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Fab-ulous!

The incredible performance of Fabiano Caruana in the Sinquefield Cup in St. Louis this summer electrified the chess world. Caruana won the first seven games of the world's first Category 23 tournament, and ended the event with an undefeated score of 8 ½-1 ½. Mr. Caruana's performance rating was about 3100, a record for any chess tournament. World Champion Magnus Carlsen was second, three full points behind.

The two Sinquefield Cups have brought world-class chess to the United States in a big way. Both Cups held to date have been the strongest chess tournament of the year in the world. Live attendance and Internet viewing of the Sinquefield tournaments has been quite strong, and the events provide a key media entry-point for world-class chess in the United States and throughout the world.

To date, seven Grandmasters have participated in the Sinquefield Cups. Three of them have strong New York roots: Fabiano Caruana, Gata Kamsky and Hikura Nakamura. **No other country, much less state, has had more than one player participate in this ultimate super-GM competition.**

Meanwhile, while US Champion Gata Kamsky did not get to play in this year's Sinquefield Cup, he did join the field at the New York State Chess Championship in Albany. The presence of the current US Champion in Albany definitely helped the atmosphere surrounding our more prestigious event, which offers a title that goes back to the 1870's. GM Kamsky is on the front cover of this issue of *Empire Chess*, and we greatly appreciate his participation in the tournament.

As the scholastic chess season begins again across the Empire State, just think that it is likely that somewhere within our borders, the next Nakamura or Caruana will be walking in and setting up the board. While we enjoy the current moment of having a strong heritage of New York Grandmasters and world-class players, we look forward to creating the next group of champions as well.

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Cover: GM Gata Kamsky (right) plays to win against IM Timothy Taylor at the annual New York State Chess Championship in Albany. Photo courtesy of Karl Heck.

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Please send articles and advertisements in camera-ready format for publication. (TIF file, Adobe Photoshop, 100 lines per inch). Chess games should be in ChessBase, with boards and positions in final form. Articles should be sent via e-mail, in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, size 11. **Deadline for the Winter issue is December 15, 2014**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

The winner, and still champion...

US Champion Gata Kamsky wins 136th New York State Championship

by Bill Townsend

The 136th New York State Championship was held from August 29 to September 1 at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road in the Albany suburb of Colonie. Of course the big news was the fact that U.S. Champion GM Gata Kamsky came to play and to the surprise of almost nobody, clearly won the event by a full point. His score, 5½-1½, was exactly the same as the last time he won the State Championship, back in 2005.

With my annoying obsession with history and statistics, the question that immediately occurred to me was: is this the first time that a sitting U.S. Champion has been New York State Champion? The answer is no – it has happened at least twice before. GM Joel Benjamin was U.S. Co-Champion when he won the New York State championships of 1987 and 2000. Albert Hodges was U.S. Champion in 1894, when he also won the New York State Championship, but he apparently retired immediately after winning the match with Jackson Showalter, so even though he is on the list of U.S. Champions, he had no reign.

Anyway, two other former New York State Champions took second and third with 4½-1½: 1984 champion GM Maxim Dlugy and Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin, the champion in 1982, 1997 and 1999. GM Dlugy was the only player that Kamsky granted a draw to. Their round four game, which I don't have a copy of, was reportedly a very short draw.

Tied for fourth through ninth with 4-2 were: Igor Sorkin, IM Timothy Taylor, Matan Prilleltensky, Patrick Chi, Mahiro Abe and Joshua Rubin. The last three named players won an additional prize for being top players rated under 2300.

Tenth through twelfth with 3½-2½ were: IM Alexandr Ostrovskiy, New York State Barber representative FM David Brodsky and Joseph Han.

The Under-2100 section was the biggest of the five with 61 players, but it also only had one player at the

top. Andrew Ardito won his first five games and then took a half-point bye to finish with 5½. Second

through fourth with 4½ were Marijan Procyk, Brett Kildahl and Daniel Johnston. Tied for fifth through twelfth with 4-2 were: former NYSCA president Leonard Chipkin, Zachary Martin, Jeremy Berman, Hall of Famer Joseph Felber, Louis Petithory, Daniel Pomerantz, David Kolb and Joseph Jones. Mr. Jones was top player under 1900.

Tied for thirteenth through twenty-fourth with 3½ were: Jacob Chen, David Phelps, Jason Li, Daniel Minkin, Richard Knox, Benjamin Medina, William Hu, Ron Lohrman, Alan LeCours, Jeffrey Shi and Scott Boyce.

Some of the action below:



Once again 5½ took the top prize in the Under 1800 section as Alan Geiger won his first five games then drew in the final round to take clear first. Second through sixth were Scott Gorman, Anthony Levin, Duane Smith, Ella Papanek and Alan Stoloyarov.

Seventh through twelfth with 4-2 were: Erik Brodsky, Jane Zhang, Robert Kratzat, Scott Buono, Cory Northrup and Michael Cheng, who won the top prize for best player under 1600. Thirteenth through eighteenth with 3½ were: Sam Cherin, Justin

Rosales, Ken Crumpler, Charlie Reeder, Aryeh Shlionsky and Erik Westwig.

The Under-1500 section didn't start too well for Mingrui Liu. As one of the lowest rated players in the section he got a bye in the first round, then lost his second round game. He then dusted himself off and won his last four games to capture first place with 5-1. He also would have won the Under-1300 prize if he had been eligible for both prizes.

Tied for second through fifth with 4½ were: Larry Fredette, Binghamton tournament organizer John Cordisco, Mike Miller and Jeffrey Young. Sixth through thirteenth with 3½ were: Thomas Ghita, David Connors, Matthieu Chalifour, Paul Becotte, Max Izmaylov, Edward Murphy, Andrei Stefanov and Joseph Bowman, who won the Under-1300 prize.

A serious chess player battles for supremacy at the New York State Championship (below.)



Unrated Nippun Makkar won the Under 1200 section with a perfect 6-0 score, but only won \$200 because no unrated player can win more than that under Continental Chess Association rules. Malone's Ashton Keith and Jacqueline Martin were second and third, each winning \$400. Fourth through sixth with 4½ were Christopher Bouchard, Meghal Jani and visiting Massachusetts player Kandy Lynch, with Jani winning the trophy for best player rated under 1000. Tied for seventh to ninth with 4-2 were: Blaise Loya, Keith Hetman and Melodie Loya. Hetman won the trophy for top unrated player.

Tied for tenth through seventeenth with 3½ were: Leoni Torres, Pataniali Sharma, Jacob Hetman, Jonathan Crowe, Viru Raparathi (Top Under 800),

Waldemar Palatis. Samantha Aiyathurai and Nat Solomon. Catalina Varela was top player under 600 with 2½- 3½.

An interesting feature of the event – there were prizes for the best Mixed Doubles Team. The two player teams had to feature one male and one female, but could be of any rating and play in any section, even separate sections. The winner with 9 out of a possible 12 was the mother-son team of Jacqueline Martin and Zachary Martin who won \$500 for their effort. Brother and sister Blaise and Melodie Loya were second with 8 points. Three teams tied for third with 7 points: Katherine Du & Maxim Dlugy, Ella Papanek & Juan Tica and Elizabeth Spiegel & Matan Prilleltsky.

As if that weren't enough chess, there were not one but two blitz tournaments held during the event. On Friday night, the New York State Blitz Championship was held as a ten-game, five-round tournament with two games per round.

The Championship was won by former champion IM Alexandr Ostrovskiy with 9-1 – he only gave up two draws out of ten games. Aravind Kumar was second with 8½, Christopher Chabris was third with 7 and Patrick Chi was fourth with 6-3. Four players tied for fifth place with 5½-4½: Alexis Paredes, Ashok Aaron, Sam Sloan and Pra Kumar. The last two named players split the Under-2000 money. Alan Lasser, Timothy Wright and Cory Northrup tied for ninth with 5-4. Daniel Yassky was top player under 1800 with 2½.

The Albany Blitz tournament was held on Sunday night and it was a four-round event with two games played each round. Sayan Mondal and Hall of Famer Harold Stenzel tied for first with 7-1 – they drew two games against each other in round three and won all their other games. David Finnerman was third with 6-2. Abraham Glasser and Jon Leisner tied for fourth with 5-3. Mark Dedona was clear sixth with 4½, winning the top Under-1800 prize. Tied for seventh with 4-4 were: David Campbell, Boris Stefanov, Daniel Slavin and Andrei Stefanov. The last two named players split the money for Top Under 1500.

Overall about 222 players competed in the five sections, beating last year's 210 handily. According to tournament director Steve Immitt, this is the best turnout in 16 years.

This is the ninth year in a row the tournament has been held in Colonie, now tying the second-longest period the event has been held in the same city. From 1992 to 2000 Saratoga Springs played host to the state championship. First place is not going to be up for grabs anytime soon. From 1887 to 1915 the tournament was held twenty-five times, all in New York City.

The tournament was directed by the Continental Chess Association with head tournament directors and NYSCA Hall of Famers Steve Immitt and Bill Goichberg, with help from Brenda Goichberg.

Getting as close to the action as possible....



In spite of the strong turnout, I received a lot fewer games from this event, only 66 as opposed to 91 last year. Still, there was much of interest among the games I did get, and the fact that GM Kamsky was kind enough to turn in three of his scoresheets certainly cheered me up.

Here is the last round game that decided first place, and it looks to be vintage Kamsky. The US Champion precisely exploits small advantages against former New York title holder IM Ostrovskiy, calmly improving his position while his opponent strains to hold things together until finally a crisis comes.

IM Alexandr Ostrovskiy (2476) – GM Gata Kamsky (2785) [C54] Giuoco Piano
136th New York State Championship, round 6
Colonie, NY, Sept. 1, 2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nbd2 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0–0 0–0

10.a3 Bxd2

10...Be7 seems like it might be a tiny bit better.

11.Bxd2 Bg4 12.Bc3

This makes the game unique. Previously seen here was 12.h3 and now, for example the game Smirnov-Bukavshin, Khanty-Mansiysk 2013 continued: 12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nb6 14.Bd3 Qxd4 15.Bc3 Qh4 16.Rfe1 Rae8 17.Be4 Re6 18.Bxc6 Rxc6 19.Re4 Qd8 20.Bb4 Re8?! 21.Rd1 with a serious advantage to White, who later won.

12...Qd6 13.h3 Bh5 14.g4 Bg6 15.Re1 Nf4 16.Bf1 f6 17.Qd2

An improvement for White seems to be 17.Nh4 Bf7 18.Nf5 but 17...Rfe8 might be a better choice for the second player.

17...Bf7 18.Nh4 g6

Obviously Black doesn't want to let the Knight settle on f5.

19.Re4 Nd5 20.Rae1 Rfe8 21.a4?!

White doesn't have a lot of good moves here, but this doesn't look like an improvement.

21...Rxe4 22.Rxe4 Rd8 23.Ng2 Nce7 24.Qe1 g5!?

My analysis engine doesn't like this move, perhaps it's too committal? Its suggestion is the more modest 24...a6 and Black still has a substantial advantage.

25.Bd2!?

OK, if Black's last move is a bad idea, logically then the best idea is to try to directly refute it with: 25.f4 Nc6 26.fxg5 fxg5 27.Ne3 and this looks better than the text.

25...Ng6 26.Bc4 c6 27.b3 Qd7 28.Qe2 Kg7 29.Kf1?

In hindsight White shouldn't allow Black's next move, so: 29.Qd3! suggests itself. Now if Black plays 29...h5?! he runs into 30.gxh5 Nge7 31.h6+! Kh8 32.h4 and White suddenly has the initiative.

29...h5!

Exactly the sort of move you don't want to see with only five minutes left on your clock and eleven moves to make.

30.Qd3

The kicker: 30.gxh5? Qxh3 and Black threatens checkmate.

30...hgx4 31.hgx4 Rh8 32.Kg1 Qd6 33.Qg3 Qxg3

Played almost immediately, which rather surprised me. I thought Black would keep the queens on, but Kamsky obviously knows what he's doing.

34.fxg3 Rd8 35.Kf2 Rd7 36.Be1 Nge7 37.Bd2 Nc8

Ostrovskiy has less than a minute to make the time control at move 40 while Kamsky had a little less than 4½ minutes.

38.Re1 Nde7 39.Bxf7 Kxf7 40.Re4?!

This seems like a second-best move, but Ostrovskiy made the time control with just three seconds to

spare. Better would be 40.Bc3.

40...Rd8 41.Bc1 Nd5 42.Bd2 Nc7 43.Ne1

Looking at this position during the game I thought Ostrovskiy was surviving this, but the players' body language told a different story. Kamsky was sitting calmly, studying the position with tranquility while Ostrovskiy was leaning over the board intently, every muscle tense.

43...Ne6 44.Nf3 Ne7 45.Be1 Nd5

Now that Black has improved the position of his Knights, things look uncomfortable for White.

46.b4?

Finally White cracks. His best try to hold on looks to be 46.Bd2.

46...Nec7 47.Re2 Re8 48.Rb2?

Better but still dismal for White is 48.Rxe8 Kxe8 49.Ke2 Na6.

48...Ne3

White is going to lose his g4-pawn and his problems are not over, so he gives up.

0-1

Veteran Hudson Valley organizer Ken Evans (right) battles in the third round of the tournament against Connecticut's Jonathan Aiyathurai below.



Here is Kamsky's first round win over expert Nick Panico. What's surprising here is that after Kamsky gets a significant advantage out of the opening he lets his opponent off the hook and Panico has an even position. However after this high water mark for the amateur the U.S. Champion re-asserts himself and convincingly outplays him.

GM Gata Kamsky (2785) – Nick Panico (2182)
[B12] Caro-Kann Defense
136th New York State Championship, round 1
Colonie, NY, Aug. 30, 2014

1.e4 c6

Well, if you're looking for a free grandmaster lesson in the Caro-Kann, Kamsky's an excellent person to ask. **2.d4 g6 3.c4 d5 4.e5!**

This Caro-Kann/Modern hybrid is a favorite of Panico's, and Kamsky immediately puts his finger on a significant flaw: now Black can't play his Knight to f6.

4...Nh6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.h4 f6N

This makes the game unique. Previously seen here was 6...Be6 and now the game Filipovic-Scevic, Jahorina 2000 continued: 7.Nh3 dxc4 8.Nf4 Qd7 9.h5 Na6 10.Nxe6 Qxe6 11.Qa4 with a roughly equal game that White later won.

7.h5 g5?!

7...fxe5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nf3 looks like a better idea.

8.exf6 exf6 9.Bd3 Be6 10.Qb3

10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Nf3 seems better for the first player.

10...Qe7 11.Nge2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Bxc4 13.Qxc4 Qf7

The game looks pretty close to even after 13...Nd7. It's rather sad to consider that after this the Knight never moves.

14.b3 0-0 15.Ne4! Rd8 16.N4g3 Bf8 17.f4! Qxc4?!

This only helps White.

18.bxc4 Bb4+ 19.Kf2 Nf7?!

This allows White all sorts of play along the b-file.

20.Rb1 c5 21.Ne4 gxf4 22.a3 f5 23.Nf6+ Kg7

24.Nd5 Ba5 25.h6+ Kf8?!

Better, but still dismal for Black is: 25...Nxb6 26.Nexf4 Ng4+ 27.Kf3 Rd7 28.Ne6+.

26.Nexf4 cxd4 27.Ne6+ Ke8 28.Nxd8 Kxd8

29.Rxb7 1-0

Down material with a dreadfully cramped position, Black decides that he's had enough. The game might have continued: 29...Nd7 30.Bf4 Kc8 31.Rb5 Bd8 32.Rh5 and the f-pawn will fall.

GM Kamsky's second round game, against a master-strength opponent, had even less drama. Kamsky got an advantage straight out of the opening and his opponent was never able to get back in the game.

NM Sayan Mondal (2255) – GM Gata Kamsky (2785) [B07] Pirc-Modern Defense
136th New York State Championship, round 2
Colonie, NY, Aug. 30, 2014

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 Nc6 7.Bg5 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Qd2 c6 10.c4 cxd5 11.cxd5 11.Bxf6 is what White has to play to avoid the line in the game.

11...Nexd5! 12.exd5 e4 13.Bxe4

This seems to be a new move, and it seems to be no

good. Previously seen here was 13.Be2 and now the game Stantic-Nikolov, Nova Gorica 1998 continued: 13...exf3 14.Bxf3 Re8+ 15.Kf1 Qb6 16.Nc3 Bf5 17.Be3 Qa6+ 18.Kg1 Ne4 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Rxe4 with a slight advantage to Black, who later went on to win.

13...Nxe4 14.Bxd8 Nxd2 15.Nbxd2 Rxd8

The dust has cleared and Black has the two Bishops and the initiative, so he is better.

16.0-0 b5

Yes, the b-pawn is loose, but Black doesn't feel like giving white the counterplay: 16...Bxb2 17.Rab1 Bg7.

17.a4?! b4 18.Nc4 Ba6 19.b3?

Just drops the exchange, but things were already pretty bad for White.

19...Bxa1 20.Rxa1 Bxc4 21.bxc4 Re8 22.Kf1 Re4 23.Nd2 Rd4 24.Ke2 Re8+ 25.Kd1 a5 26.Rb1

Black essentially has White hogtied, and can figure out how to dispatch him at his leisure.

26...f5 27.Rb3 Kf7 28.g3 g5 29.Re3?

Trades one pair of Rooks, but allows the remaining Black Rook to invade.

29...Rxe3 30.fxe3 Rd3 31.Ke2 Rc3 32.e4 b3 33.e5 dxe5 34.d6 b2 0-1

White throws in the towel. In order to stop the b-pawn white has to allow the Black Rook to clean house on the Kingside: 35.Nb1 Rxc3 36.Kd2 Rxb3 37.Kc2 Rh2+ 38.Kc3 g4.

I asked IM Tim Taylor for a game, and he kindly copied this one out of his scorebook for me. Most of the punctuation here is his.

IM Timothy Taylor (2427) – Mahiro Abe (2208)
[C33] King's Gambit
136th New York State Championship, round 3
Colonie, NY, Aug. 31, 2014

1.e4 e5 2.f4

The King's Gambit isn't an opening I tend to see much in tournament play these days.

2...exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 d5 6.exd5 cxd5 7.Bb3 Bd6 8.Nge2 Ne4

This seems to be a new move in this position, and that's mainly because 8...f3 seems obviously better. Now the game Ivanchuk-Giri Beijing 2013 continued: 9.gxf3 0-0 10.Bg5 Be6 (10...h6 might be better) 11.Qd2 Be7 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Nf4 Na5 14.Rhe1 with a small advantage to White, who later won.

9.0-0 Bg4 10.Nxe4

Even better is 10.Nxd5! and White has a pretty serious advantage after 10...0-0 11.Bxf4 Nc6 12.Qd3 Re8 13.Rae1 Qd7 14.Ng3.

10...dxe4 11.Bxf4

White has his gambit pawn back, plus he has a notable lead in development. He is clearly better.

11...0-0 12.c3 Bxf4 13.Rxf4 Qg5 14.Qf1!!

After this move White seems to be winning, but after every other move Black is at least even, i.e.: 14.g3 Bf3, etc.

14...Nd7 15.Rxe4

White is now a pawn up, but even better was 15.Ng3.

15...Nf6 16.Re5 Qd2 17.Qc1 Qxc1+ 18.Rxc1 Rae8 19.Nf4 Rxe5 20.dxe5 Nh5 21.Rf1 Nxf4 22.Rxf4 Be6? 23.Rd4?

Black's last move was a mistake because White can now immediately trade down to a won King-and-pawn ending: 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.c4 Kf7 26.Kf2 Kg6 27.Ke3, etc.

23...g6 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Rd6 Rf5 26.Rxe6 Kf7 27.Rf6+!

Again, forcing a trade to a won King and pawn ending.



Hall of Famer Harold Stenzel (left) plays Connor Wagner at the Albany Marriott.

27...Rxf6 28.exf6 Kxf6 29.Kf2 Ke5 30.Ke3 b5 31.b3 Kd5 32.Kd3 a5 33.a4!

And that clinches it. Black can resign now.

33...bxa4 34.bxa4 Kc5 35.c4 Kb4 36.Kd4 Kxa4 37.Kc3! h6 38.h3 g5 39.g4 Ka3 40.c5 1-0

Unrated player Zhi Qu finished with 2½ points, which isn't too shabby considering he was playing some tough opposition in the Open section. This back-and-forth battle caught my eye because both players seemed to be fighting hard, and it was just about the last game to finish in the section. Alas, after struggling for hours, Black misses a win at the very end.

**Abraham Glasser (2125) – Zhi Qui (UNR) [A52]
Budapest Defense
136th New York State Championship, round 6
Colonie, NY, Sept. 1, 2014**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.e3 Nc6
6.Be2 Ngxe5 7.a3 a5 8.b3 d6 9.Bb2 0–0**

In spite of the somewhat shaky reputation the Budapest Defense enjoys, Black has managed to just about equalize.

10.0–0 Nxf3+ 11.Bxf3 Bf5 12.Bxc6?!

A rather unmotivated exchange. White seems to maintain a small advantage after 12.Nc3.

12...bxc6 13.Qd2 Qg5?!

13...Re8! would prevent White's next move.

**14.e4 Qxd2 15.Nxd2 Bg6 16.Bc3 a4 17.b4 Bb6
18.Rfe1 Rfe8 19.g4 Re7 20.Kf1**

Black has the initiative and the two Bishops so he is a little better.

**20...Rae8 21.f3 f6 22.Rac1 Bf7 23.Rc2 h6 24.c5 Ba7
25.Bd4 Rd7 26.Bf2 dxc5 27.bxc5 Rd3?!**

This looks strong for Black, but only makes White's life easier by allowing the exchange of a pair of Rooks. Better was 27...Rb8.

**28.Re3 Red8 29.Ke2 R3d7 30.Rec3 Rb8 31.Rd3
Rxd3 32.Kxd3 Rb5 33.Kd4 Bb3 34.Rc3**

Black's advantage has just about evaporated.

**34...Kf7 35.Kd3 Be6 36.h3 Ke7 37.f4 Rb2 38.Be3
Bc8 39.f5 Ba6+ 40.Kd4 Rb8 41.Bf4 Rd8+ 42.Ke3**
Because of Black's unfortunate bishop on a7, now White is better.

**42...Rd7 43.h4 Kd8 44.g5 hxg5 45.hxg5 Kc8 46.Nf3
Rd1 47.Bg3 Kd7 48.gxf6 gxf6 49.Bh4 Ra1?**
Technically speaking, this move is no good. Black's best bet to minimize his disadvantage was 49...Ke7 continuing a rather joyless defense. Instead, the move played sets a little tactical trap.

50.Bxf6?

White falls for it, and now Black is back in the game. Black would be singing a different song after 50.Nd4! Rh1 51.Bxf6 Rh3+ 52.Nf3 and White is winning.

**50...Rxa3! 51.Ne5+ Ke8 52.Rxa3 Bxc5+ 53.Kd2
Bxa3 54.Kc3 c5 55.Nd3?! Bb7 56.Nf2?! Bb4+**
White's inaccuracies over the last couple moves have given Black a significant advantage. Black's passed pawns are going to be a real problem.

**57.Kb2 c4 58.Bd4 c5 59.Be3 c3+ 60.Ka2 Ba6 61.e5
Bc4+ 62.Ka1 Ba3 63.Nd1 c2! 64.Nb2 Bb3 65.e6
Bb4 66.f6 Bxe6 67.Nxa4 Ba3**

Even better is 67...Bb3 68.Nb2 Bc3 69.Bf4 Bxf6 70.Be3 Kf7 and the Black King eventually moves over to the Queenside, winning.

68.Nb2 Bb3 69.Nd3 c4 70.Nc1 Kf7?

After playing the last dozen moves just about perfectly, Black blunders and throws away the win. It seemed to me there should be a win here, and after playing around with the position I found the path to victory: 70...Bxc1! 71.Bxc1 c3 72.Be3 Kf7 73.Bg5 Ke6 74.Bf4 Kxf6 and it's fairly easy to see that when the black king gets to d1 he can force a win: 75.Be3 Kf5 76.Bf4 Ke4 77.Bg5 Kd3 78.Bc1 Ke2 79.Bf4 Kd1 80.Bg5 Bf7 (Of course 80...c1Q+?? 81.Bxc1 Kxc1 is a draw) 81.Bc1 Be8 82.Bf4 c1Q+ 83.Bxc1 Kxc1 84.Ka2 c2 85.Kb3 Kd2, etc.

71.Nxb3 cxb3 72.Bc1!

Now Black has a choice - he can retreat his Bishop allowing White to play 73.Kb2, winning both pawns or he can capture on c1 with a stalemate. He prefers the latter.

72...Bxc1, stalemate 1/2–1/2

Empire Chess writer Bill Townsend working the floor at the State Championship (below)



Here's a fun, tactical game from Brett Kildahl, who tied for second in the Under 2100 section.

**Daniel Pomerantz (1990) – Brett Kildahl (2091)
[B07] Old Indian Defense
136th New York State Championship U2100
Round 5, Colonie, NY, Sept. 1, 2014**

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.a4
e6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0–0 d5 9.e5 Nfd7 10.Ne2?!**

For no reason I can detect, White invites Black to wreck his Kingside pawns, and Black obliges.

10...Bxf3 11.gxf3 c5 12.c3 Nc6

What we have now looks very much like a French Defense, except Black has gotten rid of his evil "bad Bishop." This has to be at least equal for the second player.

13.f4 cxd4 14.cxd4 g6 15.Kh1 Nb4 16.Bb1 Rc8 17.Re1 a5 18.f5 gxf5 19.Nf4 Nf8 20.Nh5 Rg8 21.Bd2 Qb6 22.Bxb4?!

This invites the Black Queen to an awkward square for White. 22.Bc3 would prevent this.

22...Qxb4 23.Bd3 Bg5 24.f4 Bh4 25.Re2 Kd8 26.Bb5 Nd7 27.Re3?

Not only drops a pawn, but allows the Black Queen to invade. Better was 27.Ra3.

27...Qxb2 28.Re2 Qc3!

Here's the rub: White must give up his d-pawn or his h-pawn.

29.Bd3 Qxd4 30.Rb1 Rc3 31.Rd2 Qe3 32.Bxf5?!

In a lost position Black tries a counter-attack, which actually buys him some more time although it really should bring the game to an abrupt conclusion.

32...exf5 33.Rxb7 Qxd2?

A cute tactic, but White has something better - a mate in four with a Queen sacrifice: 33...Qxh3+ 34.Rh2 Qf3+ 35.Qxf3 Rc1+ 36.Qf1 Rxf1, mate.

34.Qxd2 Rxh3+ 35.Qh2 Rxh2+ 36.Kxh2 d4 37.Ra7 Rg6 38.Rxa5 Nb6 39.Rb5 Kd7 40.a5 Nc4

The time control is past, and Black has a won game. The rest requires no commentary.

41.Rd5+ Kc6 42.Rxd4 Nxa5 43.Kh3 Bf2 44.Rd2 Rh6 45.Rd6+ Rxd6 46.exd6 Kxd6 47.Ng7 Nc4 48.Nxf5+ Ke6 49.Nh6 Ne3 50.Ng8 Kf5 51.Nh6+ Kg6 52.Ng8 Nf5 53.Kg4 Nh6+ 54.Nxh6 Kxh6 55.Kf5 Be3 56.Kf6 Bxf4 57.Kxf7 Kg5 58.Ke6 Kg4 59.Kd5 Kg3 0-1

Larry Fredette tied for second in the Under 1500 section, but this is the one game he lost. The plain fact is that his opponent, New Hampshire player Paul Becotte, played very well. However, what attracted me to this game was actually the Queen and pawn ending that concluded it. In spite of being lost for much of the game it seems that Fredette could have actually drawn the ending. Probably the best quality that one should possess in defending such an ending is sheer mulish stubbornness, a desire to simply tire your opponent out by frustrating all his winning tries. The other thing to keep in mind is that the two most important words in Queen and pawn endings are "King safety." Having a monarch that can be checked all over the place makes progress almost impossible.

Larry Fredette (1456) – Paul Becotte (1423) [A46]

Reti Opening

**136th New York State Championship U1500
Round 2, Colonie, NY, Aug. 30, 2014**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.a3 c5 4.e3 Be7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.b3 cxd4 8.exd4 b6 9.Bb2 Bb7 10.Nbd2 Nd5 11.c4 Nf4 12.Re1 Nxe2+ 13.Rxe2 d5!

White is now going to have some weak pawns in the center.

14.Qc2 Bf6 15.Ne5?! dxc4 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.bxc4?
White has more play for his lost pawn after 17.Nxc4 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 Qxd4 19.Rd1.

17...Bxd4 18.Bxd4 Qxd4 19.Rd1 Qg4 20.f3 Qd4+ 21.Kh1 Rfd8 22.Rde1 Rac8 23.Ne4 Bb5 24.Rd2 Qxc4 25.Qd1 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Qd3 27.Qf4

Two pawns down, things look very bleak for White but as we shall see it is far too soon for him to give up.

27...Rd8 28.h3 Qd4 29.Qc7 Qd7 30.Qg3 Kf8 31.Ng5 Qd3?! 32.Qf4?

White wins a pawn with 32.Qc7! Be8 33.Nxh7+ Kg8 34.Ng5.

32...Qf5 33.Qh4

Another win of a pawn 33.Nxh7+ Qxh7 34.Qb4+.

33...Rd5 34.Qb4+ Kg8 35.Ne4 h6 36.Nd6 Qd3 37.Nxb5 Rxb5 38.Qe7 Rb1 39.Rxb1 Qxb1+ 40.Kh2 a5 41.Qe8+ Kh7 42.Qxf7 Qb3 43.f4 Qxa3 44.Qxe6 Qb4

In spite of Black's Queenside passed pawns, things are looking better for White. Why? Because of the vulnerability of Black's King.

45.Qf5+ Kg8 46.Qc8+ Qf8 47.Qe6+ Kh8 48.Qxb6 Qxf4+ 49.Kg1 a4

This allows White all sorts of mischief. Better was 49...Qf5.

50.Qd8+ Kh7 51.Qd3+ Kg8 52.Qd8+?

A harmless check, right? Well, actually this seems to help Black in a big way, even if it doesn't quite lose. It's tough to see how Black can make progress after 52.Qd5+ Kf8 53.Qd8+ Kf7 54.Qd7+ Kf6 55.Qd8+ Kg6 56.Qd3+ Kh5, etc.

52...Qf8

Now Black can stop the checks, and he has a3 covered.

53.Qd5+ Kh8 54.Qa5 a3 55.Qa4 Qe7 56.Qb3?

Loses instantly. It seems as if White can barely hang on with a judicious combination of watching the a-pawn and checking the Black King around: 56.Qa5 Kh7 57.Qf5+ g6 58.Qf2 h5 59.Kh2 Kg7 60.Qd4+ Kf8 61.Qh8+ Kf7 62.Qh7+ Kf6 63.Qh8+ Ke6 64.Qc8+ Kd5 65.Qa8+, etc.

56...Qa7+ White can't stop the a-pawn, so he gives up. 0-1

NYSCA's Discount Program – A New Direction for Membership

The NYSCA annual meeting approved a new way for affiliates and organizers of the New York State Championship and New York State Open to support NYSCA events. Organizers that offer a significant entry fee discount for the NYSCA events as well as other tournaments that the organizer holds. The State Scholastic Championship, which is the largest funder of NYSCA, is unchanged by this change in membership criteria. It is worth noting that the traditional membership-required model remains in effect, and may be used by any organizer, as has been the case throughout NYSCA's history.

There are two goals with the change. One is to make the State Championship a profitable tournament. The long-time organizer of the tournament has reported that the tournament, NYSCA's flagship event, has lost money since membership costs were absorbed into the entry fee. There has been a slow decline in the entries at the State Championship even with the current entry fee structure, so an increase may well lead to a further decline in entries. The pool of potential sites to hold the State Championship is not particularly large on Labor Day weekend, and by and large, the membership is satisfied with the Albany Marriott and the Capital Region location for the tournament. Therefore this new direction is being tried.

In 2014, membership at the State Championship and State Open will not be required, but members will be offered a \$7 discount on their entry fee to the event. Continental Chess Association (CCA) is also offering a \$5 discount at its other tournaments in New York, including the Long Island Open and Manhattan Open. It should be noted that CCA revived the New York State Open in May in Lake George, and the event has been a success for NYSCA. NYSCA is willing to work with any other organizer on other NYSCA events.

NYSCA wants to work with organizers to expand the discounts. Organizers that offer the discounts will have their events advertised in Empire Chess, posted on the NYSCA web site and advertised through NYSCA's facebook and twitter feeds. By accessing NYSCA's group of committed tournament chess players, the discounts in entry fee will more than pay for itself with increased entries and the ability to obtain entries from further away. NYSCA is also working on internet options for membership verification and purchase.

Help us make NYSCA the best chess organization it can be in the best chess state in the country. It will make us better, and your events better as well.

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Ft. Drum Staff Sargent Tia Wins Watertown Summer Classic by Don Klug

One of the Watertown Chess Club's two newest members, Expert SSG Rudy Tia, Jr. scored eight victories in nine games to win the 2014 Summer Classic Round Robin Tournament. National Master Captain Arthur Macaspac tied with Dr. David Kistler, a local college professor, for second place with 7 ½ points. Each of the top three players scored 1-1 in their mini round-robin. Then local "A" player Adolfo Prieto held Capt. Macaspac to a draw in Round 9 to prevent the Captain from claiming a share of the tournament title. It was also "spoiler" Prieto's Round 4 draw with Dr. Kistler that helped prevent the professor from claiming a share of the Classic title.

An interesting side note here is that SSG Tia was the 2007 All-Army Chess Champion (*Chess Life* September 2007), winning with 9 ½ points over second place finisher Arthur Macaspac. The Watertown Club tournament was SSG Tia's first chess tournament since 2007. Interestingly, SSG Tia suffered just one loss in the 2007 tournament to Capt. Macaspac. SSG Tia returned the favor in this tournament with a first-round win over Macaspac. SSG Tia's lone loss was to Dr. Kistler in Round Five.

Dr. Kistler suffered his lone surprise loss to Capt. Macaspac in Round Eight. The surprise was due to the fact that the Captain trailed most of the game, but his determination paid off in the ensuing time scramble. The Captain had played the last 10 moves with less than a minute left on his clock and trailed by a pawn, although he had a strong minority attack going on against Kistler's Queenside. Expert player Kistler was also now short on time with less than two minutes left. Dr. Kistler erred late in the game with 44. Qd8, which pinned his Queen to the King on g8. The error allowed Macaspac to capture Kistler's Bishop, only supported by the pinned Queen. The correct move was either 44. Rd8 or Kg7, either allowing Kistler's Queen to hold the Bishop. A second blunder cost the professor his Rook and the game.

The game scores between Dr. Kistler versus SSG Tia and Capt. Macaspac follow:

Watertown Chess Club 2014 Summer Classic
Round 5, August 5, 2014 Ruy Lopez
White: Dr. David Kistler (2116)
Black: SSG Rudy Tia (2126)

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9. h3 Nb8 10. d4 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 c5

Fritz suggests 11...c5, but another option is 11... Bb7 12. Bc2 exd4 13.Nxd4.

12. Nf1

White has a minimal edge (+0.25. The alternative 12. d5 seems to Block both the Black Bishops(+0.37) and 12. dxc5 seems to help Black.)

12... Re8 13. Ng3

13. d5, again, looks very good for White (0.50.)

13... Bf8 14. Bg5

Dr. Kistler calls this a mistake. After 14...h6, what is the Bishop to do?

14... h6 15. Bd2.

Of interest is ... 15. Bd5 Ra7 16. Bxf6 Qxf6 17. a4.

15...Qb6

Attempting to pressure White's center.

16. Be3

The "d" pawn push will cause Black problems as mentioned before.

16...exd4 17. cxd4 Bb7 18. dxc5?

The subtle 18. Bc2 d5 19. e5 Ne4 20.dxc5 Qc7 (forced) 21. Nxe4 dxe4.

18... dxc5

Giving Black the edge (-0.56) and an attack on White's King Pawn.

19. Bc2 Rad8 20. Nd2

Dr. Kistler faults this move and wonders if Black already holds a winning position. Fritz recommends that the Queen move out of the line of fire with 20. Qc1 Bd6 21.Bf4.

20... Qc6 21. Qe2 c4 22. a4 Ne5?

Black needs to get the King's Bishop into the game... 22... Bb4 23. axb5 axb5 24. Red1 Nc5, and...25....Nd3.

23. axb5

Seeking to place the Rook at a7.

23... axb5 24. Nf3 Nd3 25. Nd4!

The game changing move. White had had all his resources defending the poor King Pawn. Now the White Knight counter attack creates decision problems for Black.

25... Rxd4?

The quiet 25...Qd7 gets the Black Queen out of trouble; 26. Bxd3 cxd3 27. Qxd3 and 27....Nxe4 ...stalls the White counter attack.

26.Bxd4 Nxe4

A surprise.... ...the simple 26... Nxe1 27. Rxe1 Qe6 is interesting, but the main line looks better for Black.

27. Nxe4 Nxe1 28. Rxe1 f5 29. f3

To prevent the mate threat on g2.

29... Kh8?

Dr. Kistler immediately sees this as an error as it costs Black the initiative. Again a simple capture. 29... fxe4 30. Bxe4 Qd6 31. Bc3 Bxe4 32. fxe4 takes away the white-squared Bishop and maintains Black's pressure on the poor King pawn.

30. Qd2! fxe4 31. Bxe4

Rather than...31. Rxe4, which will lead to the trade of Rooks.

31... Qe6??

Looks natural, but Black needed to look deeper into the position. For instance 31...Qd6 32. Qe3 Re6 33. Qf2 Qe7 holds the day for Black.

32. Re3!

The very best response.

32... Bc8?

Again this looks to be a somewhat natural move to save the Bishop and protect the Queen, but...it is the final mistake. If 32... Bxe4 33. Rxe4 Qg6 34. Rxe8 Qxe8 35. Qxh6+ Kg8 36. Qf4 Qe1+ 37. Kh2 Qe6 38. Qe4 Bd6+ 39. g3 Qxe4 40. fxe4 b4 41. Kg2 c3 42. b3 Kf7 43. Kf3 c244. Be3 and Black still can hope to hold the draw.

33. Bc2

and the Black Queen is dead!

33... Qxe3+ (forced) 34. Bxe3 b4 35. Bd4 Kg8 36. Qf4 Be6 37. Qe4 Kf7 38. Qg6+ Ke7 39. Bc5+ Kd7 40. Ba4+

1-0

Watertown Chess Club 2014 Summer Classic

Round 8, Aug 26, 2014 Sicilian Defense

White: NM Capt. Arthur Mascapac 2206

Black: Dr. David Kistler 2116

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Bd3 Nf6 6. O-O d6 7. c4 Bd7 8. b3 Nc6 9. Bb2 Be7 10. Nd2 O-O 11. Rc1 Rc8 12. Bb1 Qa5 13. Re1 Qg5 14. Re3 Ng4 15. Rg3 Nxd4 16. Bxd4 e5 17. Nf3 Qh5 18. Bb2 b5 19. h3 Nf6 20. c5 dxc5 21. Rg5 Qh6 22. Bxe5

22. Rxe5 Be6 23. Ng5 Rfd8 24. Qf3 Bd6 25. Nxe6 Bxe5 26. Nxd8 Bxb2=

22... Rfd8 23. Bxf6 Qxf6 24. Qc2 Qf4

24... c4 25. Rd5 cxb3 26. Qd1 Be6.

25. Rd5 Bxh3 ! 26. e5 Bf5

26... g6 27. Rxd8+ Rxd8 28. Qc3 Bg4

27. Rxd8+ Rxd8

28. Qb2 Bxb1 29. Rxb1 Qe4 30. Re1 Qd5 31. Qa3 Qe6 32. Qa5 g6

32... Rd5 33. Qc7 Rd3 34. Rc1 h6.

33. Rc1 Rc8 34. a4?

34. Qd2 c4 35. bxc4 bxc4 36. Qc3 Bf8 37. Rd1 Bg7.

34... Qc6?

34... b4 35. Rd1 Qxb3 36. Rd7 Qe6 37. Ra7 b3

35. axb5 axb5

35... Qxb5 36. Qa2 Rb8

36. Nd4 Qd5 37. Nxb5 Qxe5 38. Re1 Qf6 39. Nc3 Bd8 40. Qa1 Bb6 41. Qa6 Rd8 42. Na4 Rd2

42... Rb8 43. Nxb6 Rxb6 44. Re8+ Kg7 45. Qa8 Rd6 46. Rg8+ Kh6 47. g3 Rd1+ 48. Kg2 Qf5 49. Rh8 g5

43. Rf1 Rd6

44. Qc8+ Qd8??

A. 44... Kg7 45. Qa6 h6 46. Qb5 Rc6 47. Rc1 Bc7)

(B. 44... Rd8 45. Qb7 Ba5 46. Nxc5 Qe5 47. b4 Bc7 48. g3 Rd4 49. Rb1)

45. Nxb6 Qxc8 46. Nxc8 Rd8 47. Ne7+ Kf8 48. Nc6 Rc8 49. Ne5 Rb8?? 50. Nd7+ Ke7 51. Nxb8 1-0

Draws Create Upset Tie at Watertown Open by Don Klug

The 2014 Watertown Open in April ended in a three-way tie after Class "B" player Don Klug drew Expert David Kistler and Class "A" player Adolfo Prieto. Kistler, Prieto and Klug ended the tournament at +2-0=2. Mr. Klug, in an inferior position against expert Kistler, sprung a surprise Kingside counter-attack. Mr. Klug, in time trouble, did not leave himself time to completely find the win and was forced to settle for a draw that was going to be by repetition. The Klug- Kistler game follows:

2014 Watertown Open, Round 1 QP Game

White: Don Klug (1692)

Black: David Kistler (2104)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. e3 d6 5. Be2 Nh5 6. Bg3

6. Bg5 h6 7. Bh4 c5 8. c3 Qb6 9. Qc2 cxd4 10. Nxd4 Nf6 11. Nd2

6... Nxc3 7. fxc3 O-O 8. O-O c5 9. c3 b6 10. Nbd2 Bb7 11. Qb3 Nc6 12. Rad1 Bh6 13. c4

13. e4 cxd4 14. cxd4 Rc8

13... Bg7 14. d5 Na5 15. Qc2 Bc8 16. b3 Bd7 17. Bd3 Rb8 18. e4 a6 19. Rde1 b5 20. e5 bxc4 21. Nxc4 Nxc4 22. bxc4

22. Bxc4 Bf5 23. Qd2

22... Qa5 23. exd6 exd6 24. Re7

24. Rb1 Rfe8 25. Kh1 Rxb1 26. Rxb1 Bg4 27. Nd2 h6

24...Rb2 25. Qc1 Bg4 26. Bb1

26. Qf4 Bxf3 27. Qxf3 seems better.

26... Rfb8?

It has always interested me to see how often an opponent's error follows your own blunder.} (26... Bf6 27. Re3 {and now} 27... Rfb8 {works!} 28. Rb3 R8xb3 29. axb3 Qc3 {allowing the black "a" pawn an easy path to a1}).

27. Qf4 f6? 28. Qxg4! f5?? 29. Bxf5

Bringing the lost Bishop back into the attack.

29... Rxa2 30. Be6+

30. Bc8 Re2 31. Rxe2 Qd8 32. Qe6+ Kh8 33. Qe8+ Qxe8 34. Rxe8+ Bf8 35. Rxf8+ Kg7 36. Ng5 Rb7 37. Ne6+ Kh6 38. Bxb7 Kh5 39. R1f4 g5 40. g4+ Kh4 41. g3+ Kh3 42. Nxg5#.

30... Kh8 31. Qf4 Ra1 32. Ng5! h5 33. Nf7+ Kh7 34. Ng5+

{White's limited clock time and apparent lack of experience causes him to miss the win.} 34. Qh6+ Bxh6 35. Ng5+ Kh8 36. Rh7#)

34... Kh8 35. Nf7+

Once again, a missed opportunity, 35. Rxc7 Rxf1+ 36. Qxf1 Kxc7 37. Qf7+ Kh6 38. Qh7+ Kxc5 39. h4+ Kf6 40. Qf7+ Ke5 41. Qf4#)

35... Kh7 36. Ng5+

White has only 3 minutes left vs Black's 25 minutes, so the 1/2 point split of the game looked good. Drawn 1/2-1/2

Disappointment was experienced when Dr. Kistler pointed out that the three move mate was still available to the trained eye! He noted that moves 36. Qh6+ (not Ng5+) Bxh6 37. Ng5+ Kh8 38. Rh7# would have won for White. Klug struggled to creep into the final three-way championship tie by edging out a fourth-round win over Canadian visitor John Lukezich who was returning our visit to Kingston,

Ontario in February.

NNY'ers play well in Canadian Tournaments by Don Klug

Watertown Chess Club players Dr. David Kistler and Mr. Donald Klug traveled across the border to play in the Chess Federation of Canada's Eastern Ontario Chess Association McIntosh Open in Morrisburg, Canada in April. Dr. Kistler scored 4-1 to tie with Canadian Master William Doubleday and Expert Dusan Simic. Nineteen Canadians and two players from Watertown participated. Dr. Kistler and Mr. Klug represented NNY Chess well with respectable scores of +4-1 and +2-2=1 respectively. Dr. Kistler brought home a share of the \$500 first prize and a share of the Au Diapason Inc. McIntosh Open Title. Of additional interest is the fact that Morrisburg, Ontario, Canada is the birthplace of the McIntosh Apple.

..... and finally, The Kingston, Ontario Open

Dr. Kistler and Mr. Klug also participated in the Kingston Open in Kingston, Ontario in a CFC Eastern Ontario Chess Association Tournament. Local businesses offered a guaranteed prize fund of \$1,000 in an effort to revive the dormant tournament after several years. Dr. Kistler (+3-2) finished in a three-way tie for third while Mr. Klug (+2-2=1) took the Top Under 1700 prize of \$200. Worth noting is that Canadian Chess Federation takes USCF ratings at par.



Waiting for the pairings at the State Championship at the Albany Marriott.

A “Complete Game” by Richard Moody Jr.

Before starting this article I would like to point out that in the Spring 2014 issue of *Empire Chess*, the discovery of the key concept in the opening was spotted by Stockfish, a computer and analyzed by Nils-Hero Lindemann. However, I did not use his analysis which was far more complicated than any a human would play. Here is the critical position:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 Ncb4 9.O-O c6 10.d4 Qf6 11.Qd1

This is what Stockfish discovered.

11...exd4 12.Ne4 Qg6

After a dozen moves of complex play by Lindemann, White winds up with four pawns for the piece; my Deep Fritz 14 played 12...Qf5 and White steadily improved his position with a clearly superior position.

The following is what Anand would call a complete game. First, a major novelty in the opening. Second, a good middlegame and finally a unique endgame.

The starting moves are:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Qe2 Nc6

GM Alburt suggested that Black might try a Pirc with 3...d6 or try 3...g6.

4.d4! N

*When I checked this against a three-million game database in the 1990's from Colin Leach, there were no examples of 4.d4. It is a sham sacrifice in some cases and a real sacrifice the way Deep Fritz 14 plays it. It is clearly sound in over-the-board or blitz and here my opponent, a Postal Expert, did not find the right response. This is Moody-Klein, 1994, published in *Inside Chess*, v.10, issue 3, p.3.*

4...exd4

4...Nxd4! 5.Nxd4 exd4 6.e5 Nd5 7.Qe4 c6! & Fritz prefers Black.

5.e5 Nd5 6.Qe4 Bb4+

This is a mistake but certainly a “reasonable” one. The Fritz 14 engine prefers 6...Ng8/Nge7/Ng6 =/+ , a move sequence that few humans would play, but now White gets a serious initiative.

7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nxd2 Nde7 9.O-O-O d5 10.Qh4 Bf5 11.Nb3 Ng6 12.Qxd8+ Rxd8 13.Nbxd4 Bg4 14.Bb5 Nge7 15.Rhe1 O-O 16.Nxc6 Nxc6 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Rd4!

I felt I would have good prospects in the Rook and pawn endgame.

18...Bc8 19.b4!

To freeze the a- and c- pawns.

19...Rfe8 20.Re3!

This is still a purely developmental attack; White got a lead in development and traded up his advantage.

20...f6 21.Kd2! fxe5 22.Nxe5 Bb7 23.Nd3 Rxe3 24.Kxe3 Ba6 25.Kd2 Bb5 26.Rf4!

To force the exchange of Rooks.

26...Rf8 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8 28.Kc3 Ke7 29.Kd4 Kd6
diagram---the start of the Knight wheel.

30.Nc5 Be2 31.Nb7+ Kd7 32.Kc5 Bb5 33.Na5 Ba4 34.Nb3 Bb5 35.Nd4

Now the Bishop and King are tied to the c-pawn; this is a “squeeze”, not zugzwang. White runs Black out of pawn moves because the King and pawn endings are wins for White.

36...Ba4 36.c3 a6 37.a3 g6 38.f4 h6 39.Nf3? (pointless) Ke6 40.Nd4+ Kd6 41.g4 g5 42.f5 Bd1 43.Nxc6 Ke8 44.Ne5 Bb3 45.Kc6 Kd8 46.Kb7 Ba4 47.Kxa6 1-0

According to Irving Chernev, *Capablanca's Best Endings* the Knight wheel I played in this game had been seen only once before in Capablanca-Yates, New York, 1924. GM Larry Evans also played a Knight wheel.

Here is the game Capablanca-Yates:

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 O-O 6.h3 c5 7.d4xc5 Qa5 8.Nd2 Qxc5 9.Nb3 Qb6 10.Be5 e6 11.Nb5 Ne8 12.Bxg7 Nxc7 13.h4 a6 14.Nc3 Nc6 15.Bd3 f5 16.Qd2 Ne5 17.Be2 Nc4 18.Bxc4 dxc4 19.Qd4 Qc7 20.Qc5 Nxc5 21.Nxc5 b6 22.Na4 Rb8 23.O-O-O b5 24.Nc5 Rb6 25.a4 Nh5 26.b3 cxb3 27.cxb3 bxa4 28.Nxa4 Rc6 29.Kb2 Nf6 30.Rd2 a5 31.Rhd1 Nd5 32.g3 Rf7 33.Nd3 Rb7 34.Ne5 Rc7 35.Rd4 Kg7 36.e4 fxe4 37.Rxe4 Rb6 38.Rc4 Rxc4 39.Nxc4 Bd7

(diagram—This is the start of the Knight Wheel)

40.Nc3 Rc5 41.Ne4 Rb5 42.Ne4 d6 43.Nb7 Rc7 44.Nxa5 Bb5 45.Nd6 Bd7 46.Nc4 Ra7 47.Ne4 1-0:77

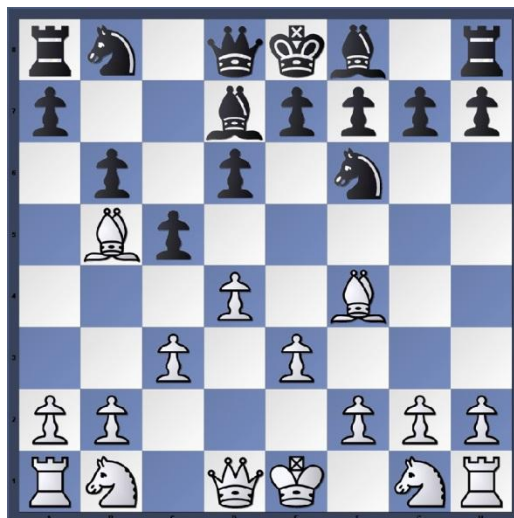
Don't Believe Your Opponent: Seeing Ghosts, Monsters, and Hallucinating by Neal Bellon (info@lichessclub.com)

I have a certain fascination with the psychological aspect of the game at the amateur level. As a player and tournament director, I see countless class players who have trouble winning games and boosting their rating. Based on my own observations and anecdotal evidence, I'm convinced that the reason is often psychological rather than a lack of chess theory. Countless amateurs are fully aware that "not all doubled pawns are bad," and can fully explain Lucena's position. They know that Knights enjoy advanced support points and that it's correct to sacrifice a pawn for piece activity in certain positions. However, despite this impressive amount of knowledge, when they sit at the board to play a rated game – which is what it's all about – it never quite comes together. They achieve a winning position but end up drawing or losing because the opponent makes an apparent threat that seems decisive when there's actually a simple reply.

It is my contention that the reason for these mistakes is purely mental, specifically that the opponent's last move is given too much credit. We often take our opponent's word that his move is good and create problems in our mind that don't exist, hence this article's title. IM Jeremy Silman refers to this as "seeing ghosts." Others call it "monsters under the bed" or "hallucinating." This flawed thinking affects the game of many amateurs and I continue to struggle with it myself more often than I'd care to admit. For more on the subject of chess psychology and mental errors, I strongly recommend Jeremy Silman's *The Amateur's Mind* (the most instructive chess book in print in my view), *Chess for Tigers* by Simon Webb, and *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins* by Jonathan Rowson.

Now, let's look at some positions from my games. These aren't meant to be definitive or paradigm examples in any way, but rather the types of positions any amateur may face in a tournament. I've done my best to be concise, rather than get into a myriad of variations with long-winded prose. The focus here will be on the move chosen and the thought process behind it.

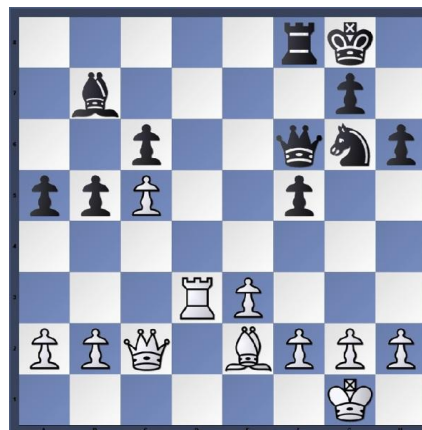
Bellon – Paciulli 2013 – White to move



Here, Black just played 5...Bd7, blocking the check and attacking White's b5 Bishop. I replied with 6. Qf3 and was proud of the move as it attacks the a8 Rook and breathes fire down the diagonal, hitting Black's seemingly vulnerable Queenside.

However, 6. Qf3?? fails tactically to 6...Bxb5! If 7. Qxa8 Bc6! 8. Qxa7 Bxg2 and Black is winning. However, my opponent believed as I did (we both hallucinated) that 6. Qf3 was good and replied with the defensive ...d5 and we ended up with a draw.

Bellon – Chipkin 2008 – Black to move

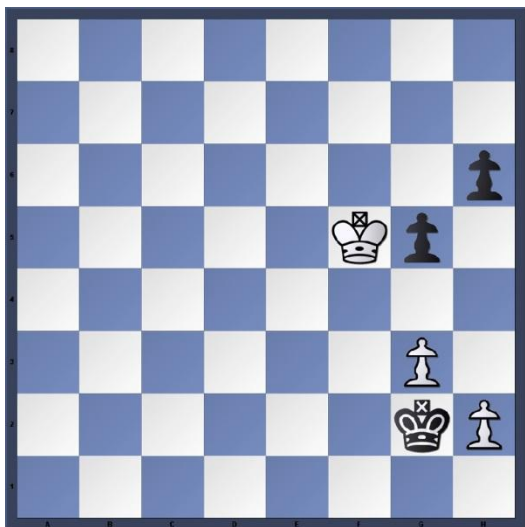


I was down a piece for a pawn here after blundering early on and was gritting my teeth, praying my opponent would blunder. I got my wish after my higher-rated opponent attempted to force things with 1...f4??

At first glance it seems like the correct pawn thrust based on where Black's pieces are, but I didn't believe my higher rated opponent and saw that the reply 2. Rd6! wins the Black Knight and I went on to draw a game I should have lost. Black missed the discovered attack and opened his position to the benefit of White.

It's easy to miss these moves if you believe your opponent because ...f4 seems so thematic and logical in the position.

Bellon – Cohen 2003 – *White to move*



Of all my games, this is my favorite position to show the concept of not believing your opponent. After a long think, I correctly played 1. h4!!, the only move that doesn't lose and maintains the draw. I'm giving this a double exclamation point because it's very easy to mess this one up. My opponent then hastily played 1...gxh4 and said "it looks like a draw," which I took as a half-baked draw offer.

Exhausted, and tempted by the rating points of "drawing up" I almost accepted, but after a closer look I saw that 1...gxh4?? is a game losing blunder and after 2. gxh4 I had a won King and pawn ending. Black needed to play 1...Kxg3 or 1...Kh3 to keep the draw in hand.

Your opponent may play his move with great confidence, even slamming the piece on the square. Or, he may have taken a long time to think, giving the move more credibility. In addition, if your opponent is much higher-rated, we tend to think "it must be good." Of course, we have to give credit where it's due. If your opponent's move is a solid threat, then we have to defend accordingly even if that means grim defense. But the bottom line is this: Regardless of the circumstances behind the move, look for a way to prove it's wrong before tipping your hat and defending. At the amateur level, this opportunity is more common than most people realize and is what can win or turn games.

Awareness (from page 18)

Queens after Qd6-a3, leaving my e4 pawn hanging and my Queenside pawns in shambles.

Now I'm not saying to become paranoid, that is for another article entirely, where you start seeing ghosts and threats everywhere. However, we do need a healthy sense of awareness, and keep track of what our opponent is up to. After all, chess is a two-person game, right?

Hall of Famer Jay Bonin (right center) sits awaiting another opponent.

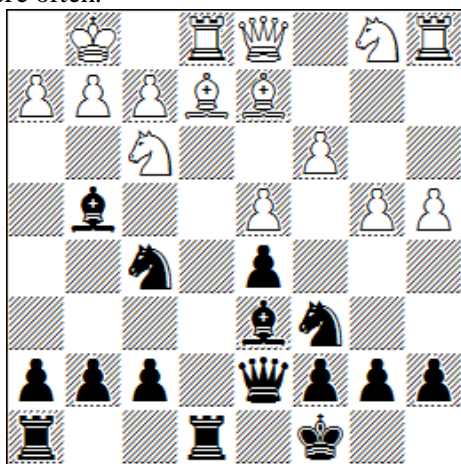


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NYSCA's home
on the web.

Awareness –the Scholastic Column

by Zachary Calderon

I think that, so often in chess, we become so involved with our own plans and ideas, that we completely forget to consider our opponent's threats. This happens to everyone, including Grandmasters, and will most likely continue to happen for the rest of our chess-playing career. In this article, I would like to give you some examples of situations from actual games, so that you can recognize when you are doing this more often.



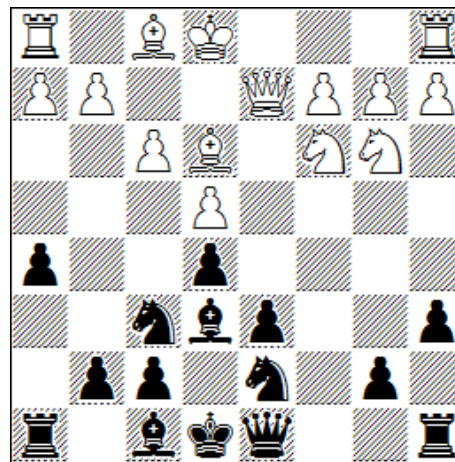
This first example comes from a blitz game I played online. White has given me a tempo in an already very dangerous line of the Exchange Variation of the French, and I'm ready to strike on the Kingside. However, he never considered this! Rather than developing his Bishop first and try to rush my Queenside, he should have played more solidly, either with Bf1 or Nbd2-f1 and then start a Queenside assault. However, now Black can end the game quickly and neatly with **12...Rxe2!**

...and suddenly his position is just collapsing.

He played **13. Qxe2 Nh4 14. a5 Bxf3 15. gxf3 Qh3 0-1**

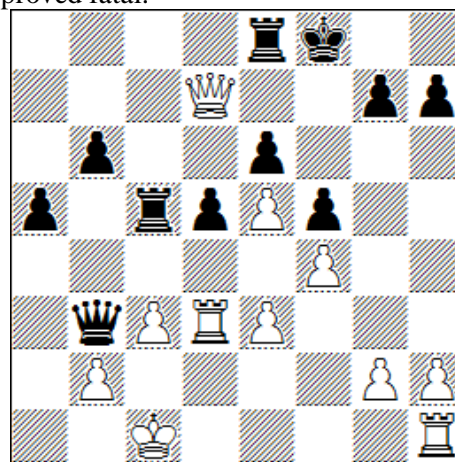
He can't defend both mates on h2 and g2. Alternatively, 13. Rxe2 Bxf3 14. gxf3 Nh4 with the same threat of Qh3. 15. Qf1 allows White to survive, but after 15...Nxf3+ 16. Kh1 Qf5 White's pieces are all tied up in knots, Black has a pawn for the exchange and more than enough compensation.

Disasters like this can be avoided very easily with a little bit of prophylactic thinking. After **1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. f3 Nbd7 9. Qd2 h5!?**



Black throws a wrench into White's English Attack by making g4 extremely difficult to achieve. Now Black can play ...Be7 and ...0-0 followed by assaulting the Queenside by playing ...Rc8 or ...Qc7 and ...b5, regardless of where White's King has castled.

The last example comes from my game in the first round of the New York State Chess Championships from this past August. I became so focused on my attack that I completely ignored his own threats, which proved fatal.



I'm under a lot of pressure, but after 26. Rd4 Fritz says that I am -0.51, not great, but something I can work with. However, I got too eager and played **26. e4?!** with the idea of swinging my Rook to g3 and counterattacking his weak points. However, I completely missed **26...Rb5!** forcing the exchange of **(continued on page 17)**

Stripunsky Takes Manhattan *by Karl Heck*

The 13th annual Manhattan Open brought 368 players to the Wyndham New Yorker Hotel in Manhattan July 25-27, and the weekend event was a triumph for GM Alexander Stripunsky, who won the Open section outright with 4 ½ points. Stripunsky only yielded a draw in the last round to former US Champion GM Sergey Kudrin after beating super-GM Sergei Azarov in the fourth round of the event.

Azarov and Kudrin tied for second in the 36-player Open section with 4-1 scores. Kudrin also conceded a draw to FM Arthur Shen. Six players tied for fourth with 3 ½ points: GM Mark Paragua, GM Mikheil Kekelidze, GM Michael Rohde, IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, IM Jay Bonin, and FM Jason Shi. Bonin and Rohde were undefeated. Shi and Bonin were the Top Players Under 2450 in a very strong Open section.

The 82-player Under 2300 section was swept by FM Rico Salimbat, one of four titled players in the section. New National Master Michael Lim was clear second with 4 ½ points, earning the NM title with 37 points to “spare” on a weekend where he gained 43 rating points. His only draw was to FM Jon Jacobs in the third round.

WFM Alena Kats and Canadian Master James Fu tied for third with 4-1 scores. Fu lost to Salimbat in the fourth round, while Kats lost to NM Yogesh Gautam in the third round. The logjam at 3 ½ points included eight players: FM Jon Jacobs, FM Nathan Resika, NM Isaac Leon, NM Evan Rosenberg, NM Isaac Barayev, Majur Juac Lamel Mc Bryde and William Del Castillo. Mc Bryde and Del Castillo were the Top Players Under 2150

The Under 2000 section drew 103 players, and three of them tied for first with 4 ½ points: Henry Qi, Gabriel Pinales and Brandon Wang. Qi and Pinales became Experts after the tournament. Qi drew Hal Rives in the last round to allow Pinales and Wang to catch up. Pinales drew William Chen in the fourth round, while Wang had a “Swiss Gambit” draw in the first round against Jasmine Chen and then won four straight to join the tie at the top.

Eight players tied for fourth with 4-1 scores: Hussein Ali Dia, Hal Rives, Terrance Powlis, Wesley Wang, Karthik Rao-Kalagnanam, Pepito Nabua, Jace Jones

and David Zhurbinsky. The last four players split the Top Under 1850 prize.

The 73-player Under 1700 section had two perfect 5-0 score winners: Taraqur Rahman and Simon Thomas. Rahman gained 127 rating points to move over 1800, while Thomas gained 228 in the tournament, more than a full class. Lucas Foerster-Yialamas was also undefeated in third, taking a half-point bye in the first round and then winning four straight in the tournament to go 4 ½ for the event.

Ying Gao (in his first tournament), russel Wong, Normando Punzalan and Tauriq Jenkins tied for fourth with 4-1 scores. Jenkins was the Top Player Under 1550.

Two players also tied with perfect scores in the Under 1400 section: Dari Castro and Brett Schneider, both of whom also were playing in their second rated event. Both won last-round clashes against Ashley Mahesh and Simon Garbaty to end on top.

Adam Young, who only conceded a second-round draw to Mark Yukelis, was clear third with 4 ½ points. Six players finished in a tie for fourth in the 93-player section: Mahesh, Simon Gorbaty, Swarup Dhar, Will Johnson, Max Gorbaty and unrated Cassius Peters.

One feature of Continental Chess events are the relatively new Mixed Doubles prizes. In the Manhattan Open, the team of WFM Alena Kats and Michael Kats won with seven points. Andrevia Miller and GM Sergei Azarov led a group of five teams with 6 ½ points that also included Katherine and Henry Qi, Carol Knopf and Michael Layevskiy, Melissa Biegel and Jackson Hueckel, and Yibo Gao and Jiasi Shen.

Jamak Awatramani and Peter Aravena Sloan Sr. tied for first in the Saturday Night Blitz tournament with 6 ½ points. Jose Aquino, Jr. and Jonahtan Gottehrer tied for third in the 23-player event with 6-2 scores, with Gottehrer being the Top Player Under 2100. Frank Lin was Top Under 1800 with five points.

The tournament was run by a directorial dream team of Steve Immitt, Harold Stenzel and Jabari McGreen.

Capital Region News *courtesy enyca.org and staff contributors*

Last Wednesday a long delayed Capital District Chess League (CDCL) match between the Albany A team and the Schenectady A team took place. The results by board were:

Albany A Schenectady A
1 Berman 1-0 Sells
2 Howard 0-1 Adamec
3 Magat ½-½ Calderon
5 Wright 1-0 Townsend

A summary by boards:

Board 1, Berman-Sells was a positional battle in the Symmetrical English. This was a game of much interest because the participants are two of the more successful active local players. The contest was about two squares, d4 and d5, and who could make the best use of these outposts for their Knights early on. That debate ended in White's favor, slight though it seemed. As is frequently the case, winning an outpost battle, in and of itself, may not gain a big edge, however, the use of the d6 square eventually made a difference in the combinative finish. This was a nice win for Mr. Berman.

Board 2, Adamec-Howard was a clash between two opponents with a long history. Carl and Dean began playing each other back in the 1970s on opposing high school teams. This latest chapter in the saga was a win for Mr. Adamec, but it was a nip-and-tuck fight. Watching, I thought White was doing well out of the opening. It turns out my chess engine thought Black was slightly better. In the later middle game, when I thought Black was somewhat better because he had the two Bishops versus two Knights, the engine tilted the other way. The fight was mostly positional right up to the finale, then as Mr. Howard clock began to run down, and tactics came to the fore, Mr. Adamec obtained a definite advantage. Dean's resignation came in a tough but not quite losing position as his time was running out.

Board 3, Magat-Calderon differed from the top boards where experienced Experts were on both sides of game. Here it was the Expert, Gordon Magat, battling a recent new Class A player who has the goal of becoming an Expert. The opening advantage clearly went to Zachary Calderon, the *Empire Chess* columnist. In the long middle game tussle Gordon was unable to cancel out Calderon's edge. As the

game shifted to the ending the Expert's experience began to tell, and Mr. Magat was able to work his way to a drawn ending although he was down a pawn. This time youth and talent was denied by experience. Who knows what the outcome will be the next time.

Board 4, Townsend-Wright was a struggle of two strong Class A players. Mr. Townsend has not been very active in these last several years other than in a handful of CDCL matches. Mr. Wright on the other hand did very well in this year's Albany Championship ending up a very creditable second to Berman. Tim Wright unsoundly offered a pawn just as the middle game began and Townsend took it after some preparation. Just as he had a near winning advantage in hand, Mr. Townsend got bitten by a "tactical bug." That is when you go for complications when simple, risk-free, non-tactical options are available. The upshot, a piece was lost for a single pawn. Although it was not completely clear sailing for Wright, he eventually cashed in the piece for a two-pawn edge in a Rook endgame that was won for him.

The top Schenectady and Albany teams have often battled for the League title in past years. Not so this time. Some weeks ago the Albany B team locked up this year's trophy. The struggle Wednesday was about who would finish in second place. Albany A won and take second place in the League with 4 match points. The overall standings are:

1 Albany B 4½-1½
2 Albany A 4-2
3 Schenectady Geezers 3½-2½
4 Capital Region 3-3
5 Schenectady A 2-3 with Troy to play
6 Troy 2-3 with SCC A to play
7 RPI 1-5

Carl Adamec and Dean Howard have been playing each other since sometime in the 1970s. Then it was on opposing high school teams, now they fill high boards for the Schenectady and Albany clubs. Here is their latest edition from Board Two of the recent Albany A – Schenectady A CDCL match:

White: Adamec, Carl
Black: Howard, Dean

**CDCL Match, Albany A - Schenectady A
August 13, 2014, Guilderland, NY**

1.d4 e6

As Carl said after the game, an invitation to the French, one of Dean's favorite defenses. White declines thinking to avoid something his opponent knows too well. (editor's note: I remember Dean playing the French in Syracuse in the 1980's when I played him. Old habits evidently die hard.)

2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 h6 6.Bh4 O-O 7.h3!?

Apparently this is a novelty. I found no examples even in the games between untitled players in the databases. Up to this point we were in the theoretical groove, a position that has been chewed over by Grandmasters and lesser lights for more than 100 years. After the text Black should probably counter with 7..., c5; and then 8 dxc5 Bxc5 9 Qb3 Nc6 10 cxd5 exd5 11 Bxf6 Qxf6 12 Nxd5 Qd6; is not bad for Black. He has given a pawn for a lead in development. In addition he will be able to quickly develop the rest of his forces with various threats on the Knight pinned on d5 and he has the Bishop pair. That is sufficient compensation for the pawn.

7...b6

Instead Black tracks towards a kind of position Dean has played many times before; a sort of Tartakower Variation with his Bishop on b7. GM Tartakower brought this idea forward in his game against Capablanca in London 1922. In a complicated game Black held a draw against the then World Champion at a time when Capa was at the height of his powers. See the illustrative game below. Tartakower makes the point in his notes to the Capablanca game that Black's intention should be to get in ..., c7-c5; quickly. Following Tartakower's recommendation, and Rybka's suggestion, probably best here is 7..., c5.

8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.cxd5 exd5

This is almost a theoretical position very like something right out of the book but not quite. That suits Mr. Adamec, it is something he often strives to achieve, a non-book position where the contest will be decided by which side understands the fundamentals of chess the best.

11.Be2 Nd7

Another way to handle this position is first 11..., c5; followed by 12..., Na6.

12.O-O Rc8 !?

If ..., c7-c5 is on the program, it is better to do it without this move.

13.Qa4 !

And this is why. Black now will have some looseness

in his Q-side pawn formation.

13...a6 14.Rfc1 c5 15.Qd1 !?

I think White is not entirely wrong to avoid 15 Bxa6!?, because after 15..., Ra8 16 Bxb7 Rxa4 17 Nxa4 cxd4 18 exd4, it is unclear that White can hang on to all the material he has collected for his Queen. Instead of mixing things tactically White is satisfied to have both of his Rooks gainfully employed on the Q-side where the action is going on.

15...b5 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Nd4 Re8

This is the kind of position White had in mind when he captured the Knight on f6. The Nd4 is ideally placed holding up Black's d-pawn thereby keeping the Bb7 from contributing much positive from there.

18.Bf3 Ne4 19.Nce2

Now White is certain he can hold d4 with a Knight. That goes a long way towards offsetting the Bishop pair. According to the computer, Black has held an edge for the last several moves. That evaluation must be counting the Bishop pair for its long-term potential. There is, however, much that must be done to realize the Bishops' potential, and I don't see anything that Black can do to eliminate the Knight outpost on d4 even if the Bf6 is traded on d4. And, if it should come to a minor piece endgame, the weak pawn on d5 will limit Black's options. I prefer White at this point.

19...Qe7 20.Bxe4

A decision that many of us local players would not take. We tend to be too respectful of the Bishop's strength. My guess is Carl thought along these lines: if the Knight is allowed to stay on e4, there will be tactics to be calculated on every turn such as ..., Nxf2 followed by ..., Qxe3+, and this idea may, or may not include ..., Bxd4; mixed in. Here he decides to bet the farm on the strength of his Knight outpost on d4.

20...dxe4 21.Rxc8 Bxc8

More natural is 21..., Rxc8. Black must have concluded removing the Bishop to where it perhaps can contribute to some threats on the K-side was necessary. This an interesting decision. Shifting the Bishop to the h3-c8 diagonal certainly increases its potential, but in chess all decisions have bad as well as good points. The Bishop on c8 denies the Black Rook activity on the c-file. If 21..., Rc8; how does White proceed? If a) 22 Rc1, Qd7 23 a3 Be5 24 Rxc8 Qxc8 25 Qc1 Bd5; and tricky Knights versus ending after a Queen trade is not bad for Black. If b) 22 a4 b4 23 Qd2 g6 24 Rd1 Be5 25 Nc1 Qf8 26 a5 Bc7 27 Ncb3 Qd6; and so forth. Either way Black keeps some slight advantage. The idea pursued in the game does not do so well. My guess is Black reasoned this Bishop was his least well placed piece, so,

technically improving its placement is the thing to do. In this case, following that well worn piece of chess wisdom has the effect of making the Black Rook somewhat less useful. This is the bad side to the decision.

22.Rc1 Rd8 23.Qd2 Qd6 24.Qa5 Be5 ?!

The engine pretty much agrees with the moves for both sides for this last sequence excepting this last move. The computer's suggestion is 24..., Bb7. If then 25 Qc7 Qd5 26 Nf4 Qd7 27 Nh5 Bxd4 28 exd4 Qxc7 29 Rxc7 Bd5 30 b3 Be6; with a tricky Rook and minor piece endgame to play. I believe White has good practical chances. Rybka says Black is equal or just a bit better. After the text the game enters a very tactical phase.

25.b3 ?

Too cautious. Immediately 25 Nc6, is better. If Black tries to keep the two Bishops with 25..., Bh2+? 26 Kh1 Re8 27 g3 Qf6 28 Qe1, White obtains a minor piece for two pawns with a significant advantage. Alternatively, if Black tries 25..., Bxb2 26 Qxd8+ Qxd8 27 Nxd8 Bxc1 28 Nxc1, White gets a minor piece for one pawn. The decision not to enter into this tactical sequence likely was because of the condition of the clocks: Adamec had nearly one hour remaining, while Howard had no more than eight minutes for the rest of the game. As a practical matter, why go into concrete lines when, apparently, a small improvement can be made in the position and the onus is put on the opponent to use some more of his dwindling time to find a move?

25...Re8 ?

To answer the previous question: Here Black had the vital tempo with which to play 25..., Bb7; preventing Nd4-c6, but he does not do so. Time pressure is making Black take decisions on the basis of avoiding immediate errors or blunders. Against an opponent of equal strength this leads to intractable problems when he has the leisure to find and set traps and threats.

26.Nc6 Bb2 27.Rb1 Ba3 28.Ned4 Bd7 ?

By now Black had less than four minutes left. The text has a desperate flavor to it. Better is 28..., Bc5 29 b4 Bxd4 30 Nxd4 Qg6; maintaining material equality. Of course White has the obvious plan of occupying the c-file and bringing his Rook to c6, but Black can make threats on the K-side with the Bc8 and the weak f2 square playing roles in the threats. To evaluate the chances in such a position one needs time, and that is just what Black lacks. His decision is to roll the dice

with messy tactics.

29.Qxa6 Rc8

Rybka sees 29..., b4; as a better choice, but that move does not fit with the previous decision to bet on tactics so it no surprise Black does not make the move. After 29..., b4 30 Qb7 Bc8 31 Qa7 g6 32 Qa8 Qc5; much tension remains in the position. The Black Bishop on a3 has no great prospects, and the White Queen is annoyingly placed, but Black is not without some chances. He can still make threats of a sudden attack on the White King with his Bishop and Queen once the Black King is off the back rank.

30.b4

This is the best move.

30...Rxc6 31.Qxa3

Not the best move. Carl plays it safe with an eye on the clock. He still has 45 minutes remaining and Black is close to flagging. Tactically correct is 31 Nxc6 Bxc6 32 Qxa3, with an Exchange and a pawn in the bag. Perhaps he just did not see clearly the line: 31 Nxc6 Qd3 32 Qa8+ Kh7 33 Ne7!, and mate is forced. There are times when our opponent's time pressure leads us to too much haste in our own decision making.

31...Ra6 32.Qb2 Qg6 33.Kh2 Rf6 1-0

Black is nowhere near equal, but he is not quite beaten on the board. There was, however, no more time on his clock and he resigned here. This was a rather good effort by Mr. Adamec in demonstrating Knights are not helpless against Bishops when they have a sturdy central outpost from which they can not be ousted.

Illustrative game:

Capablanca. Jose Rual

Tartakower, Saviely

BCF Congress

1922 London, England

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 O-O
6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Qb3 Be6 10.Rd1 c6
11.Qc2 Ne4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qxe4
Qb4+ 15.Nd2 Qxb2 16.Bd3 g6 17.Qf4 Kg7 18.h4
Nd7 19.Ne4 Qxa2 20.h5 g5 21.Qg3 Qa5+ 22.Ke2 f5
23.Nxg5 hxg5 24.Qxg5+ Kf7 25.h6 Rg8 26.Qh5+
Ke7 27.h7 Rxg2 28.Kf1 Qd5 29.h8=Q Rxh8
30.Qxh8 Qf3 31.Rd2 Bd5 32.Ke1 Rg8 33.Qh4+
Kd6 34.Rf1 Be6 35.Rc2 a5 36.Qh2+ Ke7 37.Be2
Qe4 38.Kd2 c5 39.Bd3 Qg2 40.Qh4+ Qg5
41.Qxg5+ Rxg5 42.Rb1 f4 1/2-1/2

News from the Marshall *by Frank Romano*

The September 25 Marshall Game/30 tournament drew 29 players to the world-famous club.

Two Grandmasters originally hailing from the Phillipines, Mark Paragua and Oliver Barbosa, both earned perfect 4-0 scores. Paragua, a regular at the Marshall, defeated GM Mikheil Kekelidze in the last round while Barbosa bested FM Alexander Kalikshteyn.

Kekelidze, Kalikshteyn, FM Carlos Mena, NM Yevgeniy Margulis and Eric Balce all tied for third with 3-1 scores. NM Sayan Mondal and Bryan Quick tied for eighth with 2 ½ points. Alexander King and Gregory Keener directed for the Marshall.

Twenty-three players contested the September edition of the Marshall Masters, one of the longest-running tournaments of its type in the country. Two heavy hitters won the event with 3 ½ points: former US Champion GM Alexander Stripunsky and GM Oliver Barbosa. The two GM's drew in the last round after a full-point lead on the field.

Undefeated GM Mikheil Kekelidze and IM Alexander Bagrationi tied for third with 3-1 points. Bagrationi lost to Stripunsky in the third round, while Kekelidze yielded draws to GM Giorgi Kacheishvili in the second round and New York State Hall of Famer Jay Bonin in the third round.

Kacheishvili, former New York State champion Nicolas De T Checa and NM Dan Lapan tied for fifth with 2 ½ points in the Alexander King and Bryan Quick directed tournament.

The September 18 edition of the Marshall Four Rated Games tournament had three winners: GM's Mark Paragua, Oliver Barbosa and Mikheil Kekelidze all tied for first with 3 ½ points. Paragua and Barbosa drew in the last round after winning their first three games, while Kekelidze drew NM Igor Sapezhansky in the second round. Kekelidze defeated former New York State Champion Aleksandr Lenderman in the last round to move into the tie.

Expert Anatoly Nakum was clear fourth in the 22-player event with three points. IM Justin Sarkar, FM Boris Privman, NM Igor Sapezhansky, Ryan Ruiz and Eric Balck all tied for fifth with 2 ½ points.

Alexander King directed for the Marshall.

The August 19 edition of the Marshall Masters brought 20 players, and the winners were former NYS Champion GM Aleksandr Lenderman and U.S. Women's Champion GM Irina Krush. Both GM's scored 3 ½ points. Krush fought back from a first-round draw against NM James West, while Lenderman drew with GM Alexander Stripunsky in the third round.

New York State Denker representative Joshua Colas was clear third with three points. Colas upset GM Michael Rohde in the last round to pull ahead of the pack.

Stripunsky, GM Robert Hess, GM Leonid Yudasin, GM Mikheil Kekelidze and IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy tied for fourth with 2 ½ points in the closely-contested tournament. Jermaine Reid directed for the Marshall.

A total of 58 players contested the Marshall August Grand Prix on the weekend of August 1-3 at the club. The closely-contested tournament ended with a seven-player logjam at the top with 4-1 scores.

Undefeated GM Michael Rohde led a group that included FM Arthur Shen, FM Leif Pressman, IM Jay Bonin, IM Timothy Taylor, NM Matan Prilleltensky and FM Rostislav Taborsky. GM Rohde played four of the score group, defeating Taborsky and Taylor, while drawing Bonin and Pressman. Shen, Pressman, Bonin, and Prilleltensky were all undefeated.

IM Ilye Figler, NM Kadhira Pillai and Patrick O'Keefe tied for eighth with 3 ½ points. O'Keefe was the Top Under 2200 winner. Alexander King and Jermaine Reid directed for the Marshall.

Thirty players contested the July edition of the Marshall Masters, and FM Kassa Korley was the clear winner with the only 4-0 score. Korley defeated GM Mark Paragua in the third round in a significant upset to open the door to the top.

GM Oliver Barbosa was clear second with 3 ½ points, conceding a draw to IM Jay Bonin in the second round. Paragua, GM Mikheil Kekelidze, NM Nicolas De T Checa, and NM Matan Prilleltensky all tied for third with 3-1 scores. Alexander King and

Bryan Quick directed for the Marshall.

Another of the Marshall regular events is the Marshall FIDE Monday, where players can work on their FIDE ratings and/or obtain a FIDE rating. The tournaments offer one game a week for six weeks, and are an opportunity to play in accordance with FIDE rules and time controls.

The 32-player event from August 11 through September 15 drew 32 players and was won by NM Karan Bhatti, who crossed the National Master threshold with the triumph. Bhatti scored 5 ½ points, only drawing in the third round against Expert Payam Parhami.

NM Majur Juac was clear second with 4 ½ points, losing to Bhatti in the fifth round and drawing FM Nathan Resika in the fourth round. Resika, NM Alisher Podavonov, NM Juan Sean, and Eric Balck all tied for third with 4-2 scores. Alexander King directed the tournament for the Marshall.

August 29 brought the Marshall FIDE Blitz tournament to the club to kickoff the Labor Day weekend. GM Maxim Dlugy won the 34-player event with a perfect 9-0 score, a very difficult feat to accomplish in a Blitz tournament at the level of competition provided by the Marshall. Dlugy, a former US Champion, swept the field by an impressive 2 ½ points.

GM Robert Hungaski was clear second with 6 ½ points. Given the number of rounds and the size of the tournament, it is a bit surprising that Hungaski did not play Dlugy, but the two Grandmasters at the top of the table did not cross paths in this event. Hungaski was upset by NM Ryan Ruiz in round one and NM Maraj Daftani in round five.

Four players tied for third with 6-3 scores: NM Adam Maltese (who entered in round four after three half-point byes), NM Alexander Opitz, NM Daftani, and IM Jay Bonin.

Alexander King ran the event for the Marshall.

The night before the long weekend, the Marshall hosted the August 28th edition for Four Rated Games. The 22-player event was a perfect score triumph for FM Carlos Mena, who went 4-0. GM Michael Rohde and WIM Lisa Schut tied for second with 3 ½ points, drawing in the third round. FM Boris Privman was clear fourth in the tournament, losing to Mena in the

last round in the “money game.”

Alexander King directed the tournament for the Marshall.

Along with the Four Rated Games on Thursday, the Marshall also offered FIDE Thursdays through July, giving players the chance to obtain five FIDE-rated games in a one game a week format.

Expert Moshe Uminer won the July 3-31 event with 4 ½ points, drawing in the first round of the 25-player event against John Walton, and then winning four straight games. Fellow Expert Stephen Jablon was clear second with four points, losing only to FM Nathan Resika in the second round.

George Berg and Edward Kopiecki tied for third with 3 ½ points, with Berg going undefeated with a score of two wins and three draws. The tournament director was Alexander King.

The July 20th Marshall Grand Prix tournament drew 59 players for a five-round weekend shootout at the old club.

Five players tied for first with 4-1 scores in the closely-contested tournament: GM Mark Paragua, GM Mikheil Kekelidze, FM Kassa Korley, IM Jay Bonin and NM Juan Sena. All four champions were undefeated with three wins and two draws, and the last-round draw between Paragua and Korley opened the door for the other three players to come to the top.

Four players tied for sixth with 3 ½ points: FM Arthur Shen, FM Nathan Resika, and Expert George Berg and New York Girls' National representative Lilla Poteat. The tournament was directed by Jermaine Reid for the Marshall

Independence Day brought Independence Day Madness to the Marshall, a five-round, game/25 event won by GM Michael Rohde, who bested the 33-player field with 4 ½ points. IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, FM Carlos Mena and FM Asa Hoffmann tied for second with four points, with Mena going undefeated with draws in the final two rounds. Rohde beat Ostrovskiy in the last round giving “draw odds” in the encounter to leapfrog into the top spot.

Alexander King directed for the Marshall.

New York State Chess Association, Inc.

2013-14 Treasurer's Report and Adopted Budget

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2014-15</u>
Editor Salary	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900
Magazine Contributors	\$ 750	\$ 460	\$ 750
Printing/Mailing Magazine	\$1,600	\$1,908.08	\$1,700
Plaques	\$ 165	\$ 215.05	\$ 165
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 75	\$ 67.10	\$ 75
Secretary's Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 92	\$ 125
USCF Membership	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
HS Championship Expenses	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 900
Webmaster	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160
Total Expenditures	\$5,380	\$5,452.23	\$5,815

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2014-15</u>
Advertising	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Membership/Tournaments	\$6,286	\$5,924	\$5,925
Interest Income	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Revenues	\$6,486	\$5,924	\$6,125

Assets of the New York State Chess Association, Inc. (8/31/14)

Operations Balance	\$4,220.04
<u>Alan Benjamin Builders Fund</u>	<u>\$2,642.12</u>
Total Assets 8/31/13	\$8,315.44
Total Assets 8/31/14	\$8,865.46
Net Asset Change	\$ 550.02

Minutes of New York State Chess Association Annual Board Meeting

Albany Marriott – August 31, 2014

Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Benjamin, Membership Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by President Bill Goichberg.

The following members were present:

Robert Currie, Phyllis Benjamin, Stuart Taylor, Karl Heck, Harold Stenzel, Edward Frumkin, Bill Goichberg, Harry Stenger, Ron Lohrman, Dorothy Teasley, Steve Immitt, Leonard Chipkin, Joe McGaffigan, and Joseph Felber.

Treasurer Karl Heck gave his report which is printed elsewhere in this issue. For the fourth consecutive year, NYSCA had a surplus for the year. This year's surplus was just over \$500.

It was mentioned that we may have to mail at least 200 issues of the fall issue of Empire Chess in order to maintain our bulk mailing permit. One idea suggested was to consider placing an insert in expiring members' issues to remind them to renew. This would increase the number of issues mailed.

A friendly amendment to the budget was proposed to increase the amount of the stipend offered to the Denker, Barber and Girls' National representatives from \$200 per player to \$300 per player. The main reason cited was that the 2015 events will be in Phoenix, Arizona, and therefore travel will be more costly. Harold Stenzel also noted a mathematical error in the budget that was corrected in the version printed in Empire Chess.

A motion was made to pass the presented budget and it was approved unanimously.

Appointing USCF Upstate and Downstate Delegates was then discussed. New York has three Upstate and eight Downstate delegates. While New York can appoint Delegates at the Annual Meeting, NYSCA is attempting to find as many people as possible who might actually attend the meeting and the US Open, reducing the need for substitutes.

The NYSCA Board approved the following members to serve as Upstate delegates:

Steve Immitt, Shelby Lohrman, and David Phelps.

The following members were appointed as Downstate Delegates:

Phyllis Benjamin, Carol Jarecki, Polly Wright, Sunil Weeramantry, Ed Frumkin, Stuart Chagrin, Dolly Teasley, and alternates: Brenda Goichberg, Harold Stenzel, Joe Felber, Lenny Chipkin, Sophia Rohde, Frank Brady, and Mark Kurtzman.

Method for selecting Denker and Barber tournament representatives was considered.

After discussion based on a request from the father of New York State Champion Nicolas de Checa, the NYSCA Board retained the current policy of sending the Top K-8 finisher in the New York State Junior High Championship to the Barber, and the Champion of the New York State High School Championship

to play in the Denker, as long as that player was in Grades 9-12. The representative to the Girls' National tournament will be the top Girl High School player.

It was noted that in 2014, it was quite easy to get the three representatives to commit to the tournament in Orlando. Joshua Colas was the New York Denker representative after Champion Aleksandr Ostrovsky declined, David Brodsky was the Barber representative and Lilla Poteat was the Girls' National representative. All of them placed in the top ten of their respective tournaments.

A Hall of Fame committee was appointed to nominate potential 2015 inductees. Karl Heck, Lenny Chipkin, and Harold Stenzel will poll the Board for nominations, and develop a methodology for nominating candidates from New York's rich chess past. David Love, Dr. Rawle Farley and Carrie Goldstein were offered at the meeting as possible candidates. NYSCA will endeavor to find a relative to accept the induction for historical inductees.

The following NYSCA-sanctioned tournaments are planned. If the name of the tournament contains the term New York, a \$7.00 discount in the entry fee is available for current NYSCA members through Continental Chess Otherwise the discount is \$5.00. All of these events are advertised in Empire Chess and through the NYSCA facebook page.

There was a discussion about ways that the discount policy could be more widely advertised so that more players join NYSCA and take advantage of the discount. It was noted that there a full-age advertisement in Empire Chess on the policy in every issue, and it is on the web site and the tournament advertisements. If non-members are mailed issues, a flyer will be inserted in that issue to make it more obvious.

The currently-scheduled NYSCA tournaments are the following:

October 17-18: Central New York Open in Syracuse \$7.00 discount
December 26-28: Empire City Open, Manhattan, \$5.00 discount
February 28-March 1, 2015: NYS Scholastic, Saratoga Springs, \$7.00 discount.
Spring: Long Island Open, To be announced, \$5.00 discount.
May: NYS Open, Lake George, \$7.00 discount.
Summer: Manhattan Open, \$5.00 discount.
Labor Day Weekend: NYS Championship, Albany, \$7.00 discount.

Women's and Senior: Dolly will inquire at the Marshall Chess Club to see if they would host it and Ed Frunkin would organize it.

Ron Lohrman is considering organizing the NYS Class and/or the NYS Amateur Team in Rochester.

Harold Stenzel will find out if Margarita Lanides could run the NYS Game 30 or 45 Championship. The Game/50 had site issues at Adelphi University, but was a major source of entries and membership for NYSCA.

Additional information and details will be printed in upcoming issues of *Empire Chess*.

Move to adjourn was carried at 10:35 a.m.

New York State Updated Chess Club Directory

Western New York

Rochester Chess Center

221 Norris Drive
Rochester, NY 14610
Ron Lohrman, 585-442-2430
Monday and Wednesday: 4:30-10 p.m.
Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.
Friday, 6:30-10 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m-10 p.m.

www.nychess.org

Niagara Falls Chess Club

Wegmans, Military Road, NF
Wednesday, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Harish Srinivasan
harish.srinivasan@gmail.com

Westfield Chess Club

CJ's Pizza, 77 E. Main St.,
Westfield
Wednesday, 5-8 p.m.
cferraro@roadrunner.com

University of Buffalo CC

UB North Campus, 108 Clemens
Hall
Tuesday & Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Scott Zdunczyk
ubchess@gmail.com

Lakeshore Chess Club

Lake Shore Library
Route 5, Hamburg
Thursdays, 6-11 p.m.
Don Hoak, 716-627-2643

Stars of India CC

Audubon Library, Amherst
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
KnightsOf64@yahoo.com

Jamestown Chess Club

Chautauqua Chess Assoc.
111 W. 2nd St., Suite 210,
Mark Clark, 716-763-6825
Thu., 6-9 pm., Sat. 10:30-3:30.

mclark85@stny.rr.com

buffalo.chess.blogspot.com
for additional information.

Southern Tier

Hornell Chess Club

Hornell Intermediate School
Park Street, Hornell
(Summer: Arkport Community
Room) Fred Harris, 607-295-9858
Fharris3@stny.rr.com
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Elmira/Corning Chess Club

Manos Diner, Monday
118 College Ave. Elmira
Raynesford Taylor Bacorn
607-734-8602
Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Thu. Barnes & Noble, 821 CR 64,
Big Flats

Cornell Univ. Chess Club

307 Phillips Hall, Cornell
Friday, 5:30-8 p.m.
rso.cornell.edu/chess

Central New York

Seymour Library Chess Club

Seymour Public Library
176 West Genesee Street,
Auburn
Second Saturday of the Month,
1-4 p.m.
Tom McKellop
315-252-3789
tom_mckellop@hotmail.com

Watertown Chess Club

HSBC Building
120 Washington Street
Watertown
Tuesdays, 7-11 p.m.
Don Klug
315-408-1850

www.watertownchessclub.com

Sullivan Chess Club

707 Mohawk St., Chittenango
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
John Wolf, 315-687-3356
sullivanchess@gmail.com

Capital Region

*For Capital Region and Hudson
Valley clubs, go to:*
www.enyca.org

Albany Area Chess Club

Hamilton Union Presbyterian
Church
2291 Western Ave., Guilderland
Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Chuck Eson,
hawkphil2@aol.com

East Greenbush Chess Club

Sunshine Day Care, across from
Greenbush Reformed Church,
East Greenbush
14 Hayes Road
Wednesdays 6:30-10 p.m.
Bill Matters, 518-477-2820
www.eastgreenbushchessclub.org

Guilderland Chess Club

Guilderland Public Library
2228 Western Avenue,
Guilderland
Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Philip Sells,
sellsp@mindspring.com

Greenwich Chess Club

Greenwich Free Library,
Greenwich
Thursday, 7 p.m.
John Hartnett,
truhart2@verizon.net

Saratoga Staunton Chess Club
Saratoga Springs United
Methodist Church
(5th Avenue and Hennings Road)
Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Alan LeCours, 518-583-0400
Alecours1@hotmail.com

Schenectady Chess Club
Niskayuna Community Center
2682 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Richard Chu, President
Schenectadychessclub@nycap.rr.com

Hudson Valley

King's Knight CC
Rosendale Café
435 Main St., Rosendale
Ken Evans, 845-331-8186
Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Evanschess@aol.com

Middletown Chess Club
Chester Senior Center, 1784
Kings Highway, Chester
Lonnie Kwartler, 845-469-4451
Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

Vassar-Chadwick CC
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie
Monday 7 pm
Craig Fisher, 845-462-5630
chess@vassar-chadwick.com
www.vassar-chadwick.com

Walden Chess Club
Josephine-Louise Public Library
5 Schofield St, Walden,
Saturday 10am-2pm,
845-778-7621

New York City/Westchester
The Bob Peretz Chess Club
(Formerly The Bronx-Yonkers
Chess Club)
White Plains YMCA
250 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains, NY 10601

914-831-3707
Alan Abrams – Treasurer
TheBobPeretzChessClub.blogspot.com
Mondays 7:45PM – Midnight

Westchester Chess Club
Trinity Lutheran Church
25 Crane Road, Scarsdale
Thursday, 7:30-11:00 p.m.
Polly Wright
914-961-6346
pollychess@hotmail.com
www.westchesterchessclub.com

Marshall Chess Club
23 W 10 St, NYC
Dr. Marcus Fenner, Manager
212-477-3716
Weekdays, 1:00-12:00 pm
Weekends, noon – midnight
Marshallchessclub.org

Queens Chess Club
All Saints Lutheran Church
164-02 Goethals Avenue,
Jamaica
(w) Friday, 7:30 pm to Sat 12:30
am; events start at 8:15 pm
Ed Frumkin, 212-677-3224
edwardfrumkin@gmail.com
www.queens-chess.com

Staten Island Chess Club
Saint Paul's-Saint Luke's
Lutheran Church
164 Decker Ave., S.I.
Wednesday, 7-12 p.m.
Jackson Hueckel, 718-354-0923
www.sichessclub.com

Max Pavey Chess Club
Recreation Center
48 Macy Rd., Briarcliff
Stanley Kravitz, 914-232-4836
Friday, 7 p.m.
Stanelybarbara@gmail.com

Long Island

Long Island Chess Club
United Methodist Church
470 East Meadow Ave.
East Meadow, NY 11554
Neal Bellon
Thursdays, 7:15 – 10:30 PM
www.lichessclub.com

Long Island Chess Nuts
Old County Rd., Garden City
Margarita Lanides
mlanides@chessnuts.org
516-739-3907
Thu. & Fri., 4-6 pm
Many Scholastic locations

Nassau Chess Club
1st Presbyterian Church of
Mineola
Main & First Sts. Mineola
Harold Stenzel,
631-218-4440
Monday, 7 - 11:30 p.m.
captahal@optonline.net
nassauchessclub.webs.com

Syosset Chess Mates
Walt Whitman Elem. School
Woodbury, NY 11797
Randi Gertler / Marc Berger
(516) 381-1755
Tuesdays 4:30-7 p.m.
Gertler@aol.com
www.lichessmates.com

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that Internet chess will never be
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community, and make your
chess club part of your
community! Check
www.nysca.net for updated
chess club information**

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

Most third Saturdays of month there will be the Monthly Buffalo Grand Prix Events at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo. 4-SS, TL: Rounds 1 & 2, G/45, Rounds 3 & 4 G/60 Prizes: 1st-2nd Guaranteed \$250-150-100, Class \$75. Reg.: 8:30-9:15 a.m., Rounds.: 9:30-11:20-1:10-3:30 EF: \$50. U1600 EF: \$35, \$150-90-60, ALL PRIZES EXCEPT 1st & 2nd in OPEN, BASED ON 20 ENTRIES. Scholastic EF: \$15, Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. Adv. Entries/Info: Archangel 8 Chess Academy, arcangel8chess@yahoo.com, 60F Guilford Lane, Buffalo, NY 14221. See www.buffalochess.blogspot.com for future dates and details.

OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25 NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments!

3-SS, G/60 d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. Prizes based on entries. **EF:** \$15, RCC members \$13. \$2 less for HS and Pre-HS. **Reg.:** 1-1:45 pm. **Rds.:** 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry. www.nychess.org. **Also,** Youth tournament, G/30 d5, every Saturday morning 10am-1pm, trophies and prizes. EF: \$5.

SEP. 28: 57th Binghamton Monthly Tournament NOV. 30: 58th Binghamton Open

4-SS, G/65 d5. **Prizes:** \$300 b/26. **Open**-\$100-\$60-\$30; **Reserve**-\$50-\$40-\$20 (U1700). **Trophies:** 1-3 Reserve section. **Advance Entry: EF's Reduced!** Open-\$20 Reserve-\$15 (U1700) \$5 more on site-cash only on site. **Schedule:** Registration on site 8:45-9:15 AM. **Rounds:** 9:30-12Noon-2:30-4:45. **Free** chess set & board to all new players under 18 years of age. **Mail Entry:** checks payable to: "Cordisco's Corner Store", 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com.

OCT. 4 19th Annual Arkport Open

4-SS, Rounds 1 & 2 G/60 d5; Rounds 3 & 4 G/90 d5., Arkport Village Hall, 6 Park Ave., Arkport, NY 14807. **Prizes Guaranteed:** \$200 - 100, **\$B/25:** Under 1800 and Under 1600 each \$100 - 50. **EF:** \$30 **cash** at site. **Reg.:** 9 - 9:45 a.m., 10/4/14. **Rds.** 10, 12, 2:15, 5:30. **Director:** Ronald Lohrman. **Info:** 607-295-9858. **Ent:** F. K. Harris, 1 Northridge Dr., Arkport, NY 14807.

OCT. 18-19 Central New York Open

5-SS, G/90 d10. Hall of Languages, Syracuse University, 101 S. Crouse Ave., Syracuse 13210. Free parking. **\$5000 guaranteed** prize fund. In 3 sections. **Open:** \$700-400-200, U2100/Unr \$300-150. **Under 1900:** \$500-250-150, top U1700/Unr \$300-150. **Under 1500:** \$400-200-100, top U1300 (no unr) \$240-120, top U1100 (no unr) \$160-80. **Unrated** may not win over \$200 in U1500. **Mixed doubles:** \$400-200 bonus to best male/female combined score among all sections. Team average must be under 2200; may play in different sections; teams must register by 2 pm 10/18; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **College team prizes:** Plaques to first 3 teams based on top 4 scorers from school among all sections. **Top 3 sections EF:** \$78 online at chessaction.com by 10/15, \$85 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 10/13, \$82 if check mailed by 10/9, \$90 at site, or online until 2 hours before game. Online entry \$5 less to NYSCA members (may join with entry). **Under U1000 or unrated in U1500 Section:** all \$40 less than above. **No checks** at site, **CREDIT CARDS** OK. **GMs, IMs & WGMs** free, \$70 deducted from prize. Re-entry \$40; not available in Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. **Schedule:** Reg ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10-2-6, Sun 10 & 2. **Bye:** all, limit 2; must commit before rd 2, limit 1 bye towards U1100 prizes. **HR:** \$115-115, Crowne Plaza, 701 E Genesee St (1/2 mile from tournament), 800-939-4249, reserve by 10/3 or rate may increase. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

DEC. 26-28 OR 27-28 33rd annual Empire City Open

6-SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-3 G/40 d10). **NEW YORKER HOTEL**, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, New York 10001. **\$12,000 guaranteed prize fund.** In 5 sections. **Open:** \$1200-600-300-

200, clear or tiebreak win \$50 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr \$500-250. **Under 2200:** \$1000-500-250-150, top U2000/Unr \$500-250. **Under 1900:** \$1000-500-250-150, top U1700 (no unr) \$400-200. **Under 1600:** \$800-400-200-100, top U1400 (no unr) \$300-150. **Under 1300 (NOTE CHANGE):** \$300-200-100, plaques to top 3. **Unrated** may not win over \$150 in U1300, \$300 U1600, or \$500 U1900. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$600-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must **REGISTER** at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$105 online at www.chessaction.com by 12/24, \$115 phoned by 12/22 (406-896-2038, no questions), 3-day \$113, 2-day \$112 if check mailed by 12/17, all \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before rd. 1. GMs free; \$90 from prize. **Under 1300 Section EF (NOTE CHANGE):** All \$30 less than top 4 sections EF. **All:** Re-entry \$50, not available in Open. Online EF \$5 less to NYSCA members (may join with entry; dues \$12/yr.) No checks at site, **CREDIT CARDS** OK. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 10 am. Rds. Fri 11 & 5, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 9 am. Rds. Sat 10, 12:15, 2:30 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes** available all rounds, limit 2 byes, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. **HR:** \$289-289-319, 1-800-764-4680, 212-971-0101, reserve by 12/3 or rate may increase, ask for Continental Chess Association rate. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. **Questions:** chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at www.chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

Third Tuesday of each month. Marshall Masters at the Marshall Chess Club. 4-SS, G/30. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring 2 ½ or more from CCNY at the Marshall's Thursday Night Action) EF: \$40, members \$30, GMs \$10 (returned on completion of tournament). Top three prizes guaranteed. \$\$Guaranteed 250-150-100. Top Under 2400 and Top Under 2300 prizes. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg.: 6:15-6:45. Rounds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 p.m. One bye available, rounds 1 or 4 only.

February 28-March 1, 2015: 48th Annual New York State Scholastic Chess Championship, Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs. See back cover for complete details.

March 14-15, 2015: 37th Marchand Open, Strong Museum of Play, Rochester. (\$3 discount for NYSCA members). 5-SS. Full details in the Winter issue.

Labor Day Weekend: the 137th New York State Chess Championship. Albany Marriott, Wolf Road, Colonie, NY. America's Labor Day Tradition. See the Spring issue for full information.

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**A HERITAGE EVENT!
CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!
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FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1

48th annual New York State Scholastic Championships

6-SS, G/60, d10, open to grades K-12 in any state (top NYS player & team in each section are NY champions). Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Team prizes based on top four scores from same school; no combined school teams allowed even if one school "feeds" another. Teams of two or three players allowed, but are at a disadvantage.

In 9 sections. **Online entry fee at chessaction.com, all sections:** \$43 until 2/7, \$53 2/8-2/24, \$60 2/25 to 9 am 2/28. **Entry fee at site, all sections:** \$60.

High School, open to all in grades K-12. EF \$46.20 mailed by 2/7. Top NYS grade 9-12 qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions, top NYS grade K-12 girl qualifies for National Girls Invitational.

High School Reserve, open to K-12 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$46 mailed by 2/7.

Junior High, open to all in grades K-9. EF \$45.90 mailed by 2/7. Top NYS grade K-8 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions.

Middle School Reserve, open to K-8 under 1000 or unrated. EF \$45.80 mailed by 2/7.

Elementary, open to all in grades K-6. EF \$45.60 mailed by 2/7.

Elementary Reserve, open to grades K-5 under 800 or unrated. EF \$45.50 mailed by 2/7.


Primary, open to grades K-3. EF \$45.30 mailed by 2/7.

Primary Reserve, open to grades K-3 under 600 or unrated. EF: \$45.20 mailed by 2/7.

K-1, open to grades K-1. EF \$45.10 mailed by 2/7.

Postmarked 2/8-18: All EF \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 2/18. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20.

Trophies to top 15 players and top 7 teams each section, top 3 unrated in Primary, K-1, and each reserve section, and top U1500, U1300 (HS), U900, U700 (HS Reserve), U1200, U1000 (JHS), U700, U500 (MS Reserve), U1000, U800 (Elem), U500, U300 (Elem Reserve), U500 (Primary), U200 (Primary Reserve, K-1). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry** to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2014 (Albany), to top player each section, if not already qualified for free entry from another event..

Schedule: Late registration ends Saturday 10 am, rounds. Sat 11, 2, 5, Sun 9, 12, 3, awards 5:30 pm. **Half point byes** OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. **HR:** \$129-129, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, two nights minimum, reserve by 2/6 or rate may increase. Free parking for overnight guests. 7 days notice required for room cancellation. Backup hotel: Courtyard by Marriott, 2 blocks away, 518-226-0538. **SPECIAL CAR RENTALS** : Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633.

Online entry: www.chessaction.com.

Mail entry: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Include name, rating, USCF ID, USCF expiration (non-members enclose dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player. Checks payable to Continental Chess. **\$15 per player** service charge for refunds. **\$10 extra to switch** sections, all substitutions from advance list charged \$60.

Questions: DirectorAtChess.US (At = @)), 347-201-2260. **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.