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## From The Editor's Desk

We are in a unique time for sure. The COVID-19 pandemic has really affected so many things up and down the line, and not surprisingly, chess!

Chess players don't just stop playing chess, organizers don't just stop organizing, publishers don't just stop publishing, and for most of us, life goes on. It is in our nature to find ways to keep going, and going, and going...

In that spirit, the Harmon Memorial tournament was changed to be an online tournament, and the Dake Memorial chess tournament also went online. Idaho events have been placed on hold until further notice, but even that is a way of trying to get things back to normal. But even Idaho chess players can play in the online tournaments held by the WCF or the OCF (or the PCC). So we keep going...

I saw a headline on the Internet just last night (April 3) that said the US Postal Service itself might be asked to shut down in June... let's hope not! This thing is just ongoing and has to play itself out. But it affects so many aspects of our lives—and it's unprecedented. We have to adapt and keep going...

President Trump said in one briefing I saw on TV, "Our country was not designed to be shut down." Well, that's true, but then again, our country was not designed to be wiped out by a pandemic either... so I hope that everyone can stay safe and healthy—that we all come out of this alive and well, and stronger for it.

I look forward to the day when we can all once again meet over the board and play chess. In the meantime, I'll do my best to produce these issues. With many events being canceled altogether, that will prove to be challenging. But I'm going to do my best to keep going!

As always, I encourage you to submit material. Now that's more important than ever, but editors have been saying that since 1947 when we first started. I can't guarantee everything I receive will go in, but historically, most things I get do in fact go in!

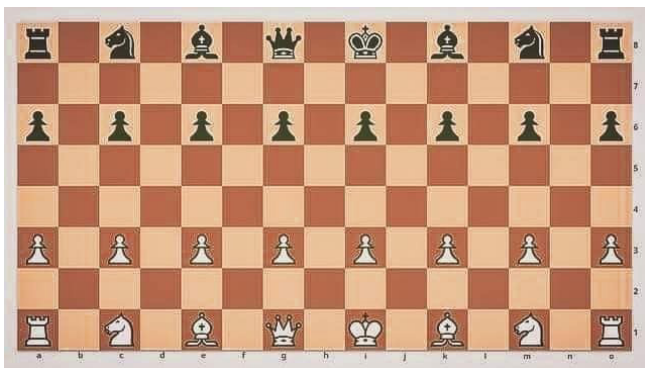
*Northwest Chess* should survive, as "Where there's a will, there's a way." I truly believe that with all my heart and soul!

P.S. Since writing this it looks as if Idaho is starting to get into online tournaments as well.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor

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*Social Distancing*



# Memories And Games Of Dennis Waterman

By John Donaldson

When I received the February 2020 issue of *Northwest Chess* and the wonderful news Aaron Grabinsky had earned his International Master title, it made me think for a moment about another fine player from southern Oregon – Dennis Waterman.

I suspect most readers of *Northwest Chess* have not heard of Dennis as he pretty much retired from the game by the early 1980s, but he is one of the strongest players to grow up in the Beaver State and deserves to be remembered. To that end here are some memories and a few of his more memorable games. They offer some insights into a career that could likely have seen him become an International Master if he had continued with chess instead of opting to become a professional backgammon and poker player.

Dennis Waterman was born in San Francisco in 1948 but raised in Myrtle Point, Oregon, (population 2,514), just eight miles away from Aaron's hometown of Coquille. Dennis played his first rated tournament in 1965 and how he managed to obtain a Northwest Class A rating just starting out will likely forever remain a mystery. It may have helped that like Aaron he had a sibling who played the game, in Dennis' case his sister Linda who had a Class B rating in her teens.

Within a few years of taking up the game Dennis became one of the strongest players in Oregon, but it was only when he moved to Northern California in the early 1970s that he reached his true potential. There he played in a number of strong events with other up and coming players like James Tarjan, Julio Kaplan and John Grefe. The latter became not only his training partner but also a lifelong friend.

One of the most important events in Waterman's development was the annual tournament held each year in Lone Pine, California, near Death Valley. The event initially started out as a Master and Expert competition but got steadily stronger over the next decade as the rating requirements became progressively higher. Dennis played in the first six Lone Pine master tournaments, one of only two players to do this (Walter Browne was the other), and participating in this increasingly tough competition led to steady improvement. By 1975 his US Chess rating was



*Dennis Waterman in February 2014. Photo credit: Richard Shorman.*

rapidly approaching 2400 (I've seen a published rating of 2384 and he might have been higher). That spring he played in a very strong round robin held at Lina Grummette's Chess Set, run out of her home in Hollywood.

Dennis was one of the lowest rated players in the event won by James Tarjan,

but performed quite respectably, scoring 4 out of 9 to earn an initial FIDE rating of 2290.

Here is one of his wins which he annotated for the May 1975 issue of *Northwest Chess*, May (p. 25). Jeff Kent was a Senior Master from Los Angeles with a FIDE rating of close to 2400.

Alekhine's Defense B04  
**Dennis Waterman – Jeff Kent**  
 Los Angeles  
 (Western Futurity Qualifier) 1975  
 Annotations by Dennis Waterman

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5  
 5.Nxe5 g6 6.Qf3 Be6 7.Bd2



Position after 7.Bd2

Theoretical novelty — my problem in this tournament was that I was analyzing so well that I forgot about basic principles!

7...c6 8.c4 Nb6 9.Bc3 f6

Better is 9...Bg7 as 10.d5? fails to 10...  
 cxd5 11.Nxf7 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Kxf7!

10.Qe3! Qe8

10...fxe5? 11.Qxe5 forks h8 or e6 or 10...  
 Bg8 11.b3!

11.d5!



Position after 11.d5

11...cxd5 12.c5

When I played 7.Bd2 I had intended 12.Nf3 here when 12...Nxc4 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Ng5! gives White the advantage, but on review I noticed 12...dxc4! 13.Ng5 Bh6! and the knight on b6 defends the queen, allowing 14.Qxe6 Bxg5.

12...Nc4

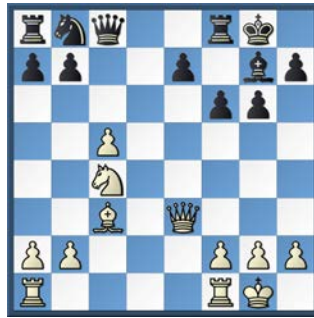
Or 12...N6d7 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Qxe6 Qxc5 15.Bd3 with a strong attack.

13.Nxc4 dxc4 14.Nd2 Bg7

Or 14...Na6 15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.Bxf6!

15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 0-0 17.0-0

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 17.0-0

17...Na6 18.b4 b6 19.Qxe7 Re8 20.Qd6 Rd8!  
 21.Qf4 bxc5 22.Nd6 Qe6 23.Rfe1!!



Position after 23.Rfe1

23...Qxd6

Or 23...g5 24.Rxe6 gxf4 25.Nb7; or 23...  
 Qd5 24.Rad1 Qxa2 when the easiest win is 25.Re7.

24.Re8+ Bf8 25.Qxd6 Rxd6 26.Rxa8 cxb4  
 27.Be1 Rd7 28.Rc1 Kg7



Position after 28...Kg7

29.Kf1

Not my first impulse which was 29.Rc6? b3! 30.axb3 Rd1 31.Rxa7+ Kh6 32.Kf1 Bb4 33.Re6 Nc5 with strong counterplay. (34.Re3 still wins — Stockfish in 2020.)

29...Bc5 30.Rc8 Bb6 31.R8c4 Rd5 32.R1c2

Not 32.Bxb4 Nxb4 33.Rxb4 Rd2 with strong counterplay.

32...Rd1 33.Ke2 Rd5 34.Bxb4 Re5+ 35.Kf1 Nxb4 36.Rxb4 h5 37.h4

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 37.h4

37...g5 38.hxg5 fxg5 39.g3 Kg6 40.a4 g4  
 41.Rc6+ 1-0

International Master Jeremy Silman, a friend of Dennis for close to fifty years, provides background information on Waterman's win over Grandmaster Walter Browne in the following game.

*Browne had come to the Sunnyvale tournament full of confidence. He felt that his sub-par eyesight was hindering his performances and he had just bought glasses. Claiming that he was finally able to see, he drew me in an early round and, after winning a couple games, faced Dennis Waterman who, in those days, was a formidable opponent. I was friends with both these gentlemen and, as luck would have it, my game was next to theirs (I was sitting beside Walter). Waterman, playing Black, had noticed my draw against Browne and decided to try the same opening.*

Maroczy Bind B39  
**Walter Browne - Dennis Waterman**  
 Sunnyvale 1974

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

Dennis also experimented with 4...Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 which avoids the Maroczy Bind, but allows White the possibility of 6.Nxc6. Normally Black answers this with 6...bxc6, but this line does not enjoy the best of reputations. D.W. favored 6...dxc6 heading for a queenless middlegame, which was tried by Botvinnik against Smyslov in one of their World Championship matches. More recently Ivanchuk and Zvaginsev have experimented with it.

6.Nde2 Bg7 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 a6 9.a4 Qa5 10.0-0 d6 11.h3 Bd7 12.Be3 Nb4 13.Qd2 Rac8 14.Nf4 b6 15.f3 Bc6 16.Nce2 Bxa4 17.c3 Nc2 18.b3 Nxa1 19.Rxa1 b5 20.bxa4 Rc4 21.Nd3 Rxa4 22.Rxa4 Qxa4 23.e5 Grefe-Waterman, Portland 1982, saw White offer a draw which was accepted, but 23...dxe5 24.Nxe5 b4! with the idea 25.cxb4? Qa1+ was quite strong.



5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6 10.Rc1



Position after 10.Rc1

10...d6

10...Qa5 11.Be2 (11.Bd3 b6 12.f4 Bb7 13.0-0 Bc6 14.Rf2 Nc5 15.Bb1 Na4 16.Nd5 Nxb2 17.Qb3 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Na4 led to sharp play with chances for both sides in Tarjan-Waterman, Los Angeles (Western Futurity Qualifier) 1975.) 11...d6 (11...Bxc3+ 12.Rxc3 Qxa2 13.Qc1 Qa5 14.c5 offers White excellent compensation for the pawn.) 12.0-0 Bd7 13.Nd5! Bxb2 14.Rb1 Bg7 15.Rxb7 Bc6 16.Rxe7+ Kf8 17.c5! and White went on to win a brilliancy in Shamkovich-Waterman, Lone Pine 1975.

11.Bd3 Bd7 12.0-0 Bc6 13.Qd2 Qa5 14.Bb1 Qh5



Position after 14...Qh5

14...g5 is the standard treatment in such positions, the text is too optimistic.

15.Nd5

15.f4 is not bad either.

15...g5 16.f3

16.b4!

16...Be5 17.g3 Rg8 18.Qf2 Bf4

18...Nf4 was another option, although in truth after either move White is still doing quite well.

19.Kh1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 f6 21.f4

21.b4 is better, slowly improving White's position. After the text Black gets much needed counterplay.

21...gxf4 22.gxf4 Kd7 23.f5 Ng5 24.c5 24...Nf7

24...Qh3 offering the trade of queens, was safer.

25.Nf4 Qh6



Position after 25...Qh6

26.Qb3

26.b4!, intending a4 and b5, was also strong leaving the queen to help defend the kingside.

26...Rg7 27.cxd6?

27.Bd3 intending Bb5, was very strong. After this one, seemingly insignificant error, Black's pieces start to spring to life.

27...Nxd6 28.Qe6+ Ke8 29.Rxc6 bxc6 30.e5



Position after 30.e5

This looks crushing, but Black has a resource. Can you find it?

30...Rb8! 31.b3

31.exd6 Rxb2 and White has nothing better than 32.Qc8+ (32.h3 Qxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxb1+ 34.Kh2 Rb2+ 35.Kh1 Rb1+ is another perpetual.) 32...Kf7 33.Qe6+ with a draw by perpetual check.

31...Rb4!

Another "only" move.

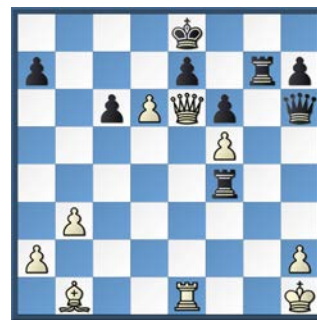
32.exd6 Rxf4 33.Re1??

[Diagram top of next column]

33.Qc8+ Kf7 34.Qe6+ was necessary splitting the point, but instead White played 33. Re1.

International Master Silman explains what happened next:

*At this point Browne's face showed complete confidence and he was waiting*



Position after 33.Re1

for Black to resign when the 6'4" Waterman leapt on his chair; screamed "Woo hoo! Woo hoo!" as he lifted the queen way up into the sky, and then descended with it as the "woo hoo" continued to fill the room.

At that moment Browne realized that it wasn't Waterman that was getting mated, but Browne. A strangled "No!" burst out of his mouth, and he physically reached up to prevent Black's queen from landing on h2. Alas, the downward momentum was too much to stop and Waterman smashed the queen onto h2, knocking the pawn off the table.

Browne, in shock, yelled "My eyes! My eyes!" Then he stormed out of the room. Browne's new glasses were found in a garbage can a short time later.

33...Qxh2+ 0-1

The following game was published in *200 Modern Brilliances* (1984) by Kevin Wicker.

Ruy Lopez C65

Dennis Waterman - Romeo Samo  
Mechanics Institute Marathon 1974

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Qe2 d6 5.d4



Position after 5.d4

5...Bd7

5...exd4 6.e5 Nd5? 7.Nxd4 Nde7 8.Bf4 d5 was Waterman-Martiz, Los Angeles (Western Futurity Qualifier) 1975. Now 9.Nc3 a6 10.e6 Bxe6 (10...axb5?

11.Ndx b5 Bxe6 12.Bxc7 winning)  
11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qxe6 favors White.

**6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Qe7 8.0-0 0-0-0?**

8...g6 was safer.

**9.d5 Bd7 10.a4 g6 11.Be3**

11.Qe3 Kb8 (11...a6 12.Qa7) 12.Nb5 b6 13.c4 with a5 to follow was a strong alternative.

**11...Kb8 12.Qc4 Ng4?**

12...a6 was needed.

**13.Nb5**

13.Bxa7+ Kxa7 14.Nb5+ Ka6 15.Nxc7+ Ka7 16.Nb5+ Ka6 17.Nxd6+ Ka7 18.Nb5+ Ka6 19.d6 Qf6 20.Qc5 b6 21.Qc7 is the computer solution.

**13...Bxb5?**

This hastens the end. White is still winning, albeit more slowly after, 13... Nxe3 14.Qxc7+ Ka8 15.fxe3 Bxb5 16.Qxe7 Bxe7 17.axb5.

**14.Bxa7+ Kxa7 15.axb5+ Kb8 16.Ra3 Kc8**



Position after 16...Kc8

Black tries to escape to d7, but White's next move puts an end to such dreams.

**17.Qc6!! 1-0**

Queen's Gambit Declined D33  
**Zvonko Vranesic – Dennis Waterman**  
Lone Pine 1975

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5**

Waterman was a practical player, not an opening theoretician, but he did have his own pet lines. He specialized in playing certain pawn structures, particularly the isolated queen pawn where he liked the side with the isolani. One way he regularly reached this structure was by answering 1.d4 with the Tarrasch Defense. Here we see him use some of his home brewed analysis.

**4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qb6**

This ancient line was played over 100 years ago, when the g3 variation against

the Tarrasch was first being tried by Rubinstein and Schlechter, but quickly dismissed. Waterman goes his own way.

**8.Nb3 Be6 9.Be3**

9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Qxd5 Nf6 11.Qc4 Bb4+ 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Bc3 a5 14.Bg2 a4 15.Nd2 Rfd8 16.Rd1 Bxc3 17.Qxc3 Rac8 18.0-0 Nd4 and Black had equalized in Murray-Vranesic, Montreal 1981. The Canadian IM got the idea for the line from his game with Waterman.

**9...d4 10.Nxd4**



Position after 10.Nxd4

**10...0-0-0!**

10...Rd8? was Waterman's first try in this position, but it did not work out well — 11.Nxe6! Rxd1+ 12.Rxd1 Qa5 13.Rd5 and White went on to win a brilliancy in D. Berry-Waterman, Lone Pine 1975. Four rounds later Dennis was ready with an improvement.

**11.Rc1**

Now 11.Nxe6 does not work – 11... Rxd1+ 12.Rxd1 Qxb2 13.Nxf8 Qxc3+ 14.Bd2 Qc5 and Black was already winning in Marshall-Gregory, Berlin 1912. Today one can find this game in a few mouse clicks, but in 1975 one had to have a huge library. Dennis rediscovered 10...0-0-0! on his own.

**11...Bc5 12.Ncb5 a6 13.Qa4 axb5 14.Nxb5 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Nge7 16.Bg2 Bd5 17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Nd4 Qb4+ 19.Qxb4 Ndx b4 20.a3 Nd5 21.0-0**



Position after 21.0-0

**21...Kc7?**

21...f6 or; 21...Rd7 return only one pawn

and offer excellent winning chances. Now White is able to save himself.

**22.Rxf7+ Rd7 23.Ne6+ Kd6 24.Rxd7+ Kxd7 25.Nxg7 Nxe3 26.Rc3 Ng4 27.Rb3 Kc8 28.h3 Nge5 29.Ne6 Re8 30.Nf4 Rd8 31.Rc3 Rd2 32.b4 Kd7 33.Kf2 Ra2 34.g4 1/2-1/2**

The following game brings back memories. It was the only time I played Dennis and the first time we met. By beating Viktors Pupols in the morning I entered the last round a full point ahead of the field at 6-0, which meant that Dennis had to win to take home a decent prize. The game is the longest I have ever played at 114 moves and according to tournament director Lewis Richardson's report in *Northwest Chess* it started at 4pm and was played straight through without a break, ending at 1:30am. The previous round with Pupols had started at 10am and ended at 3:30pm so it was rather a full day of chess at 15 hours of play.

I had a similar experience in 1994 when I played Matt Beelby and Jim McCormick back to back in Reno. I defeated them both but it took almost 17 hours. Today I'm not against faster time controls.

By drawing the following game, I not only took home \$300 (the equivalent of about \$1300 in 2020 dollars), but also crossed 2200 US Chess for the first time.

Queen's Gambit Semi-Tarrasch D 42  
**Dennis Waterman – John Donaldson**  
Portland (Oregon Open) 1977

**1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.exd4 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nc3 e6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3**

Once again Dennis has his favorite IQP position. The text takes away the maneuver ...Nc6-b4-d5. 10.Re1 and 10.Qe2 are also popular here.

**10...b6 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Qc2**



Position after 12.Qc2

**12...Bb7**



12...f5?!, which has been played by several grandmasters, was suggested by Dennis after the game to answer the twin threats of Be4 and Bxh7+ without losing a pawn, but the weakening of the e6 pawn is more important than the loss of material. After 13.Qc3 Rd8 14.Bc4 White has a slight pull. Still, this is the way to go if you want a position with three possible results for Black.

**13.Bxh7+ Kh8 14.Be4 Nxd4 15.Bxd5 Nxc2 16.Bxb7 Nxa1 17.Bxa8 Rxa8 18.Bg5 f6**

This position is evaluated as equal by Fischer in *My 60 Memorable Games* (page 169). Neither Dennis nor I knew this at the time.

### 19.Rxa1

19.Be3 Nb3 20.Rd1 Rd8 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8 with equality is what I wrote in 1978 and it still holds true.

### 19...fxg5 20.Re1

20.Rc1 g4 and Black soon drew quite easily in Giri-So, Leuven (rapid) 2017.

### 20...Bf6 21.b3



Position after 21.b3

### 21...Re8?

My comments about the text and alternatives still ring true 43 years later:

“Black resigns himself to passive defense, more interesting is 21...Rc8 22.Rxe6 Rc1+ 23.Re1 Rc3 24.Re3 Rc1+ 25.Ne1 Bc3 26.Kf1 g4 with excellent drawing chances.

In fact even simpler is 21...g4 22.Nd2 Bc3 23.Re2 Bxd2 24.Rxd2 Rc8 25.g3 Rc3.”

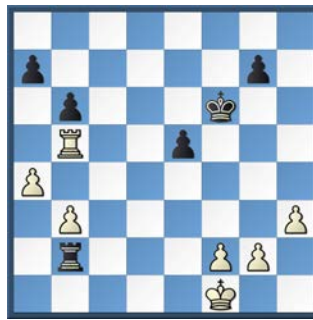
**22.Kf1 Kg8 23.h3 Kf7 24.Rc1 Re7 25.Rc4 Rd7 26.Ke2 Kg6 27.a4 Kf7 28.Rg4**

28.Rc6 followed by transferring the knight to c4 looks more promising.

### 28...Rc7

The text aims for activity but there was nothing wrong with 28...Rd5.

**29.Nxg5+ Bxg5 30.Rxg5 Rc2+ 31.Ke1 Rb2 32.Rb5 Kf6 33.Kf1 e5**



Position after 33...e5

### 34.f3

34.h4 Kf5 35.g3 looks more flexible than the text which makes it hard to activate White’s king.

**34...Kf5 35.Kg1 g5 36.Rb4 Rb1+ 37.Kf2 Rb2+ 38.Kg3 Kf6 39.Rb5 Kf5 40.Rb4 Kf6 41.Rb5 Kf5 42.b4 Kf6 43.a5**

This leads to a drawn three versus two rook ending, but what else can White try?

**43...bxa5 44.Rxa5 Rxb4 45.Ra6+ Kf5 46.Rxa7 Rb2 47.Ra4 Rc2 48.Re4 Ra2 49.Kh2 Rd2 50.Kg3 Ra2 51.h4**

This leads to further simplification, but at least White obtains a passed pawn.

**51...gxh4+ 52.Rxh4 Rc2 53.Re4 Ra2 54.Kh2 Rc2 55.Kg1 Ra2 56.Kf1 Rb2 57.Kg1 Ra2 58.Kh1 Rc2 59.Kh2 Ra2 60.Kh3 Ra3 61.g4+ Kf6 62.Kg3 Rc3 63.Ra4 Rb3 64.Ra6+ Kf7 65.Kf2 Rc3 66.Ke2 Rb3**

There is nothing wrong with the text, but why didn’t I play 66...e4 67.fxe4 Rg3 with a completely drawn position?

**67.Rd6 Ra3 68.Rd3 Ra1 69.Rb3 Kf6 70.Rb6+ Kf7 71.Kd3 Ra4 72.Rc6 Rf4 73.Ke3 Ra4 74.Rb6 Rc4 75.Ra6 Rb4 76.Rh6 Ra4 77.Rc6 Rb4 78.Ra6 Rc4 79.Rb6 Ra4 80.Rd6 Rb4 81.Kf2 Rb3 82.Ke2 Ra3**

Again, why not 82...e4 83.fxe4 Rg3?

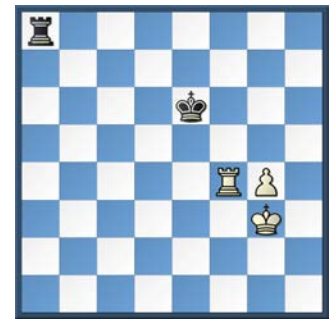
**83.Rd3 Ra4 84.Rc3 Rb4 85.Kd3 Rf4 86.Ke3 Rb4 87.Kf2 Ra4 88.Kg3 Rf4 89.Ra3 Kf6 90.Rc3 Kf7 91.Re3 Kf6 92.Ra3 Kf7 93.Ra7+ Kf6 94.Ra6+ Kf7 95.Ra7+ Kf6 96.Ra6+ Kf7 97.Rb6 Ra4 98.Rb7+ Kf6 99.Rb6+ Kf7 100.Rb7+ Kf6 101.Rb3 Rf4 102.Rb6+ Kf7 103.Rh6 Ra4 104.Rh5 Ke6 105.Rf5 Ra8 106.f4 exf4+ 107.Rxf4**

### [Diagram top of next column]

Black’s king is cut off, but with frontal defense he still has an easy draw.

### 107...Rh8 108.g5

The only way to try to make progress, but now the king and pawn ending is drawn.



Position after 107.Rxf4

### 108...Ke7 109.Kg4 Rf8

109...Rb8?? 110.Kh5 Rh8+ 111.Kg6 Rg8+ 112.Kh6 Rh8+ 113.Kg7 followed by Re4+ leads to the Lucena position.

### 110.Ra4

110.Rxf8 Kxf8 111.Kf5 Kf7 is a drawn pawn ending.

### 110...Kf7

With the king no longer cut off the draw is quite easy.

**111.Ra7+ Kg6 112.Ra6+ Kg7 113.Kh5 Rh8+ 114.Kg4 Rc8**

½-½

\* \* \*

The following year I got to know Dennis better when we were teammates on the Portland Blitz entry in the US Telephone League. We also played together in the Salem Invitational where we shared first place with James Bricher and Bill Schill (does any NWC reader have the small pamphlet organizer Mark Turner produced on the event?).

A few months later Dennis again tied for first, this time in the Oregon Open, but not long after he stopped playing except for a brief comeback in 1983, preferring to concentrate on a career as a professional backgammon and poker player.

In addition to playing the game Dennis also wrote about chess. He and John Grefe co-authored two books, *Lone Pine 1972* and *The Best of Lone Pine* (RHM Press 1981).

Dennis was also involved in the English version of Fridstein’s book on the Pirc Defense which Hanon Russell translated and published while living in Portland in the early 1970s — the first edition of the classic *Tal-Botvinnik 1960* was also first published in Portland.

Today Dennis enjoys his retirement in Myrtle Point, Coos County, Oregon, with his wife Geewon.





MARCEL WAS "ART DECO" HANDSOME, BUT ARTLESS IN CHESS.



# May 2020 Chess Musings

By Karen Schmidt

Because of the concerns about the Covid-19 virus, I am having trouble completing my scheduled interview for the next monthly chess vignette. So, I have decided to just put down a few chess-related musings this month. For those of us who love playing chess, we are probably going to be playing more online chess for the foreseeable future. I personally play on Chess.com and have started doing some 15 minute per person games, with 10 second delay. That is a manageable time frame and usually works out to about half an hour per person. There are also puzzles and tactics available online, and some good chess tutorials on YouTube which I plan to watch. I also ordered a chess puzzle book online from AbeBooks — a great website for used books of all kinds.

From numerous articles I have read online during this virus epidemic — and echoed in emails from many friends — maybe this crisis is going to cause all of us to reexamine our lifestyles and priorities. While this is a huge hardship on all of us — financially, emotionally, psychologically, physically — it might be a positive thing that we have been forced to think more about our families and loved ones. It might be a positive thing for our planet's ecology and future, that many of us are working from home indefinitely, rather than clogging the freeways every day. Maybe it is a good thing that we are appreciating simple life pleasures such

as a walk outside, or on a beach, or in a park... or a bike ride in the neighborhood. Maybe we will be reminded how much fun it can be to play cards, or Monopoly, or checkers or chess... or to do a crossword puzzle, Sudoku, or a jigsaw puzzle. Or to watch Jeopardy or our favorite TV show! Or to read those books we have been meaning to read. Or to do those home projects we never seemed to have time to do. Or to enjoy listening to music we enjoy — whether classical, rock, jazz, country, blues, pop, disco, R & B... Maybe some of us will write that story, poem or book we have been thinking about. Or learn that piano or flute or guitar piece we would like to play. The possibilities are actually endless.

I have been teaching my neighbors' children a weekly chess lesson, which we have had to suspend for the time being. They were ages five and seven when we started, but are now six and eight. Yesterday we all had a chat outside, from a safe distance, on a sunny Seattle spring day. I suggested that their Dad order a chess puzzle book online — and he and I each actually ordered one from AbeBooks. These are easy puzzles which will be fun and challenging for the kids. It is amazing to me how much they have learned about the game of chess in just the past few months. This weekend we are going to "meet" outside again — from a safe distance — and I am going to show the children and their parents how the chess notation works. That way they can understand the answers in the back of the book, if they get stumped on a puzzle. We had not covered chess notation yet in our weekly lessons.



*Unknown opponent at Westlake.  
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

My son lives about 30 miles away in Tacoma. He has lost one of his part-time jobs so far — the kickboxing gym where he taught lessons is closed. He may lose his second part-time job shortly. But for the time being he will have a chance to play his guitar, and play online chess, and make his wire-wrap jewelry, and practice his jiu jitsu out in the yard, and ride his bike....and of course play video



*UW Chess Club field trip to Westlake Park downtown. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*



games! And maybe teach his roommates how to play chess? And maybe look for a different part-time job. It sounds like all adults in the U.S. (except millionaires) will each be receiving a check from the Federal government for \$1200.00, probably in the next two weeks. That will help all of us out a bit.

I am also going to start gardening. I will be planting flowers and also vegetables in my available garden space: tomatoes, leaf lettuce, potatoes, peas, some herbs, garlic, maybe bokchoy and other green vegetables. It is an enjoyable and healthy activity — and it is very rewarding to reap the fruits of your own labors! I used to garden a lot more than I have the last several years. I am looking forward to getting back into it. It could also be important to have some home grown foods over the next several months, since we don't know how long this health crisis will last. In our temperate climate I also enjoy feeding the local hummingbirds; I have feeders in my back yard and on the front porch. If you haven't tried it, the feeders are inexpensive at hardware stores, pet stores, or Fred Meyer, etc. A batch of nectar is just white granulated sugar (not honey) to the 1/4 cup line in a measuring cup, then fill to the 1 cup line with tap water. I usually microwave it 1 minute to dissolve the sugar. That's it! Pour into the feeder and hang it from a tree branch or the overhang on your porch. I also enjoy feeding a pair of local crows. They are very intelligent and I have been doing this for years. In addition to left over bread, a couple other good items for them are dry cat food and unsalted peanuts in the shell. (The UW crow researcher, Dr. John Marzluff, has OK'd these crow foods.) When I bring their breakfast out, I make a clucking sound and they fly to my yard from a block or two away. My long term goal is to teach them to talk and eat out of my hand!

Back to the subject of chess. I had an interesting experience a few days ago when I did not select the "no chat" option before starting a game on Chess.com. My opponent moved very quickly and had not used any of his 15 minutes by the time I only had two or three minutes left. (With 10 second delay, if you move in four seconds, six seconds are ADDED to your clock.) At some point in the end game it became apparent that I was going to queen a pawn...and win. My opponent began stalling and also began sending verbally aggressive and abusive "chats". This continued for about eight minutes until he only had seven minutes remaining. I didn't take the bait by responding. I did not recognize his



*The chess scene at Westlake Park, downtown Seattle. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

country's flag. Unfortunately the game developed a glitch. Our remaining times began flashing, with a message about "auto resign in 60 seconds." I assumed it would be HIM forced to resign — since it was his move (for eight minutes) and I couldn't move. But after 60 seconds, the game auto resigned ME! However...I had written down his "Chess.com handle" and I also sketched a picture of his flag. The bottom line is, my opponent was from Kuwait, and I took great satisfaction in reporting him to Chess.com after the fact. They of course know his real name and email address, since you have to provide that information when you join. They responded promptly to me, and have sent him a warning... and are closely monitoring his account. Any future such behavior will cause them to ban him from the site. Oh, and it occurred to me after this little fiasco that my Kuwait buddy could see he was about to lose to a FEMALE...since my handle is "karens7." She who laughs last, laughs best!

I hope all you fellow chess lovers will find ways to keep playing chess with family and friends during this national and world crisis. Or playing online and reading your chess books and doing puzzles. Oh — and if you haven't seen them be sure to watch two wonderful chess movies: *Searching for Bobby Fischer* and *Pawn Sacrifice*. The former is a great family movie — even for those who don't play chess. It is the true story of Josh Waitzkin, who is now an International Master in New York City. The story takes place when he was about ten years old in NYC, and deals with the boy's love of playing chess outdoors in Washington Square Park with all sorts of "questionable characters"

versus his lessons at the traditional and upper-class Manhattan Chess Club. GREAT cast, wonderful true chess story. The other film, *Pawn Sacrifice*, is the brilliantly done story about the Bobby Fischer versus Boris Spassky 1972 World Championship match — which Fischer won. I highly recommend both films. If you have already seen them, watch them again! There is no such thing as too much chess.

Until next month, best wishes to all.



*Random UW Chess Club shot, UW Mechanical Engineering Building. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*



# Northwest Chess Webinars



Mondays 5-6 pm via Zoom

		
<b>WFM Chouchanik Airapetian</b>	<b>NM Josh Sinanan</b>	<b>Alex Machin</b>
Washington	Washington	Idaho
USCF 2104	USCF 2259	USCF 1816
<i>FIDE Chess Instructor, organizer, 18 years coaching experience</i>  <i>Former US Women's Championship contender</i>  <i>WA Chess Federation Director of Chess for Women and Girls</i>	<i>Professional chess coach, organizer, 13 years teaching experience</i>  <i>Captain of the Seattle Sluggers Chess Team</i>  <i>President, WA Chess Federation</i>	<i>Experienced chess player and organizer</i>  <i>Former winner of ID Open, ID State Championship, and Western ID Open</i>  <i>Northwest Chess board member</i>

<b>Entry Fee</b>	\$10/lecture. Free entry for Northwest Chess subscribers!
<b>Register</b>	Register online: <a href="https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/">https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/</a> . Max 99 attendees. Zoom info will be emailed to all attendees prior to each webinar.
<b>Schedule</b>	Arrival 4:50-5:00pm, Lecture 5:00-5:50pm, Q/A 5:50-6:00pm.
<b>Lectures</b>	5/4 – WFM Chouchanik Airapetian <b>“How to understand middlegame and pick the best move”</b> Kids: Wear your PJ’s and bring a cuddling toy along. 5/11 – NM Josh Sinanan <b>“How to play against a higher-rated opponent”</b> 5/18 – Alex Machin <b>“Blunders and missed opportunities, a player’s perspective”</b>

**Questions?** Josh Sinanan | WCF President | [joshsinanan@gmail.com](mailto:joshsinanan@gmail.com) | 206.769.3757



# Recapping the Harmon Memorial

By Jacob Mayer

The Harmon Memorial took place *online* in the WCF's first Open Online Tournament. The six-round event took place over April 4-5 on chess.com under the supervision of TD Jacob Mayer.

More than 60 players took part, which made this organizer very excited about the support shown for long time-control events. Players such as IM Ray Kaufman, IM Aaron Grabinsky, GM Jim Tarjan, and GM Richard Bitoon signed up to participate in this flagship event. In an effort to mitigate cheating the WCF required all participants to sign a Fair Play Agreement, and to be monitored on Zoom throughout the event.

The morning started out a little behind schedule as the TD learned that Zoom had required a password for all meetings (as a response to recent security issues) and getting this information out delayed the first round. This didn't stop local expert Minda Chen however, as she took down top seed IM Aaron Grabinsky!

In the first round we saw another young female player, Sophie Tien, upset FM Nick Raptis. And grade-schooler Eddie Chang scored a draw again against IM Ray Kaufman holding a very nice rook + knight against queen endgame.

As the event progressed top seeds continued to see tough competition as there were no perfect scores after four rounds in either section. Congratulations to Seattle's Rushaan Mahajan for finishing in a tie for first place with 4.5/6 points with GM Jim Tarjan, GM Richard Bitoon, and IM Ray Kaufman. First place U2100 was shared by Patrick Huang, Advait Vijayakumar, and Derin Goktepe, all finishing with 4.0/6 points. The U1900 prize was claimed by Damarcus Thomas, who scored 3.5/6.

The reserve section had six players tied for the lead going into the last round, as Corey Bloom, Stephanie Velea, and Aditya Singh all would win their last round and share first place with 5.0/6. Drew Bunch and Stephen Willy won the U1400 and U1200 with 4.0/6 after losing in the last round to our trio of winners.

A special shout-out to Daniel Stein; he finished with four points but only dropped points in games against each of our three co-champions.

## Sophie Tien – James Tarjan [B06]

Harmon Memorial Online Chess.com (R4), April 5, 2020  
[James Tarjan]

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.0-0**

Straightforward development can't be too bad, but sharper would be to strike while the iron is hot: Either 7.e5 or 7.a4.

**7...c5 8.Be3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bb7 10.a3 Ngf6**

I get more than I deserve in a sense, considering the radical opening setup: a nice looking Sicilian formation where all my pieces are well placed.

**11.Nb3 Rc8**

White's moves all have their points, but this is the sort of position where, if White does not go forward, the initiative is going to pass to Black.

**12.Rb1**

The b-pawn is guarded, the rook is off the long diagonal, if Black sacs the exchange on c3 the rook has an open file. Even so, I was happy to see a defensive move instead of completing her development by bringing this rook to a central file.

**12...0-0 13.Qf3 e5 14.f5 d5 15.Nxd5**

The annoyingly precise eye of the

computer identifies this as an error, though not one I took advantage of. Better then is 15.exd5.



Position after 15.Nxd5

**15...Nxd5**

15...Bxd5! 16.exd5 e4! A thematic shot, and the first thing I considered. 17.Bxe4 Ne5 18.Qf4 but so far I am two pawns down, and could not see where this was going. However the computer continues: 18...Nh5 19.Qf2 (19.Qg5 Bf6 20.Qh6 Ng4 traps the queen) 19...Ng4 20.Qe2 (or 20.Oe1 Re8) 20...Qh4 21.h3 (21.g3 Nxg3) 21...Nxe3 22.Qxe3 I even got to this position in my mind, but no further. 22...Rfe8! It turns out that Black, still two pawns down, is winning material.

**16.exd5 Nf6 17.fxg6**

17.Nc5! and the game remains up for grabs: about equal.



Position after 17.fxg6

**17...hxg6!**

An interesting moment. The hand is tempted to open the f-file for Black's rook

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with 17...fxg6, but here capturing toward the center is stronger. The pin with Bg5 is not dangerous because White has not first hidden her king away with Kh1. And I am looking ahead to a position with pawns on e5 and f5.

### 18.Bg5

Better is 18.Nc5 Bxd5 19.Qh3 with a complicated battle.

### 18...Qb6+ 19.Be3

Apparently hoping for a repetition, but I have another square for my queen, and gain a half step towards my optimum position.

### 19...Qd6 20.Rbd1 Bxd5 21.Qg3 Qc6 22.h3 Ne4?!



Position after 22...Ne4

Some other move is better as White now misses a good shot.

### 23.Qh4

23.Bxe4! Bxe4 24.Nc5! bringing the knight into action. If 24...Bxc2 25.Rd2 Bf5 Black has snatched a pawn but in return all White's pieces are working, and the precious initiative has changed hands. 26.Qh4! is one nice move then, preventing Black from opposing rooks on the d-file. Somewhere around equal.

### 23...f5!

I had a position like this in mind back when I played 17...hxg6. Black has pushed the pawns in front of his king forward, which could potentially backfire. But what matters more, and what this

position is crucially about, is center control. In conjunction with the pieces Black completely dominates the center squares. Reduced to maneuvering around the edges of the board, White is not going to be able to mount a meaningful attack on Black's king. And White must constantly deal with a possibly decisive advance of one or the other (or both) of Black's central pawns. But Black need be in no hurry to advance the pawns further; as it stands, everything is wonderful, and further advances should be timed just right.

### 24.Bh6 Bf6!

Trading the bishops would ease White's burden.

### 25.Qe1 Rf7 26.Nd2 Nc5 27.Qg3 Kh7 28.Bg5 Bg7 29.Rf2

White does not have time to continue the cat-and-mouse game with 29.Qh4+ Kg8 30.Bh6 because g2 is hanging.

### 29...Ne6!



Position after 29...Ne6

Trading bishop for bishop would help White; but trading knight for bishop is an entirely different matter! Because Black's surviving black-squared bishop becomes an unstopplable and decisive force.

### 30.Nb1

A retreat, but with two ideas: The b-pawn is indirectly protected: 30...e4 31.Bf1 Bxb2? 32.c4! If given a chance White's next will be 31.Nc3 on the Bd5 and White could end up OK. However, there

is not time. 30.Qh4+ Kg8 31.Bh6 loses every which way, 31...e4 being the most convincing.

### 30...Nxc5 31.Qxc5 Bh6

Here comes the bishop.

### 32.Qg3 Bf4 33.Qh4+

To keep playing White needs to give up the rook for this bishop: 33.Rxf4

### 33...Kg7 34.Kf1

Saves the rook, but loses something else. In any event some piece or other will be lost: 34.Re2 g5 35.Qf2 e4 wins the bishop.

### 34...Rh8 0-1

**Derin Goktepe (1930) –  
Valentin Razmov (1986) [D36]**  
Harmon Memorial Online Chess.com  
(R4), April 5, 2020  
[Derin Goktepe]

### 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3

The Queens Gambit Declined Exchange variation.

### 8...Re8 9.Nge2 Nf8 10.0-0 c6 11.f3

The move f3 plans to push on e4 after preparing it.

### 11...Nh5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.e4 dxe4 14.fxe4 g6 15.Kh1



Position after 15.Kh1

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Kh1 was preparing to do an idea like Bc4 putting pressure on the f7-pawn and if Black plays Be6 or Ne6, White will play d5 and then d6.

**15...Ne6 16.e5**

Now I decide to try a new plan. That Black has weak dark squares because they don't have a dark-squared bishop, the f6 and d6 squares are very weak so I can bring my knight to e4 and choose which square to move to.

**16...Rf8 17.Ne4 f5 18.Nd6 Nhg7 19.Bc4 Ne8?**

Ne8 is a mistake in this position because I can simply win a pawn.

**20.Nxc8 Rxc8 21.Qb3 N8g7 22.Nf4 Rfe8 23.Bxe6+ Nxe6 24.Nxe6 Qxe6 25.Qxb7 Rb8 26.Qxa7 Rxb2 27.Rfb1 Rxb1+ 28.Rxb1 Qc4 29.Qd7 Qe6 30.Qa7 Qc4 31.h3 Qc2 32.Rg1 Qc4 33.Qd7 Qe6**



Position after 33...Qe6

Qe6 is not a very good move in this position because I can simply trade queens with Qxe6+ and have a winning rook endgame. In the game, I didn't take immediate advantage and I just moved my queen away. It is a good move, but Qxe6+ was better.

**34.Qb7 Qc4 35.Qa7 Rd8 36.Qe7 Qxd4 37.e6 Qd6??**

Now the move Qd6 makes the position simply lost for Black. A better move instead of Qd6 is Rf8.

**38.Qf7+ Kh8 39.e7 Rg8 40.e8Q**

dgwizard won by resignation 40.e8Q Rxe8 41.Qxe8+ Kg7 42.Re1 Qd4 43.Qxc6 Kh6 10.01/0

1-0

**Eddie Chang (1887) – Raymond Kaufman (2362) [E70]**  
Harmon Memorial Online Chess.com (R1), April 4, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nge2**

Developing the knight to e2 is a minor line compared with the normal 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 (6.h3) 6...e5 7.0-0 (7.Be3; 7.d5) 7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne7, when there are still thousands of example games in multiple lines (9.b4, 9.Ne1, 9.Nd2); Also 5.Be2; and 5.f3 are popular alternatives for White.

**5...0-0 6.Ng3 Nc6**

Black generally tries to prove the knight is slightly misplaced by clarifying the center with 6...e5 here. 7.d5 c6 (7...a5!?) 8.Be2 cxd5 9.cxd5 Nbd7∞

**7.d5 Ne5 8.Be2 c6 9.0-0 h5 10.h4?!**

10.h3 seems thematic. White should be thinking about playing f2-f4 to drive the black pieces back, causing congestion, and keeping the g4-square under control would help with that.

**10...Neg4**

10...Nh7!? forces White to start thinking about how to defend h4, with ...e6 threatened.

**11.Bg5?!**

11.Qb3∞; 11.f3? Qb6+ and Black wins material.

**11...Nh7 12.Bf4 e5! 13.dxe6 Bxe6 14.Bxd6 Qxh4 15.Bxg4 Bxg4 16.Qc1 Rfe8 17.Qf4 Rad8**

17...Ng5! 18.f3?? (18.Nge2 Bh6! 19.Qg3

Qxg3 20.Nxg3 h4+) 18...Bd4+ 19.Rf2 Ne6+

**18.e5 g5 19.Nf5 gxf4 20.Nxh4 Bxe5 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.f3 Be6 23.Rad1**

23.b3 Re3 Space and piece coordination have shifted to favor the black side.

**23...Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Bxc4 25.Rd4 Re1+ 26.Kh2 Be6 27.Rxf4 b5**

I don't see why there should be a rush to advance, and perhaps thus weaken, the queenside pawns. 27...Re5 is centralization with the idea of keeping the h4-knight out of play for as long as possible, and as long as Black avoids walking into a fork (...Kf8??) the extra pawn will be hard to handle in the long run.

**28.a4 a6 29.axb5 cxb5 30.Ne4**

30.b4!+

**30...a5 31.Nd6 b4**

OK, now I'm starting to like the results of the queenside pawn advance...

**32.Nb7 Rb1**

32...Ra1!?

**33.Nxa5 Rxb2 34.Nc6 b3 35.Nd4!**

35.Rb4. Rooks belong behind passed pawns.




Position after 35.Nd4

**35...Rxd2+! 36.Nxd2 b2 37.Nxe6 b1Q 38.Nd4 Qb8 39.Kh3 Qe5 40.Nf5? Nf6**

40...Ng5+! Perhaps Black missed that the f4-rook is pinned in every line, either to

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the king (after Kh2 or Kg3), or to the h2-square (after Kh4). 41.Kh4 (41.Kg3 Ne6) 41...Ne6 42.Nh6+ Kg7 43.Nxf7 (43.Nf5+ Kh7) 43...Qc7 44.Rf5 Qh2#

#### 41.Ng3 Kh7?!

41...Ne8 42.Rf5 Qe6 43.Nf4 Qc8 44.Kh4 Ng7 45.Rg5 Kf8 46.Nfxh5 Ne6; White still has some untangling to do.

#### 42.Rf5 Qa1?! 43.Nf4 Qc3

All winning chances have disappeared now.

44.Nfxh5 Nxh5 45.Rxh5+ Kg6 46.Rg5+ Kh6 47.Rh5+ Kg7 48.Kg4 f6 49.Nf5+ Kg8 50.Ng3 Qd3 51.Ne4 Kg7 52.Rf5 Qf1 53.Rxf6 Qg2+ 54.Kf4 Qh2+ 55.Ke3 Qg1+ 56.Kd3 Qd1+ 57.Ke3 Qe1+ 58.Kf4 Qh4+ 59.Ke5 Qh2+ 60.Kf5 Qh7+ 61.Kg5 Qh1 62.Rg6+ Kf8 63.Rf6+ Kg7 64.Rg6+ Kf8 65.Rf6+ Kg7

Game drawn by repetition

1/2-1/2

Richard Bitoon (2496) –

Raymond Kaufman (2362) [B95]

Harmon Memorial Online Chess.com

(R5), April 5, 2020

[Ralph Dubisch]

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

#### 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qf3

Unusual. Orders of magnitude more often seen is 7.f4, and there are several moves Black can play on move 7...— (7...Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 is the dreaded poison pawn line. (But dreaded by which side?); 7...Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Rhe1 is also well-traveled.; 7...Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 looks like fun.; 7...Qc7 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0-0-0 Bd7 11.Kb1 0-0-0 shows there's some variety in the pawn structure after all.)

#### 7...Be7 8.0-0-0 Nbd7 9.h4

Completely out of my theoretical knowledge now. Not sure I see the point of White's ninth, though.

#### 9...Qc7 10.Be2 b5 11.a3 Bb7 12.Qg3 Rc8

12...Bxe4 13.Rhe1 offers activity for the pawn.

#### 13.Rhe1 Qb8 14.f4 h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.e5!?

16.Bg4 Nc5 17.b4 Bxd4 18.Rxd4 Nd7 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Qxg7 Rf8 21.e5 d5 22.Ne4∞ at least gives you an idea of some of the possible complications lurking in these Sicilian lines.

#### 16...dxe5 17.Nxe6!

Practically forced, after 16.e5. Certainly 17.fxe5 Bxe5 18.Qh3 Nc5 is not an improvement.

#### 17...fxe6 18.Qg6+ Ke7 19.Rxd7+! Kxd7 20.Qf7+ Kc6



Position after 20...Kc6

#### 21.fxe5?!

Best seems to be 21.Qxe6+ Qd6 22.Bf3+ Kc7 23.Qxd6+ Kxd6 24.Bxb7∞ White has at least some compensation for the exchange, though this can hardly have been the goal of moves 16 and 17.

#### 21...Kb6!

21...Bxe5? 22.Bf3+ Kb6 23.Rxe5 Bxf3 24.Rxe6+ Rc6 (24...Bc6?? 25.Nd5+ Ka5 (25...Kc5 26.b4+ Kxd5 27.Qf5+



# Northwest Chess Open



*In Memory of Mike Neeley, NWCO editor 1993-1994.*

**Date:** May 9-10, 2020

**Site:** All games will be played online via chess.com due to the global COVID-19 Coronavirus situation. Players must have a Chess.com account and join the [WCF Club](#).

**Format:** A 6-Round Swiss in one section. This is a fundraising tournament for Northwest Chess magazine.

**Organizer:** Washington Chess Federation, on behalf of Northwest Chess Foundation.

**Time Control:** G/60+10 inc.

**Rounds:** Sat. 10AM, 1PM, 4PM, Sun. 10AM, 1PM, 4PM.

**Entry Fee:** \$25 by May 2, \$30 after. Free entry for all players with US Chess rating 2000+.

**Prizes:** Northwest Chess subscription extensions (includes WCF membership for WA residents): 1<sup>st</sup>: 3-yr ext., 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2-yr ext., 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-yr ext., 1<sup>st</sup>U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/UNR: 1-yr ext.

**Rating:** US Chess May 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. NWSRS rated, USCF unrated. Open to all – no memberships required.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available in advance or by the end of Round 2. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

**Fair Play Policy:** All players and parents (if U18) must sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. WCF's fair play committee may review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis.

**Registration:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan | WCF President | 206.769.3757 | [JoshSinanan@gmail.com](mailto:JoshSinanan@gmail.com)



Kc4 28.Qc5#) 26.b4+ Ka4 27.Qf3 Bxd5 28.Rxa6#) 25.gxf3 Rxe6 26.Nd5+ Kc5 27.Qxe6 Qd6 28.b4+ Kc6 29.Ne7+ Kc7 30.Nd5+ Kc6

**22.Bg4?**

22.exf6 Qf4+ 23.Kb1 Qxf6 allows the game to continue, though real hope is long gone.

**22...Ka7**

Or 22...Bxh4+

**23.exf6 Qf4+ 24.Kb1 Qxg4 25.Rxe6 Rhf8 26.Qd7 Qxg2 27.fxg7 Qf1+ 28.Ka2 Qc4+ 29.Ka1 Rf1+ 30.Nd1 0-1**

**Minda Chen (1966) –**

**Aaron Grabinsky (2527) [E11]**

Harmon Memorial Online Chess.com

(R1), April 4, 2020

[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.a3 Be7 5.Ngf3**

5.e4 d5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.cxd5 exd5±

**5...0-0 6.e3**

6.e4

**6...d6 7.Qc2 a5 8.b3 Nc6 9.Bb2 Nd7 10.Bd3 g6 11.h4±**



Position after 11.h4

The opening has been... unusual. White has nice coordination and has avoided any overreach, while Black has gone his own way in terms of space and development.

**11...e5 12.h5 f5**

Black's last two moves really just undermine his own king safety. Threats to win material by pawn advances in the center are mostly illusion, as White's kingside attack will be easily worth a piece.

**13.hxg6 hxg6 14.Be2**

It's also possible to ignore ...e4: 14.g4! e4 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Bxe4. How is Black to defend the naked monarch?

**14...Bf6 15.g4! e4 16.Nh2 Nb6 17.gxf5 gxf5 18.Bh5 Bg7 19.0-0 d5 20.Rdg1 Be6 21.Rg3 Qh4 22.Qd1 f4 23.Rxg7+! Kxg7 24.Qg1+ Kh8**

24...Kf6 25.Ng4+

**25.Nhf3 Qxh1 26.Qxh1 exf3 27.cxd5 Nxd5 28.Bg6+ Kg7 29.Qh7+ Kf6 30.Ne4#**

Nice. Minda tells the new IM, in no uncertain terms, to go study a sound opening against 1.d4.

**1-0**

**Eddie Chang (1887) –**

**Theodore Roberts (1934) [D36]**

Harmon Memorial Online Chess.com

(R3), April 4, 2020

[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Qc2 c6 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Nge2**

This is a "new" plan, if anything pioneered by Botvinnik and further popularized by Kasparov can be so defined. A century ago White would generally play Nf3, 0-0, and launch the queenside minority attack.

**9...Re8 10.0-0**

10.0-0-0 is even more modern and aggressive.

**10...Nf8 11.f3**

Here is the flexible idea behind White's ninth, usually signaling a future e3-e4, or perhaps g2-g4 and Ng3, and in any case keeping Black from simplifying with Lasker's ...Nf6-e4.

**11...Ng6 12.Rae1 Be6 13.Ng3 Rc8**

Black's position in this main line of the Queen's Gambit Exchange variation is solid but passive.

**14.Bf5?!**

Exchanging the good bishop for that thing on e6 goes against the grain. All those juicy pieces hanging out in forkable spots suggest the possibility of 14.f4!? Bd7 15.f5 Nf8 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nh5, which must favor White, though by exactly how much is for others to determine.

**14...Bxf5 15.Nxf5 h6 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Qd2 Rcd8**

White is no longer better. Piece exchanges have relieved the cramp in Black's position.

**19.b4 Ne7 20.Na4 Nf5 21.Nb2 Nd6**

21...Qg5 22.Nd1±

**22.Qd3 Re7 23.Re2 Rde8 24.Rfe1 a6 25.Na4 Nf5 26.Nc5 Qg5**

Black has wasted time getting to the attack on e3, allowing it to escape!

**27.e4! dxe4 28.fxe4 Nd6**

28...Nh4∞

**29.e5!**

The kingside attack is back!

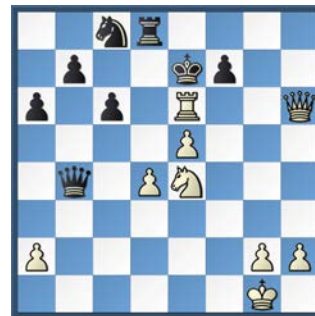
**29...Nc8 30.Re3 Rd8 31.Ne4 Qh4 32.Rg3 Kh8 33.Qe3 Re6 34.Rf1 Qe7 35.Rf6?**

Fancy... and, unfortunately for White, wrong. White is doing very well with things like 35.Nc5 Rg6 36.Rgf3 Rf8 37.Qe4±; or 35.Qf2, since 35...Qxb4 36.Ng5!! hxg5? 37.Rh3+ Rh6 38.Rxh6+ gxh6 39.Qf6+ wins.

**35...Qxb4! 36.Rxg7?!**

36.Rxf7 Rxd4 37.Rxg7 (37.Rfxg7 Qb1+ 38.Kf2 Qc2+ 39.Qe2 Qxe2+ 40.Kxe2 Ne7 41.Nf6 Rxe5+ 42.Kf3 Rf5+ 43.Ke3 Rxf6 44.Rxe7 (44.Kxd4? Nf5+ 45.Ke5 Nxg7 46.Kxf6 Nh5+-)) 37...Qb1+ 38.Kf2 Qxe4 and White has nothing more than perpetual check. But that's better than losing...

**36...Kxg7! 37.Qxh6+ Kg8 38.Qg5+ Kf8 39.Qh6+ Ke7! 40.Rxe6+**



Position after 40.Rxe6+

**40...Kd7!**

White might well have been counting on 40...fxe6 41.Qg7+ Ke8 42.Nf6# I mean, who doesn't recapture a whole rook?

**41.Nc5+ Kc7 42.Rxc6+! Kb8! 43.Rxc8+**

The best chance is very similar to the game, but without this exchange sac: 43.Qc1! Qxd4+ 44.Kf1 Qd1+ (44...bxc6?? 45.Qb1+; 44...Qg4 45.Nxa6+ bxa6 46.Qb2+ Ka8 47.Rxa6+ Na7 48.Rd6∞) 45.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 46.Ke2 Rd5! 47.e6! fxe6 (47...bxc6? 48.exf7 Rf5 49.Nd7+ Kc7 50.f8Q Rxf8 51.Nxf8±) 48.Nxa6+! bxa6 49.Rxe6±

**43...Kxc8 44.Qc1 Qxd4+ 45.Kf1 Qd1+ 46.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 47.Ke2 Rd5 48.Nd3 Ra5 49.h4 Rxa2+ 50.Kf3 Ra3 51.Ke3 Kd7 52.h5 Ke7 53.g4 Kf8 54.Ke4 b5 55.g5 b4 56.e6 fxe6 57.Nf4 Kf7 58.h6 b3 59.g6+ Kg8 60.Nd3 Ra2 61.Ke5 b2 62.Nxb2 Rxb2 63.Kxe6 Rh2**

A nice battle.

**0-1**

# Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships

May 16, 2020

Online via  Chess.com

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in six sections: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, 4-8 Open, 9-12 Open.

**Eligibility:** Open to all students registered in grades K-12. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

**Schedule:** 9:15am, 10:30am, 11:45am, lunch break, 1:30pm, 2:45pm.

**Entry fee:** \$25 before 5/13, \$30 after.

**Time Control:** Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second increment per move starting from move 1.

**Prizes:** Trophies and medals will be available for pick-up or mailed after the tournament, awarded to the top-scoring individuals in each section. Medals for first timers that don't earn a trophy.

**Rating:** Higher of NWSRS or US Chess rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes. US Chess membership not required.

**Procedure:** Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Players will be paired automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players will inform the TD of their result upon completion of the game.

**Fair Play Policy:** All players and parents are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

**Online Registration:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/> – pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. **Registration deadline Fri. May 15 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after deadline. No check-in since this is an online tournament. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Thank you to our Sponsors!



Questions? Jacob Mayer | WCF Tournament Coordinator | 206.697.5625 | [Jacob.Mayerchess@gmail.com](mailto:Jacob.Mayerchess@gmail.com)



# Washington Open

May 23 - 25, 2020

Online via 



**Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2021 Washington State Championship.**

**\$3,500 Based on 100 paid entries**

	<b>Open</b>	<b>Reserve U1600</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$600	\$450
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$450	\$350
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$300	\$250
	<b>U2100</b>	<b>U1500</b>
	\$150	\$150
	<b>U1900</b>	<b>U1300</b>
	\$150	\$150
	<b>U1700</b>	<b>U1100/Unr</b>
	\$150	\$150

#### **Upset Prizes**

1 <sup>st</sup>	\$100 per section
2 <sup>nd</sup>	NWC subscription extension

#### **Annotated Brilliancy Prize**

**Competition:** \$100 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be *Brilliant*. A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

**Format:** A 6-Round Swiss in two sections: Open & Reserve U1600.

**Time Control:** G/120, inc. 10.

**Rounds:** Sat./Sun./Mon. @ 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2 PM on 5/25 via Zoom.

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

**Entry Fee:** \$60 if postmarked or online by May 16, \$70 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1600 playing in Open section. Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

**Procedure:** Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players must report their result upon completion of the game.

**Fair Play Policy:** All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's fair play committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

**Rating:** Unrated. US Chess May 2020 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.

**Online Registration:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/> – pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. **Registration deadline Fri. May 22 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations or payments accepted after the deadline. No check-in since this is an online tournament. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

**Memberships:** Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

**Miscellaneous:** This is a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

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

**Mail To:** Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Phone:** (206) 697-5625. **Email:** [Jacob.Mayerchess@gmail.com](mailto:Jacob.Mayerchess@gmail.com).

**Info:** WCF President Josh Sinanan. **Phone:** (206) 769-3757  
**Email:** [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com).

**Washington Open Blitz Championship:** Mon 5/25 at 7 PM. Format: An 11-Round Swiss in one section. Games start at 7:00 PM in the [Live Chess](#) area. TC: G/3;+2. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$120, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1700 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1100/unr. \$50. US Chess Online Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required.

# 2020 Washington State Championship

By Josh Sianan

The 2020 Washington State Championship took place February 8-9, 15-17 at the Pacific Northwest Chess Center in Kirkland. Thirty-seven 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 nine rounds. A panel of judges, soon to be announced, will decide the brilliancy prizes (\$100) for all four sections.

This year's Washington State Championship was notable for the fact that women won first place in three out of the four sections! Megan Lee became the first female Washington State Champion since Elena Donaldson tied for first back in 1995. Megan is the first woman ever to win the Washington State Championship outright, and she joins her brother Michael Lee as the first pair of siblings to attain the coveted title. Chouchan Airapetian won the Premier and will be seeded into next year's Championship, while young Erin Bian dominated the seven-player Challengers with an impressive 5.0/6 score. The Invitational was won by the young up-and-comer Advaith



(L-R) Premier Champion Chouchanik Airapetian, Washington State Champion Megan Lee, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

## Championship

1st Megan Lee \$675 - 2020 Washington State Chess Champion!!

2nd Rushaan Mahajan \$375

3rd Tian Sang \$225

=4th/5th Derek Zhang, Joseph Levine \$112.50 each

### 2020 washington state championship: Championship -- Standings

#	Place	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	1	Megan Lee	2293	2323	W5	D3	D9	W7	W8	D2	D4	W6	W10	7.0
2	2	Rushaan Mahajan	2179	2234	D3	W4	D6	D10	W5	D1	B---	D7	W8	6.5
3	3	Tian Sang	2352	2344	D2	D1	L4	D9	W6	D7	W10	W8	D5	5.5
4	4-5	Derek Zhang	2266	2258	W8	L2	W3	L6	D10	W5	D1	B---	L7	5.0
5		Joseph Levine	2142	2185	L1	W9	W7	D8	L2	L4	W6	W10	D3	5.0
6	6	Ignacio Perez	2230	2221	W7	L8	D2	W4	L3	W10	L5	L1	B---	4.5
7	7	Daniel Shubin	2150	2161	L6	D10	L5	L1	W9	D3	D8	D2	W4	4.0
8	8	David Levine	2210	2189	L4	W6	D10	D5	L1	X9	D7	L3	L2	3.5
9	9-10	William J Schill II	2300	2285	W10	L5	D1	D3	L7	F8	---	---	---	2.0



Vijayakumar, whose victory propelled his rating over 2000 for the first time.

As is now becoming typical in the Washington State Championship, the tournament was once again marked by drama and controversy! As the reader may have already heard, there was an incident in the Megan Lee vs Bill Schill game from round three. The clock was apparently set without the 10-second delay for the second time control, which went undetected by the players. A spectator pointed out to the TD Fred Kleist that the clock was set without delay. On his way over to the board to investigate, Fred tripped on a printer cord and was delayed making it to the game, during which time Schill flagged. Upon inspecting the clock and realizing that it was set incorrectly, Fred added two minutes to each player's clock and the game continued. Schill then went on to win!

What a mess! Megan Lee issued an official appeal to overturn the result of the game as a win for her. To resolve the situation, an independent players committee consisting of Alan Bishop, Eugene Rozenfeld, Chouchan Airapetian, and Mary Kuhner was convened to deliberate and decide the outcome of the ill-fated Lee-Schill game. Based on the feedback from the committee and Fred, the game was declared a draw. Megan has since filed a formal complaint with the FIDE Events Committee. If only Fred hadn't tripped on that loose printer cord...

## Games

**Rushaan Mahajan –  
Tian Sang [A80]**  
WA Championship Kirkland  
(R1), February 8, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bh4 g5 4.e3 Nf6  
5.Bg3 d6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 e6 8.h4 g4  
9.Nge2 Nh5 10.Qd2 Qe7 11.0-0-0 a6  
12.a4 Nd7 13.f3 b5 14.Bd3 gxf3 15.gxf3  
b4 16.Nb1 a5 17.Rdg1 Bb7 18.e4 0-0-0  
19.Bf2 fxe4 20.Bxe4 Nb6 21.Bxb7+  
Kxb7 22.Qd3 Qf7 23.Nd2 Rhf8 24.Rg6  
Qf5 25.Rhg1 Rf7 26.Qxf5 exf5 27.Be3  
Re8 28.Nf4 Nxf4



Position after 28...Nxf4

28...Bxd4! 29.Nxh5 (29.Bxd4 Nxf4  
30.Bxb6 Nxb6 31.Bxa5 Rfe7 32.Kd1  
Nf4+- 33.Bxb4? Nh3! 34.Rf1 Nf2+  
35.Kc1 Re1+ 36.Rxe1 Rxe1#) 29...Bxe3  
30.Re1 Bxd2+ 31.Kxd2 Nc4+-+

29.Bxf4 Bxd4 30.Rd1 h5 31.Nb3 Be3+

32.Bxe3 Rxe3 33.Nxa5+ Ka6 34.Nc6  
Rxf3 35.Nxb4+ Ka5 36.Nc6+ Kxa4  
37.Rg5 Rf2 38.Rxh5 Kb5 39.Nd4+ Ka6  
40.b3 Nd5 41.Rd2 Rf1+ 42.Kb2 Ne3  
43.Rh8 f4 44.Ra8+ Kb7 45.Ra1 Rxa1  
46.Kxa1 Ng4 47.Ne6 Ne5 48.Ng5 Rf6  
49.Rf2 f3 50.Kb1 Rf4 51.Kc1 Rxh4  
52.Kd2 Rf4 53.Ke3 Rf8 54.Ke4 Re8  
55.Kf4 Kb6 56.Nxf3 Rf8+ 57.Ke4 Ng4  
58.Rd2 Nf6+ 59.Ke3 Re8+ 60.Kd3 1/2-1/2

**Viktors Pupols –  
William Schill [E76]**  
WA Championship Kirkland  
(R1), February 8, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4  
c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Bd3 dxc5

7...Nfd7!? 8.Bd2 Nxc5 9.Be2 Nc6

8.e5 Nfd7 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.0-0 Nf8 11.Ng5  
Ne6



Position after 11...Ne6

## Premier

1st Chouchan Airapetian \$450 - 2020 Washington Premier Champion

2nd Yevgeniy Rozenfeld \$250

3rd Brandon Jiang \$150

=4th/5th Joshua Lewis-Sandy, Tim Moroney \$75 each

### 2020 washington state championship: Premier -- Standings

#	Place	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd	1Rd	2Rd	3Rd	4Rd	5Rd	6Rd	7Rd	8Rd	9Tot
1	1	Chouchanik Airapetian	2041	2129	W3	W5	W4	D2	D9	W7	L6	W8	W10	7.0
2	2	Yevgeniy Rozenfeld	2047	2093	W9	W7	W6	D1	L10	D3	D5	D4	W8	6.0
3	3	Brandon Jiang	2110	2114	L1	W10	W8	W5	D4	D2	D9	L7	W6	5.5
4	4-5	Joshua Lewis-Sandy	2034	2050	L7	W6	L1	W10	D3	L5	W8	D2	W9	5.0
5		Timothy Moroney	2032	2049	D6	L1	D10	L3	W8	W4	D2	W9	D7	5.0
6	6-7	Nicholas Whale	2069	2065	D5	L4	L2	W9	L7	W8	W1	W10	L3	4.5
7		Joseph Frantz	2044	2047	W4	L2	L9	L8	W6	L1	W10	W3	D5	4.5
8	8-9	Thanh Tien Nguyen	2070	2037	W10	W9	L3	W7	L5	L6	L4	L1	L2	3.0
9		David Rupel	2058	2028	L2	L8	W7	L6	D1	W10	D3	L5	L4	3.0
10	10	Daniel A Abramson	2040	1985	L8	L3	D5	L4	W2	L9	L7	L6	L1	1.5



(Front L) Alan Bishop studies the board while Advaith Vijayakumar (Rear R) ponders his position. Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

12.Nxf7

12.Nge4±

12...0-0! 13.f5 Rxf7 14.fxe6 Rxf1+  
15.Qxf1 Bxe6 16.Qe2 Rf8 17.Bg5 Qc7  
18.Re1 Bxe5 19.Kh1 Bf5 20.Nd5 Qd6  
21.Bh6 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Rf5 23.Rf1 e6  
24.g4 Rxf1+ 25.Qxf1 exd5 0-1

**Brandon Jiang –  
Chouchanik Airapetian [C54]**  
WA Premier Kirkland  
(R1), February 8, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6  
5.c3 d6 6.Bb3 h6 7.h3 Be6 8.Nbd2

8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.b4 Bb6 10.0-0±

8...0-0 9.Nf1?! d5 10.Qe2 dxe4 11.dxe4  
Bxb3 12.axb3 a5 13.g4 Nh7 14.Ng3 Be7  
15.Nf5 Ng5 16.h4

16.Bxg5 Bxg5 17.Rd1 Qf6 18.h4 Bf4  
19.g5

16...Ne6 17.Rg1 Kh7 18.Be3 Re8  
19.Rd1 Qc8 20.Qb5 Bf8 21.Qe2

21.h5

21...g6 22.Ng3 Nf4 23.Qc4 Qe6 24.Qxe6  
Nxe6 25.h5 g5



Position after 25...g5

26.Nf5

26.Kd1? switches to the other wing,  
away from the dual f4/f5 outposts. 26...  
Bc5 27.Bxc5 Nxc5 28.Kc2±

26...Rad8 27.Ke2 Nf4+ 28.Bxf4 exf4  
29.Nd2

29.Rxd8 Rxd8 (29...Nxd8 30.Rd1 Rxe4+  
31.Kf1 with Rd7 coming up.) 30.Rd1  
Rxd1 31.Kxd1±

## Invitational

1st Advaith Vijayakumar \$337.50 - 2020 Washington Invitational Champion

2nd Alan Bishop \$187.50

=3rd/4th Alec Beck, Brian Lee \$93.75 each

=5th James Colasurdo, Ryan Min \$18.75 each

### 2020 washington state championship: Invitational -- Standings

#	Place	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	1	Advaith Vijayakumar	1996	2017	D7	W5	D6	D3	D8	W9	W2	W4	D10	6.5
2	2	Alan Bishop	2000	2008	L3	W8	W9	W7	W4	W10	L1	W5	L6	6.0
3	3-4	Alec Beck	1916	1928	W2	L4	W10	D1	D5	W6	L7	D8	B---	5.5
4		Brian Lee	1849	1924	D6	W3	D8	W9	L2	W7	W10	L1	D5	5.5
5	5-6	James Colasurdo	2028	2001	D10	L1	W7	D6	D3	W8	X9	L2	D4	5.0
6		Ryan Min	1898	1904	D4	W10	D1	D5	L7	L3	D8	B---	W2	5.0
7	7	Yu-Cheng Liang	1899	1894	D1	L9	L5	L2	W6	L4	W3	W10	D8	4.0
8	8	Mary Kuhner	1811	1822	D9	L2	D4	D10	D1	L5	D6	D3	D7	3.5
9	9-10	Jeffrey Yan	1958	1923	D8	W7	L2	L4	D10	L1	F5	---	---	2.0
10		Davey V Jones	1829	1798	D5	L6	L3	D8	D9	L2	L4	L7	D1	2.0



29...Bc5 30.Rge1 Ne5

30...f3+!? 31.Nxf3 (31.Kxf3 Ne5+⚭) 31...  
Rxe4+ 32.Kf1 Rxe4<sup>3</sup>

31.f3 Nd3

31...Rd3 32.b4! axb4 33.Nb3∞

32.Rf1 Nxb2 33.Ra1

33.Rb1 Nd3 34.Nc4 Ne5 (34...b6?  
35.Rbd1 Nf2 36.Rxd8 Rxd8 37.Ne5 f6?!  
38.Nc6 Rd7 39.Ncd4 and the black knight  
goes.) 35.Nxa5∞

33...b6

33...Be3!? 34.Nxe3 fxe3 35.Kxe3 Rd3+  
36.Ke2 Red8 37.Nc4 Nxc4 38.bxc4 b6⚭

34.Rab1 Nd3 35.Nc4 Ne5

35...Bf8 36.Rfd1 Nc5⚭

36.Nxe5 Rxe5 37.b4 axb4

37...Bf8

38.cxb4 Bf8 39.Rfc1

39.Rfd1

39...c5 40.bxc5 Rxc5 41.Rd1

41.Rxc5 Bxc5 42.Rd1 Rxd1 43.Kxd1

41...Rc2+ 42.Kf1

42.Ke1

42...Rxd1+

42...Rdc8 43.Rxb6 R8c3 initiates  
complications favoring Black.

43.Rxd1 b5 44.Rd5 Bc5 45.Rd7 b4  
46.Rxf7+ Kh8 47.Rb7 Rf2+ 48.Ke1



(L) Ryan Min vs Brian Lee and other Invitational section players during round one of the Washington State Championship. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Rxf3 49.Rb8+ Kh7 50.Rb7+ Kg8  
51.Nxh6+ Kf8 52.Nf5 Rh3 53.h6 Kg8  
54.Rb8+ Kf7 55.Rb7+ Kf6 56.Rb5 b3  
57.e5+ Ke6 58.Rxc5 b2 59.Ng7+ Kd7  
60.e6+

The tactics of the endgame finally turn  
in Black's favor. White needs the forced

sequence to survive: 60.Rb5 b1Q+  
61.Rxb1 Rh1+ 62.Kf2 Rxb1 63.Nh5 Ke6  
64.h7 Rb8 65.Nf6 Rh8 66.Ne4 Kxe5  
67.Nxg5 Kf6 68.Ne4+ Kg6 69.Kf3 Rxh7  
70.Kxf4

60...Kd6 61.Rb5 b1Q+ 62.Rxb1 Rh1+  
63.Ke2 Rxb1 64.Kf3 Ke7 65.Ke4 Kf6

## Challengers

1st Erin Bian \$225 - 2020 Washington Challengers Champion  
=2nd-4th Stephanie Velea, Dan Mathews, Felicity Wang \$83.33 each  
5th Edward Li \$25

### 2020 washington state championship: Challengers -- Standings

#	Place	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	1	Erin Bian	1677	W6	W3	W5	W7	W2	U---	L4	5.0
2	2-4	Stephanie Velea	1699	L4	W5	W6	U---	L1	D3	X7	3.5
3		Daniel Mathews	1688	D5	L1	U---	W4	D7	D2	W6	3.5
4		Felicity Wang	1639	W2	U---	W7	L3	D5	L6	W1	3.5
5	5	Edward Li	1644	D3	L2	L1	D6	D4	W7	U---	2.5
6	6	Duane Polich	1861	L1	D7	L2	D5	U---	W4	L3	2.0
7	7	Lorenzo Patton Jr	1606	U---	D6	L4	L1	D3	L5	F2	1.0



66.Kd5 Rd1+ 67.Ke4 Rh1 68.Kf3 Re1  
 69.Kf2 Re5 70.Ne8+ Kg6 71.Nd6 Rxe6  
 72.Nf5 Re5 73.Kf3 Rxf5 74.gxf5+ Kxh6  
 75.Ke4 Kg7 76.Kf3 Kf7 77.Kf2 g4  
 78.Kg2 Kf6 79.Kf2 Kxf5 80.Kg2 Ke4  
 81.Kf2 g3+ 82.Kg1 Kf3 83.Kf1 Ke3  
 84.Ke1 g2 0-1

Alan Bishop –  
 Mary Kuhner [C17]  
 WA Invitational Kirkland  
 (R2), February 8, 2020  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2

5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 is, of course, the main trunk with many branches here. 6...Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 (7...Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3 was the line most likely to appear when I was a more active player in the 1970s

and '80s.) 8.Bd3 Nbc6 9.Qh5 Ng6 10.Nf3 Qc7 11.Be3, for example, is common.

5...cxd4

More common is 5...Ne7 6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0, and now three choices for move 8.— a) 8.f4 a6 (8...f6 9.Nf3) 9.Nd6 cxd4 10.Nf3 Nbc6 11.Bd3 f6 12.0-0 fxe5 13.fxe5 Rxf3 has scored for Black.; b) 8.c3 Nbc6 (8...f6 9.f4 Nbc6 10.Nf3) 9.f4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nf5 11.Nf3 looks balanced.; c) 8.dxc5 Nd7 9.f4 Nxc5 10.0-0-0!?

6.Nb5 Bf8

We really had to work hard to get out of book. Known options here: 6...Bc5 7.Qg4 (or 7.b4!?!); 6...Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Nc6 8.f4 (or 8.Nf3.)

7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Qb6 9.a4 Bc5 10.a5 Qd8 11.Bd3 a6 12.Na3 Nge7 13.0-0 Nf5 14.Qe1 Qe7 15.Kh1 h5 16.Qe2 Bd7 17.Rfb1 h4 18.Qe1 b5?!?

18...h3 19.b4 hxg2+ 20.Kxg2 Ba7∞

19.axb6 Bxb6 20.Nb5!



Position after 20.Nb5

20...0-0!?

It is hard to maintain the advanced h-pawn, and therefore king safety, after castling.

21.Nd6! f6

21...Nxd6 22.exd6 Qxd6 23.Qxh4+–



(L) Joshua Lewis-Sandy vs Joseph Frantz and other Premier section players.  
 Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



22.Nxf5 exf5 23.Nxh4 Qf7 24.exf6  
 24.e6!?! Bxe6 25.Nxf5  
 24...Qxf6 25.Bxa6 Kf7 26.Nf3 Rh8  
 27.Ng5+ Kg8 28.Bc4! Re8 29.Bxd5+  
 Kf8 30.Bb4+ Ne7 31.Ra6 g6 32.Ne6+  
 Or 32.Rxb6! Qxb6 33.Qe5 Rh6 34.Re1+—  
 32...Bxe6 33.Rxb6 Kg7 34.Rxe6 Nxd5  
 35.Rxe8 Rxe8 36.Qxe8 Nxb4 37.Re1  
 Nd5 38.Qd7+ Qf7 39.Qxf7+ Kxf7  
 40.Rd1 Ne3 41.Rxd4

That must have been fun... for at least one of the players.

1-0

**Chouchanik Airapetian –  
 Joseph Frantz [C70]**  
 WA Premier Kirkland  
 (R6), February 15, 2020  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6  
 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6  
 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7  
 12.a4 Re8

12...c5 is a little more common. Two main choices on move 13.— **a)** 13.Bc2 Re8 (or 13...Qc7 14.d5 c4 15.Nf1) 14.d5 c4 15.Nf1 (15.b3!?! cxb3 16.Nxb3 Qc7 17.Bd2±) 15...Bf8 16.Ng3 g6 17.Bg5 transposes into a much more popular line, often continuing 17...h6 18.Be3 Nc5 19.Qd2±; **b)** 13.d5 c4 14.Bc2 Nc5 15.Nf1 with a typically unclear Ruy Lopez/ Spanish position.

13.Ng5 Rf8 14.Qe2 b4

14...c5 is a normal Spanish idea.

15.Ngf3 c5 16.d5 Nh5

The loose knight on the rim could cause some problems (see next note). 16...a5±

17.e4?!

17.Nc4 bxc3 (17...Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.a5±) 18.bxc3 a5 (18...Nf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 20.a5±) 19.Nfxe5±

17...Nf4 18.Qf1 g5?



Position after 18...g5

The kingside pawn storm must have looked imposing at the time, but in reality White is well-positioned to repel Black's attempt, and a little later the advanced black pawns will help White when she is ready to open kingside lines for her own attack. 18...Nf6 19.g3 Ng6±

19.g3 Ng6 20.Bc2 Kh8 21.Nh2 Bc8  
 22.Ndf3 Rg8 23.Ng4 Kg7 24.Ne3 f6  
 25.Nf5+ Kh8 26.Nh2 a5 27.b3 Ra6  
 28.Qe2 Bf8 29.Ng4 Ne7 30.Nge3 Bg7  
 31.Bd2 Nf8 32.Qf3 Nfg6 33.Kf1 Ra7  
 34.Ke2 Nxf5 35.exf5 Ne7 36.Be4 Rf8  
 37.Rh1 Bd7 38.Rh2 Ng8 39.Rah1 h6

Black's lack of space and poor coordination has allowed White complete

freedom to prepare the kingside break for the last 20 moves. Now it's time.

40.h4 Rf7 41.Ng4 Be8 42.Qe3 Bd7  
 43.hxg5 fxg5 44.Qxg5 Qxg5 45.Bxg5  
 Bxf5 46.Bxf5 Rxf5 47.Bxh6 Nxh6  
 48.Nxh6 Rf8 49.Nf5+ Kg8 50.Nxd6 1-0

**Joshua Lewis-Sandy (2055) –  
 Brandon Jiang (2105) [C53]**  
 WA State Championship Premier  
 Kirkland, WA (R5), February 15, 2020  
*[Brandon Jiang]*

As a top seed in the Premier section, I



WCF President Josh Sinanan writes out the prize winner checks.  
 Photo Credit: Chouchanik Airapetian.



had a high hope before the start of the tournament. After starting three out of four in the first four rounds, I got three draws and one loss in the next four rounds and hence lost the hope to win the section. This is the first of four bad games and a lot of mistakes happened. Analyzing own games and finding problem is the best way to improve in chess. I spent tons of times analyzing this game (alone and with my coach) and learned a lot. I hope readers will be interested in my analysis and learn something from this game.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Bb6 5.d3 Qe7?!**

I was not sure why I played this meaningless move, should just stick with the normal moves such as Nf6. 5...Nf6 6.Nbd2 d6 7.0-0 h6 8.b4 Ne7 (8...0-0 9.a4 a6 10.Bb3 Ne7 11.Nc4 Ba7 12.Be3 Ng6 13.a5 Bxe3 14.Nxe3 Nf4) 9.Bb3 c6 10.d4 Ng6 11.Nc4 (11.dxe5 dxe5 12.a4 0-0 13.a5 Bc7 14.Qc2 Nh5 15.Nc4 Bg4 16.Ne1 Nh4 17.f3 Be6 18.Be3 h5 19.Rd1 1/2 (19) Adams,M (2732)-Sokolov,I (2652) London/Crowthorne 2006) 11...0-0 (11...Bc7 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8+) 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8 Bxd8 14.Ncxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Nxe4 16.Re1 Bf5= (16...Nf6 17.Ba3 Bc7 18.Ng6 Rd8 19.Re7 Bd6 20.Bxf7+ Kh7 21.Ree1 Rd7 22.Be6 Kxg6 23.Bxd7 Bxd7+ 0-1 (67) Kravtsov,M

(2672)-Grischuk,A (2772) Riyadh 2017)

**6.b4 Nf6 7.Nbd2 d6 8.Bb2**

I also was not sure whether Joshua put bishop in b2, seems to me not nature.

**8...0-0 9.Bb3 Be6**

9...a6 10.a4 Nh5 11.Nd4 Nf4 12.Nxc6 Nxd3+ 13.Ke2 Nf4+†

**10.0-0 Nh5**

10...a6!?

**11.Nc4 g6?**

going to Nf4 directly should be an easy choice. Extra g6 move is useless and waste of time. 11...Nf4 12.a4 a5 13.Nxb6 cxb6 14.b5 Nb8 15.Ba3 Nd7 16.d4 Rfd8 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Qg5

**12.a4 Bxc4 13.Bxc4 a5 14.b5 Nb8 15.Qd2 Kh8?!**

15...Nd7 is more nature: develop a piece and connect rooks

**16.Qh6 f6?!**

intend to trade queen at g7, but I did not see Ng6.

**17.Nh4**

oop, I cannot play 17...Qg7!

**17...Rg8**

17...Qg7?? 18.Nxg6+ Qxg6 19.Qxf8+

Qg8 20.Qxg8#

**18.Bxg8 Kxg8 19.g3 Nd7 20.Kg2 Nc5 21.Rfd1 Qe6 22.Ra3??**

Not sure why Joshua moved the rook to a3, what is the purpose?!

**22...Qg4??**



Position after 22...Qg4

When the worse is over, I was a little too happy and missed the simple win 22...Nf4+ 23.Kg1 (23.gxf4 Qg4+ 24.Kf1 Qxd1+) 23...Ncxd3 (23...Nfxd3 24.Ba1 Nxe4 25.Rxd3 Nxf2+ crushing.) 24.Rxd3 (24.gxf4 Qg4+) 24...Nxd3 25.Nxg6 Bxf2+ 26.Kh1 Bc5 27.Ra1 f5

**23.f3 Qe6 24.d4 Nxa4 25.Ba1 Nc5 26.dxc5 Bxc5 27.Qc1 Qc4 28.Bb2 Bxa3?!**

This is a questionable move. Here



(L) Varin Nallabothula vs Hiruna Devadithya and other Reserve section players at the WA President's Cup. Photo Credit: Travis Olson.



bishop is much stronger than rook. 28... g5 29.Ra1 Qe2+ 30.Kh1 gxh4 31.Qd2 Qxf3+ 32.Qg2 Qxg2+ 33.Kxg2+

**29.Bxa3 g5?**

A mistake 29...Qe2+

**30.Nf5 Qe2+ 31.Kg1 Qxf3 32.Qc2 Ng7 33.Rf1 Qh5 34.Ne7+ Kf7 35.Nd5 Ne8 36.Qb3 Kg7 37.b6 cxb6?**

37...a4

**38.Qxb6 Qf7 39.Bxd6??**

Close to the first time control, Joshua

made the mistake and threw away the win. He probably did not think of Black's response. 39.Rb1 should easily convert the material advantage in the endgame

**39...Ra6!**

Now worst is over and Black survived.

**40.Qc5 Rxd6 41.Qxa5 Qd7 42.c4 Rc6 43.Qb4 h5 44.Rf2 Ra6 45.Rb2 Nd6 46.c5 Ra4 47.Qb6 Nxe4 48.Qxb7 Ra7**

I wanted to play for a win, but did not do it correctly. 48...Qf7 if Black wants to play for a win.

**49.c6! Rxb7 50.Rxb7 Qf7 51.Rxf7+ Kxf7 52.c7 Nd6 53.Nb6 Ke6 54.c8Q+ Nxe8 55.Nxc8 f5 56.Kf2 f4 57.Nb6 Kf5 58.Nc4 e4 59.Kg2 h4 60.gxh4 gxh4 61.h3 Ke6 62.Nb6 Ke5 63.Kf2 Kd4 64.Ke2 Ke5 65.Kd2 Kd4 66.Nd7 f3 67.Nf6**

Notation stopped here due to mutual time trouble. After a few moves, draw was agreed. I only had a few seconds left in my clock at the end of game. A long and exhausted game, a lot mistakes. I hope I would do better next time.

1/2-1/2



*Tournament Director Fred Kleist during the WA State Championship.  
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*

## Alexandra Botez joins Susan Polgar Foundation Board of Directors

Grandmaster Susan Polgar is pleased to announce the election of Women's FIDE Master Alexandra Botez to the eleven-member Board of Directors of The Susan Polgar Foundation (SPF). Alexandra is a Social Media Influencer with more than 200,000 followers across social platforms, as well as being one of top three most popular chess streamers in the world.

She was born in Canada and moved to the United States while in elementary school. She began competing in SPF events at the age of ten, and twice represented her home state of Oregon in the prestigious SPF Girls' Invitational. Alexandra also represented Canada in three Chess Olympiads, and was the U.S. Girl's Under 18 Champion. She graduated from Stanford University in 2017, where she was the first female President of the chess club.

Founded in 2002, SPF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported by charitable donations. The Foundation was established by Susan Polgar, winner of four Women's World Chess Championships and the first woman to break the gender barrier in chess. The mission of the Susan Polgar Foundation is to promote chess, with all its educational, social, and competitive benefits throughout the United States, for young people of all ages, especially girls. The Susan Polgar Foundation is the proud sponsor of the annual SPICE Cup, SPF Girl's Invitational, SPF National Open for Boys & Girls, SPF World Open for Boys & Girls, and numerous other events.

Together with its university partners, SPF has awarded more than \$6 million in college scholarships, chess training materials and other valuable prizes during the past 18 years.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls Saturday-Sunday, October 3-4<sup>th</sup> 2020



**Prizes include \$100,000 in Scholarships to [Webster University!](#)**

**Site:** Hyatt Regency Bellevue: 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004-4206 Phone: 425.698.4250, Request the Polgar Chess block. For online hotel reservations: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-POLG>

**Info:** [spfno.com](http://spfno.com) **Register:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration) **Email:** [WCF.Tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:WCF.Tournaments@gmail.com) **Call:** 206.769.3757

**2-Day Championship Sections:** K-5 Open, K-8 Open, K-12 Open, K-5 Girls, K-8 Girls, K-12 Girls. 6SS, G/60;d5. Dual NWSRS & US Chess rated.

**1-Day Sections (Saturday only):** K-3 Open, 4-8 Open, 9-12 Open, K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, 4-8 U900. 5SS, G/30;d5. Dual NWSRS & US Chess rated Open Sections, NWSRS rated Reserve Sections. WA State Elementary Qualifier.

**Fun Side Events:** Parents & Coaches Seminar, Girls Workshop, Simul and Q&A, Breakfast w/ Susan, Polgar Chess Camp, Puzzle Solving Competition, Blitz Championship.



# The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

Hope you are all keeping safe. Due to our unprecedented virus response, little has happened in the Grand Prix. Only one event occurred, in early March, and that one was not well attended. Thus, there is no real need for a table of standings this month.

With stay-at-home being the rule of the day, chess tournaments that are still going to happen are happening online. The first weekend of April had two such Grand Prix tournaments, held via chess.com. Both were memorial tournaments, the Clark Harmon Memorial, held by the Washington Chess Federation, and the Arthur Dake Memorial, held by the Portland Chess Club. All other Grand Prix events for April have been canceled.

May is probably still going to be a time without face-to-face chess. Washington is remaining shut down until at least May 4. I do not know what the situation will be for Idaho or Oregon, but, as a biologist, I have a strong feeling that we won't yet be out of the woods on this. The Northwest Chess Open, originally scheduled for earlier this year, has been rescheduled to May 9 and 10, via chess.com. I have been told that the Washington Open, traditionally a Memorial Day weekend event, is either going to be postponed or moved online. The monthly Seattle Chess Club events are currently still on the calendar, but time will tell what their fate may be. I have nothing to pass on about Idaho or Oregon.

Eventually, things will get back to normal, whatever our new normal turns out to be. When is still unclear. Even if chess is your life, it is not worth dying for, so try playing online. Social spacing at its best! Keep an eye on the Northwest Chess website (nwchess.com) for details. I'll be back next month with standings to include those two tournaments mentioned above, and maybe we'll have a better idea by then as to what the future holds for chess.



Murlin Varner. Photo credit: Laurel Varner.

***THE CDC  
SAYS WE  
SHOULD  
WEAR  
MASKS  
WHEN WE  
GO OUT...***

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙  
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←  
 Seattle WA 98133

↗ Info ↖  
 206-417-5405

[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)  
 kleistcf@aol.com

Addresses for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir

2420 S 137 St

Seattle WA 98168

[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

☞ **May 23, June 13**

**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rgt. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

**Saturday Quads** ☞

☞ **May 3, Jun 7**

**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$8 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF 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/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

**Sunday Tornado** ☞

**June 14 New Date**

**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$13 by 6/10, \$18 at site. (-\$4 SCC mem., -\$2 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership. **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 Annual Meeting, Fri. May 8

*Come elect the SCC Board of Directors for the next twelve months (minus one week)!!*

### SCC 2020 Wknd. Schedule (rev.), May--Dec.

**Novice:** June 14, Aug 30, Oct 25. **Quads:** May 23, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 1 & 29, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 21, Dec 19. **Tornado:** Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 1, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.

<b>Emerald City Open</b>	19-21 June
<b>Seafair Open</b>	24-26 July
<b>Seattle Fall Open</b>	18-20 Sept.
<b>Extravaganza</b>	6-8 Nov.

The COVID-19 epidemic prowls the land and nonessential businesses, such as the SCC, will be closed until at least May 4. We optimistically present our subsequent schedule, realizing more cancelations are probable. If you would like help the SCC pay its rent, you can donate or join through our website. Microsoft employees can also donate, and have their donations matched, through Microsoft. Stay healthy!!

## Emerald City Open

June 21-23 or 22-23

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/90 & SD/30;+30 (Rd 1 of 2-day schedule – G/60;d5). The prize fund of \$700 is based on thirty-five entries.

### a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1700)	
<b>First</b>	<b>\$180</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>\$130</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<b>U1900</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>U1400</b>	<b>\$50</b>
		<b>Unr</b>	<b>\$15</b>

**Upset (rds 1-4) \$10**

**Entry Fees:** \$42 if rec'd by 6/19, \$55 at site. *SCC members*—subtract \$12. Members of other dues-required CCs in WA—subtract \$6. *Unr*—free with purchase (at SCC) of 1-year US Chess and WCF. **Add \$10 for U1600 playing in Open Section. Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule. Registration:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m., Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rounds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-4:30. **Byes:** 2 (for Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF/ICA membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.



# Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2020 Northwest Grand Prix event.  
Seattle Chess Club events see page 30.

**May 4, 11, 18** Northwest Chess Webinars, **Online via Zoom**. Full-Page Ad Page 12.

♣ **May 9-10** Northwest Chess Open, **Online via chess.com**. Half-Page Ad Page 16.

**May 16-18** 45th Annual Keres Memorial, **Richmond, BC (Canada)**. ←Canceled!!

**May 16** Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships, **Online via chess.com**. Full-Page Ad Page 19.

♣ **May 23-25** Washington Open, **Online via chess.com**. Full-Page Ad page 25.

**Oct 3-4** 15th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls, **Bellevue, WA**. Half-Page Ad page 28.



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