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Northwest Chess!*

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On the front cover:

Aaron Nicoski (l) vs Jake Winkler of during the second round
of the Vancouver Open, held at the Vancouver Hilton on
October 22, 2016. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

On the back cover:

Kyle Haining observes the first round action in Alikhan
Irgaliyev (r) vs Curt Collyer (front) and Michael Lee vs
Anthony He (rear) during the first installment of the Seattle
Masters. Photo Credit: Xuhao He.

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,
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From the Editor's Desk

No, we're not changing the *Northwest Chess* logo, at least not yet! I have just been playing around with different ideas the last few issues, trying subtle new things to keep the magazines fresh and interesting. I'm getting braver too. I'm wading in deeper and deeper... And loving it!!

Last month, the November 2016 issue, I actually stopped dividing the material into states, trying to emphasize that *Northwest Chess* is one chess community. Sure, we still have our state pride and competitions between the states, but mainly as an excuse to have more competition and perhaps to reach out and strengthen our chess friendships throughout the region. But we are indeed one chess community in our little corner of the country!

I also tried putting a quarter-page ad and sticking it right smack in the center of a page (page 17 of the November issue). Believe it or not, that is something I never thought of before, and it happened because I was goofing around and joking with the staff (specifically in an e-mail to Ralph Dubisch) and put it there and said, "because I can!" And that's where it ended up right up throughout the process to the very end! The November issue charged us all up, because we tried new things. Indenting paragraphs was another subtle improvement I started doing in the last issue.

This December issue is my 49th issue as your editor, so I am now going into my fifth year. One of the things I do periodically is to go look at the old issues, to see how my predecessors have done things, and to get more ideas. The 31 editors (this includes myself) all have very different styles, and each has a lot to offer. I find myself spending lots of time looking at them, seeing how things were done before, back in the day!

Even before I became your editor, I was working on scanning the old issues; in fact, it was these old issues I once discovered thanks to Google that initially drew me to *Northwest Chess* in the first place.

Since the November 1947 issue we've been producing monthly issues (with only about three exceptions). That is an incredible achievement and something that sets us apart from the rest of the country.

That brings me to something every editor has said since the beginning. We need more material! This magazine happens because people send materials in to the editor! I need games, photos, stories, etc. always, not just once but constantly, all the time! And you shouldn't wait or hope someone else will do it! YOU can make the difference! E-mail material to editor@nwchess.com.

I can't guarantee that everything I get will go in, but I can say, I will consider it! And most things I get do make it in the final product.



Jeffrey Roland, selfie, taken November 5, 2016.

Tales Of The Latvian Gambit

By Mike Murray

I found James Schuyler's repertoire book, *The Dark Knight System* (Everyman, 2013), covering 1...Nc6 against everything, useful and instructive, so when he released his next one, *Your Opponent is Overrated* (Everyman, 2016), I snagged a Kindle copy the moment it became available. His latest deals with avoiding draws and setting error-inducing "nettlesome" problems for your opponent. I was browsing through Game 28, R. Bellin – M. Sharif, France, 1988, when this position, Black to move, popped up:



Whoa! I know this position. How well I know this position! It transports me back 50 years to the Northwest chess scene of 1966, when I was a college senior in Missoula, rated 1564, with six or seven relatively weak, mostly unrated, tournaments in Montana and North Dakota under my belt. But four years of regular skittles and match games versus Dr. Peter Lapiken, a rated Master in the 1950s (when there weren't very many of them) probably put my actual strength at high "A" or low "Expert."

I had never played in a Washington tournament, but decided to try my hand at the 1966 Inland Empire Open, one of Washington's classic events, in Spokane. I didn't know any of the players, but noticed on the wallchart a number of Masters and High Experts (McCormick, Pupols, Aykroyd, Kiplinger) and a lot of "A" players, so I was pretty apprehensive. But I beat a low "A" player in the first round, defeated Doug Adams, a high "A" player and defending IEO champion in the next, and closed out the day by holding a long, hard-fought draw against 2148 Bill Kiplinger.

So Round 4, the next morning, found me on a top board with White against a rated Master, Viktors Pupols. After **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3**, he shot out **2... f5**, a line which at that time I knew as the Greco Counter Gambit. I assumed he was playing cavalierly because of the rating difference.

By coincidence, I knew something about the Greco or, as it's now called, the Latvian Gambit. Lapiken had essayed it against me in skittles more than once. I had tried **3.Bc4 fxe4 4.Nxe5 Qg5 5.d4** but after 5... Qxg2, went astray with the passive 6.Rf1 and lost. Afterwards, I had gone back to my trusty MCO-10 where I discovered the wild drawing variation **6.Qh5+ g6 7.Bf7+ Kd8 8.Bxg6! Qxh1+ 9.Ke2 Qxc1 10.Nf7+ Ke8 11.Nd6+** with a perpetual.

I also remembered a game from Nimzovich's *My System* with **3.Nxe5**. But figuring Pupols played this opening in light of my low rating, and, since a draw would suit me just fine, decided to shock him with my deep theory.

So, down the rabbit hole: **3.Bc4 fxe4 4.Nxe5 Qg5 5.d4 Qxg2 6.Qh5+ g6 7.Bf7+ Kd8 8.Bxg6! Qxh1+ 9.Ke2** reaching the diagram above.

Now, as it turns out, Pupols was mildly surprised that a 1564 player would know this obscure line, but it didn't bother him all that much. He'd been specializing in the Latvian for years. He'd beaten Bobby Fischer with it in the 1955 U.S. Junior. He'd done very well in international correspondence theme tournaments restricted to it. And Seattle players were still buzzing about his grudge match with this line against Bob Lundin a couple months before in the 1966 Washington Closed, where Lundin sacrificed material left and right, harassing Pupols' king across the board, only to succumb in time pressure when the monarch found refuge on a2. Vik thought I was aware of this game and had something cooked up, but in those pre-computer days, weighed his seasoned judgment against whatever a "C" player might woodshed, and snapped out **9... c6**.

The intent of this move, giving the king a bolt-hole, was pretty clear. But it wasn't in MCO so it must lose, right? All I have to do is find it. Such faith I had in the books back then. Well, actually, it *does* lose, but finding the win was another matter. For several years the line survived the efforts of OTB and correspondence players alike. I spent about half an hour checking whether knight or queen or bishop checks led to anything, concluded they didn't, and finally decided on **10.Nc3!** This was a good move, developing a piece while threatening to win the queen. But, bang! Pupols replied **10...e3** after maybe five seconds. No more bishop check winning the queen. After an hour's frantic thought, I decided I had to sac the second rook and played **11.Bxe3**. While not really a mistake, this wasn't optimal. Correct was **11.Nf7+ Kc7 12.Qg5 Be7** and now White should put mating threats on hold for a moment and play **13.Qg3+ d6**

14.Be4! winning material when Black saves the queen by **14... Bg4+ 15.Qxg4 Nf6 16.Qe6 Nxe4 17.Qxe7+**.

Pupols grabbed the rook **11...Oxa1** and, already in time pressure, I blundered with **12.Bg5+?**, after which it's all over. I collapsed: **12... Kc7 13.Nf7 b6 14.Bd8+ Kb7 15.Qe5 Na6 16.Nb5 Rb8 17.Bd3 Oxa2 18.Nbd6+ Ka8 19.Ne8 Oe6 10.Oxe6 dxe6 21.Be4 Bd7** and I resigned.

Lundin had it right! I could have threaded a thin line to victory by **12.Nf7+! Kc7 13.Qg5! b5** (Pupols' improvement, **13...b6** allows a mate in 10), **14 Nxb5!+ cxb5 15.Bf4+! Kb6 16.Qd8+ Kb7** as in Lundin-Pupols, Washington Closed, 1966, and now **17.Qa5!**, the move Lundin missed, forces mate in six. The engines determine that **13...Be7** also loses.

Totally exhausted, I blundered away my next round, took a quick draw with Pat Herbers in the round six and went home to lick my wounds. I did come back to win the Inland Empire Open the next three years in succession (and again tied for first 50 years later in 2016).

Larry Parr's book, *Viktors Pupols: American Master* (Thinkers Press, 1983) contains more amusing anecdotes about Unkel Vik's adventures with the Latvian Gambit, and the sad fate of various Northwest players who tried to butt heads theoretically against him. It also contains his win over Fischer with the Latvian Gambit. The book is out of print, but used copies are available on Amazon.

Oh, back to Shuyler's book, the inspiration for this reverie. Buy it. It's an easy read with some great practical advice. Incidentally, Schuyler was once a practitioner of the Latvian and his book contains some good games with that opening, along with wisdom about when to deploy it and similar gambits.

Tacoma Chess Times

By Gary Dorfner

Note: This "Tacoma Chess Times" report encompasses the next three events.—Editor.

Bartron Wins Summer Quick

The Summer Quick tournament was held on August 19, 2016 at the Tacoma Chess Club. There were eight players participating in this event. The winners were: First Paul Bartron 3.5, Second/Third Tom Walker and Steve Buck with 2.5 each, fourth-sixth places were Arjun Thomas, Alex Beck, and Jason Fike with 2.0 each.

Rupel Is Washington Senior Adult Champion

The Washington Senior Adult Championship was held on August 20, 2016 at the Tacoma Chess Club. There were six players in all. The winners were, First Place Dave Rupel 3.5/4, Second Place Paul Bartron 3.0/4, First/Second U1800 were Steve Buck and Colin Southcote-Want with 1.5/4 each.

Tacoma Chess Club Championship

The Tacoma Chess Club Championship was held all five Friday nights in October. There were ten players participating in this event. The winners were, First/Second (tie) Mike MacGregor and Paul Bartron with 4.0/5 each. They will play a playoff round to determine the club champion for 2016. Third place was Bill Rogers. Class B was Larry Anderson; Class C was Rich Sewell; Class D was Gary Dorfner. There were no Class A or E winners.

TCC Senior Champion was Stephen Buck. TCC Junior Champion was Phillip Sun. Winners each received a certificate. Upset Prizes: R1 Phillip Sun; R2 Bill Rogers; R3 Paul Bartron. There were no winners for rounds four or five. Each Upset Prize winner had a choice of one book.

Bethel September Quads

By Owen McCoy

Eugene, OR — September 25, 2016

Well I think it's fair to say that for once Willamette High School chess club beat Portland Chess Club in terms of turnout. On September 25, there was a grand total of 24, enough for six even Quads! These 24 came from a variety of places in the Eugene area, some coming from way down South in Cottage Grove, and others coming from the Bethel area and some from even Norther. (No red squiggly line under *Norther*; I guess it's a word!)

Topping Quad One was none other than myself, Owen McCoy (2028-2039), meaning I can continue to say that at these quads it has been all or nothing for me. (Twice I have scored 3/3, once it was the opposite.) The second place finisher was Cody Webb (1677-1725), coming in fourth seed in a quad of four, he recovered instantly from his round one loss against

me to win his other two games.

Jack Woo McClain (1673-1693) was short of being eligible for Quad One by four points, when looking at the average rating of Quad Two, (being 1479) you would wonder if that is such a bad thing? Indeed, Jack dispelled any question of his superiority by scoring 3/3 to win his quad, \$10, and free entry to the next quads. His victims were Ben Kurtz (1382-1437 – 2.0/3), Clifton Harris (1508-1483 -1.0/3), and Jeremy Thomas (1351-1314 – 0.0/3).

Quad Three went as you would expect a normal quad would go - only slightly different, with Bahram Ramhormozy (800-1157), the lowest rated player in the group, winning all three of his games, against Scott Svetal (1420-1401 – 2.0/3), Richard Grimaldi (1237-1210 – 1.0/3), and Kristian Villa (1177-1117 – 0.0/3).

Quads Four, Five, and Six all had scholastic winners, (they may or may not have consisted of only scholastic players) being Jalen Wang (1093-1137) in Quad Four, Noah Menachemson (892-1052) in Quad Five, and Brandon Young (781-847) in Quad Six.

Thanks to TD Mike Myers for running it, and to everyone who came!

Bend Fall Quads

By Eric Holcomb

Bend, OR — October 1, 2016

The Central Oregon Chess Club made its first attempt at reviving weekend tournaments in Bend on October 1, with the Bend Fall Quads. As it turned out, there were eleven players, so the top section was held as a quad, and the bottom section as a three-round Swiss. (The U.S. Chess crosstable shows four rounds because of a special cross-round pairing that allowed an extra game to be played.)

Congratulations to top-section winner, FM Corey Russell of Medford, with a perfect 3.0/3 score; and to bottom section winner and previously unrated Gilberto Raygoza of Redmond, also with 3.0/3 score, and now provisionally rated at 1570.

The key game of the top section, between Corey Russell and tournament director Paul Shannon, is shown below. Corey's sacrifice on move 14 shook things up and led to a mistake on Black's part and a quick victory for White.

Corey Russell (2200) – Paul Shannon (2000) [A48]
Bend Fall Quads Bend, OR
(R2), October 1, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c3 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bf4 d6

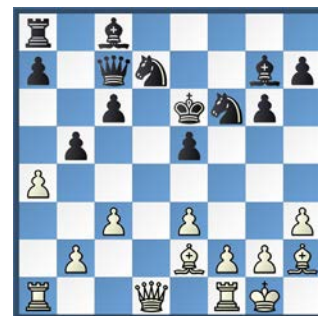
5.h3 0-0 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.e3 Re8 8.Bh2 c6 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 e5 11.Nc4 b5?!



Position after 11...b5

12.dxe5! dxe5 13.Nd6 Re6 14.Nxf7! Kxf7 15.Ng5+ Ke7 16.Nxe6 Kxe6 17.a4±

Although two pieces against a rook and pawn often have an advantage, here other factors — lack of development, exposed king, weak pawns — weigh far more heavily.



Position after 17.a4

17...Ba6??

And this attempt to solve the development problem fails tactically. 17...Bb7 18.axb5 cxb5 19.Bxb5 a6 20.Ba4 Nc5 helps a little with development and coordination, while parting with a second pawn. 21.f4!? in reply might highlight Black's exposed king problem.

18.axb5 Bxb5?

18...Bb7 only helps a little.

19.c4 Qb7 20.cxb5 cxb5 21.Bf3 1-0

Norman Friedman Memorial

By Adam Porth

Hailey, ID — October 1, 2016

Early Fall on October 1, 2016 found twenty-three players in Hailey, Idaho ready to compete in the first annual Norman Friedman Memorial chess tournament. Blaine County, often affectionately referred to as "The Land of Nod" by the Southern locals, reminds one of an idyllic oasis found at the end of a desert journey. Dropping over Timmerman Hill, a valley nestled among mountains is revealed



Barry Eacker. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

amid trees boasting harvest colors, while a slower, more relaxed pace of existence is perceived. This is the setting Norman Friedman chose as a permanent residence during his final years.

Norman Friedman was a master chess player and passionately supported chess events throughout his life. He was on the Board of Directors on the Manhattan Chess Club and was a Senior

Representative for the United States attending events in Russia. A NYC native, he was Co-founder of The Right Move Chess Foundation with Fred Goldhirsch. The organization hosts free tournaments and education to youths and is currently in its 27th year. Another great passion of Norman's was Marathoning and he ran them up until the last few years.

Play began vigorously on Friday evening with an eight round unrated G/5 blitz tournament at the Silver Creek High School, host of the inaugural event. Eighteen players competed in the tourney with Cody Gorman of Eagle, ID sweeping the field to claim the first place trophy, scoring a perfect 8.0/8 result. Second place went to TD and organizer supreme, Adam Porth of Bellevue, ID with 5.5/8. Third place fell to Assistant TD Barry Eacker of Twin Falls with the same 5.5/8 tally, but Porth won their head-to-head encounter, thus giving him second place via the entertainingly debated (tongue-in-cheek) tiebreak system.

Saturday morning saw a 10AM start time, unheard of in most Swiss events held over two days. All players were from Idaho, with the exception of Chris Evans, an acquaintance of Norman's from New York, who was passing through and dropped by to play in the final round.

Cody Gorman continued his blistering pace from the blitz event and shredded the field, producing a perfect 5.0/5 score. Jacob Nathan of Idaho Falls, one of the top scholastic players in the state, finished in a second place tie, scoring 3.5/5. Gorman was the only player who did not suffer a loss in the event. He won \$250. Other players sharing the top prizes with 3.5/5 were Jacob Nathan, Adam Porth, his son Desmond Porth of Boise and Barry Eacker (each \$50).

Other prize winners were (\$50/each):

Under 1600 Graeme Faulkner

Under 1400 James Liu

Under 1200 Temi Aderogba

Under 1000 Levi Catangcatang

Unrated Seth Machakos

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L-R: Seth Machakos, Joetta Faulkner. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

All cash prizes were donated by family and friends of Norman Friedman.

At noon on Saturday, an unrated 5SS G/30 scholastic tournament took place which could only be compared for a brief moment to herding cats. The players settled in, however and when the dust settled, Nathan Oliver of Idaho Falls took home the gold on tiebreak with a 4.0/5 score over Otto Olson of Hailey and River Shepard of Hailey, also 4.0/5. Fourteen players took part in the festivities and six finished at 3.0/5 or better.

The tournament was a US Chess Grand Prix event with 6 GP points to be had, as well as a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event, celebrating National Chess Week. Interestingly, in the Open Section,

eleven of the 23 players were of the scholastic variety.

Many thanks to Blaine County School District, BCSD Chess Club and Joyce Friedman, without whom this event would not have been possible. Area merchants donated prizes as well. Thank you DaVinci's, Powerhouse, and Snow Bunny Drive-In.

Emerald City Chess Tournament

By Owen McCoy

Eugene, OR — October 15, 2016

On a miserably rainy and windy day, I and some of my fellow Eugenians had the sense (unlike many of the students walking around outside in shorts and Birkenstocks) to come inside for the day, and moreover, to play some chess. A grand total of 19 came ready to play, or maybe just to avoid the unfortunate weather. Chief TD Cody Webb, an avid player as well as organizer of Emerald City Chess Club, decided to host the club's first tournament. As this was his first time as a TD, there was some assistance from Mike Myers, who has been directing small tournaments for some time now. The newly renovated Student Union at University of Oregon (UO) seemed to be the ideal location for this gathering, being out of the way, with comfy chairs, and also providing a view of anyone walking by underprepared for the weather.

Owen McCoy (2013-2031), after a somewhat disappointing result at All-

Stars the previous day, found himself taking home the first prize of \$56, which certainly served to boost his spirits. The foursome that tied for Second Place included Steve Tisinger (1953-1949), Jack Dale (1606-1642), Jack Woo McClain (1667-1653), and Jamie Berger (1670-1680), all of whom received \$14 for their efforts.

Thanks to Chief TD Cody Webb, Assistant TD Mike Myers, and everyone who came to play. Cody has said that there will be another tournament in January or February (exact date TBA), so we hope to see you there!

October 2016 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — October 15, 2016

For those who enjoy competitive chess, there seemed to be only two alternatives to entertain yourself besides playing chess on the day of the Portland Chess Club's monthly Quad 45 Tournament—those being throwing a line out of your window and doing a little fishing; or two, getting in a couple of swimming laps on whatever boulevard or street you happened to be living on.

Along with the heavy downpour that seemed nonstop, the wind at times appeared capable of taking off roofs (which it did on the coast, what with a tornado hitting) as well as the millions of tree leaves littering nearly the whole of Portland, and I am sure, most of Western Oregon. So it was reasonable to expect, for some, opting to play some quick games of chess as their preferred entertainment that day—resulting in two quads and a Small Swiss of eight players, the eight-player Swiss being formed to accommodate brother and sister Kevin Wu and Abbie Wu, who wanted to try to avoid being forced to play each other.

Putting this popular monthly tournament together was the idea of Micah Smith, who officiated as Chief



Some of the scholastic awards. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Remember to keep submitting articles, games, and photos!



(L) Jonathan Burkett vs Jon Strohbehn. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

TD, with Mike Janniro this time giving him help as his Assistant Chief TD (Mike Lilly being the cofounder and Assistant Chief TD until just recently, when the second Mike of the Mike & Mike team decided to give up his TD duties for the foreseeable future) and also sitting in as a player to fill in Quad 1. And as Micah Smith pointed out to me, this was three months running at Quad 45 that three players in the top quad were over 2000—this month being FM Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2388-2389—2.0/3), NM Phil Seitzer (2083-2074—2.0/3) and Mike Janniro (2005-2023—2.0/3)—all three of whom tied for first place with two games each; Seitzer and Janniro splitting the \$10 discount on their next entrance fee, and also their choice of a chess book.

Unfortunately, “The Raptor” could not share in this bonanza of prizes, due to an emergency, having to leave after round 2, not completing the tournament.

Failing to complete a tournament makes a player ineligible for any winnings, saving Seitzer and Janniro from having to split the prizes’ even finer, which would have given them about \$3.33 and about a 1/3 of a book (just kidding, I’m sure Smith would have given each at least a condensed version of their choice).

Moving on to Quad 2, It was Andrea Botez (1794-1795—2.0/3) and Nick LaFond (1716P-1735P—2.0/3) who tied for first place (Botez’s second straight month of coming in a winner of the event). For La Fond, this was his eighth time being undefeated at Quad 45; but this tournament did see the end of his game

winning streak of 6-0, as he drew with Isaac Vega (1649-1660—1.5/3) and Peter Donchenko (1678-1651—0.5/3), his only win being his game with Botez—a very tough game for both players, the clock dictating some fast calculating in an endgame which saw Botez fighting for her life on the h-file, Lafond orchestrating an overwhelming attack with a long-range bishop and a threatening rook, ending in a mate with the assistance of an advanced king and two pawns.

By 18 rating points I, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1631-1610—2.0/3) missed being in one of the higher quads, eclipsed by Isaac Vega—a misfortune which placed me as the highest rated player (by near 90 points) in the eight-player Swiss. So instead of vying for some further ratings advancement, I found myself battling for just retaining what I came with, the onus being on me to win every game.

And true to form when I’m placed against some lower-rated players, I find a way to self-destruct—this time at the hands of Ian Fudalla (1301-1371—2.0/3). Although the game reached a drawn ending, I refused to see it as a draw and instead, went for the loss. I won’t bore you with all the grisly details, suffice to say Fudalla traded down when he could to reach the drawn position, when I then miscalculated what I thought was a pawn exchange, giving up one of my two advanced, connected pawns (the ones I was counting on to queen with), then found a way to give up a couple more. Enough said. I did, however, tie with Fudalla for second place, for whatever that is worth—in this case, the loss of 21 rating points. I then graciously let Fudalla take my prize of a selection of a book, as they did not have the one I sought—”Chess for Dummies.”

Winner of this Small Swiss was James Tsai (1502-1546—3.0/3), who turned in a perfect score, and overcame a slump he had been in. It earned him that \$10 discount on his next tournament, and also a chess book of his choice. And although he did not win a prize, newcomer



(L) David Yoshinaga vs Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Ian Fudalla vs James Tasi. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

to the club and to US Chess, Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (321P-431P—1.0/3), showed that he was finally warming up to the idea of rated tournaments, beating a player that Nick Raptis has said has the potential to reach expert status in a very short time—7-year old Abbie Wu (841-785—0.0), who found she will have to work a bit harder if she is to reach her real potential.

Aaron Grabinsky at SPICE

The following games were submitted by Aaron Grabinsky who found time during his studies at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, to share these with *Northwest Chess* readers.—Editor.

**Aaron Grabinsky (2330) –
Vasif Durarbayli (2608)**

2016 SPICE Cup (R1), October 17, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e3 0-0
5.Be2 d6 6.h3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.c4 c5**

**9.Qb3 cxd4 10.exd4 Nc6 11.Nc3 Rc8
12.d5 Na5 13.Qb4 Ba6?!**

The bishop does pressure c4, but also runs into some issues with crowding on the a-file. Black probably figured the a5-knight was at risk whether or not there was a bishop hanging on a6 as well. To keep the game more or less balanced, Black should try the plan ...Re8 and ...e6. 13...Re8! 14.Rad1 e6 15.dxe6 Rxe6∞



(#Diagram-analysis after 15...Rxe6)

The vulnerable c-pawn and white pieces makes it hard for White to profit from

the apparently overwhelmed d-pawn. For example:

a) 16.Nd4 Re8 (16...Rxe2 17.Ndxe2 Nxc4 18.Rfe1±) 17.Ndb5 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Rxe4 19.Qxd6 Qe8 (19...Qxd6? 20.Nxd6+-) 20.Bf3 Nxc4 21.Qd7 Qxd7 22.Rxd7 Rxf4 23.Bxb7 Rc5 and it looks like this is going to peter out to something resembling equality.;

b) 16.Rxd6?! Qe7 17.c5 Rxe2 18.Nxe2 Qxe2 19.cxb6 axb6∞;

c) 16.Bxd6 Qe8 17.Nd4



(#Diagram-analysis after 17.Nd4)

17...Nc6! 18.Nxc6 (18.Nxe6!? Nxb4 19.Nxg7 Kxg7 20.Bxb4∞) 18...Bxc6 19.Rfe1 Rd8 and Black has plenty of compensation for the pawn.

14.Nd2

14.b3 seems more solid, taking away some of the complications involving the hanging c4-pawn.

14...Qd7?!

14...Re8 is again possible.

15.Rac1 Nh5 16.Bg4!



Position after 16.Bg4



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16...Qxg4?

The justification for this intuitive queen sacrifice is the activity of the black knight and dark-square bishop, and the off-side (nearly trapped) white queen. That all sounds good... but ultimately it proves to be insufficient. The alternative 16...f5 17.Bxh5 gxh5 18.b3± is somewhere between a small edge and a large one. Black's kingside is a bit of a mess, and the pieces tied up on the queenside do not paint a very pleasant picture for Black.

17.hxg4 Nxf4 18.b3 Nd3 19.Qa3 Bd4

19...Nxc1 20.Rxc1±, though clearly White is close to winning.

20.Rc2 Bc5 21.Qa4 Nb4 22.Rcc1 Nd3 23.Rb1 Bb4 24.Nde4 f5 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Rbd1 fxe4



Position after 26...fxe4

27.Rxd3 exd3 28.Qxb4 Nb7 29.Qa3 Nc5 30.b4 Bxc4 31.bxc5 Rxc5 32.Rd1 1-0

Aaron Grabinsky (2330) –
Nicholas Rosenthal (2136)

2016 SPICE Cup (R6), October 20, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 f5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 b6 7.Be2 Bb7 8.d5 Bb4 9.dxe6 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 dxe6 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Bxc7 Rc8 13.Be5 Nbd7 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.Nd4 Kf7 16.Nb5 Ke7 17.f3 Ba6 18.a4 Rc5 19.Kf2 Nd7 20.a5 Ne5 21.Rhb1 Nxc4 22.Bxc4 Rxc4 23.axb6 axb6 24.Nd4 b5



Position after 24...b5

25.Ra5?!

It's much simpler to capture the b-pawn now, although White's advantage is not yet decisive, despite the extra pawn. Either 25.Nxb5 Rcc8 26.Nd4 Bc4 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.h4±; or 25.Rxb5 Bxb5

26.Rxa8 Bd7 27.Ra3± leads to a pleasant ending for White.

25...Rcc8

Presumably both players missed the trick 25...Ra4!, e.g. 26.Ra1 (26.Rxa4? bxa4 27.Ra1 Bd3±) 26...Bb7 27.Rxa8 Bxa8 28.Rb1 Rc4 29.Nxb5 Bc6 and it's dead.

26.Rba1 Bb7 27.Ra7 Kf6 28.Nxb5 Rxa7 29.Rxa7 Bd5 30.Ra3 Rb8 31.Nd4 Rb2+ 32.Kg3 Bc4 33.Ra1 e5 34.Nc6 Rc2 35.Rd1 Ke6 36.Rb1 Rxc3 37.Rb6 Kd6 38.Na5+ Kc5 39.Nxc4 Kxc4 40.Rb7 g5 41.Rxh7 Rxe3 42.Rh5 f4+ 43.Kg4



Position after 43.Kg4

43...Kd5?!

43...Re2 44.g3 Kd5 45.Rxg5 (45.Kxg5 Re3 46.Kg4 (46.gxf4 Rxf3 47.f5 e4) 46...fxg3 47.hxg3 Ke6± should be a draw.) 45...Rg2 (Even 45...Ke6 46.gxf4 exf4 47.h4 Kf6 looks like a theoretical draw, though you would need to check the endgame books for the details.) 46.Rg6 (46.Kh3 Rf2) 46...Rg1 It's not clear how White is going to make progress here. 47.Kh3 Rf1 48.Kg2 Re1.

44.Rxg5 Ke6 45.Rg6+ Kf7 46.Kf5 Re2 47.Rg4 Re3 48.h4 Re1 49.h5 Kf8 50.h6 Rh1 51.Kxe5 Rxh6 52.Rxf4+ Kg7 53.Ra4 Rh5+ 54.Kf4 Rb5 55.g4 Rb6 56.g5 Kg6 57.Kg4 Rb1 58.Ra6+ Kg7 59.f4 Rb7 60.f5 Rc7 61.Kh5 Rb7 62.f6+ Kg8 63.Kg6 Rg7+ 64.Kf5 Rf7 65.Ra8+ 1-0

Aaron Grabinsky (2330) –
Daniel Gurevich (2488)

2016 SPICE Cup (R8), October 21, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 d5 5.Nd2 Bd6 6.Bg3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 Qe7 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Ne5 Rc8 12.Bh4 Qc7 13.f4 Ne4?!

13...Nd7 for example: 14.Qg4 0-0 15.Nxd7 f5!

14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Qg4 f5 16.Qh5+ g6 17.Qh6

[Diagram top of next column]

17...cxd4

17...Bf8!? 18.Qg5 Bg7

18.cxd4

The in-between move 18.Nxg6! wins a



Position after 17.Qh6

pawn and improves White's position: 18...Rg8 19.Ne5 Bd5 Black cannot allow Qxe6+. 20.Qh5+ Kf8 21.cxd4

18...Bf8 19.Qg5 Bg7 20.Rfc1 0-0 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.Qe7 Rfe8 23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.Rc4 Rec8 25.Rac1 Kf7 26.Be1



Position after 26.Be1

26...Bf8?

Black needs to use this tempo to threaten to bring another defender over to the c6-pawn, thus encouraging White to simplify into a less-favorable pawn-up ending: 26...Ke8 27.Ba5 (27.b3 Kd7±) 27...Rb7 28.Rxc6 Rxc6 29.Rxc6 Rxb2 30.Rxe6+ Kf7 31.Rxa6 Rxa2 32.Ra7+ Ke6 33.Bb6 Rxa7 34.Bxa7 and White can enjoy that extra pawn for awhile — but it is not going to be easy to budge the black king from the central light squares.

27.b3 Ke8 28.Ba5 Ra7 29.Rxc6 Rxc6 30.Rxc6 Kd7 31.Rc4 Rb7 32.Kf2 Bd6 33.Be1 Rb8 34.Ke2 h6 35.Bh4 g5! 36.fxg5 hxg5 37.Bxg5 Bxh2 38.Bh4 Rg8 39.Kf1 Be7

39...f4!?

40.Bf6 Bd6 41.Be5



Position after 41.Be5

41...Rb8

41...Bxe5 42.dxe5 Rb8 at least gives Black a distracting target on e5.

42.Bxd6 Kxd6 43.Ra4 Rb6 44.Kf2 Ke7 45.Kg3 Rc6 46.Rc4 Rd6 47.Kf4 Kf6

47...Rd8 48.Ra4 Rg8 (48...Kf6 49.g4+-) 49.Ke5 (49.Rxa6?? Kf6 50.d5 Rg4#) 49... Rxg2 50.Rxa6

48.g4 fxg4 49.Kxg4 e5 50.dxe5+ Kxe5 51.Rc5+ Ke6 52.Kf4 1-0

Vancouver Open

By Josh Sinanan and Gary Dorfner

Vancouver, WA – October 22-23, 2016

The 2016 Vancouver Open took place October 22-23 at the Vancouver Hilton and was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation. Only 41 players took part this year, which was about half of last year's

attendance. National Master Jason Cigan repeated as the clear winner of the Open Section with 4.0/5, besting the field of 18 players. Jason finished half a point ahead of FM Steven Breckenridge and NM Josh Sinanan, who split second place with 3.5/4 points. It should also be noted that Seth Talyansky became a National Master by winning his first two games and breaking 2200 US Chess, congratulations Seth!

Three players tied for first in the 23-player reserve section with 4.0/5 points apiece: Chopon Babu Radhakrishnan Kothandaraman from India, last year's winner Andrea Botez, and Olympia's Travis Elisara. On Saturday evening, the players were treated to a special lecture by Grandmaster Giorgi Margvelashvili, who is originally from Georgia but now resides in Vancouver.

Other prize winners: In the Open Section, First U2000/First U1800 Eric Zhang and Jake Winkler with 3.0/5 points each. In the Reserve Section, First U1600 was Aaron Probst with 3.5/5. First U1400/First U1200 Neena Feldman, Cassandra Maria Roshu, and Ethan Zhang won \$2.00 each and scored 2.5/5 points.

Norm May was the Chief Tournament Director of the event.

Jason Cigan (2219) – Jose Gatica (2104) [B33]
Vancouver Open Vancouver, WA
(R3), October 22, 2016
[Jason Cigan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5



Position after 8...b5

So we have the Sicilian Sveshnikov. Of this opening, the great Bent Larsen once said, "Both sides stand badly!" It is true that White has a misplaced knight on a3, while Black's pawn structure, especially after a possible Bxf6 and gxf6, looks rather ugly. But the opening is very much sound, and still popular with fighting players.

9.Bxf6

I take the chance to double the f-pawns right away.

9...gxf6

9...Qxf6?! is simply too slow, and after 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.c4± White's a3-knight will re-enter the game, and may go to e3 to support the strong knight on d5 against being exchanged.

10.Nd5 f5

The most popular line. Carlsen and Radjabov have often preferred the less chaotic 10... Bg7.

11.Bd3 Be6 12.c3 Bg7 13.Nxb5!?

White solves the problem of his offside a3 knight radically! This piece sacrifice is well-known to opening theory, and is still regularly played by strong masters. White gets an initiative and three pawns, while Black gets to argue that his extra piece should tell. Objectively, maybe this line is balanced, but I support White's cause.

13...axb5



A view of the open section area of the playing room during round two of the Vancouver Open. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Accepting the piece is critical, though 13... Bxd5 was also playable.

14.Bxb5 Bd7 15.exf5 0-0 16.0-0 Rb8

This is a slightly unusual move in this position, but it is principled enough. The game leaves theoretical waters around here.

17.a4 Kh8



Position after 17...Kh8

18.Qh5?

An oversight. The idea of provoking ...f7-f6 is correct, but this inaccurate move allows Black a strong riposte. 18.Qf3! was the correct way to implement this idea. 18...f6 19.b4∞ Again, I would rather be White, but I will not claim an objective edge.

18...f6?!

18...Ne7! here would have totally turned the tables. The point is that 19.f6 would fail to 19...Nxd5 20.fxg7+ Kxg7 when Black has regained a pawn, and thus holds an imposing material advantage with his well-placed extra knight. However, after the move played in the game, Black is still slightly for choice.

19.b4 Ne7

These minor piece exchanges on the queenside help Black's task of fighting for that end of the board. If White is unable to roll his passed pawns, he may end up missing the piece he sacrificed.

20.Nxe7 Qxe7 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Rfd1 d5

Black now has a commanding pawn center, and a solid advantage.

23.b5

Passed pawns must be pushed! White dreams of playing his c-pawn to c4, and then c5 and c6. But Black gets to move, too, and should prevent this.

23...Qc7

23...e4 was the way for Black to pursue the advantage. Black threatens to meet c3-c4 with d5-d4, obtaining a dangerous protected passed pawn. White can blockade the Black center for now, but after something like 24.Rd4 Rfe8 25.Re1 Rbc8 Black's extra piece may be taking a nap on g7, but White's extra queenside



Seth Talyansky ponders his move during his second round game against Naomi Bashkansky, which clinched him the National Master Title! Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

pawns are nailed in place. Black plans Re5, planning to capture f5 with a serious edge.

24.Rxd5 Qxc3 25.Rad1?! Qb3?!

25...Qc4 26.Rd7 Rg8 27.Ra1 e4 28.Qd1 e3 29.fxe3 Bh6 30.Kh1 Rxc2 31.Kxg2

26.Rd7



Position after 26.Rd7

26...Qxa4?

Black evidently misjudged his chances in the endgame that now arises by force. Much better was 26...Ra8 when the position is still tremendously complicated. White has the initiative and Black's piece is once again dormant, but Black seems to be holding on after 27.b6; 26...Rg8 looks solid, but allows White to continue building his attack with 27.R1d3 Qb1+ 28.Qd1. I said attack, but here White offers an exchange of queens, secure that 28...Qxd1+ (28...Qa2 29.Rh3↑ looks very dangerous for Black) 29.Rxd1 Ra8 30.Ra1 leads to a position where only White, whose passed pawns and rook activity are worth much more than Black's lousy piece, can win.

27.Rxc7! Qxd1+

This was Black's idea.

28.Qxd1 Kxg7

Here, Black offered a draw, which I declined. White is better — the material is in his favor, after all — but how much better is he? The answer — White is winning. The “principle of two weaknesses” applies here — not only is Black behind on material, but he also has two major liabilities in this position: the passed White b-pawn, and the complete lack of safety for the Black king. By combining the threat of retaining the passed pawn with threats around the Black king, White will ultimately be able to break through.

29.h4

A logical start. This pawn wants to run all the way to h6, after which White’s queen would decisively raid the kingside. Meanwhile, White keeps the lanes open for the queen to make a check on either d7 or g4.

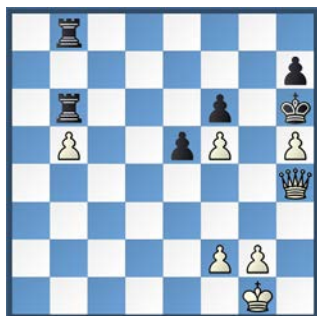
29...Rf7

Covering the check on d7. 29...Rxb5?? of course fails to 30.Qd7+ Rf7 31.Qxb5

30.Qg4+ Kh6 31.Qc4

Just like this! White’s winning plan involves using the threat of trapping the Black king on the h-file to force the pawn through to h5 and h6.

31...Kg7 32.h5 Rfb7 33.Qg4+ Kh6 34.Qh4 Rb6



Position after 34...Rb6

35.Kh2

This looks like a useful waiting move, but in fact it is the first step in creating a mating net. This will become clear shortly.

35...Rf8 36.Qb4 Rfb8 37.Qd2+!

Now the point of the earlier Kh2 becomes clear. White is prepared to meet Kxh5 with Kh3!, after which there will be no defense to the impending g2-g4 with checkmate.

37...Kg7

Forced.

38.h6+

The eagle has landed.

38...Kf8 39.Qd7



Reserve section co-champions Travis Elisara (center) from Olympia and Chopon Babu Radhakrishnan Kothandaraman (right), who is visiting from India, pose with WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

This invasion is decisive.

39...R8b7 40.Qd8+ Kf7 41.Qh8 Rxb5 42.Qxh7+ Kf8 43.Qh8+ Kf7 44.Qg7+ Ke8 45.Qg8+ Ke7 46.h7

Black resigned.

1-0

Jason Cigan (2219) –
Josh Sinanan (2241) [B41]
Vancouver Open Vancouver, WA
(R5), October 23, 2016
[Jason Cigan]



Position after 7.Be2

Before this game, Josh was leading the tournament with 3.5 points from four rounds, and I was in clear second place. Thus a draw or a loss for me would give Josh clear first place, while a win would give me those honors. With a lot on the line, both sides played hard to win in this game.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4

When allowed to, I like to set up a Maroczy formation against the Sicilian.

5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.Be2

I am a big believer in this move instead of the more popular 6. a3. I do not believe White needs to invest time to prevent ...Bf8-b4.

[Diagram next column]

7...d6

7...Bb4 is a move recommended by many sources. But I find it hard to believe that Black can really get away with grabbing a pawn like this. The critical

line runs 8.0-0! Bxc3 — it is hard to make sense of Black’s play if he does not accept the gambit - 9.bxc3 Nxe4 (9...d6 10.f3±) 10.Bf3! Nc5 11.Nb3 d6 is how a recent game of mine continued, and the star move here is 12.Bf4! when White’s mighty bishops will give him a serious edge, for instance 12...e5 13.Nxc5! Qxc5 (13...exf4 14.Re1+-) 14.Be3 Qc7 (14...Qxc4? 15.Qxd6) 15.Qd5±

8.Be3 Nbd7 9.0-0 b6

Both sides are following along with typical development for this hedgehog pawn structure. In my opinion, White should be happy to enter this type of a hedgehog position, where he has not had to use a tempo on a3 and has not committed his queen’s rook to c1. Now he can play his king’s rook to c1 instead after Qd2, and can play a2-a4 in one go to create serious pressure on the queenside.

10.Qd2 Bb7 11.f3 Be7 12.Rfc1 0-0

[Diagram top of next page]



Jason Cigan from Portland poses with his first place cash prize after winning the Vancouver Open for the second consecutive year. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



Position after 12...0-0

Hundreds of games have been played from this position.

13.a4

White is planning to play a4-a5 and meet bxa5 with Nb3-xa5.

13...Rfc8 14.a5 bxa5 15.Nb3 Rab8

Making room for the bishop to hide on a8.

16.Nxa5 Ba8

An interesting moment.

17.Na4

The immediate 17.b4 allows some complications after 17...d5 18.cxd5 Bxb4 19.dxe6. It is possible that White is still better here, but I did not want to allow Black to change the character of the game like this.; 17.Nd1 is another possibility, getting the knight out of the way so that it does not block the a1-rook's X-ray attack on the loose a6 pawn.

17...Nc5

Black is hoping to trade some pieces to

combat White's space advantage.

18.b4 Nxa4 19.Rxa4 Nd7



Position after 19...Nd7

20.c5?!

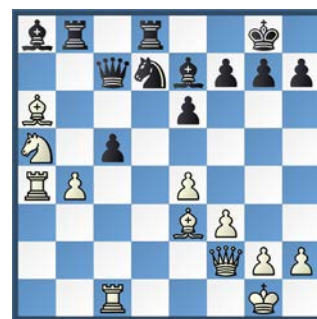
Too hasty. White's advantage is of a lasting character, and he should not be in a rush to force matters like this. 20.Nb3 was principled, hitting a6. 20...Nc5 (20...Bb7 21.c5 circumstances are now ripe for this break. 21...dxc5 22.Nxc5±) 21.Ra3 Nxb3 22.Rxb3 White has a comfortable edge, with his space and Black's weak a6 pawn. White will try to apply pressure to a6 will preparing a c4-c5 break.

20...dxc5 21.Bxa6 Rd8

The white queen is under the X-ray glare of the d8-rook. Now I picked the wrong square for the queen to relocate to.

22.Qf2?

Overlooking a tactic. Better was 22.Qc2 when White is still a little better.



Position after 22.Qf2

22...Bc6?

Luckily for me, at the end of this grueling tournament, Black missed it, too. 22...Rxb4! is possible, despite the c-pawn being pinned. The point is that White cannot play 23.Rxb4?? (23. Ra3 is better) on account of the forking 23...Qxa5. Loose pieces drop off!

23.Nxc6 Qxc6 24.Qc2

24.b5 would leave the light-squared bishop locked out of the game.

24...Ra8 25.Rca1 Nb6 26.Ra5 c4

Black finds the right plan, advancing the previously unstable c-pawn.

27.Bb5?!

Not for the first time this game, I give my opponent the opportunity to seize an advantage.

27...Qc7?!

27...Rxa5 was better, when 28.Bxc6 (28.Rxa5? Qc7+ leads to the fall of the b4-pawn, with a serious black advantage.) 28...Rxa1+ 29.Kf2 Nc8 looks good for Black.

28.Qf2?

Once again, I missed a tactic involving the loose b4 pawn and awkward back rank situation.

28...Rxa5

28...Bxb4 29.Rxa8 (29.Bxb6? Rxa5!-+) 29...Nxa8 and once again, Black is a pawn to the good.

29.bxa5 Na8

Having gotten this far, Black chooses the right plan now. It is not easy to advance the white passed a-pawn beyond the “enforcer” on a8.

30.a6

This frees up White’s rook from the defense of the a-pawn. White’s problem piece is his light-square bishop, and now it can return to the game via the route b5-a4-c2.

30...Rd3

Threatening ...Rxe3.

31.Kf1!?

My opponent was now in serious time pressure, having just over two minutes to reach move 40 from this point. As I sought to keep forcing him to make tough decisions, I decided to single-mindedly bring the light-square bishop to e4 to eliminate the Black knight. I was unconcerned with such details as hanging pawns, although I must admit, it did not even occur to me that h2 was now loose!

[Diagram top of next column]

31...Rb3?!

Now White pushes the advantage home. 31...Qe5! is a resource my opponent pointed out in analysis, which turns out to



Position after 31.Kf1

hold the Black position together: 32.Rb1 (forced) 32...Qc3! 33.Bf4 g5! This remarkably aggressive move gives Black enough counterplay. 34.Bxg5 (34.Bg3?? Rd2) 34...Bxg5 35.Qg3∞

32.Ba4 Rb4 33.Bc2!

The bishop has made it back into the game.

33...Qxh2

White is willing to part with this pawn.

34.e5

Not necessary, but ultimately enough to win. 34.a7

34...Qxe5

Black snatches the pawn. 34...c3 35.f4 is another wild computer line. How much better is White? Hard to say, but he has the initiative and a dangerous passed pawn.

35.Bd4 Qb8

Black is on the defensive now. 35...Qh2 must be a sterner defense. 36.g4! — now queen trades favor White — 36...Qc7 37.Kg2 c3 38.Rb1! White is down two pawns but with the bishop pair and — need we repeat it? — the dangerous a6-pawn, he is the one trying to win.

36.a7 Qc8 37.Be4?

At the last minute, White allows a drawing defense! But in his time pressure, Black misses it.

[Diagram top of next column]

37...f5?

Natural, but the fatal mistake. 37...c3!!



Position after 37.Be4

saves the game, creating dangerous counterplay. 38.Bxa8 c2! and Black appears to be holding after 39.Be4 c1Q+ 40.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 41.Qe1 Qc4+ 42.Qe2 Qc1+ with perpetual check.

38.Qg3

White now crashes home with his attack.

38...Bf8 39.Bxa8 Qxa8 40.Qe5!+ Rb7 41.Qxe6+

Black resigned. After, say, Kh8 Qxf5, Black is about to be subjected to a deadly pin after White gets to play Qe4.

1-0

October 2016 PCC Game 60

By **Brian Berger**

Portland, OR — October 29, 2016

October’s Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club drew a not insignificant 23 player field—not a record turnout for this event, but sizable enough to make it interesting.

And I may as well get this out of the way early in this report, as I know that many of you are wondering if the world famous, crowd pleasing, Morgan The Dog was in attendance—and yes, he was, on the heels of the recent Vancouver Open, where his encouragement was not enough to keep his companion, Jerrold “I Just Want To Make 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards, from losing 10 more precious rating points.

But truth be told, Richards (1511-

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Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten doing the pairings. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

1554—2.0/4) has in recent tournaments been showing that his goal is within reach, by heeding Morgan’s repeated emphasis on, “If you can’t see that far, then don’t do it” mantra, which has been slowly making its way through the synaptic entanglements of Richards’ brain. And this tournament was a case in point, where Richards recouped his lost Vancouver Open points and added a significant number more at the cost to a 1735 provisional, and a 1592 regular rated player! (after which, Morgan The Dog seemed overjoyed, as he rolled back and forth across the club’s floor—his way of doing a victory dance.)

In stark contrast to Richards’ progress is my own—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1598-1553—1.5/4)—which is to say, NONE of late. Of course, I don’t have a Morgan The Dog to help me out, but you would think by now that I would have at least a modicum of understanding of what this game is about—enough, at least, to recognize where a piece might best be placed to its best advantage, instead of the opposite.

But a lesson learned is apparently a



Morgan The Dog keeping a sharp eye on the competition. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Mike Hassuik vs Abbie Wu.. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

lesson forgotten, as I continue to have a ratings graph that mimics a sizable and endless seismic disturbance. Matched against the youngster, Kyle Liu (1153-1249—2.5/4), I managed in my first game to obtain a draw, after allowing Liu to trade off my big pieces to an endgame, where repetition of position was my only hope of not losing—a draw which helped propel Liu to winning the U1500 prize of \$40.25, while also taking a sizable chunk of my rating points home with him.

Although in my next game I somehow

was able to figure a way to beat the 7-year old, Abbie Wu (774-861—2.0/4)—who later beat a 1509 player, and is being coached along with her brother Kevin, by none other than “the Raptor” himself, Nick Raptis—it was by no means an easy win, as Wu had unleashed a pawn storm at my castled king that would have done me in if I had not seen a small window of opportunity to go on the offensive.

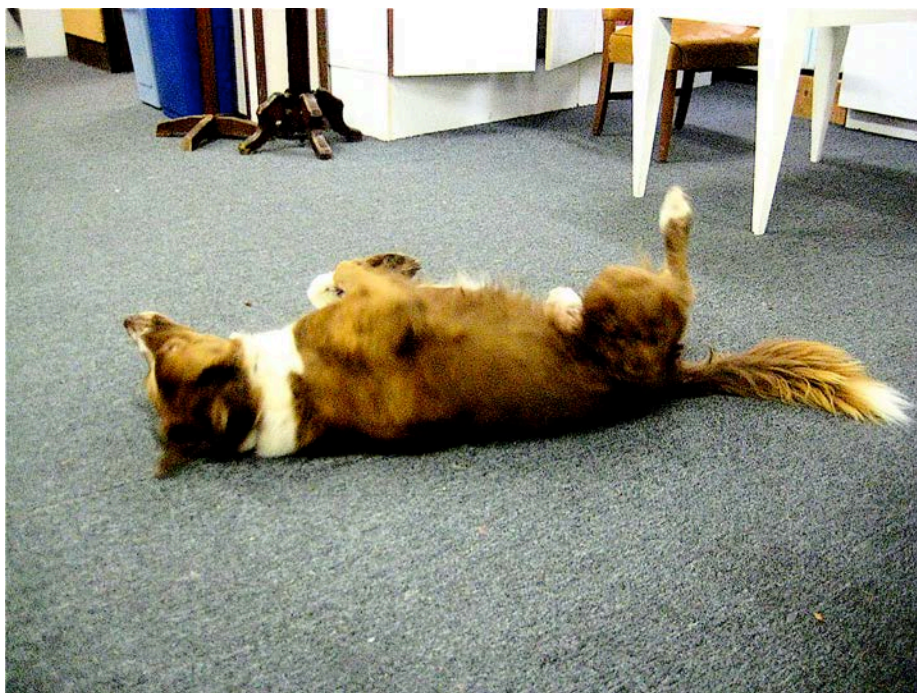
I’ll quickly sum up my last two games so as not to further bore you, those being with Isaac Vega (1690-1689—2.5/4), who



(L) Emma Gurcan vs Nick LaFond. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



YES VIRGINIA, SANTA CLAUS IS REAL—AND YOU'VE JUST BEEN CHECKMATED!



Morgan The Dog doing his "victory" rollovers. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

showed me I know little to nothing about this game, and with Masakazu Shimada (1500-1589—2.5/4), where I managed to achieve a drawn position after Shimada had grabbed one of my major pieces. But not content to leave well-enough alone, I tried for a win with three advanced and connected pawns, not realizing his active black bishop would negate any possibility of that ever happening, and found instead, a spectacular way to lose.

But enough of me and my failings; it is time I continued with the winners in this event, advancing from where I left off with Liu taking the U1500 prize (and part of my pride with it), to Colin Liu (1627-1685—3.0/4) and Jeremy Le Grove (1666-1689—3.0/4), who shared the U1800 prize, in combination with second place prize winners Moshe Rachmuth (1975-1978—3.0/4) and Gavin Zhang (1795-1811—3.0/4), all prize monies



(L) Jerrold Richards vs Gavin Zhang. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

being added together and divided four ways, giving each player \$30.18.

Top dog (I use this phrase with Morgan The Dog's OK, as most know who the Real top dog is) was Matt Zavortink (2137-2148—4.0/4) with a perfect 4.0, who apparently (according to his activity chart) took a hiatus from tournament chess from around 2007 until nearly the present day. Whatever he did in the meantime seemed not to have hurt his playing ability, and is now adding dollars to his income—\$69 to be exact.

So there you have it folks, a little hard data mixed with a lot of whining and astute observations, brought to you by this reporter and the good people who give of their time to TD these events—this time being Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten and Assistant Chief TD Mike Janniro.

Washington Challenger's Cup

By Josh Sinanan and Gary Dorfner
Seattle, WA – October 29-30, 2016

The 2016 Washington Challenger's Cup took place October 29-30 at Seattle Chess Club and attracted 62 players in two sections, Open and Reserve. National Master Anthony He, Candidate Master Derek Zhang, and Women's Candidate Master Naomi Bashkansky tied for first-third place in the Open each with 3.5/4. Because of his superior tiebreaks, Anthony is seeded into the 2017 Washington State Championship in February.

Joseph Truelson of Mercer Island won the Reserve section with 4.5/5, half a point ahead of Jeffrey Yan, Dan Mathews, Artjom Menkov, and Daniel Shubin.

Other prize winners: In the Open Section, first U2100 Naomi Bashkansky with 3.5/4 points. First U1900 was Andrew Fletcher with 3.0/4 points. In the Reserve Section, U1600 Dan Mathews, Jeffrey Yan, Dan Shubin, and Artjom Menkov scored 4.0/5 points each. First U1400 Aaron Fischer scored 3.5/5 points. First U1200/Unr. Anirudh Rajesh, Harrison Toppen-Ryan, and Krzysztof Duleba scored 3.0/5 each.

The tournament was directed by Fred Kleist, organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews, and hosted by the Washington Chess Federation.

**Derek Zhang (2131) –
Anthony He (2235) [B88]**
WA Challenger's Cup Seattle, WA
(R4), October 30, 2016
[Derek Zhang]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Be3 Bd7
9.Bb3 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Bc6 11.Qe2 0-0**

Michael Lee wins inaugural Seattle Chess Masters

By Josh Sinanan

Seattle, WA – November 5, 2016

The first ever Seattle Chess Masters Tournament took place November 5 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted eight players in the Master Section. International Master and current Washington State Champion Michael Lee won first place with 2.5/3. Three players tied for 2nd-4th place half a point behind him were FM Curt Collyer, FM Ignacio Perez, and NM Anthony He. Unfortunately there was no expert section this time due to lack of players.

The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Washington Chess Federation.

**Ignacio Perez (2227) –
Michael Lee (2526) [B72]**
Seattle Masters Seattle, WA
(R2), November 5, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6
5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 d6 8.Qd2
Ng4 9.Bxg4 Bxg4 10.f3 Bd7 11.Nxc6
bxc6 12.Bd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 f6 14.0–0–0
Qa5 15.h4 Rb8 16.h5
16.g4^{oo}



Derek Zhang, one of this year's Challenger's Cup co-champions, before the first round of the third Kings vs. Princes Match on August 26, 2016. Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.

11...e5 12.Be3 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Bxe4
14.Qc4 Bg6 15.f4 exf4 16.Ba4+ Kf8
17.Qxf4

12.Rad1 Qa5 13.f4 e5 14.fxe5

14.Be3 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.fxe5 dxe5
(16...Qxe5 17.Bd4) 17.Qc4 Bg6 18.Rd5
Qa6 19.Qxa6 bxa6 20.c3

14...dxe5 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 Bd6

16...exd4 17.Qxe7 Qb6 (17...Nxd5
18.Qg5 Rad8 19.Rf5)

**17.Be3 Qc7 18.Rxf6 gxf6 19.Bh6 Qd7
20.Rf1 Rfe8**



Position after 20...Rfe8

21.Qf3

21.Rxf6 Be7 22.Rf1 Bf8 23.Bxf8 Rxf8
24.Qxe5

21...Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Bf8 23.Qxf6 Bxh6

23...Qe7

**24.Qxh6 f5 25.Ba4 Qxa4 26.Qg5+ Kh8
27.Qf6+ Kg8 28.Rxf5 Qg4 29.Rg5+
Qxg5 30.Qxg5+ Kh8 31.Qf6+ Kg8**

**32.h4 Rad8 33.Qg5+ Kh8 34.Qf6+ Kg8
35.Qg5+**

35.c4 e4 36.Qg5+ Kh8 37.Qe3

1/2-1/2



(Front) Aaryan Deshpande (r) vs. Ignacio Perez and Kyle Haining (r) vs. Michael Lin (rear) during the first round of the inaugural Seattle Masters. Photo Credit: Xuhaio He.

16...gxf5 17.a3?! Rg8 18.g4 hxg4
 19.Rxh7 Be6 20.f4 Qb6 21.Qxb6 Rxb6
 22.f5 Bf7 23.Rg1 d5 24.Rh4 g3 25.Rh3



Position after 25.Rh3

25...dxe4

25...g2! 26.exd5 (26.Rh2 dxe4 27.Rhxg2 Rg2 28.Rxg2 Bh5! shows the value of allowing the g-pawn to exit from g2 rather than g3.) 26...Bxd5 27.Nxd5 cxd5. Black will retain an extra pawn, exchanging g2 for f5 or b2.

26.Rgxg3 Rxg3 27.Rxg3 Ra6



Position after 27...Ra6

28.Nd1?

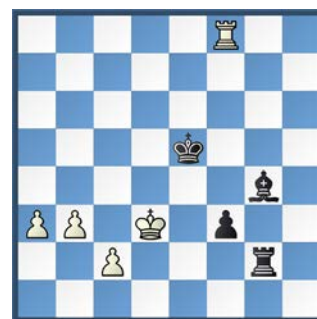
White makes things hard on himself. 28.Nxe4 Ra5 29.Re3! Re5 (29...Kd7 30.Ng3) 30.Kd2; 28.Re3 first likely transposes.

28...Ra5 29.Ne3 e6 30.fxe6 Bxe6 31.Rg7 f5

31...Rh5!?

32.Ng2 Bf7 33.Kd2 Ke7 34.Nf4 Rb5
 35.b3 Rb8 36.Rh7 Rg8 37.Rh6 Rg4
 38.Ke3 c5 39.Rc6 Rg3+ 40.Kd2 Rg4

41.Ke3 Rg3+ 42.Kd2 Rf3 43.Ne2 Bh5
 44.Nc3 e3+ 45.Kd3 e2+ 46.Kxe2 Rxc3+
 47.Kd2 Rg3 48.Rxc5 Bg4 49.Rc7+ Kf6
 50.Rxa7 f4 51.Ra8 Rg2+ 52.Kc3 f3
 53.Rf8+ Ke5 54.Kd3



Position after 54.Kd3

54...Bf5+?!

54...Re2! wins on the spot, with threats of ...Bf5+ followed by ...f2. (55.Re8+ Be6 56.a4 Kf4 doesn't help White at all, and 55.Kc3 f2 56.Kd3 Rxc2! 57.Kxc2 Bf5+ makes a new queen.)

55.Ke3 f2??



Anthony He (l) vs Alikhan Irgaliyev, a new master from Kazakhstan now living in Washington, begin their third round game at the Seattle Masters Tournament on November 5, 2016. Behind them, Michael Lin (l) plays Aaryan Deshpande. Photo Credit: Xuhao He.

55...Bg4 heads back to favorable territory.

56.Ke2 Rh2



Position after 56...Rh2

57.c4??

This exchange of blunders on moves 55 and 57 is one of the things that makes chess between real people worth playing. It's a long, grueling game, and finally it looked like White's persistence finally paid off. 55...f2?? allowed White to set up a fortress-like defense, a position in which the only progress Black can make is to head into an ending of rook and bishop vs rook — a theoretical draw, though it can be difficult.

Indeed, White should push one of those queenside pawns. But the move he chose, 57.c4, gives up control of both d3 and d4, a fatal error. Now the black king can use d4 to maneuver to c3, if necessary, and threaten ...Bd3+. With a white pawn on c2, there is no ...Bd3+. With the pawn on c3, there is no ...Kd4. Better are 57.b4, 57.a4, and even 57.c3, all which hold the draw.

57...Ke4 58.Re8+ Kd4 59.Rd8+ Kc3 60.Rf8 Bd3+ 0-1

Kyle Haining (2273) – Ignacio Perez (2227) [B76]
Seattle Masters Seattle, WA
(R3), November 5, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.g4 e5?!

This looks positionally suspect. 9...h5?!

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 9...e5

10.Nb3

Not 10.Ndb5? a6! 11.Nxd6 Nd4! 12.Bxd4 exd4 13.Qxd4 Nxd4!-+; Perhaps best is 10.Nxc6! bxc6 11.g5 Ne8 12.h4± Black risks being overrun. Unfortunate, for example, would be 12...Rb8?! 13.h5 Rxb2? 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.Bc4+ Kh8?? 16.Rxh7+

10...a5 11.Bb5 Be6 12.0-0-0 Bxb3 13.axb3 Nd4 14.Bxd4 exd4 15.Ne2?!

15.Qxd4 Nxd4 (15...Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Bxc3, while a cute tactic, must also favor White due to the weakness of the d6-pawn and the dark squares around the black king.) 16.Qxd6 with complications that are, at least, not unfavorable to White. e.g. 16...Qg5+ 17.Kb1 Bxc3 18.Rd5 Qe3 19.fxg4 Qxe4 20.Rhd1 Bg7 21.g5±

15...Nd7 16.Kb1 Nc5 17.Nxd4 a4 18.b4



Position after 18.b4

18...a3!

Classic Perez. Black jettisons a piece for complex and unclear attacking chances.

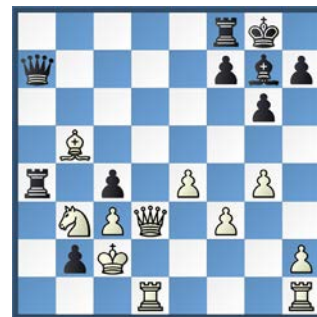
19.bxc5 dxc5 20.Nb3 axb2 21.c3 Qb6 22.Bc4 Ra4 23.Qd3

Here White could choose a simplifying tactic: 23.Bxf7+! Rxf7 (23...Kh8 24.Qd3 c4 25.Bxc4 Rc8 26.Nd2∞; 23...Kxf7?? 24.Qd5+ Qe6 25.Qxe6+ Kxe6 26.Nxc5+ 24.Qd8+ Qxd8 25.Rxd8+ Rf8 (or 25...Bf8 26.Kxb2 Rxf3 27.Nxc5 Rc4) 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Kxb2 Rb4!, heading for a draw.

23...Qa7

23...Qc7!∞ gives the queen some central options as well, while keeping the a-file free for the rooks.

24.Kc2?! b5! 25.Bxb5 c4



Position after 25...c4

26.Qd7??

26.Bxc4 Rc8 27.Nd2 Raxc4! 28.Nxc4 Qa4+ 29.Kd2 Rxc4 though Black stands quite a bit better despite being down the exchange and a pawn.

26...cxb3+ 27.Kxb2 Ra2+ 28.Kxb3 Qa3+ 29.Kc4 Qxc3+ 30.Kd5 Raa8 31.Rd3 Qb4 32.Kc6 Rab8 33.Qd5 Rxb5 34.Qxb5 Rc8+ 35.Kb6 Rb8+ 0-1


Challenger's Cup Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan and Gary Dorfner

Seattle, WA – November 5, 2016

The 2016 Washington Challenger's Cup Scholastic was held on November 5 at Seattle Chess Club in Northgate. 32 players took part in four sections: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-6 U900, and 4-6 Open.

The winners were: K-3 U800 First Place Aadit Aggarwal 5.0; Second Place



Carl Haessler Chess Master

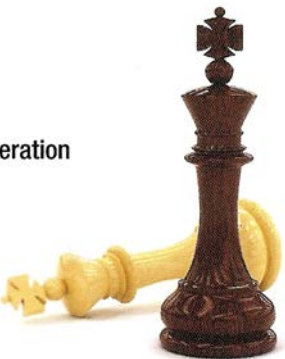
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Robert Chirita 4.0; Third Place Fred Barr 3.0. K-3 Open Adrian Loewenherz 5.0; Second Place Walter Barr 4.0; Third Place Abhay Sankar 3.0. 4-6 U900 First Place was David Woodruff 5.0; Second/Third Place was Venkata Naga Abhina Kambhampaty and Purab Kothari with 3.0 each. 4-6 Open First Place was Saumitra Joshi 5.0; Second Place was George Hurley 4.0; Third-Seventh Places were Yuvika Gupta, Brandon Luo, Julian Loewenherz, Dylan Walker, and Arnav Murudkar with 3.0 each.

The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by David Hendricks with assistance from Josh Sinanan and Chouchan Airapetian.

Oregon Class Championship

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — November 5-6, 2016

Whatever caused the less than expected turnout for the Vancouver Open in October was apparently still virulent and spreading across state lines, as the Oregon Class Championship, November 5th and 6th at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, also drew a substantially anemic response.

Put on by the guys (the Oregon Chess Federation and Portland Chess Club) who brought you the wildly successful Oregon Open in September, where crowd control was needed to contain the milling masses, and visibility was limited to a sea of heads; by contrast, this tournament had unhampered visibility from the playing area to the lobby, with an occasional player passing into view—42, to be exact, at a venue which last held more than four times that many.

As a consequence of the low turnout, it was necessary to combine the Class B and C players, making 14 in total (only three B Class players had registered, the fourth B Class player deciding to play in the A Class—an option one could take for an extra \$10). The Master/Expert, Class A and U1400 players remained in their separate classes. It was a situation I, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1553-1521—1.5/5) had hoped to avoid, as I wanted to play up, with no worries of maybe having to play down. As it turned out, my worst fears were realized, and I ended up not fighting to gain rating points, but to keep myself from losing them to C players who proved themselves wildly underrated!

Although my rating shows me beginning at 1553, my US Chess rating was still online at 1610, thus my reason for entering the B Class. By contrast, at



(L) Chief TD Grisha Alpernas presenting first prize money to Carl Haessler, who won the Master/Expert Class. Photo credit: Mike Morris.

least one player listed as being in the high 1600s, was actually much higher rated (recently rated in the 1800s), but his new rating had not yet been posted online. I’m not sure of the official ruling concerning use of current vs US Chess posted ratings, but this seemed a good case for Class tournaments using the most current rating that can be documented.

And speaking of ratings, while mine has been spiraling downward most every time I attempt to touch a chess board, Jerrold “I Just Want To Make 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1554-1499—1.5/5), whose buddy is the famed “Morgan The Dog,” had by this tournament been making steady progress towards his goal, only to find that (as I did) this combined ratings group had some tough customers. And although Morgan The Dog was there as moral support and advice giver, even his presence could not keep Richards from stumbling down the same path as

me—our lone draw the result of playing each other.

Those who found the B/C Class more to their liking included the overall winner, Isaac Vega (1689-1748—4.5/5), who claimed \$140, and whose toughest opponent was second-place prize winner, Chopon Babu Radhakrishnan-Kothandaraman (1806P-1816P—4.0/5), whom he held to a draw, and who collected \$70 for his effort. Other winners were Jack McClain (1569-1570—3.0/5) and Jonathan Hurkett (1502-1556—3.0/5), who tied for first-second in the U1600, and who received \$105 each, and Rajesh Shanmukam (1591-1597—2.5/5). Sean Uan-Zo-Li (1507-1500—2.5/5), Ethan Zhang (1295-1386—2.5/5) and Anirudh Rajesh (1256-1355—2.5/5), who tied for third overall and third U1600, each taking home \$17.50 for two days of determined participation.



(L) Jerry Sherrard vs Lennart Bjorksten. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Jerrold Richards grins at Brian Berger before their game. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) David Murray vs Joshua Grabinsky. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Dropping to the U1400, in which there were ten players entered, Nathaniel Tan (932P-1274—4.5/5) took the top honor and the top dollars (\$200), while Ian Fudalla (1336-1356—4.0/5) took second and \$100, and Harry Buerer (1227-1217—3.0/5) nabbed third-place and \$50.

Class A saw the little guy with a lot-of-hats, Joshua Grabinsky (2001-2021—4.0/5), grab the top prize of \$200, followed by Brent Baxter (1889-1911—3.5/5) taking second, earning him \$100 smackeroos. And third-place saw a tie, with Moshe Rachmuth (1978-1979—3.0/5) and Josiah Perkins (1912-1920—3.0/5) taking home \$25 each.

The Master/Expert section was another class that, at first, looked as if it might have to be combined with the A players, as it did not meet the required eight-player minimum—only lacking one player. But when asked for a volunteer to play up, at no extra cost, A Class player, Danny Phipps (1951-1973—3.0/5), stepped up to make the required eighth contestant—and a worthy one he was, showing himself to be equal to the task by achieving a tie for third-place with National Master Lennart Bjorksten (2085-2097—3.0/5), each winning a modest \$20, enough to cover a latte and a sweet roll.

The eventual winner of this section was National Master Carl Haessler (2224-2233—4.0/5), who of late has been winning whatever he wants, but in this tournament faced a stubborn Jose Gatica (2104-2098—1.5/5) and an equally



(L) Assistant Chief TD Mike Morris and Chief TD Grisha Alpernas at the registration desk. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

stubborn Matt Zavortink (2148-2139—2.5/5), both of whom held Haessler to a draw. Even so, the four points earned were enough to take the \$160, first-place money, the last of the prize fund (\$80) going to second-place winner, Jerry Sherrard (2033-2088—3.5/5), whose only loss was to Haessler.

Manning the position of Chief TD once again was Gregori (Grisha) Alpernas,

who along with his Assistant Chief TD, Michael Morris, recently directed the Oregon Open. And though this was not as large a crowd as was drawn to the Open, the officiating professionalism there was apparent here, and moved the games along in a timely manner.

Miscellaneous Games

Anshul Ahluwalia (1676) – Jason Zhang (1754) [A61]

K vs P Round Robin 2
Seattle, WA (R5), August 29, 2016
[Anshul Ahluwalia]

This was the critical round of the tournament for me. My opponent had 3/4, while I was right on his heels with 2.5/4. If I won this game, I had great chances for winning the section.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6

The Modern Benoni.

6.Nf3 g6 7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2

The point of the fianchetto variation is to rack up serious pressure on d6 by playing Bf4, Nd2, and Nc4.

8...Qb6?!

A serious inaccuracy. Now Nf3-Nd2-Nc4 will allow White to gain a tempo while still racking up pressure on d6. Better was 8...0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Nd2 a6 11.a4.

9.0-0 0-0 10.Nd2 a6 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.a4

A thematic move in the Benoni, stopping Black from playing b5.



(L) Andrea Botez vs Corey Tache. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

12...Rd8 13.Bf4 Nh5 14.Bg5



Position after 14.Bg5

14...f6?

This move kills the knight on h5, now it has no retreat squares, kills the dark squared bishop and creates a hole on e6.

15.Bc1 f5 16.Bg5?

I was not sure about what to do here so I played Bg5. 16.e4 fxe4 17.Bg5 Nf6 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Bxd8 Qxd8 20.Bxe4 would have won the exchange.

16...Rf8 17.Qd2?!

This play is too slow which is not what the position demands. e4 would have been better, increasing the pressure in the center and potentially opening up the kingside. 17.e4 h6 18.Bd2 f4 19.Bf3 fxe3 20.Bxe3 gxe3 21.Qxe3+ This is winning for White.

17...Re8



Position after 17...Re8

18.Rfe1?

Again, this is too slow. An immediate e4 would have been better. 18.e4 Nd7 19.exf5 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.fxe6 hxe6+ White is up a pawn and Black does not have much compensation.

18...Nd7 19.Bf3

My goal behind this move was to take on h5 and weaken Black's kingside. This was not the most principled idea as White's Bishop is far better than Black's knight. Better would have been e4.

19...Ndf6 20.a5 Bd7 21.Nb6 Rab8 22.h3

Preparing to eventually play g4 and trap Black's knight.

22...Kf7 23.Kh2

23.e4 fxe4 24.Bxe5 Nxe5 25.g4 Nf6 26.Qf4 h6 27.h4 is winning, but this was tough to see.

23...Rh8 24.Bh6 Rbe8 25.Nc4 Kg8

This move renders Black's rook on h8 useless.

26.Rg1 Rf8 27.Raf1

I have all the time in the world, I might as well shore up my weaknesses.

27...Bc8 28.Qc1 Qd7 29.Nb6 Qc7 30.Bd2

NORTHWEST CHESS OPEN December 10-11, 2016

A Northwest Chess fundraising event.

US Chess-rated, NWC Grand Prix.

State membership optional.

Format: 5 Round Swiss; TC 40/90, SD/30, no delay.

Playing site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Entry: Entry Fee \$30.00 in advance, \$35.00 at door. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

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For more information and details:

Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

Advance entry deadline is December 7th.

I don't want my bishop stuck on h6 when I play g4, so that I can avoid any f4 tricks.

30...Bd7 31.g4 fxe4 32.hxe4 Nxe4+ 33.Bxe4 Bxe4 34.Rxe4 Qd8

This was the scariest part of the game, my opponent is able to drum up a lot of play against my king.

35.Ne4 Qe7 36.Bc3 Be5+ 37.Kg1 Rf4 38.f3 Rxe4+ 39.fxe4 Qh4 40.Bxe5 Qxe4+ 41.Kf2

41.Bg3 Nxe3 42.Nf6+ would have been winning, but I missed it.

41...dxe5 42.Qe3 Qh4+ 43.Kg2 Nf4+

44.Rxf4 exf4 45.Qh3 Qxh3+ 46.Kxh3

This is an easily won endgame due to the passed d-pawn, the knight on b6 and the weak pawn on c5 plus the inactivity of Black's pieces.

46...Kg7 47.d6 Kf7 48.Nxc5 Rb8 49.d7 Ke7 50.Kg4 Kd6 51.d8Q+ Rxd8



Position after 51...Rxd8

52.Nxb7+

A nice tactic to finish off the game. My opponent fought on for a few more moves but the game is clearly lost here.

52...Kc7 53.Nxd8 Kxd8 54.Kxf4 h5 55.Kg5 Kc7 56.Nd5+ Kd6 57.Nf4 Ke5 58.Nxe6+ Ke4 59.Kxh5 Ke3 60.Ne5 Kxe2 61.Nd7 Kd3 62.Nc5+ Kc4 63.Nxa6 Kb5 64.b4 Kxa6 65.Kg5 Kb7 66.b5 Kb8 67.Kf5 Ka7 68.Ke5 Kb8 69.Kd6 Kb7 70.b6 Ka8 71.Kc6 Kb8 72.b7 Ka7 73.Kc7 Ka6 74.b8Q Kxa5 75.Kc6 Ka6 76.Qa8# 1-0

Josh Sinanan (2204) – William Morrison (2408)

[E09]

Millionaire Chess 2016
Atlantic City, NJ (R6), October 8, 2016

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 c6 5.Bg2 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 b6 9.e4 Bb7 10.e5 Ne8 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Re1 Qc8 13.Qd3 Ba6 14.Qe3 Qc2 15.Bf1 Nc7 16.a3

Bxf1 17.Nxf1 f6 18.Bd2 Rac8 19.Bb4 Bxb4 20.axb4



Position after 20.axb4

20...a6?!

20...Nb5 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 is quite level.

21.Re2

21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Ne5±

21...Qf5 22.Nh4 Qh3?!

22...Qe4!?

23.f4

23.exf6 gxf6 24.Qf4±, meeting 24...e5 with 25.Qf5 Qxf5 26.Nxf5±

23...fxe5 24.dxe5 Nb5 25.Nf3 Rc4

25...Qg4

26.Qd3?

26.Qd2

26...h6?

Simply 26...Rxb4 favors Black, because 27.Rxa6?? Nc5+

27.Rxa6 Rxb4 28.Qd2 Rc4 29.Ne3

[Diagram top of next column]

29...Rc5?

29...Rcxf4! 30.gxf4 Qxf3 gives Black good compensation for the exchange.

30.Ra1 Rfc8 31.Rf1 Qh5?!

31...Nf8 32.b4 Rc3 33.Nd4 Nxd4 34.Qxd4 b5 35.f5!±



Position after 29.Ne3

32.Ref2

32.b4! R5c6 33.Qd3± (33.Nxd5 is also good.)

32...Qg6 33.b4 R5c6



Position after 33...R5c6

34.Nxd5! Qf7 35.Ne3 Nf8 36.Qd3 Na7 37.f5 Rc3 38.Qe4 exf5? 39.Nxf5 R3c4?

40.N3d4 Qd7 41.Nd6 Ne6 42.Rf7 Rxd4 43.Rxd7 Rxe4 44.Rxa7 Rcc4 45.Re7 1-0

2017 Newport June Open Planning Stages

By H.G. Pitre

Looking for players who want to bring the Newport June Open back to life in 2017. The chief organizers, Bill Barrese and H G Pitre, need some more help and need to measure the interest and support for this event in order to design it to provide the competition that a large number of players want to have.

About the only thing that is set is the location. Playing site: Central Lincoln PUD, 2129 N. Coast Hwy, Newport, OR. It has usually been a four or five round event, with sections, and has attracted 20 to 45 players recently. We need to decide all the parameters for this, and you may have the key input for us.

Maybe this is an opportunity for you to become a US Chess TD. Any contributions that you can make will be welcome. Please contact Bill Barrese by email using blbrrs2020@yahoo.com.

Washington G/60 Chess Championship

December 27-28, 2016

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

Format: 6 Round Swiss. One Section.

Time Control: G/60, d5.

Dual Rated: Regular and Quick Chess rated.

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

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating.

Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Prize Fund: \$1,000 (based on 40 paid entries).

1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 1st U2000 \$100, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200/Unrated \$100.

Entry Fee: \$45 if postmarked or online by 12/24, \$55 after 12/24 or at site.

Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Tuesday 11:00 - 11:45 AM.

Rounds: Tuesday 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM; Wednesday 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2.

USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

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

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

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



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New Year's Open – January 7-8, 2017

One Open Section; 5-Round Swiss; One ½ point bye available if requested at registration. **Time Control for All Rounds:** Game in 2 hours; 5 second delay (G/120;d5). **Limited to first 50 to register.** To pre-register mail check payable to Portland Chess Club, name, address, email address, USCF ID# and bye request to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave., Portland, OR 97212. **Registration:** Sat 9-9:45; **Rounds:** Sat 10:00, 2:15, 6:30; Sun 10:00, ASAP.

Location: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR 97219.

\$1,500 (Based on 50 entries)

1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$125; U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300/unr: **\$100 – \$75**

Bonus Upset Prize (win with the greatest established-rating difference): \$50

Entry Fee (checks or cash only): \$45; \$10 discount to PCC members.

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF/ICA required (OSA); NW Grand Prix. This is a qualifier for the OSCF state championship and for the 2018 OCF Invitational.

The 2016 Richard Gutman Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

Here we are again, nearing the end of the year in the Grand Prix, my fourteenth since taking over the record-keeping duties. And, 2016 could be another record setting year in many categories. We have 688 different people who have taken part in one or more Grand Prix events. This is a lot of people, but is not likely to surpass the record of 767 in 2014. These 688 people have been busy, though, having made 2410 entries into GP events, needing just 251 more entries in the last two months to surpass the mark set in 2014. The record for points awarded is within reach as well. Through ten months, we have awarded 21,096 points, an average of over 2,000 points per month. If we match that the last two months, we will well surpass the 23,002 points earned in 2011. We will end up the year with a record number of Grand Prix events, by a large margin. Through November, we had 77 events, and there were 85 total in 2014. We have nine events scheduled in November alone, giving this year the record even before December rolls around. Nine more in December will give us 95 by the end of the year. I attribute beating the record by ten events on the addition of twelve PCC Quads to the GP calendar.

Most impressively, the record for the most points by a single player in one year is about to be toppled. In 2013, Ralph Anthony became the first person to get over 300 points in a single year of the Grand Prix, scoring 301.5. Stephen Buck, averaging one event per week, is only 15 points behind Anthony's record, and possibly will be at or past that mark by the time you read this article.

November had nine GP events. These included three each in Seattle and Portland, and one each in Spokane, Twin Falls and Lynnwood. Three of those were multiplier events. The SCC Extravaganza!! (now with TWO exclamation points) and the Oregon Class were both 2x events and the Washington Class Championships carried a 5x multiplier. December will bring the year to a close with another nine events. The last event of the year is the Washington G/60 Championship, with a 2x multiplier, the only multiplier of the month. So, if you are embroiled in a close competition for your class, you might want to plan on being at the Seattle Chess Club on December 27-28. Of course, don't ignore the other eight events, in Boise, Portland, Seattle and Tacoma.

Sometimes I get to tell you about a player who does so well that his or her rating moves into a new class, only to be rewarded by falling out of the standings in a more competitive class. This month, I can tell you about one who's reward was more than just a higher class. Brendan Zhang of Washington moved from Class A to Expert with the November official ratings. As a result, Zhang moved from third in Class A, 42.5 points behind the leader, to first in the Expert Class, with a 9.5 point lead over second place.

See you in January for the start of the 2017 season. Statistics below are current through 11/1.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Cigan	Jason	118.5	1 Raptis	Nick	171
			2 Haessler	Carl A	74	2 Pupols	Viktors	158.5
			3 Tarjan	James	71.5	3 He	Anthony B	151
			4 Grabinsky	Aaron	30	4 Tiglon	Bryce	84.5
			5 Prochaska	Peter	27	5 Sinanan	Joshua C	77.5
Experts								
M/X/Class A								
1 Miller	Travis J	63.5	1 Richardson	Ryan	113	1 Zhang	Brendan	127.5
2 Cambareri	Michael E	58.5	2 Talyansky	Seth D	72.5	2 Bashkansky	Naomi	118
3 Hawkins	Nicholas B	48	3 Bjorksten	Lennart	70	3 Yu	Jason	96
4 Bodie	Brad	42.5	4 McCoy	Owen	67.5	4 Thomas	Arjun	85.5
5 Nathan	Jacob A	21.5	5 Gatica	Jose M	66.5	5 Bartron	Paul R	64.5

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class B			Class A								
1	Xu	Kevin	38	1	Rachmuth	Moshe S	88	1	Baxter	Brent L	161
2	Derryberry	Dewayne R	13.5	2	Phipps	Danny	82	2	Lee	Addison	153.5
3	Rainey	Samuel W	13	3	Murray	David E	71.5	3	Zhang	Eric M	133
4	Eacker	Barry D	11	4	Perkins	Josiah	70	4	Truelson	Joseph	109
5	Roland	Jeffrey T	10.5	5	Yoshinaga	David K	48	5	Kuhner	Mary K	102.5
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ron	35.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	196	1	Buck	Stephen J	286.5
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	24.5	2	Berger	Brian F	110	2	Pothukuchi	Revanth V	146.5
3	Martonick	Nick	23	3	Vega	Isaac	103.5	3	Jiang	Brandon	139
4	Courtney	Caleb	21.5	4	Moore	Michael	97	4	Xuan	Owen	98.5
5	Two Tied at		10	5	Botez	Andrea C C	84.5	5	Ahluwalia	Anshul B	96
Class D			Class C								
1	Liu	James	46	1	Dietz	Arliss	89.5	1	Piper	August	170
2	Wei	James	30	2	Roshu	David L	70.5	2	Richards	Jerrold	126.5
3	Bodie	Arlene	26.5	3	Tsai	James	62	3	Velea	Anne-Marie	115.5
4	Porth	Adam	26	4	Nair	Roshen S	61.5	4	Zarzhevskiy	Jacob	110
5	Porth	Desmond	16	5	Kenway	Geoffrey W	58.5	4	Vijayakumar	Advaith	110
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Callen	Gregory D	57	1	Roshu	Cassandra M	62.5	1	Munsey	Michael R	127
2	Zeng	Forrest	40	2	Pai	Kushal	59.5	2	Velea	Sophie	98.5
3	He	Justin	33	3	Zhang	Ethan Y	58	3	Pogrebinsky	Ethan	97.5
4	Aderogba	Temiloluwa D	14.5	4	Wu	Kevin	56.5	4	Velea	Stephanie	95
5	Two Porths Tied at		13	5	Feldman	Neena	53	4	Kaelin	Alex	76
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Miller	Travis J	63.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	196	1	Buck	Stephen J	286.5
2	Cambareri	Michael E	58.5	2	Cigan	Jason	118.5	2	Raptis	Nick	171
3	Callen	Gregory D	57	3	Richardson	Ryan	113	3	Piper	August	170
4	Hawkins	Nicholas B	48	4	Berger	Brian F	110	4	Baxter	Brent L	161
5	Liu	James	46	5	Vega	Isaac	103.5	5	Pupols	Viktors	158.5
6	Bodie	Brad	42.5	6	Moore	Michael	97	6	Lee	Addison	153.5
7	Zeng	Forrest	40	7	Dietz	Arliss	89.5	7	He	Anthony B	151
8	Xu	Kevin	38	8	Rachmuth	Moshe S	88	8	Pothukuchi	Revanth V	146.5
9	Weyland	Ron	35.5	9	Botez	Andrea C C	84.5	9	Jiang	Brandon	139
10	He	Justin	33	10	Phipps	Danny	82	10	Zhang	Eric M	133
11	Wei	James	30	11	Markowski	Gregory A	74	11	Zhang	Brendan	127.5
12	Bodie	Arlene	26.5	11	Haessler	Carl A	74	12	Munsey	Michael R	127

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

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
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 Seattle WA 98133 ←

→ Infoline ←
 206-417-5405 ←

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

☞ **Jan. 13-15 Seattle City Champ.** ☞
Format: 2-sec., 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/120, SD/60 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/60); d5. **EF:** *Championship* \$45 (\$35 for SCC mem., \$40 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11, \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$36 (\$26 for SCC mem., \$31 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11, \$45 (\$35, \$40) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Add** \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1–Sat. 10 a.m., G/64). **Prize Fund:** \$51010 (b/52, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** *Championship* \$250-150, X 100, A 80; **Reserve (U1800)** \$140-90, C 70, D 60, E & under 50, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Your contribution to the SCC is tax-deductible! That's right, what you give to the Seattle Chess Club can lower your federal income tax bill!

☞ **Dec. 4, Jan. 8 Sunday Tornado** ☞
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **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.

December 10 Seattle Masters #2
Format: 3-SS, 2 sec— Master & Expert, FIDE-rated. **TC:** G/90; i30. **EF:** \$75 by 5 p.m., 12/9, afterwards \$90. **Prizes (b/15):** \$450-325-225-125. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC. **More details:** see www.nwchess.com or contact joshsinanan@gmail.com or call 206-769-3757

☞ **Dec. 17, Jan. 21 Saturday Quads** ☞
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

January 22 New Date SCC Novice
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/18, \$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.

3rd SCC Insanity

Three linked events: **High-Roller Octagonals** (3-SS in 8-player sections, G/101;d10, Rds 10:04-2:11-6:19), **Regressive Swiss** (4-SS, Rd 1–G/89;d9 @ 10:31 p.m., Rd 2–G/46;d6 @ 2:04 a.m., Rd 3–G/21;d4 @ 3:53 a.m., Rd 4–G/6;d0 @ 4:49 a.m.), **Chess 960 Quads** (3-RR, G/18;d0, Rds 5:07-5:51-6:36).

Entry Fees: Insanity (all 3 events): \$38.06 for SCC members, \$49.12 all others. Octos: \$21/\$28. Regressive: \$11/\$16. 960: \$9/\$13.

Prizes: Octos: 1st-\$64, 2nd-\$36. Regressive: (b/10) 1st-\$36, 1st in bottom half-\$24. 960: 1st-\$24.32.

Registration: Insanity & Octos: 9-9:41 a.m. Regressive: 9:39-10:13 p.m. 960: 4:12-4:50 a.m.

All Insanity players who are still awake after the final round are invited to breakfast at Shari's Reataurant on Aurora Ave.

SCC 2017 Weekend Schedule

Masters: Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3.

Novice: Jan 22, Apr 23, July 16, Oct 15.

Quads: Jan 21, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 20, June 10, July 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 14, Nov 18, Dec 16

Tornado: Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, Jul 9, Aug 13, Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 5, Dec 3

Seattle City Championship 13-15 Jan.

Seattle Spring Open 17-19 March

SCC Adult Swiss 8-9 April

Emerald City Open 23-25 June

Seafair Open 21-23 July

Seattle Fall Open 22-24 Sept.

SCC Extravaganza 10-12 Nov.

SCC Insanity 31 Dec.-1 Jan.

Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Dec 3/Jan 21** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR.** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads, G/45;d15. 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, 12:15pm, and 2:30pm. 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.

☞ **Dec 3** Christmas Tornado, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G30; d5. Entry Fee: \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. TCC members \$22, \$27. Prize Fund: 1st \$45, 2nd \$40: Top Half and Bottom Half. Registration: 9:00 to 9:45, Rounds: 10:00, 11:15, 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30. 2 half point byes available. US Chess/WCF or other state membership required. NS NC W. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E B St, Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com. Website: tacomachess.org.

Dec 3 Washington Blitz Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (See <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

Dec 3 Washington Bughouse Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (See <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

☞ **Dec 10-11** Northwest Chess Open, **Seattle, WA.** (See Quarter-Page Ad page 25)

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

☞ **Dec 10-11** Western Idaho Open, **Boise, ID.** 5SS. Game/120;d5. 2 Sections Open and Reserve (U1400). Site: La Quinta Inn & Suites, 7965 W. Emerald St., Boise, Idaho 83704. US Chess mem req. ICA mem req. OSA. EF by 12/5 \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), Special family rate \$60. \$5 more for all if after 12/5. Register & check in: 8-8:45am 12/10. Rd Times: 9:00, 1:30, 6:00, 9:00, 1:30. 1/2 pt bye available in any round (max 1). Those not checked in by 8:45 a.m. may not be paired in first round. Players arriving before 1:15 p.m. on 12/10 may take a retroactive first round 1/2 pt bye regardless of whether notice was given or not. \$\$ (based on 30). Open \$200, \$100, \$75. Reserve \$100, \$75, \$50. Register online at www.idahochoessassociation.org. INFO: Chief TD Jeffrey Roland at jroland@cablone.net. NC, NS, WC.

☞ **Dec 17/Jan 28** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. 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). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

☞ **Dec 27-28** Washington G/60 Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (See Half-Page Ad page 26)

☞ **Jan 7-8** Portland New Year's Open, **Portland, OR** (See Half-page Ad page 27)

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