

# December

Merry Christmas to all,  
and to all a good knight!

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From Northwest Chess



# 2020

## Northwest Chess

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Bug-Eyed Knight. Photo credit Ralph Dubisch.

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## Oregon Chess Federation Rejoins NWC

We're pleased to announce that the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) has rejoined *Northwest Chess* (NWC), as of the October 8 NWC board meeting.

OCF members have the option of purchasing a "Premium" membership with NWC paper magazine copies and other benefits, or a "Basic" membership with online-only access to NWC magazine. Premium memberships cost the same as previously — \$30 (annually) for adults, \$25 for seniors age 65 or older, and \$24 for juniors under age 21 at expiration. For now, there are only two Basic membership options — \$17.50 for adults, or \$10.00 for juniors. These prices will be good until at least November 2021. Basic members will be notified via email each month when a new magazine is available for viewing on Google Drive. Magazines will continue to be available to everyone online approximately one month after publication. Currently Basic memberships are only available to OCF members (not other states) via this special agreement with NWC.

Basic OCF membership options have already been added to the tournament online registration system at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>, and will be added to the regular PayPal membership page by next year. An alternative membership management system is also being considered, which would be more automatic than the current system. If you use online registration, please log in and verify that your membership type and expiration date appear to be correct; otherwise email [info@nwchess.com](mailto:info@nwchess.com) to request an update. Basic memberships have "O" (for online) appended to the membership code — for example, "AO" for an adult membership with online-only magazine access.

All members are strongly encouraged to consider paying the few extra dollars for convenient paper copies, which many people still prefer for reading. The extra benefits will include free registration for online seminars such as the ones sponsored by the WCF this past summer. Other benefits, including tournament discounts, are also being considered.

Thanks,

Eric Holcomb

NWC Business Manager



# Cousin Ken

By Karen Schmidt

I recently reconnected with a long-lost cousin on my mother's side of the family. We had lost touch decades ago once we got to high school age because they lived in Spokane, and we lived in Yakima. What a thrill to find out that Cousin Ken, who now lives in Monroe, Washington, is an avid online chess player! During the years we were out of touch, he lived for several years in Texas, and he has been playing a weekly chess game with his Texas friend, Jim Nyman, since 1976! After Ken moved away from Austin, he and Jim first tried to play via postal mail but found that a bit cumbersome. Soon they found a way to play online using an early primitive chess program. Now they play weekly on [chess.com](http://chess.com).

Ken and I are now also playing a weekly game on [chess.com](http://chess.com). We usually have a chat before the game about all things chess; I learn the most amazing things about my extended family, including my mom, aunt and uncle, and maternal grandmother. We play a one-hour per person game (60+15) and then analyze the [chess.com](http://chess.com) stats after each game.

I have discovered over these recent months that Ken has led quite an interesting life; I talked him into being the subject of one of my monthly chess stories for *Northwest Chess*. As opposed to some of my "subjects" when I often must pull teeth to get story material, Ken was ready with about three or four stories for each question. I may have to do a sequel about him down the road!

Ken has always been very curious about "how things work," which is probably how he ended up as a chess player as well as having a career as an electrical engineer. This past summer one of his projects was to install solar panels on their detached shed along with a maze of electrical wiring and stuff, which will reduce their home electrical bill a bit every month. He thinks his earliest curiosity about how things work goes back to the age of two. He has a photo of himself at age two in a highchair, examining a warm flash bulb with a very puzzled expression on his face. This was back in the day when you used a camera to take pictures and used one flashbulb per indoor picture. His dad had taken a photo of him in the highchair with a big, surprising flash, and then he handed him the slightly cooled down bulb to ponder.

Another early fascination a few years later was how vacuum tubes worked. His grandfather in Spokane had a hardware store and did vacuum tube testing in the store, as well as selling vacuum tubes for TVs, radios, etc. His granddad would give Ken the old ones in a paper bag; he would take them home and break the outer glass with a hammer (bulb still in the paper bag) and then examine the insides and parts: sheets of metal, spirals of wire, white powder, and colored wires.

A couple weeks ago as we were chatting about childhood experiences, Ken told me about an amazing project he was engaged in during grades six through eight in Spokane. He was the editor of a monthly community newsletter: *The South Hill Scoop*, with a circulation of 2000, complete with advertisements from neighborhood businesses. He explained that although he was rather an introvert by nature, during those years, he had to take on a "dual personality" as a salesman of ads to the business owners, with a different sales approach depending on the personality of the business owner he was approaching! (Reminds me of chess: figuring out the style and tactics of every new chess opponent!)

I found it amazing that a 12- to 14-year-old had the energy, creativity and organization to pull off a venture of this complexity. This would have been around 1960. The newsletters were mimeographed, and Ken paid other kids \$1 per month to deliver 100 copies in their areas. (Once a neighbor called to alert him that he had found a stack of newsletters in the gutter; that delivery kid got fired.) Ken had an editorial corner on the front page of every issue, "Kenny's Korner," and wrote stories about newcomer residents and businesses in the South Hill neighborhood. Once he interviewed Ricky Nelson at his hotel when he was in Spokane to perform! He netted about \$50 in his highest-profit month, but when I asked him what he spent all that money on (I was guessing *MAD* magazines), he told me that my aunt and uncle had convinced him that all proceeds should go into "Kenny's college fund." So that is what happened, and the \$600 he earned over three years went toward his WSU college education. Very manipulative of my aunt and uncle, in my humble opinion. But both of our sets of parents were very frugal, and this saved his folks \$600 worth of college expenses!

My uncle, Ken's father, taught him to play chess in about the sixth grade. His mom and dad were self-employed, and Ken surmises that my uncle did not have

time to play chess with him every day. So, my uncle began giving Ken "queen odds" (playing without his own queen), and then gradually improving Ken's skill level and confidence with "rook odds," "bishop odds," and so on. Eventually his dad suggested that Ken should start playing classmates, who might be more challenging opponents. So, Ken told me, he did just that. He and classmates played *during class* every day by passing a four-inch square of paper with an eight by eight grid and penciled in chess pieces: P for pawn; K for king; etc. When they made a move, they would erase the piece from one square and pencil it into the new square, then pass the paper to the opponent. He did not recall ever being caught by the teachers, even though chess playing took place during many classes every day! To me this was ingenious, and I wish I had thought of it.

Ken and I were reminiscing about various youthful indiscretions when he told me a story about the day his class was watching a movie — dark room, white screen, projector, no doubt something educational — when a bully sitting next to him began jabbing him in the dark. No one could see, so Ken hauled off and slugged the bully in the face. The only negative consequence was that his own watch stopped working after the impact. He knew he would be in big trouble at home for breaking his watch. So, in an example of his curiosity about how things work, he took his watch apart after school, figured out which movable part was in the wrong place, fixed it, and put it back together. Hence my aunt and uncle never found out. He described this as a good example of the aphorism, "necessity is the mother of invention."

I must include one other example of "Necessity is the mother of invention." I had no brothers and little exposure to boys, except at school, so I found these tales of eluding parental authority amazing. My mom ran a very tight ship, and it never would have occurred to me to do something I needed to hide from her. My aunt and uncle, Ken's parents, had an interior decorating shop in Spokane, "Scotty Holmes Studio," on South Division. When Ken was in sixth or seventh grade, his folks had bought a new calculator for the business; my aunt was the bookkeeper as well as general manager; my uncle did custom upholstery. They had instructed Ken *never* to play with the calculator, which was an early large model with no tape and hundreds of internal moving parts. So, one day when the folks were gone, Ken decided to check out the calculator. He immediately



*Ken Holmes (right, with his dad's PRESS hat) and his sister Sandy Holmes, taken in 1959 or 1960 in Spokane. It was during the era of Ken's community newsletter in Spokane. Sandy used to help Ken go out and sell the ads. Photo credit: Scotty Holmes (Ken's dad).*

jammed two keys, and to his horror, could not get them unstuck. The only solution was to take the cover off the calculator and figure it out. He looked at all the parts: gears, pulleys, levers, ratchets, and so on. He could see that underneath the top layer of moving parts he would be able to adjust the two stuck keys. But he could not fit his fingers down into that lower level. So, he carefully removed the top layer of parts and set them aside in their exact configuration, tweaked the stuck keys, and then replaced the mass of parts. He was just putting the last screw in the cover when his mom and dad drove in the driveway. He told me that he waited about forty years to tell his mom

about this adventure. I think the statute of limitations had run out by then.

In Ken's more recent adult life, besides playing online chess and doing lots of chess puzzles, he enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, building stuff (including most of the log home he and his wife live in), and he also wrote a book with his wife, Gianna! Being an avid reader and writer myself, I find this admirable and absolutely mind-boggling. So far, my only published works are stories for *Northwest Chess* and two articles for *Bird Watchers Digest*. The name of their book is, *Are You Still Kissing Frogs?* (available online on [Amazon](#)) I am currently reading

and enjoying the book, which deals with creative ways to find a compatible and enjoyable life partner.

Ken is yet another example of the chess-math-music connection, which I have discussed in previous columns: the fact that people who have an aptitude for chess also seem to have an aptitude for math and music. He took up playing tuba in fifth grade and went on to play sousaphone all through high school. During our interview, Ken and I touched on several interesting ways that chess relates to, and can *improve*, the rest of life.

One concept is that chess can improve one's ability to "feel the fear and





*This chess set was a gift from Ken's Austin, Texas, friend Jim Nyman. The photo was taken in the log home that Ken built and currently lives in. Photo credit: Ken Holmes.*

do it anyway." I have noticed this myself, as I used to be terrified during tournament games. Once I resolved to just *play the board*, and not focus on the opponent, I felt a lot less fearful. And I do think that this can translate to other aspects of life: public speaking in front of a group; a job interview; or even just trying something new for the first time.

Speaking of fear, we also discussed how overcoming fear and relaxing the mind can enable one to do amazing things. This certainly applies to chess; I

remember playing a tournament game against an 1800-rated woman player. (My skill level is around 1400, 1500 on a good day.) I was quite relaxed, with a goal of just playing as well as possible. I was amazed as the game progressed to realize that we were dead even for most of the three-hour game. The game could have gone either way. I lost in the end, but that was the best chess game I have ever played.

Ken had another very interesting example of this principle. As a

sophomore in high school, he was taking a world history test. He had successfully completed all the questions, except one essay question which he did not know the answer to. He relaxed his mind — similar to meditation — and mentally pictured the lower right-hand corner block of text on the history book page which covered this question. He pictured seeing the word, and as he did this, the words became clearer. He was able to read the words... which gave him half of the answer. In his mind, he then turned the page, and read the rest of the paragraph on that following page. He was then able to answer the question in full. While we may not all be able to pull off a feat of photographic memory, I do know that relaxing the mind during chess (taking deep breaths, taking a quick walking break, reminding oneself that there is plenty of time on the clock, etc.) can help one find the best move.

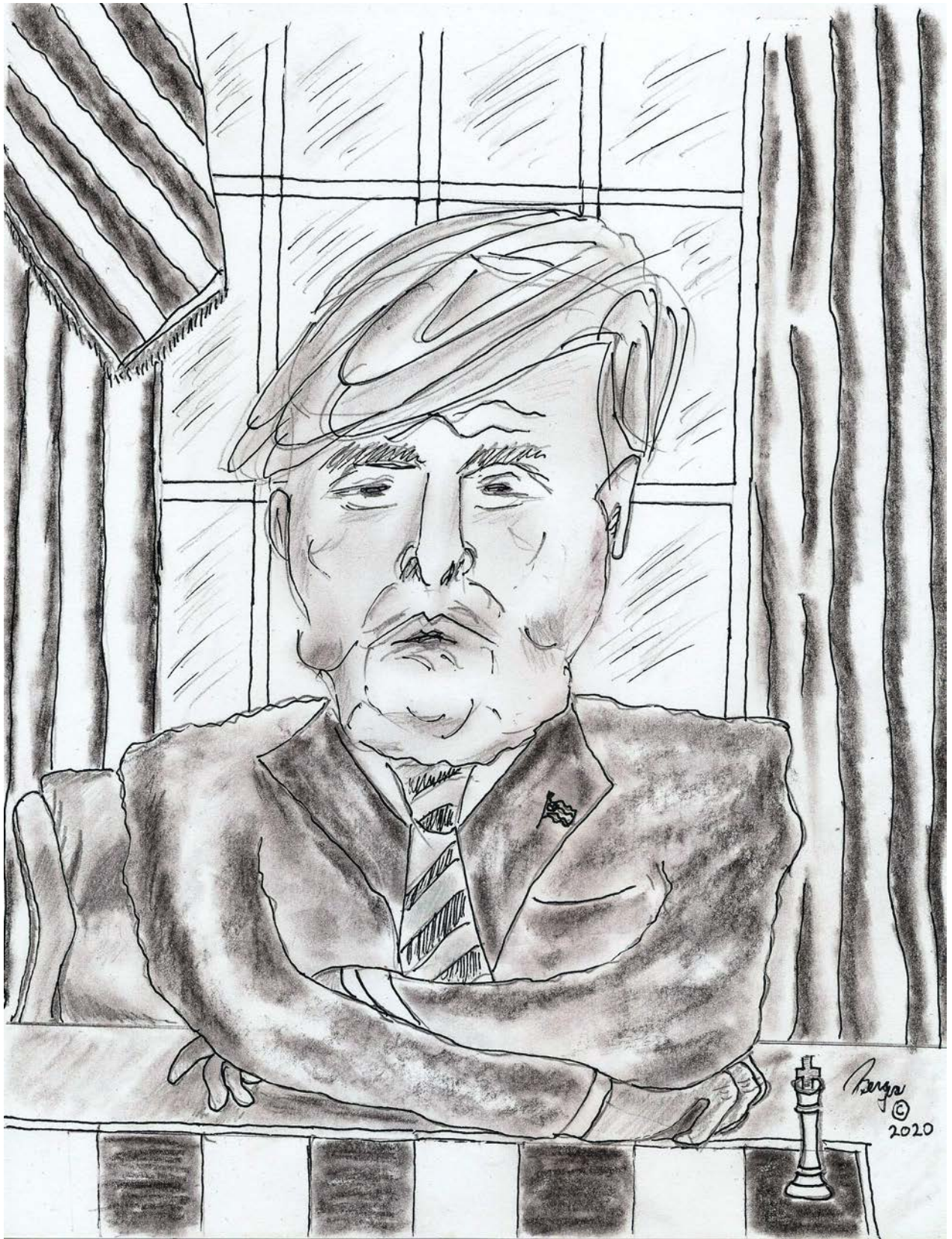
Ken and I talked about how it is important to keep doing mental exercise — beyond books and reading — to exercise the brain and build mental endurance. Chess is one way to accomplish this. Both Ken and I are big fans of doing chess puzzles, chess tutorials (many for free on YouTube these days), and playing against the computer. In September, by increasing the number of chess puzzles he solved daily, Ken was able to increase his [chess.com](http://chess.com) "puzzle rating" by 100 points in less than a month. He also recommends a Fred Reinfeld book, *Win at Chess* (this puzzle book has been revised with modern algebraic chess notation).

Another book which he highly recommends is titled *Logical Chess, Move by Move*, by Irving Chernev — which also uses the modern chess notation. One of Chernev's maxims was that you do not have to be a memory expert or see twelve moves ahead; just follow a few basic principles and guidelines to improve your chess. These would include the key concepts: look for checks, captures, and threats; develop your pieces; castle early; create good pawn structure; control the center; and so on.

Lastly, Ken mentioned Magnus Carlsen's dual approach: vigorous physical training to improve strength and endurance as well as mental training with chess problems and puzzles, etc. We would refer to this as the "mind-body connection." I will be doing my daily chess puzzles, exercising my brain, and walking Green Lake as I get ready to play Cousin Ken next week.

Stay well and keep playing chess, 'til next time!





**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR!  
ORDER MY OPPONENT TO RESIGN! I'VE WON!**



# Readers' Showcase

(Miscellaneous Games Submitted For Publication)

## 2020 U.S. Class Championships in Dulles, VA

By Derin Goktepe

This was truly a unique experience. I had not played an over-the-board chess tournament since mid-February and it felt different to use my hand to move the chess pieces instead of using a computer mouse.

My family was not sure if the tournament was really going to happen over the board. Almost one day before the tournament, my mom emailed the organizer and learned that the tournament was a go. She carefully checked the quarantine rules for Washington state, and we were luckily not requiring to be in quarantine when we arrived in Washington D.C. She purchased our flight tickets and made our hotel reservation at the last second. We packed our luggage and went on our way quickly. I could not believe that we were really going to the tournament until we reached the tournament hall.

At the tournament, everyone was wearing mandatory face masks, and some even face shields and gloves too. Chess boards were arranged according to the safe distance rules. The tournament directors also gave free hand sanitizer to players at the beginning of the first round to encourage to sanitize hands frequently. Before each round, players' temperatures were checked before entering the playing hall. After every round, the pieces would be wiped twice, once by players and once by the tournament directors. Spectators were not allowed in the playing room and players were also not allowed to stay in the playing room after their game finished.

The U.S. Class Championship was a five-round Swiss-system tournament that included the sections: Class E/unrated, Class D, Class C, Class B, Class A, Expert, and Master. The top three sections were both FIDE and US Chess rated. There was a total of around 130 players in the tournament. I played in the Expert section against some very tough players and managed to get 3.0/5 points and tied for fourth place.



*Derin Goktepe. Photo credit: Gulin Goktepe.*

This year, GM-elect Hans Niemann won the Master class on tiebreaks, Guy Cardwell won the Expert class with 5.0/5, Andrew Bledsoe won the Class A with 4.5/5, Samuel He won Class B with 5.0/5, Anantha Kumar and Siddharth Kurup tied for first in Class C with both 4.0/5, Cole

Frankenhoff won Class D with 5.0/5, and Ethan Shaffer and Daks Dudipala Jr. tied for first place in Class E with 5.0/6.

Overall, it was a very well-organized tournament by Capital Area Chess and I am glad that we were able to go.



**Derin Goktepe (1930) –  
Brian Tay (2014) [E73]**  
2020 US Class Championship  
Dulles, VA (R5), November 1, 2020  
[Derin Goktepe]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7**

My opponent played the King's Indian.

**4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 a5**

The Semi-Averbakh variation.

**8.g4 Na6 9.h4 Nd7**

My opponent played 9...Nd7 which was a little odd because the normal move is 9...Nc5, and one possible line that could happen is 10.f3 h5 11.g5 and Black has a few choices here.

**10.h5 Ndc5**

I took advantage of the inaccuracy ...Nd7.

**11.Qd2 f5**

11...f5 here seems like a mistake because after

**12.hxg6 hxg6 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.f3**

the g- and h- files are both open for me to attack.

**14...f4 15.Bf2 a4 16.0-0-0 a3**

An interesting move because it sacrifices a pawn to create weaknesses in my queen side. I think that it is a possible option to take the pawn here, but I did not want to give my opponent any counterplay, so I decided to ignore.

**17.b3 Nb4 18.Bxc5**

18.Bxc5 was a mistake because in the game, I did not want any tactics such as ...Nxa2+ or ...Nxb3+ to happen to me in the future when I might be caught unguarded, so I decided to simplify. Some better moves that I could have played were 18.Kb1 or 18.Nh3.

**18...dxc5 19.Bf1 Rf6**

I wanted to maneuver my bishop to h3 so I could trade his important light-squared bishop.

**20.Bh3 Bxh3 21.Nxh3 Rg6 22.Qe2**



Position after 22.Qe2

**22...Qf6**

My plan was if my opponent played 22...Rg3 next, I could go 23.Nf2 and play Ng4 next. After 23.Nf2, if he played ...Rg2, then I can go Qf1 and next move Ng4.

**23.Rdg1 Rxd1**

This move was a mistake because after Rxd1, I take control over the g-file and I can play Ng5 and Ne6 and win easily. Also, the game was going on for almost four hours now, and the game started in the late afternoon, so I was starting to get tired. Because of that, I nearly offered a draw after 23.Rdg1, but I stopped myself and decided to play on.

**24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Ng5 Rd7 26.Qh2 Qh6 27.Qxh6 Bxh6**

Now it only takes a little more precision to win the game.

**28.Ne6+ Kh7 29.Nxc5 Rf7 30.Nxb7 Bf8 31.Nd8 Rf6 32.Ne6 Bd6 33.Rh1+ Kg8 34.Rh5 Rg6**

Now after 35.Rg5, the game is basically won.

**35.Rg5 Rxd5 36.Nxg5 Bc5 37.Ne6 Bd4 38.Nxd4 exd4 39.Nb5 Nxa2+ 40.Kd2 Nb4 41.Nxa3 Kf7 42.Nc2 Nxc2 43.Kxc2 Kf6 44.Kd3**

1-0

## States Cup Online

By Jim Tarjan

These two games were played in the recent States Cup Online team competition. My first and second games from the match Oregon vs. Arizona. The time control was 15 minutes with (only) a two second increment added. For me this is a fast time control, especially when things get down to that two second increment.

**Amudan Mangudi –  
Jim Tarjan [B06]**

States Cup Online: Arizona vs. Oregon  
lichess.org, October 22, 2020  
[Jim Tarjan]

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.a3 Nd7 7.Be2 c5 8.Be3 Bb7 9.e5 Nh6 10.e6**

Running Black over right away is definitely a reasonable idea in this sort of Modern Defense position. However, expending a tempo on the defensive 6.a3 does not jive with the aggressive 10.e6 and 11.Ng5.

**10...fxe6 11.Ng5 Nf5**

An important resource: Black is able to respond aggressively in turn, rather than having to grovel defending e6 by ...Nf8.

**12.Bf2**

A good moment to expend a couple of those precious 15 minutes trying to calculate just what is going on here. My instinct was Black just had to stand well, and I was right, though not the way I played it.

**12...Bxd4**

After the game, with plenty of time and that infernal computer to help, everything looks so obvious: 12...Nxd4 and indeed Black is easily on top: 13.Bxd4 cxd4 (even better than 13...Bxd4 which also favors Black) 14.Nxe6 Qb6 15.Nxg7+ Kf7.

**13.Nxe6 Bxf2+**

Black is still better in a couple of different ways, but I had worked it out to the position after my 17th move, which just had to be winning for me...

13...Qb6; 13...Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qc8

**14.Kxf2 Qb6 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.Qxd5 c4+ 17.Ke1 Rc8**



Position after 17...Rc8

His turn to think and think. I figured OK, now the smoke has cleared after the opening and he is realizing just how badly it has gone for him. A nice, smooth victory with Black to start the match. That is what I thought during the game, after the game, and as I started to carefully analyze the game the next day. When that infernal machine pointed out something we both totally missed at the board — and might have missed even in a careful post mortem — do you see it?

**18.Ng5**

18.Qxf5!! captures the knight and totally turns the tide.

**18...Rf8**

Now everything is back where I thought it was: my entire army plays, his king is in trouble, his rooks do not participate, without backup his knight and queen cannot hurt me.

19.Nxh7 Ne3 20.Qe4 Rf5 21.Rc1 d5  
 22.Qf3 Rxf4 23.Qg3 Ne5 24.Rg1 Re4  
 25.Kd2 Qd4+ 26.Ke1 Nxc2+ 27.Rxc2  
 Qxg1+ 28.Kd2 Qd4+ 29.Ke1 Nd3+  
 30.Kf1 Nf4 31.Qg4 Rc6 32.h4 Nxe2  
 33.Rxe2 Rxg4

0-1

**Jim Tarjan –  
 Dave Mohan [A80]**

States Cup Online, Oregon vs. Arizona  
 lichess.org, October 22, 2020  
 [Jim Tarjan]

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3

Back in the old days, in queen pawn openings such as this one, all the chess masters knew that White's c-pawn belonged in front of the Nc3, not behind as here. One of the things people knew back then that turned out not so true as they thought.

2...Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 4.e3

I had faced this myself earlier in the States Cup, with the black pieces versus Kiewra of Southern California. He got a nice position, making straightforward easy moves, and so I figured I would try it from the White side.

4.Bxf6 is (or at least was) more familiar to me.

4...e6 5.Nf3 a6



Position after 5...a6

6.Bd3

Aggressive and double-edged is 6.Ne5

c5 7.g4 as in Akobian vs. Caruana, US Championship 2019.

6...c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne2

Looking to correct the positional error from the second move, as it were, by getting in c4.

9...Nc6

At the board I wondered about 9...b5 delaying development but simply minded aiming to stop c4. Things could go 10.a4 b4 11.c4 bxc3 12.bxc3 and White gets c4 in anyway.

10.c4



Position after 10.c4

As someone who plays the Dutch myself, I once read a very pithy comment concerning just what can go wrong: "At some point, Black's best move is to play the f5 pawn back to f7!" In other words, unless the rest of Black's army coordinates and manages to make some sort of use of that first move advance, it can amount to nothing more than a weakening of the pawn structure. We see something of that here. Having played c4, however belatedly, White is back to a "normal" queen pawn formation, but one in which Black's f-pawn advance does little but weaken the e6-pawn and the e5-square.

10...Qd7

Breaks the pin on the knight but Black remains behind in development.

11.Bxf6 Rxf6 12.cxd5 Qxd5 13.Rc1

Simple and direct, but perhaps not the strongest.

13.Nf4; 13.Bc2

13...Ba7

Better is 13...Ne5

14.Bc4 Qxd1 15.Rfxd1 Kf8 16.Nf4

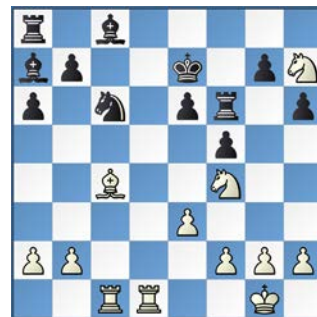
Black is very far behind in development and his position is clearly dire. But as so often in such positions it remains a challenge to work out: just how to make progress from here? I choose (or one could say I am seduced) by a fanciful path, sending my knights around the edges of the board.

16.Ng5 and taking the h-pawn; 16.Bxa6. This possibility totally escaped my radar at the board 16...Bxe3 17.Rxc6! is even more fanciful than the game continuation, but stronger (or the more mundane 17.fxe3 Rxa6 18.b4).

16...Ke7 17.Ng5

Here as well 17.Bxa6.

17...h6 18.Nh7



Position after 18.Nh7

Here goes the knight hopping I could not resist.

18...Rf7

Once I got to h7, I started to wonder about 18...g5! and indeed that is a good move, though apparently White can weave through the complications to at least somewhat the better chances: 19.Nxf6 gxf4 20.Ng8+ Kf8 21.e4! Kxg8

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22.exf5 Kf7 23.fxe6+ Bxe6 24.Rd7+ Kf6 25.Bxe6 Kxe6 26.Rxb7 Ne5 with an edge for White. I don't need to tell you all this is post-mortem analysis, though I did get as far at the board as wondering about 21.e4.

**19.Ng6+ Ke8 20.Be2**

I had planned this back at move 17, and it certainly looked logical and strong. However, it is wrong and gives away my advantage. I am merely trading one good diagonal for another. The machine keeps my initiative with other constructive moves: 20.h4; 20.Bb3.

**20...Rd7 21.Bh5 Kd8**

One of those cases where the threat of discovered check looks scary, but is a mirage: 21...Rxd1+! 22.Rxd1 Bc5! and the position is equal. White has nothing better than to make a draw, one way being 23.Rc1 Bd6 24.Rd1 Bc5 25.Rc1.

**22.Rxd7+ Bxd7 23.Nhf8 Kc7 24.Nxd7 Kxd7 25.Bf3**

With the Nh7 having disappeared, we are back in the realm of normal positions. But certainly not done with the inaccuracies. Here 25.Rd1+! Kc7 26.Nf4 Nd8 27.Bg6! is wonderful chess, blockading the g-pawn unusually with the bishop and intending to capture it with Nh5. A good

example of the subtleties than mark the difference between a fast game and a slow one. Chess as a game of thought, rather than of reaction.



Position after 25.Bf3

**25...Nd8**

Black is close to equalizing, his main problem being the weaknesses resulting from that first move of 1...f5. He needs to find a few good, accurate moves to stay in the game. And without thinking too much: remember we are playing at 15/2. This backwards move 25...Nd8 is a step in the wrong direction.

25...Bb8; 25...Rc8; 25...Re8 after any of these it remains a fight, with White having an edge.

**26.g3 Bb8?**

This is a real blunder, and a decisive one.

**27.Nf8+ Ke7 28.Rc8**

Certainly Black missed my last two moves, which paint a pretty picture along the eighth rank. Black can wiggle but will only escape the pin at a cost.

**28...g5 29.h3 a5 30.a4 Nc6 31.Bxc6 bxc6 32.Kf1**

Never too late to mess up: the suicidal side of my nature prompted me to consider 32.g4 placing my pawns on the opposite color of his bishop. Very positional and very wrong, as you will readily see.

**32...h5 33.f3 e5 34.Ke2 c5 35.Kd3 f4 36.exf4 exf4 37.gxf4 gxf4 38.Kc4 h4 39.Kd5 c4 40.Kxc4 Kd6 41.Kb5 Ke7 42.Kc6 Ra6+ 43.Kb7 Rf6 44.Rxb8 Rxf8 45.Rxf8 Kxf8 46.Kb6**

Especially in a rapid game with a two second increment, no one can be blamed for playing it out to mate. Fortunately I had kept one precious minute in reserve.

**46...Ke7 47.Kxa5 Kd6 48.Kb6 Kd5 49.a5 Kd4 50.a6 Ke3 51.a7 Kxf3 52.a8Q+ Kf2 53.Qe4 f3 54.Qxh4+ Kg2 55.Qg4+ Kf1 56.Qxf3+ Kg1 57.Qe2 Kh1 58.Kc5 Kg1 59.Kd4 Kh1 60.Ke4 Kg1 61.Kf3 Kh1 62.Qg2#**

1-0

## A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

### NORTHWEST CHESS WINTER OPEN

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

DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. This is a fundraising tournament for Northwest Chess magazine.

Entry Fee: \$25 by 12/6, \$30 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Time Control: G/25;+5.

Rounds: Sun. 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 PM, 1:30 PM, 3 PM.

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>U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/U900/U700: 1-yr ext. Unrated Prize: 1-yr ext. Biggest Upset: 1-yr ext.

Annotated Brilliancy Prize Competition: Annotated your best game for Northwest Chess magazine. A panel of judges will select the winners. 1<sup>st</sup>: 2-yr ext., 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1-yr ext.

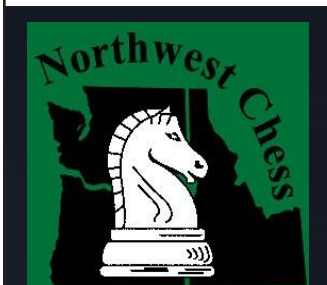
Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.

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.

Rating: US Chess Online Rated and NWSRS Rated. US Chess December 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

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 to the TD 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.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#)

Registration deadline Sat. 12/12 @

5pm. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.



# 15<sup>th</sup> Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls

Saturday-Sunday, October 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Online via 



By **SPFNO Organizers** | **October 15, 2020**

**Seattle, WA** – The 15th Annual Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls and Boys was held online via Chess.com over National Chess Day weekend October 10-11, 2020. At a time when many local and national events have been cancelled due to COVID-19, the Susan Polgar Foundation and Washington Chess Federation collaborated to host the SPFNO online in a virtual two-day chess festival. Chief organizer Josh Sinanan orchestrated the weekend's festivities, which included a live stream, parents and coach's seminar, girl's workshop, puzzle solving competition, and blitz championship! Online chess TD extraordinaries Judit Sztaray and Rekha Sagar directed the two-day sections, while popular local TD Jacob Mayer ran the one-day sections on Saturday. The official SPFNO Twitch live stream, hosted by Seattle-based chess coach Tim Moroney, contributed to the event's prestige with a star-studded cast of special guest speakers including former World Champion GM Susan Polgar, WA State Champion WIM Megan Lee, WCF President NM Josh Sinanan, WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer, and Tennessee-based chess coach Epiphany Peters!

In total, 159 players competed across ten sections, which included both a one-day, five-round schedule and a two-day, six-round option for more experienced players. This year's field was comprised of a diverse mix of junior players from throughout North America, including parts of Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, California, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Missouri, Georgia, and Ontario! The two-day Championship sections, which featured both Open and Girls-only divisions, attracted several strong titled players, including NM Andrew Hemstapat, NM Rushaan Mahajan, WFM Minda Chen, and WCM Ashley Pang. No doubt they were attracted by the generous scholarships to Webster University awarded to the winners of the

K-12 Open and K-12 Girls sections, each valued at over \$50,000!

Hosting an event of this magnitude *online* presented several logistical challenges and was only possible thanks to the tremendous efforts of the SPFNO Organizers and the participating chess families. All competitors played their games from home over the internet using their own Chess.com accounts. Zoom video conferencing, which was available throughout the event for players to communicate with the TD and report their results, was mandatory to monitor players in the two-day Championship sections. Pairings and standings were created by the TDs using SwissSys and posted on a shared spreadsheet shortly before each round.

To ensure honest play and fair games, each player signed a Fair Play Agreement before the start of the tournament in which they promised to play their own moves without outside assistance. A systematic three-pronged approach consisting of Chess.com analysis, engine analysis, and human analysis was used to check all suspicious games for fair play violations. Upon completing our review with the help of a world-renowned computer chess expert, we are delighted to announce a completely clean event free from any fair play violations! Huge thanks to all players for playing with integrity and displaying great sportsmanship.

After 442 games in over 20 hours of play, only the most heroic chess warriors endured the marathon weekend! Special congratulations to the following SPFNO Champions:

K-1 U800: Kunal Jayadevan

2-3 U800: Ethan Low

K-3 Open: Vincent Liu, Shashwat Pranav Iyer, Sanjay Urali, & Hunter Choi

4-8 U900: Ashvath Krishnan

4-12 Open: Gaurang Pendharkar

Girls K-8: Yu Han (Veronica) Guo

Girls K-12: Minda Chen – *Webster University scholarship winner!*

Open K-5: Michael Lin

Open K-8: Atharva Joshi

Open K-12: Andrew Hemstapat – *Webster University scholarship winner!*

*Congratulations to all players who have contributed to this historic event!*

## About SPFNO

The prestigious annual Susan Polgar National Open Championship for Girls and Boys (SPFNO) was created in 2006 and is sponsored by the Susan Polgar Foundation (SPF) to give more opportunities to young chess players. The event rotates throughout the United States and will be co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation and Washington Chess Federation from 2020-2022. For more information, please visit: <http://www.spfno.com/>

## About Susan Polgar Foundation

The Susan Polgar Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation supported by charitable donations. The Foundation was established by GM Susan Polgar – the Winner of four Women's World Chess Championships, ten Olympic Medals (five Gold, four Silver, one Bronze), and the first woman in history to break the gender barrier in chess. Since the foundation was started back in 2002, many events have blossomed and become the benchmark events for young girls and boys across North America.

### Contact

To learn more about this historic event, please contact:

Josh Sinanan, Chief Organizer  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)



# 2020 Washington Blitz Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2020 Washington Blitz Championship was held online via Chess.com on Sunday October 4. The 15-player field featured a strong international mix of titled players: five GMs, two IMs, and three FMs from countries including the USA, Canada, India, France, Armenia, and Peru! The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar, with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Indian GM Girish Arun Koushik, playing from Bangalore, finished in clear first place with ten points from 14 games in the seven-round double-swiss tournament. Armenian ChessMood star IM David Shahinyan and Ontario's strong FM Rohan Talukdar tied for second-third place half-a-point back at 9.5. Sammamish chess studs Ananth Gottumukkala (seven points) and Aditya Ramkumar (four points) captured U1800 and U1600 honors, respectively. Seattle's own Emerson Wong-Godfrey (three points) rounded out the prize winners by taking home the U1400 prize. As the highest finishing Washington state resident, FM Anthony He receives the title of Washington State Blitz Champion. Congratulations to the winners and to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

**David Shahinyan (2452) –  
Aleksiej Aleksandrov (2708) [C50]**  
WA Blitz Championship  
Chess.com, (R6) October 4, 2020  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d4 Bxd4

5...exd4 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 dxc4 8.Re1+ Be6 9.Ng5 Qd5 10.Nc3 Qf5 11.Nce4∞

6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.f4 d6 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Bg5 Qe7 10.Na3 Rg8 11.Kh1 Bd7 12.c3 Ne6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Nc2 Bc6

14...Nf4 15.g3 0-0-0 16.gxf4?? (16.Qf3 Bh3 17.Rf2 Bg4 18.Qe3 Nh3 19.Rff1 Kb8?) 16...Bh3-+

15.Bd5

15.Ne3! Bxe4 16.Qa4+ Bc6 17.Bb5 Bxb5 18.Qxb5+ c6 19.Qd3.

White certainly has some compensation for two pawns, with pressure against h7, along the f-file, and with nice posts for the knight.

15...0-0-0 16.Ne3 Nf4 17.Qf3 Qc5

17...Bb5; or 17...Bd7.

18.Rad1

18.Bxc6 Rd3 19.Rae1 Qxc6 20.g3 Ne6 21.Qf5 Rg6 22.Nd5∞. White should be happy with this, as it's roughly equal after the exchange sac on d5.

18...Kb8 19.g3

19.Bxf7!?

19...Ne6

19...Nxd5.

20.Bxc6 bxc6?!

20...Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Qxc6 22.Nd5 Ng5

21.Qe2

21.Ng4!?

21...Ng5?!

21...Rxd1

22.Nf5?

22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Nc4!± Qe7??

24.Na5+-

22...Kb7

22...Rxd1 23.Rxd1

23.h4 Ne6 24.Kh2 Rge8?

24...Qb5 25.Qc2 Rxd1 26.Rxd1 Rd8 27.Rxd8 Nxd8

25.Kh3

25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Ne3 Qe7 27.Nc4±

25...Qb5 26.c4 Qb6

26...Qb4

27.b3 c5?

27...Qb4

28.Rd5 Nd4 29.Qh5



Position after 29.Qh5

29...Rxd5?

29...Qe6±

30.cxd5

30.exd5 Nxf5 31.Rxf5. White should be able to round up at least a couple of pawns.

30...Nxf5?

30...Qa6± takes advantage of the new diagonal.

31.Rxf5 Qb4 32.Qf3 Qd2 33.Rxf6 Qxa2?

## Official Standings:

Official Standings: Washington Blitz Championship																			
#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Rd 10	Rd 11	Rd 12	Rd 13	Rd 14	Total
1	1	Girish Arun Koushik	15574177	2474	W11	W11	W6	W4	L4	W2	L2	W5	W5	L3	D3	W7	D7		10
2	2-3	David Shahinyan	17351144	2567	H--	H--	W7	W7	L5	W5	L1	W1	W10	W10	W4	D4	L3	W3	9.5
3		Rohan Talukdar	14529666	2402	L7	W7	X15	X15	W12	L12	W8	W8	W4	L4	W1	D1	W2	L2	9.5
4	4-5	Aleksej Aleksandrov	12710284	2708	W15	W15	W8	W8	L1	W1	L5	W5	L3	W3	L2	D2	D6	W6	9
5		Anthony He	14729222	2439	W13	W13	W12	W12	W2	L2	W4	L4	L1	L1	W7	L7	W11	W11	9
6	6	Thej Kumar M.S	17354997	2433	W14	W14	L1	L1	D11	W11	L7	L7	W9	W9	W8	W8	D4	L4	8
7	7	Aleksandr Lenderman	12787646	2717	W3	L3	L2	L2	W9	W9	W6	W6	L8	W8	L5	W5	L1	D1	7.5
8	8-9	Gianmarco Giuseppe Leiva	17344278	2459	W10	W10	L4	L4	W14	W14	L3	L3	W7	L7	L6	L6	W13	W13	7
9		Ananth Gottumukkala	14090705	1925	L12	L12	L10	W10	L7	L7	W13	W13	L6	L6	B--	B--	W14	W14	7
10	10	Brandon Peng	15283836	1831	L8	L8	W9	L9	L13	W13	W14	W14	L2	L2	D11	L11	B--	B--	6.5
11	11	Derin Goktepe	16249020	1912	L1	L1	W13	W13	D6	L6	L12	L12	W14	W14	D10	W10	L5	L5	6
12	12	Stany George Anthony	17350800	2522	W9	W9	L5	L5	L3	W3	W11	W11	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	5
13	13	Aditya Ramkumar	16245754	1667	L5	L5	L11	L11	W10	L10	L9	L9	B--	B--	L14	W14	L8	L8	4
14	14	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	17103947	1498	L6	L6	B--	B--	L8	L8	L10	L10	L11	L11	W13	L13	L9	L9	3
15	15	Nick Raptis	12470662	2393	L4	L4	F3	F3	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	U--	0

33...Rf8

34.Rxf7 Rd8? 35.Qc3

35.Qf6! Rc8 36.Qc6+ Kb8 37.Qb5+ Ka8 38.d6+-

35...Qe2?

35...Qb1

36.Qxc5 Rc8 37.d6

37.Qc6+ Kb8 38.d6

37...Qxe4 38.Rxc7+ Rxc7 39.Qxc7+ Ka6 40.Qc8+?

40.Qc4+ Qxc4 41.bxc4 Kb7 42.Kg4 Kc6 43.c5 a5 44.Kf5 a4 45.Ke6+-

40...Kb6 41.Qb8+ Ka6

41...Qb7!?

42.Qc8+ Kb6 43.h5? Qh1+ 44.Kg4 Qd1+ 45.Kf5 Qxd6?

45...Qxh5+ 46.Kf6 (46.Ke4 Qe2+) 46... Qg6+ 47.Kxe5 Qxg3+ 48.Kd5 Qd3+. The white king lacks cover from checks.

46.g4 Qd3+

46...h6

47.Kxe5 Qe3+ 48.Kf6 h6 49.Qe6+ Qxe6+ 50.Kxe6

1-0

David Shahinyan (2452) – Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) [C02] WA Blitz Championship Chess.com, (R2) October 4, 2020 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 c4 7.g3 Na5 8.Nbd2 Bd7 9.h4 Ne7 10.Bh3 Nc8 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Rb1 Nb6 13.Qe2 Ba4 14.Ne1 0-0-0 15.f4 g6 16.Ndf3 h5 17.Ng5 Kb8 18.Be3 Re8 19.Ng2 Re7



Position after 19...Re7

20.Bf2

20.f5! looks like a nice shot: 20...exf5 (or 20...gxf5 21.Nf4) 21.Bf4.

20...Be8 21.Ne3 Nc6 22.Kg2 Rd7 23.Rh1 Ne7 24.g4 hxg4 25.Bxg4 Nf5

25...Rd8 26.h5±

26.Nxf5

26.h5±

26...gxf5 27.Bf3 Bh6 28.Bg3 Re7 29.Kf2 Ba4 30.Rbg1 Ree8 31.h5 Reg8 32.Bh4 Be8 33.Nh3 Na4 34.Bf6 Rxg1 35.Rxg1 Rf8 36.Rg2

36.Ng5

36...Qb6 37.Kg1 Bd7

37...Qb3 38.Qd2

38.Bg5 Rh8 39.Qf2 Be8 40.Bxh6 Rxh6 41.Qh4 a5 42.Qg5 Rh8 43.Qg7

1-0

Anthony B He (2439) – Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) [C10] WA Blitz Championship Chess.com (R6), October 4, 2020 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6

One of the advantages of these “surrender the center” lines of the French is that you can reach it against either 3.Nc3 or 3.Nd2, only worrying about 3.e5, 3.exd5, or even more minor gambit-style lines.

One of the disadvantages, of course, is you’ve surrendered some of your central control, and must generate counterplay against White’s slightly superior, yet rather solid, central formation.

6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Be3

White restrains the natural ...c5 break.

7...Bd6 8.Bd3 b6 9.Qe2 Bb7 10.0-0 Nd5 11.Kb1± Nf4?! 12.Bxf4 Bxf4 13.Be4 c6 14.Ne5 Qc7 15.Qf3 Bxe5 16.dxe5 0-0 17.Rd6 Rad8?!

17...f5!? takes advantage of the e-pawn’s temporary overload. 18.Bd3 (18.Bxc6?? Rac8-+) 18...c5 19.Qg3 c4 20.Be2 Bd5 21.Bf3±

18.Qd3 f5 19.Bf3 Rxd6 20.exd6 Qd7 21.Rd1 e5 22.Qa3± e4

22...Bc8 23.Qc3 e4 24.Be2±

23.Be2 Ba8 24.Bc4+ Kh8 25.Qc3 Re8 26.h4 c5 27.h5 h6 28.Qb3

28.Qg3

28...Bc6 29.Bf7 Rd8 30.Be6

30.g3

30...Qe8 31.Bxf5?

31.g4 f4 32.Bf5 Bd7±

31...Qxh5 32.g4 Qe8??

32...Rxd6!± highlights the back rank, and now it’s White who suffers.

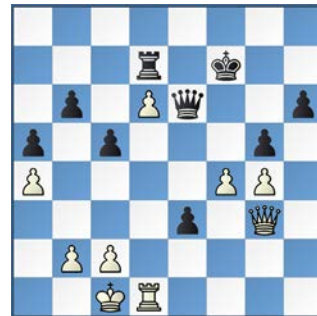
33.Qg3

33.d7! Qe7 (33...Bxd7 34.Qd5+-) 34.Qg3 Bxd7 35.Qc7+-

33...Bd7 34.Bxd7?

As is the way with blitz, things tend to get messy as time runs low. 34.Qh4 Bxf5 35.gxf5 Rd7 36.Qg4 and only White’s piece have real moves — Black’s moves are all variations of “pass” — so White needs only avoid back rank mate and arrange a timely f5–f6.

34...Rxd7 35.a3 Qe6 36.Qf4 Kg8 37.a4 a5 38.Kc1 g5 39.Qg3 Kf7 40.f4 e3



Position after 40...e3

Black opts for complications, avoiding fairly clear equality. One line among many here: 40...Rxd6 41.f5 Rxd1+ 42.Kxd1 Qd5+ 43.Ke1 Kf6 44.Qh2 e3 45.Qxh6+ Ke5 46.Qe6+ Qxe6 47.fxe6 Kxe6 48.Ke2.

41.fxg5 hxg5 42.Qf3+ Kg7 43.Rd5 Kg6?!

This sets up tactics for White involving Qf5+. The best try may be 43...Rxd6, when 44.Rxg5+ Kh6 45.Qf4 is met by 45...e2! 46.Rxc5+! (46.Re5+ Kg7±.) 46...Kg6 47.Rg5+ Kh7 48.Qh2+! Qh6 49.Qxh6+ Kxh6 50.Rh5+ Kg6 51.Rh1 Kg5 52.Re1 Kxg4 53.Rxe2 and Black’s king is cut off.

44.Qf5+ Qxf5 45.gxf5+ Kf6

Swapping blockaders on d7, with 45...Kf7 46.Kd1 Ke8 47.Ke2 Rh7 48.Kxe3 Kd7, doesn’t really offer Black much hope.

46.Kd1 g4 47.Ke2 g3 48.Kxe3 Kg5

48...g2 49.Kf2 Rg7 50.Kg1+-

49.Kf3 g2 50.Kxg2 Kf4 51.f6

51.c4

51...Ke4

51...c4 52.f7

52.f7

Or 52.c4.

A few blitz bobbles, but nicely played.

1-0



# 2020 Washington G/60 Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2020 Washington G/60 Championship was held online via Chess.com on Saturday, October 3. Chess players from throughout the globe, including parts of Washington, Oregon, Ontario, Peru, Armenia, and Paris were represented in the 22-player field! WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar directed the tournament with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan. The strong nine-player Open section field featured two GMs, two IMs, and one FM along with four brave local players. The 13-player Reserve U1600 section consisted of a mix of talented youngsters and some seasoned veterans!

Peruvian IM Gianmarco Giuseppe Leiva won clear first place with 3.5/4 in the stacked Open section after scoring key victories against GM Aleksandrov

and GM Tarjan in rounds two and four. Gianmarco will no doubt become a GM soon! GM Aleksej Aleksandrov, playing from Paris, captured clear second place with three points. Young Sophie Tien from Bellevue won clear third place with 2.5 after starting off strong with a draw against GM Tarjan in round one. Ananth Gottumukkala from Sammamish won the U2000 Prize with an even score of 2-2. Emerson Wong-Godfrey, officially rated only 1133, took home U1800 honors.

Young rising star Rahul Peesa from Bellevue won clear first place in the Reserve U1600 section with a perfect four points from four games. Garfield High School Senior Adam Race and talented eighth grader Edward Cheng from Seattle tied for second/third place, each with 3.5/4 points. Young Selina Cheng, from Detective Cookie's Chess Club in Seattle, won the upset prize by winning against a 578-point higher rated player! Thanks to all who contributed to making this a successful event!

**Jim Tarjan (2469) – Sophie Tien (1936) [D36]**  
WA G/60 Championship  
Chess.com (R1), October 3, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

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



Position after 8...0-0

**9.Nf3**

9.Nge2 introduces the more aggressive Botvinnik/Kasparov idea, generally aiming for f2-f3 (perhaps after 0-0 and

## Official Standings:

Standings. Washington Game 60 Championship: Open									
#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Gianmarco Giuseppe Leiva	17344278	2459	W5	W2	D4	W7	3.5
2	2	Aleksej Aleksandrov	12710284	2708	W8	L1	W6	W4	3
3	3	Sophie Tien	15248711	1936	D7	L6	W8	W5	2.5
4	4-5	Rohan Talukdar	14529666	2402	W9	D7	D1	L2	2
5		Ananth Gottumukkala	14090705	1820	L1	W8	W9	L3	2
6	6-7	David Shahinyan	17351144	2567	H---	W3	L2	U---	1.5
7		James Tarjan	10991820	2469	D3	D4	H---	L1	1.5
8	8-9	Gil Wolff	30041678	2000	L2	L5	L3	W9	1
9		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	17103947	1133	L4	B---	L5	L8	1

Standings. Washington Game 60 Championship: Reserve									
#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Rahul Peesa	16871825	1138	W5	W10	X12	W6	4
2	2-3	Adam Race	15371763	1292	W7	D6	W9	X12	3.5
3		Edward Cheng	16257118	1010	W13	X12	D4	W10	3.5
4	4-5	Ted Wang	17187840	813	X12	W13	D3	H---	3
5		Owen Xu	30020820	unr.	L1	W11	W8	W9	3
6	6-9	Hiruna Devadithya	16538478	1148	W11	D2	D10	L1	2
7		Michael M Zhang	16824864	980	L2	L9	B---	W11	2
8		Lois Ruff	12559533	976	L10	B---	L5	W13	2
9		Selina Cheng	17236746	402	B---	W7	L2	L5	2
10	10	Robert McGuire	17350836	1224	W8	L1	D6	L3	1.5
11	11	Leo Saloranta	17348094	unr.	L6	L5	W13	L7	1
12	12-13	Removed			F4	F3	F1	F2	0
13		Blake Johnson	17355221	unr.	L3	L4	L11	L8	0

Rae1) and either e3–e4 or something like g2–g4 and Ng3, with play in the center and on the kingside. In any case, a white pawn on f3 makes defenses with ...Ne4 a bit problematic. 9...Re8 10.0–0 Nf8 11.f3 Be6 12.Rad1 (or 12.Rae1 Rc8 13.Kh1 N6d7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7) 12...Rc8 13.Kh1

9...Re8 10.0–0 Nf8 11.Rae1

11.Rab1, planning a minority attack with b2–b4, is the traditional way to play the QGD Exchange lines.

11...Ne4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Nd2 f5 15.f3 exf3 16.Nxf3 Ng6

16...Be6 is still theory in this line. 17.e4 fxe4 18.Rxe4 Rad8 19.Rfe1 h6 and it's a bit hard to believe there are real winning chances for White.

17.e4 fxe4 18.Rxe4 Be6 19.Rfe1 Qf6 20.Qe2 Bf7 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.dxe5 Qe6 23.Qe3 b6 24.Ne2 Qe7 25.e6 Bg6 26.Re5 h6 27.Nd4 c5?!

Natural, but weakening d5...

27...Rac8±



Position after 27...c5

28.Nf5?

If there's a winning plan for White, it must involve maneuvering the knight to the newly available d5-square: 28.Ne2 Rad8 29.Nf4 Bh7 30.Nd5 Qh4 31.e7 is starting to look like real progress.

28...Bxf5 29.Rxf5 Rf8 30.Re5 Rad8 31.h3 Rd6 32.Kh1 Rf6 33.Qe4 Rd4 34.Qc6 Rd6 35.Qa8+ Rd8 36.Qe4 Rd2 37.Re2 Rd4 38.Qe3 Rf1+ 39.Kh2 Rf6 40.a3 a5 41.b3 Rd6 42.a4 Kh8 43.Re1 Kg8 44.Kg1 Rg6 45.Qe4 Rf6



Position after 45...Rf6

Sometimes passive defense is the right plan.

1/2–1/2



Face Off. Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.





*Shadows. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.*

# Washington Challenger's Cup

By Rekha Sagar

The 2020 Washington Challenger's Cup, one of Washington's largest annual tournaments, was held on October 24-25. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was moved online via Chess.com, which attracted players given the increased accessibility and non-existent travel costs. Chess players from throughout the world were represented in the 34-player field, including parts of Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Ontario, Peru, Ukraine, and Armenia! The five-round, two-section G/75;+10 tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation. WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar directed the tournament with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan

This five-round Swiss tournament featured 15 players in the Open section and 19 in the Reserve U1800 section. IM David Shahinyan, the ChessMood Star and strong IM from Armenia who regularly plays in Northwest online tournaments, won clear first place in the Open section with a perfect five points from all five games! Young Advaith Vijayakumar from Bothell finished in clear second place with 4.0/5 points. Advaith is seeded into the 2021 Washington State Championship as the highest finishing Washington State resident in the Open section. Congratulations to Advaith! Peruvian IM Gianmarco Giuseppe Leiva finished in clear third place with 3.5/5 points. Corey Bloom from Seattle, the reserve section's top seed at 1780, finished in clear first place with four points from five games despite losing his first round game against young up-and-comer Abhay Sankar. Four players tied for second place at 3.5/5: Vidip Kona from Redmond, Atharva Joshi from Sammamish, Jamie Zhu from Sammamish, and young Ted Wang from Medina.

I am pleased to report that the tournament ran exceptionally smooth, with all players displaying high level of integrity and sportsmanship. All players were so calm, composed and matured, WCF fair play analysis team have completed the games review and happy to announce a clean event with no fair play violations. Thank you to all the participants who made this tournament a huge success in these times of great uncertainty! I appreciate our President Mr. Josh Sinanan for providing an opportunity to host this beautiful event.

Vitaliy Bernadskiy (2629) – Gianmarco Giuseppe Leiva Rodriguez (2391) [B43]

Washington Challenger's Cup  
Chess.com (R3), October 24, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.Nge2 e6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 d6?!

8...b4.

Now theory offers 9.Na4 Bxe4 10.Bxe4 Nxe4 11.Re1 d5 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Qh5+ g6 14.Qe5 Qf6 15.Rxe4 Qxe5 16.Rxe5 Kf7∞, or even 9.Nd5!? exd5 10.exd5 Bc5 11.Re1+ Kf8.



(#Diagram-analysis after 11...Kf8)

Here a few games have continued 12.Nf5 d6 13.Bf4 Bc8 14.Nd4, when Black should have a plus.

From the analysis diagram, Stockfish suggests an entirely different, and quite ambitious, plan:

12.a3!? bxa3 (12...Qb6 13.Qe2∞) 13.b4! Bxb4 14.c3! Bxc3 (14...Bc5 15.Qb3 Ra7 16.Bxa3 d6 17.Bxc5 dxc5 18.Qc4 Nbd7 19.Nc6 Bxc6 20.dxc6 g6 21.cxd7 Qxd7 22.Qxc5+ Kg7±) 15.Bxa3+ d6 16.Re6! Ne8 17.Rxe8+! Qxe8 18.Nf5! with an edge for White.

Apparently extra pieces aren't what they used to be, back in the day.

Another forcing computer idea is 9.e5 Bxg2 10.Kxg2 bxc3 11.exf6 Qxf6 which is roughly equal.

9.Re1 Qc7?



Position after 9...Qc7

10.a4?!

To explain the punctuation on the last two moves, let me first say that 9...Qc7 10.a4 is theory, and has been played several times. And it favors White, no doubt about it.

But Stockfish has another idea that it claims is much better for White here: 10.Nd5!! exd5

a) 10...Nxd5 11.exd5 e5 12.a4 Be7 (12...b4 13.Bd2 a5 14.c3 bxc3 15.Rc1+-) 13.Nf5 Bf6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Rxa8 Bxa8 16.Qd3 0-0 17.Qxb5+-;

b) 10...Qd8 11.a4 Nfd7 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8 Bxa8 14.Nxb5 exd5 15.exd5+ Ne5 16.f4+-;

11.exd5+ Kd8 (11...Be7 12.Nf5 0-0 13.Rxe7+-) 12.Bg5 (or 12.a4) 12...Nbd7 (12...Be7 13.Nf5 Re8 14.Nxg7 Rg8 15.Qd4 Qc5 (15...Nxd5 16.Bxe7+ Nxe7 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.Qxd6+ Qd7 19.Qf6+-) 16.Bxf6 Qxd4 17.Bxd4 Nd7 18.Rxe7 Kxe7 19.Nf5+ Kf8 20.Nxd6 Bc8 (20...Rb8 21.Ba7) 21.Re1+-) 13.Nc6+ Bxc6 14.dxc6 Nc5 15.b4 Ne6 16.Bxf6+ gxf6 17.a4.

Here the computer is unable to find anything satisfactory for Black, despite the extra piece. King safety, open files for White's rooks, and that nasty pawn on c6 add up to a winning position. For example 17...Ra7 (17...bxa4 18.Rxa4 and White threatens b4-b5.) 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd3 Qb6 (19...Bg7 20.Rxa7 Qxa7 21.Qxd6+ Kc8 22.Bh3) 20.Rxa7 Qxa7 21.Qxb5.

10...bxa4

10...Be7 11.axb5 0-0 12.Qe2 Nfd7 13.Bd2 Rc8

11.Nxa4?

Theory suggests 11.Rxa4, with quite a significant advantage.; Of course, 11.Nd5! works about the same as in the previous note.

11...Be7 12.c4 0-0 13.b3 Nc6 14.Bb2 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Rfd8 16.Bc3 Bc6

16...Rab8 17.Qb6±

17.Nb6

17.Qb6 Rdc8 18.Qxc7 Rxc7 19.e5 Nd7 20.exd6 Bxd6 21.Ba5 Rcc8 22.Red1 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Be5 24.Ra2 with highly favorable tactics, e.g. 24...Bc7 25.Bxc7 Rxc7 26.Nb6! Nxb6 27.Rxa6!

17...Rab8 18.Rxa6 Qb7 19.Rea1 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Qxe4 21.b4 Qf3 22.b5

22.Re1

22...h5

22...d5 23.Ra8

23.Ra7 Bf8 24.Ba5 d5 25.Na4 Rd7



26.Rxd7 Nxd7 27.Bc7 Ra8 28.b6 h4  
29.gxh4

29.Qxh4?? Bc5-+

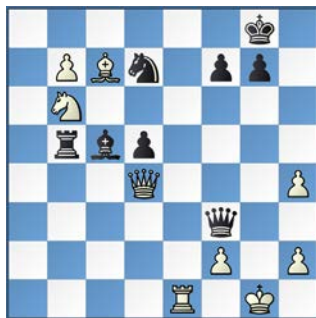
29...Ra6

29...Nxb6 30.Nxb6 Rxa1+ 31.Qxa1 Bc5  
32.Qe1 e5 eventually leads to perpetual  
check or some other equality.

30.cxd5 exd5 31.Re1 Ra5 32.b7

32.Re3 Qf5 33.Rg3 Qb1+ 34.Kg2 Qb5

32...Rb5 33.Nb6 Bc5!



Position after 33...Bc5!

34.Qxc5! Rxc5 35.Nxd7 Rb5 36.Re8+  
Kh7 37.Nf8+ Kh6 38.b8Q Rxb8  
39.Rxb8 d4 40.Bg3

40.h3!?

40...d3 41.Rd8 Qe4 42.h3 d2 43.Kh2  
Qb4 44.h5 d1Q 45.Rxd1 Qxf8 46.Rd5  
Qe8

46...f5 47.Rd4 Kxh5 and White can build  
a fortress. Play for the last 25 moves  
or so has been on a very high level by  
both players. The resulting draw is well-  
earned.

47.Bf4+ Kh7 48.Re5 Qd7 49.Rg5 Qe6  
50.Kg3 Qb3+ 51.Be3 Qb8+ 52.Kh4  
Qh2 53.Bd4 f6 54.Rg4 Qd6 55.Be3 Qe5  
56.Ra4 Qe8 57.Ra7 Qe4+ 58.Kg3 Qe5+  
59.Kg4 f5+ 60.Kf3 Qd5+ 61.Kg3 Qd6+  
62.Bf4 Qd3+ 63.f3 Qd4 64.Rc7 Qg1+  
65.Kh4 Qd4 66.Kg3 Qg1+ 67.Kh4 Qd4  
68.Kg3

Game drawn by repetition

1/2-1/2

David Shahinyan (2452) –  
Vitaliy Bernadskiy (2629) [B24]  
Washington Challenger's Cup  
Chess.com (R5), October 25, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.d3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Nge2  
0-0 9.0-0 d4 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5

11.Ne4 Be7 12.Nf4 is normal.

11...Be5 12.Nef4 Qd6 13.Re1 Bd7 14.a3  
Rae8 15.Qf3

15.Qd2!? g5?! 16.Nh5 Qg6 17.Rxe5  
Nxe5 18.Nhf6+±

15...Nd8

15...g5!? 16.Nh5 f5.

16.h4 Bc6 17.Nh3?!

17.Qg4 Ne6 18.Qf5 Nxf4 19.gxf4 Bxd5  
20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.Rxe5 Rxe5 22.fxe5∞

17...f6 18.Rac1 Ne6 19.c4? dxc3 20.  
bxc3 Bxc3!



Position after 20...Bxc3

21.Rxe6

21.Rxc3 Nd4 wins material. 22.Qd1  
Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Re8-+

21...Qxe6

21...Rxe6 22.Rxc3 Re5 23.Nhf4 g5-+

22.Nhf4 Qe5 23.Rxc3 Qxc3 24.Nxc3  
Re1+ 25.Kh2 Bxf3 26.Bxf3 Rb8

26...g5

27.Bd5+ Kh8 28.Ne4

28.a4 Rc1

28...b6

28...b5!? 29.Nxc5 (29.Nd6 h5) 29...Ra1

29.Nd6 g6 30.h5 gxh5 31.a4 Re7 32.Bc4  
h4 33.gxh4 Rd8 34.Nf5

34.Nf7+? Rxf7 35.Bxf7 Rd4 36.Kg3  
Rxa4

34...Re5

34...Re1 35.Kg3 Ra1

35.Nh6 Re7 36.Kg3

36.Nf7+? Rxf7 again.

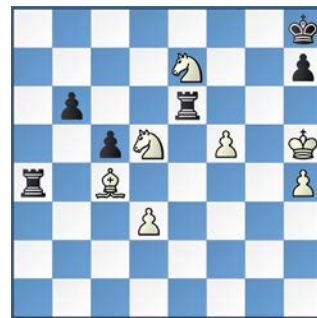
36...Rf8 37.Kg4 a6

37...f5+ 38.Nxf5 Re1∞

38.Bxa6 f5+ 39.Kg5 Rg7+ 40.Kh5 Rg1  
41.Bc4 Rf6?!

41...Ra1

42.Nd5 Rfg6 43.Nxf5 Ra1 44.Nfe7 Re6  
45.f4 Rxa4 46.f5?



Position after 46.f5

46...Re1?

46...Re5! 47.Kg5 b5! 48.Bxb5 Rd4  
49.Kf6 (49.Bc4 Kg7) 49...Rexd5 50.Nxd5  
Rxd5 51.Bc4 Rd4 52.h5

47.Kg5 Rb1?!

47...Rg1+ 48.Kf6 b5 49.Bxb5 Rxh4±

48.Nc3 Rg1+ 49.Kf6 Ra8 50.Ne4?!

50.Ke6

50...Rf8+ 51.Ke6 Rh1

51...Rb1

52.f6 Rxh4 53.Nd6

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Clearly it isn't easy to work out how to play with two rooks against three minor pieces.

1-0

**David Shahinyan (2452) –  
Rohan Talukdar (2422) [A16]**  
Washington Challenger's Cup  
Chess.com (R3), October 24, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6  
5.Bg2 Nb6 6.d3 Bg7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2

8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Qc1 is popular and successful. The weakness of the doubled c-pawns, facing White's half-open c-file and good control of the c5-square, compensates for the bishop-pair — assuming Black can keep it in the first place.

8...Nd4 9.Rc1 Nf5 10.Bc5 0-0 11.Nf3  
Re8 12.0-0 e5 13.e3 Nd6 14.Rfd1 Bf5  
15.b3 Nd7 16.Ba3 Rc8 17.Bxd6 cxd6  
18.Nh4 Rb8

18...Be6 19.Bxb7 Rc7 20.Bg2 Qb8  
21.Ne2 White is up a pawn.

19.Nxf5 gxf5 20.Bh3

20.Nd5±

20...Qg5 21.Qe2 Nf6 22.Qf3 f4 23.Ne4

Nxe4 24.dxe4 fxe3 25.fxe3 Rbd8 26.Bf5  
Bh6 27.Rc3 d5



Position after 27...d5

28.Rxd5

28.exd5 e4 29.Bxe4 Qe5 30.Rc4 is similar to the game, but with an extra pair of rooks. 30...b5 31.Rc6 Qxe4 32.Qxe4 Rxe4 33.Rxh6 Rxe3 34.Kf2 Re5 35.d6 Kg7 36.Rh4 should be winning for White.

28...Rxd5 29.exd5 e4 30.Bxe4 Qe5  
31.Rc4 b5 32.Rc8!?

32.Rc6 Kg7 33.Qg4+ Qg5 34.Bf3 Qxg4  
35.Bxg4 Bxe3+ 36.Kg2±

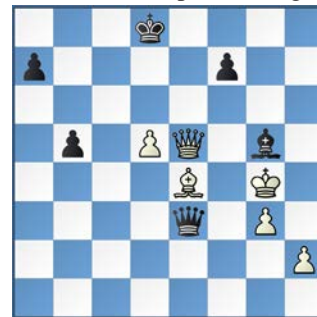
32...Rxc8 33.Qg4+ Bg5 34.Qxc8+ Kg7  
35.Qg4 h5 36.Qf3 Qa1+ 37.Kg2 Qxa2+  
38.Kh3 Qxb3 39.Qxh5 Qxe3?

39...Bxe3 40.Qh7+ Kf8 41.Qh8+ Ke7

42.Qe5+ Kf8 43.Kh4±

40.Qh7+ Kf6 41.Qh8+ Ke7 42.Qe5+  
Kd8 43.Kg4?

Move order matters here. 43.d6 first, followed in most cases by Kg4 and h4, wins. The black bishop needs to guard e7.



Position after 43.Kg4

43...f5+?

43...Bh6! is possible now, and it clears the g5-square for a possible queen check. 44.d6 f5+! 45.Qxf5 (45.Kxf5? Qg5+ 46.Ke6 Qg8+ 47.Kf5 Qg5+ is a draw.) 45...Qd4 46.Qg6 Bg7. It's still complicated.

44.Kxf5! Be7 45.Qb8+

45.h4!

45...Kd7 46.Qxb5+ Kd8 47.Qb8+ Kd7

## A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

# WASHINGTON WINTER CLASSIC

DECEMBER 26-27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: An 8-Round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (U1700).

Entry Fee: \$45 by 12/19, \$55 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1700 playing in Open section.

Time Control: G/45+5.

Rounds: Sat/Sun. 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 3 PM, 5:30 PM.

Prize Fund: \$1,800 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1<sup>st</sup> \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$225, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$175  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000: \$100, 1<sup>st</sup> U1800: \$100 Biggest Upset: \$25

Reserve: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100  
1<sup>st</sup> U1600/U1400/U1200: \$100, 1<sup>st</sup> U1000/unrated: \$100  
Biggest Upset: \$25

Byes: Three half-point byes available, request before end of round 3.

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.

Rating: US Chess Online Rated and NWSRS Rated. US Chess December 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

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 to the TD 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.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).  
Registration deadline **Fri. 12/25 @ 5pm**. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.



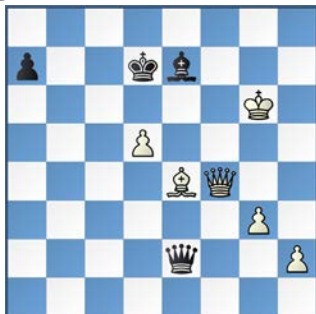
#### 48.Qf4

48.Qb7+ Ke8 49.Qc6+ Kf7 50.Qg6+ Kf8 51.h4

#### 48...Qe2

48...Qxf4+ 49.Kxf4 Bd6+ 50.Kf3 Kc7 51.h4 a5 52.g4

#### 49.Kg6



Position after 49.Kg6

#### 49...Bd6

49...Qa6+ 50.Kf7; 49...Qxh2 50.Bf5+ Ke8 51.Qb8+ Bd8 52.Qb5+ Kf8 53.Qc5+ Ke8 54.Qc6+ Kf8 55.Qd6+ Be7 56.Qb8+

50.Qf7+ Kd8 51.Bf5 Qb5 52.h4 Bxg3 53.Qf6+ Kc7 54.Qc3+ Kb6 55.Qxg3 Qe8+ 56.Kh6 Qf8+ 57.Qg7 Qxf5 58.Qg6+ Qxg6+ 59.Kxg6 a5 60.h5 a4 61.h6 a3 62.h7

1-0

Rohan Talukdar (2422) –

Advait Vijayakumar (1986) [C07]

Washington Challenger's Cup

Chess.com (R4), October 25, 2020

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4

5.exd5 is the other line: 5...Qxd5 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 with interesting play ahead in a much more open position.

#### 5...Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxc6 bxc6

7...Bxc6 is more common: 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.c4 Bc5 (9...Qa5 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Qc2 Qa6 12.b3 Be7 13.Bb2 0-0 looks safer for Black.) 10.Qa4 Ne7 (10...Qd7) 11.exd5 exd5 12.Nb3!? (12.cxd5 Qxd5 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nf3 isn't much for White. 14...Ng6 15.Rd1 Qf5 16.Qxc6 Rae8 17.b4 (17.Rd5?? Re1+) 17...Bb6 18.Be3 Bxe3 19.fxe3 Rxe3) 12...Bb6 13.c5 Bc7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Bg5 f6 16.Bf4 Be5 17.Rae1 Qc7 18.Bg3!/? (18.Bc1 has been successful a few times.; 18.Bd2 Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Be5 20.f4 Bxb2 21.Rb1 Nf5 22.Kg1 shows the idea of encircling the black bishop.)

8.Bd3 Qc7 9.Qe2 Bd6 10.Nf3 Ne7 11.e5 Bc5 12.0-0 Bb6 13.c4 h6 14.b4 dxc4

#### 15.Bxc4 Nd5



Position after 15...Nd5

#### 16.b5?

16.Bd2±

#### 16...Nc3 17.Qc2 exb5!

17...Nxb5? 18.Qe4 Nc3 (18...Rd8 19.Qg4±; 18...0-0?? 19.Bd3+-) 19.Qg4±. The black king's discomfort offers White more than enough compensation for the pawn.

#### 18.Bb3 0-0 19.Bb2 b4

Black is clearly winning, with the extra (soon to be passed) advanced pawn, the outposted knight (until it gets exchanged for a bishop, anyway), and plenty of room for great piece activity. The rest of the game is Black refusing to back down, eventually converting the pawn into a full point.

20.Rac1 Rac8 21.Bxc3 bxc3 22.Rfd1 Bb5 23.a4 Ba6

Or 23...Bc4 24.Qxc3 Bxb3 25.Qxb3 Qxc1.

#### 24.Rd6 Bc4 25.h3

25.Qxc3 Bxb3

25...Bxb3 26.Qxb3 Qc4 27.Qc2 Rfd8 28.Rcd1 Bc7 29.R6d4 Qc6 30.R1d3 Bb6 31.Rxd8+ Bxd8 32.Nd4 Qc4 33.Rd1 a6 34.Ne2 Ba5 35.Rd6 Rd8 36.Rxd8+ Bxd8 37.Kf1 Ba5 38.f4 Bb4 39.Kf2 a5 40.Kf3 g6 41.h4 h5 42.Qe4 Qb3 43.Qd3 Qxa4 44.g4 Qc6+ 45.Kg3 c2 46.gxh5 gxh5 47.Qd8+ Bf8 48.Qg5+ Bg7 49.Qd8+ Kh7 50.Qd3+ Kh6 51.Qe3 Kg6?!

51...Qc4! 52.f5+ Kh7 53.f6 (53.fxe6 Qxe6-) 53...Bh6+

#### 52.Qd3+ f5?! 53.exf6+ Kxf6 54.Qe3?

White has a chance to at least muddy the waters a bit with 54.Qd8+! Kf5! (54...Kf7 55.Qxa5 c1Q 56.Qxh5+ Kf8 57.Nxc1 Qxc1 is one of those "probably winning" for Black, but needs quite a bit of caution.) 55.Qg5+ (55.Qxa5+ Qd5) 55...Ke4 56.Qxg7 (56.Qxh5 Kd3 57.Nc1+ Kd2 58.Nb3+ Kc3 59.Nc1 e5+) 56...Ke3 57.Qe5+ Qe4! 58.Qxe4+ Kxe4 59.Kf2 a4 and yes, Black is winning, dominating the

knight with king and multiple advanced pawns... but was all this drama necessary?

#### 54...Kf7 55.Qa7+ Kg8 56.Qe3

56.Qxa5 Qd5 57.Qxd5 exd5+

56...a4 57.Nc1 Qc3 58.Kf3 Qxe3+ 59.Kxe3 Bb2 60.Kd2 Bxc1+ 61.Kxc1 Kf7 62.Kxc2 Kf6 63.Kb2 Kf5 64.Ka3 Kxf4 65.Kxa4 e5

0-1



A View To A Kill.  
Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.

# Seattle Fall Open

By Josh Sinanan

The 2020 Seattle Fall Open was held online September 26-27 via Chess.com. Chess players from throughout the world were represented in the 62-player field, including parts of Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Ontario, California, Michigan, Florida, Armenia, and India! The event was co-hosted by the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar directed the tournament with assistance from SCC Webmaster Austin Cluff and WCF President Josh Sinanan. The five-round Swiss tournament featured 22 players in the Open section and 40 in the Reserve U1700 section.

IM David Shahinyan (2521 – 2525, 4.5/5), a strong Armenian International Master who regularly plays in Northwest online tournaments, won clear first place in the Open section with 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw

to NM Sriram Sarja in the penultimate round. Four players tied for second place with 4.0/5 points apiece: NM Sriram Sarja (unr. – 2462, 4.0/5) from India, Pranav Sairam (2087 – 2102, 4.0/5) from San Jose, Sophie Tien (1948 – 1958, 4.0/5) from Bellevue, and Bertrand Wan (1705 – 1723, 4.5/5) from Bellevue.

Catherine Smith (1505 – 1522, 4.5/5) from Mill Creek and Aditya Kompella (1209 – 1342, 4.5/5) from Sammamish tied for first place in Reserve U1700 section each with 4.5/5. Four players tied for second place at 4-1: Gaurang Pendharkar (1578 – 1574, 4.0/5) from Bellevue, Atharva Joshi (1326 – 1325, 4.0/5) from Sammamish, Vidip Kona (1456 – 1461, 4.0/5) from Redmond, and Rahul Peesa (1154 – 1259, 4.0/5) from Bellevue. Young Winston Wu (1328 – 1267, 4.5/5) from Tallahassee, FL, captured the first place Unrated Prize with an even 2.5/5 score.

In addition to the overall section and rating class prizes, upset and rating performance prizes were added to reward players from different ages and ratings

levels, as well to motivate many of our young up-and-coming junior players. By virtue of scoring the largest upset each round, as calculated by their regular US Chess ratings, the following five players earned an upset prize: Sanjay Urali (round one — 880 pts) from Bellevue, Max Cui (round two — 633 points) from Redmond, Rahul Peesa (round three — 515 points) from Bellevue, Arnav Joshi (round four — 734 points) from Sammamish, and Stone Roach (round five — 687 points) from Edmonds.

Finally, an annotated brilliancy prize competition was held to encourage the submission of annotated games for publication in *Northwest Chess* magazine. A panel of judges selected the following winners in each section. The Open section brilliancy prize was awarded to IM David Shahinyan, the tournament winner, for his win against Anath Gottumukkala. The Reserve section brilliancy prize goes to Vidip Kona for his game against tournament winner Catherine Smith. Congratulations to the winners, and please enjoy the annotated games!

## Official Standings:

Official Standings. Seattle Fall Open 2020: Open									
#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	David Shahinyan	17351144	2452	W7	W11	W8	D2	W3	4.5
2	Sriram Sarja	15841186	2341	W5	W10	W13	D1	D6	4
3	Pranav Sairam	15424820	2087	W21	W12	W6	W8	L1	4
4	Sophie Tien	15248711	1916	W19	L6	W12	W13	W10	4
5	Bertrand Wan	16246570	1705	L2	X23	W15	W14	W13	4
6	Rohan Talukdar	14529666	2402	W20	W4	L3	W7	D2	3.5
7	Ananth Gottumukkala	14090705	1785	L1	W15	W11	L6	W12	3
8	Patrick Huang	15185437	2247	W15	W9	L1	L3	X23	3
9	Jeremy Wohl	17189810	1522	W18	L8	L10	W17	W16	3
10	William Wu	15782241	1854	X22	L2	W9	X23	L4	3
11	Advait Vijayakumar	15563114	2026	X23	L1	L7	W21	H---	2.5
12	Chad Boey	17072388	1496	W16	L3	L4	W20	L7	2
13	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	17103947	1114	B---	W17	L2	L4	L5	2
14	Drew Bunch	17044845	1169	D17	L18	D16	L5	B---	2
15	Mudit Johar	16694728	1673	L8	L7	L5	B---	W20	2
16	Richard Ingram	13212044	1880	L12	D21	D14	W19	L9	2
17	Jesse Ren	16647087	1857	D14	L13	D20	L9	W21	2
18	Brian Lee	15740081	1881	L9	W14	X23	U---	U---	2
19	Aditya Singh	14550797	1572	L4	D20	H---	L16	H---	1.5
20	Corey Bloom	12549240	1780	L6	D19	D17	L12	L15	1
21	Felicity Wang	16292674	1667	L3	D16	H---	L11	L17	1
22	Vitaliy Bernadskiy	17345230	2629	F10	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
23	Removed		1590	F11	F5	F18	F10	F8	0



# Official Standings:

Official Standings. Seattle Fall Open 2020: Reserve									
#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Aditya Kompella	17133157	1198	W14	D3	W16	W10	W8	4.5
2	Catherine Smith	12699745	1522	W39	W27	H---	W7	W4	4.5
3	Gaurang Pendharkar	17355200	1545	W24	D1	D7	W13	W9	4
4	Vidip Kona	16948874	1329	W19	W37	W12	W9	L2	4
5	Atharva Joshi	16375051	1332	L29	W22	W11	W27	W12	4
6	Rahul Peesa	16871825	1107	U---	W38	W18	W31	W20	4
7	Varin Nallabothula	17058893	1293	W11	W28	D3	L2	W16	3.5
8	Aditya Ramkumar	16245754	1452	W30	W15	H---	W20	L1	3.5
9	Johan Karukayil	15695276	1314	W22	W21	W10	L4	L3	3
10	Emma Li	16538490	1342	W34	W17	L9	L1	W21	3
11	Max Cui	16865418	515	L7	W24	L5	W28	W27	3
12	Adam Race	15371763	1292	W38	W29	L4	W15	L5	3
13	Nihanth Tatikonda	16818044	1226	L37	W34	W28	L3	W29	3
14	Arnav Joshi	17042435	313	L1	B---	L25	W30	X31	3
15	Aadi Hetamsaria	16401058	1160	W26	L8	W23	L12	D18	2.5
16	Mark Wang	16606862	1376	D40	W35	L1	W19	L7	2.5
17	Lixing Shen	16606128	1083	W31	L10	L26	D23	W33	2.5
18	James Fowler	12422676	1622	L21	W33	L6	W38	D15	2.5
19	Stone Roach	16824870	713	L4	D25	W40	L16	W32	2.5
20	Jason Dunbar	16121058	1375	W36	H---	W32	L8	L6	2.5
21	Ethan Zhang	16683342	1169	W18	L9	H---	W32	L10	2.5
22	Arjun Yadav	17130576	553	L9	L5	D30	B---	W35	2.5
23	Winston Wu	30022609	unr.	L27	W39	L15	D17	W34	2.5
24	Hiruna Devadithya	16538478	1148	L3	L11	W36	W37	H---	2.5
25	Wade Suess	16467346	1195	L28	D19	W14	W33	U---	2.5
26	Gary Hirschcron	16616036	1554	L15	W30	W17	H---	U---	2.5
27	Toby Monger	15480544	1170	W23	L2	W37	L5	L11	2
28	Jayahari Raj		unr.	W25	L7	L13	L11	W38	2
29	Ted Wang	17187840	779	W5	L12	D31	H---	L13	2
30	Nugen Tran	16809941	1047	L8	L26	D22	L14	W37	1.5
31	William Elliott	12394325	1541	L17	W36	D29	L6	F14	1.5
32	John Patrick Christy	12561334	1400	D35	W40	L20	L21	L19	1.5
33	Shuyi Han	17101695	758	H---	L18	W35	L25	L17	1.5
34	Darsh Verma	16885668	841	L10	L13	W39	H---	L23	1.5
35	Lois Ruff	12559533	1027	D32	L16	L33	W40	L22	1.5
36	Michael M Zhang	16824864	977	L20	L31	L24	H---	W40	1.5
37	Sanjay Urali	17187834	346	W13	L4	L27	L24	L30	1
38	Avik Susa	17238550	452	L12	L6	B---	L18	L28	1
39	Isobel Chi	15248747	1052	L2	L23	L34	H---	H---	1
40	Vineesh Nallabothula	17058934	1025	D16	L32	L19	L35	L36	0.5

## Official Prizes

### Open

1st Overall	\$300	
2nd Overall	\$200	
1st U2200	\$75	Split: Tied 2nd Place/U2200/U2000/U1800: \$106.25 each
1st U2000	\$75	
1st U1800	\$75	

**David Shahinyan**  
**Sriram Sarja**  
**Pranav Sairam**  
**Sophie Tien**  
**Bertrand Wan**

### Reserve

1st Overall	\$200	Split: Tied 1st-2nd: \$175 each
2nd Overall	\$150	
1st U1550	\$75	Split: Tied U1550/U1450/U1350: \$56.25 each
1st U1450	\$75	
1st U1350	\$75	
1st Unrated	\$50	

**Catherine Smith**  
**Aditya Kompella**  
**Gaurang Pendharkar**  
**Atharva Joshi**  
**Vidip Kona**  
**Rahul Peesa**  
**Winston Wu**

### Biggest upset

Round 1	\$20	<b>Sanjay Urali (880 pts)</b>
Round 2	\$20	<b>Max Cui (633 pts)</b>
Round 3	\$20	<b>Rahul Peesa (515 pts)</b>
Round 4	\$20	<b>Arnav Joshi (734 pts)</b>
Round 5	\$20	<b>Stone Roach (687 pts)</b>

### Rating Performance Prizes

Best performance by a female player: \$25  
Best performance by a player from the NW region (i.e., WA, OR, ID, BC): \$25  
Best performance by a junior U8: \$10  
Best performance by a junior U10: \$10  
Best performance by a junior U12: \$10  
Best performance by a junior U14: \$10  
Best performance by a junior U16: \$10  
Best performance by a junior U18: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age 30+: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age 40+: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age 50+: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age 60+: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age 70+: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age 80+: \$10

### Name (performance rtnng)

Sophie Tien (2032)  
Anath Gottumukkala (2089)  
Ted Wang (1247)  
Ethan Zhang (1419)  
Vidip Kona (1457)  
Advaith Vijayakumar (1837)  
Patrick Huang (2083)  
Pranav Sairam (2355)  
Sriram Sarja (2405)  
Catherine Smith (1641)  
Richard Ingram (1405)  
Gary Hirschcron (1322)  
James Fowler (1196)  
Lois Ruff (862)

### Annotated Brilliancy Prize Competition

\$50 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be Brilliant.  
A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

Open	\$50	<b>Shahinyan</b> - Gottumukkala
Reserve	\$50	<b>Kona</b> - Smith



**Rahul Peesa (1107) –  
William Elliott (1541) [D02]**  
Seattle Fall Open (Reserve)  
Chess.com (R4), September 27, 2020  
[Rahul Peesa]

This is round four of the Seattle Fall Open tournament. I finished off with 4.0/5, the one loss being with a zero-point bye. I am proud of this game because I think I played the endgame nicely. The opponent on the other hand I have never played before, so I just played by however he played.

**1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.Nf3 c6 4.c4 Nbd7 5.e3 dxc4?!**

Giving up the center and helping my f1-bishop develop.

**6.Bxc4 Nb6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Nc3 e6 9.h3 Bxf3?!**

Giving up the bishop pair for no reason and bringing my queen to a more active square. He could do 9...Bh5± followed by ...Bg6.

**10.Qxf3± Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rac1 Nbd5 13.Nxd5?**



Position after 13.Nxd5

I am connecting his pawn structure for no reason, and the opponent has a queens-side majority; I have a central majority. The central majority is better in the middlegame while the queens-side majority is much better in the endgame. So, I should not trade and go for an endgame.

**13...Qxd5 14.Qxd5 exd5 15.Rc3 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Rb3 b6 18.Rc1 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.Rbc3 a5 21.a3 Rfd8 22.Rc4 f5 23.b4 axb4 24.axb4 Bd6 25.Bxd6 Rxd6 26.Rc6 Rxc6?**

A better move was 26...Rad8.

**27.Rxc6 Rb8 28.b5!**

This move fixes the b6-weakness and fixes the rook to guard the b6-pawn.

**28...g6 29.f3?!**

I am creating a weakness on e3 and he can sometimes come Re8 and attack my pawns so his rook is more active than on b8.

**29...exf3 30.gxf3 Rb7 31.Re6?!**

The opponent can now get his king into the game with tempo by doing 31...Kf7!

**31...Kg7?! 32.Kf2**

Just protecting my weak pawns with my king.

**32...Kh6?**

He is just blocking his king in.

**33.e4 fxe4 34.fxe4 Kg5?**

He is trying to enter through h6, g5, and f4, but it does not work because of Kg3.

**35.Kg3! h5?**

This is a mistake because after h4+, then ...Kh6 is forced, and after Kf4, the king has to retire to the 7th rank and then after Kg5, I am winning at least one pawn.

**36.h4+! Kh6 37.Kf4 Kg7 38.Kg5 Kf7 39.Rxg6**

**1-0**

**David Shahinyan (2452) –  
Ananth Gottumukkala (1785) [B07]**  
Seattle Fall Open  
Chess.com (R1), September 26, 2020  
[David Shahinyan]

**1.e4 d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4**

After this move, Black has a large choice: ...c5, ...e5, and ...g6 for Pirc players.

**3...g6**

3...c5 transposes to the Closed Sicilian, of which our chessmood team analyzed all lines. After 3...e5 we have super King's Indian Gambit, when the bishop on f8 is not developed. 4.Nf3 exf4 5.d4 we have strong center. 5...Nh5 (only move that protected f4) 6.Nd5 g5 (last chance to protect f4) 7.Nxg5! Qxg5 8.Qxh5!! (nice tactic) 8...Qxh5 9.Nf6+ Kd8 10.Nxh5+-

**4.Bc4**

Grand Prix setup.

**4...Bg7**

4...Nxe4!? 5.Bxf7+ (5.Nxe4 d5= and Black has no problems) 5...Kxf7 6.Nxe4 Bg7 7.d4 Stockfish evaluates this position as equal. White has the center; Black's king is in the center; Black only has two bishop advantage, but very unclear position.

**5.d3 c6 6.Bb3**

Prophylactic move, against ...d5, to which we can play e5.

**6...e5?!**

Bad move. I think that Black is not yet ready to fight for the center, allowing

White to develop at a pace. 6...d5 7.e5. White has space advantage, and very easy play.

**7.Nf3 Qe7**

Black loses a lot of time; he needs to develop minor pieces and protect the king.

**8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe1**

White is ready to attack the king.

**9...Bg4 10.Qh4 Bxf3 11.Rxf3**

After this exchange, the f1-square is released for the other rook, and the f3-rook can join the attack from the h-file.

**11...Nd5**

Last mistake, after which Black has already lost.

**12.Qxe7 Nxe7 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Bg5 Nc8 15.Raf1**



Position after 15.Raf1

Let's look at the position, *complete domination*, for White all the pieces are playing excellently, while for Black all the pieces are undeveloped, and the pawn on f7 is not to protect.

**15...Nd7 16.Rxf7 Rxf7 17.Rxf7 Nc5 18.Rxb7+ Kh8 19.Rc7**

A short but instructive game that will translate mistakes in the opening, undeveloped pieces.

**1-0**

**Vidip Kona (1329) –  
Catherine Smith (1522) [C66]**  
Seattle Fall Open (Reserve)  
Chess.com (R5), September 27, 2020  
[Vidip Kona]

This is the final deciding game for the tournament winner. If I win or draw the game, I will get first place in the tournament. I played with her a couple of times in other tournaments. She is a very good player and I know that it's going to be a tough game for me. I would like to give my best in the game.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**

I played Ruy Lopez.

**3...d6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bd7 6.Nxc6 Bxc6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3?!**

I think Nc3 is a dubious move. Maybe I should go with Qf3/Bf4, so that I can place my knight on Nc3/Nd2 based on opponent ideas.

**9...Nf6 10.Be3**

I should play Bf4 and play e5 next instead of Be3 in this position.

**10...0-0 11.Qd2 Ng4 12.Bf4 Bf6 13.h3 Ne5 14.b3 Re8 15.Be3 Ng6 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Qg5**



Position after 17...Qg5

**18.Kh2?!**

Kh2 is a dubious move. My position is not looking good after this move. Here playing Ne2 is a good move.

**18.Ne2 Nh4 19.Ng3**

**18...Nh4 19.Rg1 Qxg2+ 20.Rxg2 Nf3+ 21.Kg3 Nxd4 22.f4 Nb5 23.Nxb5 exb5**

I am pawn down in this position, and my opponent is slightly better.

**24.Kf3 Re7 25.Rag1?!**

Another dubious move from me. I haven't calculated properly.

**25.a4 b4 26.Rg5 a5 27.Rc1**

**25...g6 26.Re2 Rae8 27.Rge1 Kg7 28.a3 f5 29.e5 dxe5 30.fxe5 Rd8 31.Kf4 Rd4+ 32.Kf3 Kf7 33.Kg3 Ke6 34.Kf3 Red7 35.Kg3**

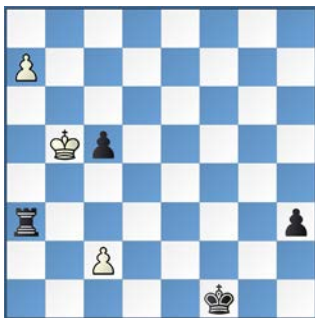
I am not comfortable with my position and my opponent is dominating the position.

**35...R7d5 36.Kf3 c5 37.Kg3 Rd1 38.Rxd1 Rxd1 39.Kf4 Rd5 40.h4 h6 41.Rg2 Rd4+ 42.Ke3 Rxh4 43.Rxg6+ Kxe5 44.Ra6 f4+ 45.Kd3 Rh3+ 46.Kd2 Rh2+ 47.Kd3 h5 48.Rxa7 h4 49.Re7+ Kf5 50.a4 bxa4 51.bxa4 Rh3+ 52.Kc4 Ra3**

This is the final mistake from me. I should at least capture Kxc5 to fight for the draw.

**53.Kb5 h3 54.a5 f3 55.Rh7 Kg4 56.Rg7+ Kf4 57.Rf7+ Kg3 58.Rg7+ Kh2 59.Rf7 Kg1 60.Rg7+ Kf1 61.Rh7 f2**

**62.a6 Kg2 63.Rg7+ Rg3 64.Rf7 f1Q+ 65.Rxf1 Kxf1 66.a7 Ra3**



Position after 66...Ra3

I resigned in this position. I should have played better in the final game. Apart from the loss in the final game, overall, I am happy with my performance in this tournament. Kudos to my opponent for winning the tournament in the Under 1700 section.

**66...Ra3 67.Kxc5 h2 68.Kb6 h1Q 69.c4 Rxa7 70.Kxa7**

**0-1**

**Rohan Talukdar (2402) – Ananth Gottumukkala (1785) [B09]**  
Seattle Fall Open  
Chess.com (R4), September 27, 2020  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5**

Black is inviting the complications of lines starting, for example, 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.e5 Ng4 8.e6, with positions we were debating hotly some forty years ago. You would think after all this time, and with the aid of computers, these tactical melees would be all worked out, but it seems there's life here still.

**6...Qa5 7.Bd3 Qxc5 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Be3 Qa5 10.0-0 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nc6 13.a3 Nd7 14.Bd2 e6**



Position after 14...e6

The first new move of the game. Apparently Black was worried about the impending Nd5, but whether it's worth weakening d6 to defend against that is

open to debate.

Black has played 14...Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Nc5 16.Rab1 Nxd3 17.cxd3 f5 with some success, though the engine still claims a slight edge for White with, perhaps you can guess it, 18.Nd5.

**15.Kh1 Rac8 16.Rad1 Qd8 17.Qg3 Nc5 18.f5 Be5 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Rb1**

**20.b4!?**

**20...Qd8 21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22.Rf4 Kh8 23.Rbf1 Rg8 24.fxe6 fxe6 25.Ne2 Qe7 26.b4 Ncd7 27.Qe3 g5! 28.R4f2 g4 29.Qh6?! Rg6 30.Qe3 gxh3 31.gxh3 Rcg8 32.Nf4?**

White's definitely running into trouble, and should now attempt to reduce the g-file pressure and exchange some of the attacking force. 32.Rg1 Rxg1+ 33.Nxg1 Qg7 34.Qe1 still leaves Black with the initiative... but isn't that just chess speak for "the first opportunity to make mistakes"?

**32...Rg3 33.Qd4 Qh4 34.Rh2 Nf6 35.Be2**



Position after 35.Be2

**35...h6**

There are many winning moves for Black here. The flashiest among them is 35...Nf3!, when 36.Bxf3 (36.Rxf3 Rxf3 37.Ng2 Qf2+; 36.Ng2 Nxd4 37.Nxh4 Nxe2 38.Rxe2 Rxh3+ 39.Rh2 Rxa3-) 36...Rxf3+ is all she wrote.

**36.b5 Kh7 37.a4 Nh5?!**

37...Nf3! is still mighty strong.

**38.Nxh5 Rxh3 39.Nf6+ Kh8 40.Qf2 Rxh2+?**

After 40...Rgg3!, White must see the weird and wonderful 41.Ng4!! to avoid crushing defeat. Play might continue 41...Rxg4! 42.Bxg4 Qxg4 43.Qg2 Rxh2+ 44.Kxh2 Qh5+ 45.Kg1 Kh7, and the game is not yet over.

**41.Qxh2 Qxh2+ 42.Kxh2 Rg6 43.Nh5 Kg8 44.Nf4 Rf6 45.Kg3 Kf7 46.Nd3 Rxf1 47.Nxe5+ dxe5 48.Bxf1**

**1-0**



Sophie Tien (1916) –  
Chad Boey (1496) [C54]

Seattle Fall Open  
Chess.com (R3), September 26, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

Sophie Tien attacks! In this set of three games, we will see how dangerous it can be to allow Sophie to get close to the black king.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5  
5.c3 0-0 6.Bb3 d5 7.Qe2 dxe4 8.dxe4  
Qd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bg5 Bxb3 11.axb3



Position after 11.axb3

11...h6

Black should restrain the forward b-pawn:  
11...a5 12.Rd1 Qe6±.

12.Rd1 Qe6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.b4 Bb6  
15.Nbd2 a6 16.Nc4 Ba7 17.Rd5 Rfe8  
18.Rad1 b5 19.Ne3 h5 20.h4 Rad8  
21.Ng5 g6

21...Bxe3 22.fxe3±

22.Rd7

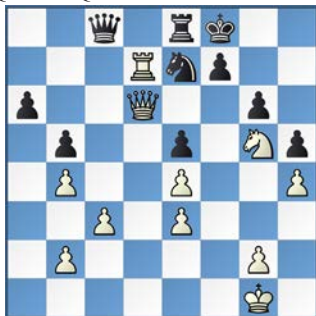
22.Rxd8 Nxd8 (22...Rxd8 23.Nd5 Qd6  
24.Qf3 Qf8 25.Nxc7+-) 23.Rd7 Qc6  
24.Nd5+-

22...Rxd7 23.Rxd7 Ne7

23...Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Re7 25.Qd3 Kg7  
26.g3 Rxd7 27.Qxd7 Nd8 28.Qxc7

24.Rxc7 Bb6 25.Rd7 Qc6 26.Qd3 Bxe3  
27.fxe3 Qc8 28.Qd6 Kf8

28...Qc6 29.Qxc6 Nxc6 30.Rxf7+-



Position after 28...Kf8

29.Qf6 Qc4 30.Qh8+ Ng8 31.Nh7#

1-0

Sophie Tien (1916) –  
Aditya Singh (1572) [B40]

Seattle Fall Open  
Chess.com (R1), September 26, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

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 0-0 10.Bb2 h6

10...a5 11.c4 a4

11.e5 Nd7 12.c4 Ba6 13.Qg4 Qa5 14.Nf3  
Rab8?

14...dxc4 15.bxc4 (15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.Qxc4  
Qb5∞) 15...Rfd8

15.Bc1! Kh8 16.Qh3 Qc3 17.Bxh6!  
Qxd3 18.Bg5+ Qh7 19.Qxh7+ Kxh7  
20.Bxe7 Rfe8 21.Bd6± Rbc8 22.Rfc1 c5  
23.Rc3 d4

23...Kg8 24.Re1 d4 25.Rd3±

24.Ng5+ Kg8 25.Rf3

25.Rg3±

25...f6 26.exf6 gxf6 27.Ne4



Position after 27.Ne4

27...Kf7?

27...Kg7 28.Bf4 e5 29.Bd2±

28.Nxf6 Nxf6 29.Be5 Bb7 30.Rxf6+  
Ke7 31.Re1 Rg8 32.g3 Rg5 33.Rh6 Rf5  
34.Rh7+ Rf7 35.Bd6+ Kf6 36.Rh6+ Kg7  
37.Rexe6 Rd7 38.Be5+ Kf7 39.Ref6+  
Ke7

39...Kg8 40.Rfg6+ Kf8 41.Rh8+ Kf7  
42.Rf6+ Ke7 43.Rh7+

40.Rh7+ Kd8

40...Ke8 41.Re6+ Kf8

41.Rf8#

1-0

Sophie Tien (1916) –  
William Wu (1854) [C54]

Seattle Fall Open  
Chess.com (R5), September 27, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6  
5.d3 h6 6.h3 d6 7.Bb3 a6 8.Nbd2 Ba7  
9.Nf1 0-0 10.Ng3 Re8 11.0-0 Be6 12.

Re1 d5 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Bc2 Rad8 15.  
Kh2 b5 16.Nh4 Ne7 17.d4 exd4 18.e5  
Ne4 19.cxd4



Position after 19.cxd4

19...Bxd4?!

19...Nc6 20.Nf3 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4  
22.Nxe4 dxe4 (22...Bxe5+ 23.Ng3  
Bf5 (23...Bxh3 24.Qf1) 24.Be3 Bxg3+  
25.fxg3 Rxe3 26.Qxe3 Bxc2 27.Qc5 Be4  
28.Rac1∞) 23.Qxe4±

20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qxe4 g6 22.Bxh6 Qc6

22...Nf5

23.Qf4 Kh7?

23...Bc4

24.Rac1 Qb6 25.Nf3 Bxf2 26.Ng5+!  
Kxh6 27.Nxe6+ Kh7 28.Qxf7+ Kh6  
29.Qg7+ Kh5 30.g4+

30.Qh7#

30...Kh4 31.Qh6#

1-0

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Eric Holcomb,  
Business Manager

# Washington Women's Championship

By Rekha Sagar

The 2020 Washington Women's Championship, Washington's largest annual women's-only tournament, was held on September 18-20. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was moved online via Chess.com, which attracted players given the increased accessibility and non-existent travel costs. Chess players from three states in the U.S. including parts of Washington, Illinois, and Wisconsin, were represented the 19-players field! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by newly appointed WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar, with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Megan Chen (1871 – 1890, 4.5/5), a software engineer from Chicago, Illinois, won the 19-players open section with an undefeated 4.5/5, conceding only a single draw to WFM Minda Chen in round four. WCF Women's and girls' director WFM Chouchan Airapetian (2104 – 2091, 4.0/5) finish in second place and won the title of Washington State Women's Champion with four points from five games. For her

victory, Chouchan also earns a seed into the 2021 Washington State Premier.

A trio of juniors - Sonia Devaraju (1522 – 1557, 3.5/5), Felicity Wang (1635 – 1650, 3.5/5), and Sophie Szeto (1496 – 1536, 3.5/5) - tied for =third/U1800/U1600 with 3.5/5 points each. Emma Li (1487 – 1510, 3.0/5) from Redmond captured first U1400 honors with three points. Young rising star Aashi Mathur (1033 – 1072, 1.5/5) from Sammamish won the U1200 prize. Mercer Island's Charlotte Westover (851 – 845, 1.0/5) took home the U1000 prize.

This was my first time running a WCF Women's Championship, and I am pleased to report that the tournament ran exceptionally smooth, with all players displaying high levels of integrity and sportsmanship. The girls and women were so calm, composed, and mature, as well complimenting each other before the games started. WCF's fair play analysis team has completed the games review and is happy to announce a clean event with no fair play violations! Thank you to all the participants who made this tournament a huge success in these times of great uncertainty! I appreciate our President Mr. Josh Sinanan and Scholastic Director Mr. Jacob Mayer for providing an opportunity to host this beautiful event.

Megan Chen (1826) –  
Chouchanik Airapetian (2104) [C41]  
Washington Women's Championship  
Chess.com (R2), September 19, 2020  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nd7 3.Nf3 e5 4.Bc4 c6  
5.dxe5 dxe5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Ng5 Bxg5 8.  
Qh5



Position after 8.Qh5

8...Qf6

8...Qe7 9.Qxg5 (9.Bxg5 Ngf6 10.Qh4 Nf8 is less convincing.) 9...Qxg5 10.Bxg5 Ngf6 11.f3± b5 12.Be2 Nb6 13.Nd2 Be6 14.Rfc1± planning c2-c4.

9.Bxg5 Qg6 10.Qxg6

Another idea is to retain the queens: 10.Qh4 Ngf6 11.f3 and White is more comfortable.

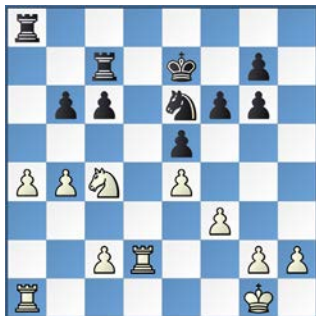
10...hxg6 11.a4 Nc5 12.f3 Be6 13.Nd2

## Official Standings:

Official Standings: Washington Women's Championship									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Megan Chen	1826	W15	W2	W3	D6	W4	4.5
2	2	Chouchanik Airapetian	2104	W5	L1	W16	W9	W6	4
3	3-5	Felicity Wang	1667	H---	W17	L1	W10	W12	3.5
4		Sonia Devaraju	1543	W18	H---	W8	W7	L1	3.5
5		Sophie Szeto	1496	L2	W11	W17	W13	D7	3.5
6	6-9	Minda Chen	1966	W14	W12	D7	D1	L2	3
7		Mary Kuhner	1878	W9	W13	D6	L4	D5	3
8		Angela Chen	1421	H---	W10	L4	H---	W15	3
9		Emma Li	1342	L7	W19	W12	L2	W13	3
10	10-11	Aradh Kaur	1651	D11	L8	W14	L3	W17	2.5
11		Meera Shanmugam	1224	D10	L5	W18	L12	W16	2.5
12	12-15	Melina Li	1702	W16	L6	L9	W11	L3	2
13		Catherine Smith	1522	W19	L7	W15	L5	L9	2
14		Grace Deng	1438	L6	L16	L10	W18	W19	2
15		Jind Kaur	1336	L1	W18	L13	W19	L8	2
16	16-17	Kylie Zhang	1325	L12	W14	L2	D17	L11	1.5
17		Aashi Mathur	561	B---	L3	L5	D16	L10	1.5
18	18-19	Lois Ruff	1027	L4	L15	L11	L14	B---	1
19		Charlotte Westover	851	L13	L9	B---	L15	L14	1



Nf6 14.b4! Bxc4 15.Nxc4 Ne6 16.Be3 Nd7 17.Nd6+ Ke7 18.Nxb7 Rhc8 19. Rfd1 Rc7 20.Na5 f6 21.Rd2 Nb6 22. Bxb6 axb6 23.Nc4



Position after 23.Nc4

23...Ra6

23...Rca7 tempts 24.Nxb6? (24.a5±)  
24...Rb8 25.Nc4 (25.a5 Rxb6) 25...Rxb4  
26.Nd6 Rxa4.

24.Nb2

24.a5

24...Nd4 25.Rad1

25.f4!?

25...b5 26.a5 c5 27.c3

27.Nd3!?! Ne6 28.Kf2

27...Nc6

27...Nb3!?! 28.Rd5 cxb4 29.cxb4 Nd4  
30.Nd3±

28.Nd3 cxb4 29.Nxb4! Nxb4 30.cxb4  
Rc4 31.Rd7+ Ke8 32.Rd8+ Ke7  
33.R1d7+ Ke6 34.Rxg7 Rxb4 35.Rxg6  
Ke7 36.Rb8 Rxa5 37.h4 Rba4 38.h5  
Ra1+ 39.Kh2 Ra8 40.Rxb5 Rh8  
41.Rb7+ Ke6 42.Rb6+ Ke7 43.h6 Rc1  
44.Rbxf6 Rc5 45.g4 Ke8 46.Rg7 Rc2+  
47.Kg3 Rc1 48.h7

1-0



To Boldly Go... Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.

## Challenger's Cup Scholastic

By Jacob Mayer

On October 24, 2020 the WCF hosted its annual Challenger's Cup Scholastic Chess Tournament. The five-round event was completed online on chess.com, directed by Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer. The event featured 80+ scholastic players from grades K-12 throughout the Pacific Northwest in four sections: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open.

Congratulations to our winners (Listed below, places may be determined

by tiebreaks)! In the K-3 U800: First Place — Agasthya Guduru, Second Place — Naamya Gulati, Third Place — Sakash Agrawal, Fourth Place — Ishan Kedarisetty.

In the K-3 Open: First Place — Shashwat Pranav Iyer, Second Place — Ivy Edmond, Third Place — Sai Sriathan Tunuguntla, Fourth Place — Sanjay Urali.

In the 4-8 U900: First Place — Jagadish Medikurthi, Second Place — Ayush Jain, Third Place — Hongren Zhen, Fourth Place — Vaidehi Joshi.

In the 4-12 Open: First Place — Varin Nallabothula, Second Place — Hiruna Devadithya, Third Place — Edward Cheng, Fourth Place — Ethan Chung.



Seeking Pleasantville. Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.

# The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

And then there were three. That's what is left to the 2020 Grand Prix, just the Washington Class Championships in November (27-29), and the Northwest Chess Winter Open (13th) and Washington Winter Classic (26-27) in December. All three still online. No way to know when that will change, but with Covid-19 cases hitting new daily records in most states in early November, including the three Northwest states, it doesn't look like anytime soon.

The Washington Class Championships will carry a 3x multiplier, meaning all points earned will be tripled. The Washington Winter Classic will have a 2x multiplier, and the Northwest Chess Winter Open will be a single value event. Once that is all done, we will see where we are for prizes. With so many fewer events this year, the cash prizes for Washington residents will be significantly lower than we have become accustomed to, but they won't be a pittance, either. Basically, for every ten dollars collected, a first place share gains a dollar and a half dollar for each second place share. At this point, we have had 676 Washington entries so a first place share stands at \$67.60. How much higher it will go depends directly on the number of entrants in those three above-named tournaments.

As for the out of Washington contingent, the eventual prizes will also be determined by the amount of the prize fund raised. Those prizes will consist of subscriptions or subscription extensions. How many and for how long is yet to be determined. To date, we have had 213 entries from outside of Washington, led by 62 from Oregon, 23 from Canada, 18 from California and 15 from Idaho. Altogether, we have had players from 18 states outside of Washington, and seven other countries.

So, make your plans to play a few more times this year. Tell your chess friends to join in. Wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, keep your fingers off your face, get your flu shot, and don't become another of those record numbers. Stay safe so we can see each other across the board someday without the assistance of Zoom.

Data below current through November 1.

<b>2020 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings</b>								
<b>Washington</b>				<b>Other Places</b>				
	<b>last</b>	<b>first</b>	<b>pts.</b>		<b>last</b>	<b>first</b>	<b>place</b>	<b>pts.</b>
<b>Masters</b>				<b>Masters</b>				
1	Mahajan	Rushaan	52.0	1	Lenderman	Aleksander	NY	102.0
2	Levine	David	25.0	2	Shahinyan	David	ARM	101.0
3	Pupols	Viktors	24.5	3	Raptis	Nick	OR	84.0
4	Orlov	Georgi	22.5	4	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	77.5
5	Kaufman	Ray	19.5	5	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR	58.5
<b>Experts</b>				<b>Experts</b>				
1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	102.0	1	Vega	Isaac	OR	67.0
2	Whale	Nicholas	79.5	2	Sairam	Pranav	CA	51.0
3	Bell	Harry	62.0	3	Huang	Patrick M	CAN	47.5
4	Shubin	Daniel	56.5	4	Guha	Eshan	NJ	33.0
5	Jiang	Brandon	42.5	5	McConnell	Griffin	CO	25.5
<b>Class A</b>				<b>Class A</b>				
1	Tien	Sophie	117.0	1	Moore	Michael	OR	74.0
2	Qian	Daniel	79.5	2	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.5
3	Razmov	Valentin N	79.0	3	Bagchi	Sounak	NJ	28.0
4	Chang	Eddie	59.0	4	Pang	Ashley	CA	19.5
5	Chen	Minda	54.5	5	Two tied at			19.0



Washington				Other Places				
	last	first	pts.		last	first	place	pts.
<b>Class B</b>				<b>Class B</b>				
1	Gottumukkala	Ananth	88.5	1	Guo	Yu Han (Veronica)	CAN	30.0
2	Li	Edward	80.5	2	Pai	Kushal	OR	21.0
3	Wang	Felicity	77.0	2	Zhao	Maxwell Z	IL	21.0
4	Kompella	S Aditya	73.0	4	Fowler	James F	OR	17.0
5	Vemparala	Nikash	67.5	5	Two tied at			16.5
<b>Class C</b>				<b>Class C</b>				
1	Li	Emma	126.0	1	Zhu	Florina	NJ	31.5
2	Brown	Northern	107.5	2	Martin	Andrew	CAN	29.0
3	Singh	Saket	81.5	3	He	Justin	ID	19.5
4	Ramkumar	Aditya	78.5	4	Gabunia	Davit	OR	18.0
5	Devaraju	Sonia	59.0	5	Three Tied at			15.0
<b>Class D and Below</b>				<b>Class D And Below</b>				
1	Ruff`	Lois	121.5	1	Malakar	Saarthak	OR	56.5
2	Kona	Vidip	104.5	2	Hack	Don	CAN	54.5
3	Zhang	Michael	98.0	3	Arul	Sharvesh	AZ	44.0
4	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	95.0	4	Li	David	IL	40.0
5	Devadithya	Hiruna	91.0	5	Morris	Brian L	CA	36.0
<b>Overall Standings</b>								
1	Li	Emma	126.0	1	Lenderman	Aleksander	NY	102.0
2	Ruff`	Lois	121.5	2	Shahinyan	David	ARM	101.0
3	Tien	Sophie	117.0	3	Raptis	Nick	OR	84.0
4	Brown	Northern	107.5	4	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	77.5
5	Kona	Vidip	104.5	5	Moore	Michael	OR	74.0
6	Vijayakumar	Advaith	102.0	6	Vega	Isaac	OR	67.0
7	Zhang	Michael	98.0	7	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR	58.5
8	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	95.0	8	Tarjan	James	OR	58.0
9	Devadithya	Hiruna	91.0	9	Malakar	Saarthak	OR	56.5
10	Gottumukkala	Ananth	88.5	10	Hack	Don	CAN	54.5
11	Zhang	Michelle	87.0	11	Arul	Sharvesh	AZ	54.0
12	Singh	Saket	81.5	12	Sairam	Pranav	CA	51.0
13	Li	Edward	80.5	13	Huang	Patrick M	CAN	47.5
14	Whale	Nicholas	79.5	14	LI	David	IL	40.0
14	Qian	Daniel	79.5	15	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.5



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