After earning his 3rd GM norm in less than a month at the World Open, Alex Lenderman does his "lite dance" to celebrate.

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U.S. Women’s Championship
October kicks off with the 2009 U.S. Women’s Championship in St. Louis (October 3-13.) The 10-player round robin features the grandest prize fund in U.S. women’s championship history, $64,000 with $15,000 for first place. The contenders in the ten-player round robin include last year’s rivals, Anna Zatonskih and Irina Krush; Olympians Rusudan Goletiani (above, on the February 2009 cover) and Tatev Abrahamyan and newcomers Sabina Foisor and Yun Fan. Look for live reportage from CLO editor Jennifer Shahade.

Fall Grand Prix Fun
October marks three major Grand Prix tournaments dotted all over the country, the Midwest Class Championships in Illinois (October 9-11), the Western States Open in Reno (October 23-25) and the Cleveland Open (October 23-25). Check out CLO to see who comes out on top!

U.S. Chess League Action
The USCL regular season heats up in October—look for updates and blogs on Chess Life Online throughout the fall, including thoughts from “Ask GM Joel” columnist on his team, the New Jersey Knockouts.

On the Cover and On the Scoop
Check out Chess Life Online for a U.S. Chess scoop video interview with cover star, Alex Lenderman. Not content to rest on his GM-elect laurels, Lenderman has been very active since, winning the Atlantic Open and captaining the Philadelphia Inventors U.S. Chess League team.

Contributors
Jerry Hanken (“2009 World Open,” p. 20) is president of the Chess Journalists of America and a frequent contributor to Chess Life.

FM Alex Dunne (“Correspondence Chess,” p. 28) is the correspondence chess director for the USCF. His monthly column “The Check is in the Mail” can be found on uschess.org.

FM Alex Betaneli (“Scholastics,” p. 32) is a three-time Wisconsin state champion and a chess coach.
October Chess Life

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On The Cover

GM-elect Alex Lenderman’s celebratory dance after his chess accomplishments has become somewhat of a trademark and a breath of fresh air on the chess scene.

Cover design by Shirley Szymanek (www.dog4design.co.uk)
Image taken from YouTube video of Lenderman.
Photo this page by Chris Bird

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**PREMIUM USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES**

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**REGULAR USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES**

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**OTHER USCF MEMBERSHIP RATES**

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Counterplay

Floored

Years ago, the USCF put in rating floors to prevent sandbagging in big money tournaments. So, I understand the reasoning for rating floors. But since that time, the rating floor has become a comfort level for many players, as well as a badge of accomplishment. Thus, when players break 1600 they know no matter how poorly they play—and as we age, we tend to diminish in our playing abilities—activity will never drop below a certain level. As a result, rating floors now serve more than one purpose.

My question is, why are there no rating floors for quick chess and correspondence chess ratings? It seems to me if someone has worked extremely hard to break the 2200 level at correspondence chess, for example, there should be some reward in the knowledge that they will never drop below 2000, and thus will always be able to play in the expert/master class tournaments. Has there been any thought given to establishing rating floors for quick chess and correspondence chess ratings?

David McCann
Ada, Oklahoma

Mark Glickman, chair of the USCF Ratings Committee, responds:

Your question raises a fundamental issue about the purpose of chess ratings. While many tournament players view their ratings as indicators of achievement, their primary use is to measure playing strength. If the main goal was to reward players who play well, we would not need a rating system that involves complicated formulas that are designed to track players’ abilities over time. Rating floors, which were created by chess administrators and not by statisticians, are at odds with the goal of measuring playing strength, especially for players whose chess skills are not as sharp as they used to be. The USCF Ratings Committee has been consistently against their continued use. That said, the Quick Chess system does indeed implement rating floors which are computed in the same way as in the regular rating system.

FM Alex Dunne, USCF Correspondence Chess (CC) Director, addresses the CC question:

A rating floor for CC players? While I have nothing against one, I don’t believe one is necessary. Correspondence chess is not affected nearly as much as over-the-board (OTB) chess in the withering of chess strength by age. Those qualities that mark OTB chess abilities: memory, calculating ability, quickness of mind, stamina, nerves, and ability to travel are replaced by the use of opening books, physically moving pieces to analyze, silence in the study, time, and a postcard or e-mail. Many CC players play as well or nearly as well in their sixties and seventies as they did forty years ago. It is the same game, but different.

Refrying the Re-fried

I enjoyed Jon Edwards’ article on the “Re-fried Liver” in the July issue. I think Jon contributed significantly to this ancient variation whose definitive analysis remains ever elusive. My own analysis is hardly exhaustive but might provide some insight:

In the main line, after 9. 0-0 c6 10. d4 Kd6 11. Ne4+ Nb6 12. c3 c3, a better try than 12. ... Nb6 for Black might be 12. ... Nb6, threatening the bishop. After 13. cxb4 Nxc4, White doesn’t appear to have much other than 14. Qf7+, and then 14. Qd7 15. Qxc4 Qxd4 16. Qxd4 exd4, and the bishops should allow Black to draw without too much trouble.

On the other hand, I think Jon’s “new, interesting try” of 11. Bg5 is better. Even if Black doesn’t fall into the trap of 11. ... Qxg5 12. Ne4+, he’s still in bad shape after 11. ... Be7 12. Bxe7+ Nxe7 13. dxe5+ Kc7 14. Rad1 Qf8 (what else?) 15. Bf7.

So is 5. ... Nxd5 truly busted? Maybe not. After 10. d4, Black has 10. ... Qf6 (which Jon notes but doesn’t really pursue). After 11. Qe2 Qd7 12. dxe5 Qf5 or 12. Ne4 Qg6, White has about even compensation for the material, and both sides are walking a tightrope.

Initial analysis indicates that after 10. d4, 10. ... exd4 is disastrous after the immediate 11. Re1: 11. ... Kd7 12. Kd6 Qg3+ Kc7 13. a3 dxc3 14. axb4+ Kb6 15. Bxd5 cxd5 16. Be3+.

Next let’s decide the Wilkes-Barre once and for all!

Walt Brower
Blount Springs, Alabama

Jon Edwards responds:

Thank you for your wonderful comments. I’m very pleased that you are having fun with the lines! As you know, I couldn’t include all my variations and thoughts. I hope this helps.


Yes, the 11. Bg5 line is a lot of fun. I actually think that 11. ... Qd7 12. dxe5+ Kc7 is the best defense for Black. But I agree that White has good winning chances there too.

And after 10. d4 Qf6 11. Qe2 Kd7 12. Ne4! Qg6 13. c3 Na6 14. Bxa6 bxa6 15. dxe5, White will again have c3-c4 with very active play against Black’s exposed king.

And yes, it’s probably time to take on the Wilkes-Barre! Long live the Liver, and good chess.
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Chess School A Success in St. Louis

GREGORY SHAHADE FIGURES things couldn’t have gone much better for the 10th U.S. Chess School, an intensive camp for the nation’s top young players held August 11-15 at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis.

“The students were great. We go from 9 to 6 each day, and at the end of the day they still have plenty of energy,” said Shahade, the founder and president of the Chess School.

The 10th Chess School differed from the previous nine because all eight students were female. They ranged in age from 12 to 19. It was an experiment that initially had Shahade concerned. “I wasn’t sure about the symbolism” in separating one gender from the other.

But it worked out well, he said. The students got along and several became good friends.

The classes, led primarily by Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov, also were somewhat different in tone, Shahade said, than the usual mixed-gender camps. “The boys get more excitable,” he said.

Shahade already has sites lined up for the next three Chess Schools, which take place through 2010. After that, he wouldn’t mind returning to St. Louis.

“I feel like a broken record. It’s the nicest chess club I’ve been to,” he said. “The neighborhood is great. The staff is great. Everything is great.”

Tony Rich, Executive Director of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center, said it was a pleasure to host the school.

“Part of our mission is to help make chess more accessible to everyone, and to build interest in chess among young people. The chess school certainly complements that mission. And to see these girls and young women actively learning a game they love was inspiring,” Rich said.

Shahade started the chess school in 2006 to provide an outlet for top young players to improve their game. The school is free.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization that opened in July 2008. Founded by retired investment fund manager Rex Sinquefield, it has more than 500 members. The club, which Steve Goldberg on Chess Life Online called “certainly one of the most impressive chess centers” in the country, offers free classes for beginners, discounted tournament entry fees and discounted merchandise for club members. The Chess Club will host the U.S. Women’s Chess Championship October 3-13, featuring 10 of the top women players in the country.

For more information, please visit www.saintlouischessclub.org or call 314-361-CHESS.
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The US Chess Federation
Due to unfortunate but necessary cutbacks, the USCF is cutting the position of Scholastic and FIDE Director. Jerry Nash’s last day in the office was Tuesday, August 25th. We are fortunate to be able to announce that Mr. Nash will continue his relationship with the Federation as our National Education Consultant. Jerry’s focus will be primarily on working with individuals, schools, and communities in the role of a consultant to assist in the development of local scholastic and collegiate chess programs. He will also promote the training of educators to connect chess with the efforts to improve math skills, critical thinking skills, and life skills. Read his letter to the chess community below, and contact him directly at jerrynash@frontiernet.net.

—Bill Hall, USCF Executive Director

August 26, 2009

Dear Chess Community,

Since March of 2005 it has been my privilege to serve as the Scholastic and FIDE Director of the United States Chess Federation. While unfortunate circumstances necessitate my leaving this position, I hope to maintain my connections with the chess community. It has been my pleasure to make the acquaintance of so many players, coaches, tournament directors, parents, and students who love the game of chess and use it to impact their communities.

I will continue my relationship with the Federation as National Education Consultant. Working with individuals, schools, and communities, I hope to assist in the development of local scholastic and collegiate chess programs. I also plan to continue helping educators connect chess with the improvement of math skills, critical thinking skills, and life skills.

I would like to thank all those with whom I have worked for having the opportunity to be a part of their efforts to make a difference in the lives of others. I have been blessed by these relationships. My hope and prayer is that we will discover the resources needed to face the challenges and fulfill the opportunities of the days ahead.

Best Regards,

Jerry Nash

2010 U.S. Championship

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) will host the 2010 U.S. Championship from April 23 to May 6, with 24 competitors vying for at least $130,000 in prize money. Read the official press release here for details on the composition of the 24 qualifiers. Seven players are already determined—the defending champion Hikaru Nakamura, the U.S. junior champion Ray Robson and the top five players from the U.S. Open: GMs Dmitry Gurevich, Sergey Kudrin, Jesse Kraai, Alex Yermolinsky and GM-elect Alex Lenderman. On Labor Day weekend at the U.S. Senior Open in Tulsa, Oklahoma, GM Larry Christiansen qualified for the championship.

Look for more details as the tournament approaches. The CCSCSL will also host the 2009 U.S. Women’s Championship from October 3-13, and the field for that tournament is IM Anna Zatonskih, IM Irina Krush, IM Rusudan Goletiani, WGM Sabina-Francesca Foisor, WGM Camilla Baginskaita, WFM Tatev Abrahamyan, WIM Alisa Melekhina, WIM Iryna Zenyuk, WIM Battsetseg Tsagaan, and Yun Fan.

Membership rate increase

The regular adult USCF membership rate will increase from $29 to $34 effective December 1, 2009. See all your current membership options by going to uschess.org and clicking on “Join/Renew”.

The USCF Mission

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.
2009 USCF
NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC
K-12 CHAMPIONSHIP

December 11-13, 2009
Hilton Anatole Dallas
2201 Stemmons Freeway • Dallas, TX 75207
Reservations: 1-800-HILTONS or 214-748-1200

Opening Ceremony
12/11 Friday: 12:30pm

Rounds
Friday: 1pm, 6pm
Saturday: 10am, 2pm, 6pm
Sunday: 9am, 1pm

Awards Ceremonies
Sunday: 4:30pm (K-1) & 5pm (Approx.)

Special round times for K-1 sections
Friday: 1:30pm, 5:30pm
Saturday: 9:30am, 1:30pm, 5:30pm
Sunday: 9:30am, 1:30pm

On-site registration
12/10: 9am-10pm
12/11: 8am-10am
Players registering after 10am Friday will not be paired for round 1, will receive a 1/2 point bye, and will begin play round 2.

SIDE EVENTS

Bughouse:
Thursday: 11am
On-site entry only Thursday, 8am until 10am $25 per team.

Blitz:
Thursday: 5pm
On-site entry until 4pm • Entry in advance $15 by 11/29 • $20 after 11/29 or on-site • Register at https://secure.uschess.org/webstore/tournament.php

Simul:
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Blitz entry: $15 until 11/11 or $20 after 11/11 or on-site.

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Number ____________________________ EXP. / _______ SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________

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Read, Write, Checkmate

An excerpt to help teachers and coaches with chess programs in their schools

By Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

Why Chess?

Librarians’ goals include attracting patrons, partnering with community organizations to provide intellectual and educational experiences, and building collections of books and electronic resources. These goals have been met through chess, by librarians working in diverse contexts. For example, Dr. Larry D. Sall, Dean of Libraries at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), said:

“The annual Chess Festival [ChessFest] at McDermott Library highlights the accomplishments of the UTD chess team, the number one college chess team in the U.S. The festival also brings people into the library who might not otherwise come in here. We’ve used chess as a theme for library displays. The library staff includes a number of chess players who enjoy building up the library’s chess book collection, which is then enjoyed by staff, students, faculty, and the community. Electronic materials also make it possible for chess resources to be studied from remote locations. Chess has a tremendous significance for libraries because chess is one of those activities that stimulate strategic and analytic skills.” (personal communication, November 16, 2007).

Children’s librarian Michael Sullivan devotes a portion of his website to chess activities in the northeastern United States. He also has written about why librarians might promote chess. Quoting Root (2006, pp. 39-40):

“Libraries are excellent locations for chess clubs, according to Sullivan (2003). Boys’ reading test scores are a year and a half behind those of girls, and boys are less likely to visit libraries (Sullivan, 2003). Many boys believe ‘the stereotype that reading and other intellectual pursuits are passive and effeminate’ (Sullivan, 2003, p. 58). Chess draws boys into libraries and “also has a humanizing effect for library staff members. Like police playing midnight basketball with at-risk teens, a library chess program creates an avenue of exposure for the library, welcoming children and families into a fun atmosphere, cementing a relationship before the library’s other services are needed.’ (Sullivan, 2003, p. 60).”

North Branch Public Services librarian (Denton, Texas) Carmen Grant commented, “I’ve seen that chess is intergenerational, and also brings males to the library.” Her library’s reference desk owns two sets and boards, which it loans to patrons for in-library use. In addition, as discussed later in this chapter, this library also hosts a weekly chess club.

Concerns

Academic librarian Tim Harris noted that college and university libraries are often short of funds. Drawing from his experience, Harris suggested that academic librarians should:
“meet with department chairpersons and ask them to allow money from their book budget to be spent on chess literature. I had the most success with departments of mathematics, computer science (I would argue that the advance of chess computer programming was an important aspect of computer science ... and it often worked and I got the money to buy chess books to add to the library’s collection from that department), and history.” (personal communication, November 27, 2007).

Harris added that his success with the history department was mostly due to him also holding an appointment as a history professor. Shenk (2006) and Yalom (2004) are appealing purchases for higher education history departments.

If a campus chess club is an approved student organization, then academic librarians can make a case for buying instructional books and materials to support that club. Harris wrote, “I successfully began a chess club at a college that had never previously had one and actually had the administration help fund it. Furthermore, once this occurred, I never had any problems finding money from the budget to purchase good chess books” (personal communication, November 27, 2007). Chess club presidents can be an important bridge between student government, chess, and libraries. In 2001, UTD chess club president Clemente Ren don worked with the Student Union and Activities Advisory Board and the McDermott library to organize the first ChessFest. As noted by Dr. Sall, ChessFest has become an annual event.

To identify concerns of library media specialists and of public librarians, as represented by their electronic discussions, I searched for “chess” in the 1997-2007 archives of LM_NET www.eduref.org/lm_net/archive/ and in the 1995-2008 archives of PUBLIB http://lists.webjunction.org/publib/ . Library media specialists worried that:

1. Like other games and puzzles, chess distracts students from doing their homework, and;
2. The noise and activity associated with games such as chess would be disruptive.

In response, some library media specialists posted their chess/games rules. To address the concern that chess might distract students from doing their homework, students should have a signed pass from a teacher designating what that student is supposed to do at the library, especially during the school day. After school, a fair rule might be a designated amount of time for homework before games may be checked out. Regarding the concern that chess might be disruptive, it is important to remember that student chessplayers and onlookers learn from discussing chess games. There can be rules about the content (no trash-talking) and the volume of the conversation. To summarize, some library media specialists thought that library media centers should only be for individual, quiet, academic work, while others designated times and areas for social activities such as mind-developing games and puzzles.

Public librarians seemed somewhat less concerned about games and noise than library media specialists, though several postings on PUBLIB suggested segregating game-playing to one area. In general, the public librarians were enthusiastic about chess attracting children and young adults. Their concerns include how to organize a chess tournament, how to start and run a chess club, and what instruction and equipment is recommended. These concerns will be addressed in the rest of this chapter.

Since the options for library-chess involvement are varied, librarians might wonder how to start. Often chess players make the first move, approaching librarians with requests to hold chess activities. Alternatively, librarians may contact the United States Chess Federation (USCF) or local chess clubs asking for volunteer or paid chess instructors. Or a librarian might implement chess, whether or not she or he has ever played the game.

### Tournaments

Tournaments may be rated and publicized by the USCF, but can also be non-rated. Tournaments require quiet conditions and attract parents, educators, other adults, and children to your library. If experienced players are competing, chess clocks to pace each game are desirable. In the announcement of the tournament, ask players to bring their own chess equipment. Or, if the library has boards and sets such as those recommended in “Chess Equipment and Curricula” in chapter 1, put in the announcement, “Sets and boards provided.” By limiting the number of participants and asking non-competing adults to supervise, chess tournaments are simple to run. The easiest way to run a tournament is to group players in quads (a round robin of four players). It is best if every player in the quad is about the same ability. Have players describe themselves as beginner, intermediate, or advanced. Form groups of four players according to those self-designations. Within the quad, arbitrarily number the players from one to four. Then follow the pairing chart in Figure 6.2. (See chart on left.) The result of each game is scored in the following manner: Win 1 point; Draw 1/2 point; and Loss 0 points.

To clarify Figure 6.2, the player designated as number one has white in round one against player four. At the same time, player two has white against player three. The winner of the quad is the player with the most points at the end of round three. If the number of players is not divisible by four, then make the bottom section larger than four players and run that section as a three-round Swiss system tournament.

### References


Website: http://www.talesofdall.com/


[uschess.org](http://uschess.org) Chess Life — October 2009
shopworn (-wôrn')
-adjective
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Opinion is divided over the value of applying arithmetic to chess. Some say it adds to our understanding. Others say it just multiplies our confusion.

Half of the chess world likes to think that you win games by applying principles that are as dependable as the laws of arithmetic. The other half feels that you win by breaking those laws. You prove that “two times two equals five,” as Mikhail Tal put it.

As a result, we’ve argued for centuries about how much of chess can be turned into an equation. The best evidence that chess is arithmetic is the chart of “relative value of the pieces”—“A bishop is worth three pawns” and so on.

Newcomers to chess are often confused when told that a queen is worth nine pawns. How in the world can you have nine pawns, they wonder?

The reason Q=9Ps is useful is it can be converted to a more realistic equation.

**Just add it up**

Lev Travin
Ilya Zek
Leningrad 1938

This position used to appear in tactics manuals to illustrate the power of a pin. To avoid mate, White must play 1. Rd2. Then comes 1. ... Qd1! “and Black wins,” the books say.

But let’s take that one step further and make the forced moves, 2. Rxb2 and 2. ... Qxd8. What’s the score?

White has a rook, a bishop and pawn for the queen. If a rook is worth five pawns and a bishop three, then adding it up ... White has nine pawns’ worth of compensation for the queen.

That should be just enough. And we can prove it’s enough by continuing 3. Rf2 followed by “pass” moves. Black can’t win.

When Emanuel Lasker, in 1925, and then Alexander Alekhine, in 1927, made similar queen sacrifices it was somewhat shocking. But all they were doing was showing that 5 plus 3 plus 1 really does equal 9.

But masters often get entangled in their arithmetic. In his wonderful game collection, The Sorcerer’s Apprentice, David Bronstein said a knight and bishop are roughly equal. A few lines later he said that a knight is equal to three pawns. But then he said a bishop is equal to four pawns.

How can all three equations be right? They can’t.

Nevertheless, masters have also tried to come up with equations that go beyond trades of material. One of the few guidelines for making a pawn sacrifice comes from Siegbert Tarrasch: If you get three extra moves of development in return for a pawn, it’s an equitable swap.

Let’s test this with an opening Tarrasch would never have dreamed up, the Poisoned Pawn Variation of the Najdorf Sicilian. It runs 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 and now 7. ... Qb6 8. Qd2 Qxb2 9. Rb1 Qa3:

(see diagram top of next column)

Black has moved two pieces to White’s five. Five minus two means White has made three more developing moves than Black and that should be enough to justify his gambit.

But Tarrasch tweaked his arithmetic. He assigned extra value to the second move of a knight on the grounds that this usually gives the knight much more range.

He would say the splendidly centralized knight at d4 is worth two tempi, not just one. Therefore White’s gambit should be more than worthwhile.

You can also factor in other variables, such as an advantage in space or piece activity. One formula, which has been used in versions of chess software, is to calculate the difference in mobility of the two armies:

Add up all the legal moves for each side. Subtract the smaller from the larger number and multiply by one tenth of a pawn.

The result tells you how much better—in material terms—the more mobile player is. If one guy has ten more legal moves than his opponent, this formula says he’s the equivalent of a full pawn ahead.

Let’s apply this to the last diagram. We can count 45 possible moves for White and 32 for Black. Do the subtraction and White ends up with a mobility advantage...
St. Petersburg 1909

This year marks the centenary of one of the greatest tournaments of pre-revolution Russia, St. Petersburg 1909. It is best remembered for Akiba Rubinstein’s brilliant upset of world champion Emanuel Lasker and the Lasker versus Rubinstein race for first prize. But this month’s quiz is based on combinations played by some of the 17 other players at St. Petersburg. In each of the following six positions you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. In most quizzes that means a forced win of material but watch out this month for a lot of mates involving rooks and bishops. Solutions on page 63.

of 13 moves, or the equivalent of 1.3 pawns. So, if you subtract the pawn he’s given up, White is nearly a third of a pawn ahead.

But the late GM Eduard Gufeld would have argued that White didn’t give up a whole pawn. In his calculus, pawns vary in value depending on their file.

Gufeld tried to make this more understandable by talking of pawn value in money terms. If the center pawns, on the e- and d-files, are worth $1 each, he said, then pawns on the c- and f-file are only 90 cents apiece, and so on.

In this case White lost 80 cents, the value of a b-pawn, when he allowed 8. ... Qxb2. He gave up another 10 cents when he swapped his d-pawn for a less valuable c-pawn (3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4). Therefore White hasn’t sacrificed a whole pawn, just 90 percent of one, according to “Gufeldonomics.”

There have been various attempts to compute what the vague symbols of annotators really mean. Several years ago a Russian study, reported in Shakhmatny Bulletin, concluded, for example, that an equals sign means the chances of White winning is 55 to 46 percent.

A plus-over-equals sign means White has winning chances in the 56 to 70 percent range. A plus-over-minus raises that to 71 to 85 percent, the study found. And a plus—sign followed by minus—sign—which we usually interpret as “White is winning”—signifies only that he has at least an 85 percent chance.

GMs have also tried to find an equation that links material with clock time. If you give up a knight for an attack that forces your opponent into bad time pressure it may be worthwhile. As Tal liked to say, “The time you don’t have is more valuable than the extra piece you do have.”

Vladimir Kramnik put it another way in 64 magazine last year. An opening novelty that forces your opponent into a big think is a quantifiable advantage, he wrote. “I don’t know how to evaluate it (a pawn or a half-pawn) but it exists,” he said.

That recalls a world championship game in which Garry Kasparov made a pawn sacrifice that sent Anatoly Karpov into a big think. Gufeld explained what happened in his annotations—“Chess—players have a joke: An hour lead is worth a pawn.”

Kramnik knows it’s no joke.

No joke
GM Veselin Topalov
GM Vladimir Kramnik
Wijk aan Zee 2008

(see diagram top of next column)

White played 12. Nxf7. It deserved the title “move of the year”—but not because it’s a great move. In fact, when White annotated the game he gave it a “?!”. This indicates that the sacrifice is not sound but it was more good than bad because Black would have a difficult time finding the right defense.

Gufeld’s joke was proven true. Black was 45 minutes behind on the clock by the time he reached move 21. He trailed by more than an hour soon after that. Despite further errors on both sides White won on move 45.

But there’s a caveat here: If you sacrifice a pawn you may end up an hour ahead—but if you sacrifice an hour there’s no assurance you’ll end up a pawn ahead.

In other words, some equations work in only one direction. The same goes with equations in life. For example, “A picture is worth a thousand words.”

If you have to describe verbally what an image shows visually it may, indeed, take you 1,000 words. But it doesn’t work the other way around. Look at a copy of the Gettysburg Address. Now draw it.
When the center opens very early on, and it’s possible to exchange queens, depriving the opponent of the opportunity to castle, most players do so, hoping to exploit the exposed king’s vulnerable status with developing attacks and threats. But there’s another side to this. If the assault can be weathered, the centered king may be better placed for the endgame. Of course, before the endgame, the chess gods have placed the opening and middlegame, and those phases might not allow a harried king to reach an endgame. That was the storyline in the game Isaias Pleci versus Lucius Endzelins, played in a match (Argentina versus Latvia) at the Buenos Aires Olympiad of 1939. Black’s king was hounded into mate. The king hunt began in a Tarrasch French Defense:

**French Defense (C07)**

Isaias Pleci  
Lucius Endzelins  
Match: Argentina versus Latvia, Buenos Aires Olympiad, 1939

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5

Your starting position

Now make sure you have the above position set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White’s next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also rewarded for second-best moves, and there may be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that the note to Black’s move is over and White’s move is on the next line.

4. Ngf3 ** Par Score: 5

White develops and guards the d4-pawn. **Full credit** for inserting 4. exd5 before playing Ng3, but accept only 2 **points part credit** for 4. dxc5 Bxc5, helping Black develop.

4. ... dxe4

Here is a move that’s seldom played, since it brings White’s knight into the game with an attack on the c5-pawn. A more normal move is 4. ... Nc6.**

5. Nxe4 ** Par Score: 4

5. ... Nd7

Black protects the c5-pawn. He could have gone whole hog, 5. ... cxd4, relieving all the tension in the center. He didn’t.**

6. dxc5 ** Par Score: 5

6. ... Nxc5

This was planned in conjunction with Black’s previous move. What he didn’t like was 6. ... Bxc5 7. Nxc5 Qa5+ 8. c3 Qxc5 9. Be3 giving White the two bishops in an open position. Still, this was better than what happened.**

7. Qxd8+ ** Par Score: 6

Paradoxically, the trade of queens is the best way for White to pursue the attack. Black’s king, unable to castle, is certain to come under fire.

8. Bg5+ ** Par Score: 5

Pleci develops with tempo on the king. In essence, this becomes a free developing move, even though Black blocks the check with a counterthreat, as we shall soon see.

8. ... f6

Other interpositions are worthless: 8. ... B(N)e7 9. Nxc5; 8. ... Nf6? 9. Nxf6 gxf6 10. Bxf6+ (accept 1 bonus point for each). Nor does running to the queenside (8. ... Kc7) help much: 9. Bf4+ Kb6 (9. ... Kc6 10. Ne5+, with invasion at f7) 10. Be3 a5 (he has to stop 11. b4) 11. Ne5 Nh6 12. Nd3, piling up and winning the pinned c5-knight.**

9. 0-0-0+ ** Par Score: 5

Castling with check cries out to be played. **No credit** for other moves.

9. ... Ke8

Again, interpositions are bad: (a) 9. ... Bd7 10. Nxc5 Bxc5 11. Bb5 (1 bonus point); or (b) 9. ... Nd7 10. Bb5 fxe5 11. Ne5 Nf6 12. Nxf6 gxf6 13. Nxd7 (2 bonus points; a possible continuation might be 13. ... Bxd7 14. Rxd7+ Kc8 15. Rhd1 Bc5 16. Bxc4 Bxf2 17. Bxe6 Kb8 18. Bd5 and wins.**

10. Bb5+ ** Par Score: 5

10. ... Kf7

11. Rd8!! ** Par Score: 8

Here is a fantastic resource that keeps up the attack. Accept only 4 **points part credit** for for 11. Nxc5 Bxc5 12. Be3 Bxe3 13. fxe3, when Black can set up a defense with 13. ... Ke7, 14. ... Nh6, and 15. ... Nf7.

11. ... Be7

In a game played in the year of the USCF’s founding, the risk of an exposed king not reaching the endgame is illustrated.
These problems are all related to key positions in this month’s game. In each case, Black is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 63.

**October Exercise:** Create an electronic file, aiming to list every chess concept you command. At first, just get some ideas down, but as they accumulate, organize them into categories, as if you’re outlining a chess textbook. The mere act of parceling the notions into groups should lead to a greater appreciation of what you really know, and that should further urge an inexorable quest to fathom what you really don’t know. As Immanuel Kant mentions in the Critique of Pure Reason, the science of understanding is “nothing more than the inventory of all that is given by pure reason, systematically arranged.”

---


12. Ne5+! **Par Score: 7**

No credit for 12. Be8+ Kf8, which goes nowhere, as discovered checks by the bishop are answered by 13. ... Bxd8.

12. ... fxe5

Black has to take, and the medicine will not cure his ailment.**

13. Nd6+! **Par Score: 7**

The follow-up knight check leads to the win of the Exchange, since Black cannot afford 13. ... Bxd6 14. Be8+ Kf8 15. Bg6 mate (2 bonus points).

13. ... Kg6

14. Bxe7 **Par Score: 4**


14. ... Nxe7

15. Rxh8 **Par Score: 4**

After the win of the Exchange, White’s immediate mating threats have subsided but the pin of the c8-bishop remains.

---

Black’s only hope of resisting is to unpinned his bishop.**

16. Be2 **Par Score: 5**

With 16. Be8+ (full credit) White can continue the attack on the king: (a) 16. ... Kf6 17. Rf8+; (b) 16. ... Kg5 17. h4+; (c) 17. ... Kh6 17. Nf7++; but trying to calculate a forced checkmate is impractical given the material on the board has been reduced. The text is good, looking to place the bishop on f3, pinning the b7-pawn. Plus the attack on the king can be renewed at any moment.

16. ... e4

Black takes control of f3, in that 16. ... b5 is met by 17. Bf3 Bb7 18. Rxa8 Bxa8 19. Bxa8 (2 bonus points).**

17. f4 **Par Score: 6**

Now White resumes the attack on the black king by taking control of g5. If Black takes en passant the bishop wins up at f3.

17. ... b5

The text prepares 18. ... Bb7, which Black seeks to delay.**

18. Re8! **Par Score: 7**

The attacked knight can’t move, else the c8-bishop falls (1 bonus point).

19. ... Kf6

20. h4 **Par Score: 6**

The threat is checkmate in two moves. Meanwhile, ... Bc8-b7 is apparently delayed.

20. ... Bb7

Black agrees to be put out of his misery. If he wants to play on he has to move his h-pawn. Say 20. ... h5 (20. ... h6, also answered by 21. Rh3, is marginally better) 21. Rh3 Bh7 22. Rxg3+ Kh8 23. Rh7 Nf5 24. Nxh5 exf5 25. Rfxg7+ Kh8 (25. ... Kh6 26. R3g6 mate) 26. R7g5 and 27. Rxe5 mate.**

21. ... Kg6

On 21. ... Kg6 there follows 22. Nf7 mate. Accept 1 bonus point, if you saw it when playing 20. h4.

21. ... Black resigned.
“LENDER—MAN!—LENDER—MAN!”—The chant could be heard all throughout the second floor of the hotel. A crowd of 80 or so chess players were packed tightly in a circle right outside the playing room between rounds two and three of the traditional World Open Blitz championship. After nine rounds of grueling, grinding, serious play, the players were letting off steam. I could not penetrate the dense circle, three or four bodies deep, some standing on chairs, some even sitting on others shoulders, many with their cell phones taking videos—all having one heck of a good time!

And what was the object of their joy and excitement? 19-year-old GM-elect Alex Lenderman was performing his legendary victory “lite dance.” Alex, having just completed his third GM norm in a month, was celebrating as only he can.

It was a magnificent and rare moment for chess players who had spent most of the last five to seven days with heads down in the midst of deafening silence. Now they could “let it all hang out” and share the wonder and delight of the newest American grandmaster. (My interview with Alex appears on page 26.)

Following is the game which almost clinched the title, along with the young GM’s notes. (After this he needed only a draw with either of two foreign GMs.)

**Slav Defense (D15)**
GM-elect Alex Lenderman (2638)
GM Alejandro Ramirez (2601)
World Open, Philadelphia (8), 07.05.2009
Notes by Lenderman

This was the eighth round of the World Open and I was playing against a grandmaster from Costa Rica, now living in Dallas, Alejandro Ramirez. I was already successful in outplaying him in the Benko Gambit from the white side in the Copper State International, where I got my first norm, and ended up winning an endgame up a pawn. Therefore, I felt I had a psychological edge.

This time Alejandro decided to choose
Alex Lenderman at a simul in New York City’s Central Park this past summer.
a calmer but more solid opening, as he figured a draw with Black against me wouldn’t be too bad and I would probably want to win. I felt like I was slipping a little bit in this tournament as after a 4/5 start, I slowed down a little bit by blowing a win against the very strong grandmaster, Evgeny Najer (see game page 24). I was getting a little bit tired as it was my 22nd long game in two weeks, and I was very close to my third grandmaster norm. I had to do my best.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 a6

One of the current main lines in the Slav; the idea of the ... a7-a6 move is to play ... b7-b5 and then challenge the c-pawn, which is attacking my center strong point. In the event of c4-c5, and takes advantage of the fact that the ... b7-b6 move weakens the c5-square (after c5xb6), as he cannot take back with the a-pawn now, Black can now develop the bishop to f5 safely.

The problem with 4. ... Bf5?! against 4. Nc3 is that White has 5. cxd5! cxd5 (otherwise after 5. ... Nxd5 White has a slight edge due to a stronger center) 6. Qb3! and White wins a pawn. The compensation for the pawn isn’t sound enough. Two sharper lines in the Slav are 4. ... dxc4!? and 4. ... e6?! (the Semi-Slav)—the sharpest.

The a6-line happens to be the safest line, but without a big chance to get an advantage as Black. And the extra tempo spent playing ... a6 makes it a bit tougher for Black to achieve equality. I have been known to play this line as Black, avoiding the overbooked alternative Slav line.

5. c5!?

Another interesting way of challenging this line is 5. a4! e6 6. g3!? dxc4 7. Bg2 c5 8. dxc5 Qxd1+ 9. Nxd1 Bxc5 10. Ne3 and White gets back the pawn with a slightly better endgame due to a strong bishop on g2, and some more activity. I chose a more dynamic way of playing.

5. ... Bf5

Another way of playing is 5. ... Nbd7! but I feel like it is not quite as strong, as after 6. h3! Qc7 7. Bh5! White gets a slight advantage in complicated lines after 7. ... h6 8. Bh4 Nh5 9. g4 and 10. g5.

6. Nh4!

Very nice novelty, challenging the developed bishop right away, first used by GM Vishy Anand against GM Yue Wang, and then a few other people, including GM Varuzhan Akopian against me at the Foxwoods Open (see July Chess Life annotations) and my trainer GM Giorgi Kacheishvili against GM Timur Gareev very recently.

6. ... Be6?!

In my opinion, a dubious novelty, by Gareev used against Kacheishvili. What to do with that piece? After the text, in order to play ... e7-e5, a tempo has to be lost, and in my opinion White has an advantage now. (... Bc8 invites a repetition so 6. ... Bd7 seems best—J.H.)

7. h3

With the idea of Bf4, so that on ... Nh5 I would have Bh2, and would not have to move my bishop back.

7. ... g6

Now the only way to develop. But now I control the queenside.

8. Bf4Bg7 9. e3 b6

Even though it might be dubious, but after the simple 9. ... 0-0 10. Bd3! stops Ne4. Kacheishvili-Gareev continued with 9. ... Nbd7 10. Bb5 0-0 11. Bh2 which gives White a very strong spatial advantage, and a very simple plan of breaking through on the queenside with a typical b2-b4-b5. Black has very little counterplay; the only way is to play ... Nh5, and ... f7-f5. But still Black’s position looks awkward; pieces are not coordinated for Black.

9. cxb6!

Like only this. If I play 10. b4!?, after 10. ... Ne4! Black has some good counterplay.

10. ... Qxb6

If 10. ... Nbd7, then 11. b7 followed by 12. Qb3 winning.

11. a3!

A strong move associated with the previous move. I saw that on 11. ... Qxb2? 12. Na4 Qb7 13. Rb1 wins right away. Besides that, on 11. ... Ne4, I have 12. Na4 Qa5+ 13. Bf4. Now it is clear that the c5-square is mine for good, as well as the c-file.

11. ... Nbd7

Maybe 11. ... c5?! was worth a better try to reduce the effects of Na4. Though then the development would fall more behind after the simple dxc5. But at least the c5-square wouldn’t be as weak for Black.

12. Na4 Qb7 13. Rc1 Ne4

With a simple threat of g5. But I want to leave the h4-square anyway. Maybe just 13. ... 0-0 would be better to keep an option of ... Nh5 in some cases.

14. Nf3 0-0 15. Nd2

(see diagram top of next column)

Removing his best piece on the board, and at the same time heading towards b3, to attack the a5 and c5 squares. After

15. Nb3, White threatens f2-f3 removing one of the defenders of c5. And 15. ... Nxd2 helps me get my queen into the game. Now I have a big advantage.

15. ... g5 16. Bh2 Bf5

Trying for some kind of counterplay.

17. Qb3!

I also considered 17. Nb3!? but after 17. ... e5 would give him more counterplay. This game continuation I foresaw was almost a clear win. Either he has to trade queens into a lost endgame, or give up two pawns.

17. ... Qa7 18. Nxe4 Bxe4 19. f3

Good to get his bishop as far as possible from the action.

19. ... Bg6 20. Rxc6 Rac8 21. Rxa6

Now White is up two pawns, and Black’s compensation is scant, as both of his bishops are barely in the game, and his knight on d7 and rook on f8 are also spectators.

21. ... Rcl+ 22. Kd2 Qxa6

Obviously the only chance. Now I have a choice between taking the rook back, being up two pawns, or taking a queen and having a queen for two rooks. That was a critical decision for me.

23. Bxa6!

I made calculations, and wasn’t sure; both moves seemed pretty good. However, I intuitively didn’t see anything scary for Black with his rook on h1, whereas my queen on b3 is much more active than that passive rook on f8. Two rooks aren’t so effective when not worked together as a general rule. After 23. Kxc1?! Rc8+ 24. Nc3 Bd8! things are not so clear and Black all of a sudden is getting tremendous counterplay.

23. ... Rxc1 24. Bc7 Rg1 25. g4 Rg2+ 26. Ke1

Objectively now White is winning, but of course Black still has some dangerous counterplay, as the position can open up any time with ... e7-e5.

26. ... e5!?
Of course this makes the position worse, but a nice last gasp try, in order to mix things up, and try for some tricks. In a lost position, better to die quickly than die slowly and hopelessly.

27. Qb5!

In a tough position where I was getting very nervous, I made the best decision, winning a piece, and clearly calculating, that sacrificing a piece for him won’t be enough counterplay.

27. ... exd4

Of course. What else? If 27. ... N65?, then 28. Bxe5 and Black can simply resign.

28. Qxd7 dx e3 29. Bd6

Most accurate. Attacking the f8-rook now and shutting down the counterplay.

29. ... Ra8 30. Nb6

And now the rook is lost. Black will try for a few last tricks now.

30. ... Rxb2

Clearly easy to see that nothing else works.

31. Nxa8 Bc3+ 32. Kf1 Rb1+ 33. Kg2

Of course not 33. Kg2?? Re1 mate.

33. ... Rb8+ 34. Kg1 Rb1+ 35. Bf1

No more checks, and now forced mate in three is threatened in a few ways.

35. ... h6 36. Qe8+ Kh7 37. Be5

Of course 37. Qxe3 was also winning but I felt like this was simpler.

37. ... Bxe5 38. Qxe5 d4

A last trick. 39. Qxd4?? would actually lose because of 39. ... e2! 40. Qf2 Bd3! But now I bring in a piece that was long forgotten in this part of the game.

39. Nc7, Black resigned.

And with the threat of 40. Ne8 and Black running out of chances and material, he resigned. This game was almost a clinch for me to get my third grandmaster norm. I had to draw my last round game with White to get the norm, and I felt like I was in good hands. Even though that was a struggle I was happy I was able to grind this tournament out, and play a nice game at the end.

The World Open was held in Philadelphia (the beautiful Sheraton City Center) July 4 weekend as usual, but this was a strange one. 37 grandmasters in the 98-player Open section made it quite top heavy. This was the result of an Under 2400 section which was very strong. The co-winners were GMS Hikaru Nakamura, the U.S. champion, and Russian GM Evgeny Najer who has now tied for first place three years in a row. Last year he won in an Armageddon playoff game but this year there was no playoff possible. Hurricane Hikaru appeared on Friday and piled up 4⅔ points out of 5 in the crazy three day schedule and stayed only two days before blowing out to the Atlantic. He could only play this schedule with two half point byes in the last two rounds as he was scheduled to play in the wonderful San Sebastian tournament in Spain on Monday. (Apparently unaffected by jet lag, he beat former world champion Karpov in the first round and went on to win this prestigious event in a rapid playoff. WOW!) On Hikaru’s second day in this event, he drew with world class GM Ilya Smirin and soundly defeated Najer in the seventh round. Here is that game:

French Defense (C10)
GM Evgeny Najer (2714)
GM Hikaru Nakamura (2787)
World Open, Philadelphia (7), 07.04.2009

This is one of the more remarkable games in American chess in my memory. Hikaru faced the World Open champion of the last two years with the black pieces. He knew that this was his last game of Caro-Kann and castle queenside.

What is amazing is the fact that his king being on that side of the board allowed him to win the ending! Let’s watch the U.S. champion work his magic.


The first big surprise. He yields the bishop pair for a mere tempo!

8. Bxe4 c6 9. c4 Ng6 10. Bc2 Qc7 11. Qe2 0-0-0

Second surprise—queenside castling.

12. Rb1 h6 13. b4 g5 14. Rb3 g4 15. Nd2 h5 16. c5

Why give up the d5-square to the knights? I like 16. b5.

16. ... Nd5 17. Ne4 Nb8 18. Bg5 Be7

One more surprise as trading this set of bishops allows the white horse to gallop to d6.


(see diagram top of next column)

This is a very deep Exchange sacrifice. My super computer Rybka gives White a plus over minus. Hikaru is operating on instinct as well as calculation. He knows that the knights will coordinate very well.

After 20. ... Rxd6

21. cxd6 Qxd6 22. Rd1 a6 23. a4 b5

This blunts any real danger to the king and fixes b4 as a weakness.


“I am back home and me and my buddy is eyeing the b-pawn.” It is now clear that Black is not after the kingside but the end game.

31. Re1 f4 32. Re5 Naxb4 33. Qe1 Rh6 34. Rg5 Kb6

After 34. ... Kb6

Black’s king is quite safe and his e-pawn is well protected.

35. Qb1 g3

Very nice distraction.

36. fxg3 fxg3 37. Re5 Rf6 38. Rxg3 Rf4 39. Qd1

Rybka thought White is better until now, when it finally changes its “mind!”

39. ... Nf6 40. Qe1 Ng4

After 40. ... Ng4
Just look at the frisky beasts! White’s bishop is a spectator and White must give back the Exchange to avoid immediate disaster.

41. Rxg4

No better is 41. Rxh5 Qxd4+ 42. Kh1 Nc2+ 43. Qb1 Nf2+ 44. Kh2 Rxf4+ 45. Rxe4 Qxh5+ 46. Rh3 Nhx3 47. gxh3 Qf2+ 48. Bg2 Ne1 49. Qe4 Qxg2+ 50. Qxg2 Nxg2 51. Kxg2 b4.

41. ... Qxd4+ 42. Kh2 hxg4 43. Rxg4 g3+ 44. Kxg3 Rxh4 45. Qe5

After 45. Qe3 N5d 46. Qxd4+ Rxd4 and the connected passers decide.

45. ... Qg4+ 46. Kh2 Qf4+ 47. Qxf4 Rxf4+ 48. Ke2 Nc2 49. Kg6 Rd4 50. g3 Rxf1

A final elegant touch. The remaining knight dominates the rook and the g-pawn gets nowhere.

51. Kxf1 b3 52. Rg8 Kc5 53. Rb8 Nb4 54. Rd8 b2 55. Rd1 Kc4, White resigned.

You can do the math yourself. This is truly a great game!

Najer, after suffering his only loss in that game, was fortunate to win from Alex in the following interesting game. This allowed the Russian to split $30,000 with the Hurricane.

**Queen’s Indian/ Nimzo-Indian hybrid (E13)  
GM-elect Alex Lenderman (2638)  
GM Eugene Najer (2714)  
World Open, Philadelphia (6), 07.04.2009**

This was one of the two key games of the tournament. Alex could secure his grandmaster title with only a draw in either of his last two games as long as they were with foreign grandmasters. If he could win this game he would have a crack at first place money. As you can see from the interview on page 26, the boy had the title uppermost in his mind but money is also nice! Najer had to win to recover from his seventh round loss to the Hurricane.

As it turned out, Alex outplayed his more experienced opponent and was on the verge of victory when a time pressure error turned the tables. This was only his second loss in the 22 games he played in the Philadelphia International (which he won), and the World Open. This happened in only a span of 12 days. Remarkable indeed!


Somewhat off the beaten path of Nimzo lines but it worked out quite well.

6. ... h6 7. Bh4 Be7 8. e4 d6 9. Bg3 0-0 10. f4

This well timed thrust keeps equality as Black has d5 and d6 both covered.

16. exf5 Bf6

This makes it a gambit.


The battle lines are drawn but White has a slight edge—perhaps not a full pawn’s worth, but something to build upon.

23. ... h5 24. h3 hxg4 25. hxg4 g6 26. Kg2

The alternative 26. fxg6 Bxc3 27. Qxc3 Rxf4 28. b3 Bxc4 29. bxh4 Qg7 30. Qxg7+ Kxg7 31. Bg2 Rxf1+ 32. Rxf1 Kxg6 is about an equal ending with chances for both sides.

26. ... gxh5 27. g5 Bd4 28. Rh1 Bg7 29. Rh3 Re7 30. Rah1 Rf6

Rook batteries on the e- and h-files promise fireworks and they come soon! (It was the Fourth of July!)

31. Bh5 Bb7

This exchange sac is not quite sound. If Black saves his rook, the pressure on the a6-f1 diagonal keeps the game in balance.

32. Bxe8 Qxe8 33. Rd1 Bd4 34. Kf1?

How else to try to untangle?

35. ... Nxb5 36. axb5 Bxb5 37. Qd3 Re4

Now there is no good way to guard the f-pawn and White’s kingside crumbles. If 38. Rh4, then 38. ... Re3 decides and if 38. Rf3, 38. ... Qh5 does the trick.

38. b3 Rxh4+ 39. Rf3 Rg4

Mate in one is the threat!

40. Rf2 Bxf2 41. Kxf2 Qh5, White resigned.

Time pressure is over and White has no saving moves.

Everybody loves a good upset. This year there were two particularly notable upsets to choose from. In the first, “Class A” player John Vaughan scored a round one upset over IM Bryan Smith. Smith’s rating going into the tournament was 2528, so there was a 594-point spread between the two players! In the seventh, life master (and perennially-floored master) Jerry Hanken defeated FM Daniel Yeager, winner of the 2008 Denker Tournament of Champions and the 2008 National High School Championship.

**Symmetrical English (A36)  
Jerome Hanken (2200)  
FM Daniel Yeager (2388)  
World Open, Philadelphia (7), 07.04.2009**

1. c4 c5 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. e3 d6 5. Ne2 Nc6 6. Nbc3

My favorite system. At times I have somewhat humbly referred to this setup for white as “The Hanken English.” I was happy to see Black’s next move, which hands over the d5-square.

6. ... e5 7. 0-0 Nge7 8. Rb1 0-0 9. d3 Be6 10. Nd5 Rb8 11. h3

The first new move in the database. And probably not an improvement on the standard 11. Nc3, which is preferred by the grandmasters! White is trying to get some play going on the kingside.

11. ... a6 12. f4 b5 13. b3 Bxd5!?

Black had a choice between this and the more conventional 13. ... Qd7 14. Kh2 f5. Not surprisingly, my young opponent tries to mix things up so he can play for the win!

14. cxd5 Nb4 15. e4 Nxa2

My thinking was: who needs the a-pawn anyway? The black knight has gallantly charged into enemy territory and duly done its damage. Yet when the battle drum is sounded on the kingside, the westwardly steed will be many moves in returning itself to the east.

16. Bd2 a5 17. f5
17. ... f6 18. h4 Nb4 19. Rf3 Ra8

Black concerns himself too much with queenside matters. The time was right for 19. ... gxf5 20. Bh3 fxe4 21. dxe4 f5, when the b4-knight suddenly finds itself in the midst of the fray.

20. fxg6 hxg6 21. Bh3 a4

Again 21. ... f5 was correct. Now the battle for the kingside is firmly in White’s hands. White’s two bishops become deadly as the kingside lines open.

22. Be6+ Kh7 23. g4 a3 24. g5 fxg5 25. Rh4 g4 26. Bxg4 Ng8 27. h5 g5 28. h6!

The lines are cleared.

28. ... Nhx6 29. Kg2? Rf4?

Both sides miss 29. ... Nxd3! when 30. Rxd3 Nxg4 31. Ng3 Rf2+ 32. Kg1 Qd7 33. Nf5 a2 gives Black a winning counterattack. 34. Rh3+ Kg8 35. Ra1 Rxf5 36. exf5 Qxf5, with ... e5-e4 to follow, is crushing. Black’s advanced passed pawn is not long in becoming a queen. I guess I really did need that a-pawn after all! The text returns material in hopes of thwarting White’s attack, but it does not accomplish this aim.


Black believes that his control over the a2 and a1 squares will decide the game. But the defenses around Black’s king are dwindling.

31. ... Kg8 32. Be6+ Kf8?

32. ... Kh7, going back, was sounder, since White’s attack falls short after 33. Qh5+ Qf6. (But not 33. ... a2? 34. Qf7! with threats.) But who wants to admit that White can take a draw by playing 33. Bf5+ again?

33. Rxh6 Bxh6 34. Qh5 Qe7 35. Bc3!!

(see diagram top of next page)

The winning move. I was proud of this as it was tempting to snap off the bishop with 35. Qxh6+ Qg7 36. Qxg7+ Kxg7 37. Bc3+, when White is winning but Black’s dangerous a-pawn still leaves some things up in the air.

35. ... Qh7

Or 35. ... Bg7 36. Qh7 and White mates on g8 next move.

At this moment I was thinking, “Now, how am I going to mess up this time?” Knowing me, all things are possible! So when Yeager resigned, it came as a shock. The first thing I did after this game was to find Bill Goichberg and tell him, “Bill, I played this game against Yeager, and my attack was simply crushing!” Bill, sensing the opening lines of one of my frequent post-loss monologues, asked, “Well, did you at least draw?” When I replied that I hadn’t even certain help him.

Championship performance will rarely last too long; Alex lost two games and finished third.) Hot streaks can go a long way. I learned chess at ten—older than many of my rivals—having immigrated at five. I read the right books—Karpov, and lots of tactics. Somehow I’ve always been good in endgames. I went to 1000 my first year, and to 1800 in my second. I won the Foxwoods Under 1600 section in 2001. My next coach was Mikhail Trossman, who also taught Irina Krush and others. He helped me reach 2300, but the key was playing a lot. I did win the World Under 16 in 2005, but I couldn’t find sponsorship, and had some psychological issues. I found I could make some money teaching, and was even planning to become a math teacher. For several years I had no regular coach; starting to work with Kachishvili this year really changed things. He is a good friend, not just a coach. With his help, I’m closer to becoming a professional, where I can set my own routine.

I know you were part of the Murrow high school team immortalized in Kings of New York. Are you in college now? I got the associate degree, but right now I’m concentrating on chess. Now you’re getting a lot of love, and people enjoy watching you dance. When did that start? It’s called “getting lit”; originated in Harlem. Some teenagers I was coaching explained it to me. Later they asked me to play soccer, which I dislike, and I suggested the Lite Dance instead. It became a habit, and spectators ask me to do it.

Chess’ answer to pop phenomenon! OK, getting serious ... chess represents many things to different people. What is chess to you? Chess is something that you have to do for love. You can’t always be under pressure and be nervous. You have to play chess for your own fun. Luckily I’ve got the pressure for GM norms out of the way, and now I can just play simple chess and play for the fun of the game. It was bothering me that I had a prolonged fight to get that draw against Gareev in the final round here. He kept waiting for me to approach just clicked. Once he introduced me to the game, I loved it, and my dad found me the right trainers. The first, Mikhail Katz in Brighton Beach, is a checkers grandmaster. His love of chess was contagious. I read the right books—Karpov, and lots of tactics. Somehow I’ve always been good in endgames. I went to 1000 my first year, and to 1800 in my second. I won the Foxwoods Under 1600 section in 2001. My next coach was Mikhail Trossman, who also taught Irina Krush and others. He helped me reach 2300, but the key was playing a lot. I did win the World Under 16 in 2005, but I couldn’t find sponsorship, and had some psychological issues. I found I could make some money teaching, and was even planning to become a math teacher. For several years I had no regular coach; starting to work with Kachishvili this year really changed things. He is a good friend, not just a coach. With his help, I’m closer to becoming a professional, where I can set my own routine.

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The Dance King

Jerry Hanken: Though he “only” tied for eighth in the World Open, Alex Lenderman just completed three grandmaster norms in a space of five weeks: the Copper State and Philadelphia Internationals, and then the World Open. He should be officially awarded the title in October. I’ve followed his career for a year or so and have been really impressed.

Alex Lenderman: The Arizona tournament was the first time I performed consistently well against GMs (three wins, two draws, and a loss to my coach Giorgi Kachishvili). I went ahead and played in the National Open, since I was in the West. After two draws, I rebounded with three wins and drew with the Armenian GM Tigran Petrosian in a tough game I couldn’t quite win, which would have been worth $3,000 or so. I’ve made more in many small prize tournaments than the $417 I took home in Vegas.

A six-round Swiss full of GMs makes it tough to win big money! But do you really play chess for money? Not right now. But I’m playing to learn and get experience. Playing the good players is vital. But generally, yes, I do want to become a professional.

For most people in your position, it’s the chess. As I get to a higher level, the prizes will become more important.

You’re still 18; are you playing in the U.S. Junior Invitational? Yes, I’m hoping it will help me get the U.S. Junior Invitational? Yes, I’m hoping it will help me get the Samford Fellowship. (Hot streaks rarely last too long; Alex lost two games and finished third.) It should be a tough call among Hess, Shankland, and me. Robert Hess’ great U.S. Championship performance will certainly help him.

I didn’t even learn chess until I was 19. I know some GMs from the former Soviet Union who started late, and there’s nothing wrong with that. They can go a long way. I learned chess at ten—older than many of my rivals—having immigrated at five.

Your mixture of Slavic and Brooklyn accent is intriguing. How did you learn chess? From my grandfather, who lives in Germany, where we vacationed in the summer. He was more patient than my father, who had also tried to teach me. I was more interested in numbers. But my grandfather’s strict...
make a mistake. It’s similar to what happened to me against Sadvakasov in the last round at Foxwoods. He had more winning chances than Gareev did, and I blew the draw. I was playing for the draw, and God punished me. This time I played every game for the win; even my loss to Najer was a real struggle which I had chances of winning at one point. And my norm in the Philadelphia International made my trip down here a great success.

Karpov and Korchnoi both wrote books with such titles as *Chess Is My Life*. What’s your life outside chess?

I like to watch TV: game shows and sports, especially baseball—I love those statistics. Basketball’s OK; I don’t really have a team, though I kind of like the Celtics. Hockey and tennis also. I look forward to learning to play tennis. As a professional I’ll have more opportunity to enjoy sports. As a math teacher I’d be tied down by scheduling and office politics.

What openings do you play, and do you have any weaknesses you need to work on?

I’m switching to 1. d4; I like to play the Caro-Kann against 1. e4. Visualization is a weak point; thus I’m not good at blindfold. But I calculate well, have a good feel for positions, and believe I’m especially good in the endgame.

(Drum roll) And now for my signature question. You have an afternoon to spend with any player, living or dead (except for those you know). Whom would you pick?

Fischer, a very interesting man. We have lots of similarities. I feel some of the things that have been said about him are exaggerated.

You’re right and you’re wrong …

I think he was autistic. He didn’t see the world the way we do.

As someone who spent a fair amount of time with him … well, I never did think of it that way.

He had to deal with too much stress, beating the entire Soviet Union. He didn’t want to prove himself again. I’m not saying he was right, but I understand his point of view. He’s very interesting, and I’d love to be able to talk with him for a few hours. I really admire his attitude. He was trying to do good things, but when he didn’t get a good reaction, he’d get impatient and stop. Toward the end of life he realized his good actions hadn’t paid off. He wasn’t an evil guy, and he was the greatest chessplayer of all time. I’d love to be able to emulate his fighting spirit. He wasn’t a prodigy like Reshevsky, but he worked very hard. And chess was his passion; why did he need an education?

We’ve covered a lot of topics, and I wish we had more time, but at three in the morning … I’ve really enjoyed talking with you.
The Preliminary Round

The goal in the first round of the Golden Knights is clear enough: to score a minimum of 4½ points in order to qualify for the second round. A perfect score (6-0) is not necessary, but never hurts. In the Golden Knights the results are weighted. A win or draw in a later round is given more value than in the opening round. Round one is the “normal” line—a win is 1 point, a draw ½ and a loss is a 0. There were 72 sections to start the tournament, but only 18 players managed the perfect score.

Among those who found perfection were Corky Schakel, ICCM, third in the 1992 Golden Knights, first in 1998, and two-time future Absolute champion; Walter Brower, also a future Absolute champion; Gary Adams, third in the 2000 Golden Knights; Chris O’Connell, tied for second in the 1987 Golden Knights and finished first in 1997; the amazing John Burton who finished second in 1997, 1998, and 2000 and first in 1999; Spencer Kell who tied for second in the 1979 Golden Knights; Jeffrey Baffo who would win a Palciauskas Master tournament; the highest-rated master Jonah Lowery at 2480; IM and SIM Kenneth Reinhart; Abe Wilson who finished first in the 2000 Golden Knights; and finally Joseph Schwing who won in 1991 and was the second highest rated with a 2428 rating.

The 2001 GOLDEN KNIGHTS LOOKED very much like it would be an expert’s paradise. Of the 504 entries, there were fully 103 experts vying for the title of Golden Knights champion and the $2,500 first prize. Apparently the only serious barricade to this great mass of experts were the 27 masters (actually 23 as a few had entered more than once). But the masters that had entered were some of the best known names in the U.S. correspondence world. Those names were, in the order they entered, Corky Schakel, ICCM, third in the 1992 Golden Knights, first in 1998, and two-time future Absolute champion; Walter Brower, also a future Absolute champion; Gary Adams, third in the 2000 Golden Knights; Chris O’Connell, tied for second in the 1987 Golden Knights and finished first in 1997; the amazing John Burton who finished second in 1997, 1998, and 2000 and first in 1999; Spencer Kell who tied for second in the 1979 Golden Knights; Jeffrey Baffo who would win a Palciauskas Master tournament; the highest-rated master Jonah Lowery at 2480; IM and SIM Kenneth Reinhart; Abe Wilson who finished first in the 2000 Golden Knights; and finally Joseph Schwing who won in 1991 and was the second highest rated with a 2428 rating.

Semi-Slav Defense (D31)
Chris O’Connell (2376)
F. Alexander Relyea (1811)
2001 Golden Knights Preliminary

1. d4 e6 2. c4 d5 3. Nc3 c6 4. e4 Bb4

Black declines the gambit after 4. ... dxe4 5. Nxe4 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Qxd4. Black understandably did not want to risk a tactical battle with a giant like O’Connell, but it would seem to be his best chance of scoring a point.

5. e5 c5

Having passed up one chance for a wild game, Black elects a second, much riskier, setup.

6. a3 cxd4 7. axb4 dxc3 8. bxc3 Qc7 9. Nf3 Nd7 10. cxd5 Nxe5 11. Bb5+ Kf8

Safer was 11. ... Bd7 12. Bxd7+ Nxd7. Now Black’s difficulties multiply.

12. 0-0 Qxc3 13. Nxe5 Qxe5 14. Be3 Qxd5?
15. Bc5+ Ne7 16. Qc1 Qe5 17. Rd1 Qc7 18. Qf4, Black resigned.

Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation (B90)
Abe Wilson (2331)
John Burton (2460)
2001 Golden Knights Semifinal

White's goal in this line is to undermine and win the b-pawn before Black can use his four-to-five kingside pawn majority. It is a risky line ideally suited for two Absolute champions jockeying for a key win.
14. ... Bb7 15. Bc4 Be7 16. Ra4 Rb8 17. Nc1 Bd8!

Gaining some time as Black threatens 18. ... Bxa5 19. Rxa5 Qc7.
18. b3 0-0 19. Na2 Nd7 20. Ke1?

White cannot play 20. Nxb4 Nc5 21. Nc6 Nxa4 22. Nxb8 Qxb8 23. bxa4 Qb1+ 24. Qd1 Qb4+ winning, also 20. Rxb4 allows 20. ... Bxa5 and 20. 0-0? is met by 20. ... Bxa5 21. Rxa5 Qb6+ so the white king seeks safety in the center. The b-pawn falls, but White has some dark-square problems. The fight is just starting.
20. ... Rcb8 21. Qxb4 Qa7 22. Qe5 Bd6 23. c3 Nc5 25. Ra3 e4!

Black has to find counterplay in the center before White can untangle his queenside.
26. g4 Bf4 27. Qf2

And now 27. ... e3 would shut down Black's center action and leave him vulnerable on the wings. At this point White has to be a favorite, but there are still a lot of tactics to be mastered.
27. ... Qd7 28. b4 Qb7 29. Qd4

This excellent centralization seems to be the root of White's problems now as White finds the center opening up and the d1-square threatens to become poisonously radioactive.
29. ... Be5 30. Qd2 Nd7 31. Bf1 Nf6 32. c4 Qa7

Again, play on the dark squares becomes an important theme and White's center is shaky.
33. g5 Nh5 34. fxe4 Bd5 35. Qb2 Ng3 36. Rxc5 Bxg3 37. Qc1 f5!

And now Burton takes over the position, king's wing, center, and material. Wilson resists, but there are few powers on earth that can resist a Burton postcard.
38. exf5 Rxf5 39. Nc1 Rf2 40. Qd3 Bf4 41. Ne2 Re8

Amazing, isn't it? All of Burton's pieces work together just like chess pieces should. The rest is exciting and beautiful, but hopeless for White.
42. g6 Rxe3 43. Qf5 hxg6 44. Qc8+ Kh7 45. h5 Rd3+ 46. Kc2 Rd2+ 47. Kb1 Rb2+ 48. Ka1 Rxbe2 49. hxg6+ Kxg6 50. Qg4+ Kf6 51. Bxe2 Qd4+ 52. Ka2 Qd2+ 53. Kb3 Rxe2 54. Qxe2 Qxe2 55. Rb1 Bf7 56. Ka3 Qc4 57. Rb3 Qc2 58. b5 Qc5+, White resigned.

And so we move to the final round:
The Final Round
When the final round began, the 103 expert ratings at the start of the tournament had dwindled to 13. Of the 27 master-rated players, 26 remained (though admittedly some of the experts had metamorphosed into masters by then). And there were two class A players and one class B player left to fight for the prizes. All of which lends credence to the expression "experts? That's what masters eat for breakfast."

One of the aspects that makes the Golden Knights different from most other tournaments is that the rounds are weighted. A win (or a draw) in the semifinal round is worth more than a win or a draw in the preliminary round (2.20 points for a win, 1.10 for a draw in the semifinal; 1 point and .50 in the preliminary) and in the final round a win is worth 4.50, and a draw 2.25. This weighted tally makes it certain no player can coast to victory and grandmaster draws are practically non-existent.
It also makes for some exciting horse races. A player back in the pack with a strong finish can catch up a lot of ground. But not against a John Burton, not this time. In his two final sections John scored 5½-½—1 point and .50 in the preliminary and in the final round a win is worth 4.50, and a draw 2.25. This weighted tally makes it certain no player can coast to victory and grandmaster draws are practically non-existent.

It was clear that any perfect scores would be very difficult.

The first section of the semifinals began on February 27, 2002. That first section was typical of the semifinals—two masters and five experts with an average rating of 2166. It was clear that any perfect scores in this round would be as scarce as underpromotions to a bishop. In the 22 semifinal sections there were only five 6-0 perfect scores, and none of those players had a perfect score from the preliminary round. John Burton's perfect score from round one was paired with a 5½-½ result in one semifinal. Thus there was a group at 11½-½ who had to be the favorites for the final round—Gardner Johnson, Barry Endsley, Jeffrey Endler, John Burton, Corky Schakel, and Roy Tate. The final round, however, would prove to be very difficult.

French Defense, Tarrasch Variation (C06)
Robert Baker (1780)
A. J. Zeppa (2074)
2001 Golden Knights Final

An improvement here may be Belikov-Lahiri, Alushta 2005 with 15. ... Be8 16. Na4 Qd7 17. Nc5 Bxc5 18. Rxe5 Bh5 19. Be2 Ne4 which was drawn shortly.
16. h3?!

White offers the b-pawn. Years ago the common wisdom was “He who would steal the b2-pawn will sleep in the...
Correspondence Chess

Christopher O’Connell

Chris O’Connell of Dover, Delaware is showing some of the staying power that marked the reign of John Burton. Chris prefers the Golden Knights (GK) format for his correspondence play. Born August 13, 1954, like most of us Chris first was an over-the-board (OTB) player. He learned the game through the writings of Reinfeld and Chernev, and began tournament play at age 15. Work, marriage, and a daughter soon convinced Chris that there wasn’t always enough time for OTB chess, and so in 1987 he began playing correspondence chess “to keep his hand in.” He kept his hand in all right, finishing in a tie for second and third in the 1987 Golden Knights, tied with W. L. Steevens behind Stanley Elowitch. That successful foray must have hooked Chris as he continued fighting for top honors. In the 1989 event he finished tied for eighth and ninth. His answer echoed John Burton, the winner of the event: there is showing, losing to Chuck Cullum (2340), semifinal round also, another 4½-1½ showing, to retire from correspondence play, John who again had some luck on his side—a no-show opponent, another who had to withdraw due to a heart attack—but Joe played some strong chess, scored a second draw against Schwing (in Afghanistan, again) and ended up with a sterling 5½-½ in the final round, and second place. And at the tournament’s conclusion, he had parlayed that 1528 rating to 1896—and we all know he is underrated!

Joe Baker

Robert Joseph Baker asked himself the question everyone else asked—How does a class B player score so well in a Golden Knights ahead of 130 masters and experts. His answer echoed John Burton, the winner of the event: there is luck in chess (“Opponents I didn’t have to play, wins that should have been draws, draws that should have been losses”). Joe scored 4½-1 in the preliminary round (three wins and three draws, thus squeaking through to the second round). Baker’s 1528 rating had risen 130 points to 1658 at the start of the Semifinal, but that was dwarfed by the 2174 average rating of his opponents. Joe refused to accept the dictatorship of ratings and instead put more work into those games than he had thought possible and so he narrowly got through the semifinal round also, another 4½-1½ showing, losing to Chuck Cullum (2340), drawing with Joseph Schwing (playing from Afghanistan) and receiving a point from James Zillmer (2068) who died during the course of the tournament. That brought him into the Finals with a 1780 rating, 431 points below the average of his section. That seemed to inspire Joe who again had some luck on his side—a no-show opponent, another who had to withdraw due to a heart attack—but Joe played some strong chess, scored a second draw against Schwing (in Afghanistan, again) and ended up with a sterling 5½-½ in the final round, and second place. And at the tournament’s conclusion, he had parlayed that 1528 rating to 1896—and we all know he is still underrated!

Joe was born December 8, 1938. An Air Force veteran, he first started playing correspondence chess in 1960. He married his wife Susi, who Joe notes frequently helps a correspondence chess player get even stronger. Watch out for Joe Baker!

John Burton

John Burton has always been a very reclusive individual when it comes to his private life, but now that he has decided to retire from correspondence play, John has loosened up a bit (but just a little bit!) and has agreed to share some of his life with the readers.

John, who lives in Modesto, Califor-

After 18. Nf1

This is where our game departs a little from current usage. In the last few years 18. Qe2 has replaced 18. Nf1 as the preferred continuation, but when this game was started, both lines were popular.

Black has been doing fairly well after 18. ... Bd8 19. Ng3 Ba5 (see diagram top of next column)

18. ... Bd8 19. Ng3 Ba5

The only example of this line I could find was a recording disaster by corre-

20. Rf1

Now both sides are on their own.

20. ... Bb6

The bishop has relocated to a better diagonal, but the bishop had a proper job to do on e7 protecting f6 as Burton’s next move underlines.

21. Bg5! Nxd4?!

Black is at least consistent, but retreat with 21. ... Bb8 to preserve the kingfield was a better option. Now Burton has a target, the black king.


Clear enough—the threat is Qh6, Nh5 and Qg7 mate.

24. ... Kg7 25. Nh5+ Kg6 26. Qe2

With the new queen maneuver of Qf3, Qxf6+ and Bd1+ and mate next.

26. ... Kh6 27. Rf1

(see diagram top of next column)

27. Rg8 28. Rxd4! exd4 29. Qf3 f5 30. g3!

This quiet move prepares for exf5.

30. ... Rg5 31. Qf4 Qc6

Black can’t take the knight—31. ... Kxh5 32. exf5 Kh6 33. Qh4+ Kg7 34. Qxg5+ Kf8 35. f6 Be6 36. Qg7+ Ke8 37. Bf5! and Black is helpless.

32. exf5, Black resigned.

The Reign Of King Burton

John Burton’s five year reign over the Golden Knight tournaments rivals the best of the best. In the 62-year history of the Golden Knights only a handful of players have repeated as Golden Knight champions. Topping the list is Hans Berliner who won first place in 1955, 1956 and 1959 winning all three with perfect 18-0 scores—and then went on to win the V Correspondence World Championship with a record three point margin.


But it is John Burton who reigns in recent history. John finished second in 1997 (the year Chris O’Connell won with a perfect 6-0 Final round). In 1998 IM Corky Schakel won the title, but John Burton had entered four sections and he finished in second, third, fourth, and seventh place. By the 1999 event, John had shaken off the second place crown and had moved to the top. In the 1999 Golden Knights, John finished first, second, and seventh. The 2000 Golden Knights saw John entering only one section, but that one section was good enough to propel him to second place behind Abe Wilson. And in 2001, in possibly John’s last Golden Knights event, John entered two sections. And once again, John has won the title and the money. His second section? Fourth place.

It was a remarkable finish to a remarkable career. King Burton the First, your reign has been impressive. Long live the king!

nia, was born February, 20 1938. John served in the U.S. Navy which may account for his love of travel.

John learned to play the game while he was a freshman in high school, but OTB tournament chess was not to be John’s route. It wasn’t until 1997 that John, after reading Chess Life, decided to give correspondence chess a try. John noted that he thought it would be a great challenge and an opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people. And so he entered two sections of the Golden Knights and the historic run was on.

Chess is not John’s only interest. John spends a lot of time with photography. Years ago when he started he took 35 mm slide pictures, but science marches on. With the advent of digital photography, John has become an advocate of the new technology. He recounts that the ability to see if you have managed to capture the shot immediately has sold him on the newer photography.

His other hobbies include reading, traveling, and classical music. Now that he is fully retired, he is able to spend more time indulging his hobbies.

I asked John if he had any advice for the aspiring correspondence players. John recommends study and patience. Study means staying current with the latest development in the openings as many games are won in that phase of the game. Patience means not rushing your advantage as defensive skills in chess have improved, and risky play means risking the win.

John believes that now is a good time for him to retire from postal play. At seventy-one he feels he no longer has the ability to concentrate that he once had. He notes that it is tougher now to see enough moves ahead even with moving the pieces around on the board. And so, retirement while he is at the very top of his game, the most dominant Golden Knights player since Hans Berliner fifty years ago.

I asked John one final question: what do you think you owe your dominance of Golden Knights’ play to? John’s answer befits his modest demeanor. “Luck,” John noted, “A lot of LUCK!”
With his victory in the U.S. Junior, IM Ray Robson earns a spot in the World
ROBSON

Junior Championship and the 2010 U.S. Championship

By FM Alex Betaneli

PHOTOS BY BETSY DYNAKO; BANAWA BY CHRIS BIRD
engaging post mortem analysis performed in atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperative truth-searching. Sam’s annotations are fluid and pleasant to follow:

Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation (B84)

FM Elliott Liu (2359)

IM Sam Shankland (2553)

2009 U.S. Junior Invitational (6), 07.15.2009

Notes by Shankland

I played rather poorly at the Junior Invitational. This game came after two consecutive losses: the first loss resulted from a blunder while up a rook and the second from 22 moves of opening preparation by my opponent. Elliott was also having a rough tournament, having lost his last three games. Somehow, however, in this situation, we managed to create quite an interesting fight.


This is my favorite opening—The Najdorf variation.

6. Be3 e6 7. Be2?

This is a fine move, but it takes the game in a whole new direction, into Scheveningen territories. 7... f3 b5 8. Qd2 Nbd7 9. 0-0-0 (9. g4 h6 10. 0-0-0 b4—all of this is relatively mainline stuff.)

7. ... Qc7

8. a4

Stopping b5.

8. ... b6

If Black decides not to play this move the game will transpose to a Scheveningen. 8. ... Be7 9. 0-0 0-0 10. f4 Nc6.


Black was threatening Nc5, winning a pawn.

11. ... Be7 12. 0-0 0-0 13. g4

Such a move is normal in this kind of structure. White’s king is under no pressure at all so he can try to gain space on the kingside.

13. ... Nc5

To give d7 to the other knight.

14. Nxc5 bxc5?

14. ... dxc5 was the alternative, but it seems to fizzle out to nothing. 15. e5 Rhd8 16. Qe2 Nd5 17. Nxd5 Bxd5 18. Bxd5 Rxd5 19. c4 Rd7 20. Rad1—This looks extremely drawish.

15. g5 Nd7 16. Bg2

White has a plan of playing Rf3-h3 and Qh5, although it is a bit slow.

16. ... f5?!

This is a good idea, but maybe bad timing. The only real plan I could see for White was Rf3-h3 and attack, and f5 would be more effective if White’s rook was already misplaced. However, Black must also always look out for the possibility of White playing f5 himself, so I decided to end that idea right away.

16. ... Rae8 17. f5 exf5! 18. exf5 (18. Rxd5 g6 19. Rf1 Qd8 20. h4 f6 and Black seems happy enough. Black has an edge after 21. Nd5 Bxg2. Nxe7+ Qxe7 23. Bxg5 Qe5 18. Bxg2 19. Kxg2 Qh+ 20. Kg1 Qxb2 21. Nd5 Bxd8—I was averse to such positions because I thought the knight on d5 would be too powerful and White’s extra space on the kingside would give him good attacking chances, but in reality there is not too much to fear and Black is likely to be slightly better here.

17. Qe2!

A good waiting move from Elliott. White now threatens Qc4.

17. ... Ra8

Now Black threatens fxe4. 17. ...
fxe4?!—Black would like to play this move but here it fails. 18. Bh3! e5 (18... Rf5—This Exchange sacrifice would be fine for Black if he could manage to play d5, but here he can’t.) 19. Bxf5 exf5 20. Qc4+ Kg8 21. Nh6+!—keeping Black’s knight away from b5—White has a big advantage: 21... Nf6?! 22. Nxc7 (22. Nxb6 Qxb6 and Black will play d5 with a fine position) 22... Nxc4 23. Nb6 Nh3 24. Nxa8 g6 25. Nc5 and enjoy a better position.

20. Qg4

A much less ambitious move. 24. f3!? White threatens a5 followed by Bxd5+. 24... e5 25. g6! (25. Qh4 g6—Black looks to have a playable position, but it is still very tense.) 25... hxg6 26. Bxg6 c5 27. c4 with initiative) 26. Qf3 c5 27. c4 with a very complicated game.

21. Qg4

A peaceful end to a violent game.

There were virtually no peaceful draws, so Ashish Vaja, one of the organizers, praised all participants for their fighting spirit at the award ceremony. All players will fondly remember the Milwaukee Brewers major league baseball team for presenting them with commemorative jerseys at the end of the tournament. The Brewers are highly appreciated for continuously supporting chess and encouraging the development of young minds.

The 2009 U.S. Junior Open preceded the closed event. Sam Shankland awarded the first place trophy in the U21 division to Eric Rosen (Illinois) and welcomed Eric as the first official participant of next year’s junior invitational event. Eric scored 4½ points together with Kevin Bu (Minnesota) and won the title in a thrilling Armageddon game.

The tournament was co-sponsored by USCF, Vaja International Chess Academy and Wisconsin Chess Academy. The Internet Chess Club provided live coverage of the events and the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Association helped run the event smoothly. Special thanks to the Ramada Hotel for providing an excellent playing venue. Frank Berry deserves the highest praise for his work as a tournament director, a chief photographer, and a supervisor of multiple social activities and side events!

### 2009 U.S. Junior Closed Championship: July 13-16, 2009; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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**At A Glance**

**Date:** July 13-16, 2009  
**Location:** Ramada Milwaukee Conference Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
**Standings:** 1st: Ray Robson, 6; 2nd: Salvijus Bercys, 5; 3rd: Alex Lenderman, 4; 4th-5th: Samuel Shankland, Michael Lee, 3½; 6th: Joel Banana, 3; 7th: Elliott Liu, 2½; 8th: Maxx Coleman, ½.  
**Chief Arbiter:** Frank Berry  
**Appearance Fee:** $300 to help with expenses per player.
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Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

“Not all artists are chessplayers, but all chessplayers are artists,” said Marcel Duchamp, who took the art world by storm with his *Nude Descending A Staircase* in 1913.

Duchamp laid down his brushes to pursue the royal game for many years after World War I. Known as “the painter who never painted,” he competed on four French Olympic chess teams before settling in the USA and donating valuable art to fund the fledgling American Chess Foundation. *Le Figaro*, one of the leading French newspapers, printed his obituary in its chess column!

*Marcel Duchamp: The Art of Chess* includes 15 games annotated by Jennifer Shahade and was reviewed in the September *Chess Life*. A Duchamp exhibition also runs until October 30 at the Naumann Gallery, 24 West 57 Street in New York City.

Solutions to this month’s quiz positions are on page 63.

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1. White moves
(a) Rf4 (b) Qxe7 (c) Rxh5

2. White moves
(a) Nxf8 (b) Qxf4 (c) Be4

3. Black moves
(a) a6 (b) b5 (c) Qc7

4. Black moves
(a) Rxh5 (b) Nb6 (c) f5

---

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Contact: Richard “Rick” Varchetto by email at ricky@mcr.com or by phone at 304-636-4034 and place your order now!
Why is a master so much stronger than a C-player? Because: (a) he knows more; (b) he knows things which are truly important; (c) his knowledge is active—i.e., ready to be used in a game; (d) he thinks more effectively, and (e) last but not least, he uses his time better. This last element is often ignored by club players. In submissions to my column, time is mentioned very rarely, and then only as in “he was short of time” or “my time was running out, so I accepted a draw offer.”

The winner of this month’s award, Kevin Funderburk, played an interesting, instructive game, and accompanied it with thoughtful annotations. But I’ll try to show to you and to both players, that information about the time spent on certain moves is badly needed—and missing.

 Writes Kevin (Lev’s future comments will be in italics):

My name is Kevin Funderburk and I am an unrated player. My first experience with chess was about six years ago as a teen. Getting severely thrashed, repeatedly, quickly lost its appeal. I have only recently taken to chess with more enthusiasm; a year and a half ago, to be exact. Pandolfini’s Endgame Course (an excellent choice!—L.A.) and a few issues of Chess Life have been my only tutors in the last 18 months. Needless to say, I can’t wait to add to that repertoire. The following game was played between me and another known only as “Big Forty” at the Eldorado Correctional Facility.

**Queen’s Gambit Declined (D37)**

*Kevin Funderburk*

*Big Forty*

1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nf6

(see diagram top of next column)

This Marshall Defense surrenders the center—and favors White after 3. cxd5! Nxd5 (or 3. ... Qxd5 4. Nc3 Qa5 5. Bd2. If 5. ... Qb6, then 6. Nf3, and the b2-pawn is pure poison; 6. ... Qxb2?? 7. Rb1 Qa3 8. Nd5, winning) 4. e4 (Also good is 4. Nf3 Bf5 5. Nbd2, with a clear edge) 4. ... Nf6 5. e3, maintaining the central duo (After the natural 5. Nc3 e5! 6. Nf3! exd4 7. Qxd4 White’s advantage is smaller).

Finally—and importantly—if Black wanted to get the position after his third move (as in the game), he had to play 2. ... e6 (first) and only then, on move 3, ... Nf6. Kevin, however, didn’t exploit Black’s inferior second move (I suspect he played his 3. Nc3 very quickly).

3. Nc3 e6

I’ve played this opening several times, both as White and as Black, with favorable results.

4. e3 Be7

Black usually plays 4. ... Bb4. White’s 4. e3 is a relatively rare move—not bad, but not as ambitious as the more common 4. Bg5, 4. Nf3 or 4. cxd5. By blocking his dark-square bishop, White practically gives up his opening edge. Black can equalize with either 4. ... c5 or 4. ... Be7 (as in the game), while 4. ... Bb4 transfers into a main line Nimzo-Indian.

question I would have asked a student: how long did you think before playing 4. e3, and what were you thinking about?

5. Nf3 0-0 6. Bd3

(see diagram top of next page)

6. ... Nc6

In double queen-pawn openings (1. d4 d5) it’s usually not good to block the neighboring c-pawn with a knight—unless that knight enables (soon!) the central thrust e4 (for White) or e5 (for Black). Black should have played here 6. ... b6 or 6. ... c5, with approximate equality.

7. a3

The move 7. 0-0 might have been better but I did not want Black’s knight to threaten my bishop. I had early plans of an attack on Black’s kingside with the light-color bishop taking a key role.

I like 7. a3. Among other things, it keeps Black’s c6-knight in its current—pawn-blocking—position.

7. ... Ng4??

Big blunder! Not only is this move useless but it wastes a tempo once I push my h-pawn.

8. h3 Nh6

(see diagram top of next page)
After 8. ... Nh6

This appears to be another blunder by Black. The knight seems to be misplaced here. When I saw this move, I immediately saw a potential target for my dark bishop which would seriously cripple Black’s kingside, should it remain.

9. 0-0

After several bad and dubious moves by Black, Kevin should expect to be (much) better, but how to take advantage of the situation? It’s not that obvious, and it requires, in a tournament game, 15-20 minutes of deliberation. The move Kevin made, 9. 0-0, guarantees White an advantage after, say, 9. ... dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nf5.

Can we try for more? Can we bury the knight on h6? Not that easy, as 9. g4 is met by 9. ... dxc4 10. Bxc4 f5, with counterplay—or if 9. cxd5 exd5 10. g4, than also 10. ... f5. Perhaps White should simply win a pawn: 9. cxd5 exd5 10. Qb3 Be6 11. Qxb7, and because of Black’s “exiled” h6-knight, Black gets virtually no compensation for a lost pawn.

9. ... b6?

Better was 9. ... Nf5. The game move allows me to exploit the misplaced knight and weaken his kingside.

Not so. If 9. ... Nf5, 10. Bx5, winning a pawn. Relatively better is 9. ... dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nf5, as mentioned above.

10. e4 dxe4 11. Bxe4 Bb7

After 11. ... Bb7


(see diagram top of next column)

15. Ne5

Or 15. Nd4!, preventing ... f5. Note how vulnerable is the Black king—and Black’s a5-knight.

15. ... Bf6??

This was the final mistake. Black needed the ugly 15. ... f5 to stop the immediate mate. 15. ... f5 16. Bc2 (or 16. Bxf5 Rxf5 17. Qg4+ Rg5 18. Qe6+ Kg7 19. f4 Rce5 20. fxe5, with a strong attack —L.A.) 16. ... Ba6 17. Re1. Things are still not going good for Black. White clearly has the better position. Now neither 17. ... Nc4 nor 17. ... Nb7 are good, both met by 18. Nc6.

16. Qh5

After I made this move, I realized I just prolonged the mate unnecessarily: 16. Qg4+ Bg5 17. Qf5 followed by mate. By going 16. Qh5 I just delayed the inevitable—16. ... Kg7 17. Qg4+ Bg5 18. Qf5 and Black cannot stop it. But Black decided to speed things up in order to attempt retribution all the more quickly in the next game.

After 16. Qh5? Bxe5! White is much better, but the game is far from over (time spent on 16. Qh5—alas, unknown).

16. ... Qe7 17. Qxh6 Rfe8 18. Bxh7+, Black resigned.

After 18. ... Kh8 19. Bg6+ Kg8 20. Bxf7+

My opponent made too many errors and it cost him. Please forgive my novice notes. I am an amateur player and still quite new to chess, though I hope to improve. I always try to learn from others’ games so perhaps with this example, another may as well.

I definitely think so.

Lev’s quick summary of the game, highlighting critical moments:

• Black’s inaccuracy on move 2/White allows it to go unpunished.
• On move 4, White chooses an unambitious 4. e3.
• Black blocks the c-pawn on move 6; White stands better as a result.
• White’s 7. a3—a praiseworthy prophylaxis.
• Black, on move 7, starts time-wasting maneuvers which lands his knight on the (bad) h6-square.
• White misses a chance to win a pawn on move 9; still, he’s clearly better.
• White takes on h6 (on move 12, after starting it all with 10. e4), damaging Black’s king’s pawn cover.
• On the 15th move, in a clearly worse position, Black blunders—but then White misses a forced win (discovered by Kevin in post-mortem analysis—good for him!).
• On the 16th move, Black missed his last (just given) chance to prolong the play with 16. ... Bxe5 (not in Kevin’s notes—still room for improvement!), and resigns on the next move, as his position is lost by now.

p.s. Games with time anyone?

Send in your games!

If you are unrated or were rated 1799 or below on your Chess Life label, then GM Lev Alburt invites you to send your instructive games with notes to:

Back to Basics, c/o Chess Life
PO Box 3967 Crossville, TN 38557-3967

Or e-mail your material to backtobasics@uschess.org

GM Alburt will select the “most instructive” game and Chess Life will award an autographed copy of Levy’s newest book, Chess Training Pocket Book II (by Lev Alburt and Al Lawrence) to the person submitting the most instructive game and annotations.

Do not send games with only a few notes, as they are of little instructive value and can’t be used. Writing skills are a plus, but instructiveness is a must! Make sure your game (or part of it) and your notes will be of interest to other readers.
This month we continue looking at endgames from the U.S. Championship, focusing this time on the relative value of the bishop.

**Wrong bishop**

**GM Gata Kamsky (2794)**

**GM Joshua Friedel (2591)**

**Whiteto play**

White is obviously better. He possesses a distant passed pawn and a centralized bishop.

38. b5 Ke7

It would probably be better to play 38. ... Rb8 to slow the pawn from easily reaching the seventh.

39. b6 Rb8 40. b7 Ne6 41. c4 Nd8 42. c5 Kd7 43. Rf2

A waiting move; Black is not able to improve his position. However, 43. Kh2 could have allowed some progress.

43. ... dxc5 44. dxc5 Kc7 45. c6 Nxc6

There is not a better move available since after either 45. ... f6 46. Rc2 or 45. ... g6 46. hxg6 fxg6 47. Rf6, Black is completely hopeless.

46.Rx f7+ Kb6 47.Rx g7 Na5

*see diagram top of next column*

48. Rg6+

A natural move that squanders the win which arises after 48. Rh7! since after 48. ... Nxb7 49. Bxb7 Rxb7 50. Rxb6+ Kc5 51. Rh8 Kd6 (51. ... Rg7 52. Kh2!) 52. h6! wins. To go for a rook endgame was not an easy choice, but the bishop’s mobility premium is diminished with the limited material.

48. ... Kc5 49. Bf3 Nxb7 50. Rc6+

Now 50. Bxb7 Rxb7 51. Rxb6 Kd5 only draws because of a missing tempo.

50. ... Kd4! 51. Rb6 Kc5 52. Rxh6

A sad recognition that 52. Rxb7 Rxb7 53. Bxb7 is only a draw due to the wrong color of the bishop (the h8-corner is dark). If 52. Rb3 Kd6 53. Bxb7 Kc7 then the position is equal.

52. ... Nd6 53. Rf6 Rd8 54. Kh2 Kd4 55. Re6 Nf7

The position is drawn, but even Anand and Kamsky have lost in similar positions with similar material. (See my columns in the June and August issues.)

56. Re4+ Kc5 57. Kg3 Kd5 58. Bg4 Ne5 59. Bf5

Better is 59. Kf4 since after 59. ... Nxd4? 60. Kxd4 would win.


Gata could not even reach the dreaded rook and bishop against rook endgame.

**Bishop bound**

**GM Varuzhan Akobian (2659)**

**GM Julio Becerra (2669)**

**White to play**

31. b3!

The b7 bishop’s inferior position immediately catches the eye. Black has no good moves so White keeps waiting and building the pressure by blocking the feeble b4-pawn.

31. ... Ba8 32. e6!

Much stronger than 32. Qxb4 Qxe5 since it opens a path to the black king and degrades his pawn structure as well.

32. ... fx e 6 33. Qxb4 Qa7 34. Qc3+ Kh7 35. b4 Qxa2?

The bishop remains closed out of the game with this move. It was essential to try 35. ... c5 with the hope of creating some practical endgame chances.

36. Qf6 Qa7 37. Be4 Qg7 38. Qxe6 Bb7 39. g4!

The final assault capitalizes on the absence of the black bishop.

39. ... Kh6

Also hopeless is 39. ... hxg4 40. h5 Kh6 41. Qxg6+ Qxg6 42. hxg6 because all the black pawns stand on white squares.
Benko’s Bafflers

Most of the time these studies resemble positions that could actually occur over-the-board. You must simply reach a theoretically won position for White. Solutions can be found on page 63.

Please e-mail submissions for Benko’s Bafflers to: pbenko@uschess.org

40. gxh5 Kxh5 41. f3 Kh6 42. h5 Qb2+

A simple “revenge check”; all that was left in consolation since after 42. ... Kxh5 43. Qg4+! Kh6 44. Qh4 is checkmate.

43. Kg3 Qg7 44. hxg6 Qc7+ 45. f4 Bc8 46. Qf6, Black resigned.

Mate is unavoidable.

Beatable bishop
GM Melikset Khachiyan (2627)
GM Yury Shulman (2716)

Black to play

Black is better with his passed pawns and active knight.

38. ... Rc8


39. Kg1 Rc4 40. Kf2 b4 41. Rd3

41. Ke2 is equal.

41. ... Rc2+ 42. Kf3 Rxc3 43. Ke2

If 43. Rxc3, then 43. ... bxc3 44. Ke2 Ng2 also favors Black.

43. ... b3 44. Rxd4 Nc4 45. Be7 b2 46. Rd8?! Re3+

Avoids 46. ... b1=Q? 47. Bf6+ etc. perpetual check.

47. Kf2 Rxe4 48. Kg3

Or 48. Rb8.

48. ... Re3+ 49. Kg4 b1=Q 50. Bf6+ Kh6

White resigned due to 51. Rh8+ Qh7.

Better bishop
IM Irina Krush (2474)
GM Boris Gulko (2631)

White to play

The position looks equal. White first intends to trade her opponent’s active pieces, hoping to take advantage of her central dominance and the bishop.

25. Kd3! Rc8 26. Rc1 Rxc1 27. Bxc1 Kf7 28. a4 Nd6

A better defense was 28. ... e5 so that the d7-knight could be assigned a role—and so the king may more easily approach the center.


After 33. ... Ke8

Black is now in a worse position without having committed a major mistake. No good plan can be seen against the centralized white king and the superior bishop.

34. g3!

A good plan is to play f3-f4-f5 to take control on the d5-square for a breakthrough with the king.

34. ... Kf7 35. f4 gxf4 36. gxf4

After 36. gxf4

36. Kg6

Even this move could not prevent f5. The trouble was that even in case of 36. ... f5 37. e5! N8 38. Bxf8 Kxf8 39. d5 Kf7 40. dxe6+ Kxe6 41. h4 Ke7 42. Kd5 Kd7 43. e6+ Kd7 44. Kc6 wins.

37. f5+ Kf7

The knight is lost after 37. ... exf5 38. exf5+ Kxf5 39. Kd5.

38. Kb4

Zugzwang follows 38. h4.

38. ... e5 39. Kc4 b5+ 40. axb5 axb5+ 41. Kxb5 exd4 42. Kc4 Ne5+ 43. Kxd4 Ng4 44. Bg3 Ke7 45. Kd3 Nh6

The threat was to trap the knight. Now White can go after the h5-pawn and Black is helpless.


An endgame of which not only Irina but any GM could be proud of.
Welcome, USCF Members!

Welcome to World Chess Live (WCL), a new family-friendly service with special benefits for USCF members. Once again, WCL is pleased to sponsor USCF’s 2009 Grand Prix (GP) and 2009 Junior Grand Prix (JGP). We’re providing prize funds of $25,080 and $10,200 (cash, merchandise, and memberships), and will also be running online grand prize satellite events throughout the year.

With three months left to earn GP points, IM Alex Lenderman’s lead has dropped from 72 points to 45. Sergey Kudrin is the GM in hot pursuit of Lenderman, while at the same time widening the gap between himself and third place GM Jaan Ehlvest. Not bad for Kudrin, considering he had dropped to fourth place in August.

The rise and fall of GP standings is something that former philosophy professor GM Jesse Kraai could undoubtedly write about with flourish and style. This month the spotlight falls on him. Currently number nine in the standings, the past year has been one of dramatic change for Kraai.

He relocated from his solitary life in Santa Fe, New Mexico to San Francisco, where he settled into what is known as the “GM House.” Other residents include Vinay Bhat and GM Josh Friedel, who Kraai jokingly lists on his Facebook page as his “employers.” Those calling the GM House home study together religiously.

More than likely, Kraai’s immersion into the mutually-supportive environment at the GM House has inspired his active play this year. Participating in more GP tournaments has served him well, as he moves his way up the standings. Kraai has even earned himself a place in the 2010 U.S. Chess Championships in St. Louis by tying for first in the 2009 U.S. Open. Kraai describes his “employers” this way: “They’re bloody tyrants. They work me so hard.” Obviously, the hard work is paying off for him.

—Betsy Dynako (WCL)

### 2009 WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

**OVERALL STANDINGS**

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
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<td>GM Sergey Kudrin</td>
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<td>GM Jaan Ehlvest</td>
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<td>GM Alexander Ivanov</td>
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<td>GM Alejandro Ramirez</td>
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#### SENIOR CATEGORY

Players born 1944 and before:

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<td>FM Alex Dunne</td>
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<td>FM Isay Golyak</td>
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Players born 1944/after:

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Players born before 1992 and 1993 inclusive:

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Players born between 1992 and 1993 inclusive:

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Players born between 1994 and 1995 inclusive:

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Players born between 1996 and after:

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<td>David Adelberg</td>
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<td>Luke Harmon-Vellotti</td>
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### CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

#### $10,000 IN CASH PRIZES!

**FIRST PRIZE:** $5,000 !

2nd: $2,500
3rd: $1,000
4th: $750

5th: $500
6th: $250

#### $4,900 IN MERCHANDISE PRIZES!

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<td>$250</td>
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Top 40 non-titled players: 1-year WCL membership worth $50. (FID-titled players are always free on WCL)

#### SENIOR CATEGORY: MERCHANDISE PRIZES

1944/ before

<table>
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<th>STATE</th>
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#### JUNIOR CATEGORIES: MERCHANDISE PRIZES

(According to date of birth)

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For all of the above junior categories: 1st place is also awarded a 3-year WCL junior membership ($75 value); 2nd-5th places are awarded a 2-year WCL junior membership ($50 value); 6th-10th places awarded 1-year WCL junior memberships ($25 value). Additionally, all GP/JGP place prize winners will receive a special prize valued at $60.

#### $10,200 IN JUNIOR GRAND PRIX PRIZES!

**FIRST PRIZE:** $1,000 !

2nd: $500
3rd: $250
4th: $150
5th: $100
6th: $100

The first place JGP winner will also receive U.S. Open entry and a trophy from the USCF. 1st-6th place winners will receive 2-year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships, 1st-10th place winners will receive 1-year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships. Each state JGP winner will receive 1-year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships and a special prize valued at $60.

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**2009 World Chess Live Junior Grand Prix Overall Standings**

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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World Chess Live, a new family-friendly online chess service, is sponsor of the 2009 World Chess Live Junior Grand Prix (JGP). Official standings for events received and processed by September 9, 2009 are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete. There are currently 4,679 players with JGP points. 332 JGP events resulted in points earned. Top prize includes $1,000 cash, trophy and free entry to the 2009 U.S. Open. Other prizes awarded to the top 20 finishers and the top individual in each state.
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National Youth Action Schedule

Saturday, Nov. 21st
Rounds 1-2-3-4-5
10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm
Sunday Nov. 22nd
Rounds 6-7-8-9
10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 3:30 pm
Sunday Nov. 22nd
Awards Ceremony 5:30 pm - 7 pm

Side Event Schedule

Friday Nov. 20th
Bughouse Tournament @ 6:30 PM

Saturday Nov. 21st
Blitz Tournament K-6 & K-12 @ 6:30 PM

See Chess Life or check http://nya2009.com
for complete details

National Youth Action Awards List
Individuals: K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12: 1st—20th place
Teams: K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12: 1st—10th place
Class Awards
1st—3rd place
K-3: U800, U600, U400, unrated
K-6: U1000, U800, U600, unrated
K-9: U1200, U1000, U800, unrated
K-12: U1400, U1200, U1000, unrated

Register ON-LINE @ http://nya2009.com

USCF
The TLAs pages “Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates” and “Information for Players” can now be found online at main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo.

The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of USCF members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither the U.S. Chess Federation nor Chess Life guarantees the accuracy of anything contained in these Tournament Announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. Chess Life will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

SUBMISSIONS: If possible e-mail your tla to: tla@uschess.org (Joan DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information see April 2009 pg 30-31 or check http://main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo. Payment can be done online through the TD/Affiliate area or sent to: U.S. Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

Nationals

All tournaments listed in Tournament Life are USCF rated. USCF MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS. If not a member, add dues to advance entry fee or pay them with entry at site.

A Heritage Event!
Oct. 10-12, Pennsylvania
60th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open
655, Rds 1-2/9/09, Rds 3-4/10/09, Rds 5-9/10/09/1 S/1: Site: American Civil War Museum, 297 Stadium Ave., Gettysburg, PA. 74.43. Free in 6655, $59.40 per night. Use website to enter www.musichallchess.org, or mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: USAFO, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693.

Note:
Organizers previously awarded options for USCF National Events must still submit proposals (including sample budgets) for their events.

Overdue Bids

Bids on the following tournaments are past deadline and will be considered immediately:
2009 U.S. Masters
2009 Collegiate Final Four
2010 U.S. Masters
2010 U.S. Amateur Team (East, North)
2010 U.S. Chess Championship
2010 U.S. Amateur (East, North, South)
2010 U.S. Game/60
2010 U.S. Game/30
2010 U.S. Game/10 (QC)
2010 U.S. Game/15 (QC)
2010 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
2010 U.S. Junior Closed - TBA
2010 U.S. Junior Open - TBA
2010 National Youth Action
2010 U.S. Open

Bidding Deadlines

Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. The USCF recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates.
USCF reserves the right to decline all bids and organize the event itself.

USCF National Events

See TLA in this issue for details:
Tournament Life
Chess Life
Chess Life for Kids

Tournament memberships not valid for National events

Junior Tournament Memberships (JMs) Available
USCF’s Tournament Membership (TM) program, which allows players the option of joining for only one event at a greatly reduced rate, has been modified. Junior TMs for age 24 or below may be purchased from affiliates and are now available to them for $7 online with rating report submissions.
They include one issue of Chess Life or Chess Life for Kids, and $5 of this fee may be applied to a full membership within 60 days. JMs not valid for National events.

Many scholastic tournaments exist that are not USCF-rated, and the USCF is concerned that the reason some organizers fail to attract enough players unwilling or unable to pay entry fee plus dues is the availability of a $7 option should cause some of these events to switch to being USCF-rated, promoting membership. The idea behind the TMs is not to sign up a lot of them, but rather to cause more USCF-rated tournaments to be held.

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More details on uschess.org.

Ratings supplements will be updated EACH MONTH on the USCF website, and each monthly rating supplement will be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless stated otherwise. USCF Chess Life also frequently lists unofficial ratings. The purpose of unofficial ratings is to inform you of your progress; however, most tournaments do not use them for pairing or prize purposes. If you would otherwise be unrated, organizers may use your unofficial rating at their discretion, even without advance publicity of such a policy.
Global Chess Grand Prix

Oct 9, 11, Texas
World Chess Life Grand Prix Points: 30

 Lone Star Open
SSS, L120, FIDE rated. Free entry for GMs and 1Fs (F defined from win-
ing%).

 Schedule:
Fri. 10:30-1:30 Sat. 10:00-3:00 Sun. 3:30-6:30

 Awards:
Top 10: 1st-$325, 2nd-$175, 3rd-$100, 4th-$75, 5th-$50, 6th-$35, 7th-$25, 8th-$20, 9th-$15, 10th-$10.

Grandmaster and International Masters free.

SEE PREVIOUS ISSUE FOR FLASh APPEArING OCTOBER 2009

tournamentlife.com
18th annual KINGS ISLAND OPEN

Masonic, Ohio (near Cincinnati Ohio’s largest Open Tournament!)
5-round Swiss, November 13-15-14-2015
Prizes $25,000 projected, $20,000 minimum
At KINGS ISLAND RESORT, a resort hotel on a 1,600-acre wooded setting: $73 ROOM RATES!

5-SS, 5-SD, 2-SD (2 day option, rds 1-2-3-4-5), Kings Island Resort, 6871 Kings Island Drive (1/2 to 6 miles of I-71), Mason OH 45040. Free parking.
Prizes: $25,000 projected, $20,000 minimum (except 5-SS: 1st-50), 40-30-20-10 to top 6; $1500-1000-500-200; $400-200-100-50-25-10 (unrated players); EF: Free + must join USCF or increase membership fee $4 a year thru this tournament (EF adds $25 to prizemoney). Top prizes in the Open Section will be for $1500, $1000, $500, $300, $200, $100. Join USCF for $25 and receive entry. Top 200 and top 100 players are guaranteed. Top 3 prizemoney guaranteed. 6:00-12:00-5:30; 6:00-12:00-5:30. Open: $2500-1200-600-300-150-75. Open Section 1.50. GM necessary. Top players are guaranteed. Top 3 prizemoney guaranteed. 6:00-12:00-5:30; 6:00-12:00-5:30. Open: $2500-1200-600-300-150-75. Open Section 1.50. GM necessary.

October 20, 2009

New York Chess Live Grand Prix Prize:
15 [enhanced]

St. John’s Masters at the Marshall Chess Club
455, 6/30. Third behs. of every month. 23:00, 11th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to players rated over 2100 plus all players scoring 2.5 or more at any CCNY at MCC Thursday. 4 Rated Games former since the prior month’s SJM EF: $40, members $30, GMs $10 (returned on completion of tournament). For each event, money added to prize fund by the sponsors, St. John’s University and other generous patrons. Top three prizemoney guaranteed. $350-200-100-50. Top 200 and Top 100 prizes. Special prize for biggest upset.

Reg: 6:15-6:30. Rds.: 7:45-10:30-6pm. One bye available, rds. 1 or 4 only; declare at registration.

A State Championship Event!

Oct. 23-24-25, Ohio

World Chess Live Grand Prix: 6
Ohio Open Championship

555, Open Student Union, University of Utah, Collegiate Room and Saltair Room.
$1300 Old plus sections: $300 Reserve plus sections: $100. Open: 1st $800, 2nd $400. Top 8 Sections: 3rd U2400 ($150), U2300 ($125), U2200 ($100), U2100 ($80), U2000 ($60), U1900 ($40), U1800 ($30), U1700 ($20), U1600 ($10), U1500 ($5). Top 200 and top 100 players are guaranteed. Top 3 prizemoney guaranteed. 6:30-11:00-5:30; 6:00-11:00-5:30. Open: $83-83, 216-267-216-172. Each section: 1st $120, 2nd $80, 3rd $60, 4th $40. Entry: Make checks payable and send to: SANDS REGENCY (see above). FIDE .W.

Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.

Cleveland Open

555, 6SS, 5-SD, 2-SD (2 day option, rds 1-2-3-4-5), U1200 and U1000 are Oct. 25-26 only with all $70 (6-SS). Sharon Cleveland Airport Hotel, 5300 Riverside Drive (inside Cleveland Hopkins Airport with free shuttle, near junction of I-71 and I-480), with all rds G/75). Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel, 5300 Riverside Drive (inside Cleveland Open World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 80 (enhanced)

Oct. 20, New York

World Chess Live Grand Prix Prize:
20 Oscar Shapiro DC Open

St. John’s Chess Club, 116 E 44 St, New York, Wash., DC 20055 $100, 5000. 3 Sections.
Open, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11. EF: $48 by 10/15. $550-200-100 (200 and top 100 players are guaranteed. Top 3 prizemoney guaranteed. 6:15-6:45. Rds.: 7:45-10:30-6pm. One bye available, rds. 1 or 4 only; declare at registration.

A State Championship Event!

Oct. 23-24, Utah

World Chess Live Grand Prix: 7
Salt Lake City Open

555, Student Union, University of Utah, Saltair Room.
$1000 Old plus sections: $300 Reserve plus sections: $100. Open: 1st $500, 2nd $250. Top 8 Sections: 3rd U2400 ($150), U2300 ($125), U2200 ($100), U2100 ($80), U2000 ($60), U1900 ($40), U1800 ($30), U1700 ($20), U1600 ($10), U1500 ($5). Top 200 and top 100 players are guaranteed. Top 3 prizemoney guaranteed. 6:30-11:00-5:30; 6:00-11:00-5:30. Open: $83-83, 216-267-216-172. Each section: 1st $120, 2nd $80, 3rd $60, 4th $40. Entry: Make checks payable and send to: SANDS REGENCY (see above). FIDE .W.

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A State Championship Event!

Oct. 23-24, Utah

World Chess Live Grand Prix: 7
Salt Lake City Open

555, Student Union, University of Utah, Saltair Room.
$1000 Old plus sections: $300 Reserve plus sections: $100. Open: 1st $500, 2nd $250. Top 8 Sections: 3rd U2400 ($150), U2300 ($125), U2200 ($100), U2100 ($80), U2000 ($60), U1900 ($40), U1800 ($30), U1700 ($20), U1600 ($10), U1500 ($5). Top 200 and top 100 players are guaranteed. Top 3 prizemoney guaranteed. 6:30-11:00-5:30; 6:00-11:00-5:30. Open: $83-83, 216-267-216-172. Each section: 1st $120, 2nd $80, 3rd $60, 4th $40. Entry: Make checks payable and send to: SANDS REGENCY (see above). FIDE .W.

Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.
Under 1900: $600-400-300; U1500- $200.

2009 North Carolina Open Championship
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Open To All Ages
Reg.: Ends 9:30 a.m. Rounds: 10-11:30-1:30-3:15-4:45. 2 1/2 pt. byes, if req'd before rd. 2. Make checks to “Virginia Chess”. Email: mardnik@icmai.net; top 3 entries, after pairings, in 7 pt. bye groups. No byes if paid with entry—online at chesstour.com $30, if mailed, phoned or paid by check $35. GMs & IMs Free Entry. $10 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. WCL JGP.

Nov. 6-7, Virginia
2009 World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20
14th Annual Northern Virginia Open
SSS., Rds. 7-8, 9-10, 5-8, 6-9, 3-5, 4-7, 10-3, Oct 31-Nov. 1, Pennsylvania
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 5
October Open
4SS, 2009 World Chess Championship Match,
G/80. $1,000, U1800 $190, U1600 $100. Top U1600 cash $190, U1400, $100, U1200, $50. 

8:30-9:30 AM. Rds. 2-5 Sat. 1:15, 6:30, Sun. 9:30, 2:30. 2 1/2 pt. byes, if req'd before rd. 2. Make checks to “Virginia Chess”. Email: mardnik@icmai.net; top 3 entries, after pairings, in 7 pt. bye groups. No byes if paid with entry—online at chesstour.com $30, if mailed, phoned or paid by check $35. GMs & IMs Free Entry. $10 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. WCL JGP.

Nov. 8, Virginia
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20
14th Annual Northern Virginia Open
SSS., Rds. 7-8, 9-10, 5-8, 6-9, 3-5, 4-7, 10-3, Oct 31-Nov. 1, Pennsylvania
Turkey Bowl Scholastic Tournament, $55, 8/30-31, Sat. 11-14, see website for more info. HR: $60 by Cut Off Data, 945-56-8488. Ent: Beca Ratan Chess Club, 2385 ExecutiveCtr. Dr., Ste. 100, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Online entry & add’l info: www.bocaraches.com, 561-883-2917. FIDE. WCL JGP.

Nov. 13-14 or 15-16, Ohio World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 120 (enhanced) 18th Annual Kings Island Open 550, 400, 270, 120 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/30), Mason, OH 45440. Free parking. $25,000 based on 360 paid entries (re-entries count as 60 entries, 1000 Section 60-90 entries, unlimited not counted; minimum $20,000 (80% of entries) guaranteed. Free analysis of your games by GM Arthur Bisguier. 8 sections: 5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75). Kings Island Resort, 5691 Kings Island Dr., West Chester, OH 45069. For more info. www.chesstour.com.

Nov. 15-17, New York World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced) 2010 Grand Prix Points Tonight! 4-5, G5, Chess Center at the Marshall Chess Club, 23 West 16th St., New York, NY 10011-2176. Open to players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring 2.5 or more at any CCNY at MCC Thursday 4 Rated GamesTonight! since the prior month’s SJM). EF: $40, members $30, GMs $10 (return on completion of tournament). For each event, money added to prize fund by the sponsors, the St. John’s University, and other general patrons. Top three prizes guaranteed. $36,000-$20,000-$10,000. Top two Gtd and Top 10 Gtd prizes. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg.: $15, ends 10 am. Entry is by mail only, no online entry. No change requests. Free analysis by GM Arthur Bisguier.


Nov. 17, New York World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced) 2009 Thanksgiving UCVA Grand Prix 435, G9, St. James Church, 11th & McGill Sts., Allentown, PA 18102. EF: $40, UCVA Members $30, $200-$100-$50 guaranteed to top two, more paid entries. FREE ENTRY TO UNRATED, if paying 1 year UCVA Dues. Up to two 1/2 pt byes with advanced notice (if declared before round 3). REG. Ends 10/7. RDS.: 10-11:45-4:75. ENTR: Checks payable to: Bruce Davis, 1208 Linden St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33313. $40-$25-$10. Top U2400 prizes. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg. by mail to 11/21 to enter a Sanibel Chess Classic. WCL JGP.

Nov. 21, Virginia World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6 Thanks for the Grand Prix 3-Round Swiss System Game/90. SITE: St. John’s Lutheran Church, 4680 Brambleton Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23185. GUARANTEED PRIZES: Top Section: $1250-$750-$500, Additional: If Octagonals, each is guaranteed $125-$100-$75, If Hexagonals, each is guaranteed $100-$75-$50. Entries $15. Top U2400 prizes. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg. by mail to 11/21 to enter a Sanibel Classic Chess. WCL JGP.

Nov. 21-22 or 22-23, New York World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10 (enhanced) 2nd Annual “What-A-Turkey” Open! 6-55, 30/30, 50/30, 20/15, 10/5, Nov. 21-22, at 9:45am, 402 S. Willis St., Stillwater, OK 74074 — FKimBerry@AOL.com. 405 372-6705. Free pizza, free drinks and snacks. Entry Fee: $20, club members $15, GMs $10 ($25 from prize). Spec- ified CONCL Scholastic Prizes guaranteed. Online entry at www.chesscenter.cc thru 11/23. 2 options: 2-day, 10-35; 3-day option: 1-day 7-1:30-4:45-7:45. One by available, rds. 1 or 4 only; declare at registration.
Motor City Casino Hotel, 2901 Grand River Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201

Directions and Lunch Information:
Day 3: Schedule 2
![Day 3 Schedule 2](image)

Email: [Motor City Casino Hotel](mailto:info@motorcitycasino.com)

**Saturday November 28th, 2009**

Elmwood Country Club, 6366 W. 56th Street, Blue Island, IL 60406

Directions:
Day 1: Schedule 1
![Day 1 Schedule 1](image)

Email: [Elmwood Country Club](mailto:info@elmwoodcc.com)

**Sunday November 29th, 2009**

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 150 (enhanced)

40th annual National Chess Congress

665, 401-20 day option entry fee. Tournament sections play twice, schedule 2
![Schedule 2](image)

Email: [World Chess Live](mailto:info@worldchesslive.com)

To Enter: 800-503-USCF (8723), Fax 513-787-1200 or online www.uschess.org

Note: Prize fund based on 300 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries awarded.
Day Schedule: 9:15-14:30 and 14:45-17:45. Entry fee: $25 deducted for pairing fees. No credit card accepted. Site: 2209-I Sumner Green Blvd. Sandy Hook, CT 06482. Questions only: licensingagent@yahoo.com. May be limited to first 500 entries. NC, WI.

Dec. 6-8, Pennsylvania

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 20

Delaware Valley Open Championship
5 SSR, U1000 (75% of fees) per section, $100 by 12/6; $110 by 12/11. Under 1000: $75 and $85. Played online at chess.com. Prizes: check $1000. No credit card accepted. Site: 534 North Valley Rd., Lemon Hill, PA 19120. Questions only: ChessLivePA@gmail.com. Dec. 27-30, District of Columbia

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 100

36th Annual Eastern Open
8:30, $17,000 Unconditionally Guaranteed Prizes. Over 60 prizes! Class Prizes for each 100 point Westin Washington DC City Center Hotel, Thomas Circle, 1400 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20005. Entry Fee: each 200 for 12/15-300 for 12/13-300 for 12/12; $250 for 12/11. No credit card accepted. Site: 2101 Columbia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20905.

Dec. 26-28 or 27-28, New York

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 40 (enhanced)

5th annual Empire State Open
45, 4/2, 1/2 (1-day option, rds 1-3/4), Saratoga Hilton Hotel, 534 Broadway (47°-7°; 9-4, 11-9; 4, 4-2). Online at chess.com. Prizes: $10,000 Unconditionally Guaranteed Prizes. No credit card accepted. Site: 111 W. Broadway, New York, NY 10271. Questions only: ChessLivePA@gmail.com. Dec. 29, New York

Chess Life for Kids

www.chesslifeforkids.com

Dec. 5-6, Virginia

5th annual Richmond Chess Club Championship
75, 4/2, 1/2 (1-day option), rds 1-4/6, Baby’s Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89109. $120000 on 600 prizes (senior count as 3/4 entries, re-entries & GMs as half entries, U1000/Unr Section: G/60), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Free parking. Tournament plays Saturday-Sunday or Monday-Sunday, no play on Friday. Entry: $550 per 4-player team. Rds. Sat 9:30-4:30-12:30; Mon 9-2. Under 1000: $600; Under 1500: $750. Prizes: $3500 on site. No credit card accepted. Site: 650 N. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Questions only: larry@chesslive.com. Eastern Open to players in PK-12 rated under 1000; EF $35 by 12/6; $45 by noon 12/11; $50 on site. No credit card accepted. Site: 2501 92nd St, Las Vegas, NV 89103. Questions only: chesslive@uschess.org.

Dec. 4-5, North Carolina

Greater Charlotte Chess Association — Queen Country Chess Chess Congress Sponsored Event!
15th annual Greater Charlotte Chess Congress — Queen Country Chess Chess Congress Sponsored Event!

2009 Arlington Chess Club Championship
75, 4/2, 1/2 (1-day option), rds 1-4/5, Baby’s Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89109. $120,000 on 600 prizes (senior count as 3/4 entries, re-entries & GMs as half entries, U1000/Unr Section: G/60), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Free parking. Tournament plays Saturday-Sunday or Monday-Sunday, no play on Friday. Entry: $550 per 4-player team. Rds. Sat 9:30-4:30-12:30; Mon 9-2. Under 1000: $600; Under 1500: $750. Prizes: $3500 on site. No credit card accepted. Site: 650 N. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Questions only: larry@chesslive.com. Eastern Open to players in PK-12 rated under 1000; EF $35 by 12/6; $45 by noon 12/11; $50 on site. No credit card accepted. Site: 2501 92nd St, Las Vegas, NV 89103. Questions only: chesslive@uschess.org.

Dec. 3-5, New Jersey

7th annual New Jersey Open
5, 2/2, 2/2 (3-day option), rds 1-5/7, 2501 92nd St., Las Vegas, NV 89103. $120,000 on 600 prizes (senior count as 3/4 entries, re-entries & GMs as half entries, U1000/Unr Section: G/60), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Free parking. Tournament plays Saturday-Sunday or Monday-Sunday, no play on Friday. Entry: $550 per 4-player team. Rds. Sat 9:30-4:30-12:30; Mon 9-2. Under 1000: $600; Under 1500: $750. Prizes: $3500 on site. No credit card accepted. Site: 650 N. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Questions only: larry@chesslive.com. Eastern Open to players in PK-12 rated under 1000; EF $35 by 12/6; $45 by noon 12/11; $50 on site. No credit card accepted. Site: 2501 92nd St, Las Vegas, NV 89103. Questions only: chesslive@uschess.org.

Dec. 2-3, South Carolina

5th annual Columbia Chess Club Championship
45, 4/2, 1/2 (1-day option, rds 1-3/4), 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Entry Fee: Adults $100, $50 Seniors. Check or money order payable to: QCCA. Site: 2209-I Sumner Green Blvd. Sandy Hook, CT 06482. Questions only: licensingagent@yahoo.com. May be limited to first 500 entries. NC, WI.

Dec. 2-4, New York

World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 30 (enhanced)

7th annual State of New York Championship
55, 4/2, 3/4 (2-day option, rds 1-5/7), 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Entry Fee: Adults $100, $50 Seniors. Check or money order payable to: QCCA. Site: 2209-I Sumner Green Blvd. Sandy Hook, CT 06482. Questions only: licensingagent@yahoo.com. May be limited to first 500 entries. NC, WI.

Dec. 2-3, South Carolina

5th annual Columbia Chess Club Championship
45, 4/2, 1/2 (1-day option, rds 1-3/4), 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Entry Fee: Adults $100, $50 Seniors. Check or money order payable to: QCCA. Site: 2209-I Sumner Green Blvd. Sandy Hook, CT 06482. Questions only: licensingagent@yahoo.com. May be limited to first 500 entries. NC, WI.
North American Blitz Championship (100-entry maximum, $25 entry fee, $2000-1000-500-300-200, clear winner or 1st on tiebreak $100 bonus, top U2300 $800-400. FIDE.

Dec. 29, 2009

2010 Open

Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 4-7, 14-17, Pennsylvania

Under 900:
Under 1200:
Under 1500:
Under 1900:
Under 2100:
Under 2300:

Special rules:
1) Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. In round 3 or after players with scores of 6½ or their opponents may not use headphones, earphones or cellphones or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 294, Salisbury Mills, N.Y. 12577. Questions: 845-496-9658, chess.com. You may request “lowest possible section” if April rating unknown. 15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at continentalChess.com. WCL JGP (except U1000).

Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 4-7, 14-17, Pennsylvania

World Chess Life Grand Prix Points: 200 (enhanced)

Philadelphia Open

McKay Chess Life — October 2009 uschess.org

Tournament Life

Dropout out?

To have a miss a round is:

It is very important that you:

Your terminal is:

before pairings are made, so no one is deprived of a game! If you forgo without notice, you may be FINED up to the amount of the entry fee!
California Northern

Oct. 10, Swiss at(&)Bonnish HS, 2055 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Organized by #1 USCF affiliate of the West (www.schess.org) Round: 10am-4pm. Sections: u500, u800, u1100, 1100+ & u1500. Adults welcome in u1100 or 1100+ sections only. Registration: $20 if received by 10/8, $25 door. $$ 40-20-10 each section. EF: $20 if received by 10/8, $25 door. 8:30-9:30am Rds. 1-2; 10:30-11:30; 1:30-2:30 Rds. 3-5. Info: Jeanne Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038, online at www.westernchess.com. (310) 795-8181.

Oct. 11, 24, 25. Open at BayAreaChess Center, 4423 Fortran Ct., Ste. 160, San Jose 95134. #1 USCF affiliate of the West (www.schess.org). Round: 10am-4pm. Free Pizza for lunch – donations welcome. 8:30-9:30am Rds. 1-2; 10:30-11:30; 1:30-2:30 Rds. 3-5. Info: Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D., Alan@CalNorthYouthChess.org, (510) 659-0358.


October 2009

California Southern


Oct. 9-11, Los Angeles Open See Grand Prix.


Oct. 9, 2009 Westwood Fall Open See Grand Prix.


Oct. 28, American Open Quick Chess Championship (OC) See Grand Prix.

Colorado


null
Toyota Life

http://www.nycta.com

Adult Dues Options! >>

Free 8-Line Tournament Life Announcements!

New Free TLA Categories Added!

RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS WINTER!
Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines and up to 2 issues of Chess Life, for any tournament between January and March 2010, if no TLA for such an event appeared in 2009, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. The 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLA.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES QUALIFY FOR FREE TLA! Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines for events in the following categories, if submitted by e-mail. The free lines cannot be applied to longer TLA:

NEW CATEGORY: SENIOR. For age 50 or above, or a higher minimum age.

NEW CATEGORY: UNRATEDS FREE. Any tournament that offers free entry to unrated players. If your prizes are based on entries, say “paid entries.”

USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT. A tournament that offers at least two USCF membership renewal prizes, or a quad that offers at least one per section.

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL. A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

Minnesota

Oct. 23-25, 3rd Annual Chesssnuts Challenge Open Concordia College, Grant Center, Moorhead, MN 56560. In 2 Sections: Premier (B.D. 600-800 $120-100-80-60); Master (B.D. 800-1000 $140-120-100-80). EF: $15. Reg.: $25. First Classic each pair’s time limit if declared.

Missouri

Friday Action Quads - Every Friday night (GC) WCL JGP. Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 6655 Maryland Ave., St. Louis MO 63109. EF: $10. Prize fund 50% in each quad; club membership reward. Available from $1. EF: 6:30 - 6:45. Rounds begin at 7:00. Site entry only. Info: 314-361-CHESS info@saintlouischessclub.org.

New Jersey

The Newark Sleepless Knights Chess Club Bayrock Recreation Center of Newark, 95-96 Orange Ave. Newark, New Jersey 07107. Promotes 1st and 2nd Sundays of every months from 2-4pm. USCF rated tournaments and free chess lessons available.

Mississippi


Montana

Nov. 7-8, 2009 Turkey Open
SSS. Rds. 1-2 2-pm, Rds 3-5 5/120. Grant Creek Inn, 5281 Grant Creek Rd., Exit 100, Missoula, MT 59801. Info: 406-543-7000, montanachess, complimentary breakfast for registered guests. EF: $25 to $116, $30 at site, inc. 1/2 Reg.: 9:30-9:40; Rds. 1-2 10:30 to 11:30 at ASAP. MCA entry $12, U.SA. $2/30 (more per entry). MCA $7 each to top score. MCA $199, $1490-1190, $3/30. Biggest upset (both non-pro) $25. Info and Entries: Dan McGlarry, 608 West Central, Missoula, MT 59801. Checks payable to UCCC. 406-721-0254. messurfi@msn.com. MCA 1/2 point bye for round 0 must be requested before Rd 4. Phone, email entries OK but must be paid during registration to be paired in round 1. Event site: SUS, r.5 will begin at 5:30pm, $8 entry returned in prizes. WCL JGP.

Montana


Nov. 26-27 or 27-29, 19th (not 18th) annual North American Open See Grand Prix.

NEW CATEGORY! UNRATEDS FREE.

Nebraska

The Newark Sleepless Knights Chess Club


New York City

Nov. 27-29, 2009 Motor City Open See Grand Prix.

New England Chess Championships (VT)

Jan. 15-18, 16-18 or 17-18, 42nd annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

Michigan

Nov. 27-29, 2009 Motor City Open

Nov.-Dec.

The membership category once called “Youth” has been renamed “Young Adult,” and eligibility has changed from under 21 to under 25. Annual dues for this category are only $32 with paper Chess Life or $24 with the online version!

One-year membership with Chess Life:
If purchased online at uschess.org, now only $42 for Pre- miun Membership, which includes a copy of Chess Life every month. Regular Memberships are available for $29 and give online-only access to Chess Life and a mailed TLA Newsletter (bi-monthly). (Note to affiliates: If you collect a $40 membership, you may submit it online to USCF for $42, in effect creating a $7 commission. If you submit it by mail or phone the affiliation commission is $3.)

Ages 21-24 dues lower than Adult dues!

USCF

A tournament that offers free entry to unrated players. If your prizes are based on entries, say “paid entries.”

USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT. A tournament that offers at least two USCF membership renewal prizes, or at least one per section.

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL. A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

RBD. Open to Under 1200 Unr. or Under 1000 Unr. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”

BLITZ. Time control of Game/5. TLAs such as “USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm” are accepted.

COLLEGiate. A tournament limited to college students.

JUNIOR. For age 20 below (age 20 must be eligible).

NON-SCHOLASTIC WITH SCHOLASTIC. A tournament for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a scholastic tournament that in its previous year drew at least 50 for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a scholastic tournament that in its previous year drew at least 50

SPECIAL RATES FOR CLUB ADS. Special rates for all groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

END OF NEW ISSUE FOR TLSA SCHEDULED TO BE PUBLISHED OCTOBER 14-11

56 Chess Life — October 2009 uschess.org
Oct. 17, Jersey Shore K-12 Regions
The Academy at Grace and Peace, 1603 Old Freehold Rd., Toms River, NJ 08757. All Sections open to K-12. Section A, USCF: $50, Section B: USCF, Section C: 1000-1500, Section D: 1600-2000, Section E: 2100-2500. For info: keith@uscf.com or call 732-742-1544 or johnburren@yahoo.com.

Oct. 18, Future Masters
1st Annual Future Masters Chess Tournament. All Sections open to K-12. To register: www.chessacademyinc.com. To be held at the International Chess Academy at Grace and Peace. Please indicate USCF ID# and section.

Oct. 19, Westfield Quads

Oct. 21, NJ Chess Academy
The Academy at Grace and Peace, 1603 Old Freehold Rd., Toms River, NJ 08757. All Sections open to K-12. Section A, USCF: $50, Section B: USCF, Section C: 1000-1500, Section D: 1600-2000, Section E: 2100-2500. For info: keith@uscf.com or call 732-742-1544 or johnburren@yahoo.com.

Oct. 22, 20th Annual Summer Open Chess
For info and registration, go to www.YourChessSet.com/quads4. For more info, E-mail Stephen at cs@ATKMchessSets.com or call 856-582-8222.

Oct. 25, NJ Fall 2009 Open Championship
See Grand Prix.

Oct. 29, NJ Fall 2009 Scholastic Championship in 5 Sections
All Players with 5 POINTS OR MORE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY OR US CHESS FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR SECTIONS 4 AND 5. Info: 201-279-0291 or 201-633-1741. E-mail: Diana@icanj.net (Web Site Entries: www.icanj.net). ADV: Ent. (Oct 21st 2009). Reg add $30, Site $30. Ends 9-1/2/hr before 1st rnd. Late entrants will receive a 1/2 point bye for rnd 1. Site Address: Bergen Academy, 200 Hackenack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. In 5 Sections, 300 players. 2 Sections open to K-6. 2 Sections open to K-12 over 1400. (1 free entry to 1st, 4 weeks free to 2nd each section, $250-$125-$75, Open Sections open to 1500 or unrated, EF: $25 mailed by 10/9. $35 mailed by 10/10 late fee. $5 Family discount after one full price entry. NMCC Annual meeting & elections Sun 2:10. Ent received by 10/15. Pay to NMCC, Box 4213 ABQ 87116. Info, directions & entry form: nmccchessorg, WCL JGP.

Oct. 30, New York City Open Chess
MCM Elegant Hotel, 200 Memorial Ave, Albuquerque, N.M. 5:30. Sat. 7-2 Sun. 30/30/50/10/60. Rds: 9-3-9-3-3:30-3:30. Bye 1:50. 1/2 pt request prior Rd 1. Best 4/5 in each section except in Open. EF: $30 mailed by 10/9, $35 mailed by 10/10 late fee. $5 Family discount after one full price entry.

Nov. 8, 20th Annual Summer Quads
PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

HEALTH AND BENEFITS FUND

Many Grand Prix tournament organizers will contribute $1 per player to the Professional Health & Benefits Fund. All Grand Prix tournaments which participate in this program are entitled to be promoted to the next higher Grand Prix category—for example, a six-point tournament would become a 10-point tournament. Points in the top category are promoted 50%.

Open: $23 entry fee if received by 11/9, $30 at site, with one additional $3 discount for entering the New York Scholastic Action Chess Championship, carparks of three or more, or military ID. Place and class prize based on entries.
Scholastic: $15 entry fee if received by 11/9, $30 at site. Registration by mail or site fee is $9-10.45 a.m. Rds.: 11:30, 12:00 and 1:30 p.m.

A State Championship Event!
Dec. 4-6, 2010 Marshall CC Under-2000 Monday Swiss

Dec. 10, Jerry Simon Memorial Marshall CC Amateur Championship

Dec. 17-31, Marshall CC Thursday Slow Quads
6SS, 130/300, 3-day, 6 options; 2 winners $40, 2 $20, 2 $10. Reg: 11/20-11:50am. Rds.: 7pm each Thursday. No byes avail.}

Dec. 21-22 or 22nd, Annual “What-A-Turkey!” Open
See Grand Prix.

Dec. 27-29 or 28-29, 40th annual National Chess Congress (PA) See Grand Prix.

Dec. 28, Marshall CC Saturday Open
4SS, 60/120, Marshall CC, 23 W 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. EF: $60, members $30. $480 to 1st; $300-240-120 paid. Reg.: 11/20-11:50am. Rds.: 7pm each Wednesday. No byes at all, limit 2 byes requested by round 2. WCL JGP.

Dec. 31, Marshall CC New Year’s Open

Jan. 7, 12 Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.

Jan. 14, Ulica Four Seasons—Fall
4SS Rds. 1-2: $80, 3-4: $60. Moorhead Valley Community College, Exit 31, I-490, 4000 Southed Road, Moorhead, ND. 6-10, 6:45 in two sections. Open and Scholastic in combination with the 2009 New York State Action Chess Championship, NYSCA membership required.

Jan. 15, Marshall CC Under-2000 Tuesday Swiss

Jan. 21, 22nd Annual “What-A-Turkey!” Open
See Grand Prix.

Jan. 27-29 or 28-29, 40th annual National Chess Congress (PA) See Grand Prix.

Jan. 28, Marshall CC Saturday Open
4SS, 60/120, Marshall CC, 23 W 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. EF: $60, members $30. $480 to 1st; $300-240-120 paid. Reg.: 11/20-11:50am. Rds.: 7pm each Wednesday. No byes at all, limit 2 byes requested by round 2. WCL JGP.

Jan. 24-26, Marshall CC Under-2000 Wednesday Swiss

Jan. 31, Marshall CC New Year’s Open

Feb. 4, 10 Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.

Feb. 11-13, Marshall CC Under-2000 Monday Swiss

Feb. 25, Marshall CC Under-2000 Tuesday Swiss

Mar. 3-5, 4-5 Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.

Mar. 10-12, Marshall CC Under-2000 Monday Swiss

Mar. 17, 21, 24 Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.

Mar. 23-25, Marshall CC Under-2000 Wednesday Swiss

Apr. 7-9, 4-5 Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.

Apr. 14-16, Marshall CC Under-2000 Monday Swiss

Apr. 21-23, 24th Annual “What-A-Turkey!” Open
See Grand Prix.

May 5-7, Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.

May 12-14, GMs Memorial Marshall CC Amateur Championship

May 26-28, Marshall CC Saturday Open
4SS, 60/120, Marshall CC, 23 W 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. EF: $60, members $30. $480 to 1st; $300-240-120 paid. Reg.: 11/20-11:50am. Rds.: 7pm each Wednesday. No byes at all, limit 2 byes requested by round 2. WCL JGP.

Jun. 2-4, Marshall CC Under-2000 Monday Swiss

Jun. 9-11, 4-5 Grand Prix Points Tonight! See Grand Prix.
North Carolina
Oct. 30-Nov. 1, or Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2009 North Carolina Open Championship
See Grand Prix.

D. 5, QCCA Winter Scholastic A Queen City Chess Association Sponsored Event!
4-SS, G/45. NOC Hall, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. Located on south side of Euclid, beyond street level buildings. Free parking off westbound MLK, go upstairs to site. EF $55 at site. Details: See Grand Prix.

Dec. 5-6, Greater Charlotte Championship - A Queen City Chess Club, Charlotte, NC 28269. Make checks to “QCCA”.

See Grand Prix.

Dec. 26-28 or 27-28, 5th annual Empire State Open
See Grand Prix.

Mar. 31-Apr. 4, Apr. 1-2, 4-3, Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix.

Oct. 17-18, Ohio Class Championships
5 Rounds.
Rds. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: 9-10 a.m., 11-12 noon, 1-2, 2-3 p.m., 3-4 p.m. - PLAY FOR PRIZE! Saturday schedule: 11:45 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm. Sunday schedule: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm. FREE ENTRY! Registration fee: $15 per participant. Free entry for students with JGP entry fee. For more information, see Grand Prix.

Oct. 23-25 or 24-25, Cleveland Open
See Grand Prix.

Oct. 24, CWRU Fall Classic
4-SS, G/45. Nord Hall, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. Located on south side of Euclid, beyond street level buildings. Free parking off westbound MLK, go upstairs to site. EF $55 at site. Details: See Grand Prix.

Oct. 25, Trick-or-Treat Mini-Swiss
31SS, 30, 30, 30, 30, Hamilton Williams Campus Center, Benes Room, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, $75 1/2: $10-50. Sections of 8-10 by rating. EF $25. Rds. 10/23, 10/23, 10/24, 10/24, 10/25, 10/25, 10/26, 10/26. Info: Tom Walker, 727 Heatherstone Dr., Delaware, OH 43015. 740-368-3663, 361-9612, twalker@owu.edu, NC, W.

Oct. 31, House of Chess Halloween Open

Nov. 7, Parma Norvernfest

Nov. 14, Toledo Nov Swiss

Nov. 15, Beachwood November Scholastic

Nov. 29, Tryphoton Open, Reynoldsburg

Dec. 5, CWRU Winter Open

Dec. 12, Toledo Dec Swiss
4SS, Rd 1-6/90. 11/26, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. Located on south side of Euclid, beyond street level buildings. Free parking off westbound MLK, go upstairs to site. EF $55 at site. Details: See Grand Prix.

Dec. 20, Beachwood December Scholastic
Parents, Teachers & Coaches!

Check out the new USCF Certified Chess Coach Program at http://main.uschess.org/content/view/9474/131/
Nov. 29, National Chess Congress Blitz (QC) See Grand Prix.

Dec. 12-13, Delaware Valley Open Championship See Grand Prix.

Dec. 13, PCL December Quick Quads (QC) 3RR, G/15, 6th, PatUnion, One of: Pittsburgh, PA 15212; EF: $7 per round; Reg: 3-6:00pm; Rd: 11-13:30pm. Info: martimk_tom_m@hotmail.com. 422-988-0286. W.

Jan. 15, 16-18 or 17-18, 42nd annual Liberty Bell Open See Grand Prix.

Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 1-2, 3, 2-3 or 4-3, Philadelphia Open See Grand Prix.

Rhode Island

 Cranston- Warwick CC Monthly Every Tuesday 4:05, 40, 75, 30/60. Garden City Center, Cranston. EF: $3/game (club members): $5.50/3; Reg: 6:30-6:50pm; email preferred. Rd: 1st 4 Tuesdays of the month, 7pm sharp! 5th Tuesday extra rated games and events. One bye rd 1-3; if needed in advance. Prizes based on entries. Info: www.cranstonchess.org, 401-795-3150. WCL JGP.

Every Thursday Blackstone Chess Thursday Swiss 35S, G/90-10s, Blackstone Chess Center, 250 Main St., Pawtucket, EF: $15, members $12, GM/4 free. Sideline games $5; Reg: 7-7:30pm. Starts List or 2nd Thursday each month. Side events other Thursdays. One bye rd 1-2; Prizes based on entries. Info: blackstonechess.com, 307-747-6464. WCL JGP.


South Carolina

Oct. 16-18 or 17-18, 70th S.C. Championships See Grand Prix.

South Dakota

Oct. 17, Heart of Tennessee Open See Grand Prix.


Texas

Oct. 9-11, Lone Star Open See Grand Prix.

Oct. 24-25, Octoberfest Hornbeck Blvd, 2nd floor, 4450 Medical Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216, G/120. Funds to benefit five area school clubs, to be announced in Jan. 2010. $30, $150-60; 2 sections: Open $350-150, U2000 $100, U1000 $100. Reserve (10000): $250-150, U1200 $100, U950 $75, U750 $60, U600 $50. U400 $40, U300 $30, U200 $25. U100 $15, U75 $12; Tournaments that will use a player's on-line rating will have designated sections. Entries: www.wichess.org. WCL JGP.

Virginia

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Arlington Chess Club Friday Night USCF Rating Ladder 30 WO VA: Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22202. Player with most monthly points - $50 and most total points March - December wins $100. Must Join Club to play ($50 Adult, $40 U1900) check web to make sure we are open each week - members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/ladder.htm. Ladder has been running for over 4 years, now win money! Contact: Adam Chrissy for info: Chrissy27@gmail.com No advance entries, up for ladder weekly by 8pm, games start 8:30pm. Future monthly events will appear in a month ahead here. WCL JGP.


Oct. 6, 13, 20, Arlington Chess Club Friday Night USCF Rating Ladder 30 WO VA: Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22202. Player with most monthly points - $50 and most total points March - December wins $100. Must Join Club to play ($50 Adult, $40 U1900) check web to make sure we are open each week - members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/ladder.htm. Ladder has been running for over 4 years, now win money! Contact: Adam Chrissy for info: Chrissy27@gmail.com No advance entries, up for ladder weekly by 8pm, games start 8:30pm. Future monthly events will appear in a month ahead here. WCL JGP.

Oct. 7-8, 14th Annual Northern Virginia Open See Grand Prix.

Oct. 14, Kingston quadr $60/Action-Plus #22 Kingston Thompson Storage, 6699 Kingston Village Pkwy, Alexandria, VA 22315. 2 Events. Quad: $60/3Rd. $30 if received by 11/15, $15 at site. Prize: $150-100, Section: $50 to 1st and in each quad: gold to 1st if 9 or more, else silver; bronze to 2nd. $13-3. Action-Plus #22: $55/4. $30 if received by 11/15, $10 at site. Prizes $250/20: $110-60, U1800-U1400- U1200-U1000 to 3rd. 7 Rdts/1. Bott: Reg: 10-15:45. Entries check payable to: Don W. Milican, 91801 Prince George Dr, Springfield, VA 22152. e-mail (info only): dm04972@hotmail.com. W

Nov. 21, Thanksgiving Grand Prix See Grand Prix.

Dec. 5-6, 2009 Arlington Chess Club Championship See Grand Prix.

Jan. 15, 16-18 or 17-18, 42nd annual Liberty Bell Open (PA) See Grand Prix.

Washington

Jan. 15, 16-18 or 17-18, 17-18, 2009 Open (PA) See Grand Prix.

Wisconsin

Oct. 24-25, Greg Knutson Memorial See Grand Prix.

West Coast Chess Life — October 2009 61

Tourname nt Life Abbreviations & Terms

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised by S and/or (see below for exceptions).

QC: Chess Chess events.

$$Gtd: Guaranteed prizes.

$$/b: Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to pay full prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund or $501 must be awarded.

Byle: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take 1½-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1½-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.

C: Computers allowed.

CC: Chess club.

EF: Entry fee.

Enhanced Grand Prix points (see previous page). Ent: Where to mail entries.

FIDE: Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating. Web: Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.

GPP: Grand Prix Points available.

HR: Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means $60 single, $65 twin, $70/3 in room, $75/4 in room.

JGP: Junior Grand Prix.

Mem. req’d: Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.

Open: A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.

OSA: Other states allowed. Refers to state duels.

PPhBF: Professional Players Health and Benefits Fund.

Quad: 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.

RBO: Rated Beginner’s Open.

RR: Round Robin.

S: Smoking allowed.

SASE: For more info, send self-addressed stamped envelope.

SD: Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/90, 1/2 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.

Section: A division of a tournament, usually excluding players above a specified rating. Players in a section face one another only, not those in other sections.

SS: Swiss-System pairings (preceded by number of rounds).

T/Dx: Time delay, x = number of seconds.

Unr.: Unrated.

USEF: Combined entry fee & USCF dues.

W: Site is accessible to wheelchairs.

WEB: Tournaments that will use a player’s on-line rating.
After 1. Qxf4 Qxd7 2. Rad1 Qd4+ Black’s extra
White’s in trouble but the best chance to draw is
Too slow is 1. ... a6. White seized the initiative
White keeps the edge on 1. ... Qc7 2. g5! hxg5 3.
Cramped, Black found an elegant draw: 1. ...
The one-two punch goes
Black gets rapid counterplay after 1. ... b5! 2.
White walked into a lost ending by 1. Rf4? Rd1+
White retains winning chances after 1. ... Nb6 2.
Suicidal is 1. ... f5? 2. gxf5 exf5 3. e6+.
It’s mate after

Chess to Enjoy

Problem I.
1. ... Re2! mates (2. Rxe2 Qxf1). The only chance to draw is 1.Qxe7! Nxh4 2.
resigned after 1. ... Ng6 2. Rh3 because of 3. Qg5 and 4. Rh6+!.

Problem II.
1. Rf7! Kh7 (1. ... Qxf7 2. Qxh6+ Qh7 3. Qf8+ and mates) 2. Qf6 Bd7 3. Bg6+ Kg8 4. Bxf5+.

Problem III.
1. Bf5! overloads the Black bishop, e.g. 1. ... Rxe3 2.
Rxg5. White gets to steal a piece,
Zugzwang
1. ... Ng3

Endgame Lab – Benko’s Bafflers

Problem I.
1. Be8 Kb8
3. ... Bc8
3. ... Rxe5 4. Bxd7 mates soon; 3. ... Bxe5 4. Rxd7

Problem II.
1. Nc4 Ne5! 2. Nxe5
White resigned after 1. Nxf8?? Bxf5+.
2. ... Nc6 Bf4 3. Bxc6+ 4. Bb7
2. ... Bxe5 4. Rb3

Problem III.
resigned after 1. ... Ng6 2. Rf3 because of 3. Qg5 and 4. Rxh6+!

Problem IV.

Problem V.
queen.

Problem VI.
1. Bf7! Kh7 (1. ... Qxf7 2. Qxh6+ Qh7 3. Qf8+ and

What’s The Best Move?

1. B. Duchamp-Davidescu, Paris 1924
A. White walked into a lost ending by 1. Rf4? Rd1+
Rxe6 6. Rf5 Rg6 7. Rf3 Kg7.
B. The only chance to draw is 1.Qxe7! Nxd4 2.
Qe5+ Kg8 3. Qe6+ Kg7 4. Qf7+ Kg6 5. Qe6+
Kg7 6. Qe7+ Kh6 7. gxb4.
C. Hopeless is 1. Rh5 Nh2+ 2. Kf2 Rd2+ 3. Ke3
Kf5 Rf4+! 8. Kxf4 Nd4+ 9. Ke3 Re2+ snaring the
queen.

A. White resigned after 1. Nxf8?? Bxf4+ because of
Kxf2 Rxd3 snaring the queen.
B. After 1. Qxf4 Qxd7 2. Rd1 Qd4+ Black’s extra
pawn should prove decisive in the ending.
C. White’s in trouble but the best chance to draw is
1. Bxe4! Bxc3 2. bxc3 Bf4 3. Rxf4 f5 (if 3. ... Bc6
Qxe8+ Kg8 8. Qxe4.

A. Too slow is 1. ... a6. White seized the initiative
and eventually won after 2. Qe3 Kg7 3. Bg2 b5
4. Rdf1.
B. Black gets rapid counterplay after 1. ... b5! 2.
cxb5 Rb8.
C. White keeps the edge on 1. ... Qc7 2. g5! hxg5 3.
Rg1 Rf5 4. h4.

A. Cramped, Black found an elegant draw: 1. ...
Bxb5 2. axb5 Kc7 3. g5! hxg5 4. b6+ Kb7 5. Rxe8
Kxe8 6. bx a7 Kf7 7. fxg5 Kxa7 and neither king
can infiltrate (if 8. h4 g6).
B. White retains winning chances after 1. ... Nb6 2.
Rg8 Nxa4 3. N6d6 Rb2+ 4. Kg3 g5 5. Kfxg5 hxg5 6.
Rxg5.
C. Suicidal is 1. ... f5? 2. gxf6 exf6 3. e6+.

Problem II.
1. Nc4 Ne5! 2. Nxe5
White walked into a lost ending by 1. Rf4? Rd1+
Rxe6 6. Rf5 Rg6 7. Rf3 Kg7.

Problem III.
White’s rook gets trapped and
smothered, beginning with 1. ... Ne4+, followed by 2.
... Nf2+.

Problem IV.
Pin: After 1. ... Ng3 2. Bf4 (best) Nxf1 3. Bxe5 Ne3
(or 3. ... Nd2+) win the pinned knight.

Problem V.
Mating net: White is mated by 1. ... Ne4+ 2. Ke2
Re1.

Problem VI.
Mating net: The one-two punch goes 1. ... f4+ 2.
Kh3 Nf2 mate.
40th annual
NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS
Sheraton City Center Hotel, Philadelphia
6-round Swiss, Nov 27-29 or Nov 28-29, 2009
$30,000 guaranteed prizes plus 29 trophies!

6 round Swiss, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/50). Trophy Sections play separate 2-day schedule only, 11/28-29, G/50.

Sheraton City Center Hotel, 17th & Race Sts., Philadelphia 19103. Room rates: $93-93-93-93, 215-448-2000, reserve by 11/13 or rate may increase. Special parking $5 with guest room, $12 without; garage next to hotel is about $10. Many restaurants, shops, museums within easy walking distance.

10 sections- you play only those in your section.
Premier: Open to 2000/over & juniors under 18 1800/over. $3000-1500-700-400-200, clear/tiebreak win $100, Under 2400 $1400-700. FIDE, 150 GPP.
Under 1000/Unr: Trophies to top 8.
Under 800/Unr: Trophies to top 8.
Under 600: Trophies to top 8. Unrateds eligible for this section only if age 14 or below.
Unrated may not win over $100 in U1200, $200 U1400, $300 U1600, $500 U1800, $700 U2000.

Student/Alumni trophies to top 5 teams of 4 (regardless of section) representing any US college, HS, or pre-HS players attend or have graduated from.

Premier to Under 1200 entry fees: 3-day $108, 2-day $107 mailed by 11/19, all $109 online at chesscongress.com by 11/24, $115 phoned to 406-896-2038 (no questions) by 11/24, $130 at site. No online or phone entry after 11/24. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Re-entry $60 (except Premier).

Trophy sections entry fees: $27 mailed by 11/19, $28 online at chesscongress.com by 11/24, $35 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 11/24, $40 at site.

Special 1 year USCF dues with Chess Life if paid with entry. Online at chesscongress.com, Adult $30, Young Adult $20. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 noon & 7 pm; Sat 11 am & 6 pm; Sun 10 am & 4:30.
2-day schedule (Open through U1200): Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds Sat. 10 am, 12:45 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm; Sun 10 am & 4:30 pm.
3-day and 2-day schedules merge after round 3; all compete for same prizes.

Trophy Sections schedule: Nov 28-29 only. Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rounds 10, 12:45 & 3:30 each day.
Half-point byes available all rounds, limit 3; Premier must commit before rd 2, others before rd 4.
Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied. November ratings used, except unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.
$15 service charge for refunds.
Advance entries will be posted at chesscongress.com.

Continental Chess Association entry form- use for any CCA tournament- photocopy if desired

Name_________________________USCF ID__________Address______________________________
Tournament________________________Section_____________No. Days_____Rating (approx. OK)__________
Entry fee________________________USCF dues__________Birth date, if paying USCF dues (month, day, year)____________________________

Send to Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Checks payable to same. Use of form is optional- you can enter any CCA event by sending name, tournament, section, number of days, USCF ID, rating, & fee.
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