

\$3.95

April 2018

Northwest

Chess



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS WASHINGTON AND IDAHO

Chess News and Features from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon

Northwest Chess

April 2018, Volume 72-04 Issue 843

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Office of Record:
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 4174 148th Ave NE,
Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052-5164.

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

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Washington State Champion Roland Feng (left), photo
by Jacob Mayer and Idaho State Champion Alex Machin
(right), photo by Jeffrey Roland.

On the back cover:

Alex Machin displays the front cover on the back cover.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Chesstoons:

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

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From The Editor’s Desk

I always like to think each issue is very different from the last. The first thing I do with an issue is basically erase all the pages and start with 30 blank pages—I usually leave page two (what I call the “boiler plate”) and page 31 (“Upcoming Events”) as templates, but all other pages are just wiped out completely, and I start from scratch with an open mind and let the issue take on it’s own natural direction based on the material that is submitted to editor@nwchess.com by readers like you!

It really is important that people do submit material too. Last month, we had two Idaho chess players write poems. This issue (shown below) we were sent a photograph of the officers of the Spokane Chess Club, and we get bios, games, articles from various people in the Northwest. We have a very small staff. But it seems like each issue is produced from the efforts of many more than the just the staff when one takes into account that *Northwest Chess* is really truly made up of everyone who submits material too.

I was impressed with the kids and some adults too, who kept playing around with the “Chess Tournament” sign at the Idaho Closed. Various pictures throughout the tournament captured the various ways those letters could be arranged and produced an interesting conversation piece—that photo collage on page seven.

Anyway, the issue is here now, ready for you to explore and enjoy!

— Jeffrey Roland

Spokane Chess Club Officers

James Stripes was able to take a picture of the Spokane Chess Club officers, all gathered together in one place at a time when James also had his camera with him. This isn’t exactly a big news story, but it is kind of nice.—Editor.



Left to right: Ted Baker, Secretary; Michael Cambareri, President; John Frostad, Vice President; Kevin Korsmo, Treasurer.
Photo credit: James Stripes.

2018 Idaho Closed State Championship

By Jeffrey Roland

On February 17-19, 2018, for the 72nd consecutive year, the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) held a state championship event to choose the Idaho State Chess Champion. The event was held at the Hampton Inn, 1658 Fillmore St., in Twin Falls. Barry Eacker was Chief Tournament Director and 41 players attended the event. Time control for this six-round Swiss tournament was 30/120, SD/60; d5. Before we get any further into this year's event, let's get a little background.

From 1947 through 1957, plus 1968 and 1969, the state champion was chosen by determining the top Idaho player at the Idaho Open (or "Idaho" tournament as it was sometimes called in the early years). But starting in 1958 and going forward to today (except 1968 and 1969 as noted), a special event called the Idaho Closed determined the title of Idaho State Chess Champion. (The Idaho Closed is actually an "Open" tournament—being open to any player residing in Idaho—but is also "Closed" in the sense that you must



TD Barry Eacker kicking off one of the rounds. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



L-R: Adam Porth, Alex Machin, Jay Simonson. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

reside in Idaho.) And according to the rules of the *Northwest Chess Grand Prix*, it qualifies as a NWGP event, as each state is allowed one event open to all who reside in the state and that follow all other qualifying requirements for NWGP.

In Idaho, the Idaho Closed is widely considered the premier chess event of the year. The idea of playing for and seeing the process of selecting the official state champion, and knowing you can see Idaho's best players coming to duke it out, is a major draw and one many players never miss.

To illustrate this point a little further, the late Glen Buckendorf, who played in the first event of 1947 and every other event except the one in 1958 when business forced him to be out of state, Glen was able to set a standing record of participating in 50 consecutive State Championship events (1959-2008). This record is likely not matched anywhere else in the United States before or since.

Glen's presence is still felt to this day at each event, as Glen signed and donated his entire chess book collection, given out as prizes to the top player not to otherwise win a prize. This was a tradition actually started by Glen himself when he was alive and still continues to this day while supplies of signed books from Glen's book collection remain.

Memories and friendships are built at all chess tournaments everywhere,

but especially at the Idaho Closed. Even years later almost everyone has stories to reminisce and chuckle over. Okay, enough history and background, let's dig into this year's event!

On Sunday morning, February 18, 2018, the ICA had its annual business meeting. This year, for the first time since 1981 when attending an Idaho Closed, I actually missed the meeting. I was working on the March issue from my hotel room, and I even took a fourth-round bye to finish it up too... in fact, last month's issue was the first time I ever produced a whole issue from the site of an out-of-town tournament! So I just don't know what happened there at the meeting. I welcome and encourage ICA to submit a report of the annual business meeting for the May issue. At a minimum, it should at least cover elections and any big stuff that happened.

This year, we saw faces we haven't seen in a while, namely Blake Furlow, Garrett Reynolds, Michael Henderson, Dusty Mason, Janos Fucsko, and Larry Parsons (although we did see Larry at the recent Western Idaho Open too). Garrett was actually not eligible to play this year as he lives out of state, but he was on-hand nonetheless, watching games and helping any and all who wanted to go over their games between rounds for some one-on-one personal instruction from the former State Champion.

Prize Winners:

Alex Machin (1734-1838—5.5/6), 25, from Boise won the tournament and title with 5.5/6 points. Caleb Kircher (1889-1904—5.0/6), 28, from Meridian was second on tie-break points and Samir Saltaga (1668-1765—5.0/6), 50, from Twin Falls was third on tie breaks.

Other prize winners are:

- Top Expert — Larry Parsons
- First Class A — Cody Gorman
- Second Class A — Michael Henderson
- First Class B — Gaby Dagher
- Second Class B — Jeffrey Roland
- First Class C — Daniel Looney
- Second Class C — Wesley Nyblade
- First Class D — Adam Porth
- Second Class D — Wesley Nyblade III
- First Class E — River Shepard
- Second Class E — Darwin Porth
- First Unrated — Brandon Mason
- Top Senior — Fred Bartell
- Top Junior — Jacob Nathan
- Top Woman — Dylan Porth
- 1st Buckendorf — James Inman
- 2nd Buckendorf — DeWayne Derryberry
- 3rd Buckendorf — Kevin Xu



Alex Machin (L) plays Dan Looney. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Daniel Looney (1504) – Alex James Machin (1734) [C14]
 Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
 (R2), February 17, 2018
[Alex Machin]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Bxf6?

White will need to keep the position closed to justify this exchange.

5...Bxf6 6.e5 Be7 7.f4 c5 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Bb5 Qb6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qd2 cxd4 12.Nxd4 c5 13.Nb3 a5 14.a4



Position after 14.a4

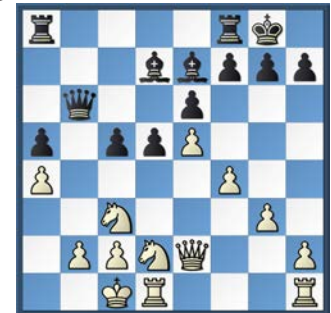
14...Bh4+ 15.g3 Be7

Making sure White can't castle short without suffering an attack from a queen and bishop battery along the a8-h1 diagonal.

16.0-0-0 Bd7

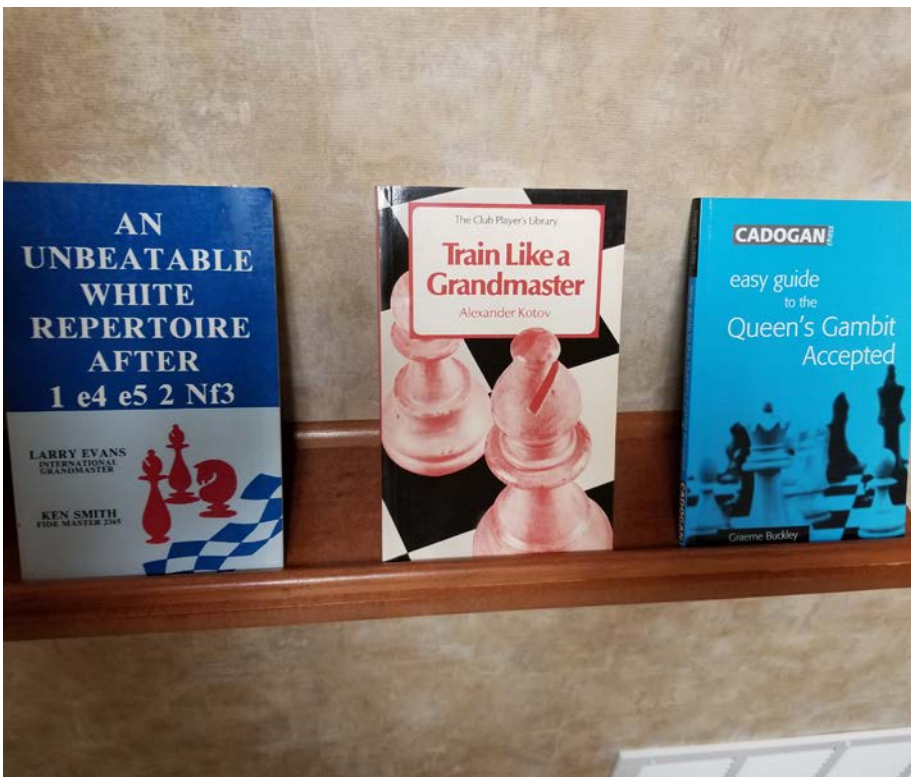
Threatening to attack and win the a4 pawn.

17.Qe2 0-0 18.Nd2



Position after 18.Nd2

18...Rfb8



The three books autographed by the late Glen Buckendorf that were given out as prizes for the Buckendorf awards. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

18...Qb4! making it impossible for White to play b3. After this, Black will win the a4-pawn and push forward his attack with a5-pawn to use as a lever.

19.b3 Qb4 20.Kb2 Bxa4 21.Nxa4 Qxa4 22.Ra1 Qb4 23.c3 Qb6 24.Rhb1 a4 25.Kc1 axb3 26.Rxa8 Rxa8 27.Nxb3 g6 28.Qc2 Qa6 29.Ra1 Qf1+ 30.Qd1 Rxa1+ 31.Nxa1



Position after 31.Nxa1

31...Qc4

I decided to keep the Queens on the board to exploit White's exposed king. I should have gone into this endgame. Even though I could not see the winning technique at the time, I'm confident I would have converted this into a win. 31...Qxd1+ 32.Kxd1

32.Qb3 Qd3 33.Qc2 Qf3 34.Nb3 h5 35.Qd2 d4? 36.Kc2 dxc3

My idea with playing 35... d4 was to either create a passed pawn on d3 or go for a zwischenzug in the example variation. Unfortunately my Queen is undefended which is what I missed. 36...Qe4+ 37.Qd3 c4 38.Qxe4 cxb3+

37.Qxc3



Position after 37.Qxc3

37...Qd5

37...Qe4+ 38.Qd3 Qa4 two different threats with one pawn move.

38.Kb2 Bf8 39.Qd2 Qb7 40.Qc3 Qb5 41.Kc2 Qa4 42.Kd3 Qa2 43.Nd2

43.Qc2 c4+!

43...Qd5+ 44.Ke3 Qg2 45.Nf3 Be7 46.Qd2

[Diagram top of next column]

46...Qxd2+ 47.Nxd2

I was able to achieve nothing by keeping



Position after 46.Qd2

the queens on. My extra pawn will be restricted, blockaded and captured. Foreseeing the inevitable for my c5-pawn, I try creating a weakness in White's position.

47...g5 48.Ne4 g4 49.Kd3 Kg7 50.Kc4 Kg6 51.Nd6 h4 52.Kxc5 hxc3 53.hxc3 Bh4! 54.Ne4

54.gxh4 g3 55.Ne4 g2 56.h5+ Kxh5? (56...Kh6! Black wins easily.) 57.Ng3+ Kg4 58.Ne2 Kf3 59.Ng1+ Kxf4 60.Kd6 Ke4 61.Nh3 Kf5 62.Ng1 f6 63.exf6 Kxf6 Only Black can win.

54...Kf5 55.Nd6+ Kg6 56.Ne4 1/2-1/2

Introduction to the Inman vs Machin Game

By Garrett Reynolds

Twin Falls, Idaho, directly adjacent to the cavernous Snake River Canyon, is a cold and ominous place in the winter.

The clouds are less billowy cotton candy and more the flat matte of gun metal, as foreboding and stoically grim as the moods of those who lived under these inhospitable conditions so many years ago. The winter here is harsh, with blowing winds, icy mornings, and frozen lava rock.

In other words, perfect chess weather!

I had the privilege and pleasure to be a guest at the 2018 Idaho Closed State Chess Championships. I am currently a resident of New Mexico, but I am very familiar with the Idaho chess community as a previous local director, organizer, instructor, coach, former Idaho Chess Association President, and two-time winner of this event. Due to my ineligibility, tournament director and close personal friend Barry Eacker invited me to provide round by round analysis and instruction. Every round, following games, I analyzed with players in a separate room. Most of the time, I was providing instruction. I don't play much tournament chess anymore, and my expert-level playing strength is not typically suitable for the stronger players.

But Alex Machin was the exception. A very strong player, I had the honor of collaborating following every match. After he presented this wonderful brilliancy, I knew it would be the game of the tournament. It's so rare for a game like this to be as much a joy to review as it is to analyze.

I want to congratulate Alex Machin on his state championship. Considering



Alex Machin (L) and Garrett Reynolds analyze a completed game between rounds. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

his performance, he stands a great chance of repeating.

James Inman (1774) –
Ales James Machin (1734) [A57]
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R4), February 18, 2018
[Alex Machin—AM]
[Garrett Reynolds—GR]

1.d4 c5

The first of some minor surprises. Machin had never previously tried nor studied

this move beforehand. I personally prefer this move: it avoids typical London System/ Torre Attack/ Colle setups in favor of Benoni/Benko-themed defenses — defenses players on autopilot usually prefer to avoid. But Machin had none of this in mind. He explained in the post-mortem, “I dunno, I just played this... I got tired of Inman beating me [with a more standard continuation], so I decided to try something different.”—GR

2.d5 Nf6 3.c4 b5

“Aw, the Benko,” I warmly approved.

“What’s that?”, replied Machin. I could only laugh incredulously. He was serious! Impatiently, we went over a few main lines, though Machin was not interested in these finer points. He knew what I didn’t — this aggressive advance preceded truer violence, and so we proceeded. —GR

4.Qc2

Players often decline gambits, fearful of the lurking traps from home preparation in the ensuing complications. Inman couldn’t have known Machin had done no prep work for the Benko. But I say —



The hotel event sign originally said, “CHESS TOURNAMENT” and over the course of the tournament, many players rearranged the sign. Multiple photos were taken over the weekend and are arranged here as one collage. There are also some other possibilities: “Hum Constermates,” “Chestnut so ramen,” “So Must Enchanter,” “Net Nor Mustaches,” and “Ancestor Thus Men.” Photo credit: Adam Porth.

try taking the pawn every once in a while. Players often know their pet gambits inside and out, but because the gambits are usually declined, counterintuitive acceptance could challenge a player to lines not recently practiced. In either case, Machin has achieved his opening objective: they both have to think on their feet now. —GR

4...bxc4 5.e4 d6

5...e6 deserves some consideration here, isolating the d-pawn without the support of the white queen. —GR

6.Bxc4 g6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.0-0 10.Re1 Ng4

This knight is much more threatening than initially appears. —GR

11.Bf1 Nde5

At first, I thought this was the wrong knight for e5. With a white knight retreat to d2, there are visions of ... Nb6, ...a5, ...Ba6 with control of c4. But what happened was better, much better! —GR

12.Nd2



Position after 12.Nd2

White's idea is to kick my knight away with h3. In the game I was trying to decide whether I should retreat my e5 knight back to d7 or allow my knight to land on h6 where it would support an f5 pawn break. After about 10 minutes, I suddenly saw an interesting idea that looked more promising the deeper I looked into it.—AM

12...Nxf2(!—AM) (!?—GR)

The knight crashes through the kingside with the sudden dread and immediacy of a hospital bill! How many times do you get to see a beautiful move like this? Many brilliancies are initiated with a bolt of lightning followed by the inevitable thunder of forced moves. But this move has few forced variations, and more than that — the main variation lines are dynamically equal! But which position would you prefer? White will have an extra piece, yet will certainly lose at least one more pawn, all while negotiating the migraine of long-term accurate play. One false step, and it's over for White. Black's black-squared bishop is suddenly a callous mercenary, slicing the board virtually in half. —GR

13.Kxf2

It was only after I played the sacrifice did I see the quiet h3. The idea is simple. White wants to capture the knight without allowing ...Ng4+ to follow. 13.h3! I wasn't sure how to follow-up after this move. I had to sit there hoping he wouldn't find the move. Although Black may still be fine, it would have drastically made the position more complicated.—AM

13.h3 deserves consideration here. Machin admitted that he saw this too late. I'm glad he didn't see it in time: he had feared he would have been lost, and it likely would have deprived us of such a rare and beautiful move. After 13...Nhx3+ 14.gxh3 f5 the position is roughly equal. Black has the king hunt and White has the superior endgame should he make it out of the forest alive. This side variation reveals the crackling sparks of the position — so full of possibilities, and yet, so fraught with peril. —GR

13...Ng4+ 14.Ke2?

If White plays 14.Kg1 in addition to a perpetual, Black can try 14...Bd4+ 15.Kh1 Nf2+ 16.Kg1 Nxe4+ (16...Nh3+ with perpetual.) 17.Kh1 Nf2+ 18.Kg1 Bf5! (18...Nd3+? 19.Kh1 Nxe1 20.Qe4! trapping my knight!) 19.Qa4 Nd3+ 20.Kh1 Nxe1+—AM

Inman immediately falls off the knife's edge, but the position is understandably difficult to solve over-the-board. The king, now so rudely and violently thrown out of his house, has to step carefully. This move simply loses a valuable tempo while losing the a6-f1 diagonal. Much better is 14. Kf3 when ...Nhx2+ 15.Ke2 Ba6+ 16.Kd1 and now the king has a cloistered hiding space among his loyal subjects. Strategically, delaying the h2 capture with 14. Kf3 f5 may be better, allowing White with more variations to err. —GR

14...Ba6+ (!—AM) 15.Kf3

15.Kd1?? Nf2#!—AM

Not 15. Kd1?? Nf2#—GR

15...Nhx2+ 16.Kf2 Bd4+ 17.Kg3



Position after 17.Kg3

17...e6

Threatening mate if White captures the



In what is now clearly an annual occurrence, each year, we celebrate the birthday of Adam Porth and have cake decorated as a chessboard. Photo credit Adam Porth.

Knight with ...Qh4#! Black also threatens 18...Qg5+ 19.Kh3 Qg4+ 20.Kxh2 Qh4#. But 17...e5 was better. The reason this is better is because if 17...e5 18.Nf3 Nxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Bxf1 20.Bg5 f6 21.Bh6 Ba6 22.Bxf8 Qxf8 White does not have the option of dxe6, as happened in the actual game.—AM

17... e5! is better. A full explanation is forthcoming. —GR

18.Nf3 Nxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Bxf1 20.Bg5 f6 21.Bh6 Ba6 22.Bxf8 Qxf8 23.dxe6



Position after 23.dxe6

It's not just because the pawn can be captured now that 17...e5 is better. Envision this: with a pawn on e5, Black has total control of the dark squares. Black would be threatening 23...Qh6, 24... Qf4+, with a devastating attack. For example, 23.Qa4 Qh6! 24.Nxd4 Qf4+ 25.Kh3 g5! 26.g3 Bf1+ or 23.Qa4 Qh6! 24.Qxa6 Qf4+ 25.Kh3 Bf2 26.Ne2 Qh6+. If White parries with 23.Rh1 or 23.Qd2, 23...f5 continues the assault. —GR

23...Bxc3 (!—AM)

Get rid of the knight before it jumps into the strong outpost on d5.—AM

24.Qxc3 Qe7

Restrict, blockade and destroy passed pawns!—AM

25.Qb3 Re8 26.Re1 Bc8 27.Rd1 Bxe6 28.Qd3 Rd8 29.b3

29.e5? fxe5 30.Nxe5 Qg5+! picks off the

knight.—AM

29...Rd7 30.Nd2 Kg7 31.Nc4 Bxc4 32.Qxc4

Even with the position now stabilized, White is essentially lost, down two pawns. But Machin has one last trick up his sleeve.—GR

32...Qe5+ 33.Kf2 Re7 34.Qd3 Re6 35.g3 h5 36.Rd2 h4 37.gxh4 Qf4+ 38.Kg2

If... 38.Ke1? Rxe4+ 39.Kd1 Rd4—AM

38...Rxe4 39.Qxd6



Position after 39.Qxd6

39...Re2+(!!—AM) (!—GR)

I was pleased that a large crowd of players was watching the game at this very moment. My heart was racing with excitement as I found and played this move!—AM

The rest is a mop-up. Closing time.—GR

40.Kg1

40.Rxe2 Qxd6; 40.Kh3 Qf3+ Keeping it simple by forcing an exchange of queens when Black can capture White's rook for free. 41.Qg3 Qxg3+ 42.Kxg3 Rxd2—AM

40...Qf2+ 41.Kh1 Qg2# 0-1

Larry R. Parsons (2000) – Alex James Machin (1734) [E11] Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID (R5), February 19, 2018 [Alex Machin]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Nbxd2 Nc6 7.e4 d6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 e5 10.d5 Nb8



Position after 10...Nb8

11.b4

If White had played h3 to prevent Bg4, I would have developed as follows. 11.h3



L-R: Alex Machin, Larry Parsons. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

a5 12.b4 Na6 13.Qc2 Bd7

11...Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nbd7 14.Qe2 a5 15.Nb3 axb4 16.axb4 b6 17.g3 Rfe8 18.Kh2 Qf8

Preparing to contest the a-file. I need to find counterplay before White pawn storms me on the kingside.

19.Qb2 Reb8 20.Qc2 h5

Creating luft and allowing a possible h4 to weaken White's position.



Position after 20...h5

21.f4?!

White is going to suffer the rest of the game for allowing Black an opportunity to pry open his king's position.

21...h4!

Sacrificing a pawn to weaken White's king position. No matter how White reacts, Black will have an outpost for the knight on f6.

22.gxh4

White should close up the position around his king. 22.g4 exf4 23.Rxf4 Rxa1 24.Nxa1 Qe7

22...Nh5 23.f5 Qe7 24.Qf2 Nf4 25.Be2 Nf6 26.Nd2 Qe8

Black's plan is to take full control of the open file.

27.Rab1 Ra2 28.Qe3 Rba8

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 28...Rba8

29.Rf2

White's final mistake.

29...Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Nxe4 31.Qe3 Nxf2 32.Qxf2 Ra2 33.Re1 Nd3 0-1

Alex James Machin (1734) – Cody Gorman (1933) [A40] Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID (R6), February 19, 2018 [Alex Machin]

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 Qb6 4.Na3 d5 5.Nb5 Na6 6.a4

Prophylaxis. Enabling White to play Bd3 and not worry about c4 attacking the bishop and un-defending the knight.

6...Qa5+? 7.c3 c4?

Releasing the tension in the center to restrict a single piece seems premature.



Position after 7...c4



Cody Gorman.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

8.Nd6+ Bxd6 9.Bxd6 Nf6 10.Nf3 Ne4
11.Ba3! Bd7 12.Ne5 Qxa4 13.Qf3 Nf6
14.Be2 Nc7 15.0-0 Qc2 16.Nxd7 Kxd7

Because White still has the ability to open the position with pawn breaks, it's only a matter of time before I break through. Aside from worrying about his own king, Black still needs to develop the rest of

his pieces. 16...Nxd7 17.Qg3 The whole point of my idea—Attacking both c7 and g7 17...Qxe2 (Black should bite the bullet and castle to get fully developed. I would have transferred everything toward his king and used the open file. 17...0-0-0) 18.Qxc7 Black won't last much longer.

17.Bd1 Qg6 18.Qf4 Nfe8 19.Re1 Qf6
20.Qg3 h5 21.e4

Open the position in order to get at Black's king.

21...h4 22.Qe3 b5 23.b3 dxe4? 24.bxc4 bxc4 25.Ba4+ Kd8 26.Qxe4 Qf5 27.Qb7 f6

Preventing Re5



Position after 27...f6

28.d5!!

Threatening to open d-file.

28...exd5

28...Nxd5 29.Qd7#; 28...e5 29.d6 threatening Black's c7-knight which defends the a8-rook.

29.Be7# 1-0



Jeffrey Roland taking pictures at the awards ceremony. Photo credit: Garrett Reynolds.



L-R: Caleb Kircher, Jay Simonson. Photo credit: Garrett Reynolds.



L-R: Samir Saltaga, Jay Simonson. Photo credit: Garrett Reynolds.



2018 Idaho Open

The Pocatello Red Lion Inn
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Pocatello, ID.
Jefferson room.

DO NOT CALL THE 1-800 reservation number. Instead, everyone should call the motel directly at [1-208-233-2200](tel:1-208-233-2200) and tell them you are with the Idaho Chess tournament.

sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association

Sat.-Sun., April 14-15
(US Chess Rated, Open Section)

5SS G/120;d5

check-in: 8-8:30 am. Those not checked in by 8:30 may not be paired in the 1st round.

Round Times: Sat. 9 am, 2:00 pm, 7 pm,
Sun. 9:00 am, 2 pm

Prizes: b/30

- **Open Section** 1st - 3rd place \$200, \$100, \$75 & 1st place (\$50) for U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, & Unr.

Registration: \$33.00 per player, \$28.00 for 60+/U18 (\$53 family rate), \$10.00 late fee for registration on-site. Scholarships available. ICA & USChess Required. Other state affiliates accepted. Over 80, IMs, FMs, GMs free.

Games: Chess sets provided, clocks not provided. No Insufficient Losing Chances rule.

TD: Jay Simonson

Byes: Maximum 1-half point bye, Rounds 1-3, must commit before round is paired. 0 point bye rounds 4 and 5.

Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, or idahochessassociation.com

**By entering the tournament, permission is given to the organizers to use photos for publicity and news on the internet, newspapers, and literature.

PCC February 2018 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 24, 2018

Although predicted to be a rainy Saturday, the day of the Portland Chess Club's monthly Game 60 in February had breaks of sunny sky—something rarely seen in the last weeks of a snowy and rainy month that had played havoc with commuters.

The break in the weather drew in a 29-player field, overseen by Chief TD Mike Hasuike and Chief Assistant TD Isaac Vega—Vega also opting to be a player.

Though the weather across the region had finally become somewhat normal once again, dark clouds still appeared to linger over a number of the tournament's players, resulting in some surprising upsets. One of these clouds left this player—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1547-1500-1.0/4)—at his absolute floor, recalling a sentence from A.J. Liebling’s book, “The Sweet Science,” dealing with the sport of boxing.

In it, Liebling mentioned what becomes of a boxer who has been in one too many fights and finds himself outmatched. Paraphrasing, it says something like this: “He found himself ducking into punches, feinting into punches, and weaving into punches,” an apt metaphor for what I encountered during this tournament. The end result: I



(L) Isaac Vega vs Eric Erard. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

dropped my first three games, managing finally to win in the last round against an unrated player.

But as I mentioned above, mine was not the only dark cloud in the room, as James Tsai (1730-1637—0.0/4), a very accomplished player, could not shake the one hanging over his head for the entirety of the tournament, and must have felt very much as I did—punch-drunk, and with no clue, while losing all four of his games, three to players much below his rating.

And a very consistent player, Michael Moore (1849-1821—2.5/4), also felt a bit of gloom hanging over his head, when in the first round he drew a game with Avi Gupta (1452-1471—1.5/4), and dropped his second-round game to Jon Strohbehn (1400-1498—2.5/4). Strohbehn gained 98 points for his two wins against higher rated opponents—the half point coming from a bye he took in the first round.

James Bean (1635-1600—2.0/4) fared little better, finding he had his hands full in the first round with John Kong (441P-537P—1.0/4), a provisional player some 1194 rating points lower; and again in the last round against David Kim (1470-1530—3.0/4), who ended up taking the U1500 prize of \$50.75, while tacking on an additional 60 points in rating.

And even though Andrea Botez (1839-1828—3.0/4) was in the money at tournament's end, she found her third-round opponent, Abbie Wu (1576-1600—3.0/4), one of the Portland Chess Club's youngest members, too tough on this day.

One other game of note, where the disparity between ratings was significant, was that between Moshe Rachmuth (1965-1960—3.0/4) and Zoey Tang (1645-1659—2.5/4), where the young Tang pulled off a draw against a very consistent adversary.

Missing, and therefore missing out on all these upset possibilities, was Jerrold “I Just Want To Make It To 1600 Before it's Over” Richards, who instead chose to play in a two-day tournament in Spokane, Washington. One must wonder



Chief TD Mike Hasuike at registration desk. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Kylie Morrissey vs Michael Kim. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

if he would have benefited, or if he too would have wandered in with a cloud over *his* head—as has been Richards’ and my life story of late.

One of the players untouched by a dark cloud was the eventual tournament winner, Isaac Vega (1768-1801—4.0/4), who won all four of his games and took home \$87 for his perfect performance.

Others to earn some of the tournament’s loot (even though a couple of them experienced the appearance of a temporary, dark cloud) were Moshe Rachmuth, Andrea Botez, Brian Lee (1688-1698—3.0/4), Eric “Mighty Mite” Erard (1676-1678—3.0/4), and Abbie Wu, who all came away with \$30.50 when the monies for tying for second-third overall and first U1800 were combined.

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Carl Haessler Chess Master
503-875-7278 ■ carl@NWchessworks.com
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Letter to the Editor

February 19, 2018

Dear Editor,

First, thank you for publishing a few recent letters. I don't recall too many letters being published in the past, and doing so now I think is a very good thing. Kudos to Jacob Meyers as Chief TD in this past weekend's President's Cup for doing a great job of keeping rounds on time, AND, for getting the results posted the same day. Seeing the results posted online on Sunday night was gratifying. Boos to the building management for ordering security to lock the doors thus locking out players at the Seattle Chess Club during tournaments.

Regarding the common and accurate adult complaint of low/underrated grade school players, I observe the following. I just played four rounds against a 3rd grader, 4th grader, and two 6th graders. These grade schoolers have played collectively 969 rated scholastic games and have an average rating of 1426. However, these same players only have 164 rated USCF games between them, with a USCF average rating of 1171. By comparison, I've played a mere 296 USCF rated games since 1990 and my pre-tournament rating was 1430. Three of these four player's scholastic ratings are higher than mine while all their USCF ratings are below mine. So for my 3 point score, 2 wins and 2 draws, I lost two USCF rating points. But using the easily downloaded USCF rating equations, and calculating rating adjustments against their Scholastic ratings, I gain 50 points. Please note it is impossible to precisely duplicate the USCF rating calculation for they use some inputs you do not have, best you can do is approximate to within 3 or 4 rating points.

This example is merely an attempt to objectively quantify the vexing problem the adults face, and may serve to help some feel better about their performances against the kids. The ratings system is supposed to be a reflection of past performance and predictor of expected results. Sadly, the current system badly fails at doing that. This problem appears unsolvable as long as two separate independent systems continue to exist. However, USCF does have some sort of adjustment to convert FIDE ratings into a USCF rating. Perhaps the USCF ratings committee can consider some sort of conversion from Scholastic to USCF ratings. Perhaps input to the USCF ratings committee from the Washington Chess Federation is in order.

Sincerely,

John P Christy (Anacortes Washington)

Editor's Response:

Dear John,

I appreciate your letter. I'm glad you like the letters to the editor being published. The reason they weren't before is simply because I wasn't getting them!! Almost everything I get goes into the issues.

I think you bring out a great point in your letter too. I don't really think the problem is solvable either because a player could even become a grandmaster playing only online chess, for example. The point is that not everything is rated under the same system. So ratings will never be 100% accurate.

My own personal way of handling the whole thing is to just play chess and let the rating follow me and do whatever it will... kind of like the stock market... goes up and goes down, the companies value isn't the issue, it's the perceptions and things not under anyone's control that drive the market prices... but in chess one gets a game with equal forces and plays competitively against "an opponent." As long as one has an opponent, one has an opportunity to play a great game of chess! Sometimes I let ratings matter to me, but I try not worry about them. I try to play people, not numbers... I did say, "try!"

Jeffrey Roland (Editor)

Errata

Last month, March 2018 issue, page 24, the photo under the name Sophie Velea was incorrect in the printed version (it was corrected for the online version). We also left out the bio for Stephanie Velea by mistake. So we are presenting both bios with correct photos here to clear up any confusion.

Sophie Velea



April 2018

My name is Sophie Velea. I am a Woman Candidate Master who won the Pan American and North American championships at GU8 in 2016. My biggest achievement has been getting second place in World School Championship at GU9 in Romania, in 2017. I have won trophies in many local and national tournaments such as Susan Polgar Foundation National Open and CONIC.

What first inspired me to play chess was my dad. It became one of my goals to beat my dad when I was in kindergarten. Now I have a winning streak of many wins against him.

I enjoy doing many other things such as reading, math and soccer.

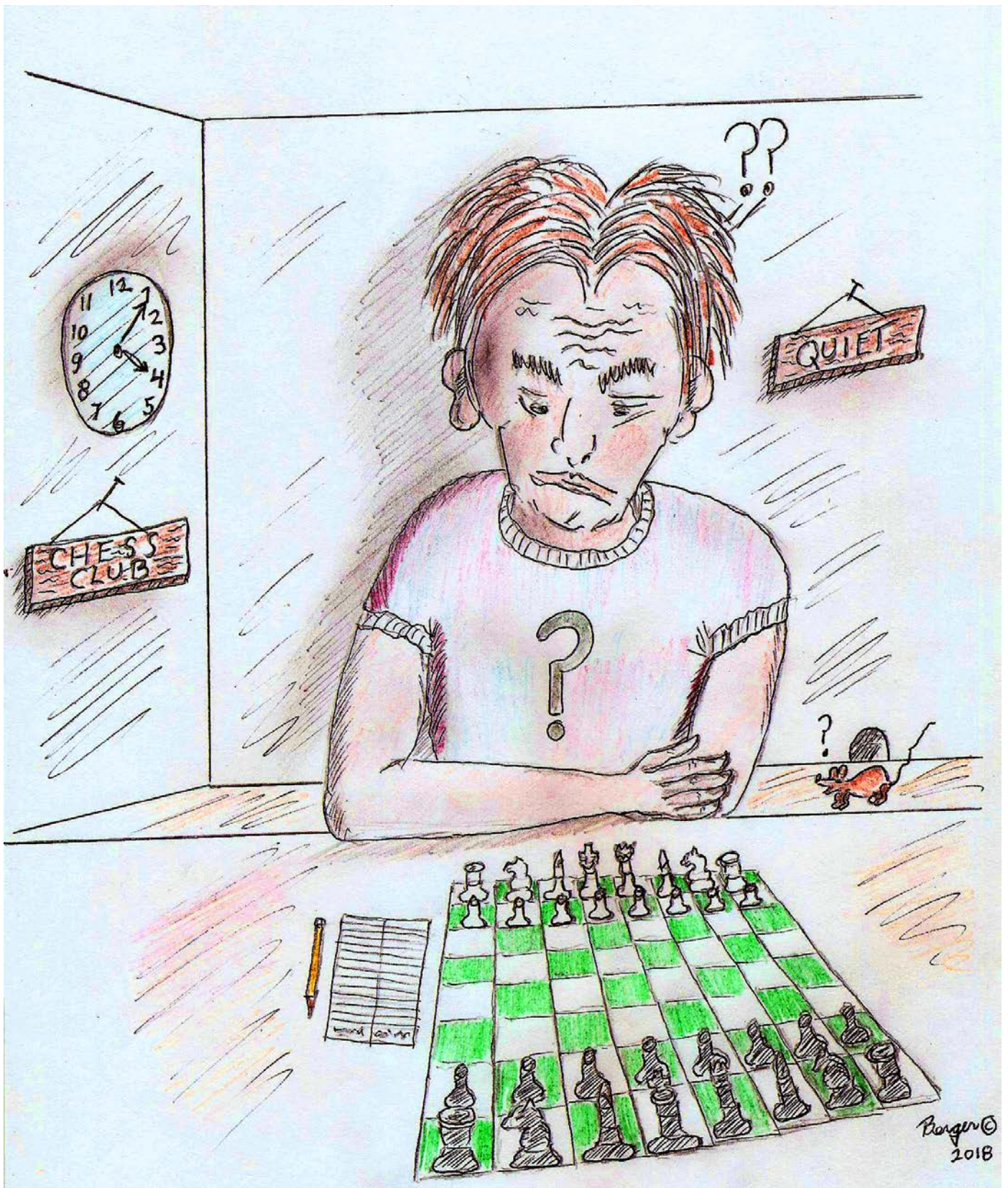
Stephanie Velea



My name is Stephanie Velea. I am a Woman Candidate Master since 2017 when I won North American Championship at GU10. Also in 2017 I won Susan Polgar Foundation National Open at GU12. I like being creative in my chess games. Besides chess I like soccer, I like to paint, and I love animals!

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2018

IT NEVER DAWNED ON JORDAN THAT, WHAT STOOD BETWEEN HIM AND WINNING, WERE PAWNS, ROOKS, KNIGHTS, BISHOPS, A QUEEN, AND HIS OWN, FRIGHTENING INCOMPETENCE.

Dave Collyer Memorial

By Kevin Korsmo

Spokane, WA — February 24-25, 2018

The 26th Dave Collyer Memorial was played in Spokane Valley February 24-25, 2018, with 60 players taking part. IM John Donaldson and Spokane chess veteran David Rowles took top honors with scores of 4.5.

The tournament started with a bang in the first round when Dallas Filan, a 1609 rated player returning to competitive chess for the first time since 2011, upended Viktors Pupols on board two. The victory secured Filan, who recently relocated to Walla Walla, the biggest upset prize and set a trend of the board two player suffering an upset in four of the five rounds. There were quite a few competitive games that pushed to the end of the time control — a trend that also continued throughout the event. Chess retiree Dave Griffin volunteered to be a house player in round one, only to see his opponent fail to appear. That fact creates a question whether Dave, the only person to play in each of previous 25 Collyer tournaments, actually “played” in the 26th Collyer or not!

Expert Cam Leslie played board two in the second round and drew his game with Jeremy Younker, son of the tourney’s originator, Gary Younker. That was one of six draws in the round, an unusual number that early in the tournament and the highest figure of the tourney — there were no draws in round one, a single draw in round three, four in the fourth round, and a pair in the final round. A draw on board five between Travis Elisara and Steve Merwin served as a sign of what was to come for Travis. A Spokane native now living in Olympia, Elisara recently returned to competitive chess on the west side and has sharpened his game nicely. He played against higher rated foes four of the event’s five rounds.

Round three saw a dozen players take evening byes, with the result that there were only two perfect scores after the first day’s action — Donaldson and John Julian. Donaldson and eighth-grader Garrett Casey had a nice game that played late into the evening, while older brother Braxton Casey drew with Michael Cambareri on board two in the only drawn game of the round. When play finally concluded, Donaldson and Julian sat atop the standings with 3.0 scores, but nine players stood at 2.5 awaiting Sunday’s fourth round.

All the top competitors had decisive games in round four. Donaldson stopped

Julian to seize the lead at 4.0, but victories by Cambareri, Merwin, Rowles, and Elisara left them within striking distance at 3.5. Cambareri was left to face off against Donaldson in the final round, while Merwin and Rowles played each other on board two and Elisara was paired against Pupols on board three.

Board one featured a competitive battle that ultimately drew. Cambareri went on the offensive early, but Donaldson blunted the attack and a tight position ensued, making it difficult for anyone to break through. Over on board three, Elisara erred in an even game against Pupols late in the time control and the wily vet scooped up the victory. Meanwhile, on board two, Merwin and Rowles both battled until single digits remained on their clocks, with Rowles taking advantage of Merwin’s greater time problems to seize the victory and tie for first with Donaldson. The co-championship was the first Collyer title for Rowles. Pupols, Cambareri, and Julian tied for third at 4.0, and split that prize and the Expert prize.

There were numerous other prize winners. Five players finished second in Class A with scores of 3.5: Braxton Casey, Merwin, Jim Skovron, Wilton Strickland, and James Stripes. The Class B prizes were split by Elisara and Nick Martonick, both of whom also scored 3.5. The Class C prizes were split by Cleve Johnson and Austin Yeo with scores of 3.0. David Peoples won Class D with a score of 2.5, while William Merry and Jerry Richards (aided as usual by Morgan, the chess dog) finished second at 2.0. The Class E/unrated section was won by Alex Rosenkrantz (3.0), while newcomers to Spokane chess tied for second (2.0) in the section: Brandon Arnold, James Badgett, Walter Justice, and Hayden Sweeney.

The upset prizes are now named for the late Jim Waugh, a Spokane club stalwart for many decades who died in January. Waugh was a frequent winner of the upset prize in the Collyer, probably winning more of them than anyone else. Filan claimed the biggest upset, and the second largest went to James Badgett, a Bay Area chess player with youthful ties to the Inland Empire region. Badgett is a NASA satellite engineer who can give you a nice critique of the science involved in “The Martian!”

Dill Books, celebrating its new store location near the tourney playing site, offered gift certificates for the top scholastic players in each class. Garrett Casey won the prize in Class A, Jonathan Geyman won in Class C, David Peoples in Class D, and newcomer Aniketh Parlapalli won in Class E/unrated.

The Collyer Memorial once again

was its usual example of chess fellowship, with many of the region’s old timers returning to active chess duty just for this event. Our Big Sky friends turned out in force, with ten players from Montana venturing over despite the dubious mountain pass forecast. Four players from the original 1993 Collyer field took part — Rowles, Steve Fabian, Dave Griffin (maybe?), and Loyd Willaford — and a fifth, Kevin Korsmo, continued as tournament director.

The weekend, which is sponsored by the Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, kicked off on Friday afternoon with a double round robin blitz event won by Cam Leslie with a 9.0 score. That was followed by the annual John Donaldson lecture, which this year discussed the upcoming World Championship contender’s tournament. John also discussed the late William Lombardy, who died last fall while visiting the Bay Area. Lombardy served as Bobby Fischer’s second in the 1972 world championship match and was also one of the top U.S. players of the 1950s and early 1960s. The lecture gave way to the annual simul. The IM scored 15 victories and two draws, while losing but a single game.

**John Julian (2010) –
John Donaldson (2418) [A04]**

26th David Collyer Memorial Spokane
(R4) February 25, 2018
[John Donaldson]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 g6 4.g3 Bg7
5.Bg2 e5 6.0-0 Nge7 7.c3 0-0 8.a3**

White’s plan in this King’s Indian attack structure is to expand on the queenside with b4, aiming to nibble away at Black’s center. Sometimes he also plays for the advance d3–d4. One player who plays the KIA with real skill is the Egyptian 2700 player, Grandmaster Bassem Amin.

8...d6

There are many ways to counter White’s planned b4 including 8...a5 which stops the advance, but weakens the b5 square.

9.b4 a6

This protects the knight from the advance b4–b5 and Black may later play ...b5. 9...h6 10.Nbd2 Be6 11.Bb2 Qd7 is another way to handle the position, saving a tempo (...a6) but allowing b4–b5. In the same position, but with colors reversed, Kasparov anticipated Black’s ...b5 with b4 and then met ...b5 with a4 against the French Grandmaster Nataf. This was a blitz game, but the idea is still noteworthy. Here the extra tempo makes this plan dubious as 9...b5? is strongly answered by 10.a4!

10.Bb2

10.Nbd2 h6 11.Rb1 Be6 12.Qc2 (12.bxc5 dxc5 13.Rxb7 Qxd3) 12...Qc7 13.bxc5 dxc5 14.a4 Na5 15.Re1 Rfd8 16.Bf1 Rab8 17.Nh4 b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ng2 Qd7 Botvinnik-Korchnoi, Moscow-Leningrad 1960, with slightly better chances for Black, is an instructive game between two giants of the past.

10...h6

10...Be6 would be met by 11.Ng5.

11.Nbd2 Be6 12.d4?!

This advance is premature. Either 12.Rb1 or 12.Re1 are better, waiting to play d3–d4 when White is fully-developed. Black will meet either move with either 12...Qd7 followed by ...f5 or ...b5 or the immediate 12...b5.

12...exd4 13.cxd4 cxb4 14.axb4



Position after 14.axb4

14...d5

The thematic answer to d3–d4. Capturing on b4 immediately allows White compensation for the pawn. For example: 14...Nxb4 15.d5 Bxb2 16.Rb1 Bd7 17.Rxb2 a5 18.Nd4.

15.Rb1

Now 15.e5 Nxb4 and White does not have enough for the pawn.

15...dxe4

This looks natural but 15...Qb6 and 15...Re8 were reasonable alternatives and might even be more accurate.

16.Nxe4 Ba2

The immediate 16...Bd5 allows White 17.Nc3 Nxb4 18.Ba3 a5 19.Bxb4 axb4 20.Rxb4 recovering the pawn with equal chances.

17.Ra1 Bd5 18.Re1

Black should answer 18.Nc3 with 18...Be6.

18...Nxb4 19.Ba3

White's position starts to drift downhill the next few moves. Perhaps 19.Ne5 was the best try here.

19...Nec6 20.Qd2 a5 21.Rad1 Re8 22.Ne5

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 22.Ne5

22...f5!

The correct response. Simplifying with 22...Nxe5 is just what White's wants. 23.dxe5 Bxe4 24.Rxe4 Qxd2 25.Rxd2 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 Bxe5 27.Rd7 with excellent drawing chances.

23.Bxb4 axb4

23...Nxb4 was also possible, but the text, which limits White's options, is stronger.

24.Nxc6 bxc6

A question of taste as 24...Bxc6 was also good.

25.Nc5 Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 Bxg2

26...b3 was more accurate, meeting 27.Rb1 with 27...Rb8.

27.Qe6+

27.Kxg2 Qd5+ followed by ...Bxd4.

27...Kh7 28.Kxg2 Qd5+ 29.Qxd5 cxd5 30.Nd3

30.Kf3, trying to bring White's king to the queenside, was worth considering.

30...b3 31.Rb1 Rb8



Position after 31...Rb8

32.Nc5

32.Ne5 was more stubborn, but after 32...Bxe5 33.dxe5 g5 34.f4 gxf4 35.gxf4 b2 36.Kf2 Rb3 37.Ke2 d4 38.Kd2 d3 39.Ke3 Kg6 40.Kd2 Kf7 41.Ke3 Ke6 42.Kd2 Kd5 43.Ke3 Kc4 Black is winning.

32...b2 33.Ne6 Bf6 34.Kf3 g5 35.h4 Kg6 36.g4 Rb3+ 0–1

Ron Weyland (1405) –
Theodore R. Catton (1730) [A40]
26th David Collyer Memorial Spokane
(R5), February 25, 2018
[Ted Catton]

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 b6 3.e3 Bb7 4.Nbd2 f5

In the skittles room prior to this round someone was talking up the “Modern English” opening for Black. This opening takes the hyper-modern idea of waiting for White to commit in the center and then counterattacking from the wings. It transposes into a Dutch Defense but with black's queen bishop in a more favorable position than usual. I like playing the Dutch Defense so on a whim I decided to try it. Luckily, White's plan of development led to an opening position fairly similar to what I had just seen in the skittles room. I like to argue that chess is a game of luck as well as a game of skill and this fun game became a great illustration of the luck in chess.

5.Be2 Nf6 6.b3 g6 7.Bb2 Bg7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Nc4 h6

The fellow in the skittles room had just shown how he had erred by failing to bring out his queen knight to complete his development before commencing his plan of attack, and here I found myself making that same mistake! 9...d6 is better because it prepares Nd7 while guarding e5 against White's two-knight attack on g6. For example, 10.Nh4 Kh7 11.Ne5 g5 12.Nhg6 Rg8 13.Nf7 Qe8, 14.Nge5 d6 15.Bh5 Qe7 16.Bg6 mate.

10.Nh4 Kh7 11.Bf3 Bxf3 12.Nxf3 d6 13.Re1 Nbd7 14.Ncd2 Ne4 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Nd2 d5 17.f4 Qh4 18.Qe2

At first I thought White's queen was coming to defend g2 from my impending attack down the g-file, but then I saw that I had to stop White's queen from penetrating on my queenside via b5.

18...c6 19.Qf2 g5 20.Qxh4 gxh4 21.h3 Nf6 22.Kf2 Nh5 23.Nf1 Bf6 24.c4 Rg8 25.Re2 Ng3 26.Nxg3 Rxg3 27.Kg1 Rg8 28.Rc1

Did White overlook his vulnerability on h3 due to the pin, or did he calculate that the counterthreat down the c-file would be good compensation for the loss of the h3-pawn? 28.Kh1 might be better, but 28...c5 leads to pressure on d4 and e3.

28...Rxb3 29.cxd5 cxd5 30.Rc7+ Kh8 31.Rxa7 Rhg3 32.Rc7 h3 33.Rcc2

The black and white rooks each complete their marauding attacks and come back to their battering-ram positions in the nick of time!

33...hxg2 34.Bc1 h5 35.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 36.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Kh7 38.a4

I finally had my passed pawn on the h-file, but only then did I come to realize the danger of White's pawn majority on the queen side.

38...Be7 39.Bd2 Bh4

[Diagram top of next page]

2018 Washington State Girls Championship

By David Hendricks

Congratulations to Naomi Bashkansky who won the Washington State Girls Championship held February 24-25 in Clyde Hill, Washington. She and Anne-Marie Velea actually tied, each with a score of 3.5, having drawn each other, in the four-round competition in a field of 14 girls all rated over 1000 NWSRS. So an Armageddon style G/15;d5 White against G/12;d5 Black, with black having draw-odds decided the contest. Naomi won the coin toss and selected Black, and managed to finish with a checkmate against White. Naomi wins \$750 donated by the Washington Chess Federation. Anne-Marie wins \$250 donated by the Chess4Girls organization.



Position after 39...Bh4

40.Kf1 Kg6 41.Kg2 Bd8 42.Kh3 Bc7 43.Kg2 Bd8 44.Kh3 Bc7

I thought this was a drawn position, since neither king can penetrate or leave the kingside and if White advances the queenside pawns Black will take them both out with the pawn and bishop, leaving White's black-squared bishop helpless to attack Black's pawn center on the white squares. But White saw a win.

45.Be1 Bd8 46.Bh4 Bc7 47.Bg5!?

Zugzwang — almost! This is where luck became a big factor. My near zugzwang position forced me to look for any other move than Bd8, and there weren't many options. And that's when I saw that the placement of White's bishop allowed for a break in the center.

{On every move since move 40, White can win by playing b3-b4 followed by a4-a5. Sacrificing the bishop holds no hope of saving Black. Only here, by placing the bishop precariously, does White throw away the win. — Dubisch}

47...e5! 48.dxe5 Bxe5 49.Bd8 d4



Position after 49...d4

50.fxe5

{?? And here is the losing move. — Dubisch}

50...d3!

The lucky placement of the black pawn at b6 blocks White's bishop from stopping the runaway black pawn. White miscalculated, assuming 50...dxe3? 51.Bxb6 e2 52.Bf2 which stops the pawn from queening on e1.

51.e6 d2 52.e7 Kf7 53.Bxb6 d1Q 54.a5 Qxb3 55.Kg3 Kxe7 56.Kf4 Qe6 57.Bc5+ Kf6 58.Bd4+ Kg6 59.Kg3 Kg5 60.Kh2 Kg4 61.Kg2 Qa2+ 62.Kf1 Kf3 63.Ke1 Qe2# 0-1

SwissSys Standings. WA State Girls Championship: Championship

#	Name	Rtng	Team	Grd	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	Naomi Bashkansky	2080	NPR	9	W10	W11	W3	D2	3.5
2	Anne-Marie Velea	1862	EPS	7	W12	W5	W11	D1	3.5
3	Minda Chen	1899	ADD	8	W6	W4	L1	W9	3.0
4	Stephanie Velea	1721	EPS	5	W8	L3	W6	W7	3.0
5	Melina Li	1684	DCT	5	W7	L2	H---	W10	2.5
6	Angel Shen	710	CGR	4	L3	W8	L4	W12	2.0
7	Lily Deng	unr.	LEC	4	L5	W12	W10	L4	2.0
8	Grace Deng	unr.	LEC	7	L4	L6	W14	W13	2.0
9	Sophie Szeto	1460	HTN	6	W14	L10	W13	L3	2.0
10	Varnika Jammalamadaka	834	BCA	3	L1	W9	L7	L5	1.0
11	Sophie Tien	1796	TYE	7	W13	L1	L2	U---	1.0
12	Emma Li	609	LMA	3	L2	L7	B---	L6	1.0
13	Iris Zhang	522	RSA	3	L11	W14	L9	L8	1.0
14	Michelle Zhang	unr.	MED	1	L9	L13	L8	B---	1.0



Left to Right: Naomi Bashkansky, First Place; Anne-Marie Velea, Second Place; Minda Chen, Third Place; Stephanie Velea, Fourth Place. Not shown: Melina Li, Fifth Place. Photo credit: David Hendricks.

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Megan Lee Lecture

By Josh Sinanan

On Friday, February 9, Megan Lee, a Woman International Master, presented a lecture at Seattle Chess Club featuring highlights from her recent victory at the 2017 North American Open in Las Vegas. Megan recently graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and offered to give the lecture to fulfill her activity requirement to play in Washington State Championship. The lecture was followed by a brief Q&A session and a chance for autographs. About 12 spectators attended.

**Megan Lee (2270) –
Nicky Korba (2293) [B23]
North American Open (R7)
December 29, 2017**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 d5 4.exd5 exd5
5.Bb5+ Nc6 6.Qe2+ Be7 7.Nf3 Nf6
8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Ne5 Bd7 10.d3 0-0
11.0-0 Bd6 12.b3 Re8 13.h3 Qc7 14.Na4
d4 15.Qf2 Nd5 16.Nc4 Nb6 17.Nxd6
Qxd6 18.Nb2 Re7 19.Bd2 Rae8 20.Rae1
Be6 21.Re2 Bd5 22.Rxe7 Rxe7 23.Re1
f6 24.Rxe7 Qxe7 25.a4 Nc8 26.Qe1
Qf7 27.a5 Qg6 28.Qe2 Nd6 29.Na4 Nf5
30.Qg4 Qxg4 31.hxg4 Nh4 32.Kf2 Nxc2
33.Kg3 g5 34.fxg5 fxg5 35.Nxc5 Nh4
36.Bxg5 Nf3 37.Bf4 Kf7 38.Bb8 Ne1
39.Bxa7 Nxc2 40.Bb6 Nb4 41.a6 Nxa6
42.Nxa6 Bxb3 43.Bxd4 Kg6 44.Kh4 Bd1
45.Nb8 Bf3 46.Nd7 Bg2 47.Ne5+ Kh6
48.Nf7+ Kg6 49.Nh8+ 1-0



Megan Lee during her lecture.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



The field of players: Front row, Left to Right: Iris Zhang, Emma Li, Michelle Zhang. Ssecond row: Varnika Jammalamadaka, Angel Shen, Stephanie Velea. Third row: Lily Deng, Grace Deng, Sophie Szeto. Fourth row: Melina Li, Shifa Somji (CEO of Girls4Chess.com). Fifth row: Minda Chen, Naomi Bashkansky, Anne-Marie Velea. Not shown Sophie Tien.
Photo credit: David Hendricks.

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IM Michael Lee 2500 6.0 4th \$150

FM William Schill 2231 5.0 5th \$75

WIM Megan Lee 2298 4.0

CM Kyle Haining 2263 3.0

FM Ignacio Perez 2223 3.0

LM Viktors Pupols 2200 2.0

Joseph Truelson 2081 0.5

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WIM Naomi Bashkansky 2080 6.5 =2nd-3rd \$200

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Peter Watts 2045 4.5 5th \$50

Addison Lee 2026 4.0

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian 1997 4.0

Tim Moroney 2044 3.5

NM Dereque Kelley 2148 2.0

Alan Bishop 2027 1.5

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Wenyang Du 1962 6.5 2nd \$125

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WCM Mary Kuhner 1908 4.0 =5th \$12.50

Joseph Levine 1983 3.5

Rushaan Mahajan 1937 3.5

Travis Olson 1906 2.5

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DM Dan Mathews 1777 2.0

WCM Stephanie Velea 1721 1.0

2018 WA State Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2018 Washington State Championship was held February 10-11, 17-19 at Microsoft Research Building 99 in Redmond. 40 players took part in four round-robin sections: Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers. The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. Fred Kleist directed the tournament and compiled the games bulletin for all 9 rounds. A panel of judges as yet to be determined will decide the brilliancy prizes (\$100) for all four sections. Thanks to everyone for taking part and making this such a wonderful event! Any feedback/suggestions to improve the tournament are welcome.

Final results are listed in the chart on the left.

**Tian Sang (2372) –
Roland Feng (2481) [C19]**
WA Closed Championship
(R7), February 19, 2018
[Roland Feng]

Going into this game, I knew that whoever won this game would be in a really good position to win the whole championship. I decided to take a little bit of a gamble and play something I had never played before, in the hopes that I would avoid any lines Tian might have prepared against me while creating an position with enough imbalances such that White is not the only one realistically pressing for a win.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4

The Winawer!

4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3?!

The conservative alternative to Qg4. White doesn't immediately go for any kingside pressure which makes life a bit safer for Black.

7...b6 8.Bb5+ Kf8?!

Probably too ambitious. I knew that Kf8 was a move in the 7.Qg4 lines, so I saw no reason not to move it there anyways while simultaneously threatening to trap his bishop with c4. In hindsight, I should have played the more natural Bd7. 8... Bd7 9.Bd3

9.Bd3 Ba6 10.0-0 h6 11.a4!

Opening up the a3-f8 diagonal and creating potential threats along the a-file and on my a7-c5 pawn chain with a timely a4-a5 push.

11...Kg8 12.Ba3 Qc7?

Holding off on closing the position too long. I was hesitant to close the position

with c4 before trading off the bishops, but I also was worried that trading on d3 would result in him recapturing with the c-pawn. In that structure I wasn't sure if I would be able to fully mobilize my pieces before he broke the position open with something like c4.



Position after 12...Qc7

13.a5?

Although not an objectively bad move, Tian misses his chance to punish my indecision in the center. 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.c4! The position is starting to open up and it's not immediately obvious how Black will untangle and mobilize. I wasn't completely sure how I would handle the central pressure while developing my remaining pieces. 14...dxc4 (14...Bxc4 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.Qd6) 15.Be4± The threat against my trapped rook forces me to return at least a pawn immediately.

13...Bxd3 14.Qxd3

Effectively forces c4, because otherwise my king doesn't have a place to go and I won't be able to link my rooks. 14.cxd3 Nd7 15.c4 Recapturing with the pawn was also perfectly viable and may have created better chances for White to press.

14...c4 15.axb6 axb6 16.Qe2 Nbc6 17.Nh4

Preparing f4-f5 with some pressure on the kingside.

17...Kh7 18.f4 Qd7

Adding more protection to the f5 square, while simultaneously getting my queen off a square that can be hit with a discovery (Bd6 with the tempo on my queen was extremely annoying in some lines).

19.g4 Ra5

Hoping to double along the file and generate play on the queenside.

20.Bxe7

As soon as this trade happens, Black is not really in any danger on the kingside. That being said, my structural advantage on the queenside is not that convincing either. With best play on both sides, the expected result would probably be a draw. 20.f5 Rha8 21.Bb2 (21.fxe6 Qxe6 Taking on e6 when I can recapture with the queen only ever benefits Black.) 21...Rxa1 22.Bxa1 Ra2! The key idea. The white



Roland Feng. Photo credit: Vijay Sankaran.

bishop has nowhere to go, and suddenly becomes a huge liability when I attack it again with Qa7. If I got the battery along the a-file, suddenly both white major pieces are forced to move back to defend the big pawn instead of being able to create threats against my king. 23.f6 Ng8 24.fxg7 Qa7 25.Qe1 b5 Here, White's kingside attack is but an illusion, while Black's threats on the queenside are tangible (Qa4 with the idea of taking on c2 is very strong and indefensible).

20...Qxe7 21.Ng2

Hoping to redeploy the knight on f4, where it would be very strong pressuring my e6 pawn. However, the problem is that I can basically force the knight to go to e3 instead, where its only purpose is to support f5. After the pawn goes to f5,

the knight is pretty useless on e3. Moving the knight back to f3 was probably a better move to try to hold the position, reinforcing the d4 pawn.

21...Rxa1 22.Rxa1 b5 23.Qd2



Position after 23.Qd2

23...Qd7!

The problem: White wants to push f5, but the knight doesn't want to go to e3 due to the aforementioned reason, the rook doesn't want to concede the a-file, and moving the queen over would leave the queenside dangerously open.

24.Ne3 Rb8 25.f5 Qe7

Preparing b4 and looking at Qg5 ideas.

26.Rf1 b4 27.cxb4

27.f6 Qa7 28.fxg7 bxc3 29.Qxc3 Nxd4
White's center has fallen, and Black is clearly in the driver's seat here despite the kingside looking a bit drafty.

27...Qxb4



Position after 27...Qxb4

28.Qxb4??

Up to this point, White's position was slightly uncomfortable but holdable. After this, White loses a pawn by force. 28.c3 Qb2 29.Qxb2 Rxb2 30.Ra1 And White should be able to draw as his rook gets active now. The tempo saved by playing c3 before trading queens makes all the difference.

28...Rxb4 29.c3

If White does not play c3, I will play it myself and win the d4 pawn that way.

29...Rb3 30.Nd1

30.Rc1 Nxd4

30...Na7 31.Kg2

31.Rf3 Rb1 32.Rf1 Nb5 33.Kf2 Rc1

31...Nb5 32.Rf3 Rb1 33.fxe6 fxe6 34.Ne3 Rc1 35.Rf7 Rxc3 36.Kf2

36.Nf5 exf5 37.gxf5 Kg8 also easily wins.

36...Nxd4 37.Re7 Rd3 38.g5 Rxe3 0-1

**Tian Sang (2372) –
Viktors Pupols (2207) [C11]**
WA Closed Championship
(R2), February 10, 2018
[Tian Sang]

It is amazing that Viktors, the veteran who once beat Fischer, plays in the championship section again. He has set a record on the number of times he played and the age when he played in the state championship, which would be extremely hard to break, if not impossible at all. Although I had a perfect score against Viktors before, it was never easy to break his defense, so I am prepared to a lengthy fight ahead. It is indeed a very interesting subtle game.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2!?

The third most popular move in the position. Last time I played the most popular f4 line, and I want a small surprise now.

5...c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.f4 b5

Viktors spent a lot of time on the last few moves, so my little surprise is successful, though there is nothing wrong with Black so far.

8.Nf3 Qb6

More consistent is 8...b4 9.f5!? exf5 10.Nf4 bxc3 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Nxd5 Rb8 with a sharp game.

9.a3

A solid move, but the aggressive alternative is worth considering. 9.f5!? b4 (9...exf5 10.Nf4↑) 10.fxe6 fxe6 11.Nf4 bxc3 12.bxc3 cxd4 13.Nxe6 Ndx5∞

9...c4?!



Position after 9...c4

A slight inaccuracy. Black should not release the tension in the center.

10.g4!

Pawn storm on the kingside is most effective when the center is closed.

10...h5!?

Black immediately challenges White's over-extended pawn structure, usually a good idea.

11.gxh5 Rxh5 12.f5!



Position after 12.f5

Excellent timing! White's knight wants to reach f4 with a tempo, which Black cannot afford.

12...Rxf5!

Accurate, the exchange sac is almost forced. Otherwise 12...exf5 13.Nf4 Rh8 14.Nxd5 Qd8 15.Bg2± White's central pawns are too strong.

13.Ng3 Rxf3 14.Qxf3



Position after 14.Qxf3

14...Qa5?

Missing an incredible resource. 14...Nxd4!! 15.cxd4 Qxd4∞ I did not pay attention to this line during the game,



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where Black is down a rook! However, Black's position is not all that bad as it appears, thanks to its three extra pawns and super solid pawn chain. Furthermore, White's e5 pawn is falling soon. For example, 16.Ne2 Qh4+ 17.Qg3 Nxe5! 18.Qxh4 Nf3+ 19.Kd1 Nxb4±

Analysis



#Diagram-analysis after 19...Nxb4

White is only slightly up in materials and it is unclear how to convert.

15.Bd2 Qa4 16.Qd1

Lured by the technically winning endgame, I made this lazy move, rather than keeping the queen on the board to attack. Obviously I am a little bit negatively influenced by Karpov's preference to the safe advantage over complications. 16.Be2! Qc2 17.Rd1 Qh7 (17...Qxb2 18.0-0 Nd8 19.Bg5 Be7 20.Nh5!+-) 18.0-0 f5 19.exf6 Nxf6 20.Nh5 Be7 21.Rf2 Bd7 22.Rg2→

16...Qxd1+ 17.Rxd1±

White is clearly better, but there is clearly technical work remaining.

17...a5 18.Ra1

Necessary to prevent b4 and any counterplay.

18...Rb8 19.Bh3

Or 19.h4±

19...g6

19...b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.Bg4 Be7 22.h4± White has play on both sides.

20.0-0 Nb6 21.Rf2 Na4

[Diagram top of next column]

22.Be3!



Position after 21...Na4

Important to be cautious, for Black could further sacrifice materials to get into an odd endgame. For example, 22.Bg5 Nxe5!? 23.dxe5 (23.Bf4 Nc6 24.Bxb8 Nxb8 Black has two pawns for two exchanges and remains very solid.) 23...Bc5 Black has two pawns for the piece, with chances to hold the mostly closed position.

22...Nd8 23.Bg5 Be7?!

Black would have better chances to hold with the bishop pair. 23...Bd7 24.Bxd8 Rxd8 25.Raf1 f5! 26.exf6 Kf7±

24.Bxe7 Kxe7 25.Bg4

The bishop gets out of the way of h-pawn, which is ready to advance and open up the kingside.

25...Bd7 26.Bd1

No rush, pushing back the knight first.

26...Nb6 27.h4 Nc6

Black tries to create some counterplay on the queen side, but it is slow and not sufficient.

28.h5 gxh5 29.Bxh5 Rf8 30.Raf1 Nd8



Position after 30...Nd8

After g6 pawn traded, f7 pawn is a big weakness for Black. I am ready to exploit it by all means.

31.Bd1!

The bishop goes back to d1 again, as the h5 square belongs to the knight that is idle.

31...Rg8 32.Rg2 Rh8 33.Nh5

Heading to the f6 outpost.

33...b4



Position after 33...b4

The counterplay that Black hopes to have in the entire game, but it is a pawn sacrifice at this moment. No good options either, 33...Be8 34.Nf6 Nd7 35.Rg8 Rfg8+ 36.Nxg8+ Kf8 37.Nh6+- White's king would march to g5 to help crush Black's kingside with coordinated pieces eventually.

34.axb4

Challenge accepted. From here, I am able to foresee and calculate every move played afterwards. It is a long but very logical line, which is not too difficult to figure out.

34...axb4 35.cxb4 Nc6

Black must win the pawn back, but that leaves f7 pawn under-protected.

36.Rg7

Start of a flashy combination.

36...Rf8

36...Be8 37.Nf6 Nxd4 38.Nxe8 Kxe8 39.Rxf7 Nf5 40.Rh7+- A simple winning endgame.

37.Nf4!



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Position after 37.Nf4

A strong move. Ng6 is a decisive threat.

37...Ke8

Only temporarily relieved.

38.Bh5!

With the bishop joining the attack. Ng6 becomes the unstoppable threat.

38...Nxd4 39.Ng6! Nf5

[Diagram top of next column]

Attempting to block, but it does not work.

40.Rxf5!

Removing the defender! Of course not 40.Nxf8?? Nxg7 41.Nxd7 Nxd7 42.Bxf7+ Ke7= Black survives.

40...exf5 41.Nxf8 Kxf8 42.Rxf7+ Kg8

Position after 42...Kg8



Position after 39...Nf5

Now comes the final point of the combination.

43.Rxd7!

A beautiful way to win by force.

43...Nxd7 44.e6 Nf6 45.e7

Black's king is cut off forever.

45...d4 46.Kf1

White easily stops all Black pawns. Black resigns.

1-0

**Michael Lee (2500) –
Viktors Pupols (2207) [D41]**
WA Closed Championship
(R9), February 19, 2018
[Michael Lee]

I always know to expect a good game from Viktors Pupols, who has an extensive opening repertoire and a strong chess understanding.

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3

Since I know Pupols can play most lines, I didn't stray away from the main Queen's Gambit Declined, and here he chose the Semi-Tarrasch, which leads to more conceptual play.

4...c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4

6.e3 is an interesting alternative pawn structure that would result in a struggle over White's soon-to-be isolated queen pawn. 6...Nc6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 cxd4 10.exd4 is an example continuation, with roughly equal play.

6...Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 11.Bc4 Nc6

11...Nd7 The Black knight can alternatively look towards going to f6 instead of c6.

12.0-0

The main line. This line gives White a plus, having the center, although he has to be careful to not let Black equalize. Black's e8 bishop is naturally a source of his problems, impeding development. Thus Pupols chooses to fianchetto the bishop, placing it to eventually attack the

Washington Senior Championship

April 14-15, 2018

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

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section open to Seniors age 50+. US Chess Rated.

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Entry Fee: \$50 by 4/8, \$60 after 4/8 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, & WIMs.

Registration: Saturday 10:00 - 10:45 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 11 AM, 5 PM; Sunday 11 AM, 5 PM.

Byes: One half-point bye available. Request before end of round 2.

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

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036.

Phone: (206) 769-3757. **Email:** joshsinanan@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

currently undefended e4 pawn.

12...b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 14.Qf4!?



Position after 14.Qf4

So far, the moves have been logical development on both sides. I wanted to ready ideas against Black's kingside while also beginning to threaten d5, which would create a powerful passed d-pawn in the center that Black would find hard to recapture. However, Pupols thought for a while and came up with a strong response. 14.Rfe1 This developing move would prepare against Na5 and also pose Black the issues of how he would develop. 14...Rc8 15.d5 Na5 16.Bd3! And White's indirectly defended d5 pawn (Bxh7+) poses Black a set of problems that are hard to solve.

14...Qf6!

Black, behind in space, looks to trade

off White's more well-placed queen. Even though this first looks weakening, the trade of Queens is well worth Black weakening his pawn structure.

15.Qe3

I look to keep pieces on the board and maintain some pressure against Black's position. 15.Qxf6 gxf6 16.d5 Na5 17.Be2 Rad8 and White cannot pressure Black well.

15...e5?!

This move gives White a protected passed d-pawn, which proves to be a lasting advantage. Black has to re-route his knight and is not well developed enough to blockade on the dark squares. However, Pupols defends well.

16.d5± Na5 17.Be2 Qd6 18.Nh4

Forcing Black's pieces to regroup and pushing the initiative.

18...Bc8! 19.Rc1

Keeping an eye on the open c-file and preventing an immediate Nb7-c5 repositioning.

19...Bd7 20.Qg3

With the idea of Bg4 and later Nf5, once the Black piece defending f5 is eliminated.

20...Rac8 21.Bg4 Nc4 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Nf5 f6

And as the position clears, White remains with a slight initiative but finds it hard to convert the advantage. The move I chose in the game proves too slow to maintain the pressure.

24.Qd3!?

24.h4! The key point is that Black is preparing to kick out the White knight with ...g6. By threatening h5 in response, Black is forced to attack the knight in other ways. 24...Nd6 25.Nxd6 Qxd6 26.Qh3! To maintain control over the c-file or force further concessions from Black 26...Rc7 27.Rxc7 Qxc7 28.Qe6+ And White is better.

24...Nd6 25.Nxd6 Qxd6 26.Qh3

With the same idea as the sideline given above, except White does not have h4, which is a good inclusion as it gives luft to the White king.

26...Rxc1 27.Rxc1 f5!

An important move to undermine White's d5-pawn, a thorn in Black's side. Here, f3 would be too weakening for White's dark squares and his king, so I am forced to think more creatively. We both began to run low on time here.

28.Qb3

Protecting the d5-pawn while also preparing a free discovered check on

Harmon Memorial

April 28-29, 2018

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

Two Sections: Open (FIDE Rated) and Reserve (under 1800).

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

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

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Prize Fund: \$2,000 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$450, 2nd \$350, 1st U2100 \$150, 1st U1900 \$150.

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Entry Fee: \$65 if postmarked or online by 04/20, \$75 after 04/20 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

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

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

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

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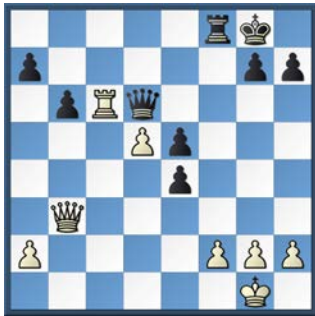
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Info: Josh Sinanan: (206) 769-3757. **E-mail:** danomathews01@gmail.com or wcf.tournaments@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

Black's king.

28...fxe4 29.Rc6



Position after 29.Rc6

29...Qd8?

29...Qd7 Qd7 is a more natural and better move, because the Queen keeps an attack on White's rook after the discovered check. d8 looks tempting because of the access to g5 and h4, but proves to allow a decisive infiltration. Pupols agreed after the game that this was the decisive point.

30.d6+ Kh8 31.Qe6!

Both back rank threats are strong, but White's, combined with the passed d7 pawn, proves fatal despite Pupols' creative counterattack.

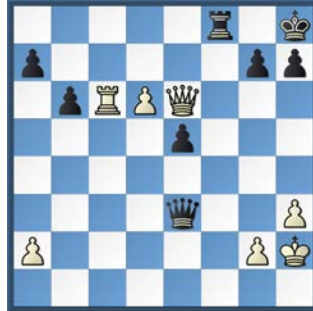
31...e3!

A good practical try. Unfortunately, White's king barely escapes.

32.fxe3 Qh4 33.h3!

And White's king avoids mate and a perpetual after White prevents the black queen from checking on f4 with...

33...Qf2+ 34.Kh2 Qxe3



Position after 34...Qxe3

35.Qf7!

And the back rank threats combined with the passed pawn are too strong.

1-0

**Roland Feng (2481) –
William Schill (2231) [E90]**
WA Closed Championship
(R9), February 19, 2018
[William Schill]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3
0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8

9.Bg5 Re8 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.cxd5 c6
12.Bc4 cxd5

I think the main line with b5 and a5 by Black is too much to White's liking, and indeed Roland told me that was what he had prepared for.

13.Bxd5 Nc6

A bit of a novelty on my part, Nd7 is the usual move.

14.0-0 Nb4 15.Bb3 Be6 16.Bxe6 Rxe6
17.Rfd1 f6 18.Bd2?! Nd3 19.Be3 Nxb2
20.Rd7 Nc4 21.Rc1 Nxe3

Better was ...b5!

22.Rcc7 Bh6 23.fxe3

The possibility of 23.Rxh7? Rc8! was too tempting. I should have played my original intention of ...Bf8! followed by ...Re8 and ...Re7 when Black is a tiny bit better.

23...Rc6 24.Rxb7 Bxe3+ 25.Kf1 Bh6
26.Rxh7 Rb8

Again too fancy. Just checking with the rook is an immediate perpetual, the King cannot go to d3 because of Rac8. My move looks fancy and a draw was agreed even though White is a little better after the exchanges.

1/2-1/2

43rd Annual Keres Memorial

C\$5,000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund, FIDE rated

Victoria Day Weekend, May 19-21, 2018

Location: Executive Plaza Hotel, 7311 Westminister Hwy, Richmond, BC

Round Times: Sat. 12:00 noon / 5:00, Sun. 10:00 / 5:00, Monday 10:00 / 3:00

Sections: Premier (CFC & FIDE rated), U2000 (CFC rated), U1600 (CFC rated)

Time Control: Game in 100 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Entry Fees: Premier & U2000: C\$90 by Apr. 16, C\$100 by May 14, C\$115 onsite. **U1600** C\$55 by Apr. 16, C\$65 by May 14, C\$80 on site. CFC tournament or regular membership required.

Prizes: C\$5,000 Guaranteed

Registration: on line at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com

Misc: All equipment provided. C\$149 room rate at the Executive Plaza 1-800-663-2878 (rate code "Keres Memorial Chess Tournament"). See website for further details.

Washington Open

A NW Grand Prix Event

May 26-28, 2018

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2019 Washington State Championship

\$12,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund!

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked
By April 22 / By May 16 / At site

Open	EF \$150 / \$165 / \$175
Reserve (U1800)	EF \$135 / \$150 / \$160
Booster (U1400)	EF \$120 / \$135 / \$145
Medal Only	EF \$ 80 / \$95 / \$105

	Open	Reserve	Booster
1st	\$1,200	\$900	\$600
2nd	\$900	\$700	\$500
3rd	\$700	\$550	\$400
4th	\$500	\$400	\$300
	U2100	U1650	U1200
1st	\$350	\$275	\$200
2nd	\$250	\$200	\$150
	U1900	U1500	U1000
1st	\$350	\$275	\$200
2nd	\$250	\$200	\$150
			Unrated
1st			\$200
2nd			\$150

Special Prizes

Upset Prize (all sections eligible)	
1st	\$150
2nd	\$100
3rd	NWC membership extension
Top female (per section)	1st \$100 2nd \$ 50
Top senior 50+ (per section)	1st \$100 2nd \$ 50

Medals awarded to top three in each section.
(Juniors Under age 21 only)

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.

Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for entry fee only.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Dan Mathews
WCF Tournament Coordinator
749 Somerset Lane
Edmonds, WA 98020-2646
Phone: (425) 218-7529

Email: danomathews01@gmail.com

Josh Sinanan

Phone: (206) 769-3757

Email: wcf.tournaments@gmail.com

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood

20610 44th Avenue West

Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701, Phone (425) 775-2500

Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration

Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Format: A seven-round Swiss system tournament in three sections, as shown at left.

Rating: US Chess rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/40 games which are US Chess dual rated only). US Chess May 2018 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win top four prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section. Medal-only players are ineligible to win cash prizes.

Registration: Saturday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule. Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule. Three half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking three half-point byes. *Late registrations after 9:30 AM Saturday or 8:30 AM Sunday may receive half-point byes for first round.*

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Sat 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM 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, 10:45 AM, 1:00 PM, 2:45 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 5 at 5:30 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2:00 PM Monday, May 28, 2018.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: G/40 with 10-second delay (round 1), rounds 2-7 40/120 and SD/30 with 10-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/40 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-4), rounds 5-7 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 60. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$144 King, \$154 Double, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 775-2500, request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group ID: 398898. Cut-off date for reservations at the discount is May 12, 2018 at 5:00 PM PDT.

Washington Open Blitz Championship: Sat 05/26 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/Unrated \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Washington Open G/45 Championship: Mon 05/28 at 11:30 AM. Format: 4 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 10:30-11:15 AM. Rounds: 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, and 5:30 PM. TC: G/45 d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700/Unrated \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Dual rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

The 2018 John Braley Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

John Braley is our honoree for 2018. "Barefoot" John was a three-time Washington State Champion and, in 1971, was one of only three players to win the Championship with a perfect score. (The others were Elmars Zemgalis in 1953 and Slava Mikhailuk in 1998.) Braley was also a former editor of Northwest Chess Magazine, putting out 18 issues in 1983 and 1984. John passed away in February of 2017 at the age of 72. John Donaldson's obituary of Braley can be found in the March 2017 issue of NWC.

The standings below include all events from January and February. There were seven events each month, with four of those events having point multipliers applied. These included the 2x Neil Dale Memorial, Seattle Chess Club Championship and Washington Presidents Cup, and the 3x Dave Collyer Memorial. March also had seven events (or will have by the time you read this), including the 2x Seattle Spring Open. Coming up in April will be another seven events, culminating on the final weekend with the 2x Inland Empire Open in Spokane and the 3x Clark Harmon Memorial in Seattle.

Grand Prix points are earned by playing in designated tournaments. These tournaments must have a structure so that there are sections available for all strengths of players. Organizers agree to pay one dollar per player into the GP prize fund. While Northwest players can gain points in tournaments in any of the three states, the funds contributed add to the prize fund of the host state. A player will receive points equal to the score earned in the event. In addition, a two point bonus will be awarded to every player who completes the entire event without forfeiting, withdrawing or accepting a zero point bye. Multipliers are used for events with larger prize funds and apply to the after-bonus total. An event which has a guaranteed prize fund of at least \$500 (or a based-on fund of \$1000 or more) will be given a 2x multiplier. A guarantee of \$1000 or more will result in a 3x multiplier. At \$2000, the multiplier goes up to 4x, and reaches 5x at \$5000 guaranteed. Six times the point total is available for events offering \$10000 or more, used most recently for the 2017 Oregon Open. If we were ever to have a tournament offering a guarantee of \$20000 or more (\$40000 for a based-on event), we are ready with a shiny, new-in-the-box 7x multiplier. (Who is willing to be first to guarantee this great event?)

The statistics below are current through March 1.

2018 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Breckenridge	Steven J	12	1 Pupols	Viktors	38.5
			2 Peng	Shunkai	6	2 Perez	Ignacio	27.5
			3 Cigan	Jason D	5	3		
						4		
						5		
Experts								
M/X/Class A			1 Grabinsky	Joshua	13	1 Julian	John	18
1 Inman	James	20.5	2 Bjorksten	Lennart	12	2 Yu	Jason	17
2 Cambareri	Michael E	18	3 Donnell	Brian G	11	3 Lee	Addison	17
3 Kircher	Caleb P	7	4 Richardson	Ryan	10	4 Leslie	Cameron D	16.5
4 Gorman	Cody A	6	4 Cosner	Karl	10	5 Two Tied at		11
5 Two Tied at		5.5						
Class A								
Class B			1 Moore	Michael	20.5	1 Tien	Sophie J	28.5
1 Martonick	Nick	16.5	2 Botez	Andrea C C	20	2 Beck	Alec W	22.5
2 Machin	Alex J	7.5	3 Zhang	Gavin	17	3 Levine	Joseph R	22
3 Saltaga	Samir	7	4 Rachmuth	Moshe S	14.5	4 Rowles	David T	19.5
4 Three Tied at		6	5 Nair	Roshen S	11	5 Casey	Garrett W	18

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Geyman	Jonathan P	13.5	1	Vega	Isaac	27.5	1	Fagundes	Frank	36
1	Weyland	Ron	13.5	2	Erard	Eric C	26.5	2	Buck	Stephen J	22.5
3	Rainey	Samuel W	12	3	Tang	Zoey	19.5	3	Levy	Avi	21
4	Looney	Daniel S	5.5	4	Pai	Kushal	10	4	Li	Melina	19
5	Two Tied at		5	4	Yeo	Alex	10	5	Elisara	Travis M	16.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Merry	William A F	12	1	Yeo	Austin S	24	1	Piper	August	28
2	Porth	Adam	5.5	2	Wu	Abbie	23.5	2	Johnson	Cleve	25
3	Nyblade	Wesley, III	4.5	3	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	21	3	Christy	John P	23
4	Zaklan	David A	2	4	Tang	Austin	19.5	4	Min	Ryan	22.5
4	Porth	Dylan	2	5	Dietz	Arliss	17.5	5	Oliver	George	18
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wetmur	Harold R	9	1	Kenway	Geoffrey W	15	1	Henderson	Doug	23
1	Geyman	Josiah B	9	2	Morrissey	Patrick W	14	2	Richards	Jerrold	21.5
3	Shepard	River C	5.5	2	Schuff	Thomas	11.5	3	Louie	Henry S	21
4	Three Tied at		5	4	Kong	John	10	4	Goktepe	Derin	19.5
				5	Two Tied at		9	5	Balaji	Pranav	18
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Inman	James	20.5	1	Vega	Isaac	27.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	38.5
2	Cambareri	Michael E	18	2	Erard	Eric C	26.5	2	Fagundes	Frank	36
3	Martonick	Nick	16.5	3	Yeo	Austin S	24	3	Tien	Sophie J	28.5
4	Geyman	Jonathan P	13.5	4	Wu	Abbie	23.5	4	Piper	August	28
4	Weyland	Ron	13.5	5	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	21	5	Perez	Ignacio	27.5
6	Rainey	Samuel W	12	6	Moore	Michael	20.5	6	Johnson	Cleve	25
6	Merry	William A F	12	7	Botez	Andrea C C	20	7	Christy	John P	23
8	Wetmur	Harold R	9	8	Tang	Zoey	19.5	7	Henderson	Doug	23
8	Geyman	Josiah B	9	9	Tang	Austin	19.5	9	Beck	Alec W	22.5
10	Machin	Alex J	7.5	10	Dietz	Arliss	17.5	9	Buck	Stephen J	22.5
11	Kircher	Caleb P	7	11	Zhang	Gavin	17	9	Min	Ryan	22.5
11	Saltaga	Samir	7	12	Three Tied at		16.5	12	Levine	Joseph R	22

From The Business Manager:

Paying by check? Please write all digits and decimal point clearly within the box so that your check can be read properly by mobile banking apps. Do not use an "x," dash, fraction bar, or other symbols in the box.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

SCC Annual Meeting, Fri. May 4

Come elect the SCC Board of Directors for the next twelve months!!



WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Masters Series Apr. 7, May 5

WA Senior Championship Apr. 14-15

Clark Harmon Memorial Apr. 28-29

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.

Apr 8, May 6

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. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

Sunday Tornado

Apr 21, May 19

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

Apr 22

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 4/18, \$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.

SCC Novice

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others; no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

April Showers: 4/6, 13, 20, 27.
Close Ratings II: 5/4, 11, 18, 25.
It's Summertime!: 6/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

SCC Adult Swiss

May 12-13, 2018

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 5/13/1997 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 5/9, \$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 2018 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

Mar 30-Apr 1 7th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial, **Reno, NV.** (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

Mar 30-Apr 2 12th Annual Grand Pacific Open, **Victoria BC (Canada).** (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

Apr 7-8 83rd Montana Open, **Billings, MT.** Site: DoubleTree by Hilton, 27 North 27th St, Billings, MT, 406-252-7400, mention chess rate by March 23. Format: 5SS, G/105,d5. Rds: 9am, 1:30, 6:30, and 8:30am, 12:30 or ASAP. One-1/2 point bye available if requested by end of prior round. Sunday bye must be requested before TD leaves Saturday night. EF: \$30, Jrs-\$15, by Thurs, Apr 5, \$5 more after Apr 5. Checks to MCA. Reg: Sat, Apr 7, 8:00-8:30 am. Phone/email entries OK—must be paid by end of Reg to be paired. US Chess and MCA membership req'd., OSA. \$\$\$: \$600 b/30 entries, increased per more entries. Place and class prize details at US Chess on-line TLA and at www.montanachess.org. Enter: MCA MT Open, 712 Mountain Meadow Rd, Kalispell, MT, 59901; online email to mca@montanachess.org, phone - Dan McCourt, 406-274-0465.

Apr 7-8 8th Annual Oregon Senior Open, **Portland, OR.** (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

☞ **Apr 14-15** Idaho Open Chess Championship, **Pocatello, ID.** (Full-Page Ad page 11)

Apr 14-15 Washington Senior Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-Page Ad page 24)

☞ **Apr 22/May 20** Portland CC Sunday Quads, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 3-round quads. Some or all the sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The “live” US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement and pairings. G/50;inc15, US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. 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 (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club), free entry for players who are playing in their first US Chess rated tournament. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee to one of the next three PCC Sunday or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Bonus scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tying for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tying for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Apr 28-29** Clark Harmon Memorial, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-Page Ad page 25)

☞ **Apr 28-29** Inland Empire Open, **Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Jepson Center) Room 109. Format: Five Round Swiss System. Registration: Sat. 8:30-9:30 a.m. 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 4/27, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. \$630 guaranteed prize fund; Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (excluding biggest upset). 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: \$140, 2nd Overall: \$100. Class Prizes: 1st (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$60, 2nd (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$25, Biggest Upset: \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208. For information: cell (509) 270-1772, website www.spokanechessclub.org.

☞ **Apr 28/May 12** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 4-round Swiss. If there are less than thirty players it's played in one section. If there are at least thirty players it's split into two sections at the mid-point of the field based on rating except that both sections will start with an even number of players if possible. G/60;inc5, one half point bye available if requested before round 1, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$20, \$15 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20): 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 3rd-\$30; 1st U1800/unrated, 1st U1500/unrated-\$35 each. If two sections, upper section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1800/unrated-\$40; lower section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1200/unrated-\$40. OSCF State qualifier. More info at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **May 5-6** Penguin Extravaganza, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. 6-round Swiss in two sections, 1700+ (Premier) and U1700 (Reserve). Playing up is not allowed. The most current (“live”) US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. TC: G/60;inc30. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one. US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am. Rds: 10am, 1:30pm, and 5pm each day. The second and third rounds each day 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: \$35, \$25 for PCC members (pay by with cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Prizes (\$650 b/40): Premier: 1st-\$125, 2nd-\$100, 1st U2100, 1st U1900-\$75 each; Reserve: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 1st U1500, 1st U1300/unrated-\$50 each. OSCF State Qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

May 6 Boise Chess Club #18, **Boise, ID.** All About Games, 7079 W. Overland Road, Boise, Idaho 83709. 4SS, US Chess Rated, Game/30 + 30 second time increment per move. Jeffrey Roland will be Chief TD. Please register by e-mailing jroland@cableone.net. Email pre-registration is appreciated to speed up registration. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Registration will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. First round “should”/“could”/probably will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. Those coming late may get a first-round half-point bye. 90-minute break for lunch taken after round 2. Estimated time for end of tournament is 7:30 p.m. Entry is Free. Donations gladly accepted!

May 19-25 43rd Annual Keres Memorial, **Richmond BC (Canada).** (Half-Page Ad page 26)

☞ **May 26-28** Washington Open, **Lynnwood, WA.** (Full-Page Ad page 27)

Northwest Chess
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
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