

Iowa Chess News

En Passant

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PATRON MEMBERS

Note: If your name is not present, please let Ben Darr know and he will help renew your membership.

Anish Lodh, Anjali Lodh, Anjaneya Rao, Ben Munson, Benjamin Darr, Bill Broich, Brian Mackinson, Clark Potter, Cub Noble, David Oliveira, Gerald Hawkins, James Hodina, Jasmin Zulic, Joseph Kristan, Juric Zvonko, Luis Peralta, Mark Capron, Martin Grund, Michael Ervin, Michael Volz, Mitch Weiss, Nathaniel Arnold, Richard Rector, Robert Reynolds, Robert Vance, Roger Alexander, Romy Lodh, Samuel Naylor, VI, Srinivas Rao, Thomas Daufeldt, Thomas Hesse, Tony Thompson, Weston Kinghorn

The names of Patron members will be listed in every issue of *En Passant*. The extra money will be added to the IASCA budget and spent as the membership directs.

Chess Journalist of America Honorable Mention Newsletter



NM Valeriy Kosokin won the 2023 Senior Open with a perfect score of 4.0 / 4. Photo by Mark Capron.

2023 Senior Open by Mark Capron

A month or so ago Jim Hodina, IASCA President, asked me if I was willing to direct the 2023 Senior Open tournament in Grinnell, Iowa on March 11. This particular Saturday worked in my schedule so I told him I would do it. Then it hit me...I hadn't actually directed an event on my own for quite a while, probably pre-COVID. I needed to update the software on my computer and I didn't have the latest rulebook. Hey, I still had a month to do all this. Of course, three weeks later I still needed to do all the items! So I got started and downloaded all the database files I needed and tested the SwissSys program to make sure it was all good to go.

Friday, the night before the tournament, I downloaded the new rulebook to my kindle. I went to pack my brief case and verify I had all the supplies needed for the event. Athena Aguiar was to be coming along to learn more about directing. I wanted to help her learn the pairing process and so needed pairing cards. Hmm my briefcase did not contain any pairing cards. I looked all around my house and eventually found what I needed. That was the good news. The bad news was that when I was looking around it reminded me of another critical piece I needed for the tournament, score sheets! I did not have any! I sent off a frantic text to Eric Vigil to see if he had any I could borrow. Eric had been suffering from a case of COVID so his responses this past week had been slow or not at all. I found a few old scorebooks that I could rip pages out if I needed to so I kind of had it covered. Off to bed I went.

In the middle of the night I awoke realizing I still needed to get gas before I left and I found good news on my phone. Eric had texted back and said he would

put some scoresheets out on his porch for me to pick up before I left town.



The morning came and I picked out my favorite chess shirt to wear, the collector. I packed everything I thought I needed and left to get gas. The first station had bags over all the nozzles so I had to go to a different station. Being behind schedule is no stranger to me unfortunately. I texted Athena and told her I would be a bit later than our scheduled time. She was happy for the extra time. Once I arrived to pick Athena up she asked if I had chess sets and clocks. I told her no and that I hoped people would bring theirs. But then it hit me... the trophy was still sitting on my shelf back at my house. I said we had to go back and get it and when I did I would throw in a couple clocks and sets just in case.

After grabbing the trophy, sets and clocks, and scoresheets from Eric's porch we were finally on the road, about 30 minutes later than planned. Athena and I had a good chat on our way to Grinnell learning more about each other.

We arrived at the tournament site just about one minute before registration was to start. We went in and found the tournament room. Athena and I set things up and registered the players who had arrived. The tournament only drew 11 players most likely due to the impending snow storm coming that afternoon and evening.

NM Valeriy Koskin was the pre-tournament favorite as he held an almost 300 rating point advantage over field. It was good to see some old friends at the tournament and meet players I had never encountered previously.

The first round started on time with 11 players. A while into the first round one player still had not shown up. I happened to look at my phone and found out that player had withdrawn prior to the start of the tournament. Dang! Rookie mistake! I didn't check my phone and I had put it on silent prior. I was able to re-pair the bye player with the opponent of the withdrawn player. No harm no foul. Everything worked out in the first round and importantly we didn't fall behind in schedule. In the first round all the higher ranked players won their games. The snow had started to come down.

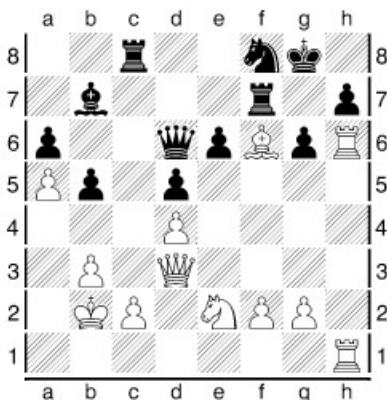
Jasmin provides a very nice tactical ending to this game:

Zulic, Jasmin (1907) - Jacobs, Steve (1448) [D01]

2023 Iowa Senior Open, Grinnell, IA (1), 11.03.2023

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 b6 7.Qe2 Bb7 8.0-0-0 c5 9.Bb5 a6 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Bf4 0-0 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 cxd4 14.exd4 Re8 15.h4 g6 16.h5 Bb4 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Nb1 Nf8 19.Ne5 Bd6 20.Rh3 Qc7 21.Rdh1 Bxe5 22.Bxe5

Qc4 23.Qd2 Re7 24.b3 Qb5 25.Nc3 Qc6 26.Kb2 Nd7 27.Bf6 Rf7 28.Qd3 Nf8 29.Rh6 b5 30.Ne2 Qd6



31.Rxg6+ Nxc6 32.Qxg6+ Kf8 33.Rxh7 Rxh7 34.Qxh7 Qc7 35.Qh8+ Kf7 36.Qg7+ Ke8 37.Qg8+ Kd7 38.Qf7+ Kd6 39.Be5+ Kc6 40.Qxe6+ 1-0

After the first round, Athena and I worked through the pairing cards and determined who was going to play who in round two. Jasmin Zulic and Jeffrey Holt kept up with NM Kosokin all winning their games. Rex Gray and Jerry Wiley got on the board each winning their games. The snow was still coming down and looked like we had more than an inch.

Divanovic, Edin (1700) - Zulic, Jasmin (1907) [A43]

2023 Iowa Senior Open, Grinnell, IA (2), 11.03.2023

1.e4 e6 2.d4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.Bc4 e5 5.Ne2 Nf6 6.Nbc3 Be7 7.h3 a6 8.a4 h6 9.Ng3 g6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 g5 13.Bxd6 Bxd6 14.Nf5 Ne5 15.Ng7+ Kf8 16.Ne6+ Bxe6 17.dxe6 Nxc4 18.Qf3 Bf4 19.e5 Qd4+ 20.Kh1 Nxe5 21.Qxb7 Re8 22.g3 Re7 23.Qg2 Rxe6 24.gxf4

25.Rg1 Rg8 26.Qa8+ Re8 27.Qxa6 Rxc6 28.Rxc6 Nf3 29.Rd1 Qf2 30.Qd6+ Kg8 31.Qxf4 Re1+ 0-1

Landrew,Paul (1120) - Gray,Rex H (1342) [C25]

2023 Iowa Senior Open, Grinnell, IA (2), 11.03.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 d6 3.d3 Nf6 4.Be2 Be6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Bd2 Qd7 8.a3 0-0 9.b4 a6 10.Ng5 Nd4 11.Nxe6 Nxe6 12.Be3 c6 13.Na4 Bd8 14.c3 b5 15.Nb6 Bxb6 16.Bxb6 Qb7 17.Be3 d5 18.Bc1 dxe4 19.Bb2 exd3 20.Bxd3 Rad8 21.Qc2 c5 22.Be2 c4 23.Rad1 Nf4 24.Bf3 Qc7 25.Bc1 Nd3 26.Be3 Rfe8 27.h4 e4 28.Be2 Qc8 29.Bg5 Qe6 30.Qd2 e3 31.fxe3 Ne4 32.Qc2 Nxc3 33.hxc3 Qxe3+ 34.Kh1 Nf2+ 35.Rxf2 Rxd1+ 36.Qxd1 Qxf2 37.Kh2 Qxe2 38.Qd6 Qh5+ 39.Kg1 Re1+ 40.Kf2 Qe2+ 41.Kg3 Qe5+ 42.Qxe5 Rxe5 43.Kf4 f6 44.g4 Kf7 45.g6+ hxg6 46.g5 Ke6 47.gxf6 gxf6 48.Kf3 Kf5 49.a4 g5 50.a5 Re4 0-1

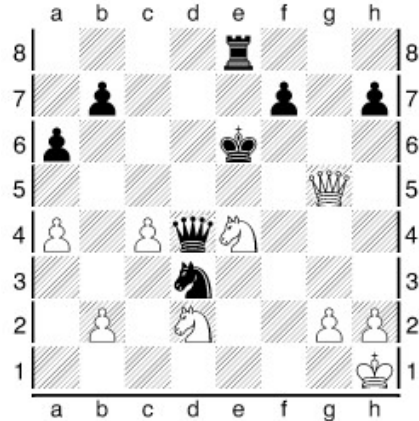
The third round pitted Zulic versus NM Kosokin on board one in the featured match. The game was a tense affair coming down to a time scramble where the higher rated player ended up on top when the dust cleared. Eddie Divanovic and Steve Jacobs both won their games while Rex Gray and Jerry Wiley drew. The snow had tapered off some. The parking lot was full of slush. My car had about 1 inch of snow or so on it.

Zulic,Jasmin (1907) - Kosokin,Valeriy (2249) [D03]

2023 Iowa Senior Open, Grinnell, IA (3), 11.03.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Bd3 a6 7.a4 Qb6 8.Rb1 Bd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.Ne2 e5 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.e4 Nb4 14.exd5

Nxd5 15.c4 Nb4 16.Nc3 Bc6 17.Qe2 0-0 18.Be4 Rfe8 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.Rbd1 e4 21.Nd4 Qc5 22.Nb3 Qe5 23.Rd4 e3 24.Re4 exf2+ 25.Rxf2 Qb8 26.Rxf6 gxf6 27.Qg4+ Kh8 28.Qf5 Rxe4 29.Qxf6+ Kg8 30.Nxe4 Qd8 31.Qf3 Qd3 32.Qg4+ Kf8 33.Nbd2 Qd4+ 34.Kh1 Nd3 35.Qh4 Re8 36.Qh6+ Ke7 37.Qg5+ Ke6



[This position is dynamically equal. Unfortunately the scoresheet becomes unreadable at this point. Black goes on to win in the time scramble. Perhaps Jasmin or Valeriy can enlighten us with the rest of the game?] 0-1

Popov,Sergey (1665) - Gray,Rex H (1342) [D00]

2023 Iowa Senior Open, Grinnell, IA (3), 11.03.2023

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nb5 Bd6 6.Nxd6+ cxd6 7.Nf3 a6 8.h3 0-0 9.c4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 d5 11.Be2 Qa5+ 12.Nd2 Ne4 13.f3 Nf6 14.0-0 Qd8 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bh4 g5 17.Bg3 Nh7 18.f4 f6 19.Bd3 f5 20.Nf3 Rf7 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.fxe5 Bd7 23.Qh5 Kg7 24.h4 gxh4 25.Bxh4 Ng5 26.Rac1 Be8 27.Qe2 Nh3+

28.gxh3 Qxh4 29.Kh2 Kh7
 30.Rg1 Rf8 31.Qg2 Qe7 32.Qc2
 Bg6 33.Qc7 Rf7 34.Qxe7 Rxe7
 35.Rg2 Rg8 36.Rgc2 Rgg7
 37.Rg2 Be8 38.Rcc2 Rxg2+
 39.Rxg2 Rg7 40.Rxg7+ Kxg7
 41.h4 Bh5 42.Kg3 a5 43.b3 Kf7
 44.Kf2 Ke7 45.Ke1 Be8 46.Be2
 b5 47.Kd2 b4 48.Kc2 a4 49.bxa4
 Bxa4+ 50.Kb2 Kd7
 1/2-1/2

Round 4 can sometimes be anti-climactic when there are more rounds than typically needed to determine the winner. The formula has always been two raised to the power of the number of rounds in this case two raised to the fourth power was equal to 16. Meaning the tournament was set up for 16+ players. We ended up with only 10 so the pairings become interesting and sometimes difficult to figure out. Athena and I worked through the possibilities and determined the best course of action to keep players with the same or close score playing each other, equalizing as many colors as possible and of course not letting anyone play the same opponent twice. NM Kosokin had the only three and the next highest rated person was Eddie Divanovic who had two points.

The rating difference was a whopping 549 points, but what else could we do. Holt and Zulic would play each other as they both had two. The rest of the pairings were a mess. Once we found a way to keep people from playing each other twice we worked out the color equalization and it all turned out mostly good. We did end up with one player having three blacks in a row, but Rex is always a good sport!! Karma paid him back in \$\$ as he won the U1600 prize. In the end NM Kosokin won the event +4 and the right to represent Iowa at the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions at the US Open in Grand Rapids, Michigan later this summer. Second place went to Jasmin Zulic and he would be the alternate if NM Kosokin couldn't attend.

Overall the tournament went quite well and the weather permitted Athena and I to make it back home without incident. It was good to get my TD feet back under me and I plan to do more in the future.

#	Player	Pre-R	Post-R	Pre-Q	Post-Q	1	2	3	4	T
1	Kosokin, Valeriy	2249*	2253*	2194*	2201*	W7	W3	W2	W5	4.0
2	Zulic, Jasmin	1900*	1910*	2012*	2012*	W9	W5	L1	W6	3.0
3	Popov, Sergey	1685*	1677*	1547/25	1544*	W10	L1	D4	W9	2.5
4	Gray, Rex H	1270*	1340*	1282*	1330*	L5	W10	D3	W8	2.5
5	Divanovic, Edin	1700*	1709*	1720*	1726*	W4	L2	W6	L1	2.0
6	Holt, Jeffery H.	1661*	1651*	1579*	1580*	W8	W7	L5	L2	2.0
7	Sicanica, Z	1500/05	1438/09	1506/05	1422/09	L1	L6	D8	W10	1.5
8	Wiley, Jerry	1238*	1261*	1162/20	1189/24	L6	W9	D7	L4	1.5
9	Jacobs, Steve H.	1404*	1400*	1267*	1242*	L2	L8	W10	L3	1.0
10	Landrew, Paul	1120/20	1091/24	1106/15	1069/19	L3	L4	L9	L7	0.0