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OVER THE BOARD

Cover Courtesy of Shane Gibson

SCCF's Board Leads the Way for Chess in Southern California

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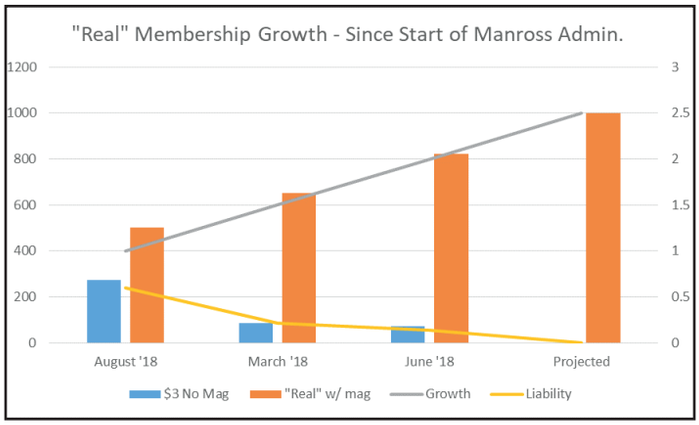
President's Address

Sean & Bear the Chess Husky at UCLA Kerckhoff Center

The Southern California Chess Federation is growing at unprecedented rates: but with growth spurts, come growing pains. That said, as we enter our Administration's fourth quarter, good things are "Bruin" at the SCCF headquarters!

Many of our readers will have been rightfully frustrated by the unseemly delay between the Winter-Spring 2018/9 Edition of *Rank & File* and the recent Spring-Summer 2019…only to be amazed by the rapid turn-around of the present Summer-Autumn 2019 edition, in your hands. However, those same keen eyes will have also taken note of the subtle, yet extraordinary, modernizations which have rapidly taken place over the same time frame. The colorful, bright, glossy cardstock is NOT simple luck: it is a calculated investment in our members. Indeed, this same learning curve can be seen in the new-and-renewed master columns, master-annotated games and rapidly expanding Here & There on those same lovely pages. We're working hard, day and night, to be the best chess governance organization (with the best chess publication) in the business – and we invite you to grab this month's copy of ChessLife and directly compare *Rank & File* against our industry leader. Don't be stunned by the fact that SCCF's tiny team produces an equal-or-better product: be impressed by the fact that we do it quarterly with barely 1,000 dues-paying members, at $20/each…juxtaposed against the full-time editorial staff of US Chess putting out their product(s) monthly, to 85,000 members at $49/each.

Rank & File will only continue to grow & improve and the same holds true for SCCF's tournaments, held around Southern California and beyond. Southern California's recent growth spurt, in raw numbers, demands an increase in tournaments: since this administration took office, in September of 2018, due to a combination of an increase in quality and strong administrative measures, SCCF's magazine circulation has nearly doubled, AND our annual membership has risen by over 20% (see chart). We have changed the membership paradigm to provide real value to our members AND we've accomplished this goal by returning to the inexpensive price paradigm of the first decade of the 2000's. The result is a stronger, healthier, more active SCCF.



The quintessential example of SCCF's renewed strength through strategic redeployment of our member's dollars is the newly-revitalized SCCF California State Chess Championship & Candidates Tournament, hosted at the prestigious and beautiful location of UCLA Chess Club, in Westwood. A partnership has developed between the UCLA Chess Club and the Southern California Chess Federation from which will spring new and more exciting events for our college students around the state, as well as Open events. Above all, the Candidates Tournament – which was larger and more successful this year than for nearly a decade prior – will continue to be held at UCLA, as will many more events…perhaps, eventually, even the State Championship, itself!

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ChessPalace
California's Scholastic Chess Headquarters

ChessPalace Founder Alfredo Ong

All longtime Southern California chess players will know of ChessPalace through their marquee Heritage Event, the American Open Chess Championship, held annually over the Thanksgiving Day weekend. Yet, for Alfredo Ong and family, hosting the most professionally organized event in the Western United States is only the tip of the iceberg. In fact, scholastic chess is the heart of ChessPalace and the true passion of the Ong family.

ChessPalace's storied relationship with scholastic chess is more than business…it's a matter of pride for the Ong family, whose now-adult son, Anthony, attained master strength at a very young age; today, he is a coach at ChessPalace, alongside his patriarch. Indeed, the heart-and-soul of the ChessPalace has, for decades, been Alfredo Ong. As the head coach at ChessPalace, Alfredo is responsible for the finest chess camps in Southern California, held every summer at their convenient Garden Grove location. The Summer Chess Camps are also held over four-four day sessions, making them convenient for even the busiest travelling families! With 9 am – 5 pm sessions held June 24-28, July 8-12 & 22-26, and the final camp from July 28 – August 2, there is an accessible event for all California chess players.

Rank & File interviewed the ChessPalace team, asking how they managed to create so many top-flight chess players, year-after-year; their professionals shared with us that, "ChessPalace's summer camps are tailored to provide a variety of chess activities. From world-class master lectures with luminaries such as IM Jack Peters, to practice tournaments, ChessPalace students – especially in our summer programs - will have a continuous exercise of mental skills and acuity through chess. Lessons will include the basics, openings and endings, pattern recognitions, tactics & strategy, and many more. Summer camp at the ChessPalace is a fun way to learn our timeless sport and to develop valuable life skills for future success." These unequalled summer camps fill up very fast! However, thanks to ChessPalace's flexible refund policy, you have nothing to lose: pre-register your child for a summer camp, today, at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chess-summer-camp-2019-chesspalace-tickets-61544261543?ref=elink or contact ChessPalace directly at https://chesspalace.com/contact-us.

The Ong's & their students relax with Bear the Chess Husky

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Game of the Century

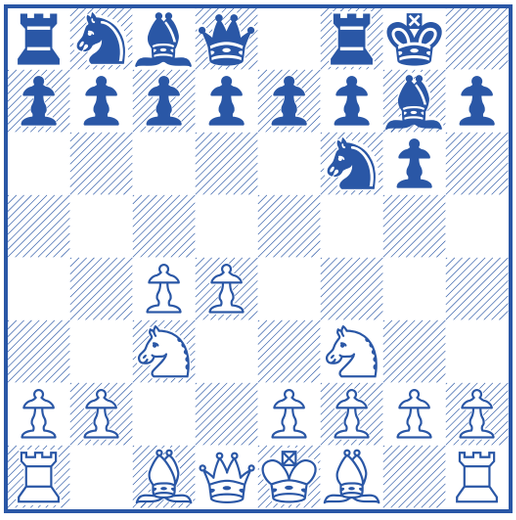
Bobby Fischer's Scholastic Masterpiece

By Sean J Manross & Bear the Chess Husky

This month, *Rank & File* focuses in on the unprecedented success of scholastic chess in Southern California. As a tribute to scholastic chess players everywhere, we now look at the most famous scholastic masterpiece in the career of history's most famous chess prodigy. Indeed, history's most famous master needs no introduction. From tender boyhood, Bobby Fischer was dominating world-class masters in games that instantly electrified the nation. This masterpiece - performed just before Christmas on the prodigy's 13th year – was the first step in the development of Fischer's household fame as the greatest chess player to ever live.

IM Donald Byrne vs FM Robert James "Bobby" Fischer
New York, USA, 1956

1.Nf3 Nf6 The Zukertort Opening is often misconstrued to be the Réti Opening, which properly runs **1.Nf3 d5 2.c4!** The main idea of the text is to defer opening selection for at least one move, by refraining to move a pawn. Black's response is the most practical and solid choice. 2.c4 g6 The Anglo-King's Indian Defense **3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 O-O**



A young Bobbyy Fischer gets ready to make his move.

The prodigy utilizes a highly conservative opening approach, which is certainly native to the concealment-based spirit of the opening. Nevertheless, while Dr. Byrne in still the process of determining what variation he will play, young Bobby has nearly completed the opening. **5.Bf4? d5** White's first significant faux-pas comes early, in the avoidance of the main line 5.e4. If Byrne had intensions of playing a London System, he ought to have done so, at once. The text is a hesitation which allows Fischer to transpose from a typical King's Indian into an improved Grünfeld Variation.

This improved Grünfeld Defense is at least equal for Black, albeit a touch imbalanced. The main line would typically continue with 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.e4, winning the center; unfortunately for White, in this line 7…Nxf4 would rain on the central parade. **6.Qb3? dxc4** White unnecessarily burdens himself by exposing the Queen early in the game. **7.Qxc4 c6** Safeguarding against the double attack on c7 and preventing unwanted central advancement by either the d-pawn or the Knight from **c3. 8.e4 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Nb6 10.Qc5 Bg4** Bobby Fischer has finished the opening and may now begin to consider middle game tactics! White, meanwhile, will find the King,

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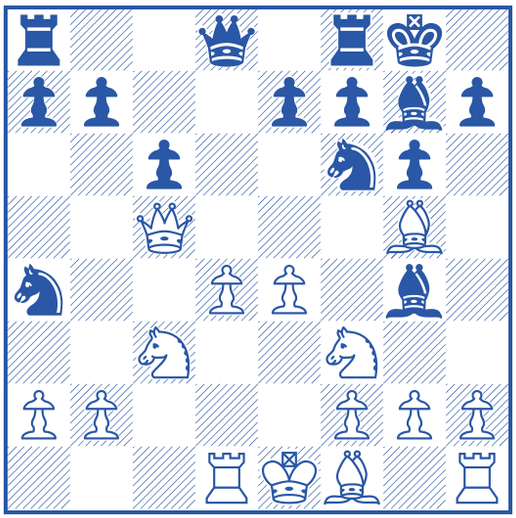
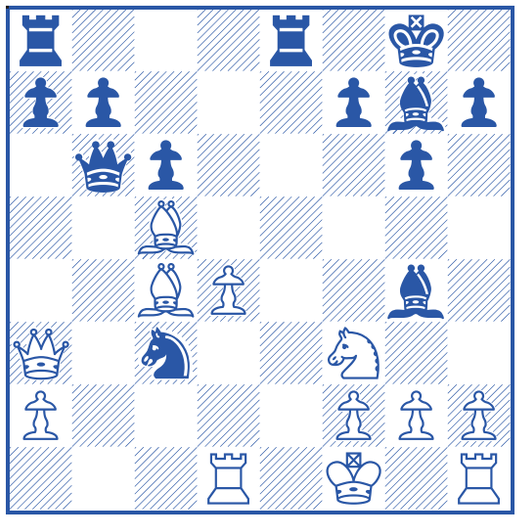
who remains in the center, and the undeveloped Bishop on f1 bog down his position to the point of desperation. **11.Bg5 Na4!!**



A brilliant tactical realization, predicated upon the strategic weakness of the e4-pawn! Black seeks to remove the pawn's defender, proving the latent force hidden within his hypermodern position. White will have too many weaknessess **12.Qa3** On 12. Nxa4 Nxe4 and White faces considerable difficulties **12...Nxc3** At first glance, one might think that this move only helps White create a stronger pawn center; however, Fischer's plan is quite the opposite. By eliminating the Knight on c3, it becomes possible to sacrifice the exchange via Nxe4 and smash White's center, while the King remains trapped in the center. **13.bxc3 Nxe4 14.Bxe7 Qb6 15.Bc4 Nxc3 16.Bc5 Rfe8+** It was far more important to develop to the Bishop from f1 than to move the same piece twice in the opening; now, the dark-squared Bishop is an unenviable, en-prise target, liable to get forked against the overextended Queen after 12.Nxa4? Nxe4. The Queen would quit her defense of the Bishop, as there would be no safe haven that also maintains sight of the prelate. 12.Qa3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe4 14.Bxe7 Qb6 Alas, the e4-pawn may have fallen but White seems to have his counterpart back with initiative. 15.Bc4 Nxc3! Another clever tactical blow…16.Qxc3 Rfe8 17.Qa3 Qc7 would guarantee Black an extra pawn. It seems White has found the method of winning the wayward Knight, without leaving any collateral damage for Black to exploit. Yet, Black's 16th move - which defers a decision on the issue of the Queen's placement – is a critical intermezzo that will set the stage for one of the greatest tactical combinations in the history of the Royal Game! **17.Kf1**



The stage is set for the prodigy to send this game into the "immortal" books! **17…Be6!!**

They put the King in

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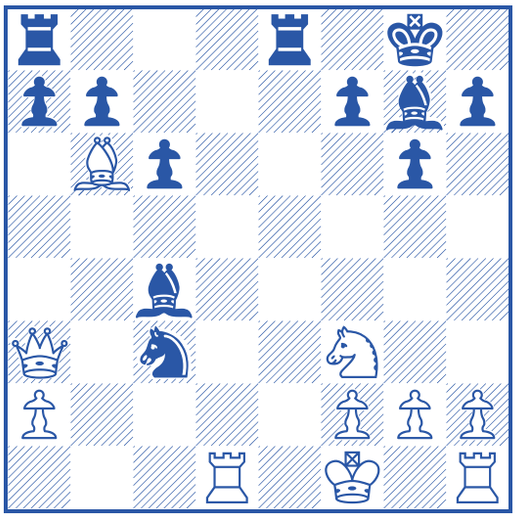
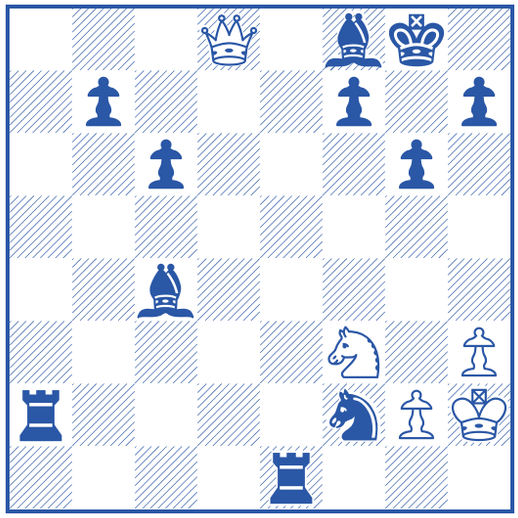
The thrice New Zealand national champion and twice English national champion, IM Robert Wade (who happens to share his birthday with your author), authored a beautiful annotation of this move, moments after the game, which requires no improvement: "If this is the game of the century, then 17...Be6!! must be the counter of the century.

Fischer offers his queen in exchange for a fierce attack with his minor pieces. Declining this offer is not so easy: 18. Bxe6 leads to a 'Philidor Mate' (smothered mate) with ...Qb5+ 19. Kg1 Ne2+ 20. Kf1 Ng3+ 21. Kg1 Qf1+ 22. Rxf1 Ne2++. Other ways to decline the queen also run into trouble: e.g., 18. Qxc3 Qxc5" **18.Bxb6 Bxc4+** Now that White has accepted the heroic sacrifice, Fischer is free to begin a massive windmill attack, which will culminate in a decisive material advantage. **19.Kg1 Ne2+ 20.Kf1 Nxd4+** The focal point at d4 has finally been removed and the fianchettoed Bishop operates with unbridled force. **21.Kg1 Ne2+ 22.Kf1 Nc3+**



As the windmill attack draws to a close, Black prepares his final assault on the devastated White army, bringing about the latter phases of the game. **23.Kg1 axb6 24.Qb4 Ra4** Notice the harmony of the Black's army – the King defends his fianchettoed Bishop, who defends a wayward Knight, who defends a newly-awakened Rook, who finishes by defending the other Bishop on c4! **25.Qxb6 Nxd1 26.h3 Rxa2 27.Kh2 Nxf2 28.Re1 Rxe1**

Though White has finally managed to trade off the useless, cornered Rook, the timing could not be worse. White is fully seven points behind in this unbalanced ending and cannot afford to expedite his own demise by allowing (and even encouraging) such simplification. **29.Qd8+ Bf8** A clever intermezzo, alluding to one final trap.



30.Nxe1 Bd5 In an unbalanced position, ensure that all en-prise pieces become anchored and centralized. **31.Nf3 Ne4 32.Qb8 b5 33.h4 h5** Fischer prudently takes the time to prevent the King's g-file escape. **34.Ne5 Kg7** A critical moment! Had Fischer failed to break the pin, 35.Nd7! would have surely won the Bishop and may well have proved fatal. Now, the rest is simple technique. **35.Kg1 Bc5+ 36.Kf1 Ng3+ 37.Ke1 Bb4+ 38.Kd1 Bb3+ 39.Kc1 Ne2+ 40.Kb1 Nc3+ 41.Kc1 Rc2#**

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CY'S PERSPECTIVE

By IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Static ***vs.*** *Dynamic*

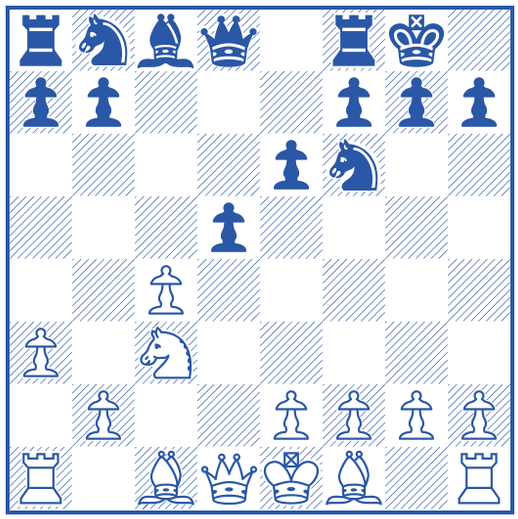
IM Lakdawala takes a long think looking for the best move...
Photo by: Chris Roberts

Rafael Vaganian - Albin Planinc Hastings 1974/75 Hastings ENG

The aim of art is to reveal a hidden inner truth, while the aim of craft is mere efficiency. Which do you value more: Initiative, or material/structure? The question comes down to another question: What do you fear more: a wasted opportunity, or the possibility of death in grasping for it? In this column we look at two amazing games where dynamic factors took precedence.

1.**d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3** No Benoni or Benko Gambit.

3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Bb4 It's a myth to believe that we choose our own chess styles. We are influenced by the books we read in our youth, yet our style lies dormant within us, as unchangable DNA. Planinc was a high-end aggressive GM, who was alway happy to sacrifice either structure or material for the initiative. Handing over this dark squared bishop is a tricky thing. Black may damage White's structure, at the cost of bishop pair in an open position and weakened dark squares. **6.Ndb5** The knight eyes d6, while protecting the c3–knight. Also played are the lines 6.Bd2; 6.g3 and; 6.Qb3 **6...0–0** This avoids the knight check. **7.a3** White wants the bishop pair. Of course it isn't for free since White loses time. **7...Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5**



Principle: When your opponent owns the bishop pair and you have a development lead, the latter takes precidence, so open the position.**9.Bg5 h6!** This move, which operates on a gut feeling, rather than empiracally, very clearly declares: "Go on. I dare you!" Black offers a pawn to remove White's bishop pair. **10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Qxd5!?** Optimism is a dangerous disease which mainly afflicts youth, since they delusionally believe luck is only on THEIR side. The scriptures warn us that there is no profit in gaining the world if in doing so, we lose our soul. No doubt Vaganian realized he was playing "ugly" unprincipled chess, yet he felt that his position had sufficient resources to withstand Black's coming initiative. With hindsight of the game's result, this move may have been overly optimistic. Vaganian gobbles the offered pawn and dares his opponent to come and get him with the development lead.

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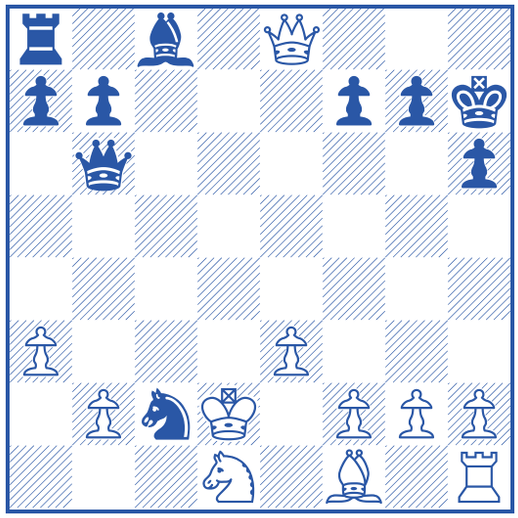
Cy's Perspective

White may have been wiser to go with 12.e3 since discretion is that wonderful mechanism which keeps us from getting hanged and from jumping off cliffs. **12...Rd8 13.Qf3 Qb6 14.Rd1! Rxd1+ 15.Nxd1 Nc6 16.Qe3!** 16.e3 Be6 17.Be2 Rd8 18.0–0 Rd2 is unpleasant for White. **16...Nd4** Threatening a cheapo on c2. **17.Qe8+** This move pins Black's bishop to the loose a8 rook. **17...Kh7 18.e3 Nc2+! 19.Kd2**

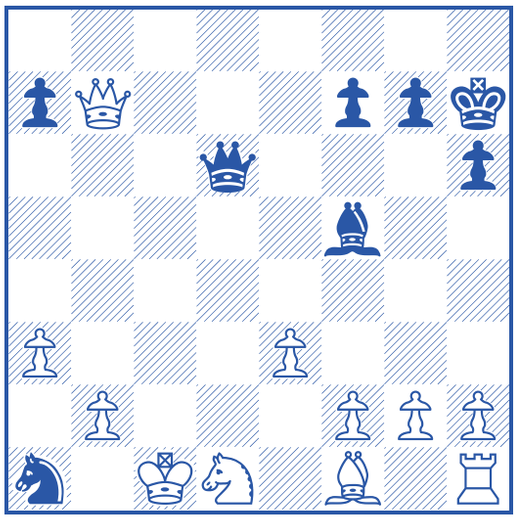


Exercise (combination alert): Outwardly, it feels as if White has successfuly fended off Black's attack. Black's initiative also feels a bit a touch deflated from a few moves ago. Nothing is as simple as it first appears. Continue Black's attack: **19...Bf5!**

Answer: Principle: When you have the initiative, your worst possible action is to delay. The brilliant solution is to hand over a full rook in order to bring the bishop into the attack. Planinc proceeds with a zealot's unblinking intensity, coupled with a contemptuous disregard for consequences. In this case the zealot's belief is the truth. The sacrifice is stronger than 19...Qd6+ 20.Bd3+ Qxd3+! 21.Kxd3 Bf5+ 22.e4 Rxe8 23.exf5 Ne1+ 24.Kd2 Nxg2 25.Ne3 White should save the game. **20.Qxa8 Qd6+! 21.Kc1!** The only move. 21.Kc3?? Qe5+! 22.Kd2 Qd5+ 23.Kc3 (23.Kc1 Na1! forces mate.) 23...Qa5+ 24.Kb3 Na1+! 25.Ka2 Qd5+ 26.Kxa1 Qxd1+ 27.Ka2 Bb1+ 28.Ka1 Bc2+ 29.Ka2 Qb1#

21...Na1! One key precept of setting up a vile cheapo/trap: don't attract attention to yourself. Make your trap look as innocently natural as possible. Black threatens the easy to see .. .Nb3 mate and it looks like White's queen chopping b7 is a simple solution--it isn't!

22.Qxb7??



Exercise (combination alert): How did Black force the win?

In chess, unlike fickle games like poker and backgammon, we can't claim bad cards or unlucky dice and play the role of the victim of circumstances beyond our control. Correct was a) 22.Bc4! Qc5 23.Nc3! White should be willing to spill his own blood to protect his king. 23...Qxc4 24.Qd8 Nb3+ 25.Kd1 Qg4+ 26.Ne2 Qe4! 27.Ke1 Qb1+ 28.Qd1 Qxb2 29.Nd4 Nxd4 30.Qxd4 Qc1+ 31.Qd1 Qxa3 White has chances to save the game.; b) 22.b4?? allows mate in three moves after 22...Nb3+ 23.Kb2 Qd2+ 24.Kxb3 Qc2#]

22...Qc7+! Bernie Sanders would agree: Spread the wealth. A queen check on c6 works just as well.

Answer: Attraction/queen sacrifice. 22...Qc7+! White lose his queen or his king after **23.Qxc7 Nb3# 0–1**

Paravyan,D. (2630) -
Golubov,S. (2470)
Korchnoi Memorial 2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 In the past, the Petroff Defense was considered the refuge of the fearful and the untalented.

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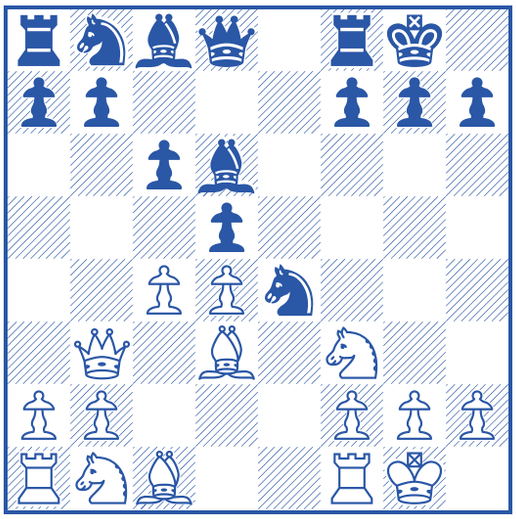
No so anymore, since Vice World Champion Fabiano Caruana left a swath of destruction against his opponents with it.

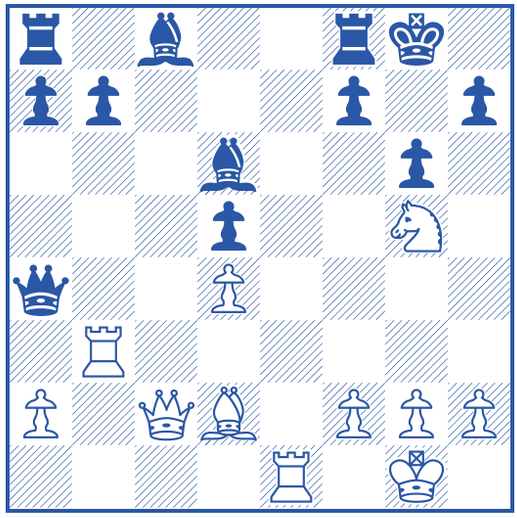
3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0–0 0–0 8.c4 c6 9.Qb3!?



This line is rare and a bit of a theory dodge. The idea is to induce Black into playing ...dxc4. 9.Nc3 is White's main line. In our database world, the new aristocracy are the players with bottomless memories (your memory-challenged writer considers the forced, parrot-like memorization of long lines to be the source of all human suffering). I just finished writing Opening Repertoire: Petroff Defence, my second book on this opening, and the lines after this move are dizzyingly confusing for both sides, since the lines all look alike, yet aren't!

9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nd7 11.Re1 Ndf6 12.Nbd2 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 b5! 14.Bd3 Be6 15.Qc2 h6 looks fine for Black. **12...Nxd2 13.Bxd2 Qb6 Principle:** Swaps favour the side playing against the isolani. **14.Qd3!** Same principle, but in reverse. White of course retains queens on the board with his isolani, all the while tempting Black with the b2–pawn. **14...Qxb2!** Natural risk takers believe that heaven would be a rather dull place to spend eternity, with the absense of the devil, who would surely liven things up. Contrary to popular belief, not all b-pawns are poisoned. **15.Rab1 Qa3 16.Qc2** White got full attacking compensation for the sacrificed pawn, but no more **16... Nd5?** The last thing Black should be doing is to move defenders away from his king. 16...b5! 17.Bb3 Now White is deprived of a rook lift to b3. 17...Qa6! Dual purpose: 1. c6 is protected. 2. Black's exiled queen slowly tries to make her way back to relevance. 18.Bg5 (18.Ne5 Be6! 19.Bxe6 fxe6 looks okay for Black.) 18...Nd5 I like Black's chances for a successful defence.

17.Rb3! White's rook is headed to the other side of the board. **17...Qa4 18.Bxd5** Also tempting is 18.Ng5 g6 19.Ne4 Be7 20.Bh6 Rd8 21.Qc1! Bf5 22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.dxc5 Re8 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.h3 Black is busted on the dark squares around his king. **18...cxd5 19.Ng5 g6**



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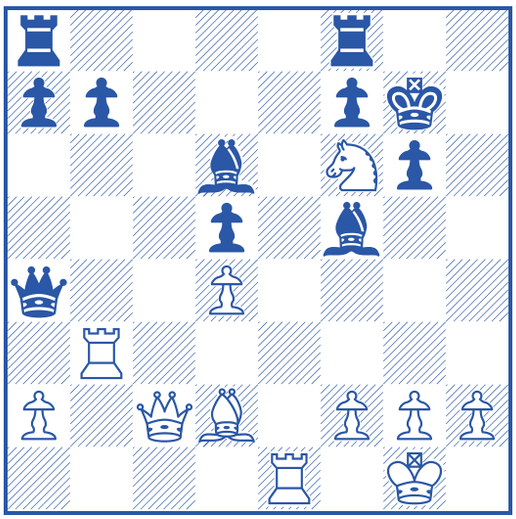
Cy's Perspective

Exercise (planning): The position is condusive for those with fevered imaginations. How should White proceed?

20.Nxh7!! Answer: White feels the call of chaos. Piece sacrifice/annhilation of defensive barrier. **20...Bf5?** Black precipitates his own downfall with this natural yet incorrect move.

a) 20...Kxh7?? 21.Rh3+! The discovered attack wins Black's loose queen on a4.

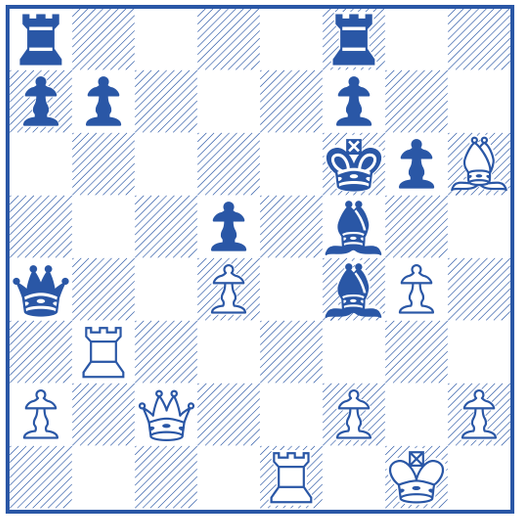
b) 20...Qc4! is Black's best shot to survive. 21.Rc3 Qxd4 22.Nxf8 Bf5 23.Ne6! fxe6 24.Qc1 Kh7 White still has to work for the full point.



Exercise (combination alert): If White does nothing special, his position will bleed out. Yet a nameless unease swells within Black's position. What now? White's queen and knight are simultaneously threatened. Continue White's attack:

22.Bh6+!! Answer: Attraction. This move leaves Black with only bad choices. **22...Kxf6** It's hard to fault Black for playing this way since 22...Kxh6 23.Rh3+ Bxh3 24.Qxa4 Be6 25.g4! Kg7 26.g5 should be a technical win for White. Still, this was Black's only path to play on. **23.g4!!** When someone threatens you, there are three ways to deal with it: 1. Offer a bribe. 2. Run away and hide. 3. Kill your attacker. This move, which seems to be number three on the list, is the unbelievably deep point to White's combination. The question I ask is: why don't dazzling combinations like this one appear in my dull games?

23...Bf4!



This move is a good try yet Black's attempt to interfere with White's Rf3+ tricks fails.

Exercise (combination alert): Find White's dazzling shot.

a) 23...Bxc2?? allows 24.Rf3+ Bf5 25.g5#; **b)** 23...Be6 24.Rf3+ Ke7 25.Qxa4 and Black resigns.; c) 23...Bxg4 24.Qd2! forces mate in three moves.

24.Qc7!! Answer: Queen sacrifice/overloaded defenders. 24...Bxh6 a) 24...Bxc7?? 25.g5#; b) 24...Rfe8 25.g5+ Bxg5 26.Qd6+!! Zwischenzug. 26...Re6 27.Rxe6+

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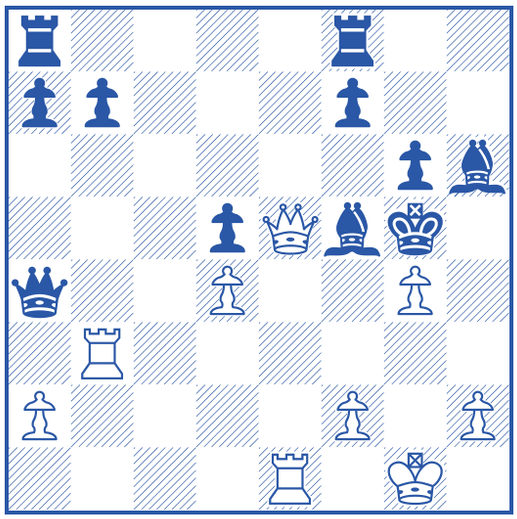
fxe6 (27...Bxe6 28.Rf3+ Bf4 29.Rxf4#) 28.Qe5+! Ke7 29.Rxb7+ with mate in two moves.
25.Qe5+ Kg5

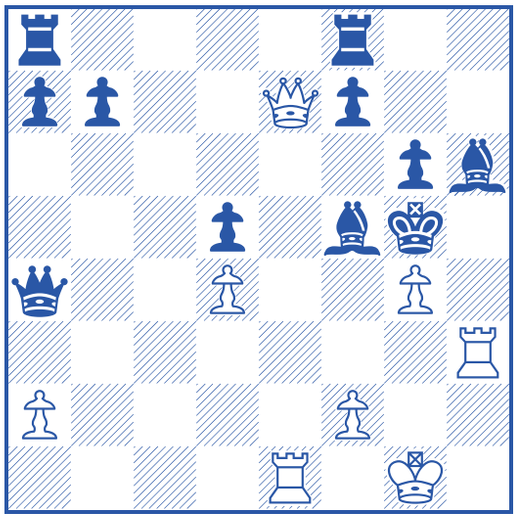
We who have gone over any of Morphy's wins understand: When BNCA's (bumbling Ninteenth Century Amateur) king finds itself on g5, matters generally don't go well for the defence. In this case though, Black is no amateur. **Exercise (calculation):** We all realize there must be a mate. The question is: what is the quickest one?



Answer: 26.h4+!

The comp found the even faster Answer #2: 26.Rg3! Rfe8 27.f4+ Kh4 28.Qf6+ g5 29.Qxh6# or 26...Kxg4 27.Rg3+ Kh5 28.Qe2+ Kxh4 29.Qf3! Threat: Qh1+. 29...Qd7 30.Re5! Bg5 31.Rxf5 Qxf5 32.Qh1+ Qh3 33.Qxh3#

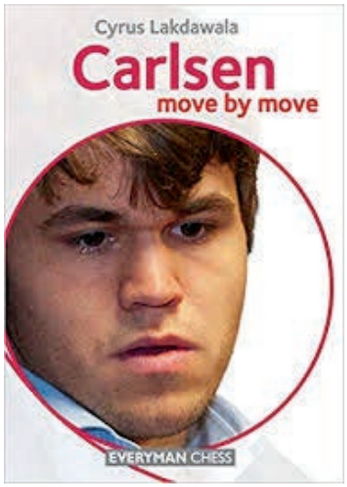
27.Rh3+! Attraction. 27...Kg5 27...Kxh3 28.Qg3# **28.Qe7+!**



It's mate everywere we look:

28.Qe7+! Kf4 (a) 28...f6 29.Qe3+ Kxg4 30.Qg3#; b) 28... Kxg4 29.Qh4# 29.Qe3+ Kxg4 30.Qg3# **1–0**

Check out IM Lakdawala's great books: These are just a small sample!



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2019 SCCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This year SCCF members will elect six of the twelve Board members to two year terms. Vote for up to six. Mail ballots to SCCF Elections, C/O Steve Morford, 534 Via Zapata, Riverside CA 92507 or vote in person at the Southern California Open. Those voting by mail must include their name on the outside of the envelope. The election closes at 3 PM on Monday, September 2nd. Candidate statements and the ballot are below.

Chuck Ensey

I would be honored to continue my service on the board and to help promote chess all over Southern California by running many Open events: the Dreaming King, the San Diego, the Pacific Southwest and the Southern California Open, in addition to the weekly Gambito Open in San Diego.

Abhishek Kylasa

As the just-graduated President of UCLA Chess and representative in the California Intercollegiate Chess League (CICL), I have years of experience in coordinating with colleges across California and organizing/directing tournaments. I remain involved as a senior advisor and will be striving to expand collegiate chess throughout California with SCCF.

Ashley Li

As a Chess Organizer and Chess Mom for nearly a decade, I consider myself devoted to the Royal Game. I am passionate about Scholastic Chess and Women's Chess. I am running for the SCCF Board because it is important that the growing Asian-American Chess Community has representation in Chess Governance.

Jonney Machtig

I have spent my life over the past 9 years bringing the community of chess closer together. I hope with another year on the SCCF board I will be able to add new people to the world of chess and continue to grow the clubs and leagues of Southern California.

Sean J. Manross

Beyond serving as President of SCCF, a member of the US Chess Clubs & Outreach Committees, and a member of the FIDE Commission for the Disabled, I remain an everyday tournament director, coach, player and passionate devotee of chess. Bear the Chess Husky and I warmly ask for your vote.

Jennifer Vallens

My name is Jennifer Vallens. I am a chessmom living in Conejo Valley. I have been active in the chess community for several years. I am eager to bring my experience running tournaments, organizing, marketing and promoting chess to the SCCF board and further develop chess in Southern California.

----------**DETACH HERE**----------

BALLOT

Vote for no more than six. **Write-ins**

_____ Chuck Ensey _____

_____ Abhishek Kylasa _____

_____ Ashley Li _____

_____ Jonney Machtig _____

_____ Sean J. Manross _____

_____ Jennifer Vallens _____

Indigenous Human Rights Pt. 2

By Sean J Manross & Bear the Chess Husky

While all governance officials will be experienced in the art of rhetorically arguing for the ideas behind frequently used terms, such as "inclusion" and "empowerment," few will live and fight for these archetypal needs on a daily basis with the same passion and dedication as chess coach and national chess governance official, Augustine Valverde.

In the fashion of history's finest behind-the-scenes leaders, Augustine Valverde is one of the most underappreciated chess professionals in our sport, today, and is a leader of the national effort to support indigenous human rights through chess. Indeed, Augustine is anything but your typical chess coach. Serving as a US Chess Delegate from the Great State Affiliate of Texas Chess Association and as a member of the US Chess Clubs Committee, Augustine is a noted national advisor of chess clubs and locally leverages his expertise for his beloved Tigua tribe of the isolated southwest deserts in New Mexico and West Texas.

Under the visionary leadership of Cacique (Chief) Jose Sierra Sr., the Tigua tribe originally worked with Augustine in his capacity as a financial literacy and educational instructor with AmeriCorps. Yet, during the earliest stages of his nearly-decade long relationship with the Tigua, Augustine detected the natural signs that these brilliant and hardworking tribal children were ideal candidates for a professionally-administered educational chess program. Indeed, virtually all Native Americans – and especially the Tigua – can be said to have a legitimate legal claim to the national status of a chess-like "chequered board nation," in which vast swaths of their connected acreage were strategically broken up at the hands of 19th century expansionists… which, retrospectively, is in clear violation of today's established international law. To quote

US Chess Clubs Committee Member Augustine Valverde displays the US Chess Rulebook

Dr. S. James Anaya, one of the world's leading scholars in indigenous human rights legal theory:

"The most prominent articulation of the rights of indigenous peoples within the contemporary international human rights framework can be found in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly, in 2007…the Declaration affirms the collective rights of indigenous peoples in relation to culture, development, education, social services and traditional territories; and it mandates respect for indigenous-State historical treaties and modern compacts." -Dr. S. James Anaya*

The Tigua tribe is an example of why this legal precedent is so relevant, today: with a patchwork of territories ranging from across West Texas to the Sandia & Isleta Pueblos in New Mexico, the Tigua leadership is

**Publisher's Footnote: Dr. Steven James Anaya is the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (May 2008-May 2014) and currently serves as the 16th Dean of the University of Colorado Boulder Law School. Dr. Anaya has held the prestigious post of Regents' Professor and James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona. Quote from "Study on the International Law and Policy Relating to the Situation of the Native Hawaiian People," S. James Anaya & Robert A. Williams, Jr., June 2015.*

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A young Tigua boy is working hard toward chess mastery

engaged in an important struggle to reassert their rightful claim to traditional lands, fighting to protect & preserve their culture and especially their Tanoan-Southern Tiwa language. It turns out, with a sophisticated approach, chess is ideal for the job.

For example, *Rank & File* asked Augustine what drives his deep passion for leveraging chess for the expansion of indigenous human rights, to which he explained, "Chess is one more essential tool for providing tribal children with equal opportunities for a successful future in America. At the most overarching and esoteric level, we leverage chess to protect the historic, tribal culture, as a whole - particularly through linguistics. The traditional language has been somewhat lost to the tribe, but thanks to the vigorous efforts of tribal leadership, there has recently been a renaissance and we are once again teaching the tribal youth how to speak the language. Indeed, as the children have been learning the Tanoan-Southern Tiwa language, we have witnessed a phenomenal correlation between the students playing chess and learning the language, with exponential efficiency. We believe this is due to the pneumonic device-predicated nature of Chess, which helps the children to remember native words while simultaneously mastering our multi-cultural chess terminology. An excellent example is the chess King being called "Cacique" – our native word for "Chief." The tribe's cultural connection to chess doesn't end there: we're working with a linguistics professional to see if we can develop more tribal words to enhance the chess lessons for the students. Beyond that, at a more individual and interpersonal level, just like mainstream American culture, we use chess as a powerful tool to help prevent at-risk youth from getting into drugs, alcohol and tobacco…rather, helping them focus on mastering the arts of critical and analytical thinking through our sport. "

In fact, the closer one examines the relationship between indigenous human rights and the Royal Game – especially the link between the future of tribal youth and empowerment through chess - the more one becomes convinced that the two seem inextricably linked.

Going beyond Augustine's excellent points, one might observe that the original, historic impetus for the illegal and virtually genocidal practices of Manifest Destiny – perhaps, best signified by the infamous Trail of Tears, under former General and then-President Andrew Jackson – was a ubiquitous fear of the mastery of warfare displayed by those disparaged as 'savage.' The defamation betrays an acknowledgement of the dominance in strategy & tactics which virtually all Native Americans had acquired as part-and-parcel of a link to the American landscape. This same inherent and natural understanding of such planning and combinational operations of warfare for which native, sovereign nations were dreaded and nearly eradicated is representative of the very skills which virtually every chess master lauds as the intellectual foundation of their success in the Royal Game. In other words, the Native Americans – as much as or more-so than any other Americans – are most likely to be 'natural' chess players, indeed.

The Tigua tribe, however, has inevitably found itself faced with the same difficulties experienced by other scholastic chess clubs, exasperated by their rural isolation. Augustine reports to *Rank & File* that, "The Tigua work with our tribal youth students in the lower-to-upper elementary Kinder-6th Grade; to serve them, we have a total of five classes, with a total of 82 children. To expedite a comfortable and enjoyable social environment, we work in age-group classes: 5 year olds, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 and a 12-and-up class. Beyond this, I am extremely proud of our extensive effort to ensure that our tribe is always a leader in gender inclusion: our chess club has 38 boys… but they find themselves outnumbered by 44 super-smart girls." In fact, compared to the US Chess national average, the Tigua tribe's gender-inclusivity success under Augustine's stewardship is simply extraordinary. The entire US Chess Federation has been focused on

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equalizing the participation of men & women in chess, for nearly a decade…and those efforts have only moved the needle from 11% of members being female to 14%!

Despite the stellar administration of the Tiguan chess program, their tight-knit tribe faces the same resources-challenges which plague virtually every other scholastic program: except, in the isolated regions of the Mojave and Chihuahua Deserts, these facts of life are dramatically exasperated. Augustine makes do with what he has, explaining:

"We do enjoy support from a few, selfless local chess leaders and community sponsors who donate meal-coupons and other small prizes for students in the program. However, we only have enough chess sets to conduct a single, small class or tournament at a time. Thus, if only we could fulfill our dire need of chess sets, we would truly provide empowerment through chess for all our tribal children…they are deserving and will feel the positive impact of support. Moreover, chess clocks are proven to help with social focusing skills, but we only have one clock to share for the entire tribe."

This brings us to the often overlooked – but always essential – element of chess governance, of which Augustine Valverde has been a representative, since 2018. As a US Chess Delegate representing the Great State of Texas, Augustine was a Co-Sponsor of the historic *"Dean of Scholastic Chess Bill"* (National Delegate's Motion 18-07) which recognized the greatest leader and philanthropist in the history of scholastic chess, Dewain Barber. When the *Dean of Scholastic Chess* was informed of the scholastic brain-trust of tribal children in need of chess supplies on the Tiguan Reservation, he immediately ordered his team to execute his vision for a remedy (which is currently 'in the works'): and that will be the focus of the upcoming installment in the *Chess for Indigenous Human Rights* series, within the Autumn-Winter 2019 *Rank & File* saying:

"I'm honored to work with the Tigua Nation as we strive to improve the lives of all our children, including our at-risk youth. Unfortunately, a lot of students have parents incarcerated in prisons or that come broken homes. This is even more challenging when combined with autism…but we patiently work with every one of our youth. Chess has been the key support, helping even the most disadvantaged student to look forward to success as opposed to accepting social marginalization. One story is particularly dear

A Tigua girl gets ready to play her move

to me: I once gave a chess board to a student. Replacing it was a tough expense to absorb at the time…but I just knew I needed to get her this chess board. The following week, she said to me that she got to play chess with her dad, but her emotions seemed to be too momentous to represent a simple chess game. So, I inquired what was so special about this chess game. I tried-and-failed to hold back a tear as the little girl relayed how she played the chess game over the phone with her 'Daddy,' because it gave her a chance to see him from prison. But where he was at the moment didn't matter because her Daddy was so proud of her; and…he told her to keep playing, because she was so smart and he would make sure they could play again, very soon, no matter what. I'm pretty sure that experience changed the little girl's life...but I'm absolutely positive that it changed mine."

And Augustine's vision doesn't end there…

"Someday, a chess master will come from this tribe."

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The Revolutionary With Funny Hats

Forward to the upcoming Biography of Dean Dewain Barber

By Al Lawrence
Managing Director, US Trust

On a Sunday afternoon in July, delegates from all over the nation representing U.S. Chess, the official governing body of chess in America, stood up to applaud. The ovation was also a unanimous vote, conferring a unique honor. Dewain Barber became the organization's first-ever "Dean of Scholastic Chess." The moment was recognition of a lifetime of commitment backed up by energy and insight. Dewain found a mission early in his life, as a first-year junior high school teacher challenged to find games that taught valuable skills. From that time on, Dewain was an advocate for kids playing chess—because the game was good for kids. Dewain's student and protégé Steven Burroughs sums up our complicatedly gifted man this way:

"Dewain values kids learning chess and having opportunities in life over anything else. If I can describe Dewain in one word, it's 'selfless.'"

Those who've seen Dewain in the classroom with a bucket on his head playing blindfold chess or on the podium with his array of goofy hats and comic expressions recognize him as someone who shares the humility of those born to inspire.

Those who know Dewain away from the workings of organized chess in America may be surprised when I recognize him as a "revolutionary." But that's exactly what he is. He was a key mutineer in seizing the helm and correcting the sea course of the slow-to-steer tanker of American chess tradition that for the past 150 years had made its rules and organized its events exclusively for adults. Through his personal spyglass, Barber saw a better destination.

The current chess boom of interest and talent owes him a captain's hat as well as his Dean's title.

Dean Barber displays the genenerous awards he gives to kids

Dewain Barber is a generous philanthropist. His significant funding through the US Chess Trust provides scholarships and other life-changing opportunities for kids. But he's even more. He is an award-winning history teacher, a successful entrepreneur, an unrelenting advocate for kids, a meticulous planner, a vaudevillian showman, and a shrewd judge of character and abilities. And to the many who see his devotion to others as a life to emulate, he is a beloved mentor.

Like all biographies of such men and women, this upcoming book gives you a glimpse into a life that may charm—and should inspire.

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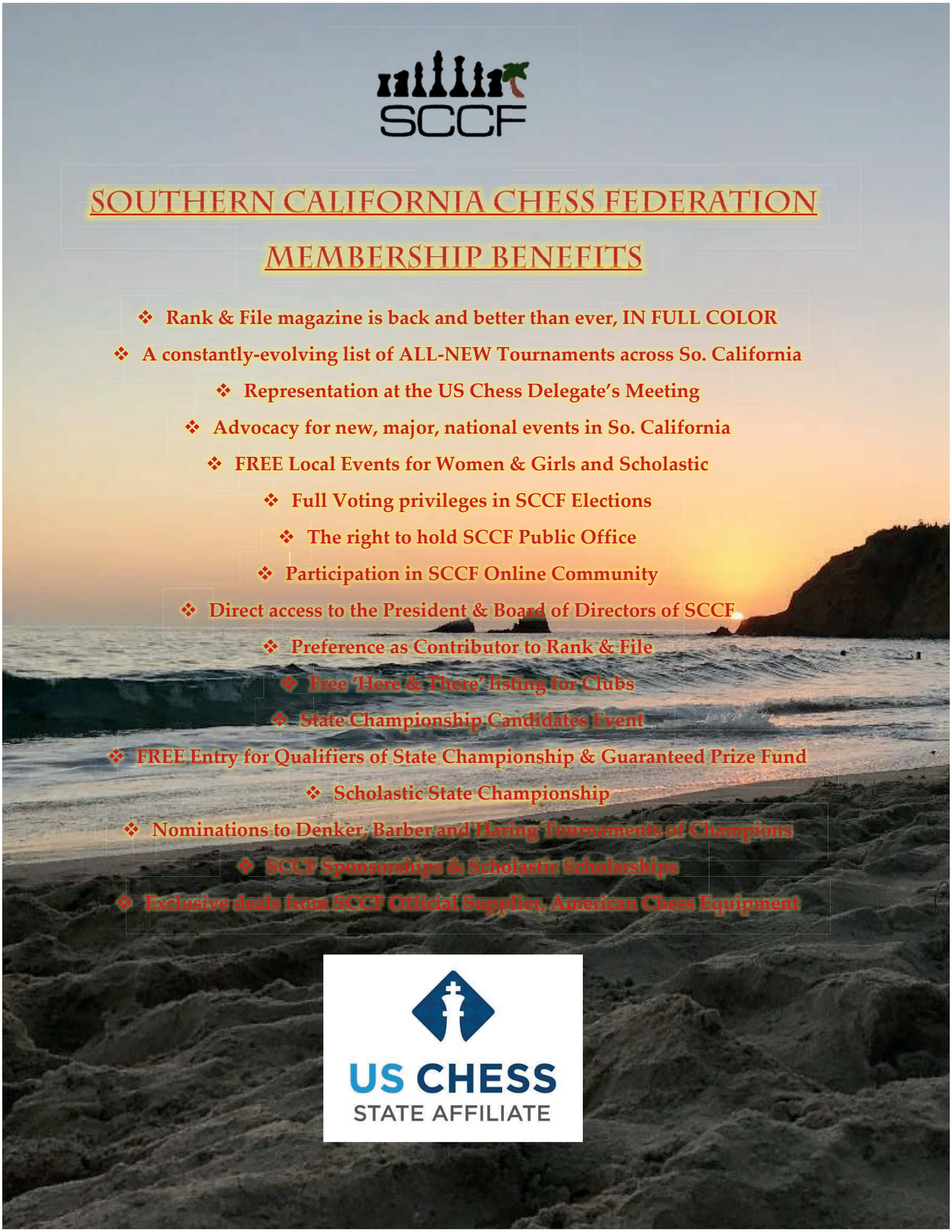
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San Diego Surfers

All-Scholastic Surfers in the Summer Pro Series

By IM Keaton Kiewra

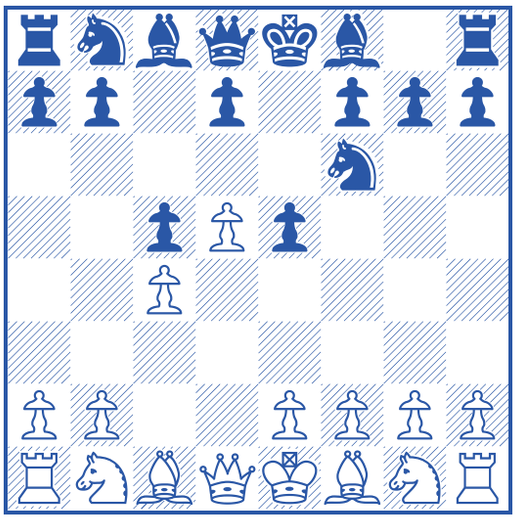
When the San Diego Surfers were first invited to join the PRO Chess League Summer Series, my initial reaction was to decline. I was planning a summer that would be one of the busiest on record, and would have little to no time to manage a team.

The same was true for most of our core players from seasons past who had scheduled a gauntlet of tournaments this summer. International Master Craig Hilby and International Master Joshua Sheng are both playing the U.S. Junior Closed Championship for the first time, please wish them luck! Fortunately, before I declined our team's invitation, an idea came to me: We have many strong and hungry young players on this Surfers team who haven't seen much playing time in the PCL and this could be a wonderful opportunity for them to get their shot. So, we decided to create an all-high school San Diego Surfers team: National Masters Robert Shlyakhtenko, Derek Wu (free agent), and Gabriel Sam, led by FIDE Master Alexander Costello. These young talents got to use the Summer Series as an opportunity to play against elite competition and gain valuable experience for the next PCL season as well as their overall chess careers. On paper they were over-matched - playing against veteran Grandmasters, such as Varuzhan Akobian and Danel Naroditsky - but our scholastic-Surfers held their own… giving these top GMs all they could handle and scoring several wins against their non-GM opponents.

While you wait for our stars NM Robert Shlyakhtenko and NM Gabriel Sam to display their dominance in the upcoming California State Championship, this July 11-14, 2019, here is a spectacular Summer Series Week 7 game with Robert's own annotations to help you get inside the brilliant mind of California's favorite Professional Rapid Online prodigy:

CM Zheng Di (FIDE 2026 – China) -
NM Robert Shlyakhtenko (FIDE 2196/USCF 2381)
June 15, 2019 – PRO Chess League Summer Series
Annotations by National Master Robert Shlyakhtenko

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5



The Czech Benoni, a seemingly passive opening, which, however, can lead to immensely fascinating positions. (Editors Note: For example, after the ill-advised en-passant capture, 4.dxe6? Black can establish a comfortable advantage with 4…fxe6, followed by …Be7 & …d5)

4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Nbd7 6.Be3 Unusual, but not bad.

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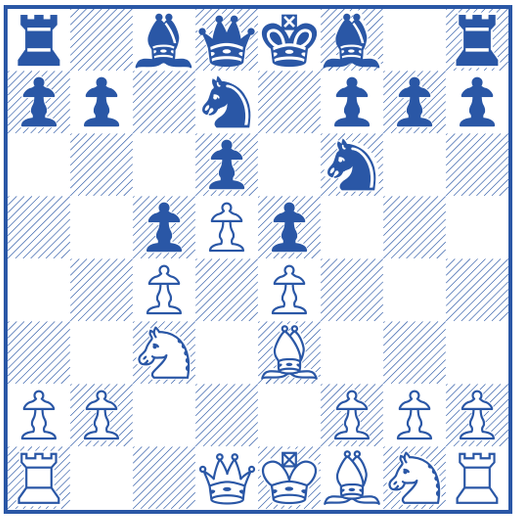
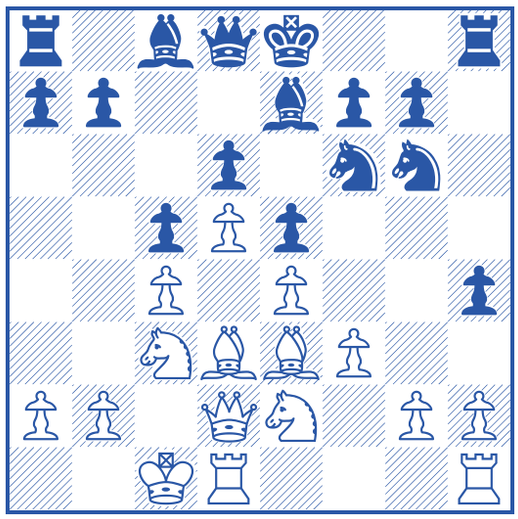


6…Be7 After some thought, I decided upon the standard development of the dark-squared Bishop. Perhaps, on 6…g6 White would have played 7.Be2 followed by an eventual h4. However, this line was also perfectly playable for Black, e.g., 7…a6 8.h4 h5 9.f3 Bh6!? Indeed, a similar maneuver was seen in the classic game Donner – Larsen, Hoogovens 1961, where Black used two tempi to develop the dark-squared Bishop, but White's Knight was already on f3, thereby inhibiting an f2-f4 break.

7.Bd3 Nf8 A standard maneuver; Black brings his Knight to g6 and then follows up with a well-timed h5-h4 thrust. **8.f3** 8.g3!? was an interesting idea, as 8…Ng6 9.h4! would unpleasantly restrict Black's Knight. **8…Ng6 9.Nge2 h5**. A typical space-gaining pawn march on the kingside. **10.Qd2** Another likely line was 10.h4 Nxh4!? (the positions after 10…a6 11.g3 are not that great for Black, since both of his Knights are poorly positioned; alas, activity prevails) 11.Rxh4 Ng4 12.Rxg4 hxg4 13.Kd2 gxf3 14.gxf3 Bg5 15.Qg1 Bxe3+ 16.Qxe3 Qf6+ and the position is equal.

10…h4 11.0-0-0



An ambitious plan, inviting opposite-side attacks. Here it should be mentioned that the h4-pawn does an excellent job of restricting White's kingside chances; if it were on h7, for instance, White would have better chances for a kingside storm with g2-g4 and h2-h4

(Editor's Note: For two excellent examples of this plan, consult your Modern Chess Openings on the Sicilian Dragon – Yugoslav Attack and the King's Indian Defense – Sämisch Variation).

Meanwhile, Black will seek counterplay on the queenside with the pawn sacrifice b7-b5. **11…Bd7 12.g4?**! Better was 12.g3 a6 13.Rdg1 b5. **12…Nh7** Preparing the favorable trade of dark-squared Bishops with …Bg5. **13.Kb1 Bg5 14.f4 Nxf4?!** Stronger was 14…exf4 15.Nxf4 Ne5 where the Black Knight finds a splendid outpost on e5. **15.Nxf4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Bxf4 17.Qxf4 Qf6 18.Qd2 0-0?**

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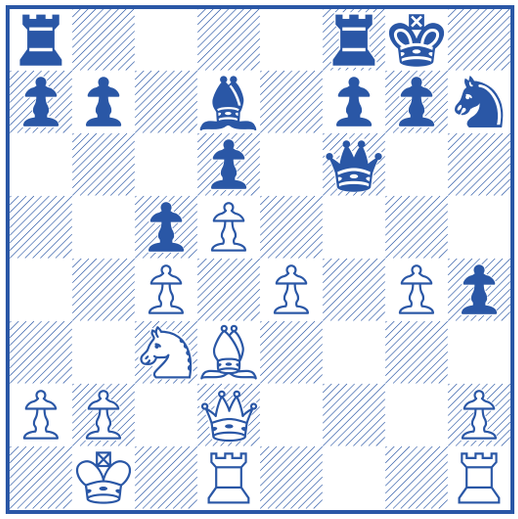
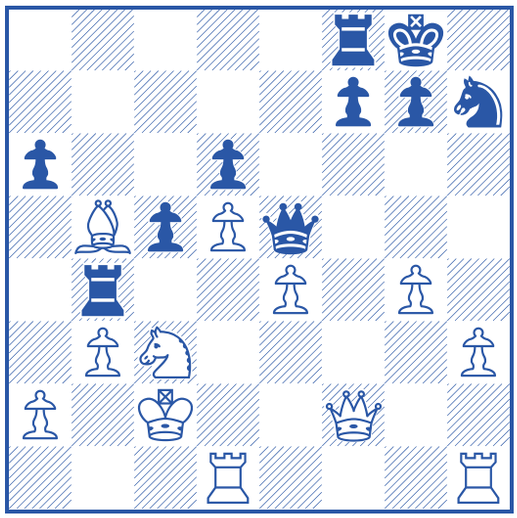
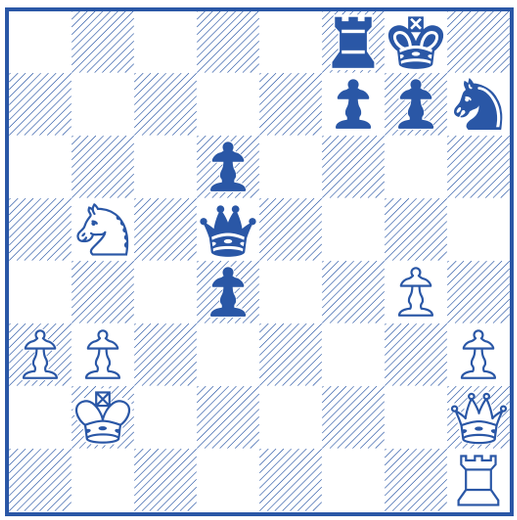


After f3-f4, castling kingside is very dangerous for Black due to e4-e5 ideas; it seems I should have switched to positional measures and played 18…Qe5! 19.h3 Ng5 20.Rdf1 0-0-0 =/+, with a kingside bind. (Editor's Note: While the common stereotype of scholastic chess players is a picture of a child at a computer memorizing only tactics, note that our local teenage-master is consistently operating at a level of overarching, strategic thought, which would surely have made Aron Nimzowitsch proud!) **19.h3** As it turns out, 19.e5! was very strong; 19…Qxe5 (not 19…dxe5 20.Rhf1 Qh6 21.Qxh6 gxh6 22.Bxh7 Kxh7 23.Ne4 with a winning ending for White) 20.Rhe1 Qf6 21.Ne4 Qd8 22.Qf4 would give at least a middle game edge for White. **19…Qg5 20.Qh2 Qe5 21.Qf2** 21.Qxe5 does not trouble Black as after 21…dxe5 he simply brings his Knight to the ideal blockading square with Ng5-f6-Nf7-Nd6, from where it pressures the c4 & e4 pawns. **21…a6?!** The slightly counterintuitive 21…g5!! was the best choice; it's not easy for White to exploit the weakening of the f5-square, whereas it is easy for Black to initiate play on the dark-squares. For example, 22.Rdf1 f6! With the idea of Rf7-Nf8-Ng6, followed by 23.Ne2 (23.Nd1 is too slow: 23…a6! 24.Ne3 b5) 23…Rf7 24.Ng1 Nf8 25.Nf3 Qe7 26.Qe3 Ng6 27.e5!? Otherwise, White is just worse; both of Black's minor pieces are much better than their respective counterparts. 27…Nxe5 28.Nxe5 Qxe5 29.Qf3 and, alas, White has some counterplay, but, objectively speaking, Black should be on top and I was happy with the line. **22.Qxh4 b5 23.Qf2** 23.Qh5? would be hoping for a deferred Queen trade but would be met by 23…Ng5! 24.h4 Nf3 25.Qxe5 (not 25.g5?? Nd4! where Black has achieved the dream-square for his Knight in the Czech-Benoni and is clearly superior) 25…Nxe5 26.cxb5 Bxg4 27. Rd2 f5! 28.bxa6 (28.exf5 Nxd3 29.Rxd3 Bxf5) 28…f4=/+ **23…bxc4 24. Bxc4 Rab8 25.Kc2 Rb4 26.b3 Bb5? 27.Bxb5?**



As it turns out, 27.a3 was very strong, since 27…Bxc4 (not 27…Rxc4 28.bxc4 Bxc4 where Black does not have nearly enough compensation for the exchange) 28.axb4 cxb4 loses to 29.Qd4! **27... axb5 28.a3?** White should have now tried to trade Queens, either with 28.Qh2 or with 28.Qf5 **28…Rd4 29.Qh2 Qe7 30.Rxd4 cxd4 31.Nxb5 Qxe4+ 32.Kb2** White's King is exposed, but due to the limited material, things are still tenable for White. **32…Qxd5?!**



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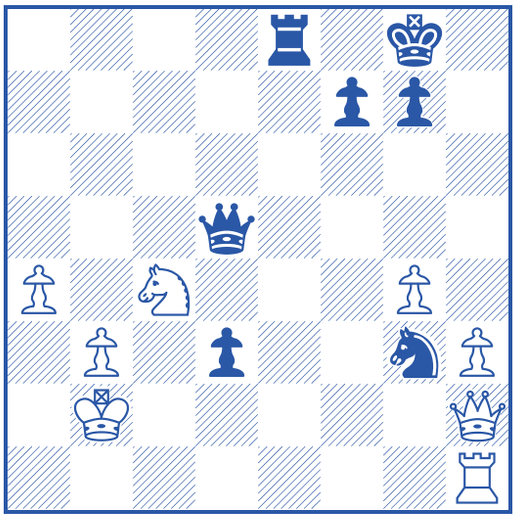
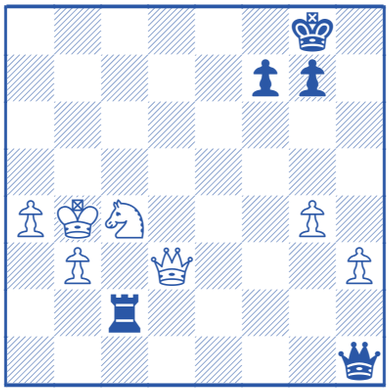
32…d3 was more accurate; the d5-pawn isn't going anywhere. If **33.Nxd6?** then 33…Qf3 is very strong. 33.Nxd6 33.a4! Ng5 34.Rd1 Ne6 35.Qc2+/= **33…d3 34.Nc4?** A terrible mistake, which brought Black easy victory. 34.Rd1 was the only move: 34…Rd8 35.Nc4 Nf6 36.Qf4 and White is holding up. **34…Re8** Now the Rook has access to the e-file; the immediate threat of …Re2+ is surprisingly difficult to meet. **35.Kc3 Ng5 36.a4 Ne4+ 37.Kb2 Ng3??**

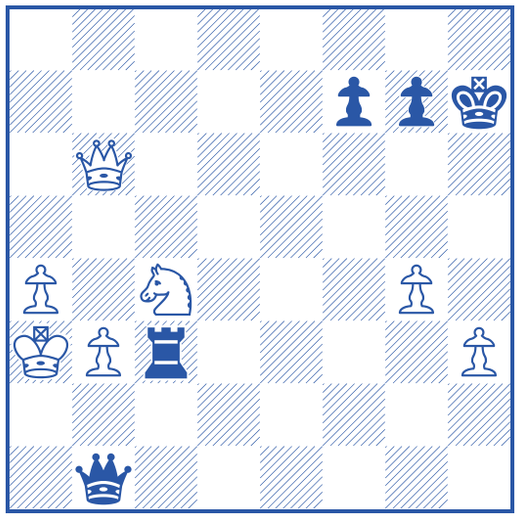


A huge blunder of my own, which throws away the majority of Black's advantage. 37…Qd4+ 38.Ka3 Qc5+ 39.Kb2 Qb4 is simply winning for Black, with the continuation tactic of a well-timed …Nc5. **38.Qxg3 Re2+ 39.Kc3!** This is what I missed: the King finds a de-facto safe haven on b4. **39…Rc2+?** 39…Qxh1 was still good for Black: **40.Kxd3** (or 40.Qxd3 Qe1+ 41.Kd4 Re8!) **40…Rh2! 40. Kb4 Qxh1 41.Qxd3**

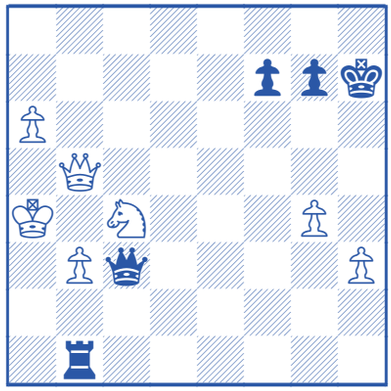


Black has lost the d3-pawn…and with it, the win. There remained only one factor: my opponent has less than a minute left and was basically playing on increment…I had five-times that.

41…Qe1+ 42.Ka3 Rc3 43.Qd8+ Kh7 44.Qb6? Qb1?



44...Qc1+ was once again winning for Black: 45.Kb4 Qc2 46.Ka3 Rd3! threatening …Qxc4 47.Qb5 Qc1+ 48.Kb4 (or 48.Ka2 Rf3!) 48…Qc3+ 49.Kc5 Rd8! and White's King finds itself decisively exposed. **45.a5 Qc1+ 46.Kb4 Qc2 47.Ka3 Qd3 48.Ka4 Rc1 49.a6 Ra1+ 50.Kb4 Rb1 51.Ka4 Qc3 52.Qb5??**



The last blunder, due to time pressure, no doubt. After 52.Qb4 Ra1+ 53.Kb5 Qxb4+ Kxb4 Rxa6 55.Kc5 it's still a draw. **52…Ra1+ 53.Na3 Qd4+ 54.Qc4 Qd7+ 55.Qb5** or 55.Kb4 Qd6+ 56.Qc5 Qxc5+ 57.Kxc5 Rxa3 55… **Rxa3+ 56.Kxa3 Qxb5 1-0**

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Scholastic Champion

By Sean J Manross & Bear the Chess Husky
Annotations by Artem Kiryukhin

For decades, the Southern California Chess Federation has prided itself on fostering scholastic chess champions through hosting prestigious, annual tournaments which draw the finest minds among our state's youth. In every generation there exists a handful of ubiquitous chess prodigies – the stereotype introvert…brilliant, silent, and gifted. Yet, these select individuals lack a certain 'X-factor' which is an intrinsic part of the rare scholastic chess player who defines his or her generation. It is that unspoken charisma, a devotion not just to the game of chess but to one's fellow chess players, which causes a prodigy to become a Champion. To the Champion, the final round of a clinched event feels the same as the first round; to the Champion, the tournament isn't just about hoisting a trophy…it is about the duty to lead one's peers as a bastion of success in one of the finest intellectual endeavors yet devised by our species.

Of all the scholastic chess tournaments which inspire such deep feelings of passion for the Royal Game, perhaps, none equal the Memorial Day Classic, hosted by the Southern California Chess Federation. In 1980, the Memorial Day Classic was first organized by the legendary chess matriarch, Lina Grumette (1908-1988). Through her Hollywood-based "Chess Set Educational Trust & Chess Club" she was the adoptive mother to many a Southern California chess master and she became the first chess governance official to enjoy major success in generating outside sponsorship for the game of chess (mostly through Chevron). Our former de-facto President of the Southern California Chess Federation, the late-great John Hilary, wrote in the July-August 2005 issue of *Rank & File*, "Lina gained world-wide fame at the first Fischer-Spassky match in 1972. When Fischer forfeited the second game of the match, most fans expected him to quit. Lina, who had known Fischer since he was a teenager, talked to him privately for several hours. Somehow she persuaded him to play, and he went on to become World Champion. (Lina's own account of their conversation: "But I'm right," Fischer said. "So be right -- and be ruined!" Lina replied.) Lina Grumette died in 1988. She is greatly missed by all those who knew her."

Trophies abound for champion Artem & his mother Helen Kiryukhina

Lina didn't stop with Bobby Fischer: the "Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic" is the tournament which, to this day, magnetizes chess players of all levels, from around California and beyond. In fact, ten years ago, yours truly – Sean J. Manross, current President of the Southern California Chess Federation – was the beneficiary of her legacy. Indeed, in the Memorial Day Classic Scholastic of 2009, the author of this very story won the championship section with an undisputed 5-0, clinching the title of Memorial Day Classic Scholastic Champion in the penultimate, fourth round. At the time, a scholastic chess player of only 17 years old, the gravity of this achievement did not truly sink in: the Southern

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California Chess Federation was simply my governing state affiliate and this event was a perennial stop on my annual So-Cal chess tournament circuit grind. Indeed, my love for the SCCF was already a deep & unquestioned part of my being…the kind of feeling such a youth inevitably takes for granted. In 2019, as an older, fatter version of the scholastic player (now coach) stood in awe, his student repeated the feat.

This brings us to Artem Kiryukhin's dominant performance in the 2019 Memorial Day Classic Scholastic – with his own 5-0 undisputed victory, clinched in the fourth round – which is symbolic of his spectacular Southern California-based scholastic chess career, to date. Yet, the magnitude of this most recent success runs the risk of overshadowing the quintessential nature of his journey through the ranks of our sport's highly-competitive scholastic sphere: Artem's story starts just like that of many other scholastic chess players.

Indeed, like Paul Morphy – who famously learned the game of chess at the age of seven simply by watching his father, Alonzo, and uncle, Ernest, casually-contest the Ivory & Ebony – Artem, at the tender age of six, learned chess by watching his brother play against his father, Pavel. Before leaving their native Russia to become American citizens, the Kiryukhins wisely determined to encourage Artem to focus on being a well-rounded intellectual. As Artem explained in an interview with *Rank & File*, "For about a year chess was my main passion, I played with my Dad, watched chess videos, and read chess books. I got fairly good, pretty quickly, but my rapid growth stopped at around the second year of school because of time constraints. I know that most people don't think that second graders are overloaded with homework, but that is the case in Russia, especially since I had to learn English on the side because my parents knew that they wanted to move to America or Australia."

Artem quickly assimilated into life in America and, from the onset, was extremely successful in school. As all brilliant children easily tend to find time to spare, it did not take long for his passion for the Royal Game to rekindle; by ten years old, he was back to scholastic chess. Like all Southern California juniors, it was virtually inevitable that the young Artem would come into direct contact with Dewain Barber, the Dean of Scholastic Chess. Indeed, Artem would achieve his life changing, first major championship victory, in 2015, at the Dean's famous tournament of four-and-a-half decades - the Staser Scholastic - held annually in November, in Orange County. Virtually every great champion of chess was launched upon their meteoric rise by a single, memorable event…and for Artem (as for so many other Southern California scholastic chess champions, including yours-truly!), the Dean's Staser Scholastic was just that event. Artem recalled from that fateful event, "I clutched my last game, which was heading for the worst, and finished the tournament with a perfect score of four-out-of-four. The competition was tough with less than 10 rating points separating the three highest rated players, I was seeded second. A week after the tournament's ending I received a Congressional Certificate of Recognition from the ex-Representative Mimi Walters. To this day I keep this document, appreciating how extraordinary it is."

The influence of the Dean of Scholastic Chess made a monumental, enduring impact upon the young man which is essential to any lifelong dedication to the pursuit of mastery of the sport of chess. This impact is

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Left to Right: President Manross, Artem Kiryukhin, and Vice President Dylan Quercia with the champion's trophy

easily recognizable in any young chess champion: Artem stopped thinking of himself as a person who happens to play chess; Artem even stopped thinking of himself as a simple chess player. In the wake of the Staser Scholastic, the competitive spirit inside Artem utterly transcended from casual chess enthusiast to the status of a full-blown scholastic chess champion. Some may give the credit solely to Artem, others to his brilliant and loving parents or dedicated coaches along the way. And yet others-still may point to the distinct and unmissable stamps of the Dean of Scholastic Chess & Lina Grumette. What is undeniable is the mark of the clear development of a sort of confident, committed, prodigious-professionalism which demarcates the young minds who will go on to change the world through their successes.

In short order, that very spirit of tenacious perfectionism led Artem to dominate a string of scholastic chess events on the nationally-acclaimed Southern California scholastic chess circuit. Four months after the Staser Scholastic, Artem won the Hanley Chess Academy's American Stars Scholastic Championship, in April 2016, following this up with success at the 2016 West Coast Championship, enjoying a dominant undisputed victory with five out of five. In-and-of-itself winning undisputed is a remarkable achievement…but what makes this performance stand out as a watershed moment is that Artem defeated his next five successors as tournament champion, with a stellar one-and-a-half margin in front of second place. Artem continued his streak at the 2017 American Youth Championship, tying for first place. This was the type of defining tournament in which a true champion is forced to overcome adversity and prove to his or herself that only victory is acceptable: as any 'great' experiences, Artem was forced to recover from a game-ending blunder in round two, fighting back to tie first in the event.

Yet, any true Southern California scholastic chess champion will testify that it isn't just stringing together tournament victories which defines their archetype: it is a tenacious, dogmatic commitment to absolute success in all fields which the prodigy pursues. Southern California scholastic chess is intertwined with scholastic academe – witness, for example, the Dean of Scholastic Chess, whose Morrison & Staser events have been held at various schools around Orange County, for decades. Ironically, our 2019 Memorial Day Scholastic Champion considers himself to be a "fairly-normal teenager." That said, it seems we can't judge him by his own, perfectionist standards. Artem casually chatted with *Rank & File* about his other qualities, stating "School is the priority, I kept all A's this year and I've qualified for taking all AP and Honors classes next year. My big sport passion is definitely swimming. I am not yet a college level athlete, but on my way to becoming one; my favorite events are the 200 free and the 400 free, and I am in top 20 in Orange County in my best event. I want to follow in my father's footsteps and become a software engineer; unlike many of my peers though, I decided to get a little head start and am currently learning to code. Obviously, I am not hacking secret files from the Pentagon; rather I am making entry-based games and solving eclectic puzzles, including some of my Dad's interview questions from Google. In my free-time, I enjoy reading and playing video games. Usually non-fiction is more to my taste in terms of books - history especially - but I do not mind reading a high-quality fiction book series such as Maze Runner or Percy Jackson. Other than my hobbies I work hard to guarantee a better future for myself by constantly learning and seeing how this information could become practical later on in life."

Of course, such a model for the archetypal Southern Californian scholastic chess player inevitably leads to premier universities – it is a fact which the SCCF has prided itself upon for decades. Artem intends to attend

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one of the elite schools in the Golden State and at the center of such important decisions is always the integral chess: "Though, I am still contemplating my decisions about college and profession, currently CalTech and UC Berkeley are my top picks. Just like my father I would love to be in the software engineering field, but am also considering finance because of my deep interest in the subject. Chess has already impacted me on my way of thinking which undoubtedly will influence any career I choose to go into. I have become more logical and analytical through playing chess, learned to articulate my ideas in non-misleading ways, and figured out what type of mistakes I will most likely make during my thought process."

In an in-depth interview, Artem gave *Rank & File* a glimpse inside the development of a distinct style of Californian scholastic chess champion, stating, "When I just started I loved the idea of "sac-attack" and to try to checkmate in an aesthetically pleasing way. As I improved, I realized that this Romantic playstyle often leads to blunders and low quality chess. So I decided to move into more 'safe but still tactically sharp' openings (i.e. the French Defense, and the Dutch & Bird's). Furthermore, I'm always inspired by my favorite master of all time, Grandmaster Garry Kasparov. Kasparov was a magnificent attacker while making reasonable and sane moves in preparations for his plans…unlike the blitzkrieg style of 1960-1961 "Winter" World Champion Mikhail Tal – a chess version of Russian-Roulette - Kasparov's meticulous playstyle really got me interested in chess & its many gambits."

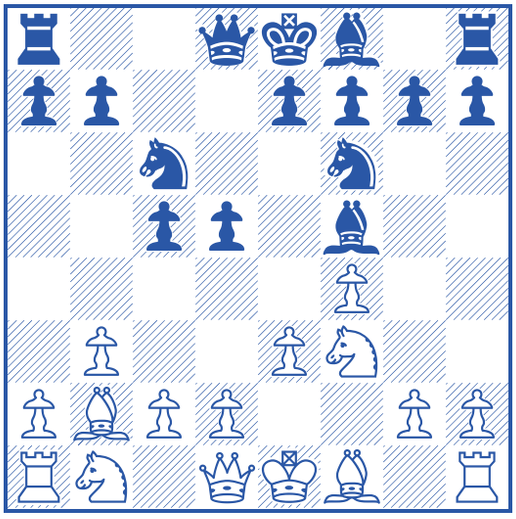
When asked where Artem likes to play most he said, "...generally speaking, the more local it is the better – Southern California is the home of the best chess in the west and I don't need to play anywhere else to get games against the best of my peers and beyond. That said, I tend to do very well when playing in Irvine – especially in events hosted by our Dean of Scholastic Chess, Dewain Barber…"

Without further ado, *Rank & File* is pleased to present Artem's most interesting game of his scholastic chess career, with the Memorial Day Scholastic Champion's own in-depth annotations.

Scholastic Champ Artem is podering his next move deeply

Artem Kiryukhin (1844) - Brian Huang (1972) Bird's Opening – Dutch Variation, Lasker Line

1.f4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 c5 4. b3 Nc6 5. Bb2 Bf5



Black's 5th move is a minor mistake. as **6. Bb5 e6 7. Ne5** Adds pressure on a pinned piece **7…Rc8 8. O-O Bd6 9. d3 a6 10. Bxc6+**

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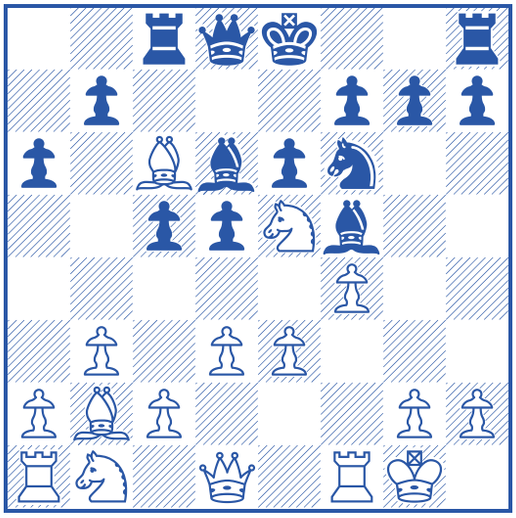
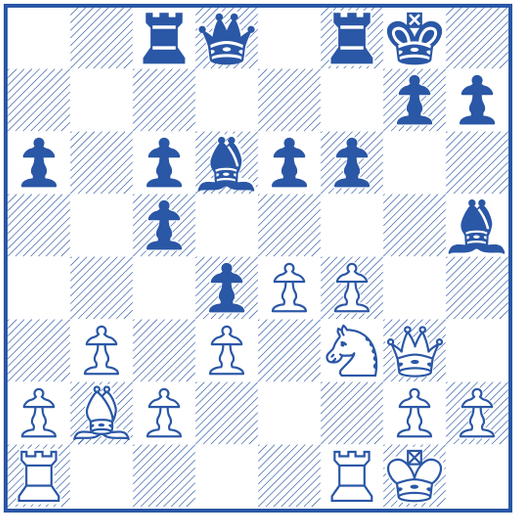
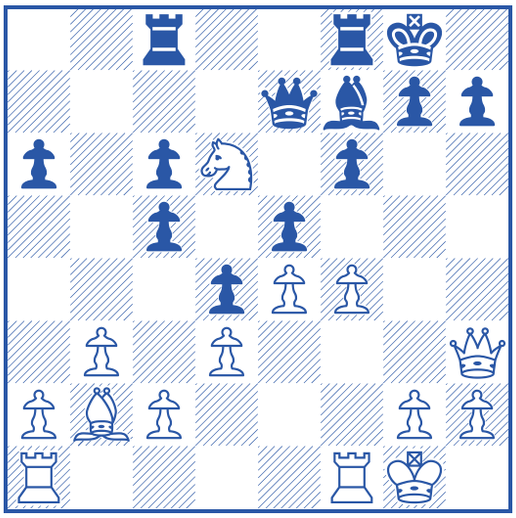


There was an option of taking with the knight viz, 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxa6 Rb8 12. e4! dxe4 13.dxe4 Nxe4 14. Nd2 Bc715. Nxe4 Bxe4 (15...Qxd1 16.Raxd1 Bxe4) and Black ends up with double-isolated pawns, facing white's threatening passed a-pawn.

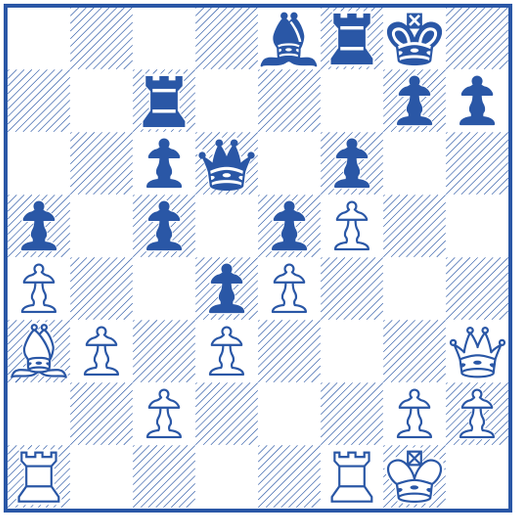
10…bxc6 11. Nd2 O-O 12. Ndf3 Ng4 13. Nxg4 Bxg4 14. Qe1 f6 15. Qg3 Bh5 16.e4 The 16th move has the scent of e5! lurking in the air with potential play against the backwards e pawn **16…d4?**



There are many flaws with this move. For one the double-isolated pawns on the c-file are permanent with no chance of making it back into the game, and a powerful outpost on c4 is freed for the Knight. **17.Qh3 Bf7 18. Nd2** (Editor's Note: 18.e5! Bc7 19.exf6 Qxf6 20.Ng5 h6 21.Ne4 Qf5 22.Qxf5 exf5 23.Nxc5 Rfd8 24.Rae1 Rd5 25.Na4 Rdd8 is best) **18…Qe7 19. Nc4 e5 20. Nxd6**



The knight has no other home on the board and is content to take out the strategically-relevant dark-squared bishop. **20…Qxd6 21.f5** Black's light squared bishop is a prisoner in his own kingdom…with no real escape route he becomes a burden on black's position. **21…Rc7 22. a4** This pawn-maneuver allows the Bishop to march to a3, from where he will be a menace. **22…Be8 23. Ba3 a5?**



This inaccuracy only creates another target for White's dark-squared Bishop that will come back to haunt Black. **24. Kh1** planning g2-g4-g5 with ideas to gain space and perpetuate an attack on the kingside, viz Rg1. **24...g5?** Much too ambitious, but I can't blame black. His position is

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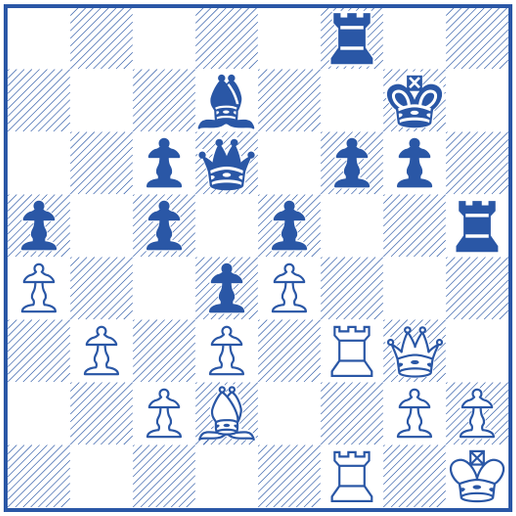
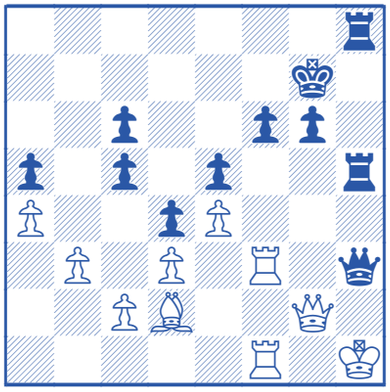
terrible with no plan for any of his pieces: the Rooks have no opening, the Bishop is trapped by white's unbreakable pawn structure, and the Queen is pinned down to the c5 pawn. **25. fxg6 hxg6 26. Rf3 Rh7 27. Qg3 Kg7 28. Raf1 Bd7 29. Bc1 Bd2** is coming and the a5-pawn attack would be a superfluous distraction for the Queen or the Rook from the kingside. **29…Rh5 30. Bd2**

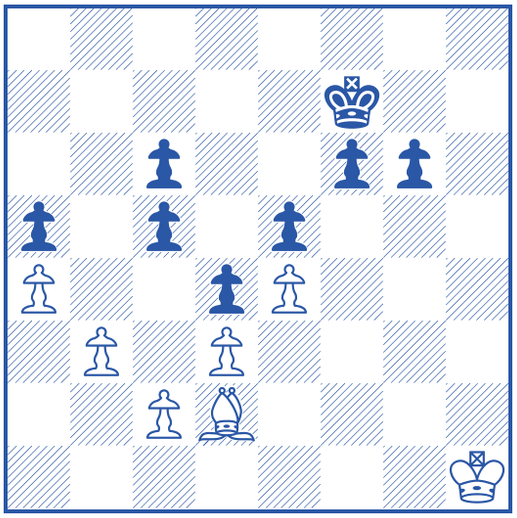


30...Ra8 31. Qf2 We learn from every game we play, even the victories: 31.Rxf6 was a definitively better move, exchanging the mobile Queen for the two Rooks would let the dark-squared Bishop to do as he pleases; the text squanders a dominant initiative for a return to near-equality. **31…Rah8 32. h3 Bxh3?**

This blunder returns the massive edge to White! 32… f5 was the best shot; although Black does end up losing the a-pawn, it's much better than losing a piece. **33.gxh3 Qe6 34.Qg2 Qxh3+?**



The game is lost anyway, but this simplifies too easily. **35.Qxh3 Rxh3+ 36. Rxh3 Rxh3+ 37. Kg2 Rh5 38. Rh1 Rxh1 39. Kxh1** From here, it is a clean and easy victory of technique.



39…Kf7 40.Bxa5 Ke6 41.Bb6 f5 42.a5 Kd7 43.a6 Kc8 44.Bxc5 f4 45.Bd6 f3 46.Bxe5 g5 47.Bg3 g4 48.e5 c5 49.e6 f2 50.Bxf2 g3 51.Bxg3 c4 52.dxc4 d3 53.cxd3 Kd8 54.a7 Ke7 55.a8=Q Kxe6 56.Qd5+ Kf6 57.Bh4+ Kg6 58.Qe5 Kh6 59.Qg5+ Kh7 60.Bg3 Kh8 61.Be5+ Kh7 62.Qg7# 1-0

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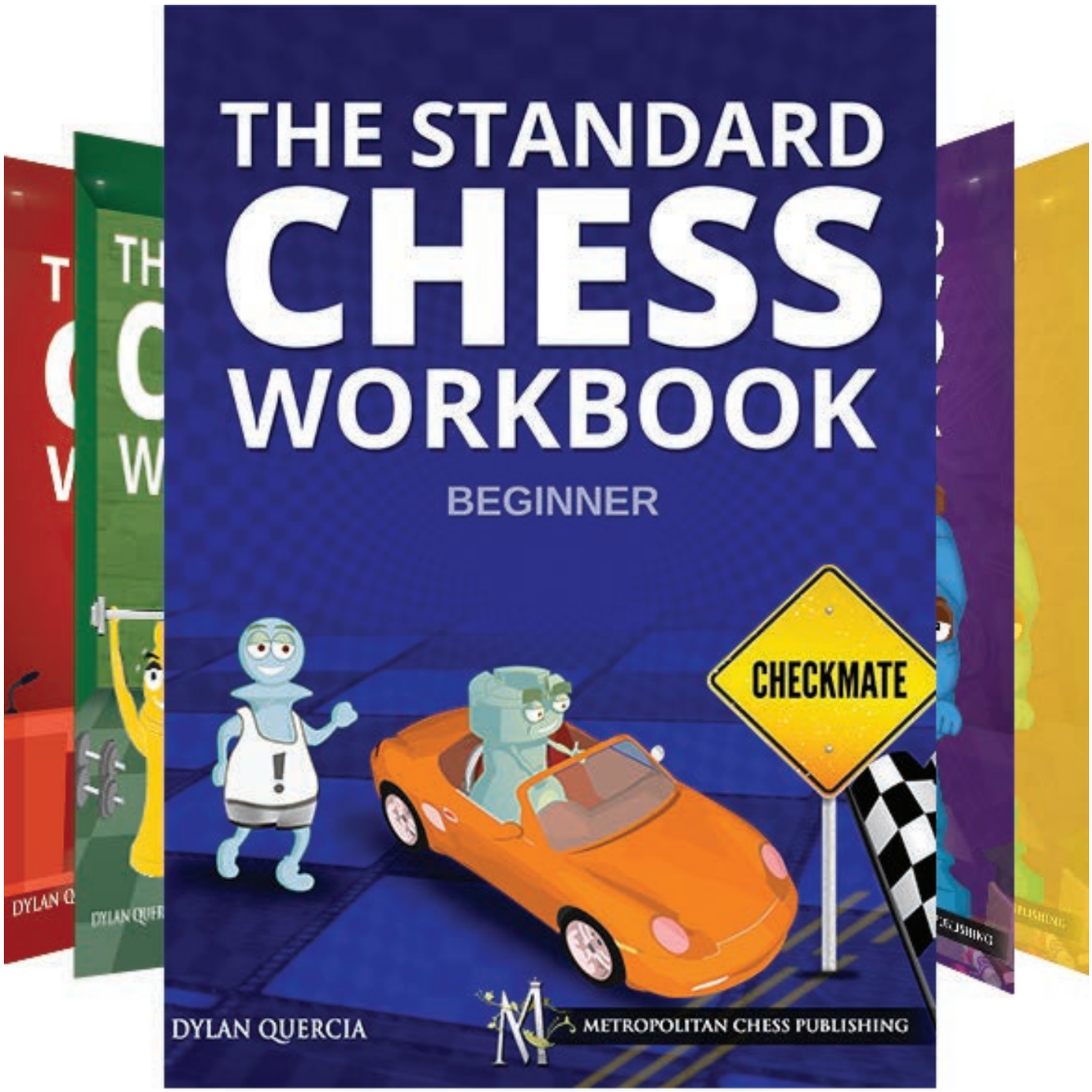

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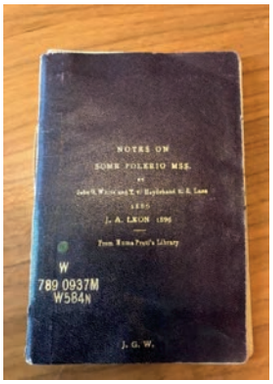
www.metrochessla.com

Ten Chess Geniuses

By Sean J Manross & Bear the Chess Husky

Virtually all chess players have wondered - and often debated - who the Top 10 masters in the history of our sport are. While virtually all chess historians and masters agree that the matter is a totally subjective point, Rank & File offers our own authoritative perspective, given by our official chess historian...Bear the Chess Husky!

10.) Gioachino Greco (c.1600 – 1634?)



Greco - having never lost a game in his life - surely ranks as the hegemon of 17th century chess and among the greatest players of all time. The conundrum is that nearly all of his victories appear to be constructs against the infamously-idiotic, 'Nomen Nescio' (translated from Latin: "I do not know the name")! In reality, Gioachino Greco was probably the nom-de-plume of Giulio Cesare Polero, travel companion to late-16th century world champion, 'Il Petino' and the resident chess master of the Duchy of Sora (aka, Rome).

9.) Harry Nelson Pillsbury (1872 – 1906)

This All-American genius would play simultaneous chess against groups of strong amateurs and masters - all the while, leisurely puffing away at cigars in an executive armchair, with his back to the boards and helpless adversaries! Pillsbury further cemented himself as one of the world's finest chess masters by dominating the Super-Tournament of 1895, held in Hastings, England. To date, it was the strongest tournament in history and enjoyed the participation of nearly the whole of the world's chess elite: reigning world champion, Dr. Emanuel Lasker; ex-world champion, Wilhelm Steinitz and his two-time challenger, Mikhail Chigorin; past and future world title hopefuls, including Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch and Isidor Gunsberg; and the great swashbuckling, blitzkrieg-attackers, Richard Teichmann (who famously quipped, "Chess is 99% tactics") and Joseph Henry 'the Black Death' Blackburne…just to name a few. Unfortunately - at just 33 years-young - he contracted Syphilis, rapidly deteriorated into dismal health and passed away, in 1906.

8.) Jose Raul Capablanca (1888 – 1942)

If every chess player in history sat down to the same IQ test, it is likely that 'the Human Chess Machine' would blow 'em all out of the water. Until the age of computers, the vast majority of chess masters derived their skills from reading chess books and garnering exposure to other strong players (typically, in locales which fostered chess excellence, such as the Café de la Regence, in Paris or the Marshall Chess Club, in New York City). Growing up in Havana, Cuba, Capablanca had access to no such luxuries; yet - through raw intellect – as a boy, he crushed Juan Corzo to become the Cuban national champion, at only 12 years old! Known for his mastery of endgames and 'mating positions he became the 3rd World Chess Champion (1921-1927) and one of the most notable New York City womanizers of the roaring-20s.

7.) François-André Danican Philidor (1726 – 1795)

Studying at John G. White Library, Cleveland, OH

A close friend of Benjamin Franklin's, Philidor was the orchestral composer for the royal court of France and thus, only a hobbyist chess player; yet, he single-handedly defined chess in the 18th century – overshadowing the Modanese Masters, Phillip Stamma, Jacob Saratt and Carlo Cozio. He authored multiple editions of

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the international best-seller, Analyse du jeu des Échecs. Universally recognized as the undisputed champion of the world from 1755, when he defeated his tutor, Sire Kurmer de Legall, to his political exile from France, in 1792 (Napoleon tossed out King Louis XVI and all his men, including the Danicans), Philidor is arguably the longest-reigning world champion in the history of chess, clocking in at just over 37 years.

6.) Dr. Mikhail Botvinnik (1911 – 1995)

It is common knowledge that Russia was the global chess superpower of the 20th century; however, few know that Doc Botvinnik is directly responsible for that hegemony. The USSR had enjoyed a burgeoning chess scene since the 1840's, but was nonetheless highly disorganized…Botvinnik – a math teacher by profession – revolutionized that. During his long tenure as world champion from 1948 – 1963 (with two, isolated interruptions of the 'winter champions', Vasily Smyslov, world champion of '57 and Mikhail Tal, world champion of '60), he presided over the creation of a standardized 'Soviet Chess School' - which would produce such world champion-luminaries as Garry Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov and Vladimir Kramnik.

5.) Garry Kasparov (1963 – Still Kickin')

While many will scoff at the fact that the current world champ, Magnus Carlsen, does not grace this list, it is incredible that Kasparov (who is also still alive and thus, doesn't technically belong) has even made the cut! Enjoying over a decade of domination, Kasparov literally defined chess from the 1980's - early 2000's: once he became world champion, in 1986 and until he retired, in 2005, he was the world's highest rated player, 225 out of 228 months. Kasparov's three, epic world-championship duels with Karpov are the stuff of legend…the only chess match to compare would be the 1972 Match of the Century. Retiring from chess in favor of political ambitions to punt Putin from office was certainly an ill-fated plan; yet, when he goes to bed at night, Kasparov can take solace in the fact that - in all likelihood - he is the greatest strategic counter-attacker to ever play chess.

4.) Dr. Alexander Alekhine (1892 – 1946)

Dr. Alekhine studied the genius of Jose Capablanca and devised a war-of-attrition like method for defeating him, during history's most esoteric world championship match, in 1927. The most of the match was essentially a debate on the theory of the Queen's Gambit – Declined; both players repeating the same opening line, regardless of color during the game. With a mild, but significant margin, Alekhine inched past Capablanca to win the third-longest world championship match in history (behind La Bourdonnais-McDonnell, 1834 and Karpov-Kasparov, 1984) 6-3 with 25 draws. Over the course of the next half-decade, Doc Alekhine became a hapless slosh and lost the 1935 world championship to the amateur and future president of FIDE, Dr. Max Euwe. Alekhine kicked the boozing and came back strong in '37 to take back his throne; after that, only death could defeat him. Alekhine was an outspoken anti-Communist and alleged Nazi sympathizer…his son claims Moscow sought vengeance for that. Whether the cause be devious or accidental - at only 53 years old - Alekhine choked to death on a piece of meat, in his hotel room, in Poland. Dr. Alekhine remains the only person to die while currently the seated world champion.

3.) Robert James "Bobby" Fischer (1943 – 2008)

Bobby Fischer rocketed to stardom and became the most famous chess master of all time by single-handedly slaying the totalitarian, Soviet chess machine, in a David and Goliath themed struggle - the 1972 world chess championship, coined the 'Match of the Century'. In order to reach such heights, he leveraged his photographic memory to teach himself Russian (allowing him to read Russian chess magazines; thus, to use their own ideas against them); then defied his own American government by participating in non-sanctioned activities during the Cold War - ultimately becoming a fugitive; and finally, surrendered his sanity. Indeed, it is said that there is a thin line between genius and insanity… in 1975,

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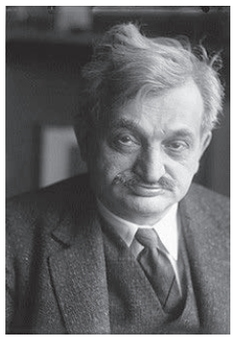
Fischer took a running leap across it. Fischer refused to defend his world championship title and subsequently drifted into obscurity.

2.) Dr. Emanuel Lasker (1868 – 1941)

Known to chess players for reigning as official world champion for 27 years (1894 – 1921) - longer than any other in history – his style was even a mystery to his finest competitors. Capablanca was ultimately able to defeat the aging man…but only after the bored, world-class, mathematician-philosopher was coming to disdain chess, in favor of theoretical physics! Dr. Albert Einstein was a close friend and confidant of Lasker's, commenting on their frequent conversations, "…during which we exchanged our opinions on a great variety of issues. It was a somewhat one-sided exchange, in which I was more the taker than the giver; for it was mostly more natural for this eminently productive person to develop his own thoughts than to adjust to those of someone else." Alas, it takes an 'Einstein' to understand Dr. Lasker!



1.) Paul Morphy (1837-1884)

Paul Morphy is the greatest chess player ever – by a huge margin. Leading up to an abrupt retirement from chess, the childhood-prodigy and New Orleans native utterly dominated all American adversaries before turning 13 and - during his European tour of 1858/59 - crushed every world-class master who dared sit across from the mighty Morphy. Dr. Botvinnik professes, "To this day Morphy is an unsurpassed master of the open games. Just how great was his significance is evident from the fact that after Morphy nothing substantially new has been created in this field."; Dr. Max Euwe further justifies Morphy's place atop this Mt. Olympus of geniuses by asserting that, "If the distinguishing feature of a genius is that he is far ahead compared with his epoch, then Morphy was a chess genius in the complete sense of the word." And yet, it is only just that we allow the great Bobby Fischer to have the last word: "Popularly held theory about Paul Morphy is that if he returned to the chess world today and played our best contemporary players, he would come out the loser. Nothing is further from the truth. In a set match, Morphy would beat anybody alive today..."

Bonus Group: The Most Important Chess Masters in History – Vera Menchik & Susan Polgár

While the ten most powerful chess masters in history can lay claim to the highest degree of competitive mastery of the Royal Game, it is a well-documented fact that these players did NOT face the toughest battles – for those came in the arena of revolutionary chess politics. Nearly all the pioneers of chess would stand in awe of two courageous visionaries who achieved the decisive liberation of chess for fully half our species: Vera Menchik and her ultimate successor, Grandmaster Susan Polgár.

It is true that women had already attained chess mastery, including such 19th-century notables as Nelly Showalter (wife of 5-time US champion Jackson Whipps Showalter) and Napoleon Bonaparte's mistress, the Madame de Remusat Claire Élisabeth Jeanne Gravier de Vergennes, before her. Yet, nothing before had approached "The Menchik Club" – a group of male de-facto Grandmasters, including future-World Champion and FIDE President Grandmaster Max Euwe, who were defeated in Classical Chess by Vera Menchik, in the 1920's-1940's. The first official Women's World Champion would have gone on to even greater heights…but a Nazi bombing raid tragically claimed the her life alongside those of her mother and sister, in 1944. After the war wrapped up, Vera Menchik was succeeded by Lyudmila Rudenko (1950-53), the resilient Elisaveta Bykova (1953-56 & 1958-62), and Olga Rubtsova (1956-58), followed by fellow Georgians Nona Gaprindashvili (1962-78) and Maia Chiburdanidze (1978-1991), as well as Chinese wunderkind Xie Jun, all of whom were awarded the "male" Grandmaster titles by FIDE for becoming Women's World Champion, at a point when the power of female chess players could no longer be ignored. Ultimately, however, it would be Grandmaster Susan Polgár who would truly break the gender barrier of chess by qualifying for the "men's" World Championship cycle, in 1986, and earning the Grandmaster title by rule in open competition, in 1991. Susan Polgár would go on to be Women's World Champion (1996-1999). To learn more about the pioneering life and career of Grandmaster Susan Polgár, stay tuned for the soon-to-be published biography, by yours-truly and Bear the Chess Husky!

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Here & There

Check Out all of the Exciting Events & Clubs in So Cal!

The Treasure Map to Every Southern Californian's "Empowerment through Chess!"

ARCADIA: The Arcadia Chess Club: meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays in the Senior Citizens building, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. Continuous rated tournaments, casual play. Dues: $10/year. Call Mel Clark at (626) 447-9355. Website: www.ArcadiaChessClub.com

ARCADIA: The San Diego Chess Academy meets at 141 E Huntington Dr. #205, Arcadia, CA 91006. For more information call (760) 634-5600.

BAKERSFIELD: The Bakersfield Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Golden State Mall, 3201 F. St. Rated tournaments, and rated games, casual play, blitz, lessons. Dues: $35/year for adults, $25/year for youth. Call Kenneth J. Poole at (661) 304-7468. Website: www.bakersfieldchessclub.com.

BURBANK: A group meets daily from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Joslyn Center, 1301 W. Olive St. (at Griffith Park Drive). Casual play, ages 55 and up only. $25 to become a member of the center; otherwise, $2/day to play Chess. Call (818) 238-5353.

BURBANK: A group meets Fridays from 5:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in McCambridge Park, 1515 N. Glenoaks Blvd. Casual play, tournaments possible. Call Emil Klimach at (818) 845- 1104.

CAMBRIA: The Cambria Chess Club serves the Central Coast off the Highway 1 (nearest club for Ragged Point, CA & Hearst Castle, San Simeon, CA) meeting at Wednesdays from 1:00 - 4:00 PM in the Joy Schmutz Conference Room of the Joslyn Center. The Club is open to players of all levels. You must be a member of the Joslyn Center. Dues of $1.00 are collected at each meeting you attend. The Club Awards trophies annually to the members with highest point standing and best percentage of wins. There is also an annual round robin tournament held at the beginning of each year. **ED Note:** The Cambria Chess Club may be defunct, since 2006… but as isolated as the Central Coast is, SCCF wanted to pass this information along for any coastal chess players.

COLTON: A group meets at 9:00 p.m. Friday nights in a private room at Denny's restaurant, 160 W. Valley Blvd. Casual play, blitz. Call Denny's at (909) 824-2132.

DIAMOND BAR: Wing Chess Academy is located at 1155 S Diamond Bar Blvd, #T, Diamond Bar, CA 91765. For more information call (626) 757-3922.

ESCONDIDO: A group meets noon to 4 p.m. weekdays in the Joslyn Senior Center, 210 Park Ave. Casual play, ages 50 and up. No dues. Call (760) 839-4688.

FRESNO: The Fresno Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to midnight Mondays and Fridays in Carl's Jr. Restaurant (at Cedar & Dakota). Rated tournaments, non-rated quick chess quads, casual play, lectures, chess library, newsletter, new website. More than 200 members! Dues: $20/year, $10/year for students, women, and those who live outside Fresno County. Contact Bob Rasmussen at (559) 708- 8100. Website: www.fresnochessclub.org

GARDEN GROVE: Chess Palace is located at 5246 Lampson Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92845. Open Monday 3:30-6:30; Wednesdays 12 Noon – 9 pm and Fridays, 1:30 – 9 pm; Saturdays 9:30 am – 7 pm and Sundays 8:30 am – 6 pm; Closed Tuesday & Thursday. Wide variety of rated tournaments, Action chess, youth tournaments, scholastic chess camps, blitz, occasional lectures and simuls, large selection of chess books, computers, and equipment for sale, lending library of chess videos, excellent website. Dues: $5/day or Club Membership available. Call the club at (714) 899-3421 or Alfred Ong at (310) 594-3475. Website: www.chesspalace.com.

GLENDALE: The beautiful, public chess park at 227 N. Brand Blvd. is open day and night for free casual play. Speed tournaments, occasional weekend tournaments.

GLENDALE: AAA Chess Club meets at 1300 E Colorado St, Glendale, CA 91205. For more information call (323) 578-0514.

GLENDALE: American Chess Academy meets at 209 N Louise St, Glendale, CA 91206. For more information visit achessacademy.org or call (818) 640-5974

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Here & There

HUNTINGTON BEACH: The Huntington Beach Chess Café meets 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fridays in Café Enchante, 328 11th St. Casual play, free chess lesson from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Website: www.hbchesscafe.com

IRVINE: Hanley Chess Academy - Now 5 locations: Irvine, Cerritos, Placentia, Cypress, and San Jose. We have trained 21 National Champions since opening in 2008. Please contact Joe Hanley at 714-925-3195 or Hanley Chess Academy for group, private, or online private lessons. Website: hanleychessacademy.com.

IRVINE: A group meets at lunch time (11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Fridays at Knowlwood Restaurant, 14952 Sand Canyon Ave. Contact david@zechiel.com.

IRVINE: A group meets 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays at the Rancho Senior Center, 3 Ethel Coplen Way. Casual play, mostly seniors. Free. Call (949) 724-6800.

LA PALMA: La Palma Chess Club is located at 7821 Walker St, La Palma, CA 90623. Meets weekly from 6pm – 11 pm on Friday evenings.

LAGUNA BEACH: People gather to play chess at the permanent chess table on the boardwalk.

LAGUNA HILLS: Academic Chess is open for scholastic chess events (with some adult events) Monday-Friday and select Saturdays. For more information visit www.academicchess.com or email orangecounty@academicchess.com. Call National Master Craig Clawitter at (949) 940-5141 or the office at (949) 348-2892.

LAWNDALE: The Alondra Park Chess Club meets Tuesday evenings in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale. For information visit the Website, www. alondraparkchessclub.com or contact Richard Meller at 310.227.2873 or Richard Meller@yahoo.com.

LONG BEACH: The chess room in Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave., open for casual play noon to 5:30 p.m. Mondays - Fridays and noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Free.

LOS ANGELES: The Los Angeles Chess Club (LACC) meets on the second floor of 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., above Javan restaurant. Variety of tournaments and instruction for children and adults on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesday evenings. Dues: adults $345/year, juniors/seniors $325/year or $10/visit for non-members, first visit free. Call Mick Bighamian at (310) 795-5710 or send a message to Mick@LaChessClub.com. Website: www.lachessclub.com.

LOS ANGELES: The Santa Monica Bay Chess Club meets 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mondays in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 11555 National Blvd. Dues: $60/year, free to women and juniors. Call (310) 827-2789.

LOS ANGELES: Tang's Donuts, 4341 W. Sunset Blvd., welcomes chessplayers for casual play and speed chess, especially late at night.

MONTEREY PARK: ChessAmp is an After School chess program in the San Gabriel Valley which organizes scholastic tournaments and offers private chess lessons. To inquire contact Jeffrey Schwartz at (626) 232-8130 or email pooish1@gmail.com.

MORRO BAY: A group meets 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at the big, beautiful public chess board on Embarcadero at Morro Bay Blvd. Chess pieces may be checked out weekdays from the Parks and Recreation Dept. During the summer pieces are readily available from 8 am – 5 pm. For information call (805) 772-7074.

MURRIETA: The Murrieta Central Park Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays at 38884 Cherry Point Lane. Rated and non-rated tournaments, instruction for children and adults, chess library, casual play on most Wednesday evenings. All ages welcome. Dues: $75/year, first two visits free. Contact Mihai Harabor at (951) 461-7578. Website: www.murrietachessclub.com.

NATIONAL CITY: The National City Chess Club meets 2:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m. daily at 1341 E. 8th St. Casual play, chess videos available, free instruction for scholastic members ages 7 to 12, informal atmosphere. Dues: none, but small donation welcome. Call Jorge Balares at (619) 477-3118 or (619) 788-8395. Website: www.nationalcitychessclub.com. Sal Ramos – President

NEWBURY PARK: A new club, the Conejo Valley Chess Club, meets in Scrapbook Blessings at 300 Giant Oak Ave, Suite E. Website: conejovalleychessclub.com.

NEWHALL: The California Youth Chess League conducts a scholastic chess club 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mondays, except holidays, in Things 'n' Yogurt, 24415 Towncenter Dr. #125 Valencia CA. Call Coach Jay at (661) 288-1705 or write coachjay@cycl.org.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD: ACO Chess & Music School meets at North 91606, 7339 Varna Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91605. Call (818) 793-6302.

OCEANSIDE: The North County Chess Club meets at 2993 MacDonald St, Oceanside, CA 92054.

PASADENA: The Pasadena Chess Club meets from 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 E. Del Mar Blvd. Dues: $25/year.
Contact Scott Hunt at (818) 298-5255.
Website: www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html

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Here & There

RANCHO CUCAMONGA: Rhapsody Education Chess Academy meets Fridays from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm and organizes K-12 chess tournaments on the first Saturday of every month. Located at 7201 Archibald Ave, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, this academy holds Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes as well as Private Online Chess Lessons with Arena International Master and FIDE Instructor Sean J. Manross. For information about chess classes and lessons call Chessmaster Sean J. Manross at (909) 734-0724 & to inquire about tournaments, call Ashley Li at (909) 539-8399.

RIDGECREST: The Ridgecrest Chess Club meets 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays in the Kern County Library (west entrance), 131 E. Las Flores Ave. Casual play, occasional scholastic and club tournaments. No dues. Contact Dwight Morgan at (760) 377-0034 or at dmorgan178@yahoo.com

ROLAND HEIGHTS: Beyond Chess meets at 19119 East Colima Road, Suite 205, Roland Heights, CA. Classes held Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please call (626) 679-2503 or email beyondchess@gmail.com.

SAN DIEGO: The San Diego Chess Club is open in Balboa Park at 2225 6th Ave. (between Ivy and Juniper), at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays for the Gambito. Tournaments Wednesday evenings, Jedi Knights children's club Friday at 6:30 p.m., lessons available. Dues: $72/year, discounts for seniors, juniors and active military. Call the club at (619) 752-4377 or contact Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com.
Website: http://sandiegochessclub.com/

SAN LUIS OBISPO: The San Luis Obispo Chess Club meets at Thursday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 in the café area at the San Luis Obispo Target at 11990 Los Osos Valley Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. Call (805) 441-7210 or email info@slochess.com.

SANTA CLARITA: Santa Clarita Chess Club meets at 24876 Apple St call (661) 288-2991.

SIMI VALLEY: The American Chess Academy (ACA) has opened their 5th location and it is in Simi Valley. The address is 1925 Royal Avenue. ACA was founded in 2008 by IM Armen Ambartsoumian, a FIDE Senior Trainer. The other locations are in Glendale, Reseda, Hollywood and Calabasas. A non-profit organization, ACA teaches kids ages 6 to 18 and has developed some of the most talented players in Southern California. For more information on class schedules and tuition costs, contact at 818-640-5974 or email artmik@charter.net.

STUDIO CITY: Alec's Chess Club for Kids is located at 4418 Simpson Ave #5, Studio City, CA 91607. For more information call Alec at (818) 220-0257.

TEMECULA: The Temecula Chess Club meets at 27403 Ynez Rd #213, Temecula, CA 92591 for adult and scholastic chess. Rated tournaments, casual play, instruction, lectures, exhibitions. We are open every Monday from 3-6pm for casual play and questions. Every Tuesday from 1:30-6pm for classes and 7-10pm for tournaments. Every Wednesday from 1:30-6pm for classes. On Fridays we have an instructor on site for private lessons from around 3pm to 8pm. We hold events almost every Saturday but start times and durations vary, so check the event calendar.. Call (951) 327-1000 or write to info@temeculachess.com. Website: www.temeculachess.com.

TEMPLE CITY: Beyond Chess meets at 5570 Rosemead Boulevard, Suite B, Temple City, CA. Classes Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. For information call (626) 679-2503 or email beyondchess@gmail.com.

THOUSAND OAKS: Thousand Oaks Chess Club meets every Monday evening from 6:00-8:45pm for Casual Play. All ages and levels welcome. Currently no dues. Tournaments being planned in the near future. Please join us at The Goebel Senior Adult Center 1385 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Contact: Cindy Garcia: ThousandOaksChess@att.net (805) 990-0136

TUSTIN: Fundamental Chess Academy meets at 14281 Chambers Rd, Tustin, CA 92780. Classes on Saturday, including Beginner from 12-1 and intermediate from 1-2:30 and 2:45-4:l5; Advanced is 4:30 – 6; the Elite class is for US Chess 1200+ Elo Players. Tournaments held on first and third Friday nights from 5 pm – 8pm.

VENICE BEACH: Venice Beach Knights Chess Club is located at 1108 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA 90291. For more information call (310) 903-0518.

VENTURA: The Ventura County Chess Club meets at 6190 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA 93003. Club meets Mondays at 6:45 pm. Call (747) 275-4643.

WEST HILLS: The West Valley Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Shomrei Torah Synagogue, 7353 Valley Circle Boulevard, West Hills, CA 91304. Open to all, rated tournaments, blitz, casual play. One of the largest local clubs. Contact Scott Hunt at (818) 298-5255 or email schkjv@yahoo.com. We want to list your chess club for FREE! Email us at rankandfileeditor@gmail.com

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Mail entries to: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego CA 92112

Info: Chuck Ensey at (858) 432-8006, or see www.sandiegochessclub.org

Hotel: Special rate of only $135, 949-476-2001, or 1-800-468-3571 if booked by July 30, 2019; BOOK EARLY as the rooms may sell out at any time.

* Unrated players are not eligible for any cash prizes; book prize for best unrated in each section. Provisional players (less than 25 games) can win only 50% of any prize, the balance would go to the remaining prize winners in that score group or the next highest if none.

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