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*Josep Companyo*



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Josep Companyo at the Norman Friedman Memorial.  
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

## On the back cover:

Chess set used for play at the Pawns and Pints Meetup in downtown Boise on October 20, 2018.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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

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## Table of Contents

Josep Companyo at Norman Friedman Memorial Adam Porth.....	Front Cover
<b>From The Editor's Desk</b>	
Jeffrey Roland.....	3
<b>2018 PCC Club Championship</b>	
Brian Berger .....	4
<b>Norman Friedman Memorial</b>	
Jeffrey Roland.....	6
<b>Portland Fall Open</b>	
Brian Berger .....	12
<b>October 2018 PCC Game 60</b>	
Brian Berger .....	14
<b>Three Washington Players at 2018 WYCC</b>	
Igor Shubin .....	16
<b>2018 Washington Challenger's Cup</b>	
Josh Sinanan .....	18
<b>Washington Blitz Championship (Half-Page Ad)</b>	
Seattle, WA Dec 9 .....	22
<b>Washington Game/20 Championship (Half-Page Ad)</b>	
Seattle, WA Dec 9 .....	23
<b>Northwest Chess Open (Half-Page Ad)</b>	
Seattle, WA Dec 15-16.....	24
<b>Washington Winter Chess Classic (Half-Page Ad)</b>	
Seattle, WA Dec 26-30 .....	25
<b>GM James Tarjan Simultaneous Exhibition</b>	
Russell (Rusty) Miller.....	26
<b>Northwest Grand Prix Report</b>	
Murlin Varner .....	28
<b>Seattle Chess Club Tournaments .....</b>	
	30
<b>Upcoming Events .....</b>	
	31
<b>Chess Set at Pawns and Pints Meetup</b>	
Jeffrey Roland.....	Back Cover

## From The Editor's Desk

This is my 73rd issue as editor.

One of the hardest parts about producing an issue of *Northwest Chess* is writing something from scratch like "From The Editor's Desk." When I am inspired, I can write. But to turn it on like a light switch and write when I'm not inspired is not quite so easy.

Along those same lines, it is much easier to produce a great issue once... maybe twice. But the challenge and skill is to be able to do it month-after-month, year-after-year, never missing a deadline, always producing the issue and have it meet the quality standards not only of the reading public, but of myself as well. How does one do that? So far, I would say, one step (issue) at a time... and keep doing it!

A few months ago, I asked Ralph Dubisch in all seriousness, "How come each issue seems to get better and better?" And his answer surprised me. He said, "It's because you're a slow learner!" And we both laughed for a few minutes because it was both funny and true!

Case in point—I didn't know how to do the table of contents correctly until the August 2018 issue, which was already my 69th issue! Prior to that issue I wasn't using leader dots and tab settings to properly align the page numbers at the end of the lines, I was simply spacing them out, and they didn't look the greatest, but now I figured that out!! "Slow learner!" Fortunately, I hope to produce many more issues and to continue to learn and improve with each issue, to go "ever upward, never backward" (to paraphrase the former World Chess Champion Tigran Petrosian.)

Last month's issue was a very nice issue in my opinion. It was a hard one too. Many things came in after the deadline, causing me to beg the publisher for a 24-page issue, instead of the normal 32, because I had so little material. Then I asked for a 48-page issue because then I got so much stuff late, and it was really good material, and I didn't want to cut any of it! Needless to say, the publisher was a bit confused. But the issue turned out great, one of my favorites ever! And I've received positive comments from many people about it.

It is important not only for me to meet my deadlines to the publisher, but for the public to meet the deadline of the fifth of each month as well. But one can actually function just fine not even knowing the deadlines.

An easy thing to remember is, when you ask yourself, "When should I send material in to *Northwest Chess*?" The answer should be simply, "Why not now?!!" because the sooner I get something, the sooner I can get it ready to go into an issue.

The deadline of the fifth is mainly for me to manage my workflow anyway. If you're asking yourself if you should send material in, the answer is yes, send it. Why not? Why wait? Will it go in? I don't know until I see it! But if I don't see it, there's no way it goes in.

—Jeffrey Roland

# Happy Holidays from Northwest Chess!

# 2018 PCC Club Championship

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—October 2-30, 2018

As was the case last year, the Tuesday Night Quads were suspended for the month to allow for the Portland Chess Club's yearly Club Championship, which took up all five Tuesdays in October—five rounds played at a time control of 40 moves in 90 minutes, with a 30-minute sudden death and 5-second delay. Officiated by Chief TD Michael Lilly and Chief Assistant TD Greg Markowski, the only problem encountered was the need for Lilly, who was also playing, to withdraw after the second round due to the death of one of his associates, and to turn over most of the TD duties to Markowski.

The Championship this year drew three fewer players than last year (17 to be exact), with Chad Lykins (1279-1322—1.5/5) coming in as the lowest



(L) Hugo Hartig vs Nord Winnan. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Abbie Wu vs Chad Lykins. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

rated, and LM David Koval (2200-2200—3.0/5) topping out the field three rating points ahead of NM Jason Cigan (2197—2199—4.0/5). Koval's Ratings History Graph shows his tournament activity has been non-existent for some time, reaching 2314 in the early part of 1992, then plunging as if in free-fall to about 2200 by 1993. Thereafter, it rose again in sporadic bursts to somewhere in the high 2200s by 1998, after which, it once again plunged to 2200 by 2003, Koval appearing non-active until this championship series of games.

Even with 15 years separating his last tournament activity, this Oregon player managed with his two wins and two draws to hang onto his listed rating, but had to stand aside and watch the first place money be split by last year's winner, NM Jason Cigan (2197-2199—4.0/5), and Mike Janniro (2048-2078—4.0/5), Cigan losing his second game to Janniro, while Janniro had three wins, a draw and a bye. Although the size of the



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(L) David Murray vs Greg Markowski. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

purse was small (\$25 each), the chance for a bit of immortality came in the form of having their names engraved on the Club Championship trophy.

Steven Deeth (2043-2052—3.5/5), with two wins, two draws and a bye, had the second highest score, but fell into that area where there was no money award. And although six players finished with a score of 3.0—David Koval, Karl Cosner (2022-2021—3.0/5), Robert Hamm (1902-1900—3.0/5), David Murray (1857-1851—3.0/5), Abbie Wu (1713-1743—3.0/5), and Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1500-1552—3.0/5), only two of these would see any cash—those being Wu and Berger, who split the U1800 prize money (Wu also gaining 30 points in rating, and Berger 52), leaving them the hard decision on how best to capitalize on their \$12.50 windfall.

Although this reporter’s play of late has seemed in need of a major overhaul, my round five game with Chad Lykins (which lasted nearly 4 hours) proved two things: (1) that Lykins can be one heck of an attacking player: and (2), that even though he was winning near the end of the middle game, up on me by two pawns, I

somehow found that, when pressed, I could still squeeze enough out of my gray matter to come up with a retaliatory plan to save my bacon.

Failing to put his king into the action when most needed, I was able to utilize mine to dampen the threat of some advancing pawns. That he did not utilize his two knights in a coordinated manner (which would have assured him the win), as I was able to, also allowed me some counter-play that finally began to eat up HIS pawns. The game would have ended sooner if I had not overlooked taking his last knight instead of a pawn, and so I had to work at it for another half hour, finally threatening to queen.

It is interesting to note that last year I also tied for the U1800, holding draws against three 1900+ players, and shared the prize with Lykins, who with a rating of 1126 also drew a 1900+ player and beat a 1762 player. Having this year reached a high of 1431, he seems to have lost some of his upward momentum and plateaued. But I think it best, if you happen to be paired with Lykins in some future tournament, not to equate the man’s playing ability with his rating.



Mike Janniro. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

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# Norman Friedman Memorial

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID—October 12-14, 2018

The third annual Norman Friedman Memorial chess tournament was held at the Riverside in Boise, Idaho October 12-14, 2018. The event was split into a Friday night blitz and the main event that took place over Saturday-Sunday. Joyce Friedman provided the guaranteed prize fund (a pure guarantee, not based on entries but in fact a true guarantee), and this was the biggest prize tournament in Idaho for the year 2018.

The first two Norman Friedman Memorial tournaments took place over the National Chess Day weekends in 2016 and 2017 and was held in Hailey, Idaho. But this year, ICA President Adam Porth, who has been the chief organizer, and who was very close to Norman Friedman when he was alive, moved to Rathdrum in northern Idaho and thus we needed to find a new place to host the event, and luckily Boise was chosen to continue the tradition.

We began with a Friday night blitz event that brought in an impressive 23 players. Time control was Game/5;d0 so there was absolutely no time-delay. There were six double-rounds in a Swiss System format. Play was estimated to take between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm and we came very near to that. Play actually started at about 6:20 pm and ended about 9:45 pm.



(L) Manfred Forster, Josep Companyo. Photo credit: Alex Machin.

Kevin Xu (1815-1896—11.0/12) won clear first place by quite a large margin, losing only one game out of 12 and taking home \$150. Next was Josep Companyo (2119P-1934P—8.5/12) and James Wei (pronounced “way”) (1829-1840—8.5/12) who tied for second-third places and a prize of \$87.50 each.

This is a great way to open a chess tournament. It gets the blood pumping, introduces players to one another, is a

big ice-breaker, and sets the tone of fun right from the start. I normally do not play blitz, in fact after 38 years of playing in tournaments, I entered this event here as an unrated blitz player (and so did Larry Parsons!) I think I won games I should have lost, lost games I should have won, and many times was winning and simply ran out of time. I just thought it was fun. I heard a lot of laughter in the playing hall, and in the future I do plan on playing in more blitz tournaments.



Kevin Xu. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Larry Parsons.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

The main event took place Saturday morning. Adam Porth was Chief TD with Alise Pemsler and Jeffrey Roland as assistant TD's. These three make a great team, have great chemistry, get things done, and each contributed so much to making this event a success this year in ways you can hardly even put down on paper. Time control was Game/120;d5. It was a five-round Swiss. With a field of 33 players, this makes this year's event the largest and most successful Norman Friedman Memorial to date.

## Overall Prizes

Josep Companyo (2039P-2052P—4.5/5) was first place overall and won \$250. Manfred Forster (Unr.-1892P—4.0/5) and Jeffrey Roland (1731-1748—4.0/5) tied for second-third place overall and \$175 each.

First-place class prizes were as follows:

### U1800

James Wei (1656-1666—3.5/5) and Janos Fucsko (1695-1682—3.5/5) who won \$25 each.

### U1600

Andrew Kitterman (1478-1498—3.0/5) and Desmond Porth (1594-1589—3.0/5) who took home \$25 each.

### U1400

Justin He (1346-1437—3.0/5) and Louis Felice (1387-1402—3.0/5) winning \$25 each.

### U1200

William Wang (1148-1135—2.0/5) who won \$50.

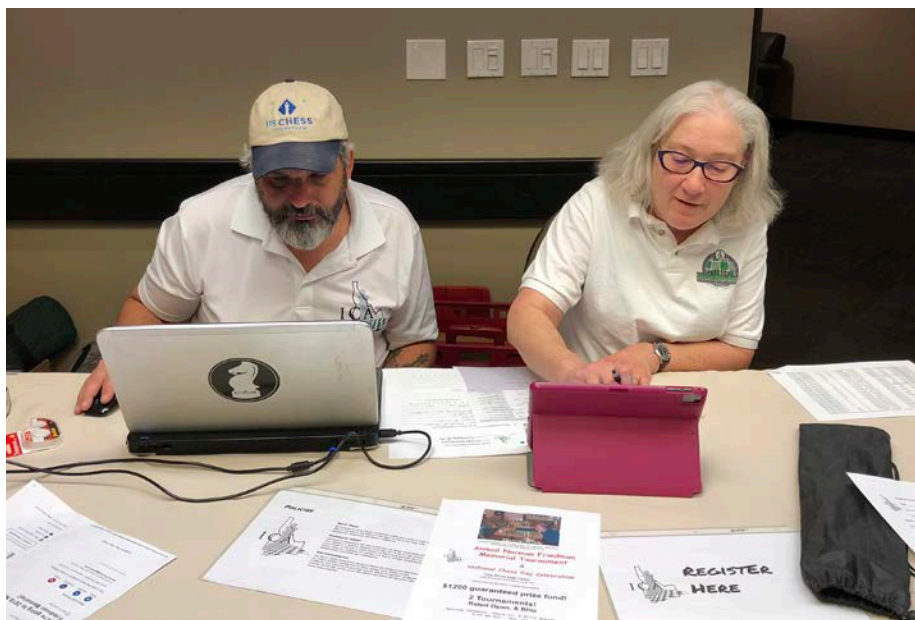
### U1000

David Baumann (698-712—2.5/5) and Jef Leifeste (427P-609P—2.5/5) winning \$25 each.

### Unrated

Russell Quan (Unrated-499P—0.5/5) winning \$50.

It was decided that we want to hold the event again next year in Boise, so plan now, National Chess Day is always the second Saturday in October. So put it on your chess calendars now and we hope to see an even greater turnout next year.



Adam Porth (L) and Alise Pemsler. Photo credit: Alex Machin.



Andrew Kitterman. Photo credit: Seth Machakos.

**Manfred Forster (1740) –  
Jeffrey T. Roland (1731) [C02]**  
Norman Friedman Memorial  
Boise, ID (R4), October 14, 2018  
*[Jeffrey Roland]*

**1.d4 d5 2.e4 e6 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3  
Bd7 6.Bd3 Rc8**

6...Qb6 is what I usually play.

**7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nb4 9.Nc3 Nxd3  
10.Qxd3 Bb4 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.Rfc1 Ne7  
13.a3 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Nc6 15.Qd2 0-0  
16.Re1 Qd8 17.Re3 f6**

I used to play this idea in correspondence. My queen did her thing on the Q-side in the opening, but I don't want to abandon the K-side for too long.

**18.Bb4 Nxb4 19.axb4 a6 20.Raa3 Qe7**

The idea here is to double rooks on the c-file and put pressure on the b4-pawn. It's not a winning idea, but it's something.

**21.Ne1!**

Well, I like this move. The computer says Black is slightly better, but I thought it was a brilliant defensive resource, and my opinion of that isn't changing because of the computer evaluation. On c2, that knight does a great deal.

**21...Rc4 22.Nc2 Rfc8 23.Rec3 fxe5  
24.dxe5 Qh4**



*Position after 24...Qh4*

Optically, this looks good to me. And let us not forget there are possibilities looming with a timely ...d4 push and ...Bc6 if I can just figure a way to make it all work. But the beauty of chess is that it isn't all one-sided. There are two players here, and both have ideas and want to win!

**25.Rxc4 Rxc4 26.Rc3 Bc6 27.b3?!**

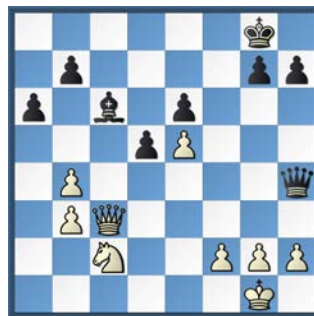
I took pleasure at the fact that now, for the first time, I think White may have done something wrong. He will be sadled now with doubled pawns (before, they were always just going to fix themselves if ever I played ...Rxc3, now, taking the rook doesn't fix them. And as they say, you can't move pawns backwards so be careful when advancing them.

**27...Rxc3 28.Qxc3**

**[Diagram top of next column]**



*Manfred Forster (L) plays Jeffrey Roland. Photo credit: Adam Porth.*



*Position after 28.Qxc3*

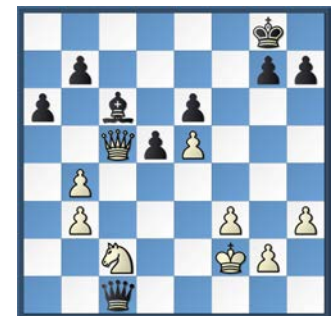
And now, for the first time in the game, I feel as if it's all up to me. I can do whatever I want on this move, a free punch—so I better make it a good one! I could tell this move was very important. In fact, I actually believe the fate of the entire game happens between moves 28 and 32. These next four moves are the whole game, really! It's hard to figure out over-the-board.

**28...Qe4**

I picked this move because I guess the idea of ...d4 and lining up on g2 appealed to me, and if the pawn goes to f3, I thought I was in his face with ...Qe2. 28...Qg5 I rejected this because of 29.Ne3, however, that is bad because then 29...Qf4 is really good for Black.; 28...Qf4 looks really strong too, and I considered it too over-the-board. Actually, I considered this move longest of all. And looking at the game now in hindsight, I can't remember why I rejected this move! I guess the problem is there is no knock-out killer moves, but just good strong moves that are good for Black.

**29.f3 Qe2 30.h3 Qd1+ 31.Kf2 Qc1  
32.Qc5**

**[Diagram top of next column]**



*Position after 32.Qc5*

This move stopped many of the tricks in the position, but not all. Over-the-board I played the inferior 32...Qd2+, but might have been able to win with 32...Qb2!, attacking b3 and e5, and according to the computer is a decisive advantage for Black.

**32...Qd2+?! 33.Kg1 Qc1+ 34.Kf2 Qd2+  
35.Kg1 Qc1+**

I enjoyed this game very much, and my opponent was a true gentleman.

1/2-1/2

**James Wei (1656) –  
Alex Machin (1845) [C41]**  
Norman Friedman Memorial  
Boise, ID (R3), October 13, 2018  
*[Alex Machin]*

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7**

This is known as the Black Lion opening. The goal is to reach a Philidor while keeping the queens on the board.

**4.Nf3 e5 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0**

6.Bxf7+ Black needs to constantly be aware of the weak f7-square. The following sequence shows an idea to be aware of. In the current position, it isn't



sound if Black reacts correctly. 6...Kxf7 7.Ng5+ Kg8 8.Ne6 Qe8 9.Nxc7 Qg6 10.Nxa8 Qxg2 11.Rf1 exd4 12.Qxd4 Ne5 6...c6 7.Be3 Qc7 8.Qe2 h6 9.a4 Ng4



Position after 9...Ng4

I wanted to go for a kingside attack. This idea makes more sense if White has a pawn on h3 which would act as a target for the black pawns. The following sequence shows how this could develop.

**10.b4**

White gives up the bishop in order to speedup his queenside expansion. 10.Bd2 a5 11.h3 Ngf6 12.Be3 Nf8 13.Rfd1 g5

**10...Nxe3 11.fxe3 0-0 12.b5**

White is trying to exploit my lack of development by opening lines. If White achieves nothing, then the opening of the position could enhance the scope of my bishop pair.

**12...Nb6 13.a5**

I was happy to see this move. I was fearful of his bishop retreating and only then pushing forward with a5.

**13...Nxc4 14.Qxc4 Bd7 15.a6**

The point of White's play is to secure the d5-square as an outpost after a couple captures on b7 and c6. This may look impressive (and it is) but don't forget Black's bishop pair.

**15...Rac8 16.Rfb1**

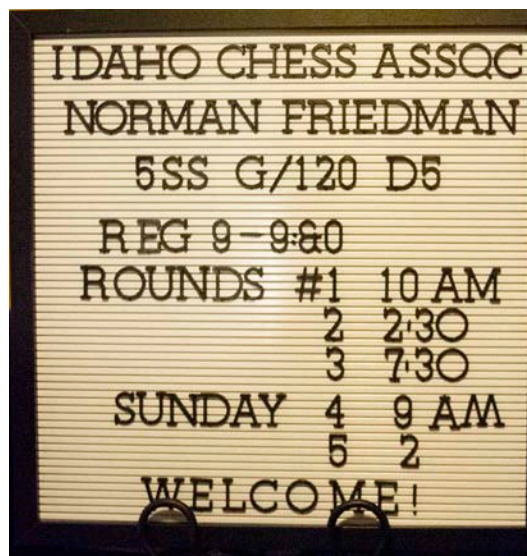


Position after 16.Rfb1

A clear error.

**16...b6**

With this move I nullify both of White's rooks by closing their files while also securing a protected passed pawn once the tension on c6 is released.



Alex Machin and the new ICA tournament sign that Alise Pemsler purchased. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

**17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Rd1 Be6 19.Qxc6 Qxc6 20.bxc6 Rxc6 21.Nd5**

21.Nb5 A nice move with a simple threat. I was planing Ra8 with the goal of removing his knight from b5.

**21...Bf6**



Position after 21...Bf6

**22.Rd2**

22.Nxe5 An interesting tactic. It doesn't lead to anything if Black reacts correctly. 22...Bxd5 23.exd5 Rxc2 24.Nd7 Bxa1 25.Nxf8 Kxf8 26.Rxa1 Ke7 After the smoke has cleared, Black is left with a better endgame.

**22...Rfc8 23.Nxf6+**

White trades his active knight for my bishop which wasn't really doing much. Not a good trade eventhough my structure has been damaged.

**23...gxf6**

White is tied up to the defense of the c2-pawn. Also, he needs to worry about the defense of his a6-pawn.

**24.Ne1**

White is tied up to the c2-pawn. Black is much better.

**24...Rc4 25.Kf2 Rxe4 26.Kf3 Rec4 27.Ra3 Kf8 28.h3 Ke7 29.Ra1 Rd8**

Trading off White's only active piece.

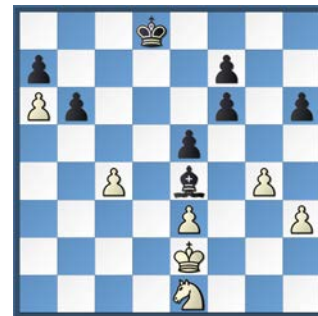
**30.Rxd8 Kxd8 31.Ke2 Bd7 32.Kd2 Ra4 33.Rxa4 Bxa4 34.c4**

Preventing the immediate Bb5.

**34...Bc6 35.g4 Be4**

Giving myself the option of exchanging minor pieces if the knight moves. I had a feeling I was winning at this point.

**36.Ke2**



Position after 36.Ke2

My opponent thought he was losing in the king and pawn endgame. He avoided it at all costs. 36.Nd3 Bxd3 37.Kxd3 Kd7 "Black is clearly winning" with an evaluation of (-4.36) according to Komodo 11.2.2 64-bit. Black has three different pawn breaks that give him such a big advantage. First, there's a possible h5 which has the main idea of deflecting a defender off f5 if White takes the pawn. This allows Black to gain a passed pawn by simply pushing his pawn up to f4. If White doesn't oblige and the tension is held between the h and g pawns, then Black can force the issue by playing f5 which double attacks g4. Moving on, there's the next main pawn break f5. If White exchanges it off, the Black king can become active after trading off on the square. Also, there's an extra pawn on the

f-file to replace any exchanges. Finally there's the break b5. This becomes useful when the kings are opposed from each other and progress cannot be made. If White is forced to capture on b5, then the a6 pawn will be lost.

36...Kc7 37.Kd2 Kc6 38.Kc3 Kc5 39.Kb3 b5 40.cxb5 Kxb5 41.h4 Kxa6 42.Ka4 Kb6 43.Kb4 a6 44.h5 a5+ 45.Ka4 Ka6 46.Ka3 Kb5 47.Kb3 a4+ 48.Kc3 Kc5 49.Kb2 Kb4 50.Ka2 a3 51.Ka1 Kb3 52.g5

Stalemate is his only hope.

52...fxg5 53.Nf3 Bxf3 54.e4 Kc3 55.Kb1 Kd3 56.Ka2 Kxe4 57.Kxa3 g4 58.Kb3 g3 59.Kc2 Ke3 60.Kc3 g2 0-1

**Forrest Zeng (1332) – Larry R. Parsons (2000) [B31]**  
Norman Friedman Memorial  
Boise, ID (R1), October 13, 2018  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6

The Accelerated Dragon. 4...Nf6 5.Nc3 leads to various other main line Sicilian variations.

5.Bb5?!

An odd move, whose point never becomes clear. In these lines White generally plays either c2-c4, the Maroczy Bind, keeping the bishop behind the pawns, or Bc4 and Nc3, developing pressure on the a2-g8 diagonal. Both of these plans, not so incidentally, attempt to control d5. 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 is the most popular line. There are decent sidelines where either Black captures on d4 or White's retreats Nc2 to avoid it.; 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 has also been played many hundreds of times.

5...Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.f4?!

8.0-0 Ng4 9.Qxg4 Nxd4∞



Position after 8.f4

8...Nxd4?!

8...Ng4! 9.Qxg4 (9.Nxc6? dxc6 and two white pieces hang.; 9.Bg1 e5! 10.Nxc6? dxc6 11.Be2 exf4 12.Bxg4 Qh4+ 13.g3 fxg3+) 9...Nxd4 is a thematic idea in Accelerated Dragons, and it looks helpful here.

9.Bxd4 d6 10.Qd2



Forrest Zeng (L) plays Larry Parsons in round one. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

10.0-0

10...Qa5 11.Bd3 Qb4 12.Ne2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Bd7 14.h3 Bc6 15.Ke3 Rfc8

15...Rfe8!?

16.g4

16.Rhd1!?



Position after 16.g4

16...Nd7

16...e5! 17.fxe5 (On 17.Bc3 exf4+ 18.Kxf4 (Or 18.Nxf4 Nxe4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Bxe4 Re8 with an extra bean.) 18...Re8 19.Ng3 d5 20.Rhe1 Rad8 Black clearly has an initiative.) 17...dxe5 18.Bxe5 (18.Bc3 Nd7 19.h4 Nc5) 18...Nxe4+ 19.hxg4 Bxe5 20.Nd4 Bd7 21.Rag1

17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Ng3

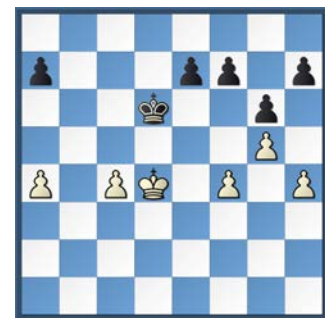
18.Nc3!?

18...Nc5 19.Rac1 d5 20.Rhd1 dxe4 21.Nxe4 Nxd3 22.Rxd3 Rd8 23.Rcd1 Rxd3+ 24.Rxd3 Re8 25.c3 Kf8 26.b3 Ke8 27.c4 b5 28.Nd2 bxc4 29.Nxc4 Bb5 30.Rd4 Bxc4 31.Rxc4 Rxc4 32.bxc4 Kd7 33.g5 Kc6 34.Kd4 Kd6 35.h4 Kc6 36.a4 Kd6

[Diagram top of next column]

37.a5?

The right way to force a draw here is 37.c5+, and with b5 defended the black king has no entries.



Position after 36...Kd6

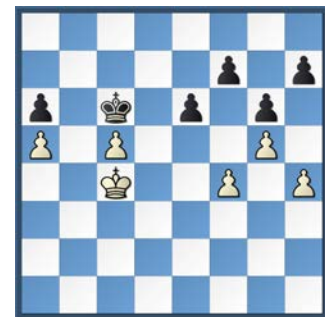
37...Kc6 38.c5

38.Kd3 Kc5 39.Kc3 f5!-+

38...a6?

This throws away the advantage. 38...Kb5! 39.Kd5 Kxa5 40.Kc6 Kb4 41.h5! gxh5! 42.Kd5 h4 (Something like 42...Kb5 43.f5 h4 44.c6 Kb6 45.f6 is far less clear.) 43.c6 h3 44.c7 h2 45.c8Q h1Q+, and Black reaches a very nice queen ending.

39.Kc4 e6??



Position after 39...e6

And this is an awful blunder, giving the white king access to d6 and f6, and thus free passage to the kingside pawns. It must have arisen either from a casual miscalculation involving the black king reaching the a-pawn first, or perhaps Black missed the white king heading west

instead of east on move 45 in the game line. 39...Kc7 or any other king retreat draws, as does; 39...f5

**40.Kd4 Kb5 41.Ke5 Kxc5**

41...Kxa5 of course loses to 42.c6 Kb6 43.Kd6.

**42.Kf6 Kd5 43.Kxf7 Ke4 44.Kxe6!**

44.Kg7, although not as strong as the game, is also good for White: 44...Kxf4 45.Kxh7 e5 46.h5! e4 47.hxg6 e3 48.g7 e2 49.g8Q e1Q 50.Qd5±.

**44...Kxf4 45.Kd6!**

And wins:

**45...Kg4 46.Kc6 Kxh4 47.Kb6 Kxg5 48.Kxa6 h5 49.Kb6**

A 650–point upset.

1–0

**Dr. Gaby Dagher (1732) –  
Christopher J. Baumann (879) [C57]**  
Norman Friedman Memorial  
Boise, ID (R1), October 13, 2018

[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nb4?**

The main line here runs 5...Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nf3 e4 10.Ne5 and Black's free development gives compensation for the pawn.; 5...Nd4 6.c3 b5 7.Bf1 Nxd5 is less common and potentially very complicated.; 5...b5 6.Bf1 can transpose to the above, or travel independent paths with 6...Nxd5 or 6...Qxd5.; 5...Nxd5? allows the controversial Fried Liver attack: 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3. The game move falls somewhere between the main line and the Fried Liver.

**6.d6 Be6 7.dxc7**

7.Nxe6 fxe6 8.dxc7 Qxc7 9.d3 is the move order to reach the position White wants.

**7...Qxc7**



Position after 7...Qxc7

**8.Nxe6??**

8.Bb5+ Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 (9...Nxd7 10.Nc3) 10.a3 Nc6 11.d3 when probably both sides can be happy with the opening. White has a pretty solid position and an

extra pawn; Black has free-wheeling development and space.

**8...Qxc4!**

Now Black utterly dominates, despite the 850–point rating difference.

**9.Nxg7+ Bxg7 10.Na3 Qe4+ 11.Kf1 Nfd5 12.d3 Qh4 13.Qe1 Rc8 14.g3 Qh3+ 15.Kg1 Nxc2 16.Nxc2 Rxc2 17.Qa5 Qf5 18.Qxa7 0–0 19.Kg2 Qxd3 20.Rf1 e4 21.Kg1 Bd4 22.Qxb7 Ne3**

22...Qf3 forces mate a little faster, not that it matters much.

**23.Bxe3 Bxe3 24.Rae1 Bd4 25.Rd1 Bxf2+ 26.Kg2 Be1+ 27.Kg1 0–1**

**Brian Lange (1356) –  
Caleb Kircher (1904) [A01]**  
Norman Friedman Memorial  
Boise, ID (R2), October 13, 2018  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 d6 5.Be2 g6 6.0–0 Bg7 7.c4 0–0 8.d3 Re8 9.Nbd2 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.a3?**

White appears to have achieved a reverse Hedgehog, with not only the extra tempo for playing first, but also one gained when Black played d7–d6 before d6–d5. However the undefended b2–bishop offers a tactical opportunity, so better would be 11.Qb1.



Position after 11.a3

**11...Be6?**

Opportunity missed. 11...e4! 12.dxe4 Pretty much forced: (12.Bxg7 exf3 and White loses a piece.; 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.exd4 e3 is a train wreck.) 12...Bxb2 (12...Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bxb2± is another way to go.) 13.exd5 Bxa1 14.Qxa1 (Or 14.dxc6 Bg7 and Black has an edge.) 14...Qxd5±. White can claim partial compensation for the exchange.

**12.Qc2 f6?!**

An unfortunate choice, with several negative effects. It weakens the king position, reduces the influence of the fianchettoed bishop, spends a move, and does nothing to counter White's c-file and queenside ambitions. 12...a5 13.Ne4; 12...f5 13.b4; and 12...Qe7 13.b4 all deserve consideration.

**13.Rac1 Qd7 14.Rfe1 Rac8 15.Ne4**

**Nce7? 16.Nc5 Qc6**



Position after 16...Qc6

**17.Nxe6**

17.d4! wins material here, as Black's e5–pawn is under-defended and unable to either safely advance to e4 or capture on d4.

**17...Qxe6 18.Nd2 Kh8 19.Ne4**

19.d4!?

**19...b6 20.Qb1**

20.b4!?

**20...c5 21.d4!? f5 22.Ng5 Qf6 23.Nf3 cxd4 24.exd4 e4 25.Ne5 Qe6 26.Bb5 Red8 27.Rxc8**

27.Ba6±

**27...Nxc8 28.Rc1 Bxe5?**

28...Nd6∞

**29.dxe5 Nce7 30.Bc4 Nc6 31.Rd1 Nce7**

Black's "plan" of exchanging his essential dark-square bishop and then moving his knight back and forth to passive defensive positions leaves White with a crushing advantage.

**32.Qc1 Qc6?**



Position after 32...Qc6

**33.Qh6**

33.e6+ is the accurate way to force checkmate, as there will be no ...Qe6 blockade. My favorite continuation from here is 33...Kg8 34.Qh6 Nf6 35.Rxd8+ Ne8 36.Qg7#.

**33...Qe6 34.Bxd5 f4**

If this move needs explanation, note that 34...Nxd5 is met by 35.Rxd5!

**35.Qf8+ Rxf8 36.Bxe6 Nc6 37.Bf7 Kg7 38.e6+ Kh6 39.Rd6 e3 40.Rxc6 Rd8 41.fxe3 fxe3 42.Rc1 e2 43.Kf2 1–0**

# Portland Fall Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—October 13-14, 2018

The only indications were that this was the Portland Chess Club's "Fall" Open tournament that I was attending, was on the calendar, and the leaf-strewn grounds of the club. Was one to go to by what was happening with the weather, it looked more like the Spring Open, given that Portland was enjoying a week of sunshine and 70+ days.

With such great weather in the offering, one wonders who would want to box themselves up for two days in the fluorescent confines of a chess club? Well, at least 40 avid chess fans did just that, forgoing last minute tans under sunny skies for the mental rush of competition, and the posterior paralyzation which sometimes accompanies sitting for too long.

On hand to oversee this two-day, four game contest were Chief TD Mike Hasuike, Chief Assistant TD Micah Smith, and Assistant TD Mike Lilly, with Hasuike filling in when an extra player was needed. And also on hand (but not a player) was Morgan the Dog, there to give Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards (1471-1452—2.0/4) moral support in his (it seems) never ending quest to eventually reach B-player status—a status I myself, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1500-1500—1.0/4), have had a hard time keeping, whether playing low or



(L) Abbie Wu vs David Murray. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

high players (this tournament being a case in point).

As has been the norm of late at Portland Chess Club tournaments, new faces have frequently appeared, and this tournament was no exception. It shows that many families moving into the area will constitute the well from which the club will continue to draw its avid player base—which is a good sign that chess, and the over-one-hundred-year-old Portland

Chess Club, will continue to prosper in the Portland area.

One of those new faces, Omurbek Kobonov (Unrated-2201P—3.0/4), came on the Portland chess scene like a roaring lion in his first rated tournament, where he defeated a provisional Expert and a high rated A-player, meeting his match only when paired to NM Joshua Grabinsky (2201-2219—3.5/4), who eventually tied with FM Steven Breckenridge (2372-2374—3.5) for first/second in the Open Section, both winning \$203 after the split, and leaving Kobonov to collect the U2000 prize of \$95.

I had entered this Open Section in the hopes of (once again) avoiding the unknowns of the Reserve—that is, players who mask themselves as fledglings, but swoop down on you like mature hawks. My thoughts on this have been, if I am going to leave my entrails and hard-gained rating points to possible birds of prey, then I'll choose to do so in a section that does not hide the fact that they are better than you. Either way, my odds of prospering in either section is suspect, but I might just get lucky with players of known ferocity and up my rating a notch or two.

Whatever dim hopes I had of making this one of those rating gaining times were firmly put to rest in the first round by the always gracious and smiling Andrea Botez (1863-1885—2.5/4), whom I have been paired with in a number of tournaments. Although I once or twice have succeeded in holding my own against her, this was not to be one of those



(L) Jerrold Richards vs David Roshu. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Isaac Vega vs George Oliver. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

times, and set the tone for the balance of the tournament, where my one point was earned by having to take a mandatory bye. Whereas Botez went on to beat a 1960 player and draw another new face from Washington, Claudio Perissinotto, a 2062 provisional player with 18 games, edging her rating up 22 points.

Before leaving this account of the Open Section, mention must be made of the young Zoey Tang (1806-1845—2.5/4), who continues to produce a level of play that has seen her rating rise at almost every recent tournament. Usually in the money, she failed this time when challenged by some very tough competition, but let her presence be known by beating a 1960 and an 1865 player, and securing a draw against another mid-1800 player, losing only to the above mentioned Claudio Perissinotto (2062P), gaining nearly 40 points in the process.

The Reserve Section saw Eric “Mighty Mite” Erard (1749-1758—3.5/4) better a field of 20 players, he being the highest-rated by nearly 200 rating points. When I first saw this very young player at the Portland Chess Club, perhaps two years ago, I felt I was watching someone who seemed to be naturally gifted at this game, as he often spent more time walking around than at the board, but still managed to win most of his games.

Two years later he seems much the same (even in size—the reason I had started referring to him as “Mighty Mite”). He had reached his previous peak rating near the end of 2016—slightly over 1700—but from then on he lost momentum, dipping in rating and only gaining lost ground in early 2018, where after a short spell away from the game, he now seems bent on being the player I imagined he could be. It would have been interesting to see him opt to play in the



(L) Adhith Srikanth vs Cassandra Roshu. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Open Section, where his quick calculating skills would well serve him.

Five players in this section managed to acquire three points each, resulting in a five-way split of the second and U1600 monies: Austin Tang (1563-1586—3.0/4), Greg Markowski (1567-1582—3.0/4), Ethan Zhang (1542-1548—3.0/4), Egan Wong (1458-1448—3.0/4), and Adhith Srikanth (1345-1395—3.0/4) of Washington, their individual take-home amounting to \$34.

The last of the prize money, that for U1400 and U1200/Unrated, was split in a four player tie—Riley Jones (208P-327P—2.0/4), Ishaan Kodarapu (1226-1253—2.0/4), Jerrold Richards (1471-1452—2.0/4), and Arnold Yang (1049-1024—2.0/4), each claiming \$36 of it.

For anyone else but Jerrold Richards, the loss of 19 rating points while gaining a \$36 payoff would be somewhat of a tradeoff. But like me, time left is a concerning factor in achieving either of our goals—his of reaching 1600 before it’s over, mine to eventually become an A-player; so I would surmise that a rating gain would be preferable to the money award (although Morgan the Dog might have something to say about this, as his food source is dependent on Richards’ income).

And there you have it folks, all the gossip, fortune and intrigue of a typical Portland Chess Club tournament, brought to you by a somewhat suspect reporter, given at times to offering un-vetted news in order to sell more magazines.

**Play over-the-board Tournament Chess!**

# October 2018 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—October 27, 2018

The Portland Chess Club's monthly Game 60 can be a bit frustrating for some of us older players (like myself, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger—(1500-1500—0.0/4), who find the faster time control usually outpacing their calculating speed. So to make up for it, we move more quickly and think less deeply, paying the price in the form of overlooked pawns and minor pieces, and rating histories charts that look like seismic activity of epic proportions on the Richter scale.

Just such a thing happened to me during October's tournament—not once, not twice, not three times, but for the whole four games! Matched against a field of 27 players, which mandates that all players, of whatever rating, go head-to-head (30 is the number required to split the players into a High and Low section)—meaning you can be outclassed by hundreds of rating points in your first round—left me playing Andrea Botez (1859-1830—2.0/4) once again. I say once again, because it seems I have been paired to her in at least the last three tournaments, and a number of times over a number of years, only being successful once that I can recall.

After being trounced by this very gracious young lady, I found a way to lose to Andrei Stancescu (1096-1183—



(L) Zoey Tang vs Egan Wong. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

1.5/4)—some 400 rating points below me—Nick Major (1412-1403—1.0/4)—by a premature pawn push in a winning endgame, losing a rook—and Mark Wang (945P-1018P—2.0/4)—a provisional player who won his 20th game at my expense by gaining a pawn early on, then playing as if he was 700 points higher than his posted rating. And although I normally do not think of having been around for three-quarters of a century while I am playing chess, I felt REALLY OLD by day's end.

Jerrold Richards (1452-1433—1.0/4), the only other player I know that I can definitely identify with in the matter of seismic fluctuations in ratings, and where both our "floors" (his 1300; mine 1500) have prevented us from falling into the basement any number of times, found himself not much better off than myself at tournament's end, winning one game while dropping another 19 points off his rating—causing Morgan the Dog to wonder if all of the time he has spent trying to improve Richards' game could have been better spent chasing rabbits, or sticking closer to the guy who slips him Wendy's chicken nuggets and french fries when Richards isn't looking.

Anyway, I've devoted way too much space to writing about old guys whining about losing, so I will get on with giving you the results of players who spend less time whining and more time winning. In this tournament that would be Zoey Tang (1868-1892—3.5/4), Isaac Vega (1864-1879—3.5/4), Raj Kodithyala (1826-1840—3.5/4), and Austin Tang (1587-1708—3.5/4), who scooped up nearly all of the prize money by tying for first, second, third, and U1800/Unrated, giving each a payout of \$54; and in the case of Austin Tang, a boost of 121-points in rating!



(L) Omurbek Kobonov vs Michael Moore. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

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Others to profit, albeit less so money-wise, were Egan Wong (1521-1561—2.0/4), Ishaan Raq (1331-1394—2.0/4), Maolong Tang (1164P-1253P—2.0/4), Mark Wang (945P-1018P—2.0/4), and Victor Diego (881P-1166P—2.0/4) in a 5-way tie for U1500/Unrated. All received \$10 each for their efforts, with Diego getting an ego-boosting bonus of 285 points tacked on to his provisional rating!

I should add in parting that we had an older (seen once before at the Portland Fall Open) player join in the activities, Omurbek Kobonov, who held a four-game 2067 provisional rating on entering, but who could do no better than to win against a 1400+ and a 1500+ player, while losing to a 1900+ and a 1500+ player—dropping 221 of those provisional points. Leaving me to think that perhaps I should not be so hard on myself, as this was a tough crowd.

The TD to thank for this fun and exciting Saturday event (for some), would be Mike Hasuike, who got a little help with the pairings from that disgruntled, four-game loser named earlier.



*(L) Yu-Cheng Liang vs Isaac Vega. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*



*Some of the players. Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

# Three Washington Chess Players on 2018 World Youth Chess Championships

By Igor Shubin

World Youth Chess Championship 2018 has been held recently in Halkidiki, Greece from October 19 through October 30 in the beautiful Porto Karras resort on the Aegean Sea.

635 players from all over the world (79 countries) competed for youth championships in six age categories. The tournament brought together many strong players. Amongst them there were eight GM's, two WGM's, 29 IM's, 17 WIM's.

Three players, Anne-Marie Velea, Sophie Tien, and Daniel Shubin, proudly represented Washington State in the tournament as a part of the US National Chess team. Anne-Marie Velea and Sophie Tien competed in Girls Under 14 category and Daniel Shubin competed in Open section Under 14.

This tournament was an amazing chess and life experience for our chess athletes. Almost every round they played with scholars from different countries and continents. For instance, Daniel Shubin played with kids from Switzerland, Hungary, Cyprus, Greece, Armenia, Sweden, Luxemburg, Wales (Great Britain), Norway, Croatia, and more, as did Anne-Marie and Sophie Tien.

Our players finished with strong results: Anne-Marie Velea got 5.5, Sophie Tien — 6 points, and Daniel Shubin finished with 5.5 points out of 11. They outplayed some very strong opponents and had very interesting games. Each game brought its own challenges, learning experiences and excitement.

As any international tournament, it is not only about chess. It is an opportunity for kids from different countries to gather together to chat over local Greek food, play ping-pong or soccer, or swim in the crystal clear Aegean Sea. And of course, no one could resist the opportunity to sightsee Greece's famous ancient ruins, touch the history of Macedonian Alexander The Great and Aristotle, or visit beautiful coves and museums.

**Sophie Tien (1648) – Agata Murzina (1768) [C01]**  
World Youth Chess Championship Halkidiki (R5), October 23, 2018  
*[Sophie Tien]*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Be7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.Ng3 c6 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.Qf3 h6 11.Bf4 Qb6?!

Dangerous to move queen away from king, especially when there are so many pieces gathered on the kingside.

12.Nce2

12.Nf5!? is another possible idea.

12...Qxb2 13.Nf5 Bf8 14.Rfb1?

14.Qg3! This is a natural option that comes to mind. 14...Nh5?? 15.Nxh6+! It is a check, so Black is forced to move. Weird that this was missed! 15...Kh8 16.Nxf7+ Kg8 17.Nh6+ Kh8 18.Qg6+–

14...Qa3 15.Neg3?

Not a bad move. 15.Qg3!+– Would have been better. Clearly winning.

15...Qa4 16.Nxg7!!

Correct sacrifice.

16...Bxg7 17.Nf5 Nf8 18.Nxg7 Kxg7 19.Bxh6+ Kxh6 20.Qxf6+

It is a clear path for White, so no need to spend so much time.

20...Ng6 21.Qxf7 Re6 22.c3?



Position after 22.c3

Look at opponent's target for every move, especially when you are attacking. 22.Rxb7!? Qxd4 23.Qh7+ Kg5∞

22...Qa3 23.Bxg6??

23.Rxb7!!+– now is winning.

23...Rxg6 24.Qf4+?

24.Re1 Rook first! A threat is stronger than its execution, so keep it as long as you can. Plus the queen restricts the king well. 24...Qxc3 25.Qf4+–

24...Kh7 25.Re1

Here Black is better, since she is able to develop her pieces.

25...Be6

25...Bg4+ White is in trouble.

26.Rxe6 Rxe6 27.Qf7+ Kh8? 28.Qxe6 Qxc3 29.Qe5+ Kg8 30.Re1 Rf8 31.h4 Qd2 32.f3

32.Qg3+ Kh8 33.Re5+– idea could have been used now instead of prolonging the game.



Sophie Tien: Photo credit: Patrick Tien.

32...a6? 33.Re2 Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+ 35.Kh3 Qc1 36.Re1 Qd2 37.Qg3+ Kh8 38.Re5 Qh6 39.Qg4

39.Rg5!! Restrict the queen!

39...Rf4 40.Rh5 Rxg4 41.Rxh6+ Kg7 42.Kxg4 Kxh6 43.Kf4

King pawn endgame — 1.) Three pawns would always promote as long as you have waiting moves.; 2.) Even if one of the pawn is doubled, you will still win.

43...Kh5 44.g4+ Kh6 45.Ke5 a5 46.Kd6 a4 47.Kc5 b5 48.f4 Kg6? 49.h5+ Kh6 50.a3 Kh7 51.g5 Kg7 52.f5 Kg8 53.h6 Kh7 54.Kb4 Kg8 55.g6 Kh8? 56.f6 Kg8 57.f7+ Kf8 58.h7 c5+ 59.Kxc5 b4 60.Kxb4 Kg7 61.h8Q+ Kxg6 62.f8R Kg5 63.Qg7+ Kh5 64.Rh8#

Overall: Good game, but could improve, especially in the later half.

1-0

**Anne-Marie Velea (1859) – Sevinch Alimova (1596) [B40]**  
World Youth Chess Championship Halkidiki (R8), October 27, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bd3 d5 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nd2 Be7 9.b3 a5 10.a4 0-0 11.Bb2 Ba6 12.e5 Nd7 13.Bxa6 Rxa6 14.Qg4 Re8 15.Rae1 Bc5 16.Kh1 Nf8 17.f4 g6 18.Nf3 Be7 19.Re2 c5 20.h4 f5 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Ne5 Qg7 24.Rfe1 h5 25.Qh3 d4 26.g4 hxg4 27.Qxg4 Re7 28.Rg2 Kh7 29.Reg1 Qh6 30.h5 Rg7 31.Qh4 Kh8 32.Nxg6+ Nxg6 33.Rxg6 Rxg6 34.Rxg6 Qf8 35.Qg5 Ra7 36.Rxe6 Rg7 37.Rg6 Rxg6 38.hxg6 Kg7 39.f5 Qa8+ 40.Kg1 Qf8 41.Qh5 Qf6 42.Kf2 Kf8 43.Qh6+ Ke8 44.Qf4 Kd7 45.Qg4 Qe5 46.f6+



Kd8 47.f7 Qe3+ 48.Kg2 Qd2+ 49.Kh3 Qe3+ 50.Qg3 Qe6+ 51.Kh4 Qe4+ 52.Kh5 Qe2+ 53.Kh6 Ke7 54.Qc7+ Ke6 55.Qc8+ Kd5 56.Qd7+ Ke4 57.Qe6+ Kf3 58.Qxe2+ Kxe2 59.f8Q d3 60.cxd3 Kxd3 61.g7 1-0

Daniel Shubin (1744) –  
Martias Unneland (1844) [C01]  
World Youth Chess Championship  
Halkidiki (R10), October 29, 2018  
*[Daniel Shubin]*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3

My usual opening.

5...Nc6 6.Nge2? Nge7 7.0-0 Bg4

7...0-0 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Bg4 10.f3 Bh5 11.Nf4 Bg6 12.Nxg6 hxg6 White is slightly better.

8.f3 Bh5 9.a3 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Qd7

At this point usually the king has castled kingside. However, when he went ...Qd7 I decided I should start an attack on the queen-side.

11.Rb1 0-0-0 12.Nf4 Bg6? 13.Nxg6

Getting rid of the bishop.

13...Nxg6

14.Bd2

Here I thought about 14.Qe2 But after Rde8 it does not work 14...Rhe8 15.Ba6 Rxe2 16.Bxb7+ Kb8 17.Bxc6+? Kc8 18.Bb7+ Kb8 19.Bxd5+ Kc8 20.Bb7+ Kb8 21.Bc6+ Kc8 22.Bxd7+ Kxd7 23.Rb2

14...Qd6 15.Qc1 Rde8 16.Qb2

Starting my attack.

16...Nd8?!

16...b6

17.c4? dxc4 18.Bxc4 Nf4 19.Kh1!

Making sure that there would be no check on d4.

19...h5



Position after 19...h5

Here I thought for about an hour thinking about the sac. And I realized that it could only be right since the knight is protecting two pieces so you should distract it.



Anne-Marie Velea (right). Photo credit: Nick Velea.

20.Bxf7!? Nxf7 21.Qxb7+ Kd7 22.Qb5+ Kd8 23.Qf5 Ne6 24.Qxf7 Kc8 25.Bb4 Qc6

25...Qxd4 26.Rfd1

26.Rfe1 Rd8 27.Qf5 Rd5 28.Qh3 Re8? 29.Rbc1 Kb7 30.c4

This position is already losing but he messed up.

30...Nf4??

30...Rxd4 31.Qxh5

31.cxd5 Qxc1 32.Rxc1 Nxh3 33.gxh3

Black resigned since he was a bishop and two pawns down.

1-0



Daniel Shubin. Photo credit: Tatiana Shubin.

# 2018 Washington Challenger's Cup

By Josh Sinanan

The 2018 Washington Challenger's Cup took place October 27-28 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 61 players in two sections, Open and Reserve U1800.

FIDE Master Steven Breckenridge of Gresham, Oregon, won the Open section for the second year in a row with a perfect 4.0/4 and took home the \$600 first place prize. Two Washington masters tied for second with 3.5/4: LM Viktors Pupols from Kingston and NM Harley Greninger from Sequim. By virtue of having the higher tiebreaks, "Unkel Vik" is seeded into the 2019 Washington State Championship, which he first won all the way back in 1961!

Vignesh Anand and Alec Beck rounded out the Open section prize winners by tying for first U2100/U1900 with three points apiece.

In the Reserve section, three players tied for first place with 4.0/5 points and each took home \$266.66: Harrison Toppen-Ryan, Eddie Chang, and Shiv Mehrotra. Ani Barua and Silas Lainson split U1400 honors half a point back and Leonardo Zhou captured the U1200/Unrated prize with a very impressive 3.5/5 points.

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

**Harley Greninger (2123) –  
David R. Bragg (2222) [A57]**  
Washington Challengers Cup  
Seattle, WA (R4), October 28, 2018  
[Harley Greninger]

When playing David, I know that the only thing I can expect is the unexpected. In this game, he played with the unbridled genius of a Tal! Unfortunately, Tal's notable quote is "Some sacrifices are sound—the rest are mine!" Although imperfect, this game was deliciously complicated.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5**

Sacrifice offer #1: The double-edged Benko Gambit. My fondest memory of the White side of this gambit is the quote from Jim McCormick following his loss to me in the Washington State Championship in 2001... "The Benko sucks."

**4.cxb5 a6 5.f3**

Sacrifice offer #1 declined.



Steven Breckenridge and his winnings. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

## 5...e6

I believe this poses more challenges to White than the natural recapture on b5.

## 6.e4

6.dxe6 is the wrong direction for White, as Black gains wonderful central activity after 6...fxe6 7.e4 d5

## 6...Bd6?!

This is some kind of Benko-gambit and Benoni-snake hybrid! I must admit that it was here that I was 'on-my-own'. Such is the wonder of chess—you can spend hundreds of hours examining opening theory and still be out of book on move 6! Normal is 6...exd5.

## 7.Nc3

My 'knee-jerk' reaction was to play 7.dxe6 dxe6 but could find no advantage after 8.Nc3 (The proper way to play the position was mapped out by Jonathan Tisdall back in 1990, eg. 8.Na3! 0-0 9.Nc4 Nxe4 Probably the best chance. (9...Bc7 10.Qxd8 Bxd8 (10...Rxd8? 11.b6+-) 11.b6±) 10.fxe4 Qh4+ 11.Ke2 Be7 12.Nf3 Qxe4+ 13.Kf2 Rd8 (Even after the superior 13...axb5 14.Nd6 Qc6 15.Nxb5 White is clearly better.) 14.Qe2 Qb7 15.Na5 Qc7 16.Qe4 Rd5 17.Bc4 axb5 18.Bf4! Qd7 19.Bxd5 exd5 20.Qe2 White's advantage is decisive. 1-0 (31) Tisdall,J (2425)-Kotronias,V (2510) Gausdal 1990)

## 7...0-0 8.Be3 Qa5?

Here's Sacrifice offer #2! Although Black does get some compensation for the additional pawn, being two pawns down is a bit much.

## 9.dxe6

Sacrifice accepted!

## 9...Be5 10.exf7+ Rxf7 11.Bd2

At this point I felt comfortable with the position.

## 11...axb5 12.Nxb5

Okay, so I did end up accepting Sacrifice #1 after David insisted upon it...

## 12...Qb6 13.Bc3

Much cleaner is 13.Bc4 d5 14.exd5 Ba6 15.a4

## 13...Bxc3+ 14.bxc3

A good alternative is 14.Nxc3 Qxb2 15.Qc1 Qxc1+ 16.Rxc1 Ba6±

## 14...d5!

Sacrifice offer #3—and a great one! I must say that I underestimated this strength of this move.

## 15.e5

Sacrifice declined! Played after consuming a large portion of my remaining time. 15.exd5 Re7+ 16.Kf2



(L) Ryan Min vs Harley Greninger. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

c4+ (16...Rf7 is also a good possibility.) 17.Qd4 Qxb5 18.Bxc4 Qb2+ 19.Ne2 Ba6 and Black is at least equal.; 15.a4 works well after 15...dxe4 16.Qd6± But I also had to explore 15...Qe6, 15...Re7, 15...Nc6—so many moves and so little time!



Position after 15.e5

## 15...Qe6!?

Although the move was considered, I was actually expecting 15...Re7 16.f4 Bg4 17.Nf3 and thought that I would retain somewhat better chances.

## 16.f4 Ne4

Initially, I was concerned with the undermining 16...g5 but discovered 17.Nd6! Rf8 (17...Rd7? 18.Nxc8) 18.Nxc8 only analyzing 18...Rxc8 (Much better is the 'Bragg-like' 18...gxf4! ) 19.Be2+-

## 17.g3 Qc6

Placing the queen on the now sensitive c6-h1 diagonal provides Black with additional tactical possibilities. I was expecting either Nc6, Bb7 or Ba6, activating his Q-side pieces.

## 18.Bd3 Ba6 19.a4 d4!

My h1-rook is now feeling a draft.

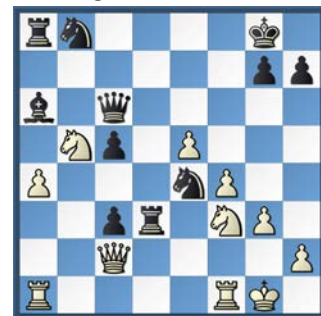
## 20.Nf3! dxc3

Perhaps greater resistance can be found with 20...Nxc3 21.Nxc3 dxc3

## 21.0-0

It was only at this point that I believed I was clearly winning. Unfortunately by now I was experiencing anxiety due to time shortage and so play becomes 'time-tainted'.

## 21...Rd7 22.Qc2 Rxd3!?



Position after 22...Rxd3

Sacrifice offer #4: Most likely Black's best chance in the position.

22...Bb7 23.Nxc3 Nxc3 24.Qxc3 Rxa4 25.Rxa4 Qxa4 26.e6! would be too easy

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The playing room at the Challenger's Cup. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

for White to convert.

**23.Qxd3**

Sacrifice accepted (although I had no choice in the matter)!

**23...Nd7 24.Rad1 Nb6 25.Rfe1**

The engines are quick to point out the strength of 25.e6 Nf6 (25...Qxe6 26.Rfe1+-) 26.e7 Re8 27.Ne5 Qe6 28.Qd6+-

**25...Bb7 26.Qxe4**

26.Na7 is an excellent shot! 26...Qxa4 27.e6 Bd5 28.e7 Re8 29.Qb5!+-; The tricky 26.Rxe4 Qxe4 27.Qd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxd8+ Kf7 29.Ng5+ Ke7 30.Nxe4 c2 ends up being an 'oops' for White.

**26...Qxe4 27.Rxe4 Bxe4**

By returning the exchange, I have simplified the position to better deal with shortage on the clock.

**28.Ng5**

Better is 28.Ne1

**28...c2 29.Rc1 Bd3 30.Na3 h6 31.Nf3 Rxa4 32.Nxc2 Nc4**

Alternatively 32...Rc4 33.Rb1 Rxc2 34.Rxb6 Be4 35.Rb3 c4 36.Re3 White retains some advantage.

**33.Nce1 Be4 34.Rd1 Ne3 35.Rd8+ Kf7 36.h3 Nf5 37.Kf2 c4?**

Somewhat impatient. Black should first constrain White's pawns, eg. 37...g6 38.g4 Ne7 39.Rd6 Ra2+ 40.Kg3 Ra3 and Black may hold this yet.

**38.g4 Ne7 39.f5**

The threat is mate in two.

**39...Nxf5?!**

Sacrifice #5!: I thought this to be an act of desperation, however Black still retains some drawing chances. First off, White's two knights cannot mate if only kings exist on the board. The second drawing chance—well, let's wait and see...

**40.gxf5**

Accepted!

**40...Bxf5 41.Kg3 c3 42.Nd4 Be4 43.e6+ Ke7 44.Rd7+ Ke8 45.Nb5 Bg6 46.Nd6+**

Swifter was 46.Nc7+ Kf8 47.e7+ Kg8 48.Rd8+ Kh7 49.Ne6

**46...Kf8 47.e7+**

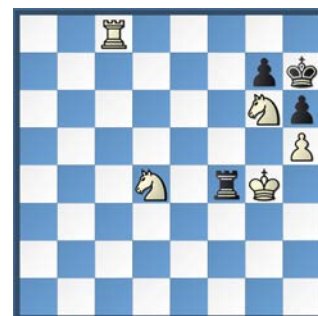
For some odd reason, I thought this was mate on the board. David corrected me by saying, "It's not mate quite yet."

**47...Kg8 48.Rd8+ Kh7 49.e8Q Bxe8 50.Rxe8 Ra2 51.Rc8 Rd2 52.Nb5 Re2 53.Nf3 c2 54.Nbd4 Re7 55.Rxc2 Ra7 56.Rc6 Rb7 57.h4 Ra7 58.h5 Rb7 59.Nh4 Ra7 60.Ng6 Rb7 61.Kg4**

Black was aiming for stalemate by 61.Rc8 Rb3+ 62.Kf4 (62.Nxb3?= Stalemate) 62...Rf3+ 63.Ke4 (63.Nxf3?=-) 63...Re3+ 64.Kf5 (64.Kxe3?=-) 64...Rf3+ and now 65.Nf4! removes the stalemate motif.

**61...Rf7 62.Rc8 Rf4+**

Sacrifice offer #6!



Position after 62...Rf4+

**63.Nxf4**

Accepted (!) while also giving the g-pawn a move. Black Resigns. After David shook my hand I noted, "you've run out of things to sacrifice!" 63.Kxf4?=-

**1-0**

**Sophie Velea (1799) –  
Rowan Foxley (1568) [B51]**  
Washington Challengers Cup  
Seattle, WA (R4), October 28, 2018  
[Rowan Foxley]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c3 Ngf6  
5.Qe2 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bc2 e5**



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Heading for positions similar to the Breyer variation of the Ruy Lopez, but where Blacks knight has arrived on d7 without the loss of two tempi. 7...Bb7 8.d4 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Re1 0-0

**8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 0-0 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.Be3?!**

This felt slightly inaccurate at the time, I thought a better try would be to play the typical closed Ruy ideas of Nbd2-f1-g3 and the a4-break. 11.a4 Bb7 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8 Rxa8 14.d5 b4 15.Nbd2 Ba6 16.c4



Position after 11.Be3

**11...Nb6**

This felt intuitively correct at the time, and the engine backs up that feeling, keeping an eye on the c4 square and improving my lsb's prospects.

**12.d5 Ng4 13.Bc1?!**

I understand my opponent is trying to keep things murky, but I thought this was just a waste of a tempo.

**13...f5?!**

Overly optimistic, trying to exploit my opponents slow play 13...Bd7 14.Nbd2 f5! 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Rxf5 17.Qe4 Rf4

**14.exf5 Bxf5 15.b3?**

15.Bxf5 Rxf5 16.Qe4! Rxf3 17.Qxf3 Qd7 18.h3 Nf6 19.Nd2 Rf8 I thought this position looked quite interesting, but the engine says White is doing well here.

**15...Bxc2 16.Qxc2 c4**

Looking to refute b3, and stopping any future ideas of a c4 break for White.

**17.h3 Nf6 18.Ng5**



Position after 18.Ng5

Threatening Ne6 as well as creating a tactical threat on h7.

**18...Qd7 19.Be3 Nbx5!**

A nice tactical try—trading the h-pawn for the d-pawn and a pleasant position.

**20.Rxd5 h6!**

Blacks justification for grabbing the d pawn 20...Nxd5?? 21.Qxh7#

**21.Rd1 hgx5 22.Bxg5 d5+**

And Black has solved all of his opening problems and is doing well.

**23.Nd2 Nh5 24.Qg6 Nf4**

**24...Bxg5 25.Qxg5 Qf7!**

**25.Bxf4 Rxf4 26.Nf3 Rxf3!?**

I thought this was an interesting practical try. The critical line was: 26...Bf6 Objectively this is the best move, only Black can be better here, but I felt like making things messy.

**27.gxf3 Qxh3 28.Qg3**

28.Rxd5 Rf8 29.Qg4! Qxf3 30.Qxf3 Rxf3±

**28...Qxg3+ 29.fgx3 Bc5+ 30.Kg2 d4!**

Black's strong initiative in the center should be enough for equality if not more.

**31.Re1 Ba3!?**

I was rather happy to find this move, as now White has to find some precise moves if she doesn't want to be worse.

**32.bxc4 bxc4 33.Rxe5 dxc3 34.Re2!**

34.Re4 Rd8 35.Rxc4 Rd2+ 36.Kf1 c2 37.Re1 c1Q 38.Rexc1 Bxc1 39.Rxc1 Rxa2= This ending is drawn.

**34...Rd8 35.Kf1 Rd3 36.Rf2?**

Missing 36...Bc5

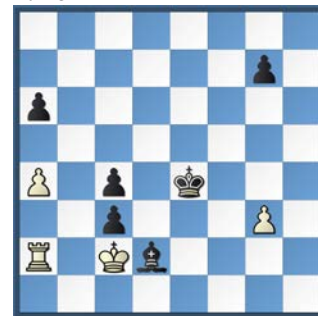
**36...Bc5 37.Rc2 Rxf3+ 38.Kg2 Rd3 39.Re1 Be3 40.Ree2 Rd2 41.Kf3 Rxc2 42.Rxc2 Bd2**

Black decides that the bishop v rook ending is holding.

**43.Ke2**

43.Ke4 This move worried me in the game, but the fact that the rook has no strong squares means that Black is at least not worse even if White wins c4. 43...Kf7 44.Kd4 Kf6 45.Kxc4 Kf5 46.a4 Kg4 47.Ra2 Kxg3∞ 48.Kd3 The only move 48...g5 And White has to tread carefully.

**43...Kf7 44.a4 Ke6 45.Ra2 Kd5 46.Kd1 Ke4 47.Kc2**



Position after 47.Kc2

This plan of getting the king to c2 in order to free the rook was very instructive.

**47...Kf3 48.Ra1 Kg2 49.a5 g5 50.g4 Kg3 51.Rb1**

Playing for further complications—Rg1+ was a way to play for a draw but White continues to fight.

**51...Kxg4 52.Rb6 Kf5**

The only move to secure a draw, keeping an eye on the g6-square.

**53.Rxa6 g4 54.Rb6 g3 55.a6 g2 56.Rb1 Be3 57.Kxc3 g1Q 58.Rxg1 Bxg1 59.Kxc4 Bf2 60.Kb5 Bg1 61.Kc6 Bf2 62.Kb7 Bg1 63.a7 Bxa7 64.Kxa7**

A fairly accurately played game by both sides and a very interesting endgame

1/2-1/2

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Shiv Mehrotra (1416) –  
Aidan Chen (1428) [B18]  
Washington Challengers Cup (Reserve)  
Seattle, WA (R4), October 28, 2018

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4  
Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bd3 Ngf6  
8.Bxg6 hxg6 9.Bf4 e6 10.c3 Nh5 11.Nxh5  
gxh5 12.Ne5 Be7 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qd2  
0-0-0 15.f3 Bh4+ 16.g3 Bf6 17.Qe2 Qe7  
18.0-0-0 Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 20.f4 Qf6  
21.Qe5 h4 22.Qxf6 gxf6 23.g4 Rdg8  
24.h3 f5 25.gxf5 exf5 26.Rde1 Re8  
27.Kd2 Kd7 28.Rhg1 Rxe1 29.Kxe1 Ke6  
30.Kd2 Rh6 31.Ke3 Rg6 32.Rg5 Kf6  
33.Rxg6+ fxg6 34.c4 Ke6 35.b4 b6 36.a4  
a6 37.b5 axb5 38.axb5 cxb5 39.cxb5  
Kd6 40.Kd2 Ke6 41.Kc3 Kf6 42.d5 g5  
43.fxg5+ Kxg5 44.Kd3 Kf6 45.Kd4 Ke7  
46.Ke5 Kd7 47.Kxf5 Kd6 48.Kg4 Kxd5  
49.Kxh4 Kc5 50.Kg5 Kxb5 51.h4 Kc4  
52.h5 b5 53.h6 b4 54.h7 b3 55.h8Q Kd3  
56.Qb8 Kc2 57.Qc7+ Kb1 58.Kf4 b2  
59.Qc3 Ka2 60.Qc2 Ka1 61.Qa4+ Kb1  
62.Ke3 Kc1 63.Qc4+ Kd1 64.Qb3+ Kc1  
65.Qc3+ Kb1 66.Kd3 Ka2 67.Qa5+  
Kb3 68.Qc3+ Ka2 69.Qc2 Ka1 70.Qa4+  
Kb1 71.Kc3 Kc1 72.Qc2# 1-0

Meerea Shanmugam (632) –  
Doug Henderson (1061) [B01]  
Washington Challengers Cup (Reserve)  
Seattle, WA (R4), October 28, 2018  
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Qxd5 4.Nc3

Qf5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Be3 e5 7.dxe5 Nxe5  
8.Nh4 Qd7 9.Qxd7+ Bxd7 10.0-0-0  
0-0-0 11.Bxa7



Position after 11...Bxa7

11...b6 12.Ba6# 1-0

Doug Henderson (1061) –  
Varnika Jammalamadaka (1082) [B23]  
Washington Challengers Cup (Reserve)  
Seattle, WA (R5), October 28, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4  
5.Bc4 Nf6 6.d3 Nd4 7.0-0 Nxf3+ 8.gxf3  
Bd7 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Ng8 11.Ne4  
Bh3 12.Ng5 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Nxe6  
Qc8 15.Nxf8 Kxf8 16.Be3 Qc7 17.f4  
g6 18.Qd2 Rd8 19.Qc3 b6 20.b4 Rc8  
21.bxc5 bxc5 22.Rab1 a6 23.Rb2 c4 24.f5  
Ke8 25.f6 exf6 26.exf6 Kd7 27.Rfb1  
Qd8 28.Rb7+ Rc7 29.Qd4+ Ke8 30.f7+  
Ke7 31.Qxd8+ Kxd8 32.f8Q+ Kd7

33.Qf7+ Kd6 34.Qxc7+ Ke6 35.R7b6+  
Kf5 36.Rf1+ Kg4 37.Qf4+ Kh3 38.Qg3#  
1-0

Shiv Mehrotra (1416) –  
Eddie Chang (1569) [B40]  
Washington Challengers Cup (Reserve)  
Seattle, WA (R5), October 28, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2 Nxe4  
5.0-0 d5 6.d3 Nf6 7.d4 Nc6 8.Bf4 cxd4  
9.cxd4 Bd6 10.Bxd6 Qxd6 11.Nc3 a6  
12.a3 0-0 13.Qd3 b6 14.b4 Bb7 15.Na4  
Nb8 16.Nc3 Nbd7 17.h3 Rac8 18.Rac1  
Rc7 19.Rfd1 Rfc8 20.Na2 Rxc1 21.Rxc1  
Rxc1+ 22.Nxc1 Qc7 23.Na2 Ne4 24.Nd2  
Ndf6 25.Nxe4 Nxe4 26.Bf3 Nd6 27.Be2  
Ne4 28.Bf3 f5 29.Bxe4 fxe4 30.Qc3  
Qxc3 31.Nxc3 b5 32.Kh2 Kf7 33.Kg3  
g5 34.f4 exf3 35.Kxf3 h5 36.g3 Kf6  
37.g4 hxg4+ 38.hxg4 e5 39.Ke3 Ke6  
40.Nd1 Kd6 41.Nf2 exd4+ 42.Kxd4 Bc8  
43.Nh3 Bxg4 44.Nxg5 Be2 45.Nf7+ Kc6  
46.Ne5+ Kd6 47.Nf7+ Ke7 48.Ne5 Bc4  
49.Ng4 Kd6 50.Ne3 Kc6 51.Ke5 Bb3  
52.Kd4 Kd6 53.Nf5+ Ke6 54.Ne3 Bc4  
55.Nc2 Kf5 56.Ne3+ Ke6 57.Nc2 1/2-1/2

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# Washington Blitz Chess Championship

## December 9, 2018

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

**Format:** 7 Round Double Swiss. One Section. US  
Chess Blitz Rated.

**Time Control:** G/3, +2 (second increment per move).

US Chess December 2018 rating supplement will be  
used to determine ratings. Higher of US Chess  
Regular or Blitz Rating will be used to determine  
pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players  
with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess  
Regular/Blitz or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 30 paid entries).

1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100, 1st U1800 \$75, 1st  
U1600 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75, 1st U1200/Unr \$75.

**Entry Fee:** \$45 if postmarked or online by 12/02,  
\$55 after 12/02 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs,  
WGMs.

**Registration:** Sunday 5:00 - 5:45 PM.

**Rounds:** 6:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:00  
PM, 8:30 PM, 9:00 PM.

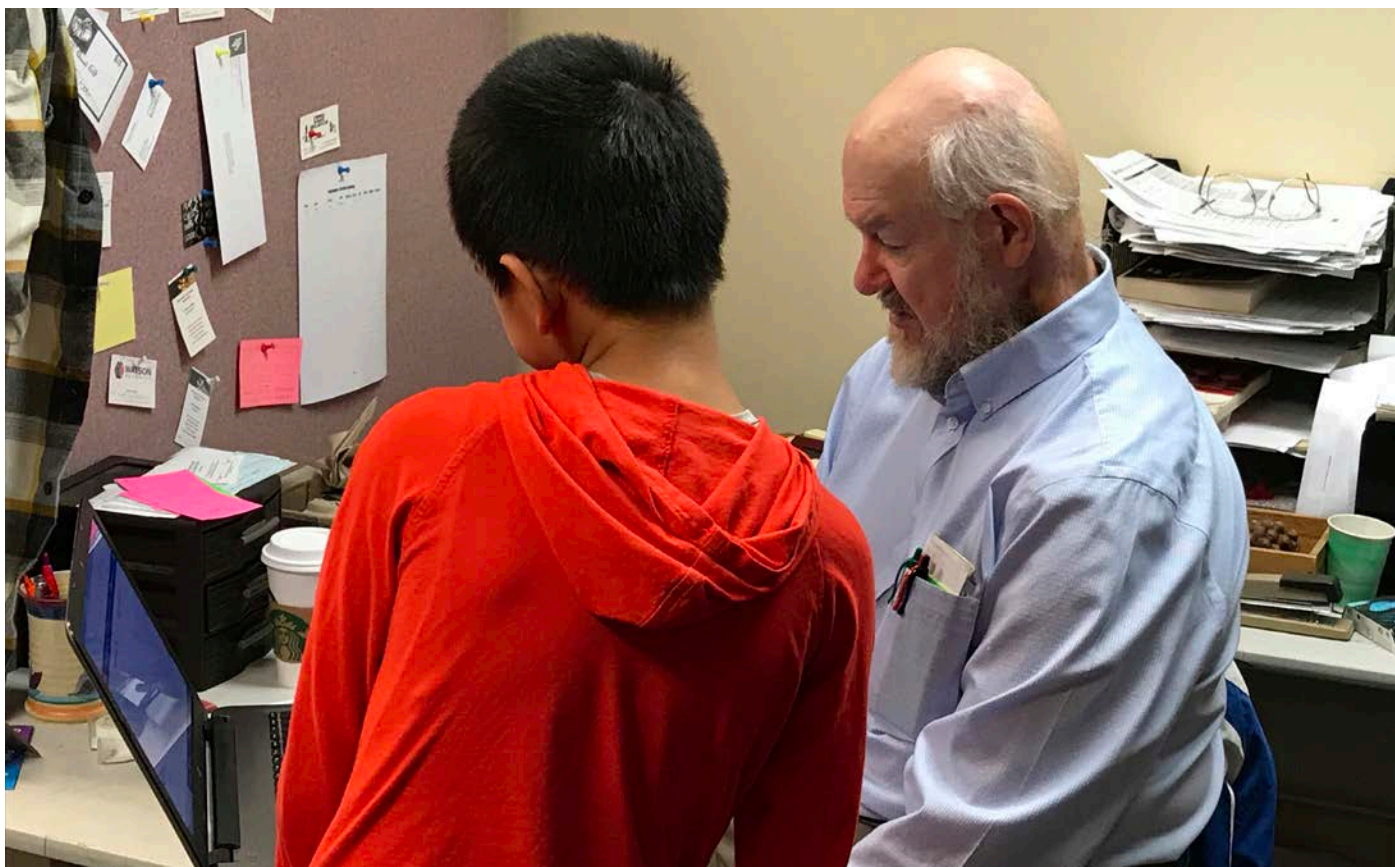
US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required,  
other states accepted. NS. NC. W.

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington  
Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE,  
Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Phone:** (206) 697-5625.

**Email:** [ivictormayer@yahoo.com](mailto:ivictormayer@yahoo.com).

**Online Registration:** [nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration).



(L) Brandon Jiang and TD Fred Kleist. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

# Washington Game/20 Championship

## December 9, 2018

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

**Format:** 7 Round Swiss. One Section. US Chess Quick Rated.

**Time Control:** G/20, d5.

US Chess December 2018 rating supplement will be used to determine ratings. Higher of US Chess Regular or Quick Rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess Regular/Quick or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 30 paid entries).

1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100, 1st U1800 \$75, 1st U1600 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75, 1st U1200/Unr \$75.

**Entry Fee:** \$45 if postmarked or online by 12/02, \$55 after 12/02 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Registration:** Sunday 9:00 - 9:45 AM.

**Rounds:** 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM.

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

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Phone:** (206) 697-5625.

**Email:** [jvictormayer@yahoo.com](mailto:jvictormayer@yahoo.com).

**Online Registration:** [nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration).



*Reserve section players at the Challenger's Cup. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*

## Northwest Chess Open

December 15-16, 2018

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

**Format:** 5 Round Swiss, one section.

**Time Control:** 40/90, SD/30, d0 (No Delay).

**Registration:** 8:30-9:15 a.m. on 12/15 or preregistered.

**Rounds:** Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00.

**Entry Fee:** \$30 in advance, \$35 at door.

**Prize fund:** \$750 based on 35 entries.

1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 1st U2000 \$100, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200 \$100.

Prizes Increased if over 40 entries.

Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.  
Current US Chess Membership is required, available at site or online at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org).

State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up.

This is a fund raising event for Northwest Chess magazine.

**Byes:** One half-point bye available in advance or by the end of Round 1.

Organizer - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Northwest Chess

**Mail To:** Duane Polich, 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011.

**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/online-registration](http://www.nwchess.com/online-registration).

Co-Sponsored by Washington Chess Federation





Steven Breckenridge (L) vs Ignacio Perez. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

# Washington Winter Chess Classic

## December 26-30, 2018

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

**Format:** 9-Round Swiss in two section: Open and Reserve (under 1800). Both sections dual US Chess & FIDE-rated.

**Time Control:** 40/90, SD/30, +30. US Chess December 2018 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$6,000 (all prizes based on 60 paid entries). 5 Female and 5 Senior 50+ minimum required per section for those prizes to be awarded.

**Open:** \$750-600-500-400 1st-2nd-3rd-4th, \$300 1st U2200/U2000/U1800, \$125 Top Female, \$125 Top Senior 50+.

**Reserve:** \$500-400-350-300 1st-2nd-3rd-4th, \$200 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000, \$125 Top Female, \$125 Top Senior 50+.

**Entry Fee - Open:** \$210 if postmarked or online by 12/16, \$260 by 12/23 at 5:00 PM.

**Entry Fee - Reserve:** \$160 if postmarked or online by 12/16, \$210 by 12/23 at 5:00 PM.

**\$50 additional for players rated below 1600 playing in the Open Section.** Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, 2400+ USCF.

**Rounds:** Wednesday 12/26: 6:00 PM, Thursday 12/27, Friday 12/28, Saturday 12/29, Sunday 12/30: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

**Closing Ceremony:** Sunday December 30 at 10:00 PM or asap, refreshments available.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.  
**Late Default:** 60 minutes.

US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 20. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Phone:** (206) 697-5625.

**Email:** [ivictormayer@yahoo.com](mailto:ivictormayer@yahoo.com).

**Online Registration:** [nwchess.com/online-registration](http://nwchess.com/online-registration).

# GM James Tarjan Simultaneous Exhibition

By Russell (Rusty) Miller

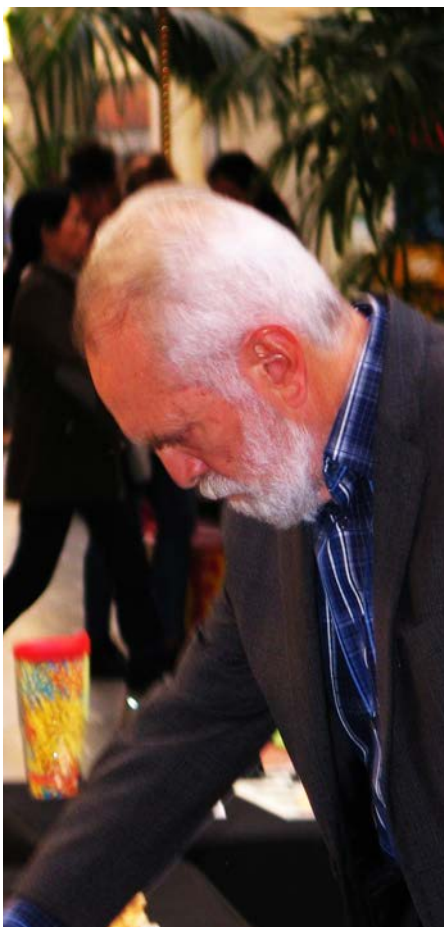
Vancouver, WA—October 13, 2018

National Chess Day was Saturday October 13, 2018. On that day a Simultaneous Exhibition by Grandmaster James Tarjan was held at the Vancouver Mall, 8700 NE Vancouver Mall Drive, Vancouver, Washington near Macy's entrance by the large chess set on the lower level.

Play took place over 14 boards and took about three hours to complete. A mixture of adults, kids, and one woman took part. This was a free event for players and spectators. The grandmaster won all his games.

The organizer was Russell (Rusty) Miller. The sponsors were Vancouver Mall, *Northwest Chess*, US Chess (provided chess magazines), Chess Butler (provided chess books for prizes), Esther Schrader, EinsteinWise Academy (provided the sets and boards.) IQ Credit Union in Vancouver, Washington provided pens for the players to keep score of their games.

Photos by Russell Miller





IN DESPERATION TO IMPROVE HIS 20 YEAR HIGH RATING OF 400, BERNARD ASKS SANTA FOR A DIGITAL CLOCK HE CAN UNDERSTAND, AND MAGICAL CHESS PIECES THAT RESIST BAD MOVES.

# The 2018 John Braley Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

(mevjr54@outlook.com)

The most significant changes in the standings this month mostly have to do with people moving up a ratings class. This happens to some extent every month, but six or more members of the leader board moved up this month, in some cases improving their chances for a prize in some cases just the opposite. There will be one more rating adjustment, for the December ratings, before this year's contest comes to a close.

The standings below include the Oregon Class, held November 3-4. This leaves seven other events held in November, including two with multipliers. With so many close contests, this means each and every one of those events could have been important. A four round event can offer from 2 to 6 points to a player who finishes the schedule, and many cash prize positions are separated by less than those six points. (The Washington Class has a \$10,000 guaranteed prize fund and a 6x multiplier, so the points available if you finish are from 12 to 48. More than enough to overcome even a substantial lead.)

In Idaho, every class has contests closer than that six points. In Master/Expert/Class A, Michael Cambareri leads Alex Machin, 65/63. Cambareri and Machin are also in the battle for first overall in Idaho. In Class B, its Jeffrey Roland 53.5, James Wei 52. Class C has a leader fairly far ahead, but the battle for second is between Ron Weyland, 13.5 and Gary Owen, 10.5. Class D also has a leader fairly well ahead, but the battle for second is wide open with Bryce Leifeste, River Shepard, William Merry and Ching-E Ang all within five points. Finally, in class E, the top four, Luke Wei, Jef Leifeste, William Wang and Otto Olsen are within 4.5 points of each other. As of this writing, two events remain on the Idaho calendar, so all of these contests are in play.

In Oregon, only two races are within that six point margin, Phillip Seitzer, 86, leading Ryan Richardson, 82.5, among the Experts and Isaac Vega battling Michael Moore for second Class A, 176-175. Many more places are in play in the waning months as there were two additional events in Portland in November and four more to come in December. Not to mention it isn't that long of a drive to the seven remaining events in the Seattle area. The Overall prize for Oregon is right now a very close three-way race, with Zoey Tang leading with 200 points, closely followed by Austin Tang, 198.5 and Pierre-Hadrian Beauchet, 194.5.

Washington has leaders in all classes with fairly comfortable, but not overwhelming leads. There are two close races for second place. In the Expert class we find Anne-Marie Velea (one of those people who just moved up a class) with 142, followed by Joseph Truelson and Rushaan Mahajan with 140.5 and 136 respectively. In Class A, second place has three players within five points of each other, Alec Beck, 155, Vignesh Anand, 152, and Advait Vijayakumar, 150.

One tornado, one G/60, one quad, one weekend swiss, could make the difference in all of these. With four multipliers still to be added to the results, and a total of 15 more events, even greater leads can be overcome. Don't be the one who misses out, go play every chance you get.

Data below current through November 5.

## 2018 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
			<b>Masters</b>								
			1	Tarjan	James	84.0	1	Pupols	Viktors	184.0	
			2	Peng	Shunkai	69.0	2	Yu	Jason	158.5	
			3	Grabinsky	Joshua	60.0	3	Perez	Ignacio	152.0	
			4	McCoy	Owen	59.5	4	He	Anthony B	132.5	
			5	Zavortink	Matt	54.0	5	Breckenridge	Steven J	111.0	
<b>M/X/Class A</b>			<b>Experts</b>								
1	Cambareri	Michael E	65.0	1	Seitzer	Phillip	86.0	1	Levine	Joseph R	209.0
2	Machin	Alex J	62.0	2	Richardson	Ryan	82.5	2	Velea	Anne-Marie	142.0
3	Presutti	Michael J	46.0	3	Bjorksten	Lennart	78.0	3	Truelson	Joseph	140.5
4	Xu	Kevin	44.5	4	Gatica	Jose M	70.5	4	Mahajan	Rushaan	136.0
5	Inman	James	37.0	5	Zhang	Gavin	55.0	5	Zhang	Eric M	124.5

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Class B</b>			<b>Class A</b>								
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	53.5	1	Tang	Zoey	200.0	1	Fagundes	Frank	174.5
2	Wei	James	52.0	2	Vega	Isaac	176.0	2	Beck	Alec W	155.0
3	Rainey	Samuel W	30.0	3	Moore	Michael	171.0	3	Anand	Vignesh	152.0
4	Machakos	Seth D	25.5	4	Holloran	William T, III	108.5	4	Vijayakumar	Advaith	150.0
5	Geyman	Jonathan P	23.5	5	Nair	Roshen S	95.5	5	Kaelin	Alex	145.0
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class B</b>								
1	Kitterman	Andrew N	45.0	1	Tang	Austin	198.5	1	Gupta	Anand	176.5
2	Weyland	Ron	13.5	2	Kodithyala	Raj	140.5	2	Min	Ryan	147.0
3	Owen	Gary	10.5	3	Wu	Abbie	114.0	3	Velea	Stephanie	138.0
4	Mason	Dusty G	9.5	4	Sripada	Havish	109.0	4	Buck	Stephen J	127.5
5	Pentico	Chrisopher	6.0	5	Berger	Brian F	91.0	5	Liang	Yu-Cheng	110.0
<b>Class D</b>			<b>Class C</b>								
1	Porth	Adam	32.5	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	194.5	1	Piper	August	187.0
2	Leifeste	Bryce	27.5	2	Dietz	Arliss	126.0	2	Goktepe	Derin	166.0
3	Shepard	River C	27.0	3	Wong	Egan	118.0	3	Richards	Jerrold	152.5
4	Merry	William A F	23.0	4	Morrissey	Patrick W	105.5	4	Singh	Saket	122.5
5	Ang	Ching-E N	22.5	5	Roshu	Cassandra M	99.5	5	Wang	Felicity	122.0
<b>Class E and Below</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>								
1	Wei	Luke B	25.0	1	Kodarapu	Ishaan K	89.0	1	Henderson	Doug	163.5
2	Leifeste	Jef	24.0	2	Adiraju	Vimal	63.0	2	Li	Edward	134.0
3	Wang	William J	20.5	3	Lykins	Pace	55.0	3	Ruff	Lois A	121.0
3	Olson	Otto W	20.5	4	Midson	Tony	51.0	4	Johar	Mudit	108.5
5	Manfred	Foester	18.0	5	Sripada	Anisha	48.0	5	Vemparala	Nikash	100.5
<b>Overall Leaders, by State</b>											
1	Cambareri	Michael E	65.0	1	Tang	Zoey	200.0	1	Levine	Joseph R	209.0
2	Machin	Alex J	62.0	2	Tang	Austin	198.5	2	Piper	August	187.0
3	Roland	Jeffrey T	53.5	3	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	194.5	3	Pupols	Viktors	184.0
4	Wei	James	52.0	4	Vega	Isaac	176.0	4	Gupta	Anand	176.5
5	Presutti	Michael J	46.0	5	Moore	Michael	171.0	5	Fagundes	Frank	174.5
6	Kitterman	Andrew N	45.0	6	Kodithyala	Raj	140.5	6	Goktepe	Derin	166.0
7	Xu	Kevin	44.5	7	Dietz	Arliss	126.0	7	Henderson	Doug	163.5
8	Inman	James	37.0	8	Wong	Egan	118.0	8	Yu	Jason	158.5
9	Porth	Adam	32.5	9	Wu	Abbie	114.0	9	Beck	Alec W	155.0
10	Rainey	Samuel W	30.0	10	Sripada	Havish	109.0	10	Richards	Jerrold	152.5
11	Leifeste	Bryce	27.5	11	Holloran	William T, III	108.5	11	Perez	Ignacio	152.0
12	Shepard	River C	27.0	12	Morrissey	Patrick W	105.5	11	Anand	Vignesh	152.0



# 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 Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168

## How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with a large sign proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

Dec 8, Jan 5 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.

Dec 16 **Cancelled**, Jan 20 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 per 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.

### WCF @ the SCC

<b>WA Blitz Championship</b>	Dec. 9
<b>WA G/20 Championship</b>	Dec. 9
<b>Northwest Chess Open</b>	Dec. 15-16
<b>Seattle Winter Classic</b>	Dec. 26-30

## 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!

<b>Package Express:</b>	11/30, 12/7, 14, 21.
<b>Patzers' Challenge:</b>	12/28.
<b>January Thaw:</b>	1/4, 11, 18, 25.
<b>Cabin Fever:</b>	2/1, 8, 15, 22.



As of November 5th, the SCC online registration system was still inoperative. To register for the City Championship in advance, you may have to use the U.S. Postal Service.

# Seattle City Championship

January 11-13 or January 12-13

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60; d5 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1010 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

## a Northwest Grand Prix event

### Championship

First	\$250
Second	\$150
Expert	\$100
Class A	\$80

**EF:** \$45 (\$35 for SCC mem., \$40 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9 \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

### Reserve (U1800)

First	\$140
Second	\$90
Class C	\$70
Class D	\$60
Class E & Under	\$50
Unrated	\$20

**EF:** \$36 (\$26 for SCC mem., \$31 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9, \$4 (\$35, \$40) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

**Both Sections: Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

**Reg.:** Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10am@ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.  
**Byes:** 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

# Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2018 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

☞ **Dec 8** Western Idaho Open, **Boise, ID**. 4SS, Time Control: G/60;d5. Site: Student Union Bldg. Boise State University, 1910 University Dr., Boise, Idaho. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: \$30 per player. Discount for online registration. Check in: 9:00-9:30am. Rd. times: 10:00am, 12:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:30 pm. 1/2 pt bye avail any round: Max 1, Notify TD before Rd. 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall \$100, \$75, \$50. \$50/class: U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, unr. Details: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com, (208)450-9048.

☞ **Dec 8-9** Portland Winter Open, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Two sections-Open and Reserve (U1800), 4-round Swiss, G/90;inc30, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am and 2:45pm each day. Rounds 2 and 4 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$35, \$25 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 (\$650 b/40): Open: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st U2000-\$75; Reserve: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 1st 1600, 1st U1400, 1st U1200/unrated-\$50 each. OCF Invitational Tournament and OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978. Note: Same details are valid for Spring, Summer and Winter Opens unless otherwise announced.

**Dec 9** Washington Blitz Chess Championship, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-page Ad page 22)

**Dec 9** Washington Game/20 Championship, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-page Ad page 23)

☞ **Dec 15-16** Northwest Chess Open, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-page Ad page 24)

☞ **Dec 16/Jan 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.

☞ **Dec 26-30** Washington Winter Chess Classic, **Seattle, WA**. (Half-page Ad page 25)

☞ **Dec 29/Jan 26** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. Two sections-Open and U1650, 4-round Swiss, G/60;inc5, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5pm. 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 (Add \$5 play-up fee if play up. 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 (\$300 b/30) (any play-up fees are added to the prize fund). Open section: 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1850/unrated-\$35; U1650 section: 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1450/unrated-\$35, 1st U1250/unrated-\$30. OSCF State qualifier. More info at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Jan 5-6** 3rd Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. One section, 5-round Swiss, round 1: G/60;d10, rounds 2-5: G/120;d10, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:45pm, and 5:30 on Saturday and 10am and 2:45pm on Sunday. Rds 2, 3 and 5 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: \$45, \$35 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 (\$1500 b/50): Open: 1st-\$300, 2nd-\$200, 3rd-\$125, U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300/Unrated: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75. Upset bonus prize (the player with an established rating who beats a higher rated player by the largest rating difference)-\$50. Qualifier for the Challengers section of the 2020 Oregon Closed and qualifier for the 2019 OSCF State Championship. More info., including info. about Neil, at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

**Jan 19** ICA MLK Blitz Championship, **Boise, ID**. 8SS double game, Time Control: G/5; d0. Section: Open. Site: The Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID 83714. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: \$30 per player. Discount for online registration. Rd Times: 11 am continuous until 5 pm. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. 1st rd must notify TD before rd is paired, all others before rd 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall plaques and top scholastic. Details: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com, (208) 450-9048.

**Northwest Chess**  
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