SCCF

US CHESS
STATE AFFILIATE

FIDE
GENS UNA SUMUS

Dr. Steve Morford
Longtime Leader
of the Southern
California Chess
Federation

RANK & FILE MAGAZINE

FREE - FROM SCCF TO THE WORLD

"CHECKMATING CORONAVIRUS" :: GENS UNA SUMUS

SPRING & SUMMER 2021

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHESS FEDERATION Official State Affiliate - US Chess

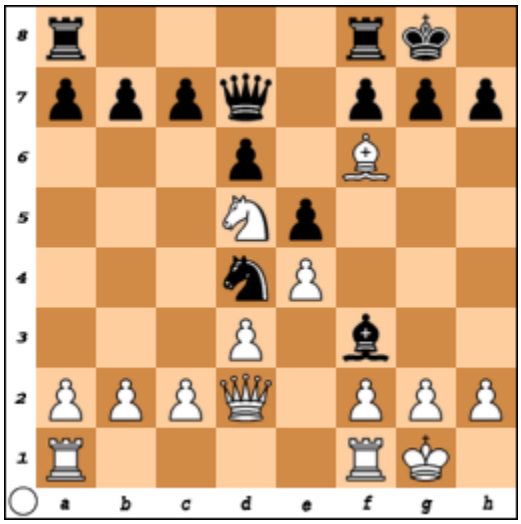
DEWAIN BARBER
DEAN OF SCHOLASTIC CHESS

THE AGE OF COVID-19

During the pandemic, our sport is not regarded as an essential activity.
This has virtually crippled US Chess and all her State Affiliates. The leaders of the Southern California Chess Federation have responded by safeguarding the organization's assets and stopping all non-essential expenditures. This doesn't mean chess has stopped. Online tournaments and online publications will continue, as will governance representation at the US Chess Delegate Meetings. This is the start of the new beginning. We'll be ready to keep Southern California hosting the world's best chess tournaments…just as soon as the world is ready. Thank you for your continued support and your continued membership. Southern California Chess Federation is a family: and this chess family will always stick together!

BEAR THE CHESS HUSKY'S CLASSIC CHECKMATES

The Copycat Mate



Bear the Chess Husky's first tactical study is a famous pattern first demonstrated by **Dr. Edward Lasker**, the cousin of the second official World Champion, **Dr. Emanuel Lasker**, in his 1945 magnum opus, *Modern Chess Strategy*.

White has developed logically, while Black has adopted an all-to-common scholastic protocol of mindless "copycatting" – mimicking White's every move. Follow along on a board over your own with **1.e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.Bg5 Bg4 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nd5 Nd4 8.Nxb4 Nxb5 9.Nd5 Nd4 10.Qd2 Qd7 11.Bxf6 Bxf6,** arriving at the diagram.

The question now is:
How will you break the symmetry by force? In other words, find a forcing tactic that will prevent your opponent from continuing their strategy of being a "copycat."
White to Move - Checkmate in 3.

12 .Ne7+

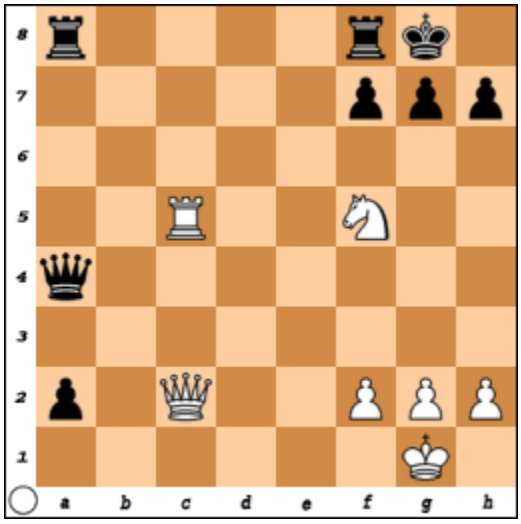
Due to the check, no more copycatting for Black! **12…Qxe7** would blunder the Queen, because the following tactic is impossible to duplicate without the matriarch.

12...Kh8

13.Bxg7+ Kxg7

14. Qg5+ Kh8

15.Qf6++



Anastasia's Mate

The Chess Husky says your keeping up well! In our second study, White appears at first glance to be on the brink of defeat, with Black's nasty …a1=Q+ preparing to deliver the devastating prospect of losing a whole Queen or suffering back-rank checkmate. However, upon closer inspection, a remarkable and classic tactical swindle becomes apparent.

How will you corner and checkmate the enemy King?
White to Move – Checkmate in 3

1. Ne7+

Just like before, Ne7+ forces an enemy castled King to become trapped in the corner: this is a classic cornerstone of powerful, checkmating tactical patterns.

1…Kh8

2. Qxh7+ Kxh7

3.Rh5++

Calculation is made easier by searching for forcing moves – moves which leave the opponent only one possible option. This is a theme of 95% of tactical combinations. This becomes very esoteric and complex at the Master level, with "*forcing strategic moves*" – moves which only leave the opponent one viable option, in the *positional* sense. Should the opponent fail to play the correct positional move, a "*forcing tactical move*" will immediately punish the adversary for their lapse of judgment, with a decisive (often checkmating) combination. Consider these famously conflicting quotes; the world champion's opinion reigns supreme:

"Chess is 99% Tactics"
– **Richard Teichmann** *(**Myth**)*

"Tactics flow from superior Strategy"
– **Robert James "Bobby" Fischer** *(**Fact**)*

Sean Manross vs. Nicholas Bix
National Open Scholastic Championship: Las Vegas, Nevada, USA (2010)
Copycat Mate + Anastasia's Mate

<u>Avoid avarice and materialism: find a method to transpose into the pattern we just learned, the Copycat Mate!</u>

1.Ne7+ Kh8

2.Bxf6!

There is no need to take the Queen: the flow of the attack is towards checkmate.

2…Rg8

Black avoids the Copycat Mate after **2…gxf6? 3.Qxf6++**

<u>Black has defended against one checkmate, so simply sidestep to the Anastasia's Mate!</u>

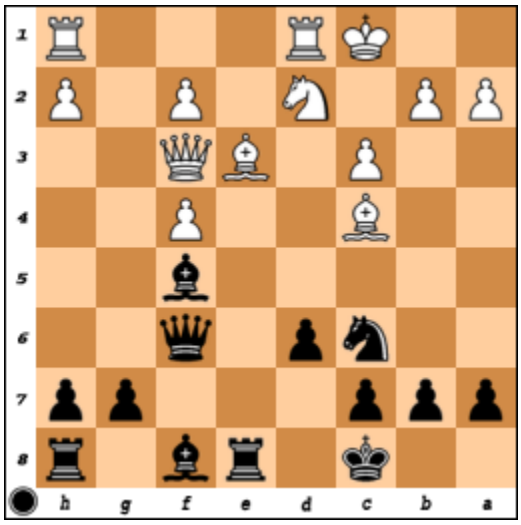
3.Qxh7+ Kxh7

4.Rh4++

Bear the Chess Husky

Tactical Pattern #3

Boden's Mate
Richard Schulder vs S.S. Boden (1855)



"*Open lines dominate the themes of tactics*." –Bear the Chess Husky

<u>Calculate a method for opening lines, without losing tempi, leading to a Checkmate in 3.</u>

1…d5!

It is more than worth a pawn to release the last piece which must join the attack.

2.Bxd5 Qxc3+!

The fatal, forcing sacrificial tactic.

3.bxc3 Ba3++

A cross-section of diagonal death rains down upon the King in what he believed to be the safe haven of the Queenside castle!

A key to understanding tactical patterns is recognizing that the same pattern can be deployed as White and as Black…much as in medicine, a heart attack will present with the same symptoms – shortness of breath, chest pain, tripod posture, and exasperation of the above with exertion – regardless if the patient is American, African, Russian, Chinese, Brazilian, or otherwise.

Indeed, Boden's Mate's most famous reproduction occurred in 1912, for which we return to Dr. Edward Lasker.

Boden's Mate – as White!
Dr. Edward Lasker vs Fritz Englund
Scheveningen (1913)

This is a more complicated version of the aforementioned tactical theme, played between two famous International Master level players of the early-20th centuries. In fact, you may recognize the latter player's surname as the patronym of the trap-riddled **Englund Gambit**, 1.d4 e5!?

<u>Your task is to foresee that Black will castle Queenside and pre-calculate the nuance requisite to delivering a Boden's Mate.</u>

1.Rd1!

Activating White's last piece and controlling the vital d-file; the mate fails without this.

1…0-0-0

2.Qxc6+!! bxc6

3.Ba6++

While the vast majority of tactical patterns evolve from the early to late phases of the middle game, both the opening and the ending are rife with essential patterns that must be memorized by all would-be masters. In the next example, we will examine a basic, but enthralling pattern.

The King Hunt
Damiano's Defense (1512)

1. e4 e5

2. Nf3 f6

The sophomoric ***Damiano's Defense*** seeks to strengthen the e-pawn at the expense of the King. White immediately embarks upon a bold and Classical-style **King Hunt**, in Damiano's refutation to the defense.

3. Nxe5!! fxe5??

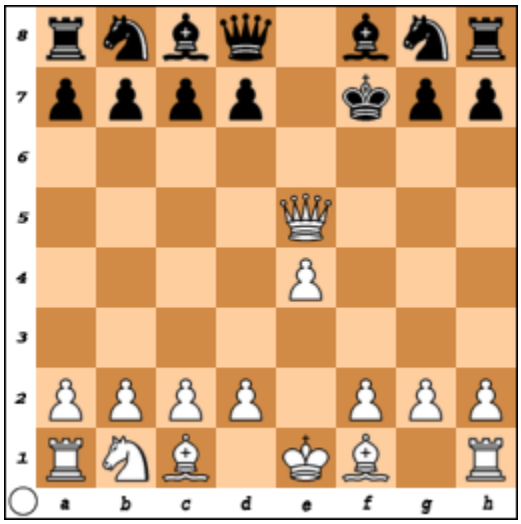
The Russian chess patriarch, Mikhail Tchigorin, postulated that declining the ***Damiano's Gambit***, via 3…Qe7!, leads to equality. Robert Finley McGregor - the 1955/1956 Wyoming State Champion and future Texas Senior Champion - was elated to prove this hypothesis against the future-world champion, Bobby Fischer…**4.Nf3 d5 5.d3 dxe4 6.dxe4 Qxe4+ 7.Be2 Bf5 8.Nd4 Nc6 9.Nxf5 Qxf5 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Bg4 Qb5 12.Nc3 Qc4 13.Be2 Qf7 14.Bb5 0-0-0 15.Qg4+ f5 16.Qh3 Nge7 17.Ne4 h6 18.Nxd6+ Rxd6 19.Bf4 Rd4 20.Be3 Rb4 21.Bxc6 Nxc6 22.b3 Re4 23.Rfd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Nxd8 25.Rd1 Qe6 26.g3 Rxe3** and the draw was agreed in view of ***perpetual check,***
Robert J. Fischer – R. McGregor, Fischer Simultaneous Exhibition Tour: Houston, Texas (1964)

4. Qh5+ Ke7

Not 4…g6? 5.Qxe5+ ***forking*** King and Rook

5. Qxe5+ Kf7

The King Hunt
Damiano's Defense (1512)

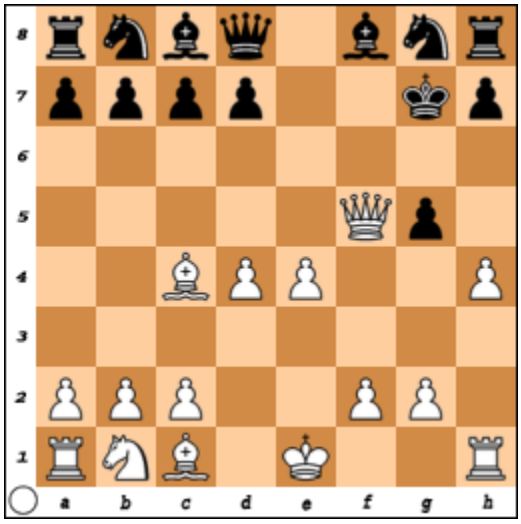


The King is exposed without any of his forces developed to guard him; Damiano can now revert to the ***Three Rules of the Opening*** to crush Black with a torrent of mobile and overwhelming force.

Your question is simple:

How can you Control the Center, by Developing the Minor Pieces, and Prepare to Castle, all the while taking advantage of the overexposed enemy King?

6. Bc4+	Kg6
7. Qf5+	Kh6
8. d4+!!	g5!
9. h4	Kg7



White, though still ***tactically*** a Knight for a Pawn behind, is ***strategically*** dominating the game! The pawns holding the center on e4 and d4 respectively are known as a "***Classical Pawn Center***" or "***Ideal Pawn Center***". Beyond the central domination, note the cooperation of the developed Queen and light-squared Bishop through the center and f-file, supported by the ***pin*** of the dark squared Bishop on c1. On what square do they meet in harmony?

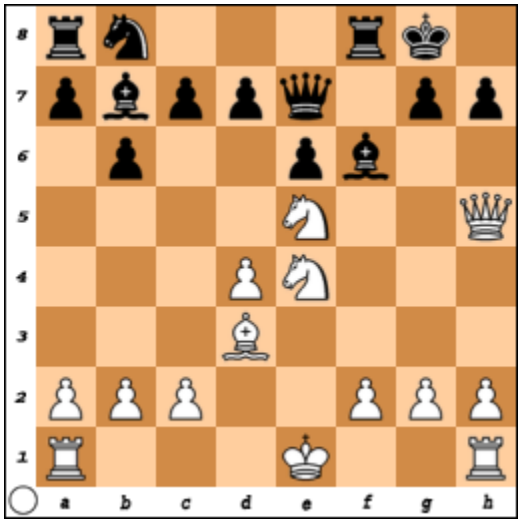
Your task is to foresee a powerful Tactical combination against the enemy King, utilizing the above-noted advantages and deliver a decisive Checkmating attack!

10. Qf7+ Kh6

11. hxg5++

This early example of a King Hunt – perhaps, the earliest in the history of chess - has been complimented by millions of successors. Indeed, we now return, exactly 400 years later, to Dr. Edward Lasker.

The King Hunt, Continued 4 Centuries Later
Dr. Edward Lasker vs George Alan Thomas
London, England (1912)



White's centralized pieces and open lines leading directly to the enemy King beckon an attack against the cramped foe.

<u>Your mighty task is to foresee the entire King Hunt, from sacrifice to victory… Checkmate in 8!</u>

1.Qxh7+! Kxh7

The sacrifice of the Queen will be justified by the mobilization of the entire Kingside.

2.Nxf6+ Kh6

Forced, due to 2…Kh8 3.Ng6++

3.Neg4+ Kg5

4.h4+ Kf4

5.g3+ Kf3

6.Be2+ Kg2

7.Rh2+ Kg1

8.Kd2++

In the words of the US Chess Federation's flagship chess magazine, *ChessLife*,

"Deduct no points for 8.0-0-0++."

Very stylish.

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Keith Martin – Twin Peaks, CA :: Rim of the World Mountain Chess Community

Representing San Bernardino County and the Mountain Communities of the San Bernardino Mountains, Keith and his wife Linda are heroes to the scholastic chess community. Organizing chess tournaments for children has been Coach Keith's passion for decades, during his career in education. As a leader of the Riverside Youth Chess Association, Keith brings significant experience as a Regional Chess Governance Official and is eminently qualified to help Southern California Chess to the brighter pastures of the post-Pandemic age.

Mr. Martin assumes the vacant seat, left open by the resignation of a Board Member, last year. After a strenuous statewide search, Keith's experience in the core values of SCCF made him an irresistible choice to the Board, who unanimously appointed Keith, in January. Mr. Martin holds a Bachelor's Degree out of the University of Michigan (1990) and a Master's Degree in Education out of Cambridge College (1992).

Supported by Mrs. Linda Martin, graduate of Harvard University (1980), Keith brings wisdom, energy, compassion, and joy to all chess players around him. The Southern California Chess Federation is looking forward to joining Keith in all his scholastic chess ventures, across the state.

Keep an eye out for Mr. Martin at local, Southern California Chess Federation tournaments when we get back into action. Until then, Keith can be reached on Facebook or through email at island19@aol.com.

Jim Harrell – San Diego, CA :: San Diego Chess Club

Longtime friends and followers of the legendary San Diego Chess Club will be no strangers to Jim, the seasoned righthand man and partner in chess organization to Chuck Ensey. The Board asked Jim to serve in order to their ranks the experience, wisdom, and non-biased leadership of one of the greatest visionaries in the history of our nation's Royal Game. Beyond these qualities, Jim is known to his friends and family as a consummate gentleman and team player.

The great Mr. Harrell, and Chuck Ensey, are the cream of the crop in Southern California tournament orchestration, as evidenced by their *Gambito* – the ultimate master-maker event in the United States. With over 900 – that's, right, nearly a thousand - editions of this event, Jim is among the unsung heroes of US Chess.

Southern California Chess Federation has made it an absolute top priority to bring back in-person chess to the post-Covid 19 constituents…and no one has done that more responsibly or professionally than the San Diego Chess Club, which is already back in business thanks to the leadership of men like Jim Harrell.

Beyond being a brilliant tournament organizer, Jim is an active and resounding voice on the Board!

If you want to get into contact with Mr. Harrell, he remains available to his constituents from around the Southern California tournament circuit at jimharrell611@gmail.com.

Challenge him to a friendly game of chess…if you dare to lose a few rating points, that is!

California Intercollegiate Chess Tournament

Date: Saturday May 1, 2021 1 - 5PM
Location: CHESS.COM (ONLINE)
Entry Fee: FREE
Time Control: 15/5 (15 Minute with 5 Second Increment for Each Player)
Format: 6 SS (6 Round Swiss)
Sections: OPEN

The date is fast approaching for the 5th Annual California Intercollegiate Chess Tournament (CICT) which will be held online (chess.com) on Saturday May 1st from 1-5PM PT (6 Rounds Swiss with 15|5 Time Control). Players of all skill levels are welcome to join us for the largest intercollegiate chess tournament of the year where students from dozens of colleges all across California will compete in a statewide battlefield. In addition to recognizing the individual winners, this is a team tournament to officially crown the strongest college in California! The Top 4 Players from each school will contribute to their school's team score with the highest scoring team named the 2021 California Intercollegiate Chess Champion and also earning the right to host our physical trophy at their institution until the next CICT. The 5th Annual CICT is open to all undergraduate/graduate students, alumni, and faculty/staff from any California college/university.

To register or forward information to friends, here are the three steps to participate!

1. Register on Google Forms. If you previously registered and played in any online CICL events, then you do not need to fill out this form again.
https://forms.gle/ck4bwCPkaY39qpMg8

2. Join the "California Intercollegiate Chess League - CICL" Club on chess.com. You need to join the CICL Group in order to play in our tournaments:
https://www.chess.com/club/california-intercollegiate-chess-league-cicl

3. Starting 12:05PM on May 1st, you'll be able to join the tournament by entering the lobby. Make sure to hit "Join" before 1PM, and plan ahead to be on time! If you happen to be late, you can still join and be paired with the next available player for Round 2.

Direct Link to Lobby: https://www.chess.com/play/tournament/2239632

You can follow or join us on our social media platforms to stay up to date with events and news from CICL as well as connect with college players around California, or just to ask us any questions!

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CAIChessLeague/

Discord: https://discord.gg/Y5Tf938

Questions about the Premier College Chess Championship in the western United States?

Contact the SCCF Chairman of College Chess, Abhishek Kylasa at akylasa09@gmail.com

Polgár's Immortal

By: Sean J. Manross & Bear the Chess Husky
Edited by GM Susan Polgár (in 2016)

Should the parents of a young girl wish to catalyze an unyielding, fiery ambition for lifelong success through chess in their beloved daughter, they need only to introduce her to the most accomplished woman to ever grace the royal game, Grandmaster Susan Polgár.

As the leader and eldest of three chess-prodigy-sisters - and under the tutelage of her father, pioneering educational psychologist and noted scholar of childhood prodigy, László Polgár – young Zsuzsanna thrust her brilliant mind into a self-described chess "obsession" (Desjarlais, 2011) – and the results were meteoric. While most children merely learn how to move the chess pieces at the tender age of four, she went undefeated at the Budapest Girls' Under-11 Championship, with a perfect 10–0 score and became history's youngest composer of a chess problem (beating the previous record held by Elliot Franklin Eichholtz, who in May, 1917 composed a problem for the American Chess Bulletin at the ripe-old-age of five (Eichholtz, 1917)). By age 12, she was the Girls' Under-16 World Champion, routinely crushing experts and seasoned masters, regardless of age or gender. Topping off an astounding childhood chess career, at 15 years old, in 1984, Woman International Master Susan Polgár was not yet an adult when her FIDE rating rocketed past then-reigning 7th Woman World Champion, Georgian-born Soviet, GM Maia Chiburdanidze (whom, like the 6th Woman World Champion, GM Nona Gaprindashvili, before her, held also the men's Grandmaster title conferred by FIDE – a subtle but crucial historical juxtaposition with GM Susan Polgár, who earned the title in actual over-the-board play, not through politics), firmly establishing the Hungarian as the most powerful female chess player alive!

Indeed, there have been only a precious, few instances in chess history, of such a dramatic and rapid rise to global hegemony. Just as in the case of that most notable example – the prodigy and world champion, Robert James "Bobby" Fischer, who was rated, at the time, well above the seated world champion, GM Boris Spassky, during the World Championship Match of 1972 - the tidal waves generated by the ascension of a non-Russian, above the then-current, Soviet world champion, led to epic levels of political controversy between the Hungarian chess revolutionary and the omnipotent, Russian chess-machine. While Russia's extreme reactions to Bobby Fischer have been, perhaps, among the most publicized chess phenomena in the mass media to date, the actions taken by FIDE at the behest of the USSR – designed specifically to impede the seemingly-unstoppable rise of Susan Polgár - are often, overlooked, by all, but the most informed chess historians.

Manross with GM Susan Polgár at the 2010 Susan Polgár World Open for Boys & Girls.

In what is considered by many sports professionals to be among the more controversial decisions of any governing sports body, the International Chess Federation, FIDE, determined to grant 100 rating points to every active female chess player in the world…excluding then-International Master Susan Polgár, thus, placing GM Chiburdanidze atop the January, 1987 FIDE rating list (World Chess Hall of Fame, 2016)! The official rationale was that women's ratings had, collectively, fallen behind men's ratings due to lower-rated fields in women-only tournaments…Susan Polgár, routinely dominating men's tournaments, was apparently an exception to this rule.

This accident of fate was sufficient to create obstacles that would prevent Susan Polgár from having the opportunity to dethrone Chiburdanize personally, but one cannot strike a titan and avoid the eventual reckoning.

Caïssa, the ancient Greek goddess of chess, saw fit to provide Grandmaster Polgár a picturesque, Mediterranean backdrop on the Spanish Balearic Islands for her destined opportunity to settle the two-decade long vendetta during the 36th Women's Olympiad of 2004 in what was pre-ordained by an epic, lifelong rivalry to become, perhaps, chess history's most audacious and spectacular middle-game duel– a brilliancy which should have been accorded the title, "Polgár's Immortal", the moment Grandmaster Chiburdanidze resigned; nevertheless, that coinage is now your author's honor to bestow!

Polgár's Immortal

GM Susan Polgár vs. GM Maia Chiburdanidze

The 36th Women's Olympiad – Calvià, Spain, 2004

*The **Anglo-Indian Opening**, which properly begins 1.c4 Nf6, derives its hybrid nomenclature from White's use of an **English Opening** and Black's retort, the **Indian Defense**. The use of the term "Anglo" is inappropriate after the second move, as the opening will have typically transposed into a specific main-line. An educational note is that the modern country of England was originally known as "Brittany", by the Roman conquerors under Emperor Hadrian (in whose honor Hadrian's Wall bears its name). In the wake of the early, 5th-century Sac of Rome, the Dark Ages ensued; in the absence of Roman government, chaos became the norm. Legendary Pictish and Welsh invaders - such as the pseudo-historical King Arthur - carved out small, unstable kingdoms, which peppered the land. In desperation to resist the incursions, the local Britons invited massive migrations of warrior-diasporas from Anglia and the Saxony Coast (today, the North Sea coast from the Netherlands to Denmark). For the next century, a steady stream of these so-called "Anglo-Saxons" erupted from Europe, protecting the Britons from the barbarians, in exchange for land and a welcoming home. Ultimately, the continental culture took root and the very name of the island became "Angleland"* (Bede, 731).
Alas, Shakespearian-era modernizations to our language ultimately compressed the archaic, Olde English name to "England".

1. Nf3 Nf6

Richard Réti was among the most pioneering minds to ever take up the mantle of an opening theorist. His esoteric **Réti Opening**, 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4!, directly correlates to the "hypermodern" movement of the post-World War I period. The player allows their opponent an early control of the center with the intention of undermining that weighty liability, at a later stage of the game. While this opening was innovated from the White side by the hypermoderns, the fundamental strategic concept dates back to c.1830 when John Cochrane's famous Indian confidant, the Brahmin, Bannerjee Moheschunder, became the unorthodox master for whom the Indian Game derives its coinage. This historical fact caused the great early-20th century master, Dr. Savielly Tartakower, to declare the Réti Opening, "An opening of the past, which became, towards 1923, the opening of the future." Today, the most notable champion of the opening is GM Teimour Radjabov.

2. c4 e6

This line will typically transpose to the **Queen's Indian Defense**, with an early …b6 and Queenside fianchetto. Conversely, 2…g6 would constitute the **King's Indian Defense**, while 2…d5 would leave the course of the game in White's hands. Perhaps, for education's sake, the game might return to the modern *main line*, 3.d4 c6, the **Queen's Gambit – Declined, Slav Defense** (though, for stylistic reasons, one might suppose that a world-renowned *fianchetto* master, such as Susan Polgár, would not have played the main line).

Transpositions to Frank Marshall's notoriously unreliable **Marshall Defense** (a.k.a., **American Defense**), which strongly favors White, are also possible in this line; eg. 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nb6 5.d4 with the *classical pawn center* or 3…Qxd5 4.Nc3 which, obviously, will favor White in the form of a distinct *tempo* and *development* advantage.

3. Nc3 Bb4

Black hopes to transpose into Bobby Fischer's own *pet-line*, the **Nimzo-Indian Defense** after 4.d4, which was the tempered alternative to Fischer's more usual **King's Indian Defense**
(a line also favored by famed world champion, GM Garry Kasparov)

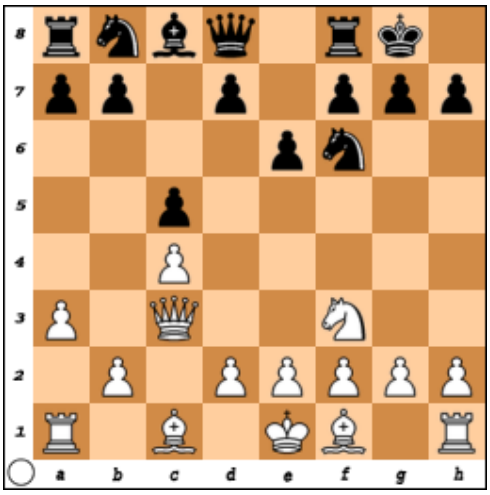
4. Qc2! 0-0

GM Maia Chiburdanidze simply pursues rapid development of the Black position; in a more sophisticated vein, GM Polgár has devised a protracted, longer-term strategy of simultaneously creating tactical prospects while preventing any damage to her own *pawn structure*, such as might arise after the common continuation 4.g3 Bxc3 5.bxc3, whereby the *doubled pawns* have pros and cons, a sort of double-edged sword where central control and development are immediately consolidated at the cost of long term *promotion* prospects.

5.a3 Bxc3

6. Qxc3 c5

Susan Polgár's practical, positional patience is paying dividends; rather than fall into the painfully-obvious Bishop *trap*, 5…Ba5?? 6.b4 Bb6 7.c5, the 7th Women's World Champion finds herself voluntarily surrendering the *Bishop pair*, on move 5, to the 9th Woman World Champion - without any compensation to speak of, at all. It is pertinent to mention that in all **Indian Defenses** – but especially the **Nimzo-Indian** and **Queen's Indian lines**, where saving the Bishop pair is less of a priority - Black prefers to trade the lesser, light-squared Bishop, in favor of retaining the naturally more active dark-squared Bishop: in this strategic respect, Black further has been outmaneuvered.



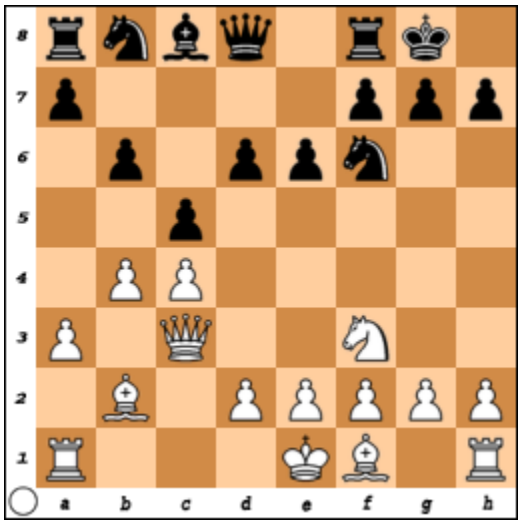
*Though this appears, at first blush, to be a **Symmetrical English**, by transposition, it is no such thing. The useful a3-pawn is a real asset for White in these types of positions and, as aforementioned, Grandmaster Polgár has made a career of wielding the often unorthodox **fianchettoed** Bishop with devastating effects, whose arrival she will arrange for presently. While it may be true that Black does possess a very mild **center** and **King-safety** edge, according to Grandmaster Polgár, this position demands that "one look at the larger picture": White enjoys a clear plan of improvement leading into the middle game and will determine the future course of play. Furthermore, in the course of her home preparations, GM Polgar had noted GM Chiburdanidze's favoritism of this line, allowing for a tailor made novelty in a couple moves!* (Polgár, Breaking Through, 2005)

7. b4! b6

Obviously, to capture White's b4-pawn would surrender control of the vital d4-square for no reason. Indeed, according to GM Fred Reinfeld's **"dollar-rule" of pawns**, the d and e-pawns - which occupy the center directly - are worth $1.00. As pawns fall away from the center, they descend in value by 10%, per file. Thus, c and f-pawns are regarded as $.90 pawns; b and g- pawns $.80 pawns; and a and h-pawns $.70. With this education, one can easily understand why Chiburdanidze logically counters Polgár's $.80 pawn's assault with the defense of Chiburdanidze's own $.80 pawn…"*should you take mine, I take yours – no gain or loss*".

8. Bb2 d6

Chiburdanidze realizes that the top-heavy **battery** presented by the Queen and Bishop on the *a1-h8 diagonal* equates to a mortal threat against the Black King…so she does what any logical Grandmaster would and invests two **tempi** into the closure of the diagonal with …d6 and …e5. Yet, this common sense behavior is the beginning of her downfall - and of course, should be. Surely, if one plays like the "average" Grandmaster, one shall fall prey to a Polgár!



After thorough calculations and strategic plotting, Grandmaster Polgár determines upon a plan to counter Chiburdanidze's extended central action, which is reminiscent of the World War II strategies employed by the famed American five-star Admiral of the Fleet, Chester A. Nimitz, whom - unbeknownst to most non-military historians – was severely outgunned by the vastly superior Imperial Japanese Navy flagships of the Yamato-class Battleship. In order to maintain naval superiority, Nimitz chose to avoid direct sea-to-sea confrontations by pioneering a strategy known as "island hopping". When the Japanese would invest time attacking central positions, the bulk of the US fleet would bounce to an island on the flank; if the Japanese adjusted for combat on the flank, Nimitz would simply refuse to fight Japanese Naval forces and 'island hop' back to the center. The Japanese ships may have been superior in nearly every way, (though, USN Iowa-class Battleships - the largest and last of the American Battleships - were capable of exceeding the speed of the massive, and therefore, heavy Yamato by almost five knots); however, due to a chronic fuel shortage in Japan (the creation of which was essentially the principle strategic objective behind the entire naval occupation of the South Pacific) they spent their time holed up at port waiting for a confrontation that was not destined to happen. Eventually, on April 7, 1945, Yamato set sail on a final, Kamikaze mission to Okinawa. She was sighted en-route, early in the day, just south of Kyushu, Japan. However, following an epic battle with United States Navy Aircraft Carrier forces, she was sunk summarily without exerting any dominance over United States forces.

9. g4!

A brilliant, game changing novelty, foreseen in pre-game preparation by Susan Polgár's second and lifelong friend, FM Paul Truong! As Chiburdanidze consumes **tempi** in the **center**, White begins to dominate the Kingside **flank**! During the preparation, FM Truong's magnificent idea earned GM Polgár's admiration for the tremendous psychological impact such a move may carry! (Polgár, Breaking Through, 2005) Indeed, it is precisely this psychological edge which FM Truong continues to provide as the manager and absolute anchor for the national chess dynasty of the Susan Polgár Institute for Chess Excellence (SPICE), at Webster University.

9…Bb7

10. g5 Nh5

11. Rg1

White wisely removes herself from the 'train-tracks' of the a8-h1 diagonal (drawing the comparison of the fianchettoed light-squared Bishop to a freight train). Indeed, one must handle any fianchettoed Bishop as an unstoppable force, such as a train: should one find oneself standing on train tracks with a locomotive barreling before you, it would surely be insane to set your feet in an attempt to block the metal behemoth…rather, simply "stepping off the tracks", as does the Rook above, will suffice. Black will fail to understand this basic metaphor with their next move – which naively attempts to shut down White's freight train (even a much heavier one than Black's own, as it includes the Queen)!

11…e5

12. Bh3 Nf4!?

Black's purely tactical approach is theoretically doomed, regardless of what line she chooses; to quote Grandmaster Polgár's long-time friend and confidant, the 11th World Chess Champion, Grandmaster Bobby Fischer in his primary authorship, '*My 60 Memorable Games*', "tactics flow from a positionally [sic] superior game" – and for Black to have a superior position, she still must make many improvements. Your author's coach, Grandmaster Semon Palatnik, would surely advise Black to find, "not the *best* move – rather, the *most important* move" – a subtle but significant distinction! While 12…Nf4 is surely an aggressive move which seeks to disturb the *en-prise* Bishop, it is premature; the reality remains that Black's *most important* 12th move is far-and-away developing and optimizing the Queen's Knight via, 12…Nc6 and soon after …Nd4, creating a **double-anchored** and centralized powerhouse Knight and vastly improving Black's position in so doing.

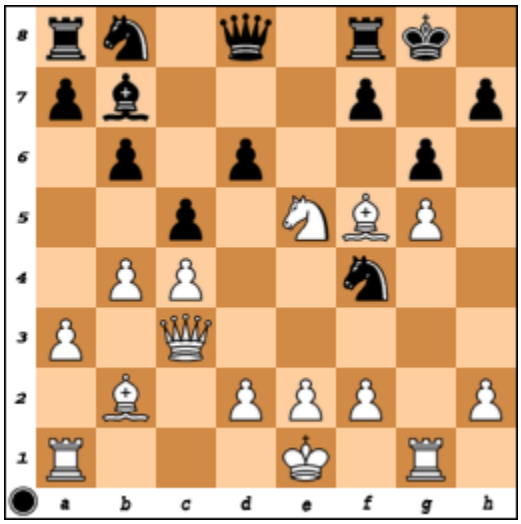
13. Bf5 g6

14. Nxe5!!

Polgár's Immortal

GM Susan Polgár vs. GM Maia Chiburdanidze

The 36th Women's Olympiad – Calvià, Spain, 2004



(Position after 14.Nxe5!!)

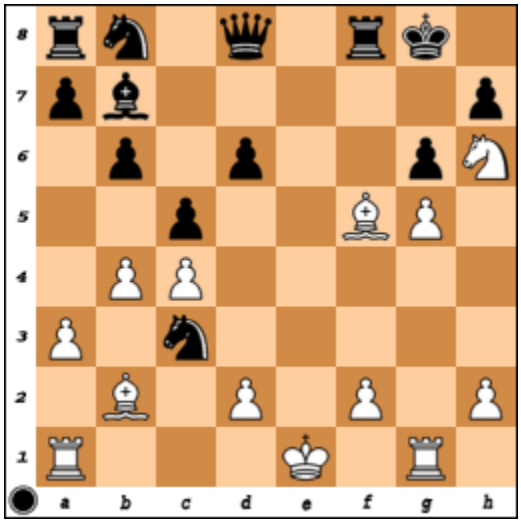
Grandmaster Polgár issues in one of the most spectacular middle-games in chess history with a kaleidoscope of tactical complications! This ***double-piece sacrifice*** *appears at the surface to have two primary tactical epiphanies behind it: 14…gxf5 15.Nc6! has instantly-fatal consequences– either the demise of the Queen on the realization of the checkmate along the a1-h8* ***diagonal battery****. More complex is 14…dxe5 15.Qxe5 f6 16.gxf6 Nh5 (16…Rf7 17.Qxf4 is nothing more than a slower death) 17.f7+ Rxf7 18.Qh8++. While, at first glance, all pathways seem clearly lost for Black, the 7th Woman World Champion stays true to her world-class pedigree with a tremendous and bold retort…*

14…Nxe2!!

In the absence of deep-seated courage and coinciding, brilliantly-novel ***counter-attacks*** – such as both women are showcasing on the 14th move – an "Immortal" game cannot be born. It may have appeared that White would enjoy a pseudo-castle in the center: those beliefs have been violently dispelled, with White seemingly reduced to accepting ***simplifications*** that lead into a shattered position! To quote Grandmaster Susan Polgár, herself, from a warmly-remembered conversation between the victor of this chess masterpiece and your author, "Grandmaster Chiburdanidze really thought she had me here– but she did not calculate deep enough!"

15. Nxf7 Nxc3

16. Nh6+!



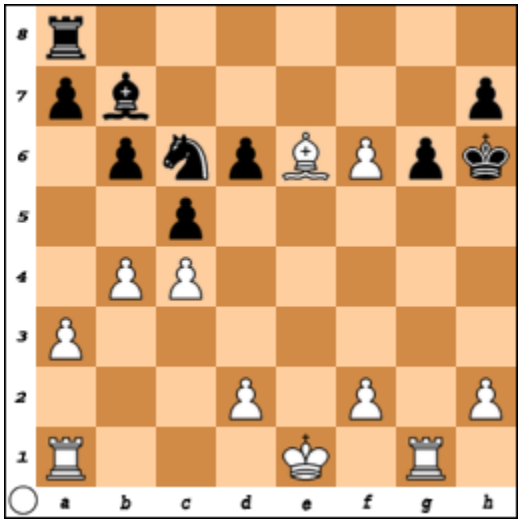
(Position after 16.Nh6+)

While Grandmaster Chiburdanidze has been operating under the false assumption that the tactics in question target Queens, Grandmaster Polgár has been focusing on the other Black sovereign! Alas, the Black King will have no recourse, save stepping onto the tracks of the White fianchettoed freight train; the Queen may be gone…but getting rammed head-on by one freight train is fatal all on its own!

16…Kg7

17. Bxc3+	Rf6
18. Bxf6+	Qxf6
19. gxf6+	Kxh6
20. Be6	Nc6

The smoke clears and the middle game enters its denouement just as the Black Knight and Rook arrive to the field of combat, a moment too late! Now that the modern-Vera Menchik enjoys the advantages of the first move playing White and being comfortably ***up the exchange*** plus a pawn, a newborn baby abandoned in the Antarctic wilderness would have greater prospects of survival than Black, in this endgame.



In the ensuing ending, Grandmaster Polgár exudes a philosophy not of tactical violence but of sophisticated, strategic control. Throughout this endgame, we shall ruminate upon Polgár's masterful display of the Confucian wisdom, "Patience is the way of wisdom".

21. Bd5 Rf8

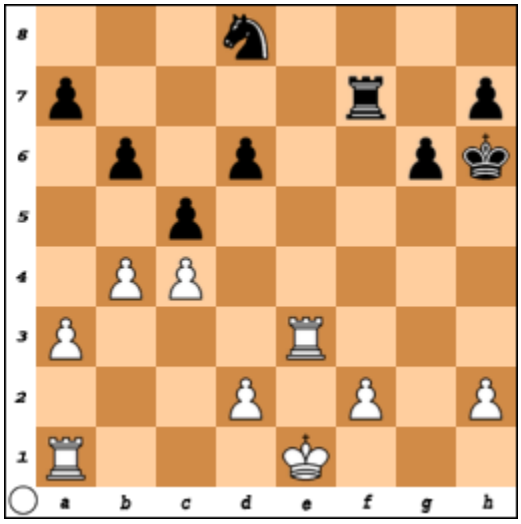
22. f7 Nd8

23. Bxb7 Nxb7

Already, we begin to see Grandmaster Polgár employ the ***Tarrasch Formula*** (Palatnik, 2004); that is, White deliberately exchanges Bishops, with the dual purpose of simplification and rendering the Black Knight completely insignificant. Notice how the Knight has no available square except the one from whence he came – d8 – and thus, Black will inevitably ***sacrifice*** two tempi on the Knight, en-route to his return to the same inopportune position, upon which he started a few moves earlier (one tempo on ***recapturing*** the Bb7 and one tempo on returning to d8). To quote Grandmaster Palatnik's excellent summary of this principle,
"One badly placed piece makes your whole position bad!" (Palatnik, 2004)

24. Rg3 Rxf7

25. Re3 Nd8



*Notice the use of **prophylaxis** against all of Black's strongest ideas: first, Grandmaster Polgár has prevented the use of the **open-file** against her King by occupying the e-file with her Rook; now she must turn her eye to Black's upcoming threat…*

<u>Your task is to discern Black's short-term strategy and thwart that plan</u>.

26. b5!

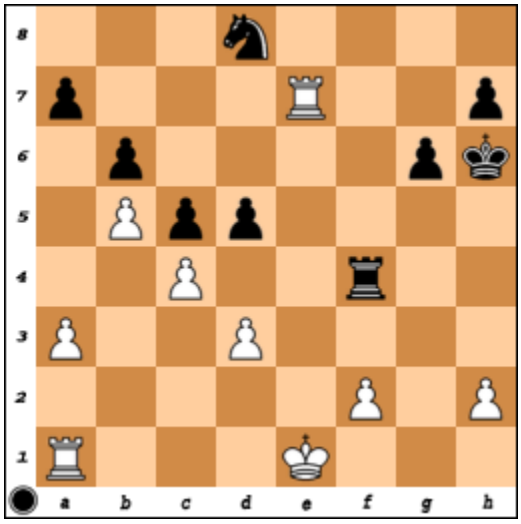
A critical employment of the **Tarrasch Formula**, her mastery of which has never received the attention it deserves, among the frequent analyses of Grandmaster Polgár's plethora of dynamic strengths. This move highlights the moral of this endgame, "Patience is the way of wisdom!" Notice, Black planned to improve the Knight with …Nd8-c6-d4 and the cavalry would finally play a major role in this game. With a touch of finesse and the investiture of one tempo, Grandmaster Polgár eliminated that dream and psychologically crushed her opposition. Indeed, while it is impossible to deny the unique artistry, scientific precision and inherent beauty of Polgár's 14th move, as an experienced chess coach, it is clear to your author that her 26th move of this contest is the most educational one for the up-and-coming scholastic chess star!

26…Rf4

27. d3 d5

28. Re7!

Of course not 28.cxd5 Rd4, losing strategic capital. The wisdom of Nimzowitsch – utilizing the Rook's domination of the open file to maneuver for domination of the enemy ***2nd rank***, post-haste (Nimzovich, 1929) – is the Grandmaster's choice.



28…dxc4

29. dxc4 Nd7

Not 29…Rxc4? 30.Rd1 Rd4 31.RxR cxd4 32.Rd7, and White would go on to win with ease.

30. Rd1 Ng5

31. Rxa7 Rxc4

32. Ra6 Rc2

Again Grandmaster Polgár is precise; never would she allow 32. Rb7? Ra4.

33. Rxb6 c4

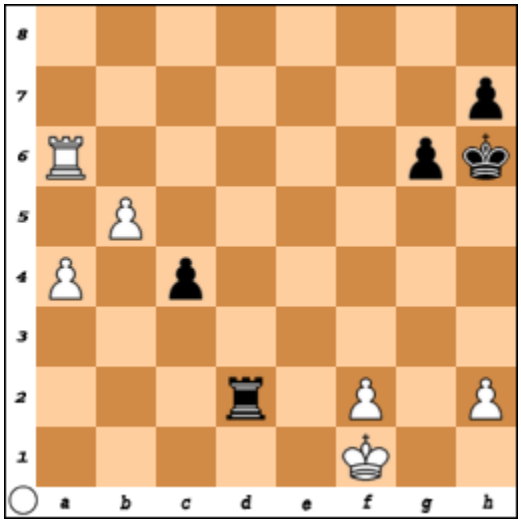
34. a4 Ra2

35. Ra5 Nf3+

36. Kf1 Nd2+

37. RxN! RxR

The last brilliant touch! When up an ***exchange*** or a full piece, often the quickest and safest path to victory lies in simply ***returning the advantage*** to strategically cripple the opponent's ability to create any sort of ***complications***. With this ***exchange sacrifice***, Grandmaster Polgár guarantees her revenge on Maia Chiburdanidze!



It's all technique from here!

38. Rc6 Rc2

According to the great chess teachings of World Championship Challenger, Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch, "Rooks always belong behind passed pawns"; thus, Grandmaster Susan Polgár got the best of the 38th move by definition.

39. b6 Resigns

There is no use in prolonging the inevitable; the game might have continued: 39…Rb2 40.a5 Rc2 41. b7 Rb2 42.a6 c3 43.Rxc3 Kg5 44.Ra3 Kf5 45.a7 Rb1+ 46.Kg2 Rxb7 47.a8=Q and wins.

Indeed, the story of the first, true female Grandmaster's titanic victory is tantamount to the greatest chess epics of all time! Such a righteous reckoning can be compared only to the Roman, Giovanni Leonardo's, decade-long struggle to overcome Ruy Lopez and Phillip II of Spain, in 1575; Paul Morphy's conquering of Europe, in 1858; and, most contemporized to the tale of the heroine of Women's chess, Bobby Fischer's famous slaying of the Soviet, Boris Spassky – a triumph which was in every way analogous to Susan Polgár's conquering of the great Georgian-Soviet champion, Maia Chiburdanidze.

OFFICER APPOINTMENT: ABHISHEK KYLASA

Abhishek Kylasa brings the intellect & education of a UCLA Astrophysict to the SCCF Treasury.

As the former President of the UCLA Chess Club (2018) and a graduate of the esteemed institution with a Bachelor's Degree in Astrophysics, Treasurer Kylasa fits the educated mold of the intellectual leaders of the Southern California Chess Federation.

Treasurer Kylasa's leadership experience in chess governance go far beyond his service as an Alternate Delegate at the 2019 US Chess Governance Meetings and running one of the largest & most successful University chess clubs in the United States of America. As the leader of the California Intercollegiate Chess League (CICL), Abhishek is the leader of College Chess in the State of California, the fifth-largest economy on the planet.

Accordingly, beyond his role as Treasurer, Abhishek has selflessly assumed the mantle of Chairman of the Southern California Chess Federation's College Chess Committee.

Do you or a loved one want to get involved with tournament direction or chess competition at the college level? If so, your Treasurer & Chairman is available to you at akylasa09@gmail.com.

When Abhishek isn't running College Chess in the far south of the state, he resides full time in Bakersfield, CA – representing all of Central California and the valley. Beyond his chess career, Abhishek is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Astronomy at San Diego State University. The treasurer also moonlights as an extraordinary vocalist and musical talent!

Getting Back to OTB Chess

By: Chuck Ensey

After the San Diego Chess Club was closed in March of last year by order of the city, along with pretty much every other chess club in the country, we were really missing Over-The-Board chess as online chess just didn't have the same appeal for many people.

The problem of cheating with computers seemed to be out of control with online chess. After a few months I came up with the idea of playing socially-distant chess by using two boards, staying six feet apart, wearing masks and playing outdoors where the air was fresh, etc. We used 30 second delay to make up for the time used to make the opponent's move on the board and also each player announced their move to the other player.

This seem to work, so I was able to arrange several rated matches with some close friends. The main problem was every once in a while someone would forget to copy the move the opponent made, thereby making for big mistakes on the board (I thought your rook was on f1! Oh no, I forgot to make that move to e1!). After several matches like this I arranged a rated tournament outdoors with six players competing against each other.

As the year wore on and the pandemic seem to be getting under control in late summer I looked around for alternate sites to play at, but most hotels were either not open to having any events at all, or wanted to charge $500 or more which was way beyond what we could afford. I read articles in Chess Life about clubs closing in Minnesota and other states and it sounded like some of them would never reopen. It was so sad. We had to do something, so finally I was able to find a site to hold the Gambito Opens at a venue that was a former charter school that had moved away so we were able to get an affordable rent (the city was dragging their feet on approving a re-opening of the SDCC in Balboa Park).

By then we had decided that by taking temperatures at the door, providing hand sanitizers at tables which were all six feet apart, having lots of air circulation with multiple fans blowing air through an open front door and of course enforcing mask wearing that is was safe to have regular chess played, no two board set system needed. We opened for about 3 weeks in 2020, but then the surge of infections hit the state and then the governor shut the whole state down once again in December.

When the state re-opened in February we decided to just play once a month on the first Saturday of the month, thinking that we would do this until attendance picked up, because it had been kind of light in November, with not enough players to really cover the rent of $150 a day and still have decent prizes. We had 26 players for the February Gambito, which was okay, but in March it ballooned to 46 players! We were scrambling to bring down tables and chairs from the old San Diego Chess Club, which was about 10 blocks away. I even had to turn away one late-arriving player, since we just weren't prepared for such a big turnout! I regretted doing that later on, and that player will get a free entry the next time he shows up! We set up more tables and spaced them out in the large various playing rooms, so that now we can accommodate 60 players. We also decided since the demand was so high to get back to OTB chess that we would start playing every week like it used to be with the Gambito Open. Since then we have been averaging over 30 players per Saturday and building up as the word spreads. We are getting lots of unrated players, possibly due to the popularity of "The Queens Gambit" movie which made people want to find out what playing in tournaments was really like. Players also came from far as away Los Angeles and even Las Vegas, and often we got visitors from out of town who were on vacation. One family from the Bay Area in Northern California played for four weeks in a row and raved about how much they enjoyed playing at this venue.

The Gambito Open has 4 rounds at G/45 with 5 second delay with a $25 entry fee, except on the first Saturday of the month where it is $30 (the Super Gambito, an idea started by Rick Aeria many years ago). The March Gambito (#923) with 46 players was won by Kirk Ghazarian (rated over 2300), with NM Ming Lu and Expert Thomas Gonda coming in tied for 2nd and U2200. Isaac Wang won BU2000 and he has been rapidly gaining rating points by attending most of the Gambito Opens and doing very well in almost all of them.

Other prize winners can be found on the club website at sandiegochessclub.com.

Gambito #924 (23 players) had a 3-way tie for 1st Place between NM Nikolay Arutyunov, NM Christian Silvestre and his brother, Expert Alex Silvestre. Alejandrino Baluran won BU200.

Gambito #925 (30 players) saw another 3-way tie for 1st between NM Mike Zaloznyy of Las Vegas, Alex Silvestre and Isaac Wang.

#926 (27 players) saw Danny Soong earn a Master rating of 2201 for the first time, with four wins in a row.

#927 (38 players) had NM Serkan Salik swoop in from out of town and grab 1st Place. NM Alex Wang was 2nd and Expert Andrew Wang won BU2200. Visitor Ethan Guo won BU2000, Mark Negus was BU1800 and Ella Guo won BU1600. The Guo's were the young players from the Bay Area.

#928 (29 players) had a 4-way tie for 1st Place between Alex Silvestre, Andrew Wang, Thomas Gonda and Ethan Guo. Hayden Karkainen was BU1800 and Finn Horsley BU1600.

As more people get vaccinated, we expect attendance to keep growing.

Players tell me they love playing OTB again and seeing all their chess friends in person.

The Chess Club at UCR hosts Weekly Tabling Blitz Tournaments at 4:00PM PT on Lichess every week on Friday!

Link to access the tournaments are on our LinkTree (https://linktr.ee/chessclub_ucr) which is updated on a weekly basis and Facebook Page (Chess Club @ UCR) to participate in the tournament.
Students outside of UCR and players at any level are welcome to join!

Time control: 5 | 0
(5 minutes with 0 second increment)

REIGNING CA-S STATE CHAMPION DEFENDS TITLE

FIDE MASTER ROBERT SHLYAKHTENKO

Defends his title as State Champion of Southern California in this year's Southern California State Chess Championship Hosted Online on Chess.com.

Reigning State Champion Robert Shlyakhtenko may be the first legitimate prodigy in the history of the Southern California Chess Federation to defend his title, back-to-back years. Admittedly, due to the pandemic forcing the event to be held online, this year's State Championship provided much less competition for the SoCal wunderkind. Yet, despite the conservative prize fund and limited potential for rating point gain, the State Champion defended the honor of the Southern California Chess Federation, proving the value of his title to an aspiring prodigy…as well as the value of a loyal Champion to any State Affiliate.

Robert Shlyakhtenko is a hero of Southern California Chess and will be a lifelong leader of the organization, as well as of our sport in the State of California, as a whole. Keep an eye out for Robert's column in future editions of *Rank & File*, as well as his stellar performances across the United States of America. The future is bright for the State Champion of Southern California, indeed!

Our State Champion lost his beloved mother, **Olga Radko**, whose time with us was far too short. Nevertheless, Olga will always be remembered as a matriarch of Southern California Chess.

The President's Report :: SCCF Vision 2021

As the theme of the pandemic continues to overshadow all, the plan and vision of the future for the Southern California Chess Federation revolves around a combination of fiscal stability and preparations to return to organizing over the board chess events, as soon as possible.

In essence, the SCCF needs to maintain the ability to kickstart tournaments – better tournaments than ever before – the moment that the vaccine's distribution makes such an operation responsible and viable. The Board has considered every possible way to bring back chess tournaments before the distribution of a vaccine. However, with a largely senior-based membership body, it is impossible for a State Chess Governance organization to serve one of the world's population mega centers without putting health first. So, the Board has decided to bide time, mostly organizing online chess.

There are three particular advantages to online events, without turning away from OTB tournaments:

(1) Although not profitable, the purpose of online events is to engage the chess community;
(2) Fundraisers remain an effective pairing with online events;
(3) Non-mainstream groups are attracted to online chess, such as rural, isolated chess players.

For these reasons, the Southern California Chess Federation has moved our publication and our tournaments mostly online…until the reprieve from Covid-19 is firm. Fortunately, we have little-to-no overhead and can pour all of the resources generated by a given online tournament directly back into the chess players themselves. No hotel costs, no printing costs – just chess tournaments and prize money! As well as an increase in the production of a temporarily-digital *Rank & File*, the members of the Southern California Chess Federation can expect more online tournaments to be complemented by the development of virtual chess communities across Southern California. Why?

When the pandemic breaks – hopefully before 2022 – one of the best ways to get back to over the board chess will be in the naturally socially-distanced environment of the modest chess club.
Not only do these chess clubs allow for burgeoning growth of local chess communities, they are also the traditionally most accessible form of our sport. Major meccas for the development of chess clubs include the Central Coast between Ragged Point and San Simeon, the northeast region encompassing Bishop, the southeast border of Blythe, and most critically, the potential million-member stronghold of Palm Springs and the surrounding communities. All of this to say that major urban chess clubs and their inevitable revival remains a central concern of the administration.

Last – but certainly not least – the Southern California Chess Federation's nation-leading US Chess Delegation will continue to stand for democracy, integrity and transparency in chess governance. Thanks to the unfaltering honesty of our high-ranking US Chess whistleblower and Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Jim Mennella, the SCCF Delegation prevented the demolition of democracy in our national affiliate – but the war wages on. The US Chess Delegation from Southern California stands against the addition of "self-appointed" seats to the US Chess Executive Board and will continue to prevent our organization being purchased by special interests. It is an important job and our Delegates are honored to lead the West and the nation in standing up for integrity in chess governance.

The top priority of the Southern California Chess Federation is maintaining a healthy, thriving and democratic chess community – which always represents the members – in California, the United States, and beyond. We thank all chess players for your constant guidance, friendship and support!

Morphy's Immortal Queen Sacrifice

Louis Paulsen v Paul Morphy
First American Chess Congress (1857)

By: Sean J. Manross & Bear the Chess Husky

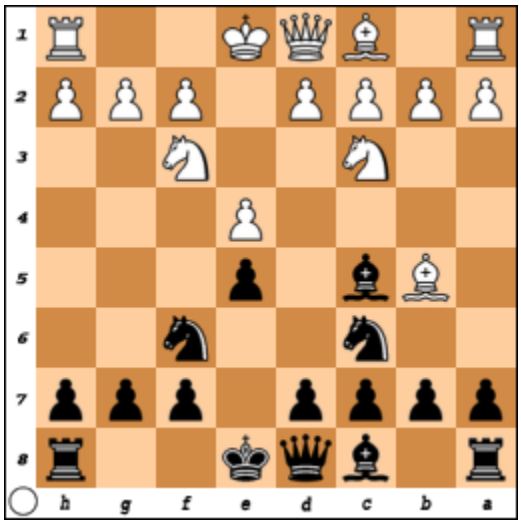
For many chess historians there exists some debate about how players of different time periods might compete against one another. Hypotheticals abound, some logical, some not. Any seasoned chess coach can remember receiving a question to the tune of, "would Ruy Lopez beat Philidor?" or bold declarations, such as, "Capablanca would crush Kasparov!" In all likelihood the truth is probably as simple as, regardless of the time period, any world class player - given time to study modern theory - would occupy a position in the world elite.

Nonetheless, one man clearly reigned supreme in the annals of chess history: Paul Morphy was the greatest chess master of all time, with the second-best 'left in the dust', regardless if Dr. Emanuel Lasker (the world champion of 27 years), Bobby Fischer, Jose Raul Capablanca, Dr. Alexander Alekhine, Dr. Mikhail Botvinnik or Garry Kasparov be named. Granted, all men were epic titans of chess; yet, Paul Morphy was simply way further ahead of his contemporaries than any of these men. Despite his opponents' consistent and considerable prowess, he produced so many immortal games that even chess historians often confuse the numerous awards bequeathed to his myriad masterworks.

The Opera House Game is the most famous in history; "Morphy's Immortal" is a casual game, played against Adolf Anderssen to prove that, despite being so sick he was unable to stand and was being bled with leeches (an unfortunate "medical wisdom" of the 19th century), the New Orleans native could still crush the second-best player alive.

And then there is this Immortal Queen Sacrifice game, which, though the most famous Queen sacrifice in history, is only Morphy's third most famous game. Beyond all of this, we still haven't addressed his famous games as a young prodigy or the bulk of his "classic" victories, produced against nearly every notable master of the mid-18th century, many times materially handicapped, blindfolded, in a simultaneous exhibition or some combination of these woes!

Louis Paulsen vs Paul Morphy
The 1st American Chess Congress: Final Match – New York, November 1857
Spanish Four Knight's Game, Classical Italian Defense



Perhaps the oldest opening variation in Chess, still in frequent use today, this solid variation of the ***Four-Knights Opening*** shows judicious ***strategic*** policy from both masters and is seen at all levels of play. Morphy – and your author, a devout student of Morphy – uniformly favored the *Italian Bishop* over the *Spanish Bishop*, desiring, in true Romantic fashion, to establish an eventual assault on the enemy King's Bishop-two.

1. e4 e5

2. Nf3 Nc6

3. Nc3 Nf6

4. Bb5 Bc5

A peculiar pithiness of the laws of strategy is exhibited in the ***Spanish Four Knights - Spanish Defence***, which displays the punishment of the concept of ***mimicking*** every one of your opponent's moves, with a desire of maintaining an ***equal*** position: 4…Bb4 5.d3 d6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nd5 Nd4 9.Nxb4 Nxb5 10.Nd4 Nd5 11.Qd2 Qd7 12.Bxf6 Bxf3 13.Ne7+! Kh8 14.Bxg7+!! Kxg7 15.Qg5+ Kh8 16.Qf6++ (Tartakower, 1952)

5. 0-0 0-0

6.Nxe5!

After 6. Nxe5

Black is confronted with an early attack!

<u>Your task is to respond to your opponents premature attack with a decisive improvement which provides Black, at least, equality in all variations.</u>

6…Re8!

Surely, the boy who was first inspired by Charles Stanley - in the flesh - would not fall for a reversed ***Stanley Variation***, 6…Nxe5 7.d4! The text exerts control over the *e-file*, ensuring superior ***piece activity*** and the reclamation of the central pawn.

7. Nxc6 dxc6

Paulsen must surrender two Knight ***tempi*** and one Bishop ***tempo***. "*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*." –Dr. Max Euwe

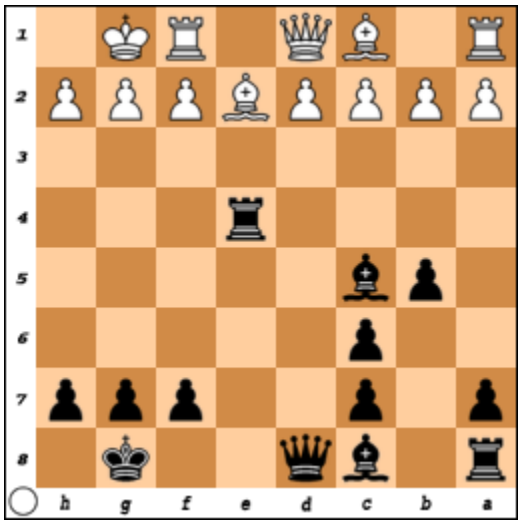
8. Bc4 b5!

9. Be2 Nxe4

Paulsen cannot prevent Morphy from avenging a central pawn with 9. Bd3 Qd4

10. Nxe4 Rxe4

After 10... Rxe4



White's only developed piece, the Bishop on e2, stands as a mere target for the central, dominant Rook – thus, requiring a fourth developing ***tempo***! Black's active pieces and Queenside ***space*** ensure that White is *fighting for a draw*.

11. Bf3 Re6

Operating along the 6th *rank* generally allows Rooks to create threats on both *flanks*.

12. c3!? Qd3!

As JJ Löwenthal reverently remarked of a Harrwitz-Morphy game, *"The prompt advantage which Mr. Morphy takes of the slightest error of his opponent, is the chief characteristic of his game, and it is well illustrated on this occasion.*" In his efforts to force 13.d4, Paulsen has permanently damned the d-pawn's future and, counter-intuitively, squandered his central hopes. By establishing a ***blockade*** against the ***backwards*** d2-pawn on the new d3-***hole***, Morphy has entombed the White center and dark-squared Bishop, strategically banishing the vicar from the war, behind a wall of useless, passive pawns!

13. b4 Bb6

14. a4

After 14. a4

Desperately vying to ***free*** his Bishop or ***neutralize*** Black's, in kind, Paulsen stacks his hopes and efforts on Queenside pawn-groveling.

<u>Your task is to ensure that the dark-squared Bishop does not escape, without compromising your position or initiative.</u>

14…bxa4!!

Though ***isolating*** the a-pawn and ***doubled*** c-pawns, this capture prevents a loss of ***tempo***, by ensuring a ***recapture***, and renders the dark-squared Bishop useless behind d2/c3/b4.

15. Qxa4 Bd7

16. Ra2 Rae8

Black's forces have galvanized while White's Queenside is in disarray and his Kingside, asleep.

17. Qa6

<u>Naturally, when one's pieces are inferiorly placed to their counter-parts, and all other elements of the position (such as pawn structure and King safety) remain unmolested, trading will surely equalize the game.</u>

After 17.Qa6

Morphy, unwilling to squander his incredible ***blockade*** against the 'diseased' d-pawn, which poisons the Rook and Bishop, began to examine superfine the decisive attack, which the teachings of Sun Tzu dictate must avail themselves from such a dominant advantage! Uncharacteristically, Morphy took over 12 minutes to ensure every ***tactical*** 'road led to Rome.'

"A 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... Morphy was perhaps the most accurate chess player who ever lived. He had complete sight of the board and never blundered, in spite of the fact that he played quite rapidly, rarely taking more than five minutes to decide a move."
–GM Bobby Fischer, World Champion 1972-1975 (Winter, 2011)

Meticulously conceive a plan of attack, where your enemy is most grossly unprepared to fight.

17…Qxf3!!

One of Morphy's two most famous Queen ***sacrifices*** of his career, this daring strike underlines the inactivity of White's disconnected Queenside pieces, which are completely removed from the King's defences. When taking into consideration that White's only valuable piece was the light-squared Bishop and Black's Rooks are poised on the *open e-file* and 6th rank, Morphy is wholly justified in pursuing this emblazoned path of Romantic glory.

18. gxf3 Rg6+

19. Kh1 Bh3

20. Rd1 Bg2+

Morphy was, perhaps, the most adept master in the harmonious use of Rook and Bishop, of all time. Indeed, the ***'Morphy Mate'*** with Rook and Bishop will be displayed in the final illustration of this tome. Notice that the only reasonable defence against the Rook on the *open g-file*, 20.Rg1, fails to 20…Rxg1+ 21.Kxg1 Re1++

21. Kg1 Bxf3+

A ***discovered windmill check pattern***…ouch!

22. Kf1 Bg2+

Beware, the easiest refutation to any ***Queen sacrifice*** – including Morphy's 17th move - is a ***counter-Queen sacrifice***: eg, 22…Be2+ 23.Qxe2! Rxe2 24.Kxe2 +/-

23. Kg1 Bh3+

24. Kh1 Bxf2

In a repeat of the decisive Battle of Bosworth Field - which infamously concluded the 15th century 'War of the Roses', between the houses of Lancaster and York - in which, King Richard III of England was brutally slain, when knocked from his horse and surrounded… the White King's fate rapidly approaches, as Black's forces swarm to the blood on the Kingside.

25. Qf1 Bxf1

If not the Queen's head, it shall have been the King's via, 26…Bg2++

26. Rxf1 Re2!

Activating the final artillery on the 7th rank, a la Nimzowitsch! (Nimzowitsch, 1927)

27. Ra1 Rh6

28. d4 Be3

The meek central grab is far too little, far too late.

29. Bxe3 Rhxh2+

30. Kg1 Reg2++

Bear the Chess Husky & his Chief of Staff, Sean Manross (President, 2018 - 2021) paying homage at the grave of Paul Morphy. New Orleans, LA - 2016

An Appendix on *Modern*, *Descriptive*, and *Analysis* Notation

Modern Notation

K = King	0-0 = Castle Kingside
Q = Queen	0-0-0 = Castle Queenside
R = Rook	x = Captures
B = Bishop	ep = En Passant
N = Knight	+ = Check
p = pawn	++ = Checkmate

Descriptive Notation

K = King	Castles KR = Castles Kingside
Q = Queen	Castles QR = Castles Queenside
R = Rook	x = Captures
B = Bishop	- = Moves to Coordinate
Kn = Knight	+ = Check
p = pawn	++ = Checkmate

Analysis Notations

+/-: White is Winning	!!: Decisive Move
+/=: White has an Advantage	!: Powerful Move
=: Drawish/Equal	!?: Surprising and Speculative Move
=/+: Black has an Advantage	?!: Probably Inaccurate but Worthy of Analysis
-/+: Black is Winning	?: Inaccurate Move
∞: Unbalanced Position	??: Decisive Blunder

Back to Basics :: New Tournaments!

Dr. Steve Morford Regional Classic
&
Jacqueline Rothschild Piatigorsky Classic for Women & Girls

The Southern California Chess Federation unanimously approved, by acclamation, the introduction of two, all-new tournaments, paying homage to our original President and founder, the great Jacqueline Rothschild Piatigorsky (1963 – 1976), as well as to our greatest President ever, Dr. Steve Morford (2011 – 2018).

The **Dr. Steve Morford Regional Classic** will be a roving, open tournament. Featuring events in underserved areas, such as Palm Springs and Central California, this event will have multiple editions every year and will also come to major metropolis areas, such as Los Angeles. Particularly, this event will be totally accessible to all, especially the disabled, in honor of the prolific career of Dr. Morford as a steward of SELPA special educational districts.

The **Jacqueline Rothschild Piatigorsky Classic for Women and Girls** will be a major metropolitan event, specializing in creating equal opportunities for women and girls of all ages, with separate sections for Senior, Adult, and Scholastic female chess players. Following the legacy of Mrs. Rothchild-Piatigorsky – the adoptive mother of Bobby Fischer and the figurehead of the Piatigorsky Cups (1963 & 1966) - this annual championship event will seek to produce a future Women's World Champion from our own Southern California backyard.

At the height of the Cold War, the Piatigorsky Cups brought the Soviet Team, featuring the World Champion Tigran Petrosian and future World Champion Boris Spassky, to the shores of Santa Monica Beach. Dr. Steve Morford, similarly, led the SCCF through the dark days of the post-Iraq War recession and was the leader of our US Chess Delegation for over a decade. These are the leaders who have defined us and made Southern California Chess Federation the leading State Affiliate of the United States Chess Federation!

SCCF NEEDS YOU!

Please renew your Southern California Chess Federation Official Membership, today!

100% of Membership Dollars are being reinvested into bringing back over-the-board chess in the post-pandemic world…and into the return of a printed *Rank & File*!

www.scchess.com/join_sccf.html