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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
jeffreyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Eric Holcomb,
Alex Machin, Duane Polich, Ralph Dubisch,
Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan, Wilson Gibbins.

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Eric Holcomb
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Renaissance Chess Set. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

On the back cover:

Jeffrey Roland on April 7, 2018 in downtown Boise.
Photo credit: Alex Machin.

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Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor
1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
jeffreyroland9@gmail.com

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From The Editor's Desk

My journey as *Northwest Chess* editor continues! Last month's issue, the April issue, was so far my favorite issue yet. Everything clicked, everything worked, and I had so much material and it was quality! The way I worked with Ralph Dubisch was better than ever too. We constantly find ways to make things better, each issue seems to be a steppingstone in an evolution, and it was a lot of fun too. We *both* think it was the best issue we've done to date.

After last month's issue, I took people's advice and took some time off for what everyone said was much deserved time off. But that is the wrong thing to do! I should have known better after 101 issues. It would have been far better to jump right into this issue the day after the April issue was done!! It is far harder to turn off and then turn on your mojo—it's not like flipping a light switch!

Anyway, I am a musical person, and a little dated, so I guess the way to put it would be something like, "Simon and Garfunkel can't always make every album as good as *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, but they still make great music!" So hopefully this issue is still good.

I would encourage more submissions like we had last month though, players annotating their games really helps. Josh always does a great job promoting our magazine and getting material to come in... so I look forward to that continuing.

Idaho and Oregon should be submitting material as well. But I haven't been pushy, I figure people submit material when they feel it! But maybe a little nudge right here wouldn't be so bad. So come on Idaho and Oregon! But Washington don't stop!

It seems like it will not be too long before we will start to see some over-the-board chess happening again. That should result in some fresh new photographs of chess players coming soon, some fun games, and new chess friendships being developed in the Northwest!

Jeffrey Roland
Editor

Chess-Themed Movies: *Hatley High*

By Breck Haining

Hatley High is a 2003 Canadian comedy set in North Hatley, a small town on the northern shore of Lake Massawippi in Quebec. By all accounts, or at least the ones I've read, North Hatley is one of the most beautiful small towns in Quebec. Fans of the X-Files may know North Hatley as the location of the smoking man's hideout. The makers of *Hatley High* would have us believe there is something else unique about this town: the entire populace is crazy about one sport. Now if you are thinking it must be hockey, because Canadians are big hockey fans, you might be right about our neighbors to the north, but you'd be wrong about the citizens of North Hatley. Folk in North Hatley go bonkers over chess. If you didn't get your fill of the three C's—chess, cheerleaders, and comedy—from my earlier article, this may be the movie for you.

The protagonist of our story is Tommy Linklater, an amateur magician who knows how to play chess, but who isn't all that interested in chess. Tommy has moved to North Hatley with his father, Herman, a distinguished physicist suffering from writer's block. The house they have moved to was left to Herman by his late wife, Melanie, maiden name Lloyd. Unbeknownst to Tommy and Herman, Melanie was a local legend. She led the Hatley High Knights, an internationally ranked chess team and the pride and joy of North Hatley, to three consecutive championships. Memorabilia from her chess playing days abound, and Melanie's skill in chess is still recounted by those who knew her. Folk say she had a natural talent, that she could "dismantle a 200-year-old stratagem in seconds." Hopes are that Tommy will be a chess genius like his mother and will play for the Knights.

The Knights remind me of the Cobra Kai in the original *Karate Kid*; arrogant, rude, and obnoxious. In the opening scenes a school reporter asks Shaun Rhodes, captain of the Knights: "So, ah, how do you feel about Melanie Lloyd's son, Tommy, moving to town?" Shaun replies: "Oh what, you mean, am I, am I scared? Am I quaking in my booties? Bring it on, Tommy. Bring it on!" The coach is asked if the Knights may have found a new player for the roster.

The coach, who defected from Russia following a big match with the Knights in 1976, says he doesn't know Tommy, but his mother: "She was like a genius. She could win with no touch queen. Very good." Tommy is oblivious to all this.

On Tommy's first day at Hatley High the principal introduces Tommy to Hyacinthe Marquez, whom he describes as head cheerleader, debate champion, honor roller, and all-around wiseacre. She will be Tommy's guide for the day. Hyacinthe doesn't think the town needs another chess hero, but Tommy intrigues her. She shows him around the school and introduces him to people.

One afternoon Hyacinthe asks Tommy if he is going to the big game. Tommy asks, "What big game." Hyacinthe says it's the annual game against Princeton and urges him to go. Tommy agrees. On the day of the big game Tommy heads with new friend Julius to the basketball gym, where we find a crowd cheering for the Knights. Tommy, mystified, says: "Chess? You gotta be kidding me." Julius casually replies, "We always beat Princeton. It drives them nuts to lose to high schoolers." In an interview after the match Shaun taunts: "Ivy League? More like bush league!" Tommy, however, isn't all that impressed. Speaking with Hyacinthe after the competition, Tommy says that Shaun could have finished his game seven moves earlier. "There are easier ways to counter a Sicilian Defense."

When Hyacinthe learns that Tommy sometimes beat his mother in chess she is determined to see just how good he is. Against Tommy's wishes, Hyacinthe tells Shaun: "Tommy could beat you anytime he wanted." Shaun says if so then Tommy is the biggest disappointment the town has seen since his mother got her butt kicked by the Russians in '76. Tommy can't let the quip about his mother pass, so says: "Fine. Right here. Right now." Shaun quickly unzips his Hatley High Knights sweatshirt and calls for a board. Under his sweatshirt we see Shaun is wearing a bandolier, filled not with cartridges, but chess pieces. Shaun gives Tommy the honor of playing first. Tommy, playing Black, initiates the game. (I don't know whether this was intended to be comedy, or those involved in the film didn't know

that White is supposed to move first.) Tommy is able to defeat Shaun but throws the game.

Shaun understood that Tommy threw their game and is determined to find out just how good Tommy is. He buddies up to Tommy and one evening takes him for a drive into the big city. They arrive at a sketchy looking joint. Near the back of the room we see Takeshi, sporting tattoos and sunglasses, giving off a yakuza vibe. Tommy is not at all comfortable but agrees to play a game against Takeshi. Shaun puts \$100 down. Takeshi is the odds-on favorite to win, 15 to one. Midway through the game, the director humorously adds tension to the film by cutting to closeups of Tommy's and Takeshi's eyes ala spaghetti Western style. Toward the end of the game, Tommy motions for Shaun to lean closer and whispers, "Um, I'm a little worried." "Why?" asks Shaun. "Because I think I have him," Tommy replies, "but I'm worried he'll cut my fingers off if I win." Takeshi growls: "When you schoolgirls are finished whispering, I would like to continue to play." One move later Tommy declares checkmate. Takeshi is surprised. Tommy fears his life is over, but Takeshi pays up and thanks him for the game. Later that evening Tommy tells Shaun that secretly he had a good time that evening.

The town is abuzz when they learn the Russians are returning with the cream of the crop for a rematch. The Knights know they must train seriously. We see the team on the football field doing short sprints, moving a chess piece each time they reach each end. We see a player doing curl ups on an inclined bench, moving a piece after each curl. Players do pushups and play a move after reaching the up position. (My wife thought this was a good idea and suggested I try this!) The team is ready when the Russians arrive. We meet their coach, their team, and are introduced to their team captain, Anya Petrovich.

To help out, Hyacinthe formed a welcoming committee and organizes a dance. The Russians don't seem to enjoy the cold war décor. The principal warns Hyacinthe that he will hold her personally responsible for any international incident.

Hyacinthe calls her fellow cheerleaders to the rescue! The cheerleaders invite the Russian guys to dance, but that leaves Anya and two of her female teammates without partners. Anya sees her chance, walks across the floor, and asks Shaun to dance. The coach doesn't like it and warns Shaun about Anya, but Shaun falls for her feminine wiles and slips out a side door with her. Shaun is convinced that he is in for some kinky action but is left locked in the principal's office, on the floor, handcuffed, with tape over his mouth.

On match day all of North Hatley is excited. Pre-game we see the local bar packed with people waiting to root for the match on TV. A reporter in the school parking lot asks a fan with face painted in school colors what he thinks is going to happen. The fan declares: "We're going to send those Rooskies back to Stalinville." We see the coach give the Knights a pep talk in the locker room, followed by prayer from a pastor who has befriended Tommy's father. Fans have packed the gym and are cheering loudly, waving small flags. Cheerleaders are jumping and cheering, encouraging the fans to yell even more. As the Knights head to the gym the coach is concerned that Shaun is nowhere to be found, but a teammate reminds the coach that this is not unusual. Shaun likes to seclude himself before a big match and then make a grand entrance.

The format of the match is not common. Instead of all players playing at once, the captains play their game after all other games have finished. Regular games are worth one point. The captains' game is worth three points. A referee blows a whistle to start the match. The Russians win three games and lose one. The ref announces the captains' game will start in ten minutes. We learn the coach can make substitutions up to two minutes before the game begins. We also learn that Shaun named Tommy as an alternate. Tommy, of course, didn't know

this. As time ticks down the coach motions for Tommy to come over. Likely you have already guessed: Tommy is asked to play against Anya. The substitution is announced with a whistle. Shaun is rescued just before the game is to begin, but it is too late to change players. Shaun encourages Tommy to play.

The captains' game is played with glittery gold and red pieces, gold being White and red being Black. Tommy begins 1.e4, moving his queen's pawn out two squares with his right hand, then



*Breck Haining.
Photo credit: Li Haining.*

pressing the clock with his left. (No one seems to have noticed that Tommy's king and queen are on the wrong squares.) Anya touches her c-pawn, but plays her king's pawn, 1...e5. Nothing is said about adjusting pieces. Tommy counters with 2.Nc3, attacking the pawn on e5. The director cuts to facial closeups, then returns to the board, where we see the e-pawn is back on e7 and the f-pawn has been played to f5. The game continues, 2...c6 3.Bb5 Nf6. Really? Not 3...cxb5?

It is clear they aren't really playing competitively.

A number of moves later, Tommy looks directly at Anya and says: "What do you think I should do? Well, I'll just move my queen and we'll see what happens, huh?" He offers a Botez gambit. Anya asks: "Who has taught you to play in such idiotic fashion?" Tommy responds: "My mother." Anya declares: "Then your mother is a fool." She accepts the Botez gambit, RxQ, and announces: "I have your queen." Tommy replies: "Yes, you do.

But, ah, I have your king in five." Anya studies the board, then tips her king over. The Knights have won. Tommy is the big hero. The Knights rush out and lift Tommy onto their shoulders but drop him on the floor when they see Shaun and exit to celebrate with him.

From the above you may think the film has nothing but chess scenes. That isn't the case at all. I have simply focused on the chess scenes. The first time I saw the movie I was a little disappointed. I was expecting a comedy involving chess. I wasn't expecting chess to be used for ridiculous parody. Tommy was supposed to be a chess wizard, but only thought he had Takeshi when he had checkmate in one. Takeshi doesn't see that he has been checkmated when Tommy makes his one move. Takeshi is supposed to be good at chess. Board play is absurd.

I don't know whether the film has a Motion Picture Association film rating. If it does, my

guess would be PG-13. The film has scenes and dialog which prevent me from recommending this film to parents for younger audiences. I have reservations about the portrayal of women but will say what we see and hear is not uncommon in comedies on TV these days. The second time I watched the movie I knew what to expect and was able to enjoy more of the comedy. If you can set the film's faults aside this might be a chess-themed movie you would enjoy.

Chess In A New World

By Karen Schmidt

I frequently pester my chess friends and acquaintances about interviewing them for one of my monthly *Northwest Chess* vignettes. This was the case with my friend Ali, whom I met in 2015 at the downtown Seattle Pioneer Square Starbucks shortly after I had “crashed” the men’s casual chess club there, and they had graciously let me in. Ali was quiet and seemed shy but was always friendly and a very good chess player. I learned that he was originally from Morocco but had lived in Seattle for several years and was working at Boeing. I would see him at Starbucks, and we would occasionally play a game of chess — which he usually won.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, I have missed seeing Ali and the other members of our informal chess club. Ali and I have kept in touch via text and email, and I recently suggested again that I write part of his story for this magazine. I was very pleased when he agreed.

Ali’s first language was a Moroccan dialect, which he explained is a mixture of Berber, Arabic, French and Spanish. But



*Isaias at Starbucks.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*



*Random Westlake chess scene.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

he is very multi-lingual: speaking English (very well, after only being in the U.S. for a dozen years or so); Arabic; French; and some Spanish. He told me that he learned Arabic and French in school, and that most of his school classes were taught in French.

When we were first getting to know each other, I was amazed to learn that Ali had never played chess before coming to the States. After playing chess off and on for five years with him, I think I have only won a few games. His study background was math and physics, so he may be yet another example of my theory that people who are good at math would also be good at chess and music. As a matter of fact, Ali has recently bought a keyboard and is teaching himself to play. (He said mostly Arabic and North African songs, so far.) I play flute and piccolo myself, and my guilty pleasure is that I also sing karaoke. But that’s another story!

Ali and I did our interview via email, and I was quite touched when I received his story. It was a poignant account of learning a life-changing game in a new world. When he came to Seattle, he worked for several years at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Seattle, probably the premier hotel in the city. He used to stop at the Starbucks at First and Pike (near the world-famous Pike Place Market) for coffee before heading to work. I am going to use Ali’s own reflections about how he came to learn the game of chess.

“I was born and raised in a small town in the northwest part of Morocco. As a child, I was most interested in sports, especially soccer. I had most of my education there in Morocco (background: mathematics and physics). I played checkers now and then when I was young. I never played chess.

I didn’t learn chess until I moved to the U.S. On my way to work in downtown Seattle, I used to stop at Starbucks to have coffee. I often read articles or news on my phone while having coffee. I noticed two guys who almost always played chess together. One day I got interested in watching their game while sipping my coffee and waiting for the time to head to work. I approached them and asked if I could sit and watch their game. With nice smiles and hospitality, they invited me to watch their game. I introduced myself and they did the same. Their names were Isaias and Juan. They were both from Mexico. When the time came to head to work, I thanked them and left for work. The next day they were at the coffee shop again. We waved and said hello, and I came to their table and sat to watch another game. They asked me if I had ever played; I said maybe one or two times. They started teaching me what every piece is and how it is moved on the board. I got interested in learning this game. Every time I saw them playing, I watched them,



*Chess at Westlake. Tony is the player on the left.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

and I started guessing (to myself) the move each one of them might make during their game. My guesses and their moves matched, in many instances. I started to appreciate the game. One day Isaias asked me to play against Juan. Of course, I lost the game, but I started understanding the game better. I kept stopping at the coffee shop before going to work and started playing against each one of them. One day another person joined us, and we made a small casual tournament.

I don't remember the other man's name, but he was a Native American (author's note: Tony, Makah tribe, from Neah Bay). He told me that he is from a tribe on the Olympic Peninsula. This was around 2011. He showed me many moves. He was friendly and provided good help for a newbie. I used to watch him play against Isaias or Juan and he used to say, "That was not very nice!" if his opponent made a good move. Anyway, we become familiar with each other. At some point in time, Juan stopped coming to the coffee shop, but I ran into him many times in the downtown area. He invited me to play a couple games at Westlake Park. I also kept playing against Isaias and the Native American.

Somewhere around this time I changed jobs and stopped going to the coffee shop, since I was no longer working downtown. One day I called Isaias and asked him if he ever played on the weekends. He told me that several chess players show up at the Starbucks in Pioneer Square and play against each other on the weekend. That is where I met Karen, Randy,

the tall Mexican guy (Clemente) and another Mexican fellow (I forgot his name); a Filipino (author's note: Gilbert); an African American and another white American (author's note: Jeff). Anyway, it was like a chess club that had Starbucks as a central location. We started to get to know each other. We often bought coffee and pastries for each other. Randy had a dry sense of humor. He was good at stalemate. Many times, I thought I won the game, but he pulled a stalemate move from one of his sleeves.

It was nice to meet all those people. They were from different cultures and parts of the world, but we had the chess game in common, which helped us get to know each other and form a connection. Sometimes we chatted about our families and our lives back home. Sometimes we talked about different traditions in our societies of origin. I even started practicing my broken Spanish. I often



*Isaias and Clemente at Pioneer Square Starbucks.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

asked what they call certain things in Spanish. I was able to learn the new words or phrases quickly as they are very similar to French.

I enjoy chess because it allowed me to know many people, from many cultures. We even got to know the coffee shop workers, who sometimes came and sat with us. I always try to learn "life lessons" from the game of chess. COVID came, and the coffee shop closed. Hopefully things will get back to normal and we can revive our small chess club. I do play chess on [Chess.com](https://www.chess.com) now and then, but it is not as much fun as when you play in person.

There are great videos on the internet that teach chess strategies and tactics. Those are very helpful. Sometimes it is hard to duplicate the situation in a real game, but the videos offer a good base for chess players. I don't enjoy it as much when I try to duplicate a tactic or strategy that I see in a video, because it is not my own work. It is more fun when I think on my own and come up with good moves."

Reading Ali's email and writing this story have made me very nostalgic for Westlake and Pioneer Square. As the country slowly starts to re-open, I hope that casual chess will be able to resume at those locations and elsewhere around the city. I hope my downtown chess buddies are alive and well and have found ways to keep playing chess during the pandemic. Most of them I only know on a first name basis, so I have not been able to keep in touch with them. I can't think of anything more enjoyable than to bus down to Westlake on a sunny day and play chess until dusk — or even until dark. My favorite phrase: well, maybe just one more game!

Washington Closed Brilliancy Prizes Championship Section

By **Brendan Zhang**

Winner: Round nine: **Ryan Porter** –
Rushaan Mahajan (1-0).

Reasoning: To me, this was the most impressive game this year. Ryan found a counterintuitive idea: giving up both knights for a rook. However, Black's king was dangerously exposed. Immediately, Ryan followed up with the daring Bxh6, and proceeded to pile diagonal pressure on Black's compromised position. When everything liquidated, White found himself up the exchange, yet, Rushaan was still fighting, hoping his passed c-pawn could create enough play for a draw. In the end, White's major pieces were too strong, and proved to be decisive. Amazing game!

**Ryan Porter (2310) –
Rushaan Mahajan (2221) [B12]**
WA Closed Championship
Chess.com (R9), February 15, 2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Be3 dxe4 5.Nd2
exf3 6.Ngxf3 Nf6 7.Nc4 Nbd7 8.Bd3
Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 b5 11.Nce5 Bb7
12.Ng5 h6



Position after 12...h6

13.Ngxf7 Rxf7 14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.Bxh6
Nf8 16.Be3 Qd5 17.c4 bxc4 18.Bxc4
Qd6 19.Rad1 Ng6 20.Bf2 Rh8 21.Bg3
Qd7 22.Rde1 Be8 23.Qd3 Nf8 24.Be5
c5 25.d5 Kg8 26.d6 Bd8 27.Qg3 Qf7
28.Bc3 Rh6 29.Re5 N8h7 30.Kh1 Rg6
31.Qe1 Bb7 32.Re2 Ng5 33.Rff2 Kh8
34.Bxe6 Nxe6 35.Rxe6 Rh6 36.Qe5 Qg6
37.Kg1 Rh5 38.Qe2 c4 39.Bxf6 Bxf6
40.d7 Rd5 41.Rexf6 gxf6 42.Qe8+ Kg7
43.d8Q Rxd8 44.Qxd8 Qb1+ 45.Rf1
Qxb2 46.Qc7+ Kh8 47.Qd8+ Kg7
48.Qd7+ Kf8 49.Qd6+ Kg7 50.Qg3+

Kf7 51.Rd1 c3 52.Rd7+ Ke6 53.Qd6+
Kf5 54.g4+ Kxg4 55.Rg7+ Kf3 56.Qxf6+
Ke4 57.Qe7+ Kd3 58.Qxb7 Qc1+ 59.Kg2
Qd2+ 60.Kg3 Qe1+ 61.Kf4 Qe3+ 62.Kf5
Qf2+ 63.Ke6 Qe3+ 64.Kf7 Qf4+ 65.Kg8
Qc4+ 66.Qf7 Qc8+ 67.Qf8 Qe6+ 68.Rf7
c2 69.Qa3+ Kd2 70.Qb4+ Kd3 71.Qb5+
Kd2 72.Qd7+

1-0

*This is fully annotated by Porter starting
on page 15 of the April 2021 issue.—
Editor.*

#2: Round One: Megan Lee – **John
Readey** (0-1)

Reasoning: I felt that this game
deserved second place because Readey
was seemingly able to create chances out
of an objectively drawn game. Despite the
fact that there wasn't really a "spectacular
move" anywhere in the game, Ready
demonstrated his superior positional play
and was able to continuously put pressure
on Megan's position.

**Megan Lee (2329) –
John Readey (2289) [B08]**
WA Closed Championship
Chess.com (R1), February 13, 2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.h3
Nbd7 6.Nf3 Qc7 7.Qd2 b5 8.a3 Bg7 9.
Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bh6 a6 12.Rfe1
e5 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Bf1
Rfe8 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Nh4 h6 18.Qe3
Nf8 19.Ne2 Ne6 20.Ng3 Nf4 21.c4 Rxd1
22.Rxd1 Rd8 23.Rc1 Qd7 24.Nf3 Qe7
25.Qb6 Rd6 26.Nh4 Bc8



Position after 26...Bc8

27.c5 Qd8 28.Qxd8 Rxd8 29.Nf3 Re8
30.Rd1 Bd7 31.b4 Re7 32.Bd3 Ne8
33.Bc2 f6 34.Bb3 Be6 35.Bxe6 Nxe6
36.Kf1 Kf7 37.Ne2 Ra7 38.Nc1 a5
39.Nd3 axb4 40.axb4 Ke7 41.g3 N8c7
42.Ke2 Nd4+ 43.Nxd4 exd4 44.Nf4 g5
45.Nd3 Ne6 46.f4 Ra2+ 47.Rd2 Ra4
48.Kf3 h5 49.e5 f5 50.h4 g4+ 51.Ke2
Nc7 52.Rb2 Nd5 53.Kd2 Ke6 54.Kc2
Nc3 55.Nc1 Ne4 56.Rb3 Kd5 57.Ne2
Ra2+ 58.Rb2 d3+ 59.Kc1 Rxb2

0-1

#3: Round Five: Joseph Levine –
Tian Sang (0-1)

Reasoning: I have Tian's win in
third place because of his 30...e3 move.
This proposed sacrifice—a true thorn in
White's position—proved to be too much;
Joseph found it very difficult to defend all
of his weaknesses.

As Joseph began to fight back, Tian
was able to create new threats, including
introducing a barrage of pressure down
the semi-open f-file. Additionally, Tian
used his light-squared bishop to wreak
havoc and eventually finish the game.

**Joseph Levine (2179) –
Tian Sang (2344) [C54]**
WA Closed Championship
Chess.com (R5), February 14, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d3 a6 6.Bb3 0-0 7.0-0 Ba7 8.Re1 h6
9.Nbd2 d6 10.Nf1 Nh5 11.d4 Qf6 12.Be3
Bg4 13.d5 Ne7 14.N1d2 Nf4 15.Bc4
c6 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Bf1 Neg6 18.g3
Nh3+ 19.Bxh3 Bxh3 20.c4 Bg4 21.Kg2
Qe6 22.Qc2 f5 23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Qa4 d5
25.cxd5 exd5 26.Rac1 Bh3+ 27.Kg1 Qf7
28.Bxa7 Rxa7 29.Re2 e4 30.Ne1

[Diagram top of next page]

30...e3 31.Ndf3 Ne5 32.Rxe3 Nc4 33.Re2
Bg4 34.Rc3 Qh5 35.b3 Nd6 36.Ree3 Ne4
37.Rcd3 Raf7 38.Qc6 Bxf3 39.Nxf3 Rxf3
40.Rxd5 Ng5 41.h4 Rxe3 42.fxe3 Qf3
43.Qc4 Qf2+ 44.Kh1 Qe1+ 45.Kg2 Rf2#

0-1



Position after 30.Ne1

#4: Round Eight: **Megan Lee** – Advait Vijayakumar (1-0)

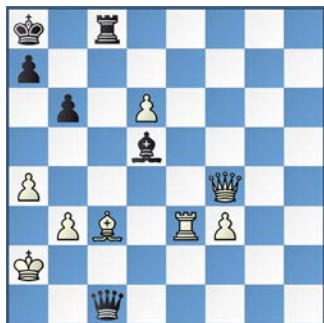
Reasoning: As one of the longest games of the event, I commend both players for fighting hard. Throughout the game, Megan accurately defended against Black's threats on her weak king. As the game continued, Megan was able to stabilize her position, and convert an endgame that wasn't exactly trivial (found the right moments to trade the queens).

Megan Lee (2329) – **Advait Vijayakumar (2026) [C07]**

WA Closed Championship

Chess.com (R8), February 14, 2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.dxc5 Nf6 6.Ng3 Qxc5 7.Nb3 Qc7 8. Bd3 Bd6 9.0-0 Nc6 10.c3 Bd7 11.a4 0-0-0 12.h3 h6 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Kb8 15.Bd2 Bc6 16.Rc1 Qd7 17.Bc2 g5 18.Ba5 b6 19.Bc3 Nd5 20.Re1 g4 21. hxg4 Rhg8 22.Ne5 Bxe5 23.Rxe5 h5 24.Be4 Rxg4 25.Bxd5 Bxd5 26.f3 Rg6 27.Rxh5 Rdg8 28.Rh2 Qb7 29.Kf2 Qc7 30.Qh1 Qg3+ 31.Ke3 Qg5+ 32.Kf2 Qg3+ 33.Ke3 Rg4 34.Kd3 Be4+ 35.Ke2 Bb7 36.Re1 Ba6+ 37.Kd1 R4g7 38.d5 Rg5 39.Rh5 Rxh5 40.Qxh5 Qxg2 41.Qxf7 Rd8 42.Qf4+ Ka8 43.d6 Bb7 44.Re3 Qf1+ 45.Be1 Bc6 46.Kc2 Qa6 47.b3 Qf1 48.Kb2 Qg2+ 49.Ka3 Qc2 50.Rxe6 Bd5 51.Re3 Qc1+ 52.Ka2 Qc2+ 53.Ka3 Qc1+ 54.Ka2 Rc8 55.Bc3



Position after 55.Bc3

55...Qc2+ 56.Bb2 Qc6 57.Rc3 Qd7 58.Rxc8+ Qxc8 59.Qe5 Qc6 60.Qh8+

Kb7 61.Qh7+ Kc8 62.Qxa7 Qxd6 63.Qa6+ Kd7 64.Qb5+ Kc8 65.Qa6+ Kd7 66.Qd3 Qc6 67.Qd4 Kc8 68.f4 Qe6 69.Qh8+ Kb7 70.Qh7+ Kc8 71.Qd3 Qc6 72.Qc3 Kb7 73.Qxc6+ Kxc6 74.f5 Kc5 75.Ka3 Bf7 76.Be1 Kd4 77.f6 Kc3 78.b4 Kc4 79.b5 Kd4 80.Kb4 Kd5 81.Be3 Ke5 82.Bxb6 Kxf6 83.Kc5 Ke7 84.a5 Kd7 85.Ba7 Bh5 86.Bb8 Bf3 87.Bg3 Kc8 88.Kb6 Be2 89.a6 Bf3 90.Ka7 Be2 91.b6 Bxa6 92.Kxa6

1-0

#5: Round Eight: **Joseph Levine** – **Chouchanik Airapetian (0-1)**

Reasoning: Chouchan has shown that she can still hang with the best of them. In this game, Black was able to void many of White's threats, and a ...Bxf2 tactic was all it took to soften White's king. However, the fight still wasn't over. Joseph defended accurately and tried to create as many counter-chances as he could. Unfortunately his efforts proved to be insufficient as Chouchan creatively snuck her King behind her passed pawn for safety.

Joseph Levine (2179) – **Chouchanik Airapetian (2104) [C54]**

WA Closed Championship

Chess.com (R8), February 14, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bb3 h6 7.Nbd2 Bg4 8.Nf1 0-0 9.Ng3 Be6 10.0-0 Bb6 11.Re1 Re8 12. Ba4 Bd7 13.h3 Ne7 14.Bxd7 Qxd7 15.d4 Ng6 16.Be3 Rad8 17.Qc2 c5 18.d5 c4 19.Bd2 Bc5 20.b4 cxb3 21.axb3 Rc8 22. Nf5 Kh7 23.g4 Nf4 24.Bxf4 exf4 25.e5 dxe5 26.Nxe5 Rxe5 27.Rxe5 g6 28.d6 gxf5 29.Re7 Qxd6 30.Qxf5+ Kg7 31. Rxf7+ Kxf7 32.Qxc8



Position after 32.Qxc8

32...Bxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Qd2+ 34.Kf1 Qd3+ 35.Ke1 Qe3+ 36.Kf1 Qf3+ 37.Kg1 Qg3+ 38.Kf1 Qxh3+ 39.Ke2 Qe3+ 40.Kf1 Qf3+ 41.Kg1 Qg3+ 42.Kf1 Qh3+ 43.Ke2 f3+ 44.Kd3 f2+ 45.Ke2 Qg2 46.Qc4+ Kg7 47.Rf1 Nxc4 48.Qd4+ Kg6 49.Qd6+ Kg5 50.Qe7+ Kh5 51.Qe8+ Kh4 52.Qd8+ Kh3

53.Qe8 Qd5 54.Rh1+ Kg2 55.Rf1 Qf3+ 56.Kd2 Kxf1 57.Qh5 Qe2+ 58.Kc1 Qe1+ 59.Kc2 Qe4+ 60.Kd2 Qf4+ 61.Kd1 Ne3+ 62.Kd2 Ng2+ 63.Kd3 Kg1 64.Qc5 Qe3+ 65.Qxe3 Nxe3 66.Kxe3 f1Q 67.Kd4 h5 68.Kc5 h4 69.c4 h3 70.b4 h2 71.Kb5 Qf5+ 72.c5 Qd5 73.Ka5 b6+ 74.Ka6 bxc5 75.b5 Qd7 76.Ka5 h1Q 77.Ka6 Qhb7+ 78.Ka5 Qdxb5#

0-1

Honorable Mentions

These games were good, but weren't enough in my opinion to warrant a top-five mention.

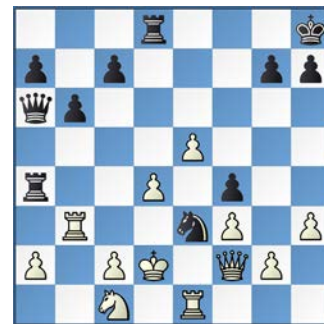
Round Two: **Megan Lee** – **Tian Sang (1/2-1/2)**

Megan Lee (2329) – **Tian Sang (2344) [C63]**

WA Closed Championship

Chess.com (R2), February 13, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0 9.Qe2 Qe8 10.Be3 Kh8 11.Nd2 d6 12.f3 Bd7 13.Rab1 Nh5 14.Bd3 b6 15. Rfd1 Nf4 16.Bxf4 exf4 17.Bb5 Ne5 18. Bxd7 Qxd7 19.Nc4 Rae8 20.Nb2 Qc6 21.Qd2 Ng6 22.Qd4 Re5 23.Nd3 Rg5 24.Kf2 Ra5 25.Rb2 Qe8 26.Re1 Qe7 27.Ke2 Qg5 28.Qf2 Qh5 29.h3 Ra4 30.Kd2 Qa5 31.Nc1 Ne5 32.Rb3 Nc4+ 33.Ke2 Ne3 34.Kd2 d5 35.e5 d4 36.Ke2 Qa6+ 37.Kd2 Rd8 38.cxd4



Position after 38.cxd4

38...Nc4+ 39.Kc3 Qa5+ 40.Kd3 Nxe5+ 41.Ke2 Qa6+ 42.Nd3 Raxd4 43.Kf1 Nxd3 44.cxd3 Rxd3 45.Rxd3 Qxd3+ 46.Kg1 h6 47.Qh4 Qd4+ 48.Kh2 Qf6 49.Qf2 c5 50.Re4 Qg5 51.Qe2 Kh7 52.Qc2 Qg3+ 53.Kg1 Qg6 54.Qc1 Qd6 55.Kh2 g5 56.Qc2 Kg7 57.Qc3+ Kg8 58.Qe1 Rd7 59.Re6 Qd5 60.Re5 Qf7 61.Re8+ Kg7 62.Qe5+ Kg6 63.Qh8 Qf6 64.Qg8+ Rg7 65.Qd5 Re7 66.Qg8+ Rg7 67.Qd5 Re7 68.Rd8 Qe6 69.Qd3+ Kg7 70.Rd6 Qf7 71.Qc3+ Kg8 72.Rxh6 Qg7 73.Qc4+ Qf7 74.Rg6+ Kh7 75.Qxf7+ Rxf7 76.Rxg5 c4 77.Re5 Rc7 78.Kg1 c3 79.Re1 b5 80.Kf2 b4 81.Rc1 a5 82.Ke2 Rd7 83.Rd1

Washington Closed Brilliancy Prizes Premier Section

By Samuel He

Winner: Round Seven: **Thanh Nguyen** – Vignesh Anand 1-0

Thanh's play impressively combined forceful mating threats with strategically sound maneuvering. Vignesh weakened the dark squares early on with the dubious combination of playing both ...e6 and ...g6, which Thanh effectively took advantage of. When Black decided to free himself with 15...e5, White adapted well and turned his attention to the kingside for the attack. As the position opened up on the kingside, it appears that both sides would be going at each other's king. The quiet brilliancy move 22.b3!! puts Black in a shocking zugzwang position in the middlegame! White finished off the game with strong precision.

Thanh Nguyen (2053) – Vignesh Anand (2085) [B30]

WA Closed Premier
Chess.com (R7), February 14, 2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Nge7 5.0-0 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 a6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Be2 d5 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Bc5 Rd8 14.Na4 Rb8 15.f4 e5 16.fxe5 Bxe5 17.Qg5 Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 Bd6 19.Qf6 Bxc5 20.Qxf7+ Kh8 21.Nxc5 Qe5



Position after 21...Qe5

22.b3 Qd6 23.Rf4 Nf5 24.exf5 Rf8 25.Ne4 Qd8 26.Qa7 Rb4 27.fxg6 hxg6 28.Nf6 Rxf6 29.Rxb4

1-0

#2: Round Nine: **Kyle Haining** – **Ignacio Perez** 0-1

Northwest Chess

Impressive attacking win by Ignacio. The resulting middlegame involved a lot of piece maneuvering, with each one of Ignacio's moves positioning his pieces towards the attack on the white king. 32...Nxg2 was the breakthrough point, soon leading to a very impressive mate.

Kyle Haining (2288) – Ignacio Perez (2224) [B07]

WA Closed Premier
Chess.com (R9), February 15, 2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.h3 e5 8.Be3 b6 9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.Re1 Re8 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Nf8 13.Bb5 c6 14.Bf1 Qc7 15.Qc2 Ne6 16.a4 Nh5 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Nc4 Nef4 19.Rad1 g5 20.Bg3 Bf8 21.Ne3 Re6 22.Bc4 Rg6 23.Qb3 Re8 24.Nh2 Bc8 25.Nhg4 Ng7 26.f3 h5 27.Nf2 Bc5 28.Kf1 Rf8 29.Qc2 Kh8 30.b4 Bxc3 31.Rxc3 f5 32.Bd3



Position after 32.Bd3

32...Nxg2 33.Kxg2 f4 34.Ree1 fxg3 35.Kxg3 Qf7 36.Qe2 Rf6 37.Kg2 Rxf3 38.Nh1 Bxh3+ 39.Kg1 Qf4 40.Qd2 Qg4+ 41.Kh2 Rf2+ 42.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 43.Nxf2 Qg2#

0-1

#3: Round Six: **Nicholas Whale** – **Kyle Haining** 0-1

Instructive example demonstrating why White should not be making too many moves on the queenside in the King's Indian Attack. Kyle quickly gained the initiative by targeting the weak pawns and squares and eventually broke through without giving White even a hint of counterplay.

Nicholas Whale (2074) – Kyle Haining (2288) [B40]

WA Closed Premier
Chess.com (R6), February 14, 2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 d5 6.e5 Nd7 7.Qe2 Qc7 8.Bf4 b5 9.0-0 Be7 10.a4 b4 11.c3 a5 12.Re1 Nb6 13.d4 Ba6 14.Qd1 Nc4



Position after 14...Nc4

15.Qc1 bxc3 16.bxc3 cxd4 17.cxd4 Bb4 18.Nbd2 0-0 19.Bf1 Rfc8 20.Nxc4 Bxc4 21.Bd2 Qa7 22.Bxb4 Nxb4 23.Qd2 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 Rc2 25.Qe3 Qd7 26.Rfc1 h6 27.Ne1 Rxc1 28.Qxc1 Rc8 29.Qd1 Rc4 30.Nf3 Qc6 31.Rb1 Rc3 32.Kg2 Rc2 33.Ne1 Rc3 34.Nf3 Qc4 35.Qf1 Qa2 36.Ra1 Qb2 37.Rb1 Qc2 38.Ra1



Position after 38.Ra1

38...Rxf3 39.Kxf3 Qe4#

0-1

#4: Round Two: **Timothy Moroney** – Vignesh Anand 1-0

Well-played game by Timothy that reminded me of Karpov's strategic wins.

May 2021

Page 11

In the middlegame, White restricted Black's counterplay by keeping control of the d5-square and the d6-pawn. Once this was under control, the a-pawn was able to freely move up the board and ultimately played the key role in winning the game.

**Tim Moroney (2048) –
Vignesh Anand (2085) [B51]**
WA Closed Premier

Chess.com (R2), February 13, 2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c4 Ngf6
5.Nc3 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.0-0
0-0 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.Qe2 Rc8 11.Rd1
Qb6 12.Be3 Qa6 13.b3 b5 14.Ndx5
Bxb5 15.Nxb5 Nxe4 16.Bd4 Qb7 17.
Nxa7 e5 18.Bb2 Rcd8 19.Nb5 f5 20.Rd5
Qb6 21.a4 Nf6 22.a5 Qc6 23.Rdd1 f4



Position after 23...f4

24.Rxd6 Rxd6 25.Nxd6 Qxd6 26.Ba3
Qd4 27.Rd1 Qc3 28.Bxf8 Bxf8 29.a6
Qxb3 30.Ra1 Qc3 31.Qe1 Qxe1+
32.Rxe1 Be5 33.Rxe5 Bxf2+ 34.Kxf2
Ng4+ 35.Ke2 Nxe5 36.a7

1-0

#5: Round Six: Ignacio Perez –
Thanh Nguyen 0-1

Thanh was able to effectively counter Ignacio's dubious attack by controlling key squares and trading off White's best attacking pieces. Thanh then calmly converted into a better endgame with a good knight vs a bad bishop and ruined pawn structure.

**Ignacio Perez (2244) –
Thanh Nguyen (2053) [D94]**

WA Closed Premier
Chess.com (R6), February 14, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5
5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bb3 a6
9.Ne5 0-0 10.h4 Qc7 11.h5 Nxh5 12.g4
Bxe5 13.gxh5 Bg7 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Qf3
Qd7 16.Qg2 Qg4 17.Qh2 Qh5 18.Qg1
Qg4 19.Qf1 e5 20.dxe5 Bxe5 21.Rg1 Qf5
22.Bd2 Be6 23.0-0-0 Bxb3 24.axb3 Qf3
25.Rh1 a5 26.Rh3 Qg4 27.f4 Bg7 28.Ne4
Qe6 29.f5 Qxe4 30.f6 b4 31.fxg7 Kxg7
32.Qf2 Na6 33.Rh4 Qe6 34.e4 Rh8 35.
Bg5 Rxh4 36.Bxh4 Qe5 37.Rf1 f5 38.

exf5 Qc5+ 39.Qxc5 Nxc5 40.f6+ Kf7
41.Rf3 Rh8 42.Bf2 Rh1+ 43.Kc2 Rf1
44.Rf4 g5 45.Rf5 Ne4 46.Rxa5 Rxf2+
47.Kd3 Nxf6 48.Rxg5 Rf3+ 49.Kc4 Rf4+
50.Kd3 Ke6 51.Rg6 Ke5 52.Rg5+ Rf5
53.Rg6 Kd5 54.Rh6 Rf3+ 55.Ke2 Re3+
56.Kd2 Re6 57.Kd3 Kc5 58.Rg6 Rd6+
59.Ke2 Nd5 60.Rg5 Rh6 61.Kd3 Rh3+
62.Kc2 Kb6 63.Re5 Rh2+ 64.Kb1 Nf4
65.Re3 Kc5 66.Rf3 Ne2 67.Rf6 Nd4
68.Ka2 Rh1 69.Rf2 Rh3 70.Rf4 Nxb3
71.Rf2 Kc4 72.Rc2+ Kb5 73.Rg2 Ka4
74.Rg1 Rh2 75.Rg8 Nc1+ 76.Kb1 Nd3
77.Rg3 Rxb2+ 78.Ka1 Rd2 79.Kb1 Kb3
80.Rg1 c5 81.Rh1 c4 82.Ka1 c3 83.Rb1+
Ka3 84.Rh1 Ra2+



Position after 84...Ra2+

0-1

Seattle Chess Club Quads

FEB. 13, MAR. 7, APR. 4, MAY 8

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 3-Round Quad in 4-player sections by rating. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated.

Time Control: G/75;+10 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$25. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. SCC members receive a \$10 discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM

Prizes (per quad): 1st \$50.

Memberships: Current US Chess membership required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A working Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Rating: Highest of current US Chess, US Chess Online, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

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.

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.



Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com
Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Registration deadline @ 5pm on the eve of the tournament. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Washington Closed Brilliancy Prizes Invitational Section

By Daniel He

Winner: Round One: Ryan Ackerman – Lane Van Weerdhuizen 0-1.

Black wisely sacrificed the exchange, rook for a knight and pawn, to plant a powerful bishop on e3. The resulting position easily favored Black's minor pieces as White's two rooks on f1 and d1 looked silly with no counterplay. Black's position was so dominant that even when White deliberately sacrificed back the exchange to relieve the tension, it came at a costly price: a dangerous passed e-pawn. Black simplified into a winning king and pawn endgame with Zugzwang in the final position. A very instructive game to illustrate that minor pieces can easily dominate a rook and to disregard point values for each piece.

Ryan Ackerman (1922) – Lane Van Weerdhuizen (1869) [A41]
WA Closed Invitational
Chess.com (R1), February 13, 2021

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 d6 4.Be2 Nc6 5.Be3 f5 6.exf5 Bxf5 7.g4 Be4 8.f3 Bxb1 9.Rxb1 e5 10.d5 Nd4 11.Qa4+ Qd7 12.Qxd7+ Kxd7 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Nh3 Re8 15.Nf4 Bh6 16.Ne6 Be3 17.Rd1 c5 18.b4 b6 19.a3 Nh6 20.f4



Position after 20.f4

20...Rxe6 21.dxe6+ Kxe6 22.Rf1 Rf8 23.f5+ gxf5 24.gxf5+ Ke5 25.Bd3 Ng4 26.h3 Nf6 27.bxc5 dxc5 28.Ke2 Nh5 29.Rf3 Nf4+ 30.Ke1 Rg8 31.Rxe3+ dxe3 32.Bf1 Kxf5 33.Rd7 Ke4 34.Re7+ Kf3 35.Rf7 Rg1 36.Rxf4+ Kxf4 37.Ke2 Rxf1 38.Kxf1 Kf3

0-1

This is fully annotated by Van Weerdhuizen starting on page six of the April 2021 issue.—Editor.

#2: Round Four: **Teddy Roberts – Victor Zhang** 1-0.

While it is usually not advised to push pawns in front of the king, White accurately judged the middlegame position as locked in the center, so he went for a kingside pawn storm against the enemy king. With checkmate right ahead on g7, Black was forced to keep a knight on e6 at all times. Logically, White went on a mission to eliminate the knight, even at the cost of an sacrificing an exchange. By the time Black finally held on and prevented mate, he was already down too much material.

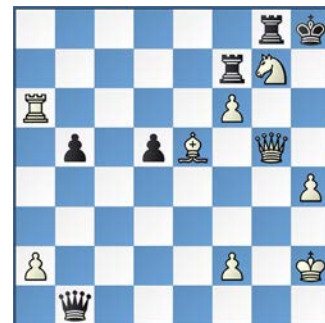
Teddy Roberts (1934) – Victor Zhang (1734) [B52]
WA Closed Invitational
Chess.com (R4), February 13, 2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 e6 8.d4 Be7 9.Bg5 cxd4 10.cxd4 0-0 11.Nc3 d5 12.e5 Ne8 13.Bf4 a6 14.h4 Nc7 15.Qd3 h6 16.g4 b5 17.Ne2 Rac8 18.Ng3 Rfe8 19.Nh5 g6 20.Nf6+ Bxf6 21.exf6 e5 22.dxe5 Qxg4+ 23.Bg3



Position after 23.Bg3

23...Nb4 24.Qd2 Ne6 25.Nh2 Qd4 26.Qxh6 Nc2 27.Rad1 Qxb2 28.Nf3 Nxe1 29.Rxe1 g5 30.Nxg5 Qc2 31.Nxe6 Qh7 32.Qg5+ Kh8 33.Ng7 Rg8 34.e6 fxe6 35.Rxe6 Rcf8 36.Be5 Rf7 37.Rxa6 Qb1+ 38.Kh2



Position after 38.Kh2

38...Qc2 39.Qh5+ Qh7 40.Qxf7 Qxh4+ 41.Kg1 Qg4+ 42.Bg3 Qd1+ 43.Kh2 Qd3 44.Qh5+ Qh7 45.Qxh7+ Kxh7 46.Rd6 Kg6 47.Rxd5 Kxf6 48.Nf5 Ra8 49.Rxb5 Rxa2 50.Ne3 Ra6 51.Rd5 Ke6 52.Kg2 Ra2 53.Kf3 Ra4 54.Rh5 Kf6 55.Rb5 Ra6 56.Bh4+ Ke6 57.Kg4 Ra8 58.f4 Rg8+ 59.Bg5 Kd6 60.f5 Kc6 61.Ra5 Kb6 62.Re5 Kc6 63.f6 Kd6 64.Rf5 Rf8 65.f7 Ke6 66.Rf6+ Ke5 67.Nc4+ Kd5 68.Bh6 Rc8 69.f8Q Rxf8 70.Rxf8 Kc5 71.Ne5 Kb4 72.Ng6 Kb3 73.Rc8 Kb2 74.Kf3 Ka1 75.Rb8 Ka2 76.Ke3 Ka1 77.Kd3 Ka2 78.Kc3 Ka1 79.Kc2 Ka2 80.Ra8#

1-0

#3: Round One: **Harry Bell – Dominic Colombo** 1-0.

In a seemingly equal position after the queens are traded, Black daringly wandered over to the queenside to snatch the a2 pawn. It was likely that Black missed 30. Nh6+ was a double check. White broke through on the kingside with just his four minor pieces and they worked together to form a nice mating net, leading to forced checkmate.

Harry Bell (2000) – Dominic Colombo (1960) [D74]
WA Closed Invitational
Chess.com (R1), February 13, 2021

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 0-0 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.e4 Nb6 8.0-0 Bg4 9.d5 c6 10.h3 Bd7 11.Nc3 cxd5 12.exd5 Qc8 13.Re1 Re8 14.d6 exd6 15.Rxe8+ Qxe8 16.Qxd6 Nc6 17.Bf4 Nc4 18.Qc7 Nxb2 19.Re1 Qc8 20.Nd5 Qxc7 21.Nxc7 Rc8 22.Nb5 Nd3 23.Rd1 Ncb4 24.Nd6

Rb8 25.Be3 Ba4 26.Rf1 b6 27.Ng5 Bf8 28.Ngx7



Position after 28.Ngx7

28...Nxa2 29.Bd5 Nab4 30.Nh6+ Kg7 31.Bd4+ Kxh6 32.Nf7+ Kh5 33.Bf3#

1-0

#4: Round Six: Dominic Colombo – Lane Van Weerdhuizen 0-1.

In opposite sides castling positions, the one who gets initiative first usually prevails. White missed an early opportunity to create a mess on the board with a thematic Greek Gift sacrifice, which allowed Black to defend and pursue his own attack. Black found two neat clearance pawn sacrifices with d3 and b3, opening up lines for his bishop

and rook and finishing off by pinning the queen.

Dominic Colombo (1960) – Lane Van Weerdhuizen (1869) [C11]
WA Closed Invitational
Chess.com (R6), February 14, 2021

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Bf4 a6 9.Qe2 b5 10.0-0-0 Qa5 11.Kb1 b4 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.e6 0-0 14.exd7 Bxd7



Position after 14...Bxd7

15.Ng5 h6 16.Qh5 f5 17.Nh3 Be8 18.Qh4 Rf6 19.Qg3 Bf7 20.f3 d4 21.b3 Ne7 22.Bc4 Bxc4 23.bxc4 Rg6 24.Qf2 d3 25.Qd2 Rd8 26.cxd3 Bd4 27.Qc2 b3 28.Qxb3 Rb6 29.Rc1 Rxb3+ 30.axb3 Qa3 31.Kc2 Nc6 32.Rb1 Qa2+ 33.Kd1 Qxb1+ 34.Ke2 Qxh1

0-1

#5: Round Nine: **Teddy Roberts – Harry Bell** 1-0.

Although the queens were traded early on, the game was far from dull with each side having a huge block of pawns on different sides of the board. White seemingly easily won the resulting pawn race. This game illustrates very effectively the importance of pushing passed pawns to further increase their value.

Teddy Roberts (1934) – Harry Bell (2000) [B31]
WA Closed Invitational

Chess.com (R9), February 15, 2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3 Bg7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 d6 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxc5 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Bg4 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Be3 Rfc8 13.Nbd2 h6 14.h3 Be6 15.Rad1 f5 16.b4 e4 17.Nd4 Nf8 18.N2b3 Bd7 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Bxc6 Rxc6 21.c4 Rcc8 22.Bd4 e5 23.Ba1 Kf7 24.Rd5 Re8 25.Red1 Re6 26.a4 b6 27.b5 h5 28.c6 Rc8 29.Bc3 g5 30.Bb4 Rc7 31.c5 g4 32.a5 bxc5 33.Nxc5 Re8 34.Na6 Rcc8 35.Bxf8 Bxf8 36.Rd7+ Ke6 37.Nc7+ Rxc7 38.Rxc7 Bc5 39.Rb7 g3 40.c7 e3 41.fxe3 f4 42.Rd8 fxe3 43.Rxe8+ Kf6 44.Kf1

1-0

Seattle Chess Club Tornadoes

FEB. 14, MAR. 14, APR. 25, MAY 9

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Online via  Chess.com

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated.

Time Control: G/60;+5 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$35. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. SCC members receive a \$10 discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: 9:30 AM, 11:50 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:30 PM.

Byes: 1 half-point bye available (Rd 3/4 must commit at registration)

Prize Fund: \$500 based on 30 paid entries.
1st \$175, 2nd \$135. Bottom Half: 1st \$110, 2nd \$80.

Memberships: Current US Chess membership required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A working Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Rating: Highest of current US Chess rating, US Chess Online rating, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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.

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.



Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

February 13 Seattle Chess Club Quads

By Josh Sinanan

The first ever *virtual* Seattle Chess Club Quads were held online via Chess.com on February 13, 2021. Prior to the pandemic, the Seattle Chess Club held monthly Quad and Tornado tournaments on Saturdays and Sundays, respectively. In an attempt to carry on this great tradition and provide regular playing opportunities for players in the greater Seattle chess community, the SCC and WCF have teamed up to co-host the Quads and Tornadoes online. It is our goal to continue serving chess players of all ages and levels as we navigate these challenging times. The first edition of the online Quads attracted five players and was won by Ontario Chess Stud FM Rohan Talukdar with 3.0/3!

Thanks to all players and staff who support these events!

2021 Presidential Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Presidential Scholastic Chess Tournament was held online via Chess.com on Sunday, February 21. Scholastic chess players participated from throughout the country, including parts of Washington, Oregon, and Maryland! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer. A total of 39 players competed across four sections: K-3 U800, K-3 Championship, 4-12 U1200, and 4-12 Championship.

Congratulations to the winners:

K-3 U800: **Konrad Ejsing & Viraj Kundu** - four points!

K-3 Championship: **Lucas Liu** - 4.5 points!

4-12 U1200: **Shachar Iarovich** - 4.5 points!

4-12 Championship: **Ujwal Garine & Owen Xu** - four points!

2021 Washington Girls Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington Girls

Championship took place online via Chess.com February 27-28. Female chess warriors from throughout the U.S. were represented in the 19-player field, including parts of Washington, Oregon, and Virginia! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar directed the tournament with assistance from former WA State Girls Champion Sangeeta Dhingra. The five-round Swiss tournament featured ten players in the Championship section and nine in the Reserve U1500 section.

Sophie Tien, a sophomore from Lakeside School in Seattle, won clear first place in the Championship section with 4.5/5. Sophie won her first four games in a row and built an insurmountable lead before conceding a draw to Iris Zhang in the final round. For her victory, Sophie receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2021 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions! Congratulations to Sophie! Last year's winner, WFM Anne-Marie Velea from Eastlake High School in Sammamish, finished a full point back with 3.5 points tied with Lakeside's Sophie Szeto after their hard-fought draw in the final round.

Selina Cheng, a third grader from Thurgood Marshall Elementary and Detective Cookie's Chess School, won the Reserve U1500 section with an impressive 4.5/5! Selina's only draw came at the hands of Sayali Gijare from Skyview Junior High School in Bothell. Isobel Chi, a seventh grader

from Lakeside Middle School in Seattle, finished in clear second place with four points. Half-a-point back in third place was eighth grader Sayali Gijare with 3.5 points. Prajna Sripathi from Stoller Middle School in Portland and Emily Huang from Medina Elementary School rounded out the prize winners, each of whom were awarded an Amazon gift card. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this event. Our ebullient chess community continues to thrive despite these challenging times!

Anne-Marie Velea (2103) – Sophie Tien (2018) [C30]

Washington Girls Championship
Chess.com (R3), February 27, 2021
[*Ralph Dubisch*]

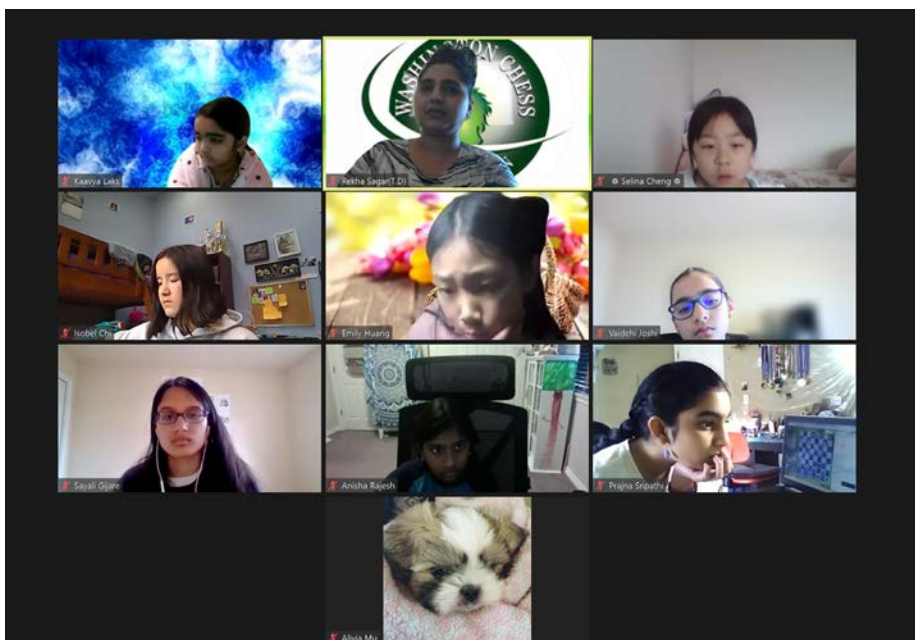
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3



Position after 6.Nf3

6...a6

Another interesting line is 6...Bg4 7.Na4 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nd4 9.Qd1 b5, and now White's only real chance for advantage



seems to be the speculative piece sacrifice 10.Bxf7+ (10.Nxc5 bxc4 11.fxe5 dxc5 12.exf6 Qxf6) 10...Kxf7 11.Nxc5 dxc5 12.fxe5 Nd7 13.0-0+, when White's mobile central pawn mass and Black's vulnerable king offer compensation.

7.h3?!

This weakens kingside dark squares. 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.Bxd5; 7.f5 h6 8.Qe2.

7...h6

7...Be6

8.Bd2 Be6 9.Bxe6

9.Bb3

9...fxe6 10.fxe5?!

10.Ne2 0-0 11.c3, perhaps.



Position after 10.fxe5

10...dxe5

Black could choose some dynamic sacrificial play, based on the weak kingside dark squares and restricted white king: 10...Nh5! 11.exd6 0-0! White's troubles are very real, for example 12.dxc7?? Qh4+!! 13.Nxh4 Bf2+ 14.Ke2 Ng3#.

11.Ne2 Nh5 12.Bc3 0-0 13.Qd2 Qd6 14.0-0-0



Position after 14.0-0-0

White now breathes a sigh of relief at having extricated her king from the center.

14...Rad8 15.Rhf1 b5 16.g4 Nf4 17.Nxf4 exf4 18.d4 Bb6 19.e5 Qd5 20.b3 a5 21.h4 b4 22.Bb2 a4 23.Qd3

23.h5!??

23...Rd7

Final Standings. Orlov Academy vs JtM Team Match: Orlov Swiss									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Oscar Preiner	1364	W9	W7	W5	W3	D2	4.5
2	2	Atharv Rastogi	1309	L7	W8	W6	W5	D1	3.5
3	3-5	Hunter Choi	1170	W10	L5	W9	L1	W7	3
4		Alec Edmond	1106	D8	L6	D7	W10	W9	3
5		Declan Kuo	973	B---	W3	L1	L2	W10	3
6	6-7	Tristan Kuo	1310	H---	W4	L2	L7	W8	2.5
7		Lucas Smith	1050	W2	L1	D4	W6	L3	2.5
8	8	Varsha Shanmugam	1022	D4	L2	L10	W9	L6	1.5
9	9-10	Jason Smith	1100	L1	W10	L3	L8	L4	1
10		Sarang Sankrithi	1024	L3	L9	W8	L4	L5	1

Team Roster and Standings. OCA vs JtM					
Code	Players Name	Score	Code	Players Name	Score
OCA	Carson Roesch	4	JtM	Atharva Srinivas	4.5
	Nikash Vemparala	3		Kaitlyn Tao	4
	Vidip Kona	3		Noah Nathaniel Yuen	3
	Dann Merriman	3		Joshua Imoo	3
	Stephen Willy	2.5		Kaigi Qin	3
	Ted Wang	2.5		Zichen Roger Zuo	2.5
	Meera Shanmugam	2		Henry Haichen Liu	2.5
	Donovan To	2		Winston Huang	2
	Stuart Bushfield	2		Josiah Field	1.5
	Sharvesh Arul	2		Nathan Yang	1
	Calvin To	1		Jayden Su	1
Final Score		27	Final Score		28

23...a3 24.Ba1 Ne7 25.h5 c5.

24.g5 a3 25.Ba1 hxg5?!

25...Rfd8

26.hxg5

26.Nxg5 Rf5 27.Qe2 g6 28.Nf3

26...Ne7?!

26...Rf5

27.Rh1?!

27.g6! Nf5 (27...Rf5 28.Nh4) 28.Qe2±

27...Nf5 28.Rh3

28.g6!±

28...Kf7



Position after 28...Kf7

Time to promenade.

29.g6+ Ke8 30.Qd2?!

30.c4 bxc3 31.Bxc3

30...Ne3

30...c5!?

31.Rdh1

31.Qxb4!?

31...c5! 32.Ng5 cxd4 33.Rh8 Bc5 34.Rxf8+ Bxf8 35.Rh8 Qb5

35...d3!

36.Qd3 Qc6?!

36...Qxd3 37.cxd3 Rc7+ 38.Kb1 Rc2 39.Nxe6 (39.Bxd4 Rd2 40.Bxe3 fxe3) 39...Ke7 40.Nxd4 Rg2 41.Rh1 Rxc6+; 36...Qxe5 37.Nh7? Ke7 38.Rxf8 Qh5 39.Rf7+ Kd8 40.Rxd7+ Kxd7 41.Qxd4+ Ke8+ White has literally no defense to mate, despite the extra piece.

37.Qd2?

Giving up the blockade of the d-pawn can't be a good idea. 37.Ne4 offers White much more hope: 37...Nf5? (37...f3! 38.Bxd4 f2! 39.Nxf2 Nf5 38.Nd6+ Nxd6 39.exd6 Qxd6 40.Qe4 with activity.



Position after 37.Qd2

37...d3! 38.Rxf8+ Kxf8 39.Qxb4+ Ke8 40.Qb8+ Rd8

0-1

2021 Orlov Chess Academy vs Juniors to Masters Academy Team Match

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Orlov Chess Academy vs Juniors to Masters Academy Team Match and Orlov Swiss Tournament took place on Saturday, March 6. Chess players representing both the Orlov Chess Academy and the Juniors to Masters Academy participated from throughout Washington State and Canada. The event was co-hosted by the Orlov Chess Academy and the Juniors to Masters Chess Academy under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. A total of 11 players from each team competed in the five-round Team Swiss event. A ten-player Orlov Swiss tournament was held alongside the match to provide additional training for rising Orlov Academy stars!

The Orlov Chess Academy vs Juniors to Masters Academy Team Match ended in a nail-biting 28-27 victory for the Juniors to Masters Academy Team. Congratulations to the players from both teams on an exciting and hard-fought match with many thrills and spills along the way! Team Orlov Academy Team started off strong, edging out a narrow 6.5-4.5 lead after the first round. The Junior to Masters Academy leveled the score in round two with key wins on the middle boards. Team Orlov regained the momentum in rounds three and four, building a modest 25-19 lead heading into the final round. Facing a must-win situation, the Juniors to Masters Academy Team came out swinging and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with an amazing nine wins in the final round! Many players on both teams are fast improving, having honed their skills in online chess over the past year during

the pandemic. It was a pleasure for the organizers and spectators to follow the match games in real time, featuring many creative ideas and brilliant strategies. Great sportsmanship was on display throughout the afternoon, with all players fighting hard to help their team up until the end!

In the Orlov Swiss, top seed Oscar Preiner finished in clear first place with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Oscar drew against second place finisher, Atharv Rastogi, in the final round. A trio of players finished on three points half-a-point back: Hunter Choi, Alec Edmond, and Declan Kuo.

Special thanks to JtM Academy Captains Victoria Doknjas and GM Gergely Szabo, and to our wonderful TD Rekha Sagar for all their hard work in running this online match! Thank you also to all the players and parents for contributing their time and energy to making this a successful event. We look forward to growing this tradition, online or in-person, for many years to come!

March 7 Seattle Chess Club Quads

By Josh Sinanan

The March Seattle Chess Club Quads were held online via Chess.com on Sunday, March 7, under the direction of TD Travis Olson. The SCC Quads are co-organized by the Seattle Club and the Washington Chess Federation.

A total of 11 players took part in two sections, a Quad and a Mini-Swiss. The Quad was won by IM Mitrabha Guha from India with a perfect 3.0/3!

SCC Board Member Chad Boey emerged victorious in the seven-player Mini-Swiss with an undefeated 2.5 points from three games! Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all players and organizers who support these events!

Stay tuned for more events co-hosted by the WCF and SCC in the coming months.

2021 WA Spring Mini-Teams Championship

By Siva Sankrithi and Josh Sinanan

The Washington Spring Mini-Teams Championship was held online via Chess.com on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Chess players of all ages and levels participated from throughout the west coast, including parts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by Chess Dad and former Metro Chess League Director Siva Sankrithi, and directed by online chess extraordinaire and WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer. A total of 153 players competed in three-player "mini" teams across four sections separated by grade level: K-3, 4-6, 7-12, and Parents & Friends. Of the fifty-one teams of three registered, the breakdown by section was as follows: 14 teams (42 players) in the K-3 section, 14 teams (42 players) in the 4-6 section, 13 teams (39 players) in the 7-12 section, and ten teams (30 players) in the Parents/Friends section!

Those craving more "televised" chess tournament action after having finished The Queen's Gambit were in luck for this tournament! Local chess coach and incomparable streamer Tim Moroney provided expert commentary on his SlothyChess Twitch Channel ([twitch.tv/slothychess](https://www.twitch.tv/slothychess)) for the duration of the event, which spanned over six hours. Running a 150-player Team tournament is no small task and required careful planning and logistical coordination on behalf of organizer Siva Sankrithi and tournament director Jacob Mayer. Siva's son, Sarang, played in the K-3 section on the Bandar Bhais team and Siva himself played in

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the Parents/Friends section on the Bandar Dads team. Now onto the results!

In the K-3 section, WeAreBad (Dann Merriman 1570, Michael Lin 1484, Yuchen Zhou 1325) finished in clear first place with a perfect five match points from five rounds. The Disco Penguins (Selina Cheng 1449, Alec Edmond 1105, Ivey Edmond 1080) claimed second place honors with 3.5 match points.

The Three Musketeers (Derin Goktepe 1957, Ryan Min 1924, Christopher Peng 1491) won the 4-6 section with a dominating five match points, with Derin and Ryan each sweeping the competition 5.0/5! Second place in the 4-6 section was Looking for Brilliant Mates (Yiding Lu 1772, Alexander Yang 1701, Jamie Zhu 1595) with 4.0/5 match points.

In the 7-12 section, the Interlake Saints (Aaryan Deshpande 2120, Pranav Kurungod Anoop 1988, Arjun Tiwari 1406) captured first place with a perfect 5.0/5 match point score. The Alphas (Nikash Vemparala 1819, Stephen Willy 1644, Varin Nallabothula 1622) were not far behind them and finished in clear second place on 4.0/5.

In the new Parents and Friends section, team KRD (Krishnan Warrior 2102, Ryan Ackerman 1922, and Dylan Vo 1365) and the Woodpushers (Alexis Goodfellow 1649, Walter Guity 401, Alan Guity unr.) tied for first place with four match points apiece!

The Bandar Dads (Satyajit Malugu 2156, Siva Sankrithi 1541, Ravi Kakkad 533) and Bandar Bhais (Sankalp Malugu 1303, Vayu Kakkad 1051, Sarang Sankrithi 970) won the combined Parents/Friends prize with 5.5 points. Special thanks to the amazing players, parents, friends, and organizers who contributed to this fun event!

**Ryan Ackerman (1922) –
Justin Yu (1992) [A59]**

WA Spring Mini Teams Championship
Chess.com, March 13, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6
5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1
d6 9.g3 Bg7 10.Kg2 Nbd7 11.Nf3 0-0
12.a4 Ng4**

Other theory: 12...Qa5 13.Bd2 Rfb8
(13...Qa6) 14.Nb5 Qd8 15.Qc2; 12...Ra6
13.Qc2 Qa8 14.Nb5; 12...Qb6 13.Qe2
Rfb8 14.Nb5. None of this looks like full
compensation for the pawn, though.

13.Qc2 Qa5
13...c4!?

14.Bd2 Qb4



Position after 14...Qb4

15.Rhb1

15.Ra3!?

**15...Qc4 16.b3 Qa6 17.h3 Nge5 18.Nxe5
Nxe5 19.Nb5 Rfc8 20.Bc3 c4 21.b4±**



Position after 21.b4

Black's opening has failed to deliver the queenside pressure that is supposed to flow naturally from a Benko Gambit. Much of the blame falls on the tempo-eating maneuver of the black queen that allowed White to develop, reposition pieces to favorable squares, and advance the b-pawn.

**21...Nd3 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Qc3+ Kg8
24.Nd4 Qa7**

24...e5 25.dxe6 Qb7 26.exf7+ Qxf7
27.Rf1±

25.b5



Position after 25.b5

25...Qc5

25...e5 26.dxe6 fxe6 27.b6 Qb7 28.f3 d5
29.e5 Nxe5 30.Qe3+-

**26.b6 Ra5 27.b7 Rb8 28.Ra2 Ra7
29.Rb5 Qc7 30.Nc6 Rxb7 31.Qxc4**

Or simply 31.Nxa7 Rxa7 32.a5+-.



Position after 31.Qxc4

31...Ne5

31...Ne1+ 32.Kf1 Nf3 33.a5 (33.Qb3
Rxb5 34.axb5 Rxa2 35.Qxa2 is also
obviously good for White.) 33...Ne5
(33...Ra8 34.Rb6 Qc8 35.g4, and now
the attempt to reach a repetition draw
through 35...Nh2+ 36.Kg2 Nxb4 fails
to 37.Rxb7+-.) 34.Rxb7 Qxb7 35.Nxe5
dxe5 36.a6+-

**32.Qc2 Nxc6 33.dxc6 Rb6 34.Rxb6
Qxb6 35.a5 Qc7 36.a6 Kf8 37.Qb2 e5
38.Qb7 Rxb7 39.cxb7 Ke7 40.a7 Qc6
41.b8Q Qxe4+ 42.Kh2**

1-0

March 14 Seattle Chess Club Tornado

By Josh Sinanan

The inaugural *virtual* Seattle Chess Club Tornado was held online via Chess.com on March 14, 2021. Prior to the pandemic, the Seattle Chess Club held regular Quad and Tornado tournaments once per month. To carry on the tradition and provide more playing opportunities for local players, the SCC and WCF decided to team up to co-host the Quads and Tornadoes online. It is our goal to continue serving chess players of all ages and levels as we navigate these uncertain times. The March SCC Tornado was directed by WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. A total of 12 players took part in one Open section. GM Aleksej Aleksandrov from Minsk and local chess hero FM Ignacio Perez from Capitol Hill tied for first place, each with three and a half points from four games. The two masters drew against each other in a wild third round bout in which Ignacio sacrificed multiple pieces to obtain a winning attack, but missed the knockout blow at the end! Suya Metzmaker, a fifth grader from the Open Window School in

Official Standings. Seattle Chess Club Tornadoes

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1-2	Aleksej Aleksandrov	12710284	2708	W9	W7	D2	W6	3.5	Tied 1st/2nd
2		Ignacio Perez	12689583	2224	W3	W4	D1	W7	3.5	Tied 1st/2nd
3	3	Suya Metzmaker	16458411	1602	L2	W11	W8	W9	3	1st U1650
4	4-5	Felicity Wang	16292674	1717	W11	L2	W10	H---	2.5	
5		Robert Metzmaker	10358477	1539	L7	D9	W11	W12	2.5	2nd U1650
6	6-7	Richard Ingram	13212044	1880	W10	W8	L7	L1	2	
7		Aaron Nicoski	12797931	1789	W5	L1	W6	L2	2	
8	8-10	Leif Carman	30099283	1650	W12	L6	L3	D10	1.5	
9		Ruban Sai Meiyalagan	30018746	1642	L1	D5	W12	L3	1.5	
10		James Hamlett	12374510	1561	L6	W12	L4	D8	1.5	
11	11	Andy Xu	16732301	1312	L4	L3	L5	B---	1	
12	12	Marie Guan	30137479	unr.	L8	L10	L9	L5	0	

Bellevue, finished with three points and won the first place U1650 prize. Bob Metzmaker, Sua's grandfather, finished with two and a half points and won the second place U1650 prize.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to the players and organizers who support these events!

Aaron Nicoski (1789) – Richard Ingram (1880) [A47]
 SCC Tornado
 Chess.com (R3), March 14, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.Bd3 Be7 6.h3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.Nbd2 d6 10.Qe2 cxd4 11.exd4 Re8 12.Ba6?!



Position after 12.Ba6

Strategically unfortunate. White has an edge in space and some kingside chances based on the half-open e-file, and the

light-square bishop has a potential future pressuring the b1-h7 diagonal. White should not be seeking exchanges in general, and definitely not of this specific piece. 12.Rfe1±

12...Bxa6 13.Qxa6 Qd7 14.Rfe1 Rad8

14...b5!? 15.Qxb5 Rab8 16.Qd3 Rxb2 17.Nc4 Rbb8; 14...Rac8

15.Rad1

15.Qd3 e5!?

15...Nd5 16.Bh2 Nc7 17.Qd3 Nd5 18.Nc4 Nf6 19.Rd2 Rc8 20.Ne3 h6



Position after 20...h6

20...d5 at least avoids the isolated pawn issue.

21.d5! exd5 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.Qxd5 Rcd8

23...Na5! discourages the capture on d6: 24.Bxd6?! (24.Rde2/) 24...Bxd6 25.Qxd6 (25.Rxe8+? Qxe8 26.Qxd6 Nc4-+) 25...

Rxe1+ 26.Nxe1 Qe8 27.Rd1 Nc4 28.Qb4 Qe2 Black is getting far too much activity. Black may also succeed in holding with a long passive defense. 23...Bf8 24.Rxe8 (or 24.Red1 Na5) 24...Qxe8 25.Bf4±

24.Red1 Na5 25.Bxd6?! Na5

If you're going to take

d6, then go 25.b4 first: 25...Nc6 (25...Nb7 26.Nd4±) 26.Bxd6±.

25...Bxd6 26.Qxd6 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 Rxd6 28.Rxd6 Kf8?

28...Nc4 29.Rd7 Nxb2 30.Rxa7 Re2 ...Nd1 or d3 is a threat. Pawns on f2, c3, and a2 are all weak.

29.Rd7 Re7?

Exchanging pieces when down material is not a good idea.

30.Rxe7 Kxe7 31.Kf1 Kd6 32.Ke2 Kd5 33.b3 Nc6 34.Kd3 b5 35.Nd2

35.Nd4

35...Ne5+ 36.Ke3 Kc5 37.f4 Nc6 38.a3 a5 39.g4 Ne7 40.c4 b4 41.axb4+?! 41.Ne4+ Kc6 42.axb4 axb4 43.Kd4+-

41...Kxb4 42.Kd3 Nc8?!

42...Nc6±

43.Kd4± a4? 44.bxa4 Kxa4 45.Kc5 Ka5 46.Kc6 Ne7+ 47.Kd7 Ng6 48.c5

48.f5 Ne5+ 49.Kd6 f6 50.c5

48...Nxf4 49.c6 Nd5 50.c7

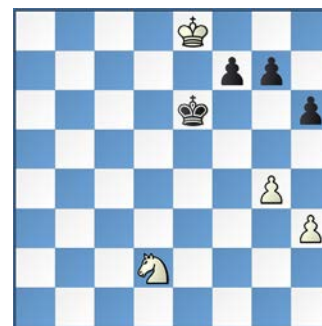
50.Kd6

50...Kb5 51.c8Q Nb6+ 52.Kc7

52.Ke8! Nxc8 53.Kxf7+-

52...Nxc8 53.Kxc8 Kc6 54.Kd8 Kd6 55.Ke8 Ke6

55.Ke8 Ke6



Position after 55...Ke6

56.Nf1?

56.Kf8! Kf6 (56...g6 57.Kg7 h5 (57...f5 58.Kxg6) 58.g5 Kf5 59.Nf3) 57.Nf3 g6 58.h4+-

56...g6?

56...f5! 57.Kf8 (57.gxf5+ Kxf5 58.Kf7 Kg5 59.Kxg7 Kh4) 57...fxg4 58.hxg4 Kf6 59.Nh2 Kg5 60.Kxg7 h5

57.Kf8 f5 58.Kg7 h5 59.gxh5

59.g5

59...gxh5 60.Kg6 f4 61.Kxh5 f3 62.Kg4 f2 63.Kf3 Kf5 64.Kxf2 Kg5 65.Kg3 Kh5

66.h4 Kh6 67.Kg4 Kg6 68.h5+ Kh6 69.Ng3 Kg7 70.Kg5 Kh7 71.h6 Kg8

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Josh Sinanan
 President
 joshsinanan@gmail.com

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72.Kg6 Kh8 73.Ne4 Kg8 74.Ng5 Kh8
75.Nf7+ Kg8 76.h7+

1-0

Ignacio Perez (2224) –
Aleksj Aleksandrov (2708) [C99]
SCC Tornado
Chess.com (R3), March 14, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0
9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2
cxd4 13.cxd4 Rd8 14.d5 Bd7 15.Nf1
Rdc8 16.Bd3 Bd8

16...Nb7 17.Ng3 Nc5 18.Bf1 is “book”
here, as far as I know. Instead, Black
begins a queenside piece migration that
leaves the kingside just a tad lonely.

17.Ng3 Qa7 18.Qe2 Bb6 19.Bg5 Ne8
20.b3 f6 21.Bd2 Nb7



Position after 21...Nb7

22.Rad1

22.a4!? A suggestion by the Stockfish
engine. If White can play a4-a5, kicking
the bishop, followed by Be3, things start
to get quite uncomfortable for Black. 22...
bxa4 23.bxa4 a5 24.Bb5 Bxb5 25.axb5±

22...Nc5 23.Bb1 a5 24.Nh4 g6 25.Kh1
b4 26.f4 exf4?

26...a4∞

27.Bxf4 a4 28.Nh5!?

28.Nhf5!?: 28.Qf3 axb3 29.axb3±

28...axb3 29.axb3 Nxb3 30.e5 dxe5
31.Nxg6 hxg6 32.Bxg6 Nd4 33.Qe4 exf4



Position after 33...exf4

34.Bh7+?

Best: 34.Bf7+!! Kxf7 35.Qh7+ Kf8
36.Re7 Be6 37.dxe6 Qxe7 38.Qh8#; Also
34.Qxf4+- continues the attack.

34...Kh8 35.Qxf4 Bg4 36.hxg4 Qxh7
37.Rxe8+ Rxe8 38.Qxf6+ Kg8 39.Qg5+
Kh8 40.Qf6+ Kg8 41.Qg5+ Kh8
42.Qf6+

Game drawn by repetition.

1/2-1/2

2021 InterMat Candidates Tournament

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 InterMat Candidates
Tournament took place on Saturday,
March 20, online via Chess.com. The four

highest-rated Washington players in each
grade squared off in an intense three-
round G/90;+30 quad to determine the
two honored players who will represent
Team Washington at the upcoming WA
vs BC International Match (InterMat) on
May 15. In accordance with current health
and safety protocols brought about by
the COVID-19 Pandemic, the organizers
decided to host the InterMat online again
for the second year in a row. The InterMat
Candidates tournament was directed by
WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar
and organized by WCF President Josh
Sinanan.

The qualified players are shown in
bold in the table below. In grades seven
(Felicity Wang and Aditya Kamath),
eleven (Teddy Roberts and Oscar Petrov),
and twelve (Brian Lee and Daniel Stein),
fewer than three players registered for
the InterMat Candidates tournament,

Standings: 2021 InterMat Candidates

Grade	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
Kindergarten	1	Lena Ivanovic	810	W4	W3	D2	2.5
	2	Vayu Kakkad	1107	W3	D4	D1	2
	3	Edgar Li	784	L2	L1	W4	1
	4	Caden Chang	904	L1	D2	L3	0.5
1st Grade	1	Michael Lin	1484	W2	W3	D4	2.5
	2	Ted Wang	1582	L1	W4	W3	2
	3	Owen Xu	1552	W4	L1	L2	1
	4	Dann Merriman	1592	L3	L2	D1	0.5
2nd Grade	1	Sharvesh Arul	1357	W3	D2	W4	2.5
	2	Vidip Kona	1744	W4	D1	D3	2
	3	Viraj Kapur	1384	L1	W4	D2	1.5
	4	Alfred Su	1415	L2	L3	L1	0
3rd Grade	1	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	1763	W3	W2	W4	3
	2	Lucas Liu	1462	W4	L1	W3	2
	3	Selina Cheng	1449	L1	W4	L2	1
	4	Yiheng Ying	1536	L2	L3	L1	0
4th Grade	1	Alexander Yang	1701	W3	D2	W4	2.5
	2	Yiding Lu	1772	W4	D1	D3	2
	3	Darsh Verma	1486	L1	D4	D2	1
	4	Ethan Chung	1560	L2	D3	L1	0.5
5th Grade	1	Neeraj Harish	1849	W3	W4	D2	2.5
	2	Nikash Vemparala	1819	W4	D3	D1	2
	3	Leonardo Zhou	1611	L1	D2	W4	1.5
	4	Stephen Willy	1644	L2	L1	L3	0
6th Grade	1	Derin Goktepe	1957	D3	D4	W2	2
	2-3	Austin Liu	1769	W4	D3	L1	1.5
		Ryan Min	1924	D1	D2	D4	1.5
	4	Varnika Jammalamadaka	1713	L2	D1	D3	1
8th Grade	1	Daniel Wang	1816	W3	W4	D2	2.5
	2	Edward Cheng	1710	W4	D3	D1	2
	3	Arnav Jain	1435	L1	D2	W4	1.5
	4	Atharva Joshi	1635	L2	L1	L3	0
9th Grade	1-2	Pranav Kurungod Anoop	1988	U---	W3	D2	1.5
		Daniel Qian	1893	W3	U---	D1	1.5
	3	Eddie Chang	1919	L2	L1	U---	0
10th Grade	1-2	Sophie Tien	2033	D2	W4	W3	2.5
		Daniel Shubin	2161	D1	W3	W4	2.5
	3	Michael Shapiro	1696	W4	L2	L1	1
	4	Leif Carman	1650	L3	L1	L2	0

so players were seeded directly into the Intermat. In grade nine, only three players registered, so it was conducted as a three-player quads with one player receiving a bye each round. In grade six, two blitz games followed by a dramatic Armageddon game were used to break the tie for second place! Special thanks to all participants for competing and making this such a wonderful event!

Sophie Tien (2033) – Daniel Shubin (2161) [C01]
Intermat Candidates
Chess.com, March 20, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5
5.Bd3 Nc6 6.a3 Ba5 7.Be3 Nge7 8.Nge2

8.Qh5!?

8...Bg4

8...Bf5!?

9.h3 Bh5

9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Bf5

10.0-0 Qd7 11.Qd2

11.b4 Bb6 12.Qd2±



Position after 11.Qd2

11...0-0-0?! 12.b4 Bb6 13.Rfb1 Nf5
14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.Ng3 Qg6 16.Na4 f5
17.Nc5

Or 17.Nxb6+ axb6 18.a4.

17...Qf7 18.a4 a5 19.Nxh5 Qxh5 20.bxa5
Nxa5 21.Rb5 Nc4 22.Qc3 Qe8 23.Rab1
Rd6 24.a5

24.Bf4!

24...Bxc5 25.dxc5 Rg6 26.Rxb7

26.Bf4!

26...Qe4 27.g3 Qf3?

27...Nxe3 28.Qxe3 Qxe3 29.fxe3 Kd7∞



Position after 27...Qf3

28.c6?

28.Bf4!! Qxf4 (28...Qxc3 29.Rxc7+
Kd8 30.Rb8#) 29.c6 (Or 29.Rb8+ Kd7
30.Rxh8+-.) 29...Kd8 (29...Rxc6 30.Rb8+
Kd7 31.Qxg7+ Kd6 32.Qxh8+-) 30.Rb8+
Ke7 31.Rxh8+-, for example 31...Nd2
32.Qc5+ Qd6 33.Re1+ Ne4 34.Qxd6+
Rxd6 35.a6.

28...Rxc3+ 29.fxc3 Qxc3+ 30.Kf1
Qxh3+ 31.Ke2 Qg2+ 32.Ke1 Qg3+
33.Kf1 Qh3+ 34.Ke2 Qg2+

Game drawn by agreement.

1/2-1/2

Seattle Spring Open

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Seattle Spring Open was held online via Chess.com March 27-28. Despite the modest turnout of only nine players, the tournament did not lack in geographic variety. Players hailed from locales including Seattle, Kirkland, Colton, Vancouver, Bellevue, Portland, and Armenia! 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 her sister Soumya Sagar and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Because of the light attendance, the two sections were combined into a single Open section. The players, many of whom are dedicated chess purists, voted to

still play all five rounds rather than shorten the tournament. Armenian ChessMood star IM David Shahinyan won clear first place with 4.0/5, drawing his final round game against Aaron Nicoski to clinch the victory. Shahinyan won a key game in round four against FM Ignacio Perez, his biggest rival.

As the silver lining to a small tournament, all players managed to win a prize! Seattle chess stud FM Ignacio Perez from Capitol Hill and Lakeside chess star Aditya Singh from Bellevue shared second place honors with 3.5/5 points apiece. Aaron Nicoski from Vancouver, Washington, took home the U1900 prize with 3.0/5 points. Simon Ejsing from Kirkland captured the U1350 prize, also with 3.0/5. Next was Seattle's Emerson Wong-Godfrey, who claimed the U1700 prize with 2.5/5 points. Portland's Bo-Bae Yu won the U1550 prize, while newcomer Robert Giden from Colton won the unrated prize. Lois Ruff, the Chess Queen of Seattle, rounded out the prize winners and took home the U1150 prize. FM Ignacio Perez, by virtue of having the highest rating performance of any local player (2137) was awarded the best NW player prize. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

April 4 Seattle Chess Club Quads

By Josh Sinanan

The April SCC Quads were held online via Chess.com on Easter Sunday, April 4. WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar directed the tournament with assistance from her sister Soumya Sagar. Special thanks to Rekha for directing the event on her birthday! The SCC Quads are co-organized by the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. A total of 12 players took part in three four-player quad sections.

Quad One ended in a tie for first between Isaac "The Penguin" Vega and the Man, the Myth, the Legend—FM Ignacio Perez! Along the way, Isaac "penguinized" Ignacio and IM Mitrabha Guha, last month's Quad One winner. Washington Middle School eighth grader Edward Cheng from Detective Cookie's Chess Club emerged victorious in Quad Two with a perfect three points from three games! Chess King Don Hack from Surrey, British Columbia, won Quad Three with an undefeated two and a half points.

Thanks to all players and staff!



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Chess Fever & The 1925 Moscow International Chess Tournament

By Breck Haining

In my last article I wrote about a Canadian comedy in which the populace of a small town had gone bonkers for chess. In this article I write about a comedy inspired by historical events. The populace of a major world metropolis seemed to have gone bonkers over chess. The year was 1925. The metropolis was Moscow.

In the early days of the USSR, Soviet players felt their top competitors were on par with the best in the world but there was no way to demonstrate this. At the third Soviet Chess Congress in 1924 a suggestion was made to hold an international tournament, the idea being to pit the best Soviet

players against the best players in the rest of the world. From this sprang the 1925 Moscow International Chess Tournament, the world's first ever state-sponsored chess tournament. A sizeable purse was offered, and the tournament drew many renowned players.

Bogoljubov won the tournament. Lasker came in second. Capablanca came in third. Marshall took fourth. Reports say that hundreds followed the games daily in the hotel where the competition was held, tens of thousands followed demonstration boards downtown, over fifty thousand visited the tournament, and hundreds of thousands followed the tournament

in newspapers worldwide. Film makers Vsevolod Pudovkin and Nikolay Shpikovsky were inspired by this great interest to create the silent film comedy "Chess Fever."

Several versions of "Chess Fever" can be found on YouTube. Some run approximately 20 minutes long. Others run about 28 minutes. The shorter length versions appear to be shorter simply because the frames are played back faster than the longer versions. Some versions have English subtitles, others do not. I found half a dozen different soundtracks.

"Chess Fever" begins with a scene

The Soviet Side:

- Efim Bogoljubov (Bogoljubov also transliterated as Bogoljubow and Bogolyubov.)
- Fedor Bohatyrchuk (Fedor also transliterated as Fedir and Fyodor. Bohatyrchuk also transliterated as Bogatirchuk, Bogatyrchuk, Bogatyrtschuk, and Bohatirchuk.)
- Fyodor Duz-Khotimirsky (Fyodor also transliterated as Fedor. Duz-Khotimirsky also transliterated as Dus-Chotimirski, Dus-Khotymirsky, and Duz-Khotymirsky.)
- Solomon Gotthilf (Gotthilf sometimes transcribed Gottgilf.)
- Alexander Ilyin-Zhenevsky (Also known as Alexander Ilyin and Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky.)
- Grigory Levenfish
- Ilya Rabinovich (Rabinovich also transliterated as Rabinovici, Rabinovitch, Rabinovitz, Rabinowicz, and Rabinowitsch.)
- Peter Romanovsky
- Boris Verlinsky
- Nikolai Zubarev

The Rest of the World:

- Jose Capablanca, reigning world champion
- Ernst Gruenfeld
- Emanuel Lasker, former world chess champion
- Frank Marshall, U.S. chess champion
- Richard Reti
- Akiba Rubinstein
- Friedrich Saemisch, former Austrian chess champion
- Rudolf Spielmann
- Savielly Tartakower, future chess champion of Poland (also known as Xavier Tartakower and Ksawery Tartakower. Tartakower also transliterated as Tartacover and Tartakover.)
- Carlos Torre Repetto
- Fred Yates, former and future British chess champion

introducing Capablanca as the world chess champion. It is important to know who Capablanca is, in part because he has a small role at the end of the movie, which is much funnier if you know who he is. After introducing Capablanca the film quickly moves to scenes of crowds watching the tournament. We see several of the big-name players engaged in games. Many of the reviews I read about this movie noted that the film incorporates actual footage from the 1925 tournament. I'll come back to this after going over the plot.

Following scenes of the tournament we see a person wearing a dress shoe, checkered sock, and a jacket playing White in a game against a person wearing a different type of sock and a dress shirt. After two moves each the camera pulls back and we see it is the same person playing a game against himself, changing sides to play the game. This is our hero, played by Vladimir Fogel. Apparently, Vladimir started to dress to go out, but got so absorbed in the game that he didn't finish dressing. Moving from side to side a kitten sees a string hanging from his pocket.

The kitten pounces on the string and pulls Vladimir over. At the end of a string he finds a reminder that he is to be wed to his fiancé, played by Anna Zemtsova, at 10 o'clock. Vladimir looks at a clock and sees it is already noon. He finishes dressing but can't resist making a few more moves. Vladimir departs wearing checkered socks, a checkered tie, and a checkered hat. Separately, Anna is being consoled by a friend, who tells her the greatest threat to marriage is chess.

Vladimir hurries to see his fiancé

but is distracted along the way by news on the tournament. Later, he is drawn as if by magnetic force into a shop with a sign telling chess players to stop. He cannot resist playing a game with the shopkeeper. Vladimir eventually makes it to Anna's place. Naturally, she is terribly upset. Vladimir intends to apologize to Anna and starts to go down on one knee, but notices something on the floor, so he takes out his handkerchief and places it on the floor, then kneels down. Though facing away from him Anna perceives that Vladimir is kneeling and her heart begins to soften.

Unfortunately, Vladimir has been distracted by the checkered pattern



Image from Chess Fever.
<https://www.kino-teatr.ru/movie/kadr/7977/642950.jpg>

of his handkerchief, and instead of apologizing he has begun to set up chess pieces and has taken out a book to study a position. When Anna sees this, she is furious. She grabs the book Vladimir is studying and throws it out the window. A passerby catches the book and happily begins studying it. Anna takes more of Vladimir's chess materials and throws these out the window with similar results. Exasperated, she proclaims that she has only loved Vladimir, but he only loves chess. They're through, she says, and declares that she will poison

herself. Vladimir says that he thence go drown himself.

Distraught, Anna turns to her grandfather and says she has nothing to live for. Her grandfather offers her a large tome saying it will give her peace and comfort. Anna is horrified to see her grandfather has given her a book on ancient chess problems. Moments thereafter a friend arrives with well-wishes and a cake for the newlyweds. The cake has a chess theme. Anna storms out and enters another room only to find a woman watching two very young children playing chess. The woman excitedly announces that one of the children has just played a beautiful Queen's Gambit! This is too much for

Anna. Thinking there is no point to living she makes her way to a drug store. There she finds the pharmacist and two others completely absorbed in a game of chess. Anna asks for a strong poison. The pharmacist motions for her to wait. While concentrating on the game he reaches for a bottle. The mania the players exhibit show they have been fully consumed by chess fever.

The pharmacist wraps up what we think is a bottle of poison and gives this to Anna. The film makers pose a question to the movie audience: Might love be stronger than chess?

Separately, Vladimir has made his way to an icy river and is throwing his chess paraphernalia into the water. The same question is posed to the movie audience: Might love be stronger than chess? After discarding his chess belongings Vladimir decides to return to his fiancé and scurries away.

Elsewhere, Anna has begun to unwrap what the pharmacist gave her.

With eyes closed she raises the item to take a drink, but instead of poison it's a chess piece. Just then Capablanca steps out of a car. Anna angrily throws the piece away not seeing she is throwing it toward Capablanca, who catches the piece. Capablanca steps forward to inquire why Anna is so upset. She tells him to leave her alone, that chess has made her hate everyone. Capablanca says in the company of a beautiful woman he too hates chess and tosses the piece away. Anna tells Capablanca how delighted she is to have found someone else who hates chess as she does and asks Capablanca to tell her how he managed to escape chess fever. Capablanca smiles. The two depart together in a car and, incidentally, pass Vladimir as he is running back. Vladimir doesn't see Capablanca or Anna. He comes across a poster talking about the tournament and decides he'll have one last look, then that will be it. Vladimir buys a ticket and squeezes into the tournament hall, where he is surprised to find as a result of her conversations with Capablanca that Anna is now a chess fanatic. Anna tells Vladimir she never knew chess was such a fascinating game. Several of the grandmasters smile when Anna says this. Vladimir and Anna then leave the playing area.

Outside the tournament hall Anna asks Vladimir to play a Sicilian game. Vladimir smiles, but then realizes he threw all his chess paraphernalia away. He puts his hands over his chest and turns to Anna to apologize, but then feels something under his sweater. In a small pouch he finds a miniature chess board. They are able to start a game and thus the start of a happy marriage.

I think the movie is alright for all audiences, but kids likely won't find old black and white silent films appealing, and likely won't have much interest in the big-name chess-players of yore. There is a scene with kittens being handled roughly, though I don't think any were hurt, but parents may want to make sure their kids know this is not how we are to treat animals. Also, parents should be prepared to discuss the tragedy of suicide. Threats of suicide need to be taken seriously, and people should reach out for help if ever feeling so despondent. One of the sad historical facts about this film is that Vladimir took his own life a few short years after the movie was completed.

One interesting tidbit about the movie is that Vladimir Nabokov had a short part in the film. Nabokov wrote the book *The Defense*, which was turned into the chess-themed movie *The Luzhin Defence*. Nabokov also wrote the book *Lolita*, but this may be more than parents want to discuss.

Having read that *Chess Fever* incorporates actual scenes from the tournament I thought I would see if I could identify who the players were, and which games were shown. Near the beginning of the film there are 18 clips of the players. Toward the end of the film there are seven clips of the players. I have arbitrarily identified these scenes with "B" for scenes near the beginning of the film and "E" for scenes near the end of the film. The clips are:

- Clip B01: Torre (playing White, left) v. Marshall (playing Black, right)
- Clip B02: Torre (playing White)—position different from clip B01

- Clip B03: Marshall
- Clip B04: Torre
- Clip B05: Gotthilf (playing Black, left, initially not seen) v. Ilyan-Zhenevsky (playing White, right)
- Clip B06: Reti (playing White, left) v. Yates (playing Black, right)
- Clip B07: Reti
- Clip B08: Yates
- Clip B09: Bohatyrychuk
- Clip B10: Saemisch?
- Clip B11: Spielmann (playing Black, left) v. Gruenfeld (playing White, right)
- Clip B12: Spielmann
- Clip B13: Gruenfeld
- Clip B14: Duz-Khotimirsky
- Clip B15: Spielmann (playing Black, left) v. Gruenfeld (playing White, right)
- Clip B16: Saemisch?
- Clip B17: Spielmann (playing Black, left) v. Gruenfeld (playing White, right)
- Clip B18: Torre (playing White, left) v. Marshall (playing Black, right)
- Clip E01: Torre (playing Black, left) v. Marshall (playing White, right)
- Clip E02: Reti (playing White, left) v. Yates (playing Black, right)
- Clip E03: Spielmann
- Clip E04: Marshall
- Clip E05: Torre
- Clip E06: Reti
- Clip E07: Saemisch?

Clip B01 must have been staged for the film, since Torre is playing White and Marshall is playing Black. In the actual tournament Marshall played White against Torre. This took place in round three, on November 12, 1925. Clip B18 appears to be a continuation of the game being played in clip B01.

Clip B05 could be actual footage from the tournament. The quality of the film makes it difficult to see the exact position on the board, but the position appears to resemble the board after Ilyin-Zhenevsky played 32.e5 in round six. Round six was played on November 16, 1925.

Clip B06 must have been staged for the film. Reti played White against Yates in round 14, on November 28, 1925, but the position we see on the board is not a position that occurred in the actual tournament game.

Clip B11 appears to have been staged for the film. Gruenfeld played White against Spielmann in round 19, on December 5, 1925, but the position we see does appear to be a position that occurred during the actual tournament game. To be fair, the position on the board is difficult to see. Clips B15 and B17 appear to be continuations of the game being played in clip B11. Several players are seen viewing the game from the side. I did not attempt to identify who these players were, though I thought one might be Levenfish.

Clip E01 must have been staged for the film. Marshall played White against Torre in round three, but the move we see Torre make and the position we see did not occur during their tournament play.

Clip E02 might be a continuation of the game we see in clip B06. Torre observes the game from the side.

While the film may contain actual footage from the 1925 tournament, it is apparent that multiple scenes depicting the tournament were staged. The Internet Movie Database lists Gruenfeld, Marshall, Reti, Spielmann, Torre, and Yates as having played themselves in the film, so it makes sense that their scenes were staged (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0015673/fullcredits/>).

For those who would like to read more on the 1925 Moscow International Chess Tournament I would suggest

the following web sites:

- Wikipedia entry on the tournament: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_1925_chess_tournament
- A translation of a report by Capablanca on the tournament: <https://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/capablanca7.html>
- A translation of Ilyin-Zhenevsky's diary entries on the tournament: <https://www.chess.com/blog/Spektrowski/moscow-1925-tournament-players-diary-by-alexander-ilyin-zhenevsky>
- Final standings, cross table, and links to tournament games: <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1009928>

There are many good articles on the movie itself. If interested, a few web sites I would suggest are:

- Commentary on the movie: <https://en.chessbase.com/post/shakhmatnaya-goryachka-che-fever>
- Clips from the film: <https://www.kino-teatr.ru/kino/movie/sov/7977/foto/>
- Movie script in Russian: <https://cinfiles.bampfa.berkeley.edu/catalog/56851>

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

RUSTY MILLER MEMORIAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

JUNE 19-20, 2021

*In Memory of Rusty Miller,
1942-2020.*



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th 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. 6/18 @ 5pm.**
\$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Site: Online via 

Format: A 6-Round Swiss two sections: Open & Reserve (U1600). Co-hosted by Northwest Chess and WCF. Dual US Chess Online and NWSRS Rated.

Entry Fee: \$45. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Time Control: G/45;+15. Late Default: 10 min.

Rounds: Sat./Sun. @ 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM.

Prize Fund: 60% of paid entries returned as prizes.

Open: 1st 23%, 2nd 17%, 1st U2100/U1900 5% each
Best NW Player (by TPR) 5%

Reserve: 1st 15%, 2nd 10%, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100 5% each, 1st Unrated 5%.

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

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

Rating: Highest of current US Chess, US Chess Online, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be launched automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.

Humor In Chess, Part Three

By Karen Schmidt

I suppose most people don't think of chess as having many humorous elements. But I am frequently reminded of some of the funny experiences I have had in and around playing chess. Laughing helps keep me going these days, and I will share some of the stories with you. If you have a good anecdote from your chess experiences, email it to me and I will include it in "Humor in Chess, Part Four."

Last August I went to Baltimore for the first time to visit a good friend. He had told other neighbors and co-workers that I was a chess player, and I was looking forward to some games, especially with Viktor, the Russian carpenter. They are remodeling apartments units in a downtown row house built in the late 1800s. A couple days after I arrived, I was introduced to Viktor. He came down his ladder and shook my hand, and I greeted him in Russian with a simple "good day." Then I said excitedly, "Viktor, we'll have to play a game of chess while I am here!" He looked at me and said, with a very heavy accent, "I would have to practice against the computer... because if I lost

to you, I would be embarrassed for the rest of my life." I was somewhat taken aback, and thinking to lighten the mood, I said "Oh, it's no big deal, really. I have been beaten by a nine-year-old before." He again looked at me very seriously and stated flatly, "Me too. When I was eight." I still laugh when I remember this exchange. Needless to say, there were no chess games with Viktor. The irony is the Russian probably would have crushed me if we had played.

Another fond memory is from the first time I ever had a conversation with local Seattle chess legend Viktors Pupols. As I mentioned in a previous story, I had never actually spoken with him in all the years I had seen him playing at the Seattle Chess Club. He looked like a very large, wild-haired, scary Russian to me...until the day he sat down beside me and struck up a conversation as we waited for tournament pairings to be posted. He turned out to be Latvian, for starters, and then regaled me with several funny stories in our brief time before the round. The one that comes to mind was his comment that he believed

abortion should be legal until the age of fourteen. Shocked, I said, "Well Viktors, that wouldn't be abortion; it would be murder." He then commented, "Well OK, then... I think people should be able to take kids back to the hospital where they were born until the age of fourteen." I was beginning to see that this man was not so scary after all. (I forgot to ask him if he had any children.)

Another chess-related flashback... to when I used to work in one of the UW accounting departments. A co-worker and her husband were about to have a baby boy. They had been together for years (maybe ten?), but the baby was going to be a very new and novel addition. I won't mention any names here...but I knew the husband through the Seattle Chess Club (SCC), as he is a high-level local player. I was in the lunchroom one day with my friend, his wife, when she was several months pregnant. I remember suggesting to her that she encourage her husband to start teaching their son to play chess when he was three years old. I told her that this was probably her best (and



*Ali, Karen and Branko New Years Day 2020 at Pioneer Square Starbucks
Photo credit: Wendy Harper.*

only) option for having any free time in the foreseeable future! Incidentally, their son just turned seven in April 2021 and is already learning such tactics as a K + R checkmate and a K + Q checkmate!

Another memory which I find amusing now—but not at the time—is the time I played in a Novice Tournament (U1200) at the SCC. I went in with a goal of winning the tournament, since my skill level is actually higher than 1200... but my official rating was and is lagging behind. I lost the first round to a nine- or ten-year-old boy. I, a grown woman and practically a senior citizen at the time, was crying in the hall and telling the TD that I was thinking of dropping out. Carol Kleist, the TD, talked me into staying and just “playing the board” ...and I went on to win the next three rounds and tie for first. LOL.

Here’s one that is really amusing in hindsight but was totally stressful at the time. A couple years ago I volunteered to help the TD at an Orlov Chess Academy scholastic tournament near Green Lake. (I had been trying to talk them into hiring me as a part time instructor...but the owner made it clear that “all his instructors were master level.” I thought volunteering might still help get a foot in the door.) In the morning was the “younger group” playing a four-round tournament, 1/2 hour per person, ages five to about nine. In the afternoon was the “older group”—ages about nine to 12, four more rounds. There was a half hour break in the middle when I ran to the PCC Co-op and scarfed down a salad, and wished I had a tranquilizer or a drink... The rest of the eight-hour day was total chaos: a tiny tournament space full of kids—and an even tinier room for anxious and stressed out (and a couple overbearing) parents. Other than me, there was ONE TD handling this whole scene. Those eight hours involved walking around to raised hands, answering questions, explaining rules, making unpopular decisions, and so on. For example, there was the kid who touched his rook and then decided to castle. His opponent told him that this was illegal and that he had to move the rook only. Thankfully (or not) I had actually watched this happen; I had to break the news to the tearful boy who was denying that he had touched his rook, i.e., I had to say, “I saw you touch the rook first. You have to move it.” Then there was the Dad of a boy (younger group) and a girl (older group) who stood in the crowded tournament room and watched every game his children played, like a hawk. You just knew that in the evening, they would be going over all the games with



*Chess at Westlake.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

Dad, and he would be pointing out all the wrong moves, inaccuracies, blunders, etc. Even though I had been a “chess mom” on the scholastic circuit with my own son for years, some years earlier—so I should have been prepared for all this emotional distress—I was just fried at the end of the day. I will probably never volunteer to help at a scholastic tournament again!

This one may take the cake. I was playing casual chess at Westlake Park downtown one sunny summer weekend day, with about forty other guys. I had a game going on my board with a guy I had seen around and who had seemed a bit volatile but had always been pleasant to me. Near the end of our game—which I was winning handily—he started yelling and accusing me of cheating!! Now let me just say that I am the least likely person I know who EVER would cheat at chess. One of my chess buddies nearby told the overwrought guy to “get lost” and also shot him with a squirt of water out of a plastic drinking-water bottle. At which

point my opponent picked up a wrought-iron cafe chair and started threatening to hit me with it. As I was dialing 911 on my cell phone, I could see in my peripheral vision about forty guys of all ages closing in on us...to protect me! (As usual, I was the only female chess player at Westlake.) My opponent also saw this group advancing and wandered off. We all had a laugh and went back to playing our games, me with a new opponent. About two hours later I saw two bicycle police officers arrive, and I noticed other people talking to them and pointing at me. The officers came over and asked if I had called 911 due to a threatening situation. I replied that I had, about two hours earlier. And that we had taken care of it ourselves, at the time.

I’m sure that many of you readers have some unique, weird or humorous chess anecdotes to share in a future story. Please send them to karenkarkau@gmail.com. Until next time, keep doing puzzles and tactics and playing chess!

Idaho Chess Roundup

By Jeffrey Roland

Idaho Chess Association (ICA) has been active in the first quarter of 2021, not only running all the scholastic qualifier tournaments (five regional qualifiers, a scholastic championship, and a scholastic tournament of champions (TOC), but also many free open online tournaments (seven alone on the President's Weekend), all on Chess.com.

ICA does plan to hold its first over-the-board tournaments (yes that's plural) on June 12 with several events planned across the state in each region of the state on the same date, and all with free entry. Players will need to have current US Chess memberships, but other than that, will be free...

The Idaho Closed this year is planned to be over the Labor Day Weekend (September 4-6) in Boise (traditionally this is held over President's weekend, but these are strange and different times), and it will be over-the-board also, but I digress...

Ralph Dubisch has annotated the following game from one of the Idaho Closed Weekend tournament events. We don't actually have an article on the event at this time but thought it would be nice to at least see this game.

**Nobel Ang (1469) –
Jeremy Fugal (1906) [D04]**

Idaho Closed Weekend
Open Section Blitz
Chess.com (R1), February 14, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Bd3

4.c4

4...Bxd3

4...e6 5.Bxf5 exf5 6.Qd3 Qc8; and 4...Bg6 are both viable alternatives.

5.Qxd3

5.cxd3!?, taking away the e4-square from the black knight and half-opening the c-file for offensive operations.

5...e6

5...c6 avoids the pawn grab.

6.Qb5+ Nbd7 7.Qxb7 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 c5 10.b3?!

10.c4

10...Qe7?!

10...Qa5∞ sets some developmental challenges for White, whose tenth move has excluded some of the white queen's escape routes. 11.Bb2?? Rab8 12.Qc6 Rb6+

11.Bb2 Rfb8 12.Qa6 cxd4 13.exd4 Rb6 14.Qe2 a5 15.c4 dxc4 16.Nxc4 Rba6 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.Rac1?!

18.a4; or perhaps 18.a3, when Black doesn't seem to have enough for a pawn.

18...Nd5

18...a4 19.Ne5 axb3 20.axb3

19.Rfd1

White has another chance to try 19.a4.

19...a4 20.Ne5 axb3 21.Qf3

21.axb3 Nxe5 22.dxe5 Qb8 23.Qf3 Rb6 24.Rd3 and we can safely call this equal, as it's hard to see how White can dislodge the central knight or make any kind of progress with the b-pawn under pressure from Black's major pieces. It's clear from the future avoidance of repetitions, however, that Black isn't thrilled to take a draw.

21...N7f6

Understandable, rather than letting the white queen take up residence near the black king. However, 21...Rxa2!? 22.Qxf7+ Kh8 is not entirely clear, and gives both players chances to go wrong.

22.axb3 Ra2 23.Ra1 Qa6 24.h3 Qb7 25.Rxa2 Rxa2 26.Bc1 Qc8 27.Bg5 h6 28.Rc1 Qb8 29.Bxf6 Nxf6 30.Nc6

White has made the most of the last few moves, and can now attempt to make actual progress: 30.b4! Qxb4?? 31.Rc8+ Kh7 32.Qd3+! (32.Nxf7? Qe1+ 33.Kh2 Qxf2) 32...g6 33.Rc7! and Black is out of business.

30...Qd6 31.Ne5

Apparently offering a repetition, which Black declines. 31.b4 is again an edge to White.

31...Qxd4 32.Rc8+ Kh7 33.Nxf7 Ra1+

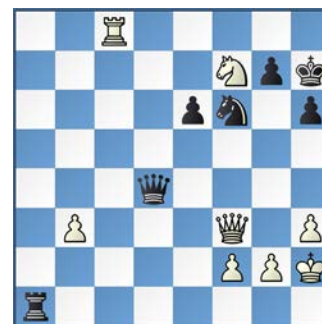
33...Ne4!?

34.Kh2 Kg6??

34...Rf1 minimizes White's advantage.

35.Nh8+ Kh7 36.Nf7?

White again offers a repetition, but here he can win with 36.Qg3!: 36...Qe4 (36...g5 37.Qc7+ Qd7 38.Qc2+ Kg7 39.Qg6#; 36...Ng8 37.Qg6+ Kxh8 38.Qf7) 37.Ng6!! Qxg6 (37...Ng4+ 38.Qxg4 Qxg4 39.Nf8+ Kg8 40.hxg4+-) 38.Rh8+ Kxh8 39.Qxg6+-



Position after 36.Nf7

36...Qd7??

36...Rf1 again survives: 37.Rh8+ Kg6 38.Qd3+ Qxd3 39.Ne5+ Kf5 40.Nxd3 when Black's activity likely provides enough to hold against White's extra pawn.

37.Rh8+ Kg6 38.Ne5+

Black is not just losing the queen, but is first mated after 38...Kg5 39.h4+ Kxh4 40.Qg3+ Kh5 41.Qg6+ Kh4 42.g3#. Quite a nice game.

1-0

A Casual Game

In early April, ICA President Adam Porth was in Boise visiting family and being on vacation. One day, April 3, he arranged to meet with ICA Vice President Jeffrey Roland (me) over coffee and in the fresh air of the morning. What resulted was an enjoyable conversation and game played on a little magnetic set.

After being socially distanced for so long, I have not really left home since March 2020 except to go to the store for food, so this very simple outing with a friend (only a block away from my house) over a game of chess was indeed precious.

I cannot put into words, but even

when I touched the c-pawn on move two to move it to c4 (the Queen's Gambit!), I had not had that feeling in so long to touch a piece and move it. It felt awkward, like was 2.c4 a mistake? But then I settled in and the game sort of came back to me!

Jeffrey T Roland (1700) – Adam Porth (1437) [D11]
 Casual Game
 Boise, ID, April 3, 2021
[Jeffrey Roland]

[Played in person at Black Rock Coffee Bar in Boise, ID.]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5. Nc3 e6 6.Be2 Bb4 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Ne4 9.Bd2 Qa5 10.cxd5 Nxc3



Position after 10...Nxc3

I immediately started thinking Black was making some inroads into my position. Adam said something like there was only one move possible, Bxc3. But I thought there was another possible move, all I needed to do was prevent the threatened ...Nxe2+ from being check! So, this position was definitely the crux of the game. I could not really decide which was best over-the-board at the time, but I just couldn't pass up the challenge to at least find out what if I didn't play the automatic recapture... plus I did feel that my next move was a little better, but something about it made me nervous. After the game, Adam told me he felt that nobody he knows (even masters) would have played what I played. What can I say, I am who I am!

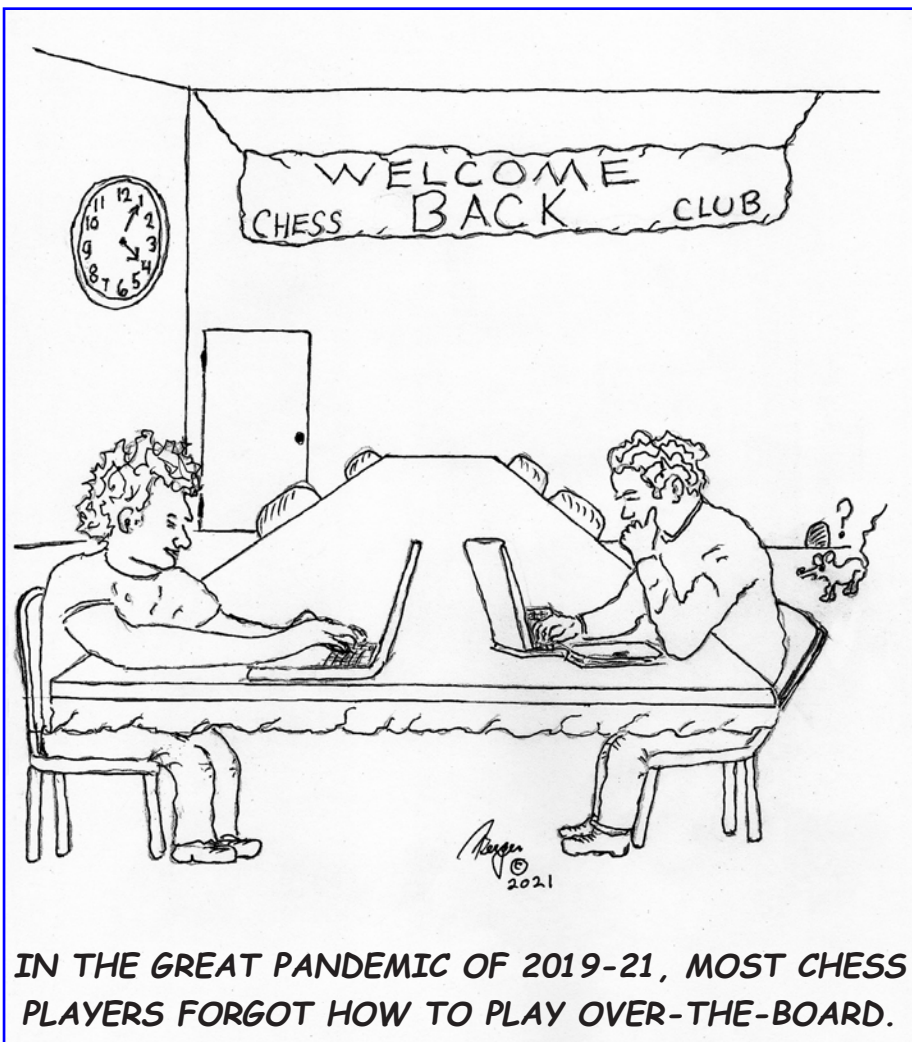
11.Kh1 cxd5 12.Qe1 Nc6 13.Bxc3 Qc7 14.Rc1 Qe7 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Bf5?

Even though he is down a piece for a pawn, I still think he must exchange the bishop. The next move proves why.

17.Bb5+

If 17...Kf8 18.Bb4, and if 17...Kd8 18.Bb4 Qg5 19.Qc3 and it's all over too. After the game we of course did post-mortem analysis, with lots of what-ifs along the way!

1-0



IN THE GREAT PANDEMIC OF 2019-21, MOST CHESS PLAYERS FORGOT HOW TO PLAY OVER-THE-BOARD.



(L) Jeffrey Roland, Adam Porth.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

A NORTHWEST GRAND PRIX EVENT



WASHINGTON OPEN

MAY 29-31, 2021

ONLINE VIA  Chess.com

Format: A six-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Open & Reserve U1600. US Chess Online rated and NWSRS rated. Higher of May 2021 US Chess rating or US Chess Online rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. **Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2022 Washington State Championship.**

Time Control: G/100; +30 second increment. Late Default: 10 min.

Rounds: Sat./Sun./Mon. @ 10 AM & 3 PM. WCF Annual Meeting and Elections at 2 PM on 5/31 via Zoom.

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by May 15, \$85 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. Less \$30 for Seniors (age 50+). \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1600 playing in Open section. Re-entry for ½ of your original entry fee. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and US Chess 2400+.

Prizes: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries. Open: 1st \$750, 2nd \$600, 3rd \$450, 1st U2300/U2100/U1900/U1700: \$200.
Reserve: 1st \$550, 2nd \$400, 3rd \$250, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100/(U900/unrated): \$200.

Special Prizes (per section): 1st \$50, 2nd 1-yr NWC subscription ext. for each of the four (4) categories below.

1) Best Upset, 2) Best Female player (by TPR), 3) Best NW-region player (by TPR), 4) Best Annotated Game - Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select the winners in each section.

Registration: Online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/> - pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. Registration **deadline Fri. May 28 @ 5:00 PM**. No registrations accepted after the deadline. \$15 Late fee for payments received after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1. Current US Chess membership required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A working Chess.com and Zoom account are required. Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Procedure and Fair Play Policy: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament (including side events). All players will be monitored via Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. **Mail To:** Josh Sinanan, 4174 NE 148th Ave. NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052. **Phone:** 206-769-3757 **Info:** washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

[Fun Side Events!](#)

- **Washington Open Chess960 Championship:** Sat 5/29 @ 7:30 PM. Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. TC: G/12;+5. Games will be paired by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Pairings based on the highest of current NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating.
- **Washington Open G/10 Championship:** Sun 5/30 @ 7:30 PM. Format: A 6-Round Swiss in one section. TC: G/10;+3. Chess.com Rated, games will be paired via Chess.com.
- **Washington Open Blitz Championship:** Mon 5/31 @ 7:30 PM. Format: An 11-Round Swiss in one section. TC: G/3;+2. Chess.com Rated, games will be paired via Chess.com.

Details (per side event): EF: \$25. Rating: US Chess Unrated; US Chess Membership not required. Prizes based on the highest of current NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating. Prize Fund: \$500/b25. 1st \$120, 2nd \$80, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400 \$50, 1st U1100/unr. \$50. Highest finishing Female player: \$50, Highest Finishing NW-region player: \$50.

The 2021 Russell "Rusty" Miller Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Number Cruncher

Two more events added to the statistics in March, the Seattle Chess Club online Quads and Tornado, with eleven entries in the first and twelve in the second. With them open to the whole world, and no need to travel, these numbers should be higher. Come on people, just go to the Northwest Chess website and sign up!

With just a few new names added, I again made up a table with everyone on it. Probably won't be able to do that too much longer before I have to go back to just class leaders for space considerations. But for now, if you played, you could shout, "Look, Ma, I got my name in a magazine!" Won't that be fun?

In April, there were the same two events again, one which was happening as I wrote this (the SCC Quads), and the other (the SCC Tornado) happening the last weekend of the month. For May, which is what you should be looking to as you read my pithy prose, we again have the SCC Quads (on May 8), the SCC Tornado (May 9), and then the venerable Washington Open (May 29-31), all online, of course. Go to the NWC website to register (seems like I am repeating myself).

As you look at these standings, I will remind you that we are using the US Chess Regular Online Ratings for our class assignments. This will continue until we get back to over-the-board play. Should that happen before October, then I will switch to using the higher of the two regular rating systems. If we are still online in October, then I will use the current set of ratings through the end of 2021.

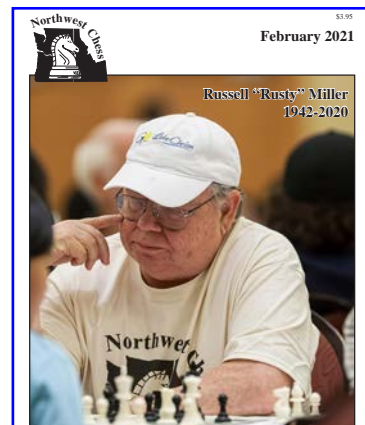
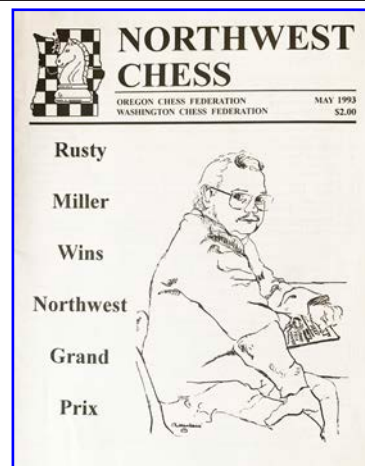
All statistics below are current through March 31. For everyone's sake, I am hoping Jeff can find a more pleasing picture to fill my excess space this month. That grouchy old man last month was just too scary, don't you agree?

(Well, how about a different pose from the same photo session, does that help?—Editor)



Murlin Varner.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Washington					Other Places					
last	first	rating	pts.	last	first	state	rating	pts.		
1	Ruff	Lois A	881	20.0	1	Mitrabha	Guha	IND	2528	30.5
2	Cheng	Selina	830	19.0	2	Vasey	Daniel	OR	1558	25.0
3	Ehrenberg	Joshua B	894	18.0	3	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR	2641	23.0
4	Carman	Leif J	860	17.5	3	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	2689	23.0
5	Kamel	Yaseen	890	16.0	5	Ingram	Richard	CAN	1768	22.0
6	Cheng	Edward	1381	14.0	5	Sharikov	Alexander	RUS	2281	22.0
6	Joshi	Atharva	1376	14.0	7	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	2422	16.0
6	Shen	Lixing	1194	14.0	8	Wei	Brian	OR	1496	13.0
9	Nicoski	Aaron M	1745	12.5	9	Guha	Eshan	NJ	2172	11.0
10	Takayoshi	Evan R	1446	12.0	9	Kypriotakis	Kyriakos	OR	1432	11.0
10	Zhang	Michelle	1309	12.0	9	Yu	Jiangwei	CA	2287	11.0
12	Meiyalagan	Ruban S	1006	11.5	12	He	Justin S	TX	1446	8.0
13	Razmov	Gabriel	1154	11.0	13	Aleksandrov	Aleksej	BLR	2629	5.5
13	Smith	Catherine	1476	11.0	14	Metzmaker	Robert D, Jr	IL	unr	4.5
15	Blachman	Justin	1144	10.0	15	Hack	Don	CAN	1259	3.5
15	Borate	Neel	854	10.0	16	Shahinyan	David	ARM	2546	3.0
15	Dillon	Rohan	769	10.0	16	Xu	Andy Y	CA	1463	3.0
15	Ellner	Adam	1164	10.0	18	Guan	Marie	CAN	unr	2.0
15	Razmov	Valentin N	1944	10.0						
15	Verma	Darsh	1058	10.0						
15	Vijayakumar	Advait	2009	10.0						
15	Vo	Dylan K	1170	10.0						
23	Perez	Ignaco	2239	9.5						
24	Ejsing	Simon K	1232	9.0						
24	Fong	Byron	970	9.0						
24	Levine	Joseph	2149	9.0						
24	Wang	Daniel	1197	9.0						
24	Willy	Stephen	1504	9.0						
24	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	1253	9.0						
24	Zhang	Michael	924	9.0						
31	Ackerman	Ryan	1908	8.0						
31	Ejsing	Oscar K	552	8.0						
31	Kang	Ayaan	859	8.0						
31	Mathur	Aashi	1058	8.0						
31	Ramkumar	Aditya	1641	8.0						
31	Varthakavi	Sreecharan	520	8.0						
31	Vemparala	Nikash	1641	8.0						
31	Yin	Zhida	474	8.0						
39	Bell	Harry	1891	7.0						
39	Devadithya	Hiruna	1219	7.0						
39	Lu	Yiding	1694	7.0						
42	Perez	Osvaldo	366	6.0						
42	Reddy	Ira	123	6.0						
42	Selsky	John	690	6.0						
42	Sood	Akul	623	6.0						
46	Hawkins	Holden	231	5.0						
46	Metzmaker	Suya	1001	5.0						
48	Boey	Chad	1598	4.5						
48	Wang	Felicity	1649	4.5						
50	Ejsing	Konrad K	100	4.0						
50	Weller	Stephen F	1283	4.0						
52	Hamlett	James M	1452	3.5						
53	Day	Aaron M	unr	3.0						



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