw by three-fold repetition.



Position after 31.Kd2

31...d4??

In addition to repeating the previous position with 31...Nf3+, Black can also make things interesting with 31...Nxd3, when 32.Kxd3 b6! offers good attacking chances. 33.Qb4 (33.Qe3 Bb5+ 34.Kd2 Bxf1 and White can force a draw: 35.Qe6+ Kh8 36.Qf7 Rg8 37.Bf8 Qh3 38.Bxg7+ Rxg7 39.Qf8+ Rg8 40.Qf6+.) 33...a5! 34.Qf4 (34.Qxb6? Bf5+ 35.Kd2 Qe4 36.Qe3 Qc2+ 37.Ke1 d4! 38.Qe2 Qc7+.) 34...Bb5+ with play similar to the previous note.

32.Qxe5 Rc8 33.Qe4 Qxe4 34.Bxe4
Re8 35.Bd5+ Kh8 36.Rae1 Bb5 37.Rh1
h6 38.Bc5 Rd8 39.Re5 d3 40.Bd4 Rc8
41.Re8+ Rxe8 42.Rxh6# 1-0

David Lucky (2381) –
Nicholas B Hawkins (1749) [D42]
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R3), February 14, 2016
[Nicholas Hawkins]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 e5

Potentially transposing into a Benoni. I'm more comfortable with this type of position than a Bogo-Indian or a Queen's Indian, but I should probably branch out.

4.e3

Instead of a Benoni, we get some type of Queen's Gambit.

4...cxd4 5.exd4 d5 6.Nc3

I didn't know this at the time, but we've now transposed to the Panov-Botvinnik Attack in the Caro-Kann!

6...Nc6

Not the usual reply, but the computer likes it as well as any other move. According to ChessBase, the most common move here is 6...Be7; the main line continues with

7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0, which looks a lot like the position we got in the game.; Another popular option is 6...Bb4. If each of us plays the most popular move, the game will continue 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 Be7.

7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 a6

Preparing ...b5 and ...Bb7. I don't know where else to put my light-squared bishop.

11.Bc2!?



Position after 11.Bc2

This is where I started to appreciate the strength of White's coming attack. The queen and bishop will line up against h7, and I don't think retreating the knight to f6 will be enough, as White can just exchange it off with Bg5. So my plan was to play ...g6 and try not to get killed on the dark squares: if I can make it to an endgame, I'll be better due to White's weak pawn on d4.

11...b5!? 12.Qd3 g6 13.Bh6 Re8

Not much choice! That's how I felt for most of the middlegame.

14.Ne4 Nf6!

I'll be a lot better off if I can exchange off a pair of knights and the dark-squared bishops.

15.Rfd1

Stockfish assesses this position as equal, but it won't stay that way unless I play very accurate defensive moves.

15...Nxe4!

My main priority here is to get rid of the bishop on h6, and I can't do that with my knight in the way. I get in trouble if I try to exchange off the bishops immediately: 15...Bf8? 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Qxd3 19.Bxd3 Nd5 can only be good for White, with his better development and his repaired pawn structure.

16.Qxe4 Bb7

Finally getting my last piece developed. (It took me even longer to develop that bishop in our last game, a French Defense.)

17.Qf4 Bf8?

Too defensive. I was sticking with my plan of swinging the bishop over to g7 (or trading it off) instead of looking for better possibilities. Now White really gets going. Here I had the excellent defensive move 17...Qd6! If now 18.Ne5?!, (White has to retreat the queen here, but then he has no more immediate threats and the initiative passes to Black, who can play against the d4-pawn: 18.Qd2 Rad8) 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5?? Qc6! (with a double threat of mate on g2 and capturing the bishop on c2) actually wins for Black! Had I seen this far ahead, I would have gone for this continuation.

18.Ng5

Now I have to worry about not just f7 but h7 as well: I need to be able to defend it if White swings his queen and rock over to that file.

18...Qe7

The only defense. 18...f6? seemed like a bad idea to me because it weakens e6. Sure enough, White gets a big edge with 19.Nxe6 Rxe6 20.Bb3 g5 21.Bxe6+ Kh8 22.Bxg5 fxe5 23.Qf7 Ne7 24.Rd2 Be4 25.d5 Bg6 26.Qf6+ Bg7 27.Qxg5.; 18...f5?? is worse: 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.Nxe6+! Rxe6 21.d5! is brutal.

19.Bxf8 Qxf8?

Being worried about h7, I wanted to put the queen on g7. 19...Rxf8! is an improvement because it doesn't leave f6 weak. I was afraid of 20.Qh4, but Stockfish says I'm actually better after 20...h5. Now 21.g4? fails due to 21...Rad8! 22.gxh5 Nxd4 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 and now White can't take the rook or the g5-knight hangs with check. The bishop on b7 looks very dangerous now!

20.Ne4! Red8



Position after 20...Red8

The only way to stop the knight from coming to f6 is with 20...f5, which looks terrible: 21.Nd6 Re7 22.Nxb7 Rxb7 saddles me with all kinds of weak squares and a horrible backward pawn on e6.

21.Bb3

Not a move I expected at all. Thankfully, it gives me a bit of a reprieve. White wins with 21.d5!! exd5 22.Nf6+ Kh8 23.Rd3! Rd6 24.Re1 Rc8 25.Rh3 and now I'm

toast unless I give up the exchange with 25...Rxf6 (25...h5? 26.Nxh5! gxh5? 27.Rxh5+ Kg8 28.Qg3+ Qg7 29.Bh7+ Kf8 30.Qxd6+ Ne7 31.Qxe7# is a beautiful finish) 26.Qxf6+ Qg7.; Another excellent option for White is 21.Nf6+ Kh8 22.Rd3 Qg7 23.Qg5 Ne7 24.Rh3 Rd5 (24...h5?? 25.Rxh5+ gxh5 26.Qxh5+ Qh6 27.Qxh6#) 25.Nxd5 Nxd5 and again I'm down the exchange in a horrible position.

21...Ne7 22.Nf6+ Kh8

Here I thought 22...Kg7 would lose to 23.Qe5 followed by a double check, but that just leads to a draw by repetition, e.g.: 23...Nc6 24.Ne8+ Kg8 25.Nf6+.

23.Rac1!

Bringing another piece, hitherto idle, into the attack. The threats just keep coming.

23...Rac8

I thought this was the only reasonable move. Stockfish finds a clever defense here: 23...Qg7! . Now 24.Rc7? g5! 25.Qe5 (25.Nh5 gxf4 26.Nxg7 Kxg7 27.Rxb7 Kf6) 25...Nc6 26.Nh5 Nxe5 27.Nxg7 Bd5 28.Bxd5 Rxd5 29.Nh5 Rad8 leaves Black OK!

24.Rc7?

24.Rxc8! Rxc8 25.Nd7 Qg7 26.Qd6 Re8 27.Qb6 Bc8 28.Nc5 is stronger.

24...Rxc7 25.Qxc7 Bd5! 26.Nxd5 Nxd5

Now the position is dead equal according to the computer.

27.Qc6 Rd6 28.Qb7 Nf6

Not wanting White to take on d5 and then on a6. 28...Kg7 29.Bxd5 Rxd5 30.Qxa6 Qc5! is actually better for me.

29.Rc1 Kg7

For some reason I ignored White's threat to take on e6 once my rook moves off that rank. I would have been OK had I played accurately, though.

30.Rc8



Position after 30.Rc8

30...Rd8

I thought this was forced. Both of us missed the beautiful 30...Rb6!!: now if White takes my rook, I take his rook; if he takes my queen, I take his queen; and if he plays some other move, I can now move my queen to d6 and avoid losing a pawn. The computer wants to continue with 31.Rxf8 Rxb7 32.Ra8 Rc7 33.g3 Rc1+ 34.Kg2 Rb1 35.Ra7 Kf8 36.Ra8+ Ne8 37.Bc2 Rxb2 with a small advantage for Black!

31.Bxe6 Rxc8 32.Bxc8 Qd6?

The losing move. 32...Qe8! 33.h3 (33.g3?? actually loses to 33...Qe1+ 34.Kg2 Ne4! 35.Kf3 Nd6) 33...Qe1+ 34.Kh2 Qxf2 gets the pawn back with a very decent position.

33.Qxa6?!

White should play 33.g3 first, if only because it's prudent to avoid any back-rank shenanigans.



Nicholas B. Hawkins having a great tournament. In just six months, his rating has gone from 1543 to 1823 post-tournament rating (up 280 points). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

33...Qxd4?!

33...Qc7! leads to a draw that only a computer could find: 34.g3 Qc1+ 35.Kg2 Qc2 36.Bh3 Ne4 37.Qxb5 Qxf2+ 38.Kh1 Qxd4 39.Qe2 Nf2+ 40.Kg2 Nd1 41.b4 h5 42.b5 g5 43.Bc8 Ne3+ 44.Kg1 Nd1+ 45.Kf1 Ne3+ 46.Ke1 Nc4 47.Kf1 Ne3+, etc.

34.Qxb5 Qd1+ 35.Qf1 Qc2 36.Ba6!

The best square for defense.

36...Qxb2 37.a4

Now my only hope is to try to create threats against White's king.

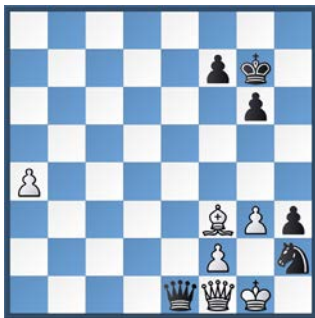
37...Qe5 38.g3 h5 39.Bb7 h4! 40.Qb5 Qe1+ 41.Kg2? Qe6?

Again I missed a forced draw, this time with 41...h3+! 42.Kxh3 (42.Kf3?? Qd1+ 43.Kf4 Qd2+ 44.Kf3 g5 45.Bc8 Qd1+ 46.Qe2 Qh1+ 47.Ke3 Qc1+ wins) 42...Qxf2 and now White's king is a lot less safe than it was before. For example: 43.Qe5 (43.a5) 43...Qf1+ 44.Kh4 (44.Bg2 Qd1 45.Bf3 Qf1+ 46.Bg2, etc.) 44...Qd1 45.h3 Qd2 46.g4 Qf2+ 47.Kg5 Qd2+ 48.Kh4. Despite the fact that we'd been playing for over four hours, I should at least have seen this idea.

42.Bf3 h3+ 43.Kf1 Ng4 44.Kg1

Now I started to get very excited because I thought I saw a winning idea. 44.Bxg4 Qxg4 45.Kg1 Qf3 46.Qf1 Qf5 47.a5 Qxa5 48.Qxh3 also wins for White.

44...Qe1+ 45.Qf1 Nxb2



Position after 45...Nxb2

Winning a piece, but losing the game in spectacular fashion. I knew my knight couldn't quite catch the a-pawn but thought for some reason that I could queen my h-pawn first!

46.Qxe1 Nxf3+ 47.Kh1!

Of course! For some reason I thought the king had to go to f1. 47.Kf1?? Nxe1 48.a5 h2 wins for Black!

47...Nxe1 48.a5

And the knight is one move too slow! Still, I thought I might be able to set up some kind of fortress in the corner if I could just pick up White's last two pawns.

48...Nd3 49.a6 Nxf2+ 50.Kg1

50.Kh2 was even better.

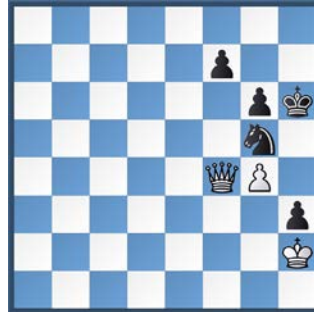
50...Ne4 51.Kh2!

Now I'm well and truly dead. Still, I played on for a few more moves.

51...Ng5 52.a7 Kh7 53.a8Q Kg7 54.Qd5 Kh6 55.g4 Ne6

Aha, I can protect h3 with a fork!

56.Qd2+ Ng5 57.Qf4



Position after 57.Qf4

A nice zugzwang and a fitting end to one of my best-ever games. I resigned.

1-0

Savanna Naccarato (1699) – Chris Amen (1655) [A45]
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R4), February 14, 2016
[Chris Amen]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5

So we get The Brazilian player's opening the Trompowsky.

2...Ne4 3.h4

The Raptor attack Variation. A favorite of Simon Williams in blitz.

3...c5 4.d5 h6?

Earned a dubious move, but not terrible 4...Qb6 5.Nd2 Nxc5 6.hxc5 Qxb2 7.g6 fxg6 8.e3 Theoretical Line where white gets some play.

5.Bf4 d6 6.Nd2 Qa5 7.c3 Nxd2 8.Qxd2 g6

The engine found an interesting move here for me instead. 8...e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bxd6 Bxd6 11.Qxd6 Nc6 12.Nf3 Rd8 13.Qf4 where Black should have more than enough compensation for the pawn with a strong initiative.

9.e4 Bg7 10.Nf3 Bg4 11.Be2 Nd7 12.Bg3?

Peculiar move something like 0-0 maintains the edge for White.

12...0-0 13.Bf4 h5 14.Ng5 Bxe2 15.Qxe2??

Ng5 might have been the first mistake, but you have to take with the king to avoid a loss of material here. 15.Kxe2 c4 16.Rhe1 Nc5 17.Kf1 Nd3 nice variation for Black, but still objectively equal.

15...Bxc3+!

Just winning a pawn.

16.Bd2 Bxd2+

16...Bxd2+

17.Qxd2 Qxd2+

Trading queens is good, but something else I could play is Qa6 keeping the queens on.

18.Kxd2 Ne5?

I had better 18...f5! 19.Ne6 Rf6 when stockfish says the best move is e5 you know something has gone terribly wrong. 20.f3 fxe4 21.fxe4 Rf2+ 22.Ke3 with a huge plus.

19.b3 b5 20.f4 Ng4 21.Rhc1

Rhe1 slight improvement. The c-pawn should never be a huge threat with the king that close.

21...b4 22.Re1 a5

You probably get the idea here.

23.a4!

Strong defense.

23...bxa3 24.Rxa3 Rfb8 25.Kc3



Position after 25.Kc3

25...Rb5?

Rb4 was much better and I realized that after her next move.

26.e5 Rb4 27.g3

27.Ra4 Rxa4 28.bxa4 Rd8 29.exd6 exd6 30.Re7 Nf6 looks a lot nicer for White. Cannot grab f7 due to a nice trick though 31.Rxf7 Ne4+ 32.Kd3 Nxc5.

27...dxe5 28.fxe5 Rd4 29.e6?

29.d6 exd6 30.exd6 Rxd6 31.Re7 You have to be active as white in these types of positions.

29...f6 30.Nf3 Rxd5 31.Kc4 Rf5 32.Nd2 Ne5+ 33.Kc3 Ra6

I'm a greedy guy.

34.Rea1 Rxe6 35.Rxa5 Nc6 36.Ra8+ Kf7 37.Rc8 Re3+

37...Rf2 This is winning faster the idea is Re3 followed by knight check and I win more material.

38.Kc4 Nd4 39.Rb1

39.Rxc5 Rxc5+ 40.Kxc5 Nxb3+ 41.Nxb3 Rxb3 fairly convincing to not go down that line although the other variations are not much better.

39...Ne6 40.Rf1?

Trades make my life easier.

40...Rxf1 41.Nxf1 Rf3 42.Nd2 Rxc3 43.Ne4 Rg4 44.Kd5 Rxh4 45.Nxc5 Rd4+ 46.Kc6 Rb4

The nail in the coffin. That move felt very aesthetic to me. Stockfish tends to agree.

0-1

**Chris Amen (1655) –
Caleb Paul Kircher (1922) [B01]**
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R5), February 15, 2016
[Chris Amen]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6

Instead of c4 I prefer 0-0 for White.

6.c4

6.0-0 e6 7.c4 Nb6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.d5 exd5 10.cxd5 Nb4 11.Qd4. The complications that happen here I generally like for White. Just to show a ridiculous line that leads to mate here we go! 11...Bxf3 12.Qxg7 Bf6 13.Bb5+ c6 14.Re1+ Kd7 15.dxc6+ Bxc6 16.Qg4+ kc7 Bf4 loses the queen so 16...Kd6 17.Qf4+ Kc5 18.Be3+ Bd4 19.Qe5+ N4d5 20.Bxd4+ Kb4 21.a3+ Kb3 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Qe3+ Kc2 24.Qd3# Nice Right?

6...Nb6 7.d5 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Ne5 9.Be2 c6 10.Qd4 Ng6 11.h4

h4 might be a bit dubious, but it turns out to be a useful move. Nc3 was more conservative.

11...e5 12.Qe3 Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Bxd2+ 14.Nxd2 0-0 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.g3 Re8 17.h5 Nf8 18.h6 g6

I should have a bit of an edge after this combo.

19.0-0

The engine ruthlessly plays 19.0-0-0 Qe7 20.Nb3 Rab8 21.Kb1 e4 edge for White, but objectively should be drawing

for Black.

19...Rc8?

Slow move.

20.Rad1

20.a4 Ne6 21.a5 Nd7 22.Ne4 This was another try I could do.

20...Qe7 21.Ne4

21.g4 e4 22.g5 Interesting idea the engine came up with.; 21.Ne4

21...Red8

Even in this position I could consider g4 g5 with Nf6 coming.

22.c5 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Nd5 24.Qf3 Ne6 25.Nd6 Rf8

25...Rf8? Not best. Better was Rb8

26.Qa3 Nd4 27.Bc4 Qg5 28.Bxd5 cxd5 29.Qe3 Qg4

Missed a very important tactical theme here that may have won the game on the spot.



Position after 29...Qg4

30.Rd3

30.Rxd4!! Qxd4 (30...exd4 31.Qe5 in 11 oh I love engines #0/0 31...f6 32.Qe7 Qd1+ 33.Kg2 Qh1+ 34.Kxh1 Rf7 35.Qxf7+ Kh8 36.Qg7#) 31.Qxd4 exd4 32.c6! you can't stop it.

30...f6 31.Kg2?

Again Rxd4.

31...Rb8

Again Rxd4.

32.Qd2? Ne6 33.f3?!

Blunder my opponent missed Nf4+!

33...Qh5

33...Nf4+ 34.Qxf4 Rxb2+ 35.Rd2 Qxf4

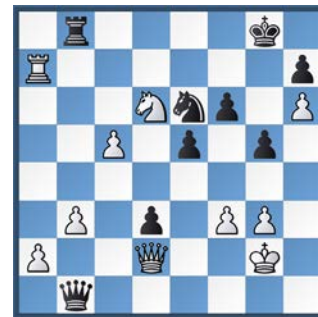
34.Ra3 d4 35.Ne4

Much better than Ne4 was 35.c6 I was afraid of this response which is not best of course. 35...Ng5 36.c7 Qh3+ 37.Kf2 Qh2+ 38.Ke1 Qg1+ 39.Ke2 Qg2+ 40.Kd1 and white is completely winning.

35...Qf5 36.Rxa7 g5 37.Nd6

37.Qc2 nice trick that I missed with Nf6 and Qxh7+ coming.

37...Qb1 38.b3 d3



Position after 38...d3

39.c6

39.Ne4 thought this move would lead to too many complications, but apparently it was just crushing. 39...f5 (39...f5 40.Nf6+ Kf8 41.Nxh7+ Ke8 42.Nf6+ Kd8 43.Qa5+ Kc8 44.Qa6+ Kd8 45.Qd6+ Kc8 46.Qd7#) 40.Nf6+ Kf8 41.Nxh7+ Ke8 42.Nf6+ Kf8 43.h7.

39...Qc2 40.Nc4?

Again e4 was better.

40...Rc8 41.Kf2 Rxc6 42.Ra8+ Kf7 43.Ke3 Qb1 44.Ra7+ Rc7 45.Rxc7+ Nxc7 46.Qxd3?!

Complete blunder that loses instantly as seen in the game. 46.Qa5 could have ended in a perpetual with these moves on the board. 46...Ne6 47.Qd5 Qxa2 48.Qd7+ Kf8 49.Qd6+ Kf7 50.Qd7+ Kf8 51.Qd6+ Kf7

46...Qe1+ 47.Qe2 Nd5+ 48.Kd3 Qc3+ 49.Ke4 Qd4+

0-1

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The 2016 Richard Gutman Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

Seventeen Grand Prix events are in the books for 2016, including four multipliers. Three were 2x events, the Gresham Open with 41 Grand Prix entrants, the Seattle City Championship with 62 and the Washington President's Cup with 67. The fourth was a 3x event, the David Collyer Memorial, with 59 entrants. These are all good attendance numbers, especially the President's Cup when you consider that forty top Washington players were out of the mix, playing in the four sections of the Washington Championships at a different location. Many of the other events during the first two months were also well attended, with four having over 30 entrants. The Idaho Closed led this group with a very nice 36 players in Twin Falls. People keep showing up and we could have a banner year in chess in the Northwest.

March presented us with only six additional opportunities to gain Grand Prix points, with the Seattle Spring Open as the only multiplier event. There was another Spring Open in March, in Portland. Idaho gets their Spring Open in April in Pocatello, as one of eight events for the month. I guess spring really does come later in Idaho. The only April event with a multiplier is the 2x Clark Harmon Memorial at the Seattle Chess Club, April 9 and 10.

Our early leaders, Travis Miller, Mike Hasuike and Stephen Buck have all been there before, but many of the other names below are new. If you want to see your name in print, all you have to do is get out there and play. And if you don't have enough Grand Prix events in your area, get your TD certification (all you have to do is read the book) and start hosting some.

Data below is current through February 29th.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1	Haessler Carl A	11	1	Pupols Viktors	47
						2	Raptis Nick	44
						3	Perez Ignacio	24
						4	Schill William J	22
						5	Tiglon Bryce	12
Experts								
			1	Cigan Jason	17	1	Cambareri Michael E	26
			2	Seitzer Phillip	11	2	Leslie Cameron D	21
			2	Bjorksten Lennart	11	3	Vrana Rudy	20.5
			4	Sherrard Jerry D	9	4	Arganian David G	18
			5	Talyansky Seth D	3	5	Two tied at	15
Class A								
			1	Phipps Danny	17.5	1	Zhang Brendan	22.5
			2	Tache Corey	9	2	Baxter Brent L	21
			2	Murray David E	9	3	Merwin Steven E	18
			4	Surak Steve S	7	3	Mitchell Mika	18
			5	Two tied at	5	5	Rowles Steve	16.5
M/X/Class A								
1	Miller Travis J	31						
2	Bodie Brad	21						
3	Maki James J	19.5						
4	Joshi Kairav R	16.5						
5	Havrilla Mark A	15						
Class B								
1	Roland Jeffrey T	6						
1	Carr John B	6						
1	Buus Jarod N	6						
1	Amen Chris	6						
1	Naccarato Savanna	6						

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Martonick	Nick	13.5	1	Eagles	Roland	25.5	1	Buck	Stephen J	62
2	Nathan	Jacob A	6	2	Yeo	Austin S	14	2	Tien	Sophie	26
3	Nyblade	Wesley	5.5	3	Rhoades	Alan J	11	3	Willaford	Loyd J	21.5
4	Reid	Clinton M	4	3	McClain	Jack W	11	3	Lee	Boas	21.5
4	Booth	Tom R	4	5	Hurkett	Jonathan	10.5	3	Pothukuchi	Revanth V	21.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Bodie	Arlene	16	1	Hasuike	Mike L	45.5	1	Piper	August	32
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	12	2	Berger	Brian F	17	2	Raffel	Brian	24.5
3	Weyland	Ron	11.5	3	Havrilla	Nich A	16.5	2	Casey	Garrett W	24.5
4				4	Dietz	Arliss	16	2	Richards	Jerrold	24.5
5		Three tied at	5	5		Two tied at	11	5		Two tied at	22
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Courtney	Caleb	13.5	1	Phelps	Colin	14	1	Lawler	Aidan	24
2	Aderogba	Temiloluwa D	4.5	2	Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	8.5	2	Tien	Andy	22
2	Callen	Gregory D	4.5	2	Bowden	Robert E	8.5	3	Jiang	Andrew	21
2	Porth	Darwin A	4.5	4	Gyde	Nicholas A	7.5	4	Munsey	Michael R	19
5		Two tied at	4	5		Two tied at	6	5		Four tied at	17
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Miller	Travis J	31	1	Hasuike	Mike L	45.5	1	Buck	Stephen J	62
2	Bodie	Brad	21	2	Eagles	Roland	25.5	2	Pupols	Viktors	47
3	Maki	James J	19.5	3	Phipps	Danny	17.5	3	Raptis	Nick	44
4	Joshi	Kairav R	16.5	4	Cigan	Jason	17	4	Piper	August	32
5	Bodie	Arlene	16	4	Berger	Brian F	17	5	Tien	Sophie	26
6	Havrilla	Mark A	15	6	Havrilla	Nich A	16.5	5	Cambareri	Michael E	26
7	Martonick	Nick	13.5	7	Dietz	Arliss	16	7	Raffel	Brian	24.5
7	Courtney	Caleb	13.5	8	Yeo	Austin S	14	7	Richards	Jerrold	24.5
9	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	12	8	Phelps	Colin	14	7	Casey	Garrett W	24.5
10	Weyland	Ron	11.5	10	Haessler	Carl A	11	10	Perez	Ignacio	24
11	Lucky	David	8	10	Seitzer	Phillip	11	10	Lawler	Aidan	24
12	Hawkins	Nicholas B	7	10		Five more tied at	11	12	Zhang	Brendan	22.5

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Paid Advertisement

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
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Infoline
206-417-5405
seattlechess.club
kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

Apr 2, May 7

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.

Saturday Quads

April 3

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 3/30, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$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.

SCC Novice

Apr 17, May 15

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.

Sunday Tornado

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 Annual Meeting, Fri. May 6

Chess Kids Play Music 2

an SCC Fundraiser
Saturday, May 14
at Music Center of the Northwest
901 N 96th St
Seattle WA 98103

5:00 p.m. Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Concert
~7:00 p.m. Pizza & Quick Chess

G/12 Hexes

6-player round-robin. G/12; d0. Limited to 2 hexes. Winners receive free entry to two SCC Saturday Quads or one SCC Sunday Tornado or \$15 off any entry fee of \$24 or more. US Chess memb. req'd.

Suggested Donations

Concert + G/15 \$30
Concert Only \$25
G/15 Only \$10

Come support the SCC and your fellow music-playing chess players and, after pizza intermission, play chess!

SCC Adult Swiss

April 23-24, 2016

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 4/25/1995 with a prize fund of \$375 based on twenty paid entrants (five per prize group).

First	\$105
Second	\$60
U2000	\$55
U1800	\$55
U1600	\$50
U1400/Unr	\$50

Time Control: G/150; d5.

Entry Fees: \$36 if rec'd by 4/21, \$45 at site. *SCC members*—subtract \$10. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, & WA—subtract \$5 *GMs, IMs, WGMs*—Free. *Unr*—free with purchase of 1-year US Chess plus 1-year WCF/OCF/ICA.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF/OCF/ICA membership req'd (OSA). No smoking. No computers.

Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Apr 7, 14, 21** Taxing Quads, **Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121). Registration: 6:30-7:15 p.m. E.F. \$16, Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay), US Chess rated. Info: dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

☞ **Apr 9-10** Clark Harmon Memorial, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-page ad page 8).

☞ **Apr 16/May 7** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR.** 3-round quads, G/45;d10. 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, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household, 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. Scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tie for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tie for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State Qualifier. Optional blitz tournament afterwards. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR

☞ **Apr 23/May 21** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60;d5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. US Chess rated; 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. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500/unrated \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400/unrated \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). Info: email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org. (**Note that Apr event is NOT an OSCF qualifier.**)

☞ **Apr 23** ICA Spring Open, **Pocatello, ID.** 4SS, G/60;d5 rnds 1 & 2, G/90;d5 rnds 3 & 4. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400) (may be combined for pairing purposes if low turnout.) Site: ISU, Student Union Bldg, Salmon River Suites, 1065 S. 8th St., Pocatello, Idaho. US Chess mem req., ICA mem req., OSA. EF: \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), by 4/20/16, \$35 (all) after. Reg & Ck in: 7:30-8:30 AM 4/23. If not ckd in & pd by 8:30, may not be paired in 1st rnd. RNDS: 9, 11:15, 2, 5:15. ½ pt byes: Max 1, Rd 1-3 only. Request 1st rnd byes before 1st round is paired. All others commit by end of rd 2. Prizes: \$\$ b/30; Open: \$200-100-75; Reserve: \$75-50-25. HR/ENT/INFO: ICA c/o Jay Simonson, 391 Carol Ave. Idaho Falls, ID, 83401, 208-206-7667, rooknjay@yahoo.com, http://www.idahocheessassociation.org. NC, NS, W.

☞ **Apr 30** Daffodil 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.

☞ **May 14-15** Inland Empire Open, **Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Jepson Center) Rm. 108 & 109, 502 E. Boone St., Spokane, WA 99202. Registration: Sat. 8:30am-9:30am. Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00 Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). E.F. \$23 if received by 5/13, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. US Chess rated. \$725 prize fund based on 35, Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (Excluding biggest upset - Both players must have established ratings). NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round; Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in the final round. Prizes: 1st Overall: \$160, 2nd Overall: \$130, 3rd Overall \$100. Class Prizes: 1st (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$50, 2nd (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$25, Biggest Upset: \$35 (non-provisional ratings). Cookies & coffee provided. Entries: Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037. For information: cell (509) 994-9739.

☞ **May 14-15** 2nd Annual Rose City Sectionals, **Portland, OR.** Four round Swiss in five sections, Open, U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300. One half point bye is available if requested before round 1. If there are multiple players with a full point bye, these players will be paired together for a rated game which counts for tournament score purposes for the player in the higher section. Sections may be combined based on the number of players but prizes will remain separate. TC: G/120;d15. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am and 3pm each day. Rounds 2 and 4 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: \$40, PCC members \$30, \$5 play-up fee for each section you play up, except anyone who has an unofficial rating that would put them in a higher section may play up in the corresponding section without a fee. US Chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Prizes: \$1200 based on 40 entries (adjusted proportionally with \$600 guaranteed) Open: 1st-\$160, 2nd-\$110, 1st U2100-\$60; U1900: 1st-\$145, 2nd-\$95; U1700: 1st-\$135, 2nd-\$85; U1500: 1st-\$125, 2nd-\$75; U1300: 1st-\$110, 2nd-\$60, 1st U1100-\$40. Unrated players are eligible for all of the prizes. Scholastic players who win money will also receive a trophy. OSCF State Qualifier.

☞ **May 21** Pierce County 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.

☞ **May 28-30** Washington Open, **Lynnwood, WA.** (Full-page ad page 3)

Jun 24-26 2016 Canadian Senior Championship, **Vancouver, BC.** (Quarter-page ad page 9)

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