

Where Organized Chess in America Began

EMPIRE CHESS

Summer 2014 Volume XXXVII, No. 2 \$5.00



Royal Battle for Long Island...

Empire Chess
P.O. Box 340969
Brooklyn, NY 11234

NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.nysca.net

The New York State Chess Association, Inc., America's oldest chess organization, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting chess in New York State at all levels. As the State Affiliate of the United States Chess Federation, its Directors also serve as USCF Voting Members and Delegates.

President

Bill Goichberg
PO Box 249
Salisbury Mills, NY 12577
chesstour@aol.com

Vice President

Polly Wright
57 Joyce Road
Eastchester, NY 10709
Pollychess@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Karl Heck
5426 Wright Street, CR 67
East Durham, NY 12423
karlpanorama@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Phyllis Benjamin
P.O. Box 340511
Brooklyn, NY 11234-0511
nyscasec@optonline.net

Board of Directors

<u>Upstate</u>	<u>Downstate</u>
William Townsend	Phyllis Benjamin
Bill Goichberg	Dr. Frank Brady
Shelby Lohrman	Mark Kurtzman
Karl Heck	Lenny Chipkin
Ron Lohrman	Ed Frumkin
	Carrie Goldstein
	Steve Immitt
	Gata Kamsky
	Sophia Rohde
	Harold Stenzel
	Carol Jarecki
	Polly Wright

Tournament Clearinghouses

Zip Codes under 12000 (downstate)
Bill Goichberg
chesstour@aol.com

NYS Zip Codes over 11999 (upstate)

Karl Heck
Karlpanorama@gmail.com

Deadlines

December 15 for the Winter Issue
March 15 for the Spring Issue
June 15 for the Summer Issue
September 15 for the Fall Issue

Advertising Manager

Contact the Editor.

A summer of chess.

Summer is supposedly the “off-season” of chess, but there still is a lot going on in the chess world.

The World Open has long been the Fourth of July weekend place to be in the chess world, even as the event has decamped from Philadelphia to the Washington, DC area. The 42nd annual event has become one of the largest and most lucrative events on the world stage.

The US Open may not be as large these days, but it is a unique tournament of its own. The one game a day “traditional” schedule is a throwback to the days when chess games took longer to play and the whole tournament experience was more leisurely and part of a larger vacation. Even the New York State Championship used to be contested as a one game a day event for much of its long history. The “Fischer Boom” and greater popularity for chess has come at the loss of many of these kinds of events.

New York hosted the North American Youth Chess Championship earlier in June. Several New York scholastic chess stars, led by FM Justus Williams, participated in the event in Tarrytown, which hosted several hundred chess players from throughout North America with the goal of winning this prestigious title. Having the tournament in New York certainly added some buzz and cachet, as many strong players were within a stone's throw of Tarrytown, and it was possible for some of the out-of-towners to combine the tournament with other events and sightseeing.

A lot of groups use the summer to do promotional events, like simultaneous exhibitions and free-play events. Bringing the Royal Game to more people in the fresh air in nice conditions is a great way to support your clubs in the “regular season” when it is colder outside.

Enjoy the summer, and make chess part of it. You'll be glad you did.

EMPIRE CHESS

"The magazine of America's oldest chess organization"
Volume XXXVII, Number 2 – Summer 2014

Cover: *Players battling it out at the Long Island Open this spring. Photo courtesy of Neal Bellon.*

<u>From the Editor</u>	2
<u>Table of Contents</u>	3
<u>Ivanov Wins Again at New York State Open</u> by Bill Townsend.....	4
<u>NYSCA's Discount Program</u>	8
<u>Notes from the Marshall</u> by Frank Romano.....	9
<u>Buffalo/Niagara News</u> from Buffalo/Niagara Chess Corner.....	12
<u>Rochester Area News</u> from staff reports.....	13
<u>The Case against Random Pairings</u> by Ed Frumkin.....	15
<u>Islanders Invade 14th Queens Team Championship</u> by Ed Frumkin.....	16
<u>2014 Long Island Open</u> by Neil Bellon.....	17
<u>Harmony in Chess – The Scholastic Column</u> by Zachary Calderon.....	22
<u>Open Lines</u> by Karl Heck.....	24
<u>Capital Region News</u> by Karl Heck.....	27
<u>New York Tournaments</u>	31

Editor: Karl Heck, karlpanorama@gmail.com.

Webmaster: Daniel Heck, www.nysca.net.

Empire Chess, the official publication of the New York State Chess Association, Inc., is published quarterly. No liability is assumed with respect to the use of any information contained herein, or for any advertised products. Opinions expressed are solely those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of NYSCA. *Empire Chess* is COPYRIGHTED, 2014.

Empire Chess accepts articles, games, tournament reports, art work and photos. No responsibility is assumed for unsolicited material. All material submitted for publication becomes the property of *Empire Chess*, and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Letters received by *Empire Chess* are accepted & subject to editing. Please send to: Karl Heck, karlpanorama@gmail.com (note new e-mail address).

**Membership in the NYSCA: \$20/year with four printed *Empire Chess*;
\$12/year with online *Empire Chess* (two printed).**

To join, write to: Phyllis Benjamin, P.O. Box 340969, Brooklyn, NY 11234.

NYSCA membership now gets you discounts at Continental Chess Association events in New York State and all New York State Championship tournaments.

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 Fall issue is September 15, 2014**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

Corrections from the Spring issue: The front cover is not from the State Scholastics, but is a picture of the tournament at Miller Middle School (Kingston), played Feb.22, 2014. The young player with White is Blaise Loya who beat Thomas Roddy (of Rondout Valley HS) in Round 4 and won the tournament with 4 1/2 - 1/2. Behind them are Mingrui Liu (white) who beat Andre Van Dommele (Haldane, Cold Spring). On page 16, Consolation match, Kostya Shetekauri is not a member of the Mount Academy team, but plays for Monroe-Woodbury We apologize for the errors.

Before the season in Lake George

GM Alex Ivanov wins again at the 22nd New York State Open

by Bill Townsend

The 22st Annual New York State Open took place May 16 to 18 in Lake George Village, a summer resort community about an hour north of the Capital District. Before Memorial Day many of the touristy businesses that Lake George is known for are still “closed for the season.” However the A & W Root Beer Stand was open, and that in itself is worth a special trip.

Overall about 85 players competed in the three sections, an excellent turnout for a tournament not near any big population centers. This is better than last year’s showing of 68, but not quite as good as 2012’s record turnout of 87.

The clear winner with a perfect 5-0 score was Massachusetts GM Alexander Ivanov. Outrating his nearest competitor by nearly 300 rating points, GM Ivanov dominated the event, finishing ahead of the rest of the pack by a point and a half.

In his early report on the event tournament director Steve Immitt said the tournament “only had one Grandmaster,” but at most tournaments it would be more like “Hey look! We have a Grandmaster!”

This is not the first time that Ivanov has won this event, but I couldn’t remember how many times he had done it previously, so I did a little investigation into the tournament’s history. As it turns out, GM Ivanov has won the NYS Open five times: in 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2012 – in fact he has won every time he has played.

Anyway, since I did the research, here is the list of winners, starting with the tournament’s revival in 2004:

2004: Paul MacIntyre

2005: Ashok Aaron

2006: GM Alexander Ivanov

2007: GM Ronan Har-Zvi, FM Braden Bournival and Ilya Solonkovich

2008: NM Daniel Lowinger and Zakhar Maymin

2009: GM Alexander Ivanov

2010: Christopher Wu

2011: GM Alexander Ivanov

2012: GM Alexander Ivanov

2013: NM Deepak Aaron

This tournament hasn’t always been held in Lake George – in 2004 it was in the Hudson Valley/Catskills in Kerhonkson. The following year was the first year it was held in Lake George. That first showing was a little rough – there were only 35 players as opposed to 81 the year before in Kerhonkson. Turnout has obviously improved since then, and this tournament is now an essential part of the upstate chess calendar.

After that historical diversion, we are back to the results. Five players tied for second place in the Open section with 3½-1½: Stanislav Busygin, Lonnie Kwartler, Philip Sells, Edward Kotski and Michael Mockler. These last two players split the prize for top player under 2000. Tied for seventh with 3-2 were: Gabriel Katz, Jarrod Tavares, Jeremy Berman, Jeffrey Shi, Peter Henner and Alex Pakh.

One of the things that sets the New York State Open apart from other events is the fact that there is a Senior section open to players over the age of 50. Alan Le Cours and Antonio Lorenzo, who were incidentally the two highest rated players in the section, tied for first with 4½-½. The two drew each other in round three then won all their other games. In clear third with 3½-1½ was John Lawless. Tied for fourth with 3-2 were: Craig Fisher, Scott Boyce, Serge Lemieux, Paul Lynch, Joshua Kuperman and Scott Buono. These last three players split the money for best player under 1,710.

The Under-1610 section was won by Peter Teodorescu with 4½-½. Tied for second with 4-1 were: Lee Salzman, William Gonzelez and Thomas Clark. Gonzalez won the prize for top player under 1200. Joseph D’Alonzo and Ansgarius Aylward tied for fifth with 3½-1½. Sixth through fourteenth with 3-2 were: Larry Fredette, Brian Clark, Jeff Scott, Andrew Elsinger, Mingrui Lui, David Connors,

Timothy Kraft, and Andy Yang. Paul Salow was top player under 1000 with 2-3. Emma Xia was top player under 800, also with 2-3.

On Saturday evening the New York State Open Blitz Championship was held, and the decisive winner was Dennis Gutierrez with 7-1. Peter Henner, the only player to beat Gutierrez, was second with 5½-2½. Zubin Mukerjee and Zaza Samadashvili were third and fourth with 4½-3½.

The tournament ran smoothly and there were really no conflicts to report on. I did witness an interesting game in the last round. Just about the last game to finish was between Jeffrey Shi and Jarrod Tavares (I think). Tavares was losing, but had an advantage on the clock. He managed to get the game down to Knight, Bishop and King vs. King – the most difficult of primary mates. Would Shi be able to mate him in 50 moves, or would the game be a draw? As it turned out after 17 moves or so Shi's flag fell without him being able to get close to mating his opponent. The game was scored as a draw because Tavares didn't have mating material.

The tournament was directed by Steve Immit for the New York State Chess Association.

I was actually able to get a couple of GM Ivanov's games. Here is his round three victory over NM Busygin, the second-highest rated player. Against the Grandmaster Busygin's position slowly went bad, but after he sacrificed a pawn for some counterplay he missed a continuation that may well have led to a draw.

**NM Stanislav Busygin (2296) – GM Alexander Ivanov (2571) [B07] Pirc-Modern
22nd New York State Open, Round 3
Lake George Village, NY, May 18, 2014**

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd2 e5 6.dxe5
dxe5 7.fxe5 Ng4 8.h3 Nxe5 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.Qe2 Qc7
11.0–0–0 g6 12.Nxe5**

This seems to be the first new move of the game, and it doesn't seem very good. One idea is 12.h4 h5 13.Bg5 Bg7 14.Qd2 and White seems a bit better.

**12...Qxe5 13.Qf3 Qe7 14.Qg3 Bg7 15.h4 Be5
16.Bf4 h5 17.Be2 Bxf4+ 18.Qxf4 Ne5 19.Rd2**

At this point I would say that Black has about equalized. While Black's current position is somewhat passive, he has no obvious attack and the isolated e-pawn could prove to be a problem.

19...0–0 20.Nd1?!

This seems too slow, and it allows the initiative to shift over to Black.

**20...Bg4 21.Nf2?! Bxe2 22.Rxe2 Rad8 23.Kb1 Qe6
24.Ree1 Rfe8 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Ng4 27.Re1
Nxf2 28.Qxf2 b6 29.Qf3 Re7 30.a3 Qe5 31.g4 hxg4
32.Qxg4 Kg7 33.Qg2 c5 34.h5?!**

Frustrated by his slightly inferior position White sacs a pawn to get some counterplay. Initially this seems like a bad bargain, but he does get some real drawing chances.

**34...Qxh5 35.Rh1 Qe5 36.Qh3 Kg8 37.Qh7+ Kf8
38.Rd1 Qf6?!**

As we shall see, much better is getting the Queens off with 38...Qh5.

39.Rd8+?

The reason why Black should have traded Queens last move is: 39.Qh6+! Ke8 40.Qh3! and White has some very dangerous counterplay and Black may have to repeat moves. The game might have continued: 40...Re6 (An example of the danger is: 40...Rxe4? 41.Qc8+ Ke7 42.Qd8+ Ke6 43.Qd6+ and black loses.) 41.Rf1 Qd4 42.Qf3 Re7 43.e5! Qxe5 44.Qa8+ Kd7 45.Rd1+ Kc7 46.Qxa7+ Kc6 47.Qa8+ Rb7 48.Qc8+ Rc7, etc.)

**39...Re8 40.Rxe8+ Kxe8 41.Qg8+ Ke7 42.Qb8 a5
43.b3 Qd6 44.Qc8 Kf6 45.a4 Qd1+ 46.Kb2 Qd4+
47.Kb1 Kg7 48.Qb7 Qd6 49.Qd5 Qe6**

My analysis engine seems to think that Black is still winning after 49...Qxd5 but not so fast grasshopper: 50.exd5 f5 51.c4 g5 52.Kc1 g4 53.Kd2 f4 54.Ke2 Kf6 55.Kf2 Ke5 56.Kg2 And Black can't win because his King must guard the passed d-pawn.

**50.Kc1 Kf6 51.Kd2 g5 52.Qd8+ Kg6 53.Kd3 Qf6
54.Qg8+**

Queen endings are always tricky, but the ending here is not in doubt - Black's g-pawn is a winner.

**54...Kh5 55.Qe8 Kh4 56.e5 Qe6 57.Qh8+ Kg3
58.Qg7 Kf4 59.Kd2 g4 60.Kc1 g3 61.Kb1 Kf3
62.Qg5 g2 63.Kb2 Qg4 0–1**

Here is the other Ivanov game I have. Here the GM, as expected, dominates his A-player opponent, but there is a curious lapse on move 26.

**GM Alexander Ivanov (2571) – Jeremy Berman (1990) [B91] Sicilian Defense
22nd New York State Open, Round 2
Lake George Village, NY, May 17, 2014**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6
6.g3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.h3 0–0 9.Be3 Qc7 10.Nd5 Qd8
11.Qd2 Nc6 12.0–0 Bd7 13.Rfe1 Rc8 14.Nxc6 Bxc6
15.Bb6 Qd7 16.c4 Bxd5 17.cxd5 Qb5!**

The game looks pretty equal to me - white's bishop

pair doesn't look terribly useful.

18.Bd4 Nd7 19.a4 Qc4

19...Qb3, focusing on c2, looks better than the text.

20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Rec1 Qb3 22.a5 Kg8 23.Kh2 Ne5 24.Ra3 Qb5 25.Bf1 Qd7 26.Rac3?

Here is where I wonder if I have the moves right. How did both players miss 26.f4! and the Black Knight is lost because it has no retreat square.

26...Rxc3 27.Qxc3 e6? 28.f4

See, now it works! Black is busted.

28...Ng4+ 29.hxg4 exd5 30.exd5 Qxg4 31.Bg2 Re8 32.Qf3 Qd7 33.Rc2 Qb5 34.b4 Qd7 1-0

Here is a lively tactical game from Saratoga attorney Al Le Cours, one of the winners of the Senior section.

Douglas Reed (1779) – Alan Le Cours (1874) [A03]

22nd New York State Open Senior, Round 4 Bird's Lake George Village, NY, May 18, 2014

1.f4

Someone should take a crazy tactical variation of Bird's Opening and call it the Angry Bird. Just saying.

1...d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.b3 g6 4.Bb2 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 Bg4

A quite legitimate idea for Black against the Bird. Since White's King Knight is his best piece trading it or threatening to trade it often blunts White's attack.

7.0-0 c5 8.d3 Nc6 9.a3 Re8

Better seems to be 9...d4! 10.e4 Qc7 with initiative to Black.

10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Nxf3 Rad8 13.Qe1?!

A typical Bird move, but White needs to play more actively: 13.Ne5 d4 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.e4 and white doesn't look so bad.

13...d4! 14.e4 Qxf4

Black wins a pawn, but it activates White's pieces somewhat.

15.Bc1 Qc7 16.Qh4 Nh5 17.Ng5 Qg3 18.Qg4

Here's an interesting idea that my computer came up with: 18.Qxh5!? gxh5 19.Bf4 Qe3+ 20.Bxe3 dxe3 21.Rae1 and White is worse, but this seems to be better than the game.

18...Ne5 19.Qxg3 Nxc3 20.Rf2 h6!

A very good move - if Black sees far enough ahead to follow it up correctly.

21.Nf3 Nxe4!

And yes, he does! Boring people would play 21...Nxe2+ with only a modest advantage.

22.dxe4 d3! 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Rb1?!

Technically 24.Bxd3 is the best of a bad lot.

24...dxe2

Actually, better is 24...dxc2 25.Rb2 Rd1+ 26.Rf1 Bd4+ 27.Kh2, etc. Both are winning.

25.Rxe2 Rd1+ 26.Kf2 Bf4 27.Bxf4 Rxb1 28.Bxh6 Rd8 29.e5 Rdd1 30.a4 Rf1+ 31.Kg3 Rbd1 32.Bf4 Kf8 33.h4 Ke8 34.Kg4 Kd7 35.h5? gxh5+ 36.Kg5 Ke6

More precise would be 36...f6+ 37.exf6 exf6+ 38.Kf5 Rd5+ 39.Ke4 Rd4+.

37.Bg3? Rf5+

It's all over - the White King is climbing into his coffin.

38.Kh6 Rd4 39.Bf2 Rg4 40.Bxc5 Rg6+ 41.Kh7 h4 0-1

Here is the draw between the two winners of the Senior section. While there is still plenty of play in the final position, you can't say the players weren't trying or this was some sort of prepared draw.

Alan Le Cours (1874) – Antonio Lorenzo (1856) [B40] Sicilian Defense

22nd New York State Open Senior, Round 3 Lake George Village, NY, May 17, 2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.e5 Nd5 7.Bd2 Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0 9.Bd3 f5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.f4 a6 12.Rb1 b5 13.Kh1

More active for the first player is: 13.Nxc6 dxc6 14.Qe2 Qe7 15.c4 bxc4 16.Bxc4 a5 17.Kh1 with a small advantage to White

13...Nxd4 14.cxd4 Qc7 15.Qe1 Bb7 16.Rf3 Rac8 17.Rb3 Ne7 18.Rg3 Nd5 19.Ba5 Qb8 20.Qf1 Qa8 21.Bd2 Qa7 22.Qf2 Rf7

White has a small advantage here, as he has had for most of the game, but it's nothing much to write home about. 1/2-1/2

I don't have a printable game from the winner of the Under-1610 section, Peter Teodorescu, but I do have this interesting game from Capital District player Joseph D'Alonzo who was in contention for first place until the final round. This is a game full of crazy tactics and both players miss a lot, but young D'Alonzo keeps looking for attacking ideas and keeps finding them.

Joseph D'Alonzo (1332) – Scott Stapel (1802) [C18]

22nd New York State Open U1610, Round 4 French Defense Lake George Village, NY, May 18, 2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 cxd4 6.axb4 dxc3 7.bxc3 Qc7 8.Qd4?!

Apparently White can get away with ignoring the threat to his pawn on c3: 8.Nf3 Qxc3+ 9.Bd2 Qc7 10.Bd3 and White has a dangerous lead in development.

8...Ne7 9.f4 0-0 10.Bd2 Nd7 11.Bd3 Nb6 12.Nf3 Rd8 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Ra2 Rac8 15.Rxa7?

A greedy oversight - this should be the losing move for White.

15...Nc6 16.Qf2

A better way to cover the error is 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Ng5+ Kg8 18.Qd3 and White has a dangerous attack for his lost material.

16...Nxa7 17.Bxh7+ Kf8?

Sometimes you have to accept the Greek Gift sacrifice: 17...Kxh7 18.Ng5+ Kg8 19.Qh4 Nc4! and while Black may not be winning, he is better.

18.Ng5 Bc6?

This looks harmless, but it is the losing move. The point is that Black needs counterplay immediately and the only move that provides it is 18...Nc4!

19.Bg6?!

Very cute, but better is the more straightforward 19.f5.

19...Be8? 20.f5 Qxe5 21.Nh7+?

Oops! This lets Black out of the bag. Winning was 21.Re1.

21...Kg8 22.f6?! fxe6? 23.fxe7 Kxh7?

This falls into a quick mate, but Black's best is the depressing: 23...Qf5 24.Qh4 Qxf1+

24.g8Q+ Kxg8 25.Qf8+ Kh7 26.Qh6+ 1-0

Martha Samadashvili is one of the Capital District's rising scholastic stars. At Lake George she had a hard time of it – one win, one loss and three draws. Nevertheless she managed to pick up a few rating points anyway. In this game against Jeremy Berman Martha plays a good game, even finding an interesting exchange sacrifice, but at a critical point she makes a tactical oversight, and abruptly it's all over. That's okay, there will be other days and other chances.

Jeremy Berman (1990) – Martha Samadashvili (1879) [A26] English

22nd New York State Open, Round 3

Lake George Village, NY, May 17, 2014

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Nf3 Ng7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 f5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxe7 Nxe7 11.e4 Be6 12.b3 Nc6 13.Kh2 Qd7

In spite of being an English Opening this position looks like a King's Indian to me. Therefore a thematic

move here would be 13...f4! and Black seems to have a fine game.

4.a3 Nd4 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Ne2 fxe4 17.Nf4 Rxf4

I initially thought this was a rash move, but my computer agrees that this exchange sacrifice is best here for Black.

18.gxf4 Qf7 19.Qd2 e3

19...exd3 looks like a better idea.

20.fxe3 dxe3 21.Qxe3 Bxa1 22.Rxa1 Rf8??

This looks like a natural idea, piling up on the f-pawn, but this move has a serious tactical flaw which winds up costing Black a piece. Things are pretty even after 22...c6.

23.Re1!

Thanks to the fact that Black's King and Queen are on the same light colored diagonal the bishop on e6 can't move, and it can't be defended. Black is lost.

23...Re8 24.Bd5 Kg7 25.Bxe6 Qf6 26.d4 Qh4 27.d5 c6 28.Rf1 cxd5 29.cxd5 Qf6 30.Qxa7 Qb2+ 31.Rf2 Qxb3 32.Qd4+

Black is going to be mated after 32...Kh7 33.f5 so she gives up.

1-0

Former Schenectady champion Philip Sells was one of the players tied for second in the Open section with 3½-1½. Here is the last round win that put him in the winner's circle.

Philip Sells (2023) – Gabriel Katz (2105) [C18]

22nd New York State Open, Round 5

French Defense

Lake George Village, NY, May 18, 2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7

The infamous French Poison Pawn variation, a very tactical can of soup. I've played this a lot and all I can say is: if chaos makes you uncomfortable, don't play this variation.

8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Rb1

This move surprised Sells - the usual moves here are 10.Ne2 and; 10.Kd1 but the text has been played by grandmasters like Morozevich, so it far from unknown.

10...Qxe5+ 11.Ne2 dxc3 12.Bf4

I don't usually quote other games here, but this one seems very relevant. After the game Sells mentioned that he had the idea to just ram his h-pawn forward and see if Black could cope. Here, super-GM Morozevich gets that very idea right out of the box. Morozevich-Vitiugov, St Petersburg 2011 continued: 12.h4 d4 13.h5 Nbc6 14.h6 f5 15.Bf4 Qf6 16.Ng3 (continued on page XX)

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.

NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

USCF ID: _____

\$20 for four printed issues

\$12 for two printed issues (Winter and Summer)

**Mail to: Phyllis Benjamin, Secretary, NYSCA, PO Box 340969, Brooklyn, NY 11234.
(please note new address)**

News from the Marshall *by Frank Romano*

A smooth win over a strong player.

April 4 through the 14th brought the Marshall Chess Club 2014 GM Norm invitational to the world-famous club for two long weekends of chess. Five rounds were played from April 4-6, and the final four rounds were played April 12-13. Ten players participated in the nine-round tournaments, and two norms were achieved in the event that included three Grandmasters, four International Masters, and one FIDE Master.

One of the great advantages that the Marshall has in running tournaments of this type is that there are strong players from all over the world living in Manhattan, making it the easiest spot in the United States to meet FIDE's strength and residency requirements for GM and IM-norm tournaments. Federations represented in the Norm Tournament were the United States, Canada, Georgia, the Phillipines, France and Israel.

New Jersey IM Akshat Chandra, the tournament winner with an undefeated 6 ½-2 ½ score, got his first GM norm in his first round-robin tournament. The 15-year-old handled the round-robin like a seasoned pro, winning four games (three against the bottom four in the tournament) and drawing the remaining five. Despite Chandra's rapidly-rising USCF rating, which went over 2500 for the first time after this tournament, Chandra had the lowest FIDE rating of any of the players entering the event.

Here is one of IM Chandra's wins.

White: Matthew Herman (2389)
Black: IM Akshat Chandra (2370)
Nimzo-Indian Defense
Marshall CC 2014
GM Norm Invitational, New York, NY

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3 c5 5. d5 O-O 6. e4 Re8 7. Bd2 d6 8. Nge2 ed5 9. cd5 Nh5!? 10.g3f5 11. Bg2 fe4 12. Ne4 Nf6 13. Bb4 cb4 14. Qd4 Ne4! 15. fe4 a5 16. Nf4 Qe7 17... Na6 18. OO Nc5 19. Rf2 Bd7 20. h3 Rac8 21. Rd1 Qe5! 22. Kh2? 22... Ne4 23. Qe5 23... Re5 24. Re2 Nc5 25. Re5 de5 26. Ne2 Kf7 27. g4Bb5! 28. N g3 Bd3 29. Bf1 e4 30. Bd3 ed3 31. Rf1 Ke7 32. Nf5 Kd7 33. Ng7 Ne4 34. Rf7Kd6 35. Nf5 Ke5 36. Ne3 d2 37. Nd1 Rc1 38. Rf1 Kd5 39. Kg2 Kd4 40. Kf3 Kd3 41. h4Nc3! 42. bc3 Rd1 43. Rd1 bc3 1-0

Chandra reported that one important skill that he learned during the tournament was the importance of time management. In the early rounds, the high school star said that he was turning wins into draws by running out of time at the end of games. A crucial eighth-round win against NM Igor Sorkin with White left IM Chandra at 6-2. Needing a draw against Georgian GM Mikheil Kekelidze in the last round to seal both the tournament victory and his first GM norm, Chandra ground out the necessary half-point.

Michael Bodek, another New York area high school student, ironically beat Sorkin in the last round to secure his final International Master norm and clinch the IM title, which will be officially awarded by FIDE at the next opportunity.

Bodek tied for third in the event with a 5-4 score, with three wins (defeating GM Kekelidze in round one, IM Panjwani in round five, and NM Sorkin in round nine), two losses (IM Vitoux in round three and IM Norowitz in round seven) and four draws. Coming through with a win in the final round with position and an international title on the line is an impressive display of mental fortitude for the rising young star.

While Sorkin lost his last three games, he became the proud father of a baby boy during the tournament, so it is quite likely the distractions and lack of sleep didn't help his chess game any.

Veteran Filipino GM Mark Paragua was clear second with an undefeated 6-3 score. IM Raja Panjwani of Canada tied for third with Bodek, having a very unusual tournament for a round-robin with five wins, three losses and a forfeit loss. He left the tournament after an eighth-round loss to Paragua ended his norm chances.

Fortunately, his forfeit to IM Yaacov Norowitz in the last round did not affect the norm potentials for the event. Two Georgia GM's resident in New York, Tamaz Gelashvili and Mikheil Kekelidze, tied for fifth with even 4 ½-4 ½ scores.

The tournament was organized by the Marshall, and directed by Dr. Marcus Fenner and International Arbiter Dr. Frank Brady.

The June 17th edition of the Marshall Masters brought 32 players to the club for a Thursday night battle.

Pennsylvania IM Greg Shahade, the director of the US Chess League, won the tournament outright with a perfect 4-0 score. Shahade had a big win over GM Oliver Barbosa in the last round to clinch first place in the highly-talented field.

GM Aleksandr Lenderman and IM Andrey Gorovets, in from Texas, tied for second with 3 ½ points after they drew each other in the last round. Long-time Marshall veteran GM Mark Paragua, along with NM's Nasyr Akylbekov and Yevgeiny Margulis, tied for fourth with 3-1 points.

The tournament was directed by Bryan Quick for the Marshall.

Memorial Day weekend brought the Marshall Grand Prix to the world-famous club on May 25. The 54-player tournament was won outright by New Jersey FM Arthur Shen, who had the tournament's only perfect 4-0 score. Fellow Garden Stater NM Christopher Wu was clear second with 3 ½ points. Wu conceded a draw to James West in the third round.

Seven players log-jammed at three points: FM Rostislav Taborsky, NM's Gary Huang and Oliver Chernin, and Kadhira and Pillai, Aravind Kumar, Marcus Miyasaka, and Mustafa Atakay.

The tournament was directed for the Marshall by Jermaine Reid.

The aforementioned Memorial Day weekend got off to a rapid start at the Marshall with the Friday Night Rapid tournament. GM Maxim Dlugy won the event with a 7 ½ - 1 ½ score, losing only to current New York State Champion Nicolas de T Checa in the fourth round.

NM Checa and GM Mark Paragua tied for second with 7-2 scores, with Paragua losing to the other top two players, and Checa having just one loss and two late draws. Checa drew NM Gary Huang in the last round with a chance to tie for first place. Former New York State Champion Michael Rohde was clear fourth in the 27-player event with 6 ½ points.

The tournament was directed for the Marshall by Eric Balck.

A total of 22 players contested the April 22nd through May 22nd Marshall FIDE Thursday event, where people can attempt to earn or improve their FIDE (and USCF) ratings by playing one game a week over five weeks after work.

The winner of the event was FM Nathan Resika with 4 ½ points. Resika only conceded a draw to second-place finisher Sarathi Ray, who became a National Master for the first time with the result.

Majur Juac and Logan Brain tied for third with 3 ½ points, both losing to the front-runners in the fourth round.

Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

Twenty-three players contested the May edition of the Marshall Masters on May 20. The tournament was won by GM Leonid Yudasin, who took a half-point bye in the first round, and then once arriving, made the field wish he hadn't shown up. Yudasin took out veteran GM Mark Paragua in the last round to clinch the outright top spot.

Paragua, IM Alkesandr Ostrovskiy, FM Leif Pressman, NM Dan Lapan, Eric Balck and Bingjie Liu all tied for third with 3-1 scores. Pressman and Black were undefeated.

The tournament was directed for the Marshall by Bryan Quick.

May Day brought the Marshall's Four Rated Games! Back to the club, and the 28-player event was a comprehensive victory for GM Michael Rohde, who had the tournament's only perfect score.

Newcomer Ukrainian IM Alexnader Bagrationi was clear second with 3 ½ points. The new IM from the Ukraine drew in the first round against Expert Michael Adarlo, and then won three straight, so evidently the European understands the American-style Swiss Gambit as well.

Four players tied for third with three points: FM Carlos Mena, NM Jose Aquino, Jr., NM Boris Privman and expert Rainer Labay.

The tournament was directed for the Marshall by Alexander King.

FM Carlos Mena won the Marshall FIDE Grand Prix held on April 26-27, sweeping the 34-player event

with its only perfect 4-0 score. New York State Chess Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin and NM Sayan Mondal tied for second with 3 ½ points. Mondal took a last-round, half-point bye while Bonin drew expert Jason Margiotti in the first round.

NM's Gary Huang, Juan Sena, David Brodsky and Haik Oliver der Manuelian tied for fourth with 3-1 scores.

The tournament was directed for the Marshall by Eric Balck.

The Marshall has also become the home for the annual Bobby Fischer Memorial, which is contested as a nine-round rapid tournament. The 2014 event drew 68 players on April 11th and was won by GM's Giorgi Kacheishvili and Maxim Dlugy with 7 ½ points. Kacheishvili's only defeat was a sixth-round upset by FM Carlos Mena, and the GM drew rising junior and New York Denker representative Joshua Colas in the last round to guarantee first place.

Dlugy lost to Kacheishvili in the fifth round, and the veteran GM split the point in the last round against SM and regular Marshall tournament director Alexander King in the last round.

NM Ted Belanoff was clear second with an impressive seven points against the tall timber, gaining almost 100 rating points in the process. After back-to-back losses to Mena and King in the third and fourth rounds, the NM won five straight, including the last three against 2300-plus competition.

GM Mikheil Kekelidze, Massachusetts FM Stephen Winer, Colas and King tied for fourth with 6 ½

points; while GM's Mark Paragua and Irina Krush, FM Leif Pressman, and NM's Seth Rokosky, Jose Aquino, Jr. and Ryan Goldenberg tied for eighth with six points.

Four Rated Games Tonight made a return to the Marshall on April 24, with long-time Action Chess organizer Steve Immitt doing the honors of directing. The presence of Immitt brought 30 players to the Marshall, including some extremely strong players.

GM Alexander Stripunsky won the event outright with its only perfect score. In the last two rounds, Stripunsky defeated FM Carlos Mena and GM Aleksandr Lenderman to take top honors.

IM Alexander Bagrationi and GM Michael Rohde tied for second with 3 ½ points. The two players drew each other in the third round. Mena, NM Gary Huang and NM Oliver Chernin tied for fourth with 3-1 scores, all of them only losing to the three front-runners.

Tax Day – April 15 – marked the day for the monthly Marshall Masters, and 25 players participated in the Gregory Keener directed event.

GM Mark Paragua and IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, the current New York State Scholastic Champion, tied for first with 3 ½ points. Ostrovskiy took a half-point bye in the last round, while Paragua drew with IM Yury Lapshun to create the tie.

Lapshun, who was undefeated, tied for third with California FM's Eugene Yanayt and Whee Ky Ma, along with NM Ted Belanoff, all of whom finished with three points. NM Alisher Podavonov was clear seventh with 2 ½ points.

New York State Open (from page eight)

Qh8 17.Qxh8 Rxh8 18.Bg5 Kf7 19.Be2 e5 20.f4 exf4 21.Nh5 Kg6 22.Bxf4 Nd5 23.Kf2 Ne3 24.Rb5 b6 25.g4 Ba6? 26.Rxf5! Nxf5 27.gxf5+ Kxf5 28.Bxa6 Ne5 29.Kg3 Rag8+ 30.Ng7+ Kf6 31.Rh5 Nd7 32.Bg5+ Kf7 33.Bc4+ Kg6 34.Bd3+ Kf7 35.Rh4 1-0 12...Qf5 13.Qxf5 Nxf5 14.Nxc3 Nd4 15.Bd3N Nbc6 16.Bg3 b6 17.h4

Uh oh, here comes a very destructive toddler.

17...Bb7 18.h5 0-0-0 19.h6 f5 20.Nb5

20.Kd2 looks strong here.

20...Nxb5 21.Bxb5 Rh8 22.Bxc6 Bxc6 23.Be5 Rh7 24.Kd2 Rg8 25.Bg7 Kd7 26.g3 Kd6 27.Rbe1 Re8

28.Rh5 Kd7 29.Rg5 d4 30.Rg6 Be4 31.Bf6

White has been slowly and relentlessly improving his position, but here he misses a shot - 31.g4! and Black's center seems to be disintegrating.

31...Kc8 32.Bg7 Kd7 33.Be5

Again, 33.g4!

33...Kc8 34.g4!

Finally! Now Black's game quickly becomes critical.

34...Kd8 35.g5 Kc8 36.Rg7 Re7 37.Rxe7 Rxe7 38.Bg7 Rc7 39.Rxe4 fxe4 40.h7 e3+ 41.fxe3 dxe3+ 42.Ke1 Rxd7 43.h8Q+ 1-0

Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner *from staff reports*

June 7th and 8th brought the Tree Doctor International Chess Tournament to Buffalo, an event which 40 players contested. The Tree Doctor, a local company, based the prize money to the tune of \$4,000 in guaranteed prize money and 40 USCF Grand Prix points, second only to the Marchand Open among Western New York. The Tree Doctor also provided complimentary food and refreshments. Outstanding job for Archangel 8 Chess Academy in securing this significant sponsorship for their event. The USCF National Office could certainly learn from you!

The five-round event was won by Canadian FM Razvan Preotu with 4 ½ points. The Canadian player took a half-point bye in the third round, and won two games a day each day in true FIDE style. The decisive encounter was in round four, when Preotu defeated Cornell player Thomas Riccardi. Riccardi ended up clear second with a 4-1 score. A number of the competitors are shown below:



NM's Lionel Davis of Buffalo and Sam Copeland of South Carolina tied for third with 3 ½ points. David got upset in the first round by class A player Ferdinand Supsup, but battled back through the field to get back into contention, drawing Copeland in the last round to split the spoils.

The Reserve section ended in a three-way tie at 4-1, with Patrick Robinson, Dalton Barksdale and Canadian Mathanne Kaneshalingam all tying for top honors. Robinson was 4-0, but lost in the last round to Barksdale. Barksdale ended the tournament undefeated, with draws in the first two rounds slowing him down. Kaneshalingam lost to Pierce Cummings in the second round.

Long-time campaigner S. Warren Lohr and Cummings tied for fourth with 3 ½ points.

The Tree Doctor tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael Mc Duffie.

Armed Forces Day on May 17th brought 18 players to the Main Place Mall in Buffalo for the regular monthly tournament there. The Open section was a triumph for Buffalo Expert Barry Davis, who swept the field with a 4-0 score and won the event by a full point and a half. Eugene Hua and Benjamin

Rummell tied for second with 2 ½ points, both losing to Davis.

Canadian Gary Hua swept the Reserve section with a perfect 4-0 score, winning the event by a full point. Steve Baer was clear second at 3-1, losing to third-place finished Christopher Roland in the first round and then winning three in a row. Roland had 2 ½ points.

The tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael Mc Duffie.

Thirty-two players, in two groups of 16, contested the Springfest International Open 2014 on April 26 at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo. In the Open section, Barry Davis swept the field with 3 ½ points. Barry beat Lionel, his brother, in the last round with the money and title on the line.

NM Lionel Davis, Erik Lubas, Kevin Roulhac and Albert Patterson tied for second with three points. Lionel Davis beat Roulhac in round two and Lubas in round two. Patterson, a class B player, won the class prize.

In the Reserve section, Chris Darling won clear first place with 3 ½ points. Darling conceded a draw to Michael Skok in the second round, but was able to defeat Christopher Roland in the last round to win first place.

Roland, Canadian Gary Hua and Jason Niu all tied for second with 3-1 scores.

Michael McDuffie directed for the Archangel 8 Chess Academy.

Rochester-Area Chess News *by Karl Heck*

The 2013-14 Rochester and Buffalo Interscholastic Chess Leagues concluded this spring with the end of the regular season and the annual season-ending playoff tournament. The season marked the 21st season of the Rochester Interscholastic Chess League, staying power that is unmatched in Upstate New York and almost anywhere else.

In the Rochester leagues, Brighton won League One with a perfect 11-0 score. In a closely-contested League Two, School of the Arts won with an 8-3 score, defeating McQuaid Jesuit by a point. Albion swept League Three with a perfect 10-0 score, and perennial contender Wilson did the same in League Four with an 11-0 score. Keshequa swept League Five with a 12-0 score, and Victor "A" swept League Six with a perfect 10-0 record. In the special Middle School League Seven, Webster Spry Middle School won the League with a 7-1 finish.

The playoff tournament was contested on April 26 at Pittsford-Sutherland, and Brighton took top honors with the only perfect 4-0 score in impressive fashion. Brighton defeated all four second-place finishers in the tournament, with the final round 33-7 victory over Keshequa "A" wrapping up the title.

Wilson "A" was second on tiebreaks in the three-point group, with host Pittsford "A:" third, Keshequa "A" fourth and Wilson "B" fifth.

Brighton's Board One, Lev Paciorkoski, was the top individual scorer with 40 points. Connor Wagner, Board Three for Wilson "A" was second with 36 points, and Tom Lin, third board for Brighton, was third in the individual standings with 32 points.

The League Individual Championship was held at the Rochester Chess Center on May 10th, and Abraham Glasser of Pittsford won the competition with 4 ½ points. Glasser conceded a last-round draw to undefeated second-place

finisher Webster Kehoe of Wilson to secure first place overall.

Kehoe was second on tie-breaks over Owen Shriver of Brighton, with both players scoring four points. Ethan Yung of Pittsford was clear fourth with 3 ½ points.

The tournaments, as well as the season, were a collaboration of the Rochester Chess Center and

MasterMinds, and brought chess to almost 40 schools in the region.

The Buffalo section of the League had three divisions. Pioneer "A" won a closely-contested League One with a 11-1 score, defeating second-place Home School in the last match of the season to win the title. Home School finished 10-2.

St. Francis won League Two with a similar 11-1 score, and perennial contender Bishop Timon/St. Jude won League Three, also with an 11-1 score.

Home School didn't win their League, but they got revenge in the tournament, winning on tiebreak after Home School and Pioneer "A": both finished with 3 ½ points. They drew their individual match, 20-20, but Home School had 126 ½ game points to Pioneer "A's" 120, which was the difference.

Pioneer "B," Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda all tied for third with three points, with the teams awarded places in order above.

The individual leader was Brad Schrock, Board Two of Pioneer "B," with 36 points. Russell Wijisiriwarden, Board One for Niagara Falls, was second with 35 points, and Isaac Gifford, Board Three for North Tonawanda, was third with 32 points.



Jason Niu (left) won a blitz playoff with Thomas Kwon to win the trophy. His brother Michael gives

the thumbs up and Sathya Mandava (front right) watches the chess battle from a distance. June 7, 2014. Courtesy Rochester Chess Center blog.

Calvin Moulton won the Chili Public Library tournament on May 31st with a 9 ½-1 ½ score. Thomas Lampanaso and Steven Yu tied for second in the 10-player event with 7-4 scores. Amy Lian was clear fourth with six points. The tournament was organized by Fred Mellender and Adam DeSantis.

The Rochester Chess Club Blog is your new source of all information about tournaments and other chess activity in the Rochester area. You can go to it at blog.rochesterchessclub.org. Be sure to check it out!

The June 14th Rochester Chess Center weekly tournament was won by Expert Matt Slomski with a perfect 3-0 score. FM Isay Golyak was clear second with 2 ½ points, taking a half-point bye in the last round. FM Igor Nikolayev led a group of four players with two points that also included Expert Lev Paciorkowski, who upset the internationally-title Nikolayev in round two but lost to Slomski in the last round, Rolando Scrubb and Arjun Ganesh.

Kenneth McBride and Michael Lioni directed for the Chess Center.

Fourteen players contested the Open section of the June 7th Rochester tournament, and the event was a sweep for FM Igor Nikolayev, with a perfect 3-0 score. Douglas Spencer was clear second with 2 ½ points, drawing FM Isay Golyak in the first round. Golyak, Matt Slomski and Lev Paciorkowski tied for third with two points.

In the Youth section, Thomas Kwon won with three points. The event was directed by Michael Lioni and Kenneth McBride for the Chess Center.

FM Igor Nikolayev was in top form on May 31st to win the Rochester Chess Center weekly tournament, sweeping the 18 players with the event's only perfect score. Fellow FM Isay Golyak was clear second with 2 ½ points. Six players tied for third with two points: undefeated Joshua Rofrano, Jacob Chen and Lev Paciorkowski, and Douglas Spencer, Rolando Scrubb and Erik Westwig. The latter two are still on provisional ratings, and look to be future strong stars in Rochester.

The tournament was directed by New York State Chess Hall of Famer Ron Lohrman.

The Memorial Day weekend did not slow down the chess activity in Rochester, as 24 players competed in two sections in the weekly tournament on Saturday, May 24.

Two players tied for first with perfect 3-0 scores in the 19-player Open section: Rochester regular FM Igor Nikolayev and Derek Linton of Geneva. FM Isay Golyak was clear third with 2 ½ points, and four players tied for fourth with two points: Matt Slomski, Lev Paciorkowski, veteran Sherman Cunningham and Ben Scott, a new player.

Dale Jankzic won the Youth section with a perfect 3-0 score. Mike Lioni and Ron Lohrman directed for the Chess Center.

Twenty-seven players went to war on May 17th at the Rochester Chess Center. The Open section featured an upset, as Owen Shriver, a class A player, made it through the masters and experts to notch the only perfect score in the section.

No fewer than seven players tied for second with two points: FM Igor Nikolayev, who had a half-point bye in the first round and was held to a draw by A-player David Campbell in round two, Experts Abraham Glasser and Joshua Rofrano, Lev Packorkowski, Jacob Chen, Derek Linton and Ethan Yung.

Keith Kolaczyk won the Youth section with a perfect 4-0 score. Ron Lohrman directed the event for the Chess Center.

The small but strong May 10th event at the Chess Center brought new winners to the front, as David Campbell and Sherman Cunningham tied for first with 2 ½ points. Both players took half-point byes and therefore did not play each other. FM Igor Nikolayev headed a group of three players with two points that also included FM Isay Golyak and Jacob Chen. Chen forced the tie by nicking Nikolayev for a draw in the last round of the Michael Lioni-directed event.

Eighteen players came to the Chess Center for the May 3rd tournament, and two players left with perfect scores: FM Igor Nikolayev and Lev Paciorkowski both ended the tournament with 3-0 scores, with Nikolayev defeating Expert Abraham Galsser in the last round while Paciorkowski handled Expert Joshua Rofrano. Glasser, Jacob Chen and Jeffrey Shi all tied for second with two points. Ken McBride directed for the Chess Center.

The Case Against Random Pairings by *Ed Frumkin*

In Neal Bellon's article "The Case for Random Pairings" in the Spring 2014 issue (pages 17-18), the case is allegedly made that "random" is better than the normal Swiss system of pairing tournaments. I'll happily stick with the more conventional, thank you.

There is a big difference between resistance to change and the rejection of change when the alternative system would be worse. "Random" is not an improvement. A player should have a reasonable expectation of whom he might be paired with. The normal Swiss provides that expectation, with rules that are not difficult to understand. Neal throws out the baby with the bathwater.

I also run a club that meets one night per week, the Queens Chess Club, on Friday nights (Neal's meets on Thursdays and our clubs have several players in common). In nearly thirty years as its Chief Tournament Director, I have organized many different types of events and have eliminated some that don't work in the modern world of half point byes and work schedules that occasionally conflict with chess. As a result, I have stopped running one game per week quads and multisection events.

Some Fridays are not available because our site is a church (as I write this, yesterday was Good Friday). When we have no "dark days", I generally run four or five round Swisses, with our club championship in October and November being a seven-rounder. When there are only two or three consecutive weeks available, we'll have a four or six-round G/45 with two rounds each week, occasionally interspersed with a one-night, four round, G/15, but those quick events have been drawing 6-10 players compared to 16-25 for the other tournaments (perhaps it is because my players tend to be older).

In the multi-week events, I try to post the next round's pairings by Tuesday. If players are industrious enough to try to prepare for the next opponent, they deserve the chance to do so. "Random" denies them that opportunity.

Being the top-rated player in the bottom half in Round 1 is an **opportunity**, not a punishment and not a gift to the higher-rated player. In my experience the top few boards produce the closest games in Round 1, largely because the lower-rated players in those pairings appear to be more highly motivated. I suspect it helps to **explain** Neal's draw with IM Jay Bonin. If you find it that frustrating, Neal, put in a few more hours toward the 10,000 needed for mastery (as posited in "Outliers"). If you want to play opponents closer to your own rating, stick to the large multi-section Swisses, replete with sandbaggers. Mr. Bonin has put in the time and continues to do so ☺.

Neal cites a Greg Shahade article that appeared on the USCF website a few years back. I see that Greg has directed or assisted at **one** (!) rated tournament since 1991. Does he practice what he preaches?? (*editor's note: Mr. Shahade does direct the unrated U.S. Chess League. To be fair, the USCL does proscribe what board the players play during the games. The captain can't shuffle the boards any way he or she might want to*).

I can see where the random system could end up matching players in the bottom half while the players in the top half draw, hoping they won't meet their fellow strong players again in later rounds. If that were to continue, a bottom half player could win a tournament without ever playing anybody rated higher than himself or herself. I thought a tournament was supposed to be a test of skill, not of luck.

Sorry, but I'll pass on "random". If you want the proper mix of skill and randomness, stick to Chess 960/FischerRandom.

Any comments? Thoughts? Send them to the editor at karlpanorama@gmail.com. We look forward to continue to be able to offer a forum on this issue, and other chess-related issues as well.

“Islanders” Successfully Invade 14th Queens Team Championship

by Ed Frumkin

Ironically, the flyer for the 14th Queens Chess Club Team Championship stated that no team had ever achieved a 4-0 match score in the closely-contested tournament. The **Islanders**, Brian Karen (2053) and Frank Paciulli (1936) from the Nassau Chess Club took care of that from the #2 seed (average rating 1994½) behind **Ed-grr!!** (1995½: Ed Frumkin (2015) and Edgar Cimafranca (1976), trying for a three-peat in the annual event.

We thought we were starting with 13 teams plus a house team, but half of the house team forgot to show, but one perpetual contender's second board finally called his partner to say he would not make it that night, either. As a result we started with 12 teams, but an addition error paired #1 with #6 instead of #7. The six matches ended in three draws and three decisions, with the only sweep being #4 **Double Checks** (Bill Arluck (2107)) and Ira Cohen (1846) over **M to the 4th** (Mulazim Muwwakkil (1888) and Mikhail Mordukhay (1629)). #2 **Islanders** won on Board 1 and drew on Board 2 vs. #8 **Brooklyn 64** (Pavel Genkin (1918) and Gregory Keener (1872)), while #7 **Lasker's Defense** (Richard Murphy (1905) and Antonio Lorenzo (1892)) did the same against the **Unstoppable Knights** (Jim Sirotnik (1652) and Guy Rawlins (1618)), the only sub-1700 team, who ended up winning a prize without winning a match. **Ed-grr!!** and #6 **Team for Two** (Dorothy Teasley (2001) and Steve Mitlitzky (1886) drew both games, while #3 **Passive Aggressive** (Lev Zilbermintz (2090) and Jay Kleinman (1882)) split with #9 **Fogeys** (Joe Felber (2019) and Frank Drazil (1564)) with Joe and Jay each winning with White and #5 **Benighted Knights** (Ed Kopiecki (2037) and Ken Sasmor (1883) did the same with #11 **Lone Polgars** (Jon Phanstiel (1771) and Paul Denig (1664)) as Ed and Paul each won with Black.

In Round One, all three winning teams had White on Board 1, so the #4 **Double Checks** again got White while #7 **Lasker's Defense** was posted for Black against #1 **Ed-grr!!**. After the pairings were posted **Ed-grr!!** Board 2 Cimafranca notified Board 1 Frumkin that he had forgotten he couldn't play in Round 2 (he also had to miss Round 4 two years back). After failing to find a suitably strong replacement, Frumkin opted for a team bye for the round and repaired Team #7 with #3. We attempted to re-recruit the team whose Board Two missed week one, but found he was still unavailable. Yet another player inquired about whether he and a partner could join us in Round Two and we said sure, but pointed out the difficulty that said (wheelchair-bound) player would have negotiating the stairs to the church basement and we never heard back. The house team was intact this time and got to play. Even with a two-player team tournament, the organization issues show how difficult it is to keep the tournament moving.

The **Islanders** swept the **Double Checks** and **Passive Aggressive** swept **Lasker's Defense**, despite Zilbermintz getting a horrible position in the first half-dozen moves. The **Lone Polgars** surprisingly swept **Team for Two** and the **Fogeys** drew another match, this time with the **Benighted Knights** as New York State Chess Hall of Famer Joe Felber beat Kopiecki while Sasmor beat Frank Drazil. **Brooklyn 64** swept the **Unstoppable Knights**, who had trouble living up to their moniker. **M to the 4th** swept the **Housemen** (Marcus Francis (1161) and Paul Drazil (684)), as expected. After two weeks the match scores were 2-0 for the **Islanders**, 1½ for **Passive Aggressive** and the **Lone Polgars** and 1 for a small army of teams (**Ed-grr!!**, **Double Checks**, **Benighted Knights**, **Lasker's Defense**, **Brooklyn 64**, **Fogeys** and **M to the 4th**). Narrowing 12 teams to one perfect score after two rounds shows how close the competition is in Queens.

Round 3 saw the #2 **Islanders** paired with the #3 **Passive Aggressive** and the surprising #11 **Lone Polgars** with #1 **Ed-grr!!**, **Fogeys** with **Double Checks**, **Brooklyn 64** with the **Benighted Knights**, **Lasker's Defense** with **M to the 4th**, and the **Unstoppable Knights** with **Team for Two**. The **Islanders** won again behind a Brian Karen win and a draw on second board, while **Ed-grr!!** swept. The **Double Checks** beat the **Fogeys** 1½-½, as Felber could only draw, despite being up a pawn while the **Benighted Knights** and **Brooklyn 64** split the match point as Pavel Genkin finally beat Kopiecki on his fifth try. **Lasker's Defense** took **M to the 4th** 1½-½ as Murphy and Muwwakkil drew a messy-looking position. **Team for Two** swept the **Unstoppable Knights**.

With one round to go, the **Islanders** were at 3-0, **Ed-grr!!**, the **Double Checks** and **Lasker's Defense** all
(continued on page 23)

Long Island Chess News by Neal Bellon (info@lichessclub.com)

2014 Long Island Open: Overview & Select Games

The 2014 Long Island Open, sponsored by the Continental Chess Association (CCA), was held on March 28-30 at the Ramada Plaza MacArthur Airport Hotel in Holtsville, NY in eastern Suffolk County. This tournament is always a welcome event for Suffolk residents who generally make the long commute to middle/western Nassau County or Manhattan to play USCF-rated club games regularly. To my knowledge, there are no USCF-rated clubs in Suffolk. Personally, I couldn't participate due to family commitments, but I popped in on day two of the event to check out the action, and even managed to sneak in a quick scratch game.

The CCA hadn't run events on Long Island since the 1970s and then started up again in 2012. Since then, this year's event proved to be the largest turnout with 202 entries. I suspect if the CCA secured a location further west in Nassau County, the number would be even higher, as they would draw in more non-Long Islanders from New York City, New Jersey and Connecticut - but I could be wrong.

Because this was a smaller scale event (ed. note: we like the concept of a 200-player tournament being described as "smaller scale."), there were only five sections, with the class sections spread across a 400 point rating range. The time control for this 5-round event was 40/110, SD/30; d/10 with G/60; d/10 for rounds 1-2 of the two-day option.

The winners of each section were as follows: Open: GM Alex Lenderman (tiebreak), Under-2100: Warren Wang, Under-1700: Erik Brodsky, Under-1300: Timothy Zhigulin, Under-900: Vicente Quispe.

GM Lenderman won first place on tiebreak over GM Giorgi Margvelashvili, GM Ioan Chirila and GM Mikheil Kekelidze, all of whom finished with 4-1 scores. Lenderman and Margvelashvili drew each other in the last round, while Chirila and Kekelidze won their games to join the group at four points. All of the GM's were undefeated except Kekelidze, who lost to Lenderman in Round Two.

IM Justin Sarkar and NM Alexander King tied for sixth in the 33-player Open section with 3 ½ points. Sarkar was undefeated, drawing King and two of the first-place winners.

Warren Wang won the 58-player Top Under 2100

section outright with an undefeated 4 ½ points, drawing Matthew Fischler in the last round when a draw was all that was needed. Fischler was part of a five-way tie for second with four points that also included Michael Layevskiy, Michael Hehir, Robert Guevara and Richard Knox, who has a game annotated later in the article.

There was a logjam of seven players at 3 ½ points, with Jarrod Tavares, New York State Chess Hall of Famer Joe Felber, Paul Joseph, Dorothy Teasley, Edgar Cimafranca, Connor Keuchel and Scott Sheff all reaching that mark.

Erik Brodsky won the 58-player Top Under 1700 section with a perfect 5-0 score, gaining 167 rating points in the process to raise his rating to 1745 vafter the tournament. Boris Shmulevich was clear second with 4 ½ points, and also experienced a more than 100 point rise, going from 1612 to 1724.

Five players tied for third with 4-1 scores: Andrew Sleaf, who lost to Brodsky in the final round, Ethan Gu, Raymond Oliva, Jason Jensen, and Jordan Zhou. Rahul Rajaram, Alan Stolyarov, Wesley Loudon, Richard Rubin, Rafail Mekhanik and Angelo Nardo all tied for eighth with 3 ½ points.

Timothy Zhigulin won the 28-player Under 1300 section with 4 ½ points, drawing in the last round after winning his first four games. Three players tied for second with 4-1 scores: Michael Jarmuz, Luis Gonzalez and James Roel. David Lustberg was clear fifth with 3 ½ points.

Vicente Quispe had an impressive debut in the Under 900 section, sweeping the 31-player field with a perfect 5-0 score and getting a performance rating of 1592. Hussain Khalfan was clear second with 4 ½ points, only yielding a second-round draw. Frank Davi, Josepg Beganskas, and Ethan Axelowitz all tied for third with four points. All three third-place finishers lost to Quispe.

NYSCA President Bill Goichberg directed the tournament with assistance from Chief Assistant TD Harold Stenzel and other volunteers.

Now, let's get to what it's all about – the games. Please enjoy.

**GM Lenderman, Alex (2700) –
GM Kekelidze, Mikheil (2600)**

[E11] Nimzo-Indian Defense

[notes by A. Lenderman]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.g3

5.e3

**5...d5 6.Bg2 dxc4 7.Qc2 Nc6 8.Qxc4 Qd5 9.Qd3
Qe4 10.Qxe4 Nxe4 11.e3 0–0 12.a3 Bd6 13.Nc3
Nxd2 14.Nxd2 e5 15.d5 Ne7 16.Nc4 Bd7 17.Ne4
Ra6! 18.Rc1 f5?**

18...Rd8 Kept the game roughly equal, maybe chances for a slight edge for white. 19.Ned2!/? Since Black wants to eventually play f5 19...f5 (19...b5 20.Nxd6 cxd6 21.Rc7) 20.e4 With chances for an advantage]

19.Nc5!

[19.Ng5 b5 20.Nxd6 Rxd6=]

**19...Bxc5 20.Nxe5 Bd6 21.Nxd7 Rd8 22.Nc5 Rb6
23.Nd3 a4! 24.Rc3?!**

I was too obsessed with the fact that I thought Rb3 had to be played, forcing Ke2, and tying me down, followed by trying to improve the knight via g6 to e5, and if f4, then Nf8, d7, etc- to e4 taking advantage of f4 played. Of course that's too slow and Black has a simple idea of rb5 attacking the pawn which for some reason I missed. [24.Ke2 Ra8 25.Rc4 Rb5 26.Rhc1 Nxd5 27.Rc5! Bxc5 28.Bxd5+ Kh8 29.Nxc5 (29.Rxc5?? Rxc5 30.Nxc5 Ra5μ) 29...Raa5 30.b4 axb3 31.Nxb3 Rxd5 32.Nxa5 Rxa5 33.Rxc7 Kg8 34.Rxb7 Rxa3± White has winning chances but Black has good drawing chances too]

24...Ra8!

Now the reality sunk in. I wasn't sure if I was that much better anymore and I had to play carefully. Luckily it was a G/60 game and my opponent had only about five minutes left against my roughly 20 minutes.

25.Rc4 Rb5 26.Nb4 Bxb4+

[26...Nc8!/?]

27.Rxb4 Rxb4 28.axb4 Rd8

[28...a3 29.bxa3 Rxa3 30.0–0 Rd3 (30...Rc3) 31.Rc1 Nxd5 32.Bxd5+ Rxd5 33.Rxc7 Rb5 34.Rc4±]

29.Ke2 Nxd5 30.Rd1 c6 31.b5 Kf7

[31...Kf8!/? Was a trappy move 32.Ra1! But the drawback of Kf8 is that now after cxb5 Rd1, Ke6 can't be played to defend the knight on d5. (32.Rd4? Nc3+!! 33.Kd3™ (33.bxc3?? Rxd4 34.cxd4 a3–+) 32...Ra8 33.Ra3! And White still maintains serious winning chances due to a better pawn structure and the Bishop and of course the time situation. 33...Ke7 34.bxc6 bxc6 35.Bxd5 cxd5 36.b3].

32.Rd4

Now this move works. I must confess. While I saw a3, I completely missed nc3+ idea. Luckily here it doesn't

work.

32...Ke6

[32...Nc3+? 33.bxc3 Rxd4 34.exd4 a3 35.bxc6 bxc6 36.Bxc6 a2 (36...Ke6 37.Ba4! a2 38.Bb3+-) 37.Bd5+ And here is the difference. After Kf8 there would not be this check.; 32...a3!/? Was worth a try 33.Bxd5+ cxd5 34.bxa3 Ke6 35.Kd2 Ra8 36.a4 Kd6 With some drawing chances though of course in a practical game it's very unpleasant to try to hold it.]

33.Rxa4 cxb5

This loses by force as I can trade into a winning pawn endgame. Though Mikheil had a few seconds left here. [33...g6± Was a way to struggle on in a difficult endgame.]

34.Rd4

[34.Ra5!/?±]

34...Rd7

[34...g5!/? Maybe last try to try to fix the pawns for example in this line: 35.Bxd5+ (35.f4!/? gxf4 36.exf4 Rd7 37.Rxd5 Rxd5 38.Bxd5+ Kxd5 39.Kf3 h5 40.h3 b4 41.g4+-) 35...Rxd5 36.Rxd5 Kxd5 37.f3 (37.Kd3?? g4–+ Shows it's still not too late to lose :)) 37...Kc4 38.e4 fxe4 39.fxe4 Kd4 40.Kf3 b4 41.b3 Ke5 42.Ke3+–]

35.Bxd5+ Rxd5 36.Rxd5 Kxd5 37.Kd3+–

And I win quickly after that, realizing my 4 on 3 pawn majority on the Kingside, whereas Black can't do much with his double pawns on the Queenside.

1–0

Tavares, Jarrod (1914) –

Wang, Warren (2035)

[B08] Pirc-Modern Defense

[notes by J. Tavares]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 c5?

Black erred playing 5... c5 way too early.

6.Bb5+

This secures an advantage. I actually had this series of moves planned from looking at a game between Wang and George Berg that started the same way, but where Berg missed Bb5+.

**Nfd7 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.e5 0–0 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bxd7 Bxd7
11.Bf4 b5 12.Rd1 Qa5 13.0–0 b4 14.Nd5 Re8 15.c4
bxc3 16.bxc3 Be6 17.c4 Nc6 18.Bd2 Qxa2**

I now have threefold repetition if I want it but I turned it down to try and win.

**19.Ra1 Qb3 20.Rfb1 Qc2 21.Rc1 Qb2 22.Rab1
Nd4 23.Nxd4 Qxd4 24.Bc3 Qh4 25.Nc7 Qxc4
26.Qe3 Qh4 27.Bd2 c4 28.Nxe8 Rxe8 29.Rb6 a5
30.Kh2?**

This was terrible by me. I thought I could trap his Queen with g3, but he calmly plays Rd8 and I completely overlooked that the Rook can now cover a square for the Queen to escape.

30...Rd8 31.Rxe6??

A blunder mostly generated from my being flustered at his good defense, and he cleaned up easily after this.

31...fxe6 32.Bc3 Rd3 33.Qe1 Qf4+ 34.g3 Qf3 35.Bb2 Bh6 36.Rxc4 Rd1 37.Rc3 Qd5 0-1

Chipkin, Lenny (2040) –

Knox, Richard (1935)

[D00] QP Game

[notes by R. Knox]

1.d4 d5

I've been playing the Gruenfeld consistently over the past couple of years. I decided to go back to a more classical opening for this one against the former NYSCA president, however.

2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nd2 Be7

4...c5 was probably best here.

5.f4 0-0 6.Qf3!?

I expected Ngf3 and was surprised by this move.

6...c5 7.c3 Nbd7 8.Nh3 Re8 9.0-0 Nf8

To allow the Bishop to develop via d7 and c6 while providing additional protection for my King.

10.Kh1 Bd7 11.Nf2 Bc6 12.g4 h6

Creating an unnecessary weakness and helping White's attack. My idea was to provide h7 as a square for my f6 Knight but I already had d7 available.

13.Nh3

13. g5 immediately was better.

13...N6h7 14.g5 hxg5 15.fxg5

Now the open f file is a big problem for me. My next move was forced.

15...f5 16.gxf6 Bxf6 17.Kg1

Giving away most of White's advantage. The idea of removing the King from the long diagonal is understandable but this allows me more time to coordinate my pieces and advance in the center while White's queenside is severely under developed.

17...Qe7

Returning the favor. 17...e5 immediately was stronger. I wanted to protect f7 prior to pushing the e pawn but now white has additional time to get in his next move.

18.Nf4 Qf7

Threatening ...e5 and ..e4 if the Knight moves. If dx e instead my Rook recaptures with a better game.

19.Nh5

19. Qg4 was stronger. Now Black should be able to at least draw but I was hoping for more.

19...e5 20.e4

To stop...e4 but this move costs Black the game. He needed to exchange on f6 first and then play Qg2

20...exd4 21.Nxf6+ Nxf6 22.exd5

Making a bad position even worse. White is still in a bad way after 22. e5 but now the game ends quickly.

22...Bxd5 23.Be4

Another blunder but it was too late to save the game. Best was probably 23.Qf5 but Black is clearly better after ...Re3

23...Bxe4 24.Nxe4 Rxe4

Black just has to avoid 24...Qg6+ Ng3 saving the piece. Now of course Qxe4 Nxe4 Rxf7 Kxf7 and black is a piece and pawn ahead.

0-1

Getting ready for battle...



Grasser, Kyle (1861) –

Breskin, Nicklas (1735)

Sicilian Defense

[notes by K. Grasser]

1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6

(Black opting for the Sicilian Dragon, which in its sharpest lines, leads to castling on opposite sides followed by racing pawn storms.)

6. Bc4

This is my preference in this position. 6.Ng4 is annoying after Be3, and 6. f3 can allow d5 in some lines, embarrassing White's pawn structure.

6 ...Bg7 7. f3 0-0 8. Be3 Nc6 9. Qd2

365chess opening explorer has over 9500 recorded games from this position. The setup is known as the Yugoslav Attack, and now White will castle queen side and pawn storm the King side, while Black will make use of the semi-open c-file.

9 ...Re8

Definitely an uncommon move, but one of White's ideas is to play Bh6 and exchange Black's dark square bishop, and placing the Rook on e8 enables Black to play Bh8 without sacrificing an exchange.

10. 0-0-0 Bd7 11. g4 Rc8

So far the play is thematic and as expected. Who will get to the opponent's King first?

12. Bb3 Na5 13. h4 Nc4

A common maneuver by Black's knight in this position. Nc4 is probably better than taking on b3 because after...

14. Bxc4 Rxc4

...these moves, Black can now move the Queen to c7 behind his Rook, and then double the other Rook onto the now vacant c8 square. This plan is why Re8 is uncommon - it is a tempo loss if the Rook moved from f8 to e8 and then again to c8.

15. h5 a5?

In my opinion, the losing move. It isn't immediately losing, but it is too slow. Black's idea here should be to use the c-file, not pawn storm.

16. hxc6 fxc6 17. e5! Rxc3

White is winning the exchange and the game anyway, after ...dxe5, Ne6 Bxe6, Qxd8 Rxd8, Rxd8+

18. Qxc3 Nd5 19. Qb3 Be6

An obvious mistake, but ...e6 just prolongs the agony.

20. Nxe6 1-0

Goldfarb, Justin (1836) –

Sambriski, Michael (1957)

[D02] Queen's Gambit Declined

[notes by Fritz 13]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bf4 g6 5.e3 Bg7

last book move

6.Bd3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Nbd7

[7...c5 8.0-0=]

8.0-0 Re8 9.h3

Black's piece can't move: c8

9...Nh5 10.Bh2 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5

13.Bxe5 Rxe5 14.Nf3 Re8 15.c4 Be6 16.Rc1 Qf6

17.Qe2

[17.Nd4!?= and White can hope to survive]

17...Bxh3!

Decoy: h3

18.cxd5?

[18.gxh3 Nf4 Decoy]

18...Bxg2

[18...Nf4!? keeps an even firmer grip 19.exf4 Rxe2 20.Bxe2-+]

19.Kxg2 Nf4+ 20.exf4 Rxe2 21.Bxe2 cxd5 22.Kg3

Qxb2 23.Ng1 Qxa2 24.Bf3 Qb3

[124...a5 would have made live much easier for Black 25.Ra1 Qc2 26.Bxd5 Ra7-+]

25.Rb1³ Qd3 26.Rfd1

White threatens to win material: Rd1xd3

26...Qf5 27.Rxb7 27...Rd8 28.Rxa7 d4 29.Ra2

[29.Ra3 d3 30.Bg4 Qe4³]

29...h5 30.Nh3 Kg7 31.Rad2 d3

Pushes the passed pawn

32.Ra2?

[132.Bg2³ would allow White to play on]

32...Rd4 33.Ra3? 33...g5!

Deflection: g4

34.Rg1

[34.fxc5 Rg4+ Deflection; 34.Nxg5 Rxf4 Deflection]

34...g4 35.Kh2 Rxf4 36.Nxf4

[36.Bd1 doesn't change anything anymore 36...Rxf2+

37.Nxf2 Qxf2+ 38.Kh1 g3-+]

36...Qxf4+ 37.Rg3 h4 38.Bg2

[38.Kg2 the last chance for counterplay 38...hxc3 39.Rxd3-+]

38...d2 39.Rad3-+ hxc3+ 40.fxc3 Qf2 41.Rd5 Qe1

42.Rf5 d1Q 43.Rf1 Qxf1 44.Bxf1 Qd2+ 0-1

Oliva, Raymond James (1521) –

Smith, Brian (1677)

Queen's Gambit Declined

[notes by R. Oliva]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3

Be7 7.Bd3 Ne4 8.0-0

[8.Bxe4! dxe4 (8...Bxe4 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Nd2 f5 11.0-0 0-0 12.c5 b6 13.b4²) 9.Nd2 Bb4 10.0-0²]

8...Nd7 9.Qc2 Ndf6 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 Ng4 12.Rae1

Ngf6 13.Nd2?!

[13.Ng5!?!]

13...Bb4

[13...Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bb4=]

14.Ndxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 Nxe4 16.Re2?!

[16.Nxe4! dxe4 (16...Bxe1 17.Ng5) 17.Re2 f5 18.g4²]

16...Nf6 17.a3 Ba5 18.b4 Bc7 19.Qd3 dxc4 20.Qxc4

Qd7 21.Rd2 b5 22.Qd3 Rad8 23.Rfd1 Bb6 24.Ne4

Nd5 25.Ng5 f5 26.Nf3 Ne7 27.e4?!

[27.Ne5 Qb7 28.Rc1 Rd6 29.Rdc2+]

27...fxe4 28.Qxe4 Qd5

[28...Nf5,, 29.Re2 Nd6 30.Qxe6+ Qxe6 31.Rxe6 Rxf4]

29.Re1 Rf6 30.Ng5 Qxe4 31.Rxe4 Nd5?

[31...Nc8! 32.Nxe6 Re8 33.Nc5 Rxe4 34.Nxe4 Rxf4=]

32.g3± Nc7 33.Kg2 h6 34.Nf3 Ne8? 35.Ree2 Nd6

36.d5+- Nc4 37.Bxf6 gxf6 38.Rd3 exd5 39.Re6 c5

40.bxc5 Bxc5 41.Rxf6 Re8 42.Ne5 Kg7 43.Rg6+

Kh7 44.Rc6 Bb6 45.Ng4 Re2+ 46.Kh3 Bg1

47.Rxd5 Nb6 48.Rxh6+ Kg7 49.Rg5+ Kf8 50.Rf6+

Ke8 51.Re5+ Rxe5 52.Nxe5 Bc5 53.Nc6 Nd5

54.Rf5 Kd7 55.Nxa7 Bxa7 56.Rxd5+ Kc6 57.Rd3

Kc5 1-0

Finding your opponent for the next round...



**Drake, Adam (1316) –
Byrnes, Joe (1551)**

French Defense

[notes by Fritz 10]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Be7

last book move

5.Bf4 Nf6 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.h3 8...Bh5 9.c3

Covers b4

9...Bd6 10.Bg5

[10.Qe2+ Ne7 11.Be5 Qd7?]

10...h6 11.Qe2+ Qe7 12.Qxe7+ Bxe7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6

Black has the pair of Bishops.

14.Bb5

[14.g4 Bg6 15.Bxg6 fxg6?]

14...0-0 15.0-0 15...Ne7 16.Rae1 c6 17.Bd3 Rfe8

18.Re3 Bg6 19.Bxg6 Nxb6 20.Rfe1 Kf8 21.g3

Secures f4+h4

21...Rxe3

[21...a5 22.Nb3 b6 23.Kf1=]

22.Rxe3

[22.fxe3 h5=]

22...Re8 23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.a4 Kd7 25.Kf1 Ne7

26.Ke2 Nc8 27.Nb3 Nd6 28.Nfd2

[28.Nc5+ Kc7=]

28...b6³

Prevents intrusion on a5+c5

29.Nc1 a5

[29...c5 30.dxc5 bxc5 31.Nd3³]

30.Nd3 Nb7 31.Nb3 Kd6 32.Ke3 c5 33.dxc5+

[33.Nd2 c4 34.Nf4 Bg5=]

33...bxc5³ 34.Nd2 34...c4+ 35.Nc1?

[135.Nf4 g5 36.Nh5-+]

35...Nc5 36.b3 36...cxb3 37.Ncxb3 37...Bxc3

38.Nxc5

[38.Nd4 Nxa4 39.N2b3-+]

38...Bxd2+ 39.Kd4 Bc3+!

Deflection: c3

40.Kxc3 Kxc5 41.f4

[41.h4-+ is one last hope]

41...f5 42.g4 g6 43.gxf5

[43.Kd2 does not solve anything 43...Kc4 44.g5 h5-+]

43...gxf5 44.h4 d4+ 45.Kd3 h5

[145...Kd5 keeps an even firmer grip 46.h5 Kc5-+]

46.Kd2

[46.Kc2 Kc4 47.Kd2-+]

46...Kc4 47.Kc2 d3+ 48.Kd2 Kd4 49.Kd1 Ke3

50.Ke1 d2+ 51.Kd1 Kxf4 52.Kxd2 Kf3

[152...Ke4 makes it even easier for Black 53.Ke2 f4-+]

53.Kc3

[53.Kd3-+ hoping against hope]

53...Ke3 54.Kc4 f4 55.Kb5 f3 56.Kxa5 f2 57.Kb6

[57.Kb5 f1Q+ 58.Kc5-+]

57...f1Q 58.a5 Qf6+

[58...Qh1 seems even better 59.Kc5-+]

59.Kb7 Qxh4 60.a6 Qa4 61.a7 Qxa7+!

Black has to consider giving back material.

62.Kxa7 h4 63.Kb6 h3 64.Kc6 h2 65.Kd5 h1Q+

66.Ke5

[66.Kd6 Qb7 67.Ke6-+]

66...Qe4+ 67.Kd6 Kd4 68.Kd7 68...Qg6

69.Ke7 Ke5 70.Kd7 Qe6+ 71...Kd5 72.Kb7

Qc6+ 73.Ka7 73...Qb5 74.Ka8 Kc6 75.Ka7

Qb7# 0-1

Battling it out on the Island...



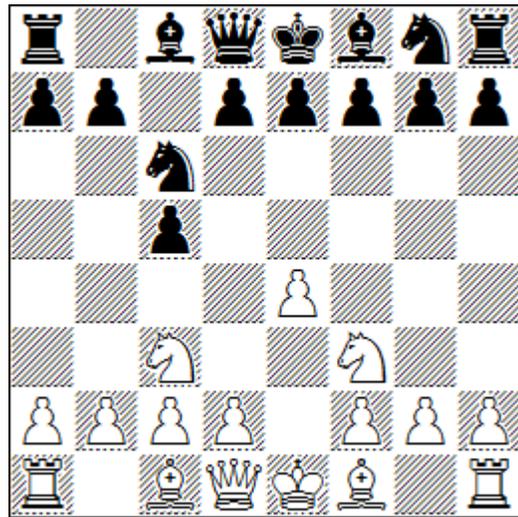
Move Order Matters! – The Scholastic Column

By Zachary Calderon

After playing chess for twelve years now, I have come to realize that move order is of the utmost importance in the opening. While you may think you know your openings down pat, your opponent can "juke" you out so to speak, and suddenly you find yourself on his home turf and you're in a minefield.

Certain openings, like the Sicilian for Black and the English Opening or Nf3 systems for White, lend themselves to transpositional possibilities and the opportunity to take advantage of the other player's moves to work an advantage for yourself.

For instance, let's say you play the Sicilian Najdorf. You are very comfortable with the old main line after **1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. Bd3 Nbd7 10. 0-0-0**

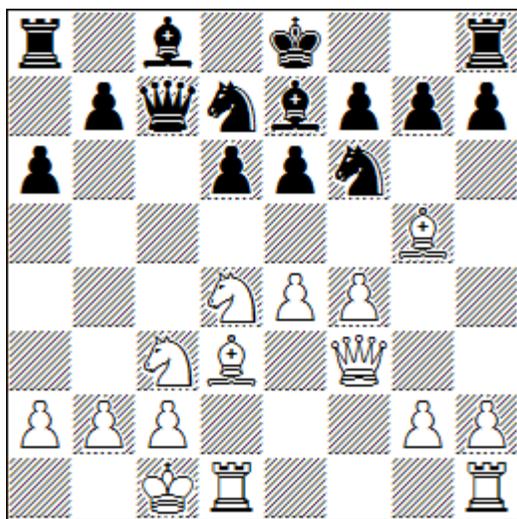


Now, unless you plan on playing the positionally suspect 3...e5, you're going to be stuck with a Sicilian with your Knight on c6 instead of on d7. Is this a bad thing in and of itself? Of course not. But if you're at home with ...Nbd7 type of Sicilian structures, you're going to be trying to make it out of the opening alive while your opponent will sit back and watch you try to learn new theory over the board. It is these subtle nuances that can make all the difference, and give you an important psychological advantage.

In many games, the psychological advantage can be as important as the current over-the-board position. Seeing your opponent looking uncomfortable or using more time than is usual are clues that your opponent isn't familiar with the way you played the opening.

On the Black side, some players play an early ...e6 for similar reasons, as it takes White out of some potential lines without minimizing the possibilities much for Black.

A couple of weeks ago, I found myself sitting across from a 2500 GM at the Marshall Chess Club. I was Black, and after **1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d6 4. d4** I should have simply played Bg7, accepted that I wasn't in my familiar Benoni structures, and aimed for one later with the move c5. However, I panicked, and prematurely played **4...c5?!** I was expecting 5. d5, so it was quite a shock when he played **5. dxc5! dxc5 6. Qxd8 Kxd8 7. Bf4 Nh5?! 8. 0-0-0+ Bd7 9. Bxb8! Rxb8 10. Ne5 Nf6 11. Nd5!? Ne4**



If you know this position inside out, that's great. But what if you end up in a completely different Sicilian?

A crafty player can throw off your entire opening repertoire with a small change in move order. For instance, after **1. e4 c5 2. Nc3** You could be expecting a Closed Sicilian, or a Grand Prix and play **2...Nc6**, and patiently wait for a game that may start **3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 d6 6. f4** and you have a main line Closed Sicilian, or **3. f4 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bc4** and you're in a Grand Prix Attack. However, your opponent may throw a curveball at you and play **3. Nf3!**

Open Lines --tidbits about the chess world *by Karl Heck*

New York's own Gata Kamsky, the current US Champion, won the 2014 National Open in Las Vegas outright with a 5-1 score. Kamsky drew Cuban GM Lazaro Batista in the last round, and that was enough as draws filled the top of the crosstable. Ironically, Kamsky drew another Cuban Grandmaster, Yuniesky Perez, in round four.

Batista and Perez, along the GM Timur Garevey, former New York State Champion GM Aleksandr Lenderman, GM Giorgi Kacheishvili (a regular at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City), GM Melikset Khacniyan, GM Ben Finegold, GM Dmitry Gurevich, GM Carlos Matamoros, GM Enrico Sevillano, FM Joel Bahawa, and FM Julian Landaw formed a 13-way tie for second with 4 ½ points. No fewer than eight players drew their last-round games, where one win would have produced co-champions.

Courtesy of Chess Life Online, one of GM Kamsky's games is shown below:

National Open, Las Vegas 2014

White: GM Ramirez, Alejandro

Black: GM Kamsky, Gata
Queen's Gambit Declined

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3 a6
5.e3 g6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.O-O O-O
8.Qb3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Be2 Bf5 11.Ng5 h6 12.e4 h
xg5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Bxg5 Qxd4 15.Rad1 Qc5 16.Rc
1 Qa7 17.Qb4 e6 18.Qh4 Nbd7 19.Bh6 Ne5 20.Bxg7
Kxg7 21.Qg5+ Ng6 22.h4 Nh7 23.Qg3 f4 24.Qf3 Nx
h4 25.Qxf4 Ng6 26.Qd6 Nf6 27.Qxc6 Rh8 28.Qf3 R
h6 29.Ne4 Nxe4 30.Qxe4 Rg8 31.g3 f5 32.Qc6 Ne5
33.Qg2 Kf6 0-1

From June 12-16, the North American Youth Chess Championship, a FIDE event, in the Westchester County town of Tarrytown. It is the second straight year that Chess Educators has brought a major event to Tarrytown. The North American Youth rotates among sites in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Each country selects 12 official players for the tournament, and extra players are allowed if they pay their own way. A total of 282 players participated in the event, including players from more than 15 U.S. states, including Texas.

In the Youth Under 18 section, two of the top three players were New Yorkers, with FM Justus Williams and Alexander Katz both finishing with 6 ½ points

out of nine. Katz was first, and secured the International Master title in the process as well as besting Williams second in tiebreak order, representing the Empire State quite well. Williams earned his second IM norm and third place finisher on tiebreak Andrew Tang also earned his first IM norm.

In the Youth Under 14 Open, Jason Shi of Connecticut was clear first with 7 ½ points and earned the FIDE Master title, and New York State Champion Nicholas de T Checa was clear second with a 7-2 score in the 52-player section, one of the largest in the tournament. Rising junior Kadhira Pillai tied for third with 6 ½ points.

The Youth Under 12 Open was won by David Brodsky, New York State Barber representative for 2014, with 7 ½ points out of nine in the 58-player section. Brodsky is also now a FIDE Master. Marcus Miyasaka tied for third with 6 ½ points.

Upstate New York star Martha Samadashvili tied for first in the Youth Under 12 Girls with a 7-2 score, winning on tiebreak as she beat the second-place finisher head-to-head. She is also now a Woman FIDE Master. Twenty-two players participated in this section.

IA and former USCF Interim Executive Director Francisco Guadalupe was the head tournament director for this event. The event received support from the US Chess Trust and the US Chess Federation. Chess Educators, led by International Organizer Beatriz Marinello, brought this event to New York.

You know summer is coming when the New York International comes to town. A total of 202 players participated in the three sections of the tournament held at the luxurious Civic Club/Estonian House in midtown Manhattan, including an impressive 67 contestants in the FIDE Norm section. The FIDE Norm section had an increase from 2013. The reason more players didn't play? Entries were limited to the site of the venue.

Two young New York players achieved norms in the event: FM Alec Getz, who is a student at UT-Dallas, secured his third IM norm with six points, and Kassa Korley, who is a student at Duke University, with five points.

Getz, a former state scholastic champion, secured his norm in style with 3 ½ points during the last four rounds, including wins in the last round against GM's Oliver Barbosa and Alexander Bagrationi. Getz won \$1,000 for his efforts, along with the FIDE title. Getz's overall mark in the tournament was five wins, two losses and two draws.

Korley finished the event with a 5-4 record against a very strong field, losing only to two strong GM's that finished in the top five in the event. Navigating a draw against 2600-rated Grandmaster Yuri Gonzales Vidal was critical to his effort, along with an eighth-round win over FM Leif Pressman that secured the norm.

The highly-competitive section was won by two Cuban GM's with seven points: Lazaro Bruson Batista and Yuniesky Quesada Perez. Given the recent loosening of travel regulations for Cuban professionals, it is likely that the Cuban pipeline to New York will make chess in the Big Apple even more competitive than it already is.

The two Cubans drew each other in round five to go 4-1 at the time, and Batista beat GM Leonid Yudasin in the last round to get back into a tie for first place after Perez drew GM Mikheil Kekelidze to conclude his tournament. The two players split \$7,500 for their efforts.

Kekelidze and GM Sergei Azarov tied for third with 6 ½ points. Azarov was undefeated and drew the top two winners, but could only find two wins in the last seven rounds against most of the top finishers in the event. He did beat SM Eli Vovsha to get into the third-place tie.

You wouldn't think there would be "Swiss Gambits" in an event like the New York International, but Kekelidze lost to rising Big Apple junior NM Andrew Ryba in the first round, and then had to fight back through the field with six wins in the next seven rounds, only losing to Bruson Batista. A key eighth-round win over GM Mark Paragua, along with a last-round draw against co-winner Perez, sealed the prize for Kekelidze. Ryba, for his part, earned a plus score of 5-4 in the tournament with only two losses and a 2400-plus performance rating.

Seven players tied for fifth with six points: Cuban GM Isan Suarez, GM Mark Paragua, Texas IM Darwin Yang, IM Andrey Gorovets, Macedonian IM Panchevski Filip, IM Akshat Chandra and IM-elect

Getz.

Three players tied for first in the 70-player Under 2200 section: Yogesh Gautan, Luis Belliard and New Yorker Aleksandr Pelekhaty. All three players earned USCF National Master ratings as a result of their undefeated 5-1 scores. Gautan drew both of the other first place co-finishers, as did Georgia's Brian Tarhon, who finished in a tie for fourth.

New Yorkers Jose Telleria, William Graif and George Berg, along with Juan Tica, Jessica Regam and Tarhon, all tied for fourth with 4 ½ points. Tarhon and Graif were undefeated.

Oregon's Elias Stern-Rodriguez and New York's Katsiaryna Zakhvatkina tied for first with 4 ½ points in the Under 1900 section of the tournament. They drew in the last round after besting the field in the first four rounds.

Four players tied for third with 4-1 scores: Omri Bergner-Phillips and college students Adia Onyango of the Empire State, along with Sandhya Goli and Tennessee's Madhu Nair. Nair and Bergner-Phillips were undefeated, and drew each other in the second round.

Dr. Marcus Fenner was the Chief Tournament Director for the Marshall Chess Club, with assistance from Bryan Quick and Jermaine Reid.

Four New Yorkers will be spending the beginning of their summer vacation in St. Louis competing for the US Junior Closed Championship, which will be contested in the Gateway City from June 19-29. The four Empire Staters are IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, the current New York State Scholastic Chess Champion, FM and IM-elect Michael Bodek, who recently earned his third and final IM norm at the Marshall GM Norm tournament in April, NM Joshua Colas, who is New York's representative to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in 2014, and FM Justus Williams, who previously won the Barber K-8 Championship.

The Junior Closed is one of the few opportunities in the United States for players to participate in a traditional one game a day round-robin event.

While four New Yorkers were in the tournament, only one, former State Champion IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, was in the top half of the rating pool. Williams and Colas were the two lowest-rated invited

players, only rated ahead of local qualifier Matthew Larson. Williams earned his spot as the winner of last year's U.S. Junior Open, held in Tarrytown.

Therefore, unlike the National Scholastics, the New Yorkers were in the unusual position of being the underdogs with little pressure on them.

IM-elect Michael Bodek led the New York contingent with 5 ½ points, good enough to tie for second with Massachusetts IM Samuel Sevian. Both players finished 1 ½ points behind top-ranked GM Kayden Troff of Utah, who won the event with a 7-2 score, despite losing to Bodek in round five.

Entering the last round, Troff was half a point ahead of Bodek, with both players having White. Therefore the incentive for Bodek was to push for a win, as a draw was unlikely to be enough for the title. Unfortunately, Bodek lost to fellow New Yorker Joshua Colas after rejecting a potential perpetual check line, and fell to a second-place tie with the Bay State IM.

IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy finished sixth with a 4-5 score. FM Justus Williams, an automatic qualifier due to his win in the U.S. Junior Open last year, finished in a tie for seventh with 3 ½ points. Despite the last-round win, Colas ended the tournament in last place with a 3-6 record.

None of the New York players participated in last year's Junior Championship, and therefore the future is bright for the Empire State in this event, as it is likely all of our players will be back next year. None of the players in the tournament this year "age out," which is age 20 for the U.S. Junior Closed. Ostrovskiy, at 18, was the oldest player in the tournament and the only one to be a "legal" adult.

Two games are shown below. One is an "intramural"

event between two New Yorkers, FM Michael Bodek and FM Justus Williams, while the second is Bodek's successful event against the tournament's Grandmaster, Kayden Troff of Utah. Both games are courtesy of Chess Life Online.

US Junior Closed, Saint Louis 2014

White: FM Bodek, Michael

Black: FM Williams, Justus

Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6 .Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 h6 8.OO e5 9.Qd3 Nf6 10.Re1 Be7 11.Nd2 g6 12.Nc4 Kf8 13.a4 Kg7 14.b3 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 d5 17.Qe2 dxc4 18.Bb2 f6 19.Qxc4 Rc8 20.Qe4 Qc7 21.c4 Rhd8 22.h4 h5 23.Re3 Bc5 24.Rg3 Qf7 25.Rd3 Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Bd4 27.Bxd4 Rd8 28.Rd1 Rxd4 29.Qe2 Rxh4 30.Qe3 b6 31.Rd5 g5 32.Rxe5 Qg6 33.Re7+ Kh6 34.Qd2 Qb1+ 35.Re1 Qxb3 36.Qd8 Rf4 37.Qh8+ Kg6 38.Qg8+ Kh6 39.Qf8+ Kg6 40.Qe8+ Kh6 41.g3 Rf5 42.Qh8+ Kg6 43.Qg8+ Kh6 44.Qf8+ Kg6 45.Qe8+ Kh6 46.Re3 Qc2 47.Re2 Qc1+ 48.Re1 Qc2 49.Qh8+ Kg6 50.Qg8+ 1/2-1/2

US Junior Closed, Saint Louis 2014

White: GM Troff, Kayden

Black: FM Bodek, Michael

Queen's Gambit Declined

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.Qa4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bd6 8.Bc3 O-O 9.Qxc4 Qe7 10.Ne5 Bxe5 11.dxe5 Nd5 12.O-O Rd8 13.a3 a5 14.b3 Bd7 15.Bb2 Qg5 16.h4 Qh5 17.e4 Nb6 18.Qc3 Be8 19.Bf3 Qg6 20.Nd2 Nd7 21.Be2 Ndx5 22.h5 Nd4 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.hxg6 Rxd2 25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.gxf7+ Kxf7 27.Bxc7 Rxe4 28.Rac1 Bc6 29.Rc5 a4 30.b4 Rh8 31.Be5 Kg6 32.Bc3 h5 33.f4 Kh6 34.Kf2 Rd8 35.b5 Rd5 36.Rxd5 Bxd5 37.Rd1 Rc4 38.Bb4 Kg6 39.Ke3 Kf5 40.Rd4 Rc1 41.Be7 Rc3+ 42.Rd3 Rxd3+ 43.Kxd3 Kg4 44.Bh4 e5 45.f5 Kf3 46.Kd2 e4 47.Ke1 Bf7 48.Kd2 Bc4 49.b6 e3+ 50.Ke1 Kg4 51.Be7 Kxf5 0-1

Tournaments (from page 31)

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.

Labor Day Weekend: the 136th New York State Chess Championship. Albany Marriott, Wolf Road, Colonie, NY. America's Labor Day Tradition. See the Spring issue for full information.

www.nysca.net -- your source for New York State Chess Information. Now on Twitter at #nystatechess

Capital Region News *from staff reports and enyca.org*

While there are tournaments in the Region, the Capital District Chess League is also in full bore. The League, which has been in existence for decades, has long been a fraternal pitched battle in between the tournament grind.

The CDCL is made up of clubs from throughout the Capital Region, with the Albany, Schenectady, Troy and RPI clubs represented. There is also a Capital Region team. Albany has A and B teams, and Schenectady also fields two teams, though one of the teams is made up of older players and names itself the Schenectady Geezers instead of the more prosaic Schenectady B.

Current writers for *Empire Chess* Bill Townsend and Zachary Calderon both play for Schenectady A, so that is the unofficial NYSCA team as well.

The current standings are:

Schenectady A: 1-1
Troy (Uncle Sam): 1-1
Albany B: 3 ½-1 ½
Schenectady Geezers: 3 ½-1 ½
Albany A: 3-2
Capital Region: 1-3
RPI: 1-3

Due to various organizational issues at the clubs, the schedule is unbalanced this season. One result of that is that the RPI club likely won't finish their schedule. The main battle will likely be between the two Albany and two Schenectady teams, both of whom appear to be relatively evenly-matched.

Here are a couple recent games from the League, courtesy of enyca.org. Annotations are by Bill Little.

White: Magat, Gordon
Black: Alowitz, Arthur
CDCL Match Albany A versus Albany B
6/11/2014 Guilderland, NY English

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3

The Symmetrical English sets the stage for a careful positional fight. I thought such a game would not be all bad for Mr. Alowitz. Tactics have tripped him up before. An example is this game against Mockler from this year's Championship can be found at the end of this post. The usual moves for Black are: 5..., e6;

5..., g6; and 5..., Qa5(or b3). After Black's next White gets good play for his pieces.

5...Nxd4 ?! 6.Qxd4 g6 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.Nd5

A casual glance makes this move look good, the optical illusion kicks in. Better are: 8 e4, 8 Rd1, or the cautious 8 Qd2.

8...O-O 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.Bxf6 exf6 11.g3

This must have been the position White was expecting. Now that he has gotten it; what's next? At first sight Black's pawns are apparently weak. White may be able to bring pressure to bear on the d-pawn, and the f6-pawn needs guarding. Gordon used several minutes here coming to grips with the problem: a) the obvious 11 0-0-0, is not without danger; 11... Qa5 12 Kb1 d6 13 Qxd6? Bf4+; and White is in trouble. The best bet may be b) 11 e3 d6 12 Be2 Qa5+ 13 Qd2 Qc5; and while Black is not going to drop a pawn, his weaknesses have not been corrected – White has the better game. The third choice, c) fianchettoing the Bishop falls somewhere between the first two options.

11...Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Qxd2+

With the Queens off f6 is not so vulnerable anymore. That is progress for Black.

13.Kxd2 d6 14.Bg2 Rb8 15.Rhd1 Be6 16.Kc3 Rfd8 17.Rd4b5 !

What makes this a good move is it takes action to open lines after luring the White King to a slightly exposed position. This has more promise than digging in around the d-pawn by bringing the King up. Black can hold the d6-pawn, but White has a bit more space, and absent any breaks, a long and difficult defense is likely.

18.cxb5 Rxb5 19.b3d5 ?!

This move is doubtful right here. With long term positional problems in the shape of weak pawns, Black should try for compensation by improving the activity of his pieces. One possible line is: 19..., Rc5+ 20 Kb2 Rdc8 21 Be4 d5 22 Be3 Kf8; beginning a long march to reinforce the Q-side. Black has then effectively organized his forces with chances for equality.

20.Rad1 Kg7 21.a4

The movement of the pawns on the Q-side did not help Black's cause much if at all. Every step forward by either side there gets White closer to making a passed pawn. That is only way to play for a win in this position for White.

21...Rc5+ 22.Kb2 a5 23.R1d2 ?

White is being super-cautious. The natural 23 e4!, is the way forward. Then 23..., Rdc8 24 exd5 Rc2+ 25

Ka3 Rxf2 26 dxe6 Rcc2 27 Ra1 Rxc2 28 Rd7 Rce2 29 Rxf7+ Kg8 30 Ra7 Rxh2 31 Rxa5 Rxe6; and White has the edge in this pawn race. Black must use some moves to eliminate the pawn on g3. White can use that time to push his a-pawn towards Queening. In defense of White's decision it must be recognized calculating out all this is not easy. Since Black has caused the Q-side pawns to move forward, White probably thought to just keep the game going since there is still a potential passed pawn that may be created.

23...f5 24.e3 Kf6 25.b4

White makes the outside passer he has wanted for some time.

25...axb4 26.Rxb4 Ke5 27.Rb6 Ra8 28.Rd4 Rac8 ?

Tactics always may change things abruptly. Black misses the danger. Better is 28..., Rd8.

29.Rd2 ?

White fails to see his winning shot. With 29 Rxd5!, White obtains the very favorable Bishops of the same color ending where he has the "right" color Bishop. He then has excellent winning chances. It is awfully easy when you are in an endgame with an outside passed pawn to think only of maneuvers about the defense and attack of that pawn. One hint that can warn of tactics is a King constrained. Here the Black King has taken the central road towards the battle. After 29 Rxd5+, if Black plays 29..., Bxd5?? 30 f4, is checkmate! The other obvious try is 29..., Rxd5; but then 30 f4+ Kf6 31 Bxd5, simplifies to a near winning Rook + extra passed pawn ending. All Black is left with is 29..., Kf6 30 Rxc5 Rxc5 31 Rc6, when after the Rook trade we have the aforementioned favorable Bishops of the same color ending.

29...Ra8 30.Rb4 Rca5 31.Rdd4 Rc8 32.Rb5 ?

This was not a happy endgame effort by Mr. Magat. He now voluntarily converts the a-pawn into a b-pawn. The a-pawn with a light squared Bishop keeps winning chances. A b-pawn with the same Bishop has fewer winning chances. Here White had to try 32 Bf1 Bd7 33 Rb6, (Renewing the threat of mate.) 33... Rc6 34 Rb7 Kd6 35 Bb5 Rc7 36 Rxc7 Kxc7 37 Rxd5 Bxb5 38 axb5, and White has some edge remaining. After the game move play is about level.

32...Rxb5+ 33.axb5 Rb8 34.Bf1 Kd6 35.Rb4 Kc5 36.Kc3 Bd7

Also possible is 36..., Ra8; with the idea: 37 b6 Ra3+ 38 Kc2 Kxb4 39 b7 Rc3+! 40 Kd2 Rc8; very effectively stopping White from Queening. Black has whatever advantage there is in the game by playing this way, but it does not look at all sufficient to win.

37.h4

A trickier try but not a winning try is: 37 Ra4. If then 37..., Bxb5 38 Bxb5 Rxb5 39 Ra7, when the White

Rook ranging the 7th will recover the pawn. The Rook is actively placed where it may do damage if Black makes a hasty move. The game now plays out logically, and Black maintains his composure. The position is equal and a draw could be reasonably agreed anywhere from here to the end. White's most potent tricks involve his Rook operating along the 8th rank wanting to get to g7 at some opportune moment. As long as Black keeps his Rook on the 7th and his King close at hand, that will not win for White. It does not matter much is the Black d-pawn falls for the White K-side pawns are not particularly well set-up for a breakthrough.

37...f6 38.h5 Bxb5 39.h6 Rb6 40.Bxb5 Rxb5 41.Ra4 Rb7 42.Ra8 Rf7 43.Ra5+ Kd6 44.Kd4 Rb7 45.Ra8 Rf7 46.Rd8+ Ke6 47.Rxd5 Rd7 48.Rxd7 Kxd7 49.Kd5 Ke7 50.f3 Kd7 51.f4 Ke7 52.Kc5 Kd7 53.Kd5 Ke7 54.e4 fxe4 55.Kxe4 Ke6 1/2-1/2

Illustrative Games: In this game Michael Mockler finds a tactic or two to that are too much for Alowitz:

White: Mockler, Michael

Black: Alowitz, Arthur

AACC Championship 2013-14

12/11/2013 Guilderland, NY Petroff's

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Be7 6.Bc4 O-O 7.Bf4 Bd7 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nde2 9.Bb3 9...Ne5 =10.Bb3 Ng6 11.Bg3 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.O-O-O e5 14.f3 Nh5 15.Kb1 Nxc3 16.hxg3 Kh8 17.Nd5 Bg5 18.f4 exf4 19.gxf4 Bf6 20.g3 Qd7 21.Qd3 Qc6 22.Nxf6 Rxf6 23.e5 dxe5 24.fxe5 Re6 25.Nd4 Qd5 26.Nxe6 Qxe6 27.Qd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxd8+ Qg8 29.Rxg8+ Kxg8 30.e6 h6 31.Rf1 Ne7 32.Rf7 Nd5 33.c4 Ne3 34.b3 g6 35.Rf6 Kg7 36. e7 1-0

Phil Thomas is one of the most improved adults on the local chess scene in recent years. His rating has improved the 1700's to over 2000. Here is his excellent win on board 1 of our match last month. Click on any move to see a board and to play through the moves, including some of the variations.

White: Thomas, Phil 2013

Black: Howard, Dean 2000

CDCL English Opening

5/23/2014

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nc3 O-O 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.Rc1 Bb7 9.Bd3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nbd7 11.O-O c5 12.Qe2 Rc8 13.Rfd1 Ne4
It's better to impair White's pawns

with 13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 not 14.Qxf3 cxd4 15.Rxd4 Rxc4
16.Rxc4 Ne5 14...cxd4 15.Rxd4 Nd5 16.Bg3 Nxc3
17.bxc3 17.Rxc3? Bf6

14.Bg3 ?! ±

Black's last move was roughly a half-pawn mistake.
This move gives it back. It's better to preserve the
Bishop with 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bg3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 cxd4
17.Rxd4 Bf6 18.Rdd1

14...Nxc3 15.hxc3 Bf6

Again, White's advantage is smaller after 15...Bxf3
16.gxf3 cxd4 17.exd4 Nf/ **16.Nb5 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 cxd4**
18.exd4 Ra8 19.Bb3 a6 20.Nc3 g6 ?!

The idea of retreating to g7 and playing ...Nf6 is one
move too slow. It's better to defend patiently with
20...Rc8 21.Qb7 a5 22.Nb5 Bg5.

21.d5 exd5 22.Bxd5

Not as good as 22.Nxd5 Ra7, but it's hard for a
human to find 23.Nb4 Bxb2 24.Rc2 Bg7 25.Nc6.

22...Ra7 23.Bc6 Ne5 24.Qe4

This gives Black a chance to survive. White wins
quickly with (24. Qf4 Nd3 25. Qe3)

24...Qe7

The last change to hang on was 24...Qb8 25.Bd5 Bg7
26.Na4 Rd8.

25.Nd5 Qe6 26.f4!

Phil finds the tactical breakthrough.

26...Nxc6 27.Rxc6 Qxc6 28.Ne7+ Bxe7 29.Qxc6
Bc5+ 30.Kh2 Re7 31.b4

In this position the R+B are no match for the queen.
The game lasted about 15 more moves, but the
outcome wasn't in doubt. 1-0

As a sidebar to show how far Phil has come, here's
the first game we played.

White: Howard, Dean 2000

Black: Thomas, Phil 1725

CDCL 4/13/2009 Albany

Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4
6.cxd4 e6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nf6 10.Bd3
h6 11.O-O O-O 12.Bb2 b6 13.c4 Qd6 14.Bc2 Ba6
15.Qd3 g6 16.Qc3 Nb8 17.c5 Qe7 18.d5

Possibly the easiest 'positional' sacrifice I've ever
played. I didn't see all the variations, but I knew I
had more than enough for the exchange.

18...Bxf1 19.d6 Qd8 20.Rxf1 Kg7 21.Be4 Nd7

22.c6

Matt Katrein criticized me for not playing 22.Bxa8
Qxa8 23.c6 Rc8 24.Qd4 Rxc6 25.Ne5 regaining the
material and maintaining the positional advantage.
In human terms he's correct, but I wanted to maintain
the bind. I felt vindicated by the position after my
24th move.

22...Rc8 23.c7 Qe8 24.Bc6 e5 25.Bxd7

(25. Nxe5 Qxe5 26. Qxe5 Nxe5 27. Bxe5) is crushing,
but this wins comfortably enough.

25...Nxd7 26.Nxe5 Nxe5 27.Qxe5+ Qxe5 28.Bxe5+
f6 29.Bc3 Rf7 30.Re1 g5 31.Re6 h5 32.h3 g4
33.Rxf6 Rfxc7 34.dxc7 Kg8 35.Rc6 Kf7 36.hxc4
hxc4 37.Kh2 Ke7 38.Bd2 Kd7 39.Rc2 Rh8+
40.Kg3 Kc8 41.Bf4 Rg8 42.Rd2 Black resigned. 1-0

Make the Right Move Albany, the main scholastic
organizer in the Capital Region, has announced its
Fall 2014 schedule. It is the following:

October 4 – Albany Academy

October 11-12 – Grand Prix at the Best western
Sovereign Hotel, Albany (www.relyeachess.com)

October 18 – Montessori Magnet

November 1 – SUNY Albany

December 1 – Martin Luther King MS, Albany

Full information on all events can be found at
www.chesstrm.org.

The 2013-14 Make the Right Move season ended on
June 7th in Bethlehem in an event labeled as both
Bring Your Best Tournament #1 and The Right Move
tournament #85.

The 15-player All Welcome section was a triumph for
long-time Capital Region tournament veteran
Michael Mockler, who won the section outright with
3 ½ points. Mockler conceded a draw in the second
round to Zaza Samadashvili, but swept through the
rest of the field. Brian Furtado, Empire Chess
columnist Zachary Calderon and Wayne Powers all
tied for second with three points. Mockler defeated
Furtado in round three in what proved to be a
decisive encounter.

Four players tied for first in a very closely-contested
rated over 600 section. The four players with three
points were Derin Gumustop, Mingrui Liu, Landon
Thompson and Harold Wang. All of the leaders had a
win and a loss within the group of four.

Luke Villani won the rated under 600 section with a
perfect 4-0 score, besting the 10-player section by a
full point. Sean Meek was clear second with three
points, winning two games after taking two half-point
byes.

Jingxuan Liu won the unrated Grades 6-12 section
with a perfect 4-0 score, besting the 15-player field
by a full point. Erica Hit, Nick Rappazzo and Aaron

Schenck tied for second with 3-1 scores.

Balaji Mahadevan won the Grades K-5 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Ben Goldberg was clear second in the 12-player section with 3 ½ points, conceding a second-round draw to Connor Heineman. William Wu and Rithvik Narra tied for third with three points.

Brother John McManus directed for The Right Move.

May 5th brought The Right Move to the New York State Museum for an annual event that is normally one of the highlights of the local chess schedule.

The All Welcome section had 19 players and was won by Empire Chess columnist Zachary Calderon and Brian Furtadom, both of whom finished with 3 ½ points. David Sterner, Michael Mocklet and Andrew Feist all tied for third with three points.

Matt Schottenfeld won the eight-player scholastic over 1000 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Ronghai Gong was clear second with three points, losing only to Schottenfeld in the second round.

The 11-player 601-999 section was swept by Michael Armonious, who won with a perfect score and raised his rating over 1000. Melodie Loya, Joseph Garozzo and Harold Wang all tied for second with 2 ½ points. Loya and Garozzo drew each other in the third round.

Saathvik Narra and Pranav Jagannath both posted perfect 4-0 scores in the 18-player Under 600 section, and both players are now over 600. Peter Dong, Ryan McKenna and Roland Lipscomb all tied for third with 3-1 scores.

Xie Chang Zhi won the 21-player unrated Grades 6-12 section with its only perfect 4-0 score. Six players were in a logjam for second place with three points: Jingxuan Liu, Abhi Sharma, Andrew Gauspohl, Sam Koblensky, Jared Wargacki, and Albert Tiburcio.

Erica Li and Sophia Wang, teammates who therefore did not play each other, both posted perfect scores in the Grades 3-5 section, sweeping the nine-player field by a point and a half.

Balaji Mahadevan won the Grades K-2 section with a perfect 4-0. Rithvik Narra and Theo Loya tied for second with three points in the Brother John

McManus organized event.

A total of 112 players participated in The Right Move Tournament #38 at the Albany Community Charter School.

David Sterner won the 27-player All Welcome section with its only perfect 4-0 score. Zaza Samadashvili was clear second with 3 ½ points, drawing her sister Martha in the last round/ Pranav Kumar, Sandeep Alampalli, William Matters, Andrew Feist and Prathapan Sundaram all tied for third with 3-1 scores. Jeff Lacomnb and Martha Samadashvili tied for eighth with 2 ½ points.

Ronghai Gong and Shreyas Raman tied for first in the eight-player USCF over 1000 section with 3 ½ points. They drew in the last round after sweeping the field.

Uriel Calista and Stephen Dong tied for first in the 12-player rated 600-999 section with 3 ½ points. Both players drew Melodie Loya, who tied for second with three points with Phillip Anderson.

Three players tied for first with 3 ½ points in the 21-player rated under 600 section: Deon Santhosh, Pranav Jagannath, and Abhijeet Gudapati. Santhosh and Jagannath drew in the third round, while Gudapati absorbed a second-round draw against Robert Mortensen. Peter Dong and Ryan McKenna tied for fourth with three points.

Sam Koblensky swept the 16-player unrated Grades 6-12 section with its only perfect 4-0 score. Koblensky beat Bobby Palermo in the last round to win first place. Palermo, Jordan Leslie and Jared Wargacki tied for second with three points.

Joey Driscoll and Andrew Huang tied for first in the 21-player Grades 3-5 section with perfect 4-0 scores. Four players tied for third with three points: Stelin Poola, Ben Goldberg, Alex Ally and Andrew Cref. Parmseh Thakoordial was clear seventh with 2 ½.

Balaji Mahadevan was the clear winner of the unrated Grades K-2 section with a perfect 4-0 score. John Lamont was clear second with three points.

Brother John McManus organized the tournament for The Right Move.

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.

JULY 5, 12, 18, 26, AUG 2, 9, 16, 23, SEP. 6, 13, 20, 27 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.

JULY 25-27 OR 26-27 13th annual Manhattan Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

5SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St. across from Penn Station, New York 10001. **\$17,000 guaranteed prizes.** In 5 sections. **Open:** \$1600-800-400-200, clear/tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top Under 2450/Unr \$500-250. FIDE. **Under 2300:** \$1400-700-400-200, top U2150/Unr \$500-250. **Under 2000:** \$1400-700-400-200, top U1850 \$500-250. **Under 1700:** \$1200-600-300-150, top U1550 \$500-250. **Under 1400:** \$700-400-200-100, top U1250 \$300-150, trophies to first 3, top U1200, U1000, U800, Unr. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Team average rating must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **Unrated** may enter any section, with prize limit U2000 \$900, U1700 \$600, U1400 \$300; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$118 at chessaction.com by 7/23, \$125 phoned to 406-896-2038 (no questions) by 7/21, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 if check mailed by 7/16, \$140 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. GMs free; \$100 from prize. **Under 1400 Section EF:** all \$40 less than above. **Online or mailed entry** \$5 less to NYSCA members (\$12/yr with 2 issues Empire Chess, \$20/yr 4 issues, may join with entry). **Re-entry \$60**, not available in Open. **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 6 pm. Rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am. Rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes** available all rounds, limit 2 byes, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$219-219, 1-800-764-4680, 212-971-0101, reserve by 7/5 (NOTE CORRECTION) or rate may increase, ask for Continental Chess Association rate. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: chesstour.com, chesstour.info, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (Online entries posted instantly).

AUG 24: 56th Binghamton Monthly Tournament

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.

AUG. 29: New York State Blitz Championship (BLZ)

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

Out of state welcome; New York State blitz title to top NYS resident, on tiebreak if necessary. **5-SS**, G/5 d0, double round, 10 games. Albany Marriott (see NY State Championship). \$\$ 600 guaranteed: \$200-100, 1700-1999 \$100-50, Under 1700/Unrated \$100-50. EF: \$30, NYSCA members \$25, at site only, no checks. Reg. ends 8 pm, rounds. 8:30, 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30 p.m. Bye: 1. Blitz rated, but higher of regular or blitz used for pairings & prizes.

A HERITAGE EVENT!
CHESS MAGNET SCHOOL JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!
A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT!

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 OR AUG. 31-SEPT. 1 136th annual NY State Championship

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

Out of state welcome. 6-SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (2-day option in U2100 & below, rounds. 1-3 G/40 d10). Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Rd., Albany 12205 (Thruway Exit 24, I-87 north to Wolf Rd., Exit 4). Luxurious hotel with indoor/outdoor pool, sauna, fitness center, free parking, free airport shuttle, many restaurants in area.

\$\$\$ 13,000. In 5 sections.

Open: \$1500-700-500-300, Top Under 2300/Unrated \$800-400. State title and \$100 bonus to top NYS resident (both decided on tiebreak if tied).

Under 2100: \$1000-500-300-200, Top Under 1900 \$400.

Under 1800: \$1000-500-300-200, Top Under 1600 \$400.

Under 1500: \$800-400-200-100, Top Under 1300 \$300.

Under 1200: \$500-300-200-100, trophy to first 3, Top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated.

Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. 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. **Unrated** may not win over \$200 in Under 1200, \$400 Under 1500 or \$600 Under 1800.

Top 4 sections EF: \$98 online at chessaction.com by 8/27, \$105 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/25 (entry only, no questions), 4-day \$104, 3-day \$103, 2-day \$102 if check mailed by 8/20, all \$120 at site, or online until two hours before game. **Under 1200 Section EF:** All \$30 less than top 4 sections EF. **All:** Online or mailed entries \$7 less to NYSCA members (NYSCA dues \$12/yr with 2 issues Empire Chess or \$20/yr with 4 issues; join or renew together with entry.) Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special one-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. Re-entry \$60, all sections but Open. GMs free, \$90 deducted from prize. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

3-day schedule: Reg. ends Saturday 11 am, rounds: Saturday 12 & 6 p.m., Sunday 12 & 6 p.m., Monday 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

4-day schedule: Reg. ends Friday 6 pm, rounds: Friday 7 pm, Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 12 & 6 pm, Monday 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m..

2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sunday. 10 am, rounds. Sunday 11 a.m., 1:30, 3:30, 6 p.m., Monday 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m, no 2-day schedule in Open. **Bye:** all, limit 2, Open must commit before round 2, others before round 4. **HR:** \$97-97, 800-443-8952, 518-458-8444, reserve by 8/22 or rate may increase. NYSCA meeting 9 a.m. Sunday. Car rental: 800-331-1600, use AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com.

Entries: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803.
Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 914-665-8152. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). September ratings used.