

The Chess Journalist

Volume XLVII (Issue 156)

January 2024



CHESS JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA



Picture of the Lewis Chess pieces taken at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh (photo credit Mark and Kim Capron).

Table of Contents:	Page
Hello From the Editor	3
2024 Chessable Research Awards Announcement	4
The 2023 Mona Karff Championships and Tools of the Trade by Joshua Anderson	5
February Meeting Minutes by Joshua Anderson and Caleb Brown	8
Cartoon by Jim Hollingsworth	9
Pete Tamburro's Ten Rules for Chess Writers	11
Women Make History (The Women's Senior) by FM James Eade	13
Why Chess Writers Should Require Money For Their Writing by Ed Yetman, III	21
The 1982 Midwest Masters Invitational—Part 2 by Robert Irons	23
How to Become Good at Annotating Your Chess Games by Martin B. Justesen	29
<i>Theoretical Rook Endgames</i> —Sam Shankland and <i>Conceptual Rook Endgames</i> —Jacob Aagaard	
Reviewed by GM Jon Edwards	30
Well, There You Go by Kenneth E. Milutin	33
Trip to Israel by IA Bill Broich	35
The Queens' Corner—Chess, Sex, and Safety by NM James Eade with Rachel Schechter	40

The Chess Journalists of America:

President: Joshua M. Anderson (joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Jon Edwards (jedwards.chess@gmail.com)

Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Capron (mcapron243@mchsi.com)

Webmaster: Caleb Brown (csbrown.entrepreneur@gmail.com)

Editor: Mark Capron (mcapron243@mchsi.com)

Assistant Editor: Rachel Schechter (rachelaschechter@gmail.com)

Proofreaders: Diane Dahl, Rex Gray, Gio Espinosa, Melinda Matthews, Joshua Anderson

Advertising policies for The Chess Journalist (effective 10/31/06)

1. Ad rate \$150/page (fractional pages proportional).
2. All ad copy and payment must be received by the editorial deadline (4/5, 7/5, 10/5, 1/5). If copy or payment is not received by that date, the ad will not appear.
3. The editor reserves the right to reject any ad for any reason. If an ad is rejected, payment will be refunded.

Notes:

1. All copy (paper or electronic) must be camera-ready. We do not provide free design or layout services.
2. Reasons for rejecting ad copy include, but are not limited to: 1) Inappropriate content; 2) Foul language; 3) Actual or potential libel, defined as defamatory factual assertions not probably true.

Submittal deadlines 4/5, 7/5, 10/5, 1/5

Note: The Chess Journalist is published by the Chess Journalists of America. One time only publication rights have been obtained from signed contributors. All other rights are hereby assigned to the authors. Articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the CJA, its officers, or its members. Copyright @ 2024 by the Chess Journalists of America.

Join the CJA!

The Chess Journalists of America seeks to encourage chess journalists, writers, editors, and publishers to exchange information and ideas for their mutual benefit, to promote the highest standards of ethics in chess journalism, to represent United States chess journalists in appropriate national and international bodies, and to influence policies affecting the promotion of chess.

Join or renew by sending dues to the CJA Secretary:

Mark Capron
3123 Juniper Drive
Iowa City, IA 52245

Or join via website: www.chessjournalism.org

Membership Dues:

Regular—\$10 for 1 year

Membership Plus—\$15 includes one entry into awards (only available May 1 until the awards submission deadline, usually Mid—June)

Outside the US—\$15 for 1 year

Hello From the Editor

Once again I find myself finishing the magazine later than I wanted to. The good news is you are reading it so it did get finished. I had some doubts when I lost two computers in the process. I also lost 90% of my email archives so if I have missed something that was intended to go into this issue I apologize. Hopefully, the computer woes are behind me now.

Inside you will find the notes from our meeting held on February 4. You will see that the organization has been busy with several projects.

Vice—President, Robert Irons resigned his position due to an overly busy schedule. After much discussion amongst the board, World Correspondence champion, ICCF GM, Jon Edwards was appointed to fulfill the rest of the Vice—President term. Welcome aboard Jon!

Robert Irons submitted the second part of the 1982 Midwest Masters tournament. This was a popular feature last issue and I think this installment is just as good if not better than the first.

New Vice—President, GM Jon Edwards sends in two book reviews in one article. If you like endgames this is for you.

Blogs seem to be pretty popular as of late. We are fortunate to highlight two authors.

Ed Yetman, III writes a blog on the Substack platform and he has allowed us to reprint issue #822/2023. The blog is very applicable to all who write about Chess. (Hint, hint...I do this magazine for free. LOL)

Martin B. Justesen writes his blog on the Substack platform as well. With Martin's permission we have reprinted his August 10 blog on annotating games.

We have articles on the Women's Senior Championship by NM James Eade and on the Mona Karff Championship by Joshua Anderson.

2023 CJA Journalist of the Year, Pete Tamburro writes in with some advice for Chess writers that he has accumulated over his illustrative writing career.

Kenneth E. Milutin and his chess library was featured last issue. Here is a touching tribute he wrote about an old friend. Note that the Library focus will return next issue and will be ongoing. Consider volunteering to share information about your library with the TCJ.

International Arbiter, Bill Broich recently retired and has finally had time to write about some of his chess adventures. He writes in about a trip to Israel he took a few years back.

The Queens' Corner discusses the very serious subject of sexual harassment in an article submitted by NM James Eade.

Thanks to Diane Dahl, Rex Gray, and Rachel Schechter for their excellent proofreading and suggestions.



All photos were reproduced with permission.

Please consider sending in an article or idea for next issue. If you are a junior we want to see your name in print in TCJ.

Please send your comments, suggestions, or even better, send me a story or idea for the next issue: mcapron243@mchsi.com.

—Mark Capron

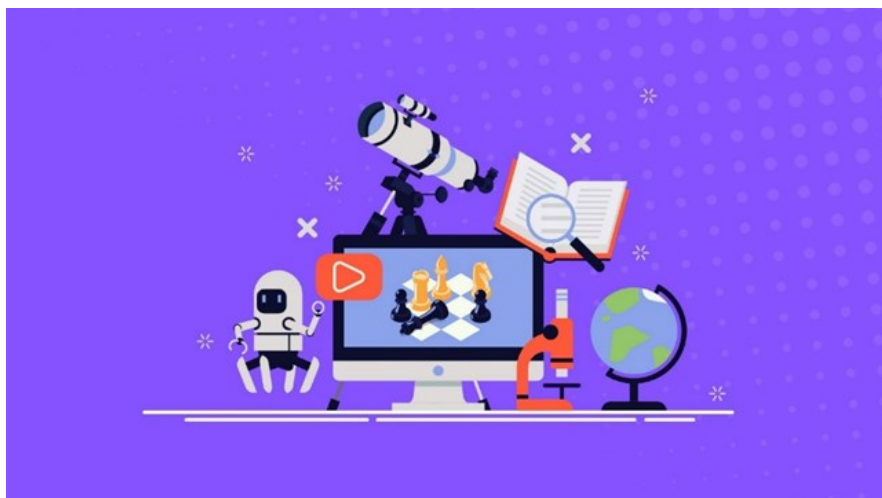
World Correspondence Champion,
ICCF GM Jon Edwards:

"I am thrilled to join the CJA with its marvelous mission and its dedicated staff. I am especially excited to join their chess preservation efforts. My recent work on the Jeremy Gaige Archive cemented my belief that it is essential to preserve our chess past while encouraging the game's future."

"The buying of more books than one can read is nothing less than the soul reaching toward infinity..."

—Isreal Regardie

PRESS RELEASE CHESSABLE RESEARCH AWARDS 2024



Chessable seeks applicants for Chessable Research Awards 2024 cycle

The online chess learning platform Chessable (part of Chess.com) is seeking undergraduate and graduate students, along with their faculty research sponsors, to apply for the Chessable Research Awards 2024 cycle. Each winning faculty research sponsor gets \$500. Each undergraduate student winner gets \$500, and each winning graduate student gets \$1,000. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2024.

The Chessable Research Awards are an initiative to promote chess research and develop our understanding of how chess can benefit our lives, how we can improve our knowledge of the game, and how we can understand other phenomena, both within and outside of the chess world.

University students from all fields of study, such as cognitive psychology, education, literature, history, computer science, etc., are invited to apply.

Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to, how playing chess impacts society or personal development, methods for improving the memorization of chess theory, the gender gap in chess participation, using ideas from chess to solve real-world problems, etc.

For more information about the Chessable Research Awards, visit <https://www.chessable.com/research-awards>

For more information about the Chessable science team and its initiatives, visit <https://www.chessable.com/science> and click on the green banner “View Our Active Scientific Research.”

Blog posts by past Chessable Research Awards winners (their names are linked to their blog posts): [Aditya Gupta](#); [Jérôme Genzling](#); [Jordan von Hippel](#); [Michael Martins](#); [Jane Zhang](#); [Adam DeHolland-er](#); [Sarah Kudron](#).

Best regards,

Chief Science Officer Alexey Root, alexey.root@chess.com

Science Project Manager Karel van Delft, karel.vandelft@chess.com

The 2023 Mona Karff Championships and Tools of the Trade?

By Joshua Anderson (Pictures from Ursula Maria Byrne)

The Chinese zodiac will say that 2023 was the Year of the Rabbit, but it seemed more like the Year of the Woman's tournament. From our club having our own (led by two girls, Samika Nettem and Kalyani Puranikmath, inspired by a Washington D.C. Girls event they attended) to U.S. Chess having a Senior Women's Championship (see article by Jim Eade in this issue), women's tournaments came in all sorts of shapes and sizes, "ending" the Year with the Mona Karff Memorial at the Marshall Chess Club.



Mona Karff, an immigrant from Bessarabia, Russia (through Palestine and Boston), settled in New York and became a member of the Marshall Chess Club. She then won seven U.S. Women's Championships while being a long-time member of the Marshall Club.

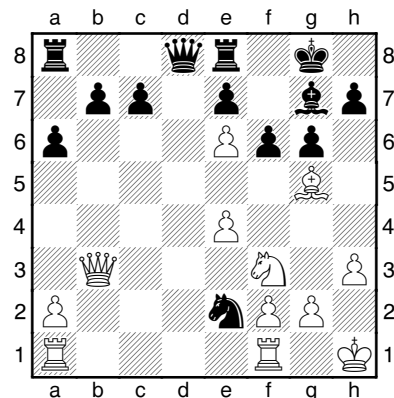
Dr. Sarithi Ray, President of the club, felt that "Ed Daley, the new chair of the Tournament Committee, deserves

the credit for spearheading the idea and efforts to plan the Marshall Women's championship." The event had a significant prize fund, with the top prize being \$2500, and the event was limited to those over 1500 (the difference between world-famous clubs and more average clubs - we would have had no players had we limited our event to over 1500.)

Though the event had numerous experts, GM Irina Krush was the top seed by over 300 points. In the first round, she faced Hema Vikas.

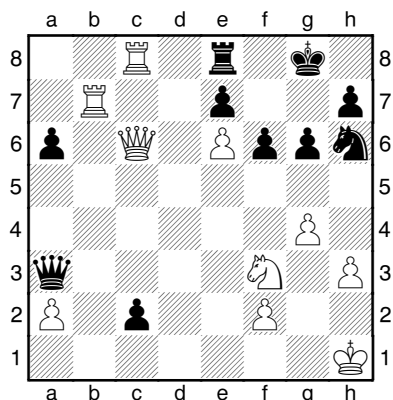
Krush,Irena (2505) - Vikas,Hema (1886) [D85]
MONA KARFF MEMORIAL MARSHALL CHESS
 New York (1), 17.11.2023
 [Alex Lenderman]

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 g6 3.♠c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♠xd5 5.e4 ♠xc3 6.bxc3 ♠g7 7.♠a4+ ♠d7 8.♠a3 0-0 9.♠g5 ♠e8 10.♠f3 ♠c6 [10...h6? 11.♠e3 (11.♠h4 g5 12.♠g3 e5 13.♠xe5 ♠c6=) 11...e5 12.♠xe5 ♠xe5 13.dxe5 ♠h4 (13...♠xe5 14.f3) ; 10...♠c8 11.♠xe7 c5] 11.h3 a6?! 12.♠e2 ♠a7 13.0-0 ♠b5 14.♠b3 ♠e6 15.d5! ♠xc3 16.dxe6 [16.♠c4?!] 16...♠xe2+ 17.♠h1 f6!



The opening went quite well for white in this game, and at this point Irina admitted that she expected a relatively easy win from here. Indeed, it looks like white has a huge initiative, black's pieces are discoordinated, the knight on e2 is almost trapped, and plus, a rating advantage of over 600 points. Despite being down a pawn, white seems to be totally winning. However, appearances can be deceiving, and despite the overwhelming factors in white's favor, some care still needs to be shown.] 18.♠e3?! [Who could've thought that just because of this small inaccuracy in such a good position, white will have such a hard time winning this game after that. This is just an important lesson for everyone that even when we obtain a dominating position against a lower rated player, we can never take the foot off the gas. 18.♠ad1! The point of this move will become clear soon. White disturbs black's harmony and prevents black's queen from getting active. Now, white will be much better without much counterplay. 18...♠c8 19.♠e3 c5 20.♠fe1 ♠d4 21.♠xd4 cxd4 22.♠xd4± Is a sample line where white dominates. White regains the pawn and keeps all the positional advantages.; 18.♠fd1 Is also good enough.] 18...c5! [The first very accurate move. The knight has to be saved. However, another move black could've considered was f5. 18...f5? 19.♠ad1 ♠c8 20.exf5 gxf5 21.♠fe1+— Here, white is crushing due to a bad king, but I suspect many players even above 1800 might easily play f5 as a desperation attempt not to lose the piece immediately, acquiescing to the idea of being much worse against a strong player like Irina. However, black plays principled chess and believes in her calculation and her chances.] 19.♠ad1 [19.♠xc5 ♠a5 (19...♠c8; 19...♠c7)] 19...♠a5! [The point. Now, the active queen gives black annoying counterplay. Suddenly, the position isn't so clear anymore.] 20.♠d7 ♠c3!! [Wow! What a move! Even if a strong master would play this move, it would be impressive, let alone a Class A player. Irina even admitted to missing the move, thinking she has ♠d2. However, Vikas had to foresee ♠d2 ♠b5, and that she's saving

the knight. For that, she had to have the discipline to not stop the line too soon. Given that black has other options besides $\text{d}c3$, which can be logical human moves, I was super impressed with $\text{d}c3$, and so was Irina. $20...\text{d}d4$ $21.\text{d}d4 \text{ cxd}4$ $22.\text{d}d4\pm$; $20...b6\pm$] $21.\text{d}c1$ [$21...\text{d}d2?! \text{b}b5$ And now, black might even be better. $22.\text{b}b5 \text{ dxb}5$] $21...\text{d}xe4$ $22.\text{b}b7 \text{ d}d6!$ [This time only move, and again, black is up to the task.] $23.\text{d}d5 \text{ d}d8!$ [Once again, the best move in the position. In the last 10 moves or so, black is playing as well as a super GM would play.] $24.\text{d}f4 \text{ d}f5$ $25.g4 \text{ d}h6!$ [Another accurate move, trading off her bad bishop. $25...\text{d}h6?$ $26.\text{d}e3$ Keeps a huge advantage for white.; $25...\text{a}a4$ $26.\text{d}c4$] $26.\text{d}xh6 \text{ d}xh6$ $27.\text{d}b1 \text{ a}a3!$ [Suddenly, c4, c3 is a threat. It's totally a 3–result game. Now, Irina went into a huge tank, trying to find some chances to pose problems. At this point I really started to think that it's anyone's game.] $28.\text{d}bb7$ [$28.\text{b}b3$ I would've already been considering a move like this, trying to bailout into an equal endgame, being afraid of the passed c-pawn. $28...\text{b}b3$ $29.\text{axb}3$] $28...c4$ $29.\text{d}dc7 \text{ c}3$ $30.\text{b}b6 \text{ c}2!!$ [Super precise calculation.] $31.\text{d}xc8$



$31...\text{b}b3+?$ [Such a heartbreak for black. One move away from pretty much securing a dead drawn position, black falters at the finishing line. This move $\text{b}b3$ actually seems winning and Irina even briefly thought she might be losing, but then, she admitted that she was lucky she had this $\text{g}g1$ resource, and that the queen doesn't have to be captured. $31...\text{d}xc8!$ $32.\text{b}bxc8+ \text{g}g7$ Would force at least a draw. Here are some sample lines: $33.\text{d}xe7+$ ($33.\text{b}bxc2? \text{b}bxf3+$ $34.\text{g}g1 \text{ b}bxb7$ Would even lose.; $33.\text{g}g2 \text{ c}1\text{b}b$ $34.\text{d}xe7+ \text{b}bxe7$ $35.\text{b}bxc1 \text{ b}bxe6$; $33.\text{d}c7 \text{ b}bxf3+$ $34.\text{g}g1 \text{ b}bd1+$ $35.\text{g}g2 \text{ b}bd5+$ Also leads to perpetual) $33...\text{b}bxe7$ $34.\text{b}bxc2 \text{ b}bxe6$] $32.\text{g}g1!$ [$32.\text{b}bxf3 \text{ d}dxc8$] $32...\text{b}bd1+$ [$32...\text{b}bxc6$ $33.\text{d}xc6$; $32...c1\text{b}b+$ $33.\text{b}bxc1 \text{ b}bxb7$ $34.\text{d}xe8+$ Thankfully, for white, the rook on e8 hangs.; $32...\text{d}xc8$ $33.\text{b}bxc8+ \text{g}g7$ $34.\text{d}xe7+$] $33.\text{g}g2 \text{ d}dxc8$ $34.\text{b}bxc8+ \text{g}g7$ $35.\text{d}xe7+ \text{d}d7$ $36.\text{d}xf7+ \text{g}gh6$ $37.\text{b}bxf8+ \text{g}g5$ $38.\text{b}bc5+$ [Black resigned since it's mate in a few moves. A very close call for Irina in this game. Very impressive resistance by Vikas. It just goes to show that no one can ever be underestimated and a Class A player can easily play parts of the game, or even the whole game like a grandmaster in one game.] **1–0**

Many thanks to GM Alex Lenderman for allowing us to use his analysis. (More on this to come.)

This challenging game focused GM Krush as she convincingly outplayed her other opponents. Krush's second-round opponent, Chloe Gaw, finished second with a 4-1 result. Another young, talented player, Megan Althea Paragua, niece of GM Paragua, finished clear third with a 3.5-1.5 result. Fourth to eighth all scored plus 1, with ninth to thirteenth having even scores, including Dorothy Teasley, who had recently participated in the U.S. Women's Senior Championship.

The event concluded with numerous hard-fought games (1 draw in the final round) and a visit from Mrs. Ursula Maria Byrne, the widow of GM Robert Byrne. Mrs. Byrne regaled the crowd with stories about her husband and club chess in New York City. Some of her talk can be seen in the YouTube videos posted by the Marshall Chess Club.



Mrs. Ursula Maria Byrne (L) with Dorothy "Dolly" Teasley

In the 1950s through 1970s, a report like that above was about all one could read about most events. In the 1980s, as desktop publishing became a thing, one would more regularly see various crosstable results for major and minor state-level events, especially in state magazines. Starting sometime in the 1990s or early 2000s, U.S. Chess made it easy for a person to look up a player and see all their tournament results. So, in about 50 years, any club or small tournament went from minimal coverage to seeing the results on U.S. Chess's website.

Around this time, significant events like the U. S. Championship, Wijk aan Zee, etc., began to broadcast their events. It can be great fun to watch them live and look at the games as they happen, and this has only increased in frequency over the last decade, going from a nice bonus to an expected feature. What is so impressive is that clubs, especially the more advanced ones, can now do all of this.

The Marshall is undoubtedly one of the premier clubs in the country, and even without millions upon millions of dollars, it can bring the spectator not only the games but also interviews and analysis, all for free. In this particular case, Alexander Lenderman played a significant role and even graciously allowed us to use his analysis. He analyzed ten games for this event - <https://lichess.org/study/G6LLYKWB/Q2uM5Njk>. Among the other games that Lenderman analyzed were the other four games of Krush and by talented youths such as Abigail Zhou, Megan Althea Paragua, and Chloe Gaw.

Beyond providing analysis of games in text, Lenderman (as well as NM Nathan Resika) provided hours of video with commentary. On at least one occasion, Lenderman did this from onsite but with DGT boards (which are still cost-prohibitive but slowly making their way down in price, especially if one is willing to use not top-of-line supplies). One can easily find the videos by looking at the Marshall Chess Club YouTube page. However, the Mona Karff material quickly moves to the background because of the club Championship event named after Edward Lasker, a close friend of Karff's. (One can find The Karff material at - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyDnvJYg4XgYohW0QFAJsmu9oyt0DKGIS>) To see GM Krush's explanation of the crucial moments of the first game, it is found at (it may not be as memorable in the video, but it sure is quicker to post it online than write a book about it) — [\(138\) I almost lost to a brilliant queen sacrifice - YouTube](#)

While Marshall is undoubtedly not a usual club, a more limited attempt to use any of these various tools is possible for most clubs. My club, Tri-Bridges, routinely uses www.swissys.org to post our events and allow the parents (and perhaps friends or other fans, well fans is probably a little much at this point), to follow the event. Will we be putting up videos from our tournaments with analysis and such? Perhaps not, but it is still good practice for the kids to speak in front of others, analyze games, and present ideas. Whether we or any club use these tools, it's a great pleasure to have them; I can only imagine what will come next. Perhaps in a few years, one will be able to snap on some V.R. headset and feel as if they are in the old brownstone on 10th Street and need only turn their head to see centurion Teasley battling the newest "wunderkind" and later have a front row seat while Frank Brady regals participants with tales of his days with the club, much like he did at the opening ceremony of this event.

In the end, not only was this a tremendous tournament of historical importance and a great way to cap off a "year of Women's Tournaments," but the event highlighted many of the tremendous technical tools that clubs can use to showcase their games with both their members and the public at large.



CJA February Meeting Minutes

By Joshua Anderson and Caleb Brown

I. Introductions

Joshua, Jon, Mark, and Caleb

II. Numerous issues to update folks on, we can get people's thoughts, etc.

A: New By-Laws

Reasons for need

2019 no one interested—no one wants addresses on—line or email addresses on—line, but that is the extent of it

Banks are increasingly particular about setting up banking accounts for organizations. We had some difficulties when Randy had closed the CJA account and sent me a check, then when we went from Stan Booz to Mark as treasurer, we again had some difficulty. At some point, hopefully a long time from now, Mark will retire as treasurer and the new treasurer may not want to have our account in Iowa.

Organizations like WCHOF/STLCC and the company that owns the Cleveland Public Library (which is not the public of Cleveland) are uncomfortable with our quasi-legal status for their book-keeping.

2023 Caleb wanted a committee for bylaws, tries to bring it up at meeting, it really isn't a short discussion so no one seconded and then later I suggested Caleb that he write something up, he writes it up, I would take a look as I recognized we hadn't had anything done officially since 2006, and then we would take it to Mark and Robert (who is now Jon). Caleb wrote something up, I thought on the whole it was good, but had a few significant reservations. We discussed over the next month or so and then shared with Mark and Jon as there were a few spots Caleb and I couldn't agree. We discussed as a group for several hours and came up with the document that Caleb asked me to send off to everyone.

This leads us to this document that Caleb is going to lead the discussion on.

Once this discussion goes on.

C. Mark will update us on the journal and much thanks to him for doing a tremendous job editing the journal!

D. Caleb can answer any questions on the website and gave a brief tour of changes, largely dealing with a bit of historical improvement and governance type materials.

E. Gaige Archive - This archive was put up shortly after the last

meeting. Jon Edwards deserves about 99% of the credit (though he will dispute that). We have been hosting for about 7 months ago with numerous people using the archives. In fact, the April issue of the journal will have a brief interview with a New Zealand (!!) researcher who has been using the site. Jon, is there anything you would like to add about the site?

F. Outreach Committee - Continue to progress forward but purposely slowly, thinking very incrementally - Sophia 2 years ago started reaching out to young writers at NHS, I continued last year, will continue this year. We have also begun looking for more judges and more involvement with the magazine and judging at USATE and USATW. I have reached out to the other two, but I have not heard back from the other two.

G. Committees regarding the awards: Pete and I have emailed will see each other in two weeks and ways to help judges judge material they are not real familiar with is one the main foci of our meeting (others include CJA writer and common friend - 95 year old Gene Salomon and his book signing) other committee on awards had a lot of questions and it took quite a long time to answer so much, might have to move to some sort of zoom set up or more pinpoint focus on upcoming award season

H. Oral history: Oral history goes slowly, but we do have some items, including some fairly substantive with John Curdo that will hopefully be online soon. I would certainly like to see this expanded, but there are only so many hours in the day. If someone is interested in this please feel free to email me.

Distinguished Chess Journalists - Jim speaks about the poster and the goal of finding 3 journalists (1 deceased, 1 living, 1 primarily focused on regional work) to join the DCJ Board held by US Chess (if you wish to suggest people please contact Jim or I)

J. American Chess Magazine Project:

Historically, movement by the CJA, and most organizations, is two steps forward - 1 step back. In 1993, John Donaldson, who had been thinking deeply about chess and chess history, came to the CJA and spoke about the need to make sure that those interested in chess magazines needed to work hard and do more than they were doing to make sure that Cleveland preserved the myriad of American chess magazines that were out there.

A little over 30 years later, Robert Irons stepped down from the VP position as he had too much work to do with him still teaching, etc. Mark and I made a short list of who we would want to be VP if we could pick. Jon was on the shortlist, so I reached out to him, and he said he would be willing because he liked many of the projects we were doing and thought they were necessary.

We were all extremely pleased to have Jon join us. A few weeks later, Jon shared an email he had received that someone had updated the website for the state of West Virginia, and it had a complete run of all their state periodical issues (a little over 200 of them.)

I had not read the brief article in the 1993 Chess Journalist, but some sort of record of the various state affiliates and their journals had been playing around in my brain for a while. I had once

suggested a 30-volume history of chess in the United States to McFarland based on the idea that state histories (smaller states grouped), and I was thinking that excellent source material would be found in the various state periodicals. McFarland was not interested, but this interest in state periodicals had periodically played around in my subconscious. A couple of years ago, at this meeting, I also briefly mentioned the problem of where and how to find things, though we had yet to come up with a course of action. On top of this, I had Jon's kind words about thinking about our projects and his tremendous work in the Gaige archive.

So, I set up an Excel file and started inputting the names of the various journals in the United States. The next day, I told Mark and Jon what I had done, and using di Felice, Betts, etc., we began to put together a list of periodicals. This list is just the first step, though, one with about 600 entries. Meanwhile, I found the above article about Donaldson's interest, which, as Jon said, "Shows we are definitely on the right track."

While we have yet to solve all the problems, especially those concerning copyright, we have developed a plan of attack.

We have a file with about 600 magazines printed by various clubs, states, and national organizations.

We have begun collecting them. One young man who helps me with various chess projects (it is from some school/ donated hours credit thing kids need to do before they graduate) has already begun moving West Virginia over so that we have a copy. We are also working with a young man to start some copying of materials from the White Collection in Cleveland.

We reached out to big pharma, who deals in truly tremendous amounts of data, and spoke with someone who had dealt with electronic documents for about the last two decades; we had them explain the methodology they would use for storing and making the documents accessible, in short - we have designed, at least in theory, how we will set up a folder structure to host these magazines and all papers will be saved within this structure and will have Optical Character Recognition (OCR) done to them so they will be word-searchable.

A list of best practices is being put together so that those interested in assisting, i.e. someone at a state organization who wants to see more publicity for his state's magazine will be able to see the best practices, follow them, and then we can upload it into the folder, and it will be accessible to everyone.

We will set up a Chessbase file with the games from these issues. This file will essentially be a games database from all the various magazines. We have some people interested in starting this part of the project. We also have a couple of people who have begun work on such things and will discuss with them further, as the situation allows.

The hope is that most work will be done in our lifetimes, but there will always be new things to add, new "old" magazines found, and the like. Still, the expectation is that those who succeed us will continue to expand on our hopes to understand better and respect the great variety of Americans who have played the game and all of those who have written about chess over the last almost two centuries.

In closing — Hope to see everyone at the US Open in Norfolk, VA. Also next winter meeting will be on February 2nd, 2025. Further meetings expect to be:

2024 US Open—Virginia

2/2/2025—Winter meeting

2025 US Open—Wisconsin

2/1/2026—Winter meeting

2026—US Open location unknown

2/7/2027—Winter meeting

2027—US Open—Texas

Next page you will find Caleb's powerpoint presentation.

Annual Chess Journalists of America Awards





Hector is upset!
Organizers won't let him enter the Contest.

Hector is an amazing chess-playing Dog and Artist.

But there's no Paw-Print Art category!

You can't win Unless You Enter!

Submitted by Jim Hollingsworth

CJA WINTER MEETING

INCORPORATION / 501(C)(3) PRESENTATION

INCORPORATION

BECOMING A TEXAS NONPROFIT CORPORATION

BECOMING A 501 (C)(3)

WHAT THIS MEANS AND WHY IT MATTERS

STATUS QUO

- CJA is currently a nonprofit association
- This is a problem because it means that it is not clear what state's laws govern our internal affairs
- It also means that it is not clear whether, and to what extent, our members and officers are protected from the debts and liabilities (read: lawsuits) of CJA

THE PROBLEM

- As far as we are aware, CJA has no tax-exempt status
- It may have been a 501(c)(7) in the past (i.e., the status given to social clubs) but that would have been revoked by now due to failure to file annual returns
- Although this is not much of an immediate problem due to CJA's almost nonexistent net income after deductible expenses, the lack of exempt status means that CJA could be audited for not paying income taxes as it grows in the future
- And of course, being audited by the IRS is never fun (unless you're the CPA getting paid \$200 an hour)

INCORPORATING

- The Executive Board decided that it would be best for CJA to become a nonprofit corporation to resolve these issues, thereby providing much needed legal clarity for your officers and volunteers
- It was decided that Texas would be best state for incorporation because one of our officers lives in the state (and thus can be registered agent) and its nonprofit laws are more favorable than other alternatives (among other things, periodic reports are usually not required and the board can vote by email without unanimity)
- This will be accomplished through a non-statutory conversion (i.e., we will create the new entity and transfer CJA's assets to it, thereby making it the new CJA legally)

THE SOLUTION

- The solution to this problem is to apply for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status
- With some changes to our governing documents, we should qualify (the IRS will make the final decision)
- The requirements of being a 501(c)(3) include having an exempt purpose (in our case, charitable and educational), avoiding inurement (e.g., paying dividends and benefiting private interests is prohibited) and staying out of politics (e.g., attempting to influence legislation and endorsing candidates for public office is not allowed).

NEW BYLAWS

- As part of the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) and a nonprofit corporation, certain changes to our governing documents would be required
- As CJA has historically changed its Constitution rather infrequently and much of it is outdated or inflexible, a general revision makes sense
- The certificate of formation takes the place of the constitution, with most of what was in the constitution moving to the bylaws to reduce amendment fees paid to the state
- The four officers, as directors of the new nonprofit corporation, will adopt the bylaws at an organizational meeting

BENEFITS

- Benefit 1: Exemption from federal income taxes (except for certain business activities unrelated to our exempt purpose)
- Benefit 2: Exemption from sales taxes (in some cases)
- Benefit 3: Donors may be able to deduct donations if they itemize
- Benefit 4: Donor-advised funds will be able to donate to CJA
- Benefit 5: Significantly reduced postage rates

MAJOR CHANGES

- Abolish the outdated distinction between Regular, Associate and Foreign Members
- Separate the offices of Treasurer and Secretary
- Elect officers on an alternating basis (i.e., the President, Secretary and Webmaster will be elected in odd years while the Vice President, Treasurer and Editor will be elected in even years)
- Empower the winter membership meeting to transact business
- Eliminate the requirement to print the mailing addresses of members in The Chess Journalist
- Allow the Bylaws to be amended with a two thirds vote of the membership and advance notice

Pete Tamburro's Ten Rules for Chess Writers:

1. Know your audience Is your readership mostly younger or older players, novices or intermediate or advanced players? Are they casual players? Do you know what each group not only wants, but also do you know what they can handle? Are you writing for instructional purposes? Are you writing to entertain? If you're writing about chess history, there is also an entertainment vs. scholarship question. If you're writing for fellow historians, it's scholarship. If you're writing for the general public, you should tend toward entertainment. Item number three will have more to say.

2. Find your voice Each of us has our own style of speaking, and that goes for writing as well. Don't try to be somebody else. Rather, be yourself. If you are a "conversational" writer (I've often got comments from readers that feel like they're in a conversation with me), go with that. One way, paradoxically, is to read a lot of other writers, chess and non-chess authors, and see which authors appeal to you that you might emulate or blend with another writer. In any event, you should be comfortable with your writing style. It should not be an effort.

3. Be prepared You have to do your homework. It is appalling to see authors—especially young online writers—completely oblivious to what has been written before on any given topic. You have an obligation to check out the writers before you. If you're writing about openings, don't forget the old—timers. It's not just about what's trending or what your chess engine says. If you're doing chess history, know the nuances of your topic. There's someone who hosts a Facebook page that gives quizzes on chess history. A recent quiz asked about the first official world championship. Two of the answers were 1886 and 1948. He gave the correct answer as 1886. I felt compelled to point out that it was Steinitz himself that designated it as the world championship in the contract they made up. That's akin to Fischer calling his 2nd match with Spassky an official match. FIDE, which wasn't around for Steinitz, was the international organizing body that made the 1948 match tournament the first official world championship. My post got deleted! I guess having all the *British Chess Magazines*, *Chess Lives*, *Chess Reviews*, *Chess Worlds*, *Wiener Schachzeitungs* from Marco's reign and the Kagans from the 1920s makes me a bit of a history snob, but even I have been burned by an Edward Winter correction. I have all his (Winter's) books, too.

4. When you're done, stop. My career—long advice to my students when they asked the eternal question, "How long do you want it?" was simple. When you're done, stop. Long or short. Outline what it is you want to accomplish, provide "evidence" within the piece that shows you've ac-

complished it and wrap it all up in a nice little literary bow at the end. This has a dark side, though, when it comes to unimaginative editors who look at your work and are more concerned about space than a quality product. You have to be your own editor. Don't hack up your piece to suit some Procrustean editorial logic. Submit it somewhere else. You owe it to your topic and your author's integrity. To be fair to the "other side," (I've been on both), there are space issues, of course. At *American Chess Magazine*, we go out of our way to let longer articles in without cutting when the author has something important to say. We even put it over two issues if it merits it. We will often put it off an issue where it will fit in more easily. And then there's GM Alex Fishbein, who writes the best endgame column ever. If he goes four or five pages—no problem. Anyone who has read his column knows the topic he picks is done thoroughly. I chuckle when I think back on Benko's column years ago in *Chess Life*. Two pages. The whole idea is that if you have something to say, say it and find a place to publish it. These days, you have options that writers years ago did not.

5. Read a lot to learn how to write This was referenced in #2. I have been blessed with an insatiable desire to read. My parents always had bookshelves and magazines on the coffee table. They gave me books as presents. They subscribed me to *American Heritage Magazine*. Wow – could those people write about history in a way that fascinated a pre-teenager and adults! Today, I have a huge library as far as most people are concerned. I have about 1200 chess books and about 3600 books on history, philosophy and religion, the arts, politics, literature, and reference works. It's like playing over master games of chess. Instead, I'm "playing over" the great writers. You find yourself more confident when you write, because these works have an influence on you and you know you've been in good company. It also helps to be educated, so you can add a historical or literary reference that is better in explaining than some pedestrian phrasing. For example, did you know what I was referencing when I used "Procrustean" above? That selection has more power as a description to make my point. I was always impressed by Fred Reinfeld, especially, and Al Horowitz, because they were obviously educated men who in turn educated me, since I had to look up a lot of their references. The finest history written on the 20th century was *Modern Times* by Paul Johnson. Good grief! I had a dictionary right by my side when reading the book. What I liked about his word choices was that they were better for the occasion for which they were chosen. They weren't to show off using obscure words as some writers do today.

6. Write, then rewrite. Vladimir Nabokov once wrote that

his pencils outlasted his erasers. Amen, brother! The best tip: After you've written something in your first draft, leave it alone for a while. Go back and read it as a reader would. Then rewrite. "Rinse and repeat." And remember that old saying for journalists that is simple yet still valid: "Who, what, when, why, where, and how?" Check and see if what you've written answers those questions.

7. For books, write in small bunches—at distinct intervals. It wasn't until I was asked to put my syndicated USCF columns into a book (*Learn Chess from the Greats*), that I realized, if I wanted to do books, it would be easier to write magazine columns with an idea in mind and then put them all together in a coherent format. That worked. If you're not doing that, then do what I did for a history book I wrote: outline your chapters, go whole hog on one chapter, leave it, and then do the same for another chapter. It doesn't even have to be in chapter order. Some chapters will be easier to write than others. Get those done. You'll find that having written the easier ones will help frame how you approach the harder ones. You can go back to any of them and follow rule six. A fair number of my students went to New York University. Many of them wanted to be writers. I told them to go to Washington Square Park and sit and observe (don't stare!) one person and describe every atom of detail about that person. Infer their character by any of their behaviors. Then put it in a file. On another day find another person. Keep doing it, and within a school year, you'll have 60 or so character sketches that you can bring into any novel you write. Saroyan used to do that as did Nabokov and no doubt others. Maybe you will write a chess novel or short story about the game. The general principle is to keep files of random stuff for future use. One day you'll realize, "Hey, I have something else on that in my files!" I personally indexed *Chess Life*, *Chess Review* and *British Chess Magazine* for items for future use, and I have used them for years.

8. Know the history of your topic. Perspective is important in anything you write. Number three is related to this. And for those writing about openings and how they developed, don't just put the theory out there. Put the struggle out there. You can write fascinating openings articles by not just picking the theoretically crucial lines over time, but picking games where past masters may not have played the best, and their struggle to make sense of the opening is instructive and entertaining. It lends toward greater understanding of the opening. I learned so much about chess from reading magazines from the 1920s and 1930s. Chess opening theory was experiencing a revolution and to read a Rubinstein, Nimzovich, Tarrasch, Reti *et al.* was an invitation to get inside their brains. If you look down on them because some chess engine says they're wrong, you are missing the value of their thoughts. There is an arrogance in modern life and scholarship outside of chess that is quick to criticize or even condemn historical figures without any regard for the context of the times they

lived. Thus, they don't understand the influences and struggles of how people lived and acted back then nor try to reach conclusions about how one should approach dealing with our current issues.

9. When annotating, explain ideas. As an editor, I have always had to remind GM authors to explain ideas, plans, concepts, positional understandings, etc. Just putting analysis is not annotating. A GM, who sees it all very clearly, often assumes his reader does as well. Putting things like "White is better." or "White is clearly better.", but not giving an explanation why White is better or what White's plan should be from that point is depriving the reader of an opportunity to learn from the GM.

10. Get a good editor. My editor, Jorge Amador of my Mongoose Press books, is painstakingly perceptive on proofreading for the usual errors that creep in, but also for what I'm saying. He lets me know if I need more or less or whether I'm being clear or not or whether the overall presentation is proper. For our *American Chess Magazine* issues, our managing editor, Dusan Krunick, goes through everything and sends it to Jimmy Adams and me for proofreading. Your eyes tend to get blurry reading print on a screen and errors creep in, sometimes when they're in headlines! One funny one that escaped us was a headline for Dr. Alexey Root's feature on a player who was a mother. In the header for the article was the word "Mum" which escaped both Jimmy and me. Jimmy is English and my writing for *British Chess Magazine* for a decade has Anglicized me, so we didn't give it a second's thought. Alexey did! Unfortunately, it was after it was printed. One last story on the importance of a good editor. I was editing a GM's book when I realized that the annotations were not in "the voice" of the GM in comparison to his other annotations. That little feeling I'd get when grading students' papers that had suddenly become a little too well written arose within me. I searched the game on Chessbase, and, sure enough, I found the book's annotations were written by another GM on Chessbase. I made it clear that my employer had better take it out or my name off the editor credit in the book. It was changed. Think of the embarrassment to the GM if it were published.

There you have it. Those are my thoughts fifty years after writing my first chess article. If people have other rules they would like to add or comments, positive or negative, I'm sure Mark Capron will be happy to oblige. I'm also doing one on how to interview, so stay tuned! You may have noticed that I didn't address tournament reports. That is another animal altogether. We'll get to that, too.

Think not of the books you've bought as a "to be read" pile. Instead, think of your bookcase as a wine cellar. You collect books to be read at the right time, the right place, and the right mood." —Luc van Donkersgoed

Women Make History (The Women's Senior)

By FIDE Master James Eade

Annotations from Alexey Root were originally published on [Spark Chess](#) and are reprinted with the author's permission.

The inaugural, US Senior Women's Chess Championship was won by WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia, with 4 1/2 out of 5 points. The five-round, Swiss-system tournament was held Nov. 3—5 in Berkeley, California at Elizabeth Shaunessy's Berkeley Chess School, and it was directed by the well-known FIDE Arbiter, Richard Koepke.



The event was outstanding. There was only one draw in the first round. It set the tone for the decisive games to come. The players were friends until the clocks started and were friends after they stopped: however, there were no friendly draws.



A national title was at stake, and Anjelina was the first player to win it. Anjelina said, "I was happy to win, of course, but also to be invited. This type of tournament was needed. I got lucky, but I refused to resign. When I got my chance, I took it." Anjelina said it was the most money she had ever won at a chess tournament.

Carol Meyer, the now former Executive Director of US Chess, attended the tournament's first day and addressed the players before the first round. She called them trailblazers and was given a grateful ovation following her remarks.

Leila D'Aquin, a current Executive Board Member, and Kimberly Doo, the current Women's Committee Chair attended for the duration. IM Elliot Winslow, FM James

Eade, and WFM Ivona Jezierska provided commentary. The games were broadcast on chess.com and Twitch.



(L-R) WFM Ivona Jezierska, FM James Eade, and IM Elliot Winslow.

The 12—player tournament finished on Sunday evening. The awards ceremony held at the Boathouse Restaurant in Berkeley followed. The players all mentioned how grateful they were to Elizabeth Shaunessy for organizing the tournament, and how proud they were to get an invitation.

This event was open for bidding in 2023, and the Eade Foundation of Menlo Park became the title sponsor. I (James Eade) had gone to the annual US Chess governance convention in 2022, and got the attending Delegates to approve the tournament as a National Championship. Paul Covington, a member of the US Chess Senior Committee, and Alexey Root, a long—time supporter, were very helpful in advocating for this event.



I have been asked why I would sponsor this tournament, since I am not a senior woman. Well, the Eade Foundation's mission is to sponsor chess literacy and chess excellence. We sponsored "Say Gay Chess Day" in San Francisco last year, and I had no dog in that fight

either. When I began to play tournament chess as a young teenager, meeting men my grandfathers' ages was very

important to me. I never knew my actual grandfathers and the older players' acceptance of me was a big deal. We do a good job of getting girls to play, but I can't help but think that tournaments would feel more welcoming, and safer, if women their grandmothers' ages were playing, too.

Rk.		Name	Rtg.	Pts.	Perf.
1	WGM	Belakovskaia,A	2153	4.5	2279
2	WFM	Sagalchik,O	2123	4.0	2082
3	WIM	Marinello,B	2111	3.0	2081
4		Cabrera,V	1707	3.0	2058
5	WIM	Dimitrijevic,V	2060	2.5	1862
6	WFM	Tsodikova,N	2061	2.5	1945
7		Christiansen,N	1563	2.0	2072
8	WIM	Root,A	1949	2.0	1748
9		O'Neill,J	1659	2.0	1832
10	WIM	Kennedy,S	1759	1.5	1842
11	WIM	Teasley,D	2044	1.0	1533
12		Kuhner,M	1678	1.0	1951
13	WFM	Jezierska,I	2079	0.0	959

Games:

Dimitrijevic,V. (2060) - Belakovskaia,A. (2153) [B10]

(1.1), 04.11.2023

1.e4 c6 2.f4 d5 3.e5 h5 4.d4 ♟f5 5.♟f3 e6 6.c3 ♟d7 7.♟a3 b5 8.♟c2 ♟b6 9.♟e3 ♟h6 10.♟g5 g6 11.b3 ♟e7 12.♟e2 a5 13.h3 a4 14.♟d2 ♟xg5 15.♟xf5 ♟h4+ 16.♟xh4 ♟xh4+ 17.♟f1 ♟f5 18.♟d3 ♟g3+ 19.♟g1 ♟xh1 20.♟xh1 axb3 21.axb3 ♟xa1 22.♟xa1 0-0 23.♟h2 ♟a8 24.♟b1 ♟g7 25.g3 ♟e7 26.♟c1 c5 27.dxc5 ♟xc5 28.♟c2 b4 29.♟e2 ♟xc3 30.♟e3 ♟xb3 0-1

Christiansen,N. (1563) - Tsodikova,N. (2061) [C54]

(1.3), 04.11.2023

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♟c4 ♟c5 4.c3 ♟f6 5.d3 0-0 6.♟bd2 d5 7.exd5 ♟xd5 8.♟e4 ♟e7 9.0-0 ♟h8 10.♟fg5 f6 11.♟f3 ♟e6 12.♟b3 ♟d7 13.♟c2 ♟ad8 14.♟d2 f5 15.♟g3 f4 16.♟e4 ♟g4 17.♟e2 ♟f6 18.♟ad1 ♟xe4 19.dxe4 ♟e6 20.♟b3 ♟g6 21.♟fe1 ♟h3 22.♟f1 ♟d3 23.♟h1 ♟xf3 24.gxh3 ♟c5 25.♟e2 ♟h6 26.♟g2 ♟xh3 27.f3 ♟g3 28.♟xg3 fxg3 29.♟xh6 gxh6 30.hxg3 ♟xf3 31.♟g2 ♟f6 32.♟d7 ♟b6 33.♟f7 ♟xf7 34.♟xf7 ♟g7 35.♟b3 ♟a5 36.♟f3 ♟xb3 37.axb3 ♟c5 38.♟d2 ♟d6 39.c4 ♟f6 40.b4 b6 41.c5 bxc5 42.bxc5 ♟xc5 43.♟d7 ♟d6 44.♟xh7 ♟g6 45.♟h8 h5 46.♟a8 ♟c5 47.♟c8 ♟b6 48.♟g8+ ♟h6 49.♟e8 ♟d4 50.b3 c5 51.♟e6+ ♟g5 52.♟a6 h4 53.gxh4+ ♟xh4 54.♟xa7 ♟g5 55.♟a8 ♟c3 56.♟e2 ♟d4 57.♟d3 ♟f4 58.♟f8+



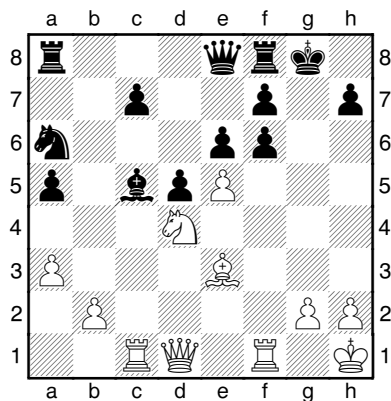
♟g4 59.♟c4 ♖e3 60.♟d5 ♖d4 61.♟f5
1-0

Root,A. (1949) - Marinello,B. (2111) [C01]

(2.2), 04.11.2023 Annotations by WIM Alexey Root

Against WIM Beatriz Marinello in round 2, I spent a long time on my 19th move, correctly pushing my pawn to f5. But I played my 21st move too fast, missing a study-like win. Later, I repeated moves in a position where I was better.

1.e4 ♟f6 2.e5 ♟d5 3.d4 e6 4.c4 ♟b6 5.♟c3 d5 6.c5 ♟d6d7 7.f4 ♟c6 8.♟f3 ♖e7 9.♖b5 0-0 10.0-0 ♟db8 11.♟h1 b6 12.♖e3 bxc5 13.dxc5 a5 14.a3 ♖a6 15.♟c1 ♖xb5 16.♟xb5 ♟a6 17.♟bd4 ♟xd4 18.♟xd4 ♟e8 19.f5 ♖xc5 20.f6 gxf6



21.exf6 I thought the move order between exf6 and ♟d1-h5 did not matter, but after the game I realized it does. There are still wins here, but delaying exf6 leaves Black completely helpless: 21.♟h5 White threatens ♟f1-f3-h3.21... ♟h8 22.♟f3 ♟g8 23.♟h3 ♟g7 24.exf6 wins. 21...♟h8 22.♟h5 ♟g8 The official broadcast cut off here, because apparently the metal in my Chessable water bottle was interfering with the DGT boards. 23.♟f3 ♟g6 24.b4 axb4 25.axb4 ♖d6 26.♖h6 ♖f8 27.♖xf8 ♟xf8 28.♟c6 ♟h6 29.♟g5 ♟g6 30.♟h5 1/2-1/2

The following analysis is from US Chess's JJ Lang, editor of Chess Life Online: 30.♟f4! It is counter-intuitive to release the grip on the h-file, but apparently White uses the fact that 30...♟h6 now comes without tempo to play 31.♟g3 threatening ♟g3-g7, cutting the queen off from the rook, to provoke 31...♟g6 32.♟xg6 when White must recapture with 32...fxg6 and now she has an unstoppable threat of pushing the f-pawn, placing the knight on e5, and putting the queen opposite Black's king on the long diagonal. For instance: 32...hxc6 33.♟h4+ ♟g8 34.♟e7+-33.♟f1 ♟xb4 34.♟e5 d4 35.f7 ♟d5 36.♟xd4 ♟g7 37.f8=♟+ ♟xf8 38.♟xf8+ ♟xf8 39.♟xg6+-

Tsodikova,N. (2061) - Dimitrijevic,V. (2060) [C12]

(2.4), 04.11.2023

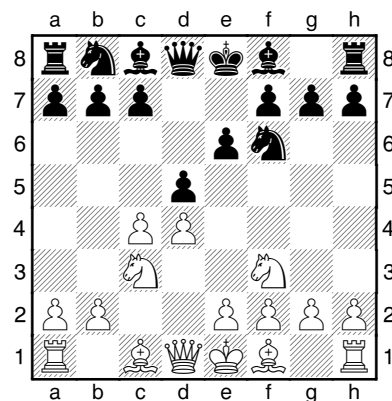
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♟c3 ♖b4 4.♟ge2 ♟f6 5.♖g5 h6 6.♖xf6 ♟xf6 7.a3 ♖f8 8.exd5 c6 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.♟g3 ♟d7 11.♖e2 ♖b7 12.♖f3 ♟d8 13.0-0 ♖e7 14.♟e1 0-0 15.♟b1 a5 16.♟a2 ♟c7 17.♟c1 ♟f8d8 18.♟d3 ♖f6 19.c3 g6 20.♟e4 ♖e7 21.♟e2 ♖a6 22.♟e3 ♖xd3 23.♟xd3 ♟e5 24.♟e2 ♟xf3+ 25.♟xf3 ♟g7 26.♟g3 ♟xg3 27.hxc3 a4 28.♟e2 ♟a5 29.♟d2 ♟b8 30.♟c4 ♟ab5 31.♟d1 ♖f6 32.♟dd2 ♟d8 33.f4 c5 34.dxc5 ♟xc5 35.♟xd8 ♖xd8 36.♟e3 ♖b6 37.♟f1 h5 38.♟e1 ♖c7 39.♟d2 ♟f8 40.♟d4 e5 41.♟xa4 exf4 42.gxf4 ♟b5 43.♟d1 h4 44.♟c4 ♖b8 45.a4 ♟b6 46.a5 ♟e6+ 47.♟d2 ♟e7 48.♟e3 ♟d7 49.♟d4+ ♟c6 50.♟c4 ♟b5 51.b3 ♟f6 52.♟e5 ♟xa5 53.♟a4+ ♟b5 54.♟b4+ 1-0

Sagalchik,O. (2123) - Belakovskaia,A. (2153) [D53]

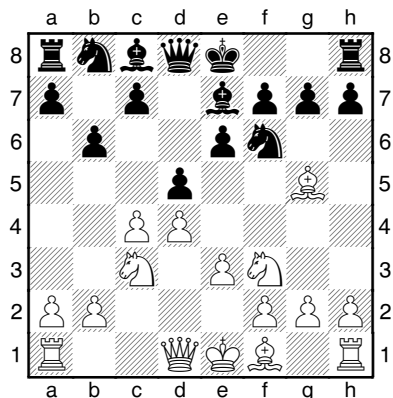
(3.1), 04.11.2023 Annotations by IM Elliott Winslow

So: Sagalchik and Belakovskaia are the two two's in this 5 –rounder. They're also the two highest rated players. I wonder if either of them considered the stakes, as the winner of this game (if there is a winner) will already be lined up to win the tournament. As it went, Olga had it in front of her to win. Let's see how it slipped away:

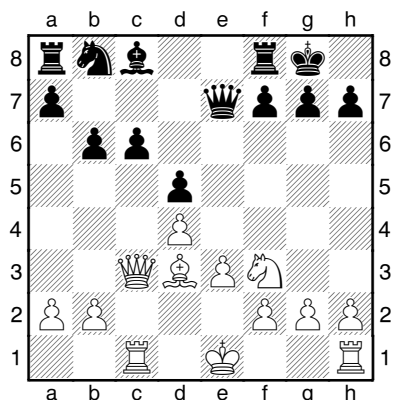
1.d4 d5 2.♟f3 ♟f6 3.c4 e6 4.♟c3



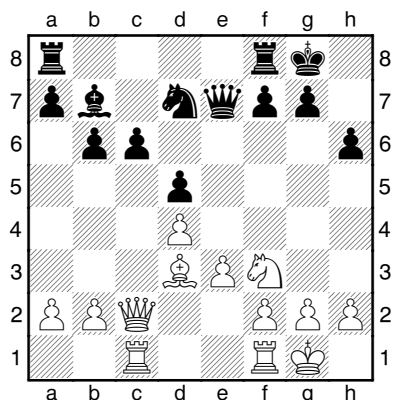
In this hugely important theoretical position in the Queen's Gambit Declined, many moves have been established as excellent plays for equality: 4...b6 One hesitates to assign "?!" here but it's not one of those moves. :-) 4...♖e7; 4...♖b4; 4...c6; 4...c5; 4...dxc4 all have a proven track record.; Even 4...a6 is seen at the highest level.; 4...♟bd7 is okay;; and 4...h6 is just the sort of thing you'd expect Carlsen to play (and other superstars also) -- and he has: three wins and a draw in blitz and rapid games! <shrug> 5.♖g5 The most common -- and scores a hair better down the line. But 5.cxd5 first discourages ...♟xd5 and gets the computer nod. 5...♖e7 6.e3



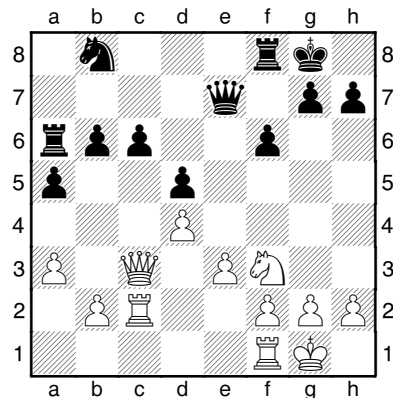
6...dxe4! No, it's a Lasker! Now, if 6...h6 7.gh4 0-0 they'd be at the "starting position" of the once hugely popular Makagonov, or Bondarevsky System, still seen (Dubov and Kramnik for instance).; But usually it's 6...h6 7.gh4 b6; here White can play 6...h6 7.ghxf6! ghxf6 8.cxd5 exd5± with a selection of procedures leading to an edge. Black might not want to be committed to ...b6. 7.ghxe7 ghxe7 8.ghb3 8.ghc1 8...ghxc3 9.ghxc3 0-0 10.cxd5 exd5 11.ghc1 c6 12.ghd3



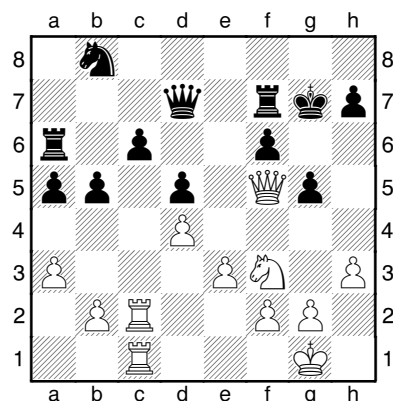
12...f6!N Leading to some kingside perforation. What few games there have been have gone with the most sensible 12...ghb7 13.ghc2 h6 14.0-0 gh d7



White here with 200 extra rating points she decided to press, and succeeded: 15.e4 c5 (15...dxe4 16.ghxe4 gh d6=) 16.e5!± ghac8 17.gha4 ghc6 18.gha3 ghc7 19.ghf5 ghg6 20.ghh3 ghe8 21.b3 ghb5 22.ghfe1 ghf8 23.dxc5 bxc5 24.gha5 gh d3 25.ghc3 gh e4 26.ghd2 ghxe5 27.ghxe5 ghxf5 28.f3 f5 29.fxe4 fxe4 30.b4 c4 31.ghf3 ghe7 32.ghd4 ghb7 33.a3 a5 34.bxa5 ghb5 35.a6 gha7 36.ghc8 ghb6 37.ghb7 gh d7 38.ghxd5+ 1-0 Bacallao Alonso,Y (2550)-Santos,A (2327) La Roda op 39th 2012. 13.a3 13.0-0 is best by Stockfish.; 13.ghc2 ghb4+ 14.ghd1! (14.ghd2 f5 15.a3 gh d6) 14...ghg6± when White should definitely not take the perpetual! Run the h-pawn, for example. 13...a5 14.0-0 14.ghc2! 14...gha6 15.ghxa6 ghxa6 16.ghc2

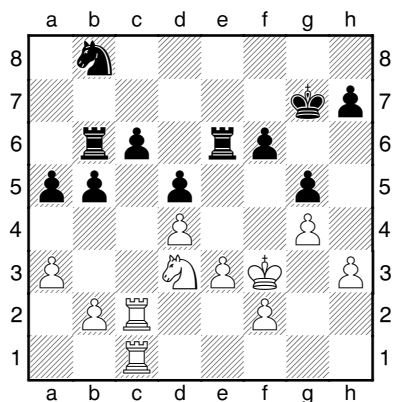


White has advantage in this textbook QGD position; Black's configuration (gh/c6, gh/b8) is somewhat awkward. 16...b5!± It just gets worse. 16...ghc8 17.ghfc1 gh d6 Prepares for a siege by White. 18.gh e1 gh d7 19.ghd3 c5 20.ghf4 (Or 20.dxc5 bxc5 21.h4) 17.ghfc1 ghf7 17...gha7 18.gh e1±18.ghd3 18.gh e1 18...gh5!+- 19.h3 19.h4! 19...ghg7 20.ghf5! Quite the wrong idea. In fact it is Black's king in more danger, plus the rook on a6 and knight on b8 tied down on the queenside. Stockfish is adamant! 20.h4! 20...ghd7

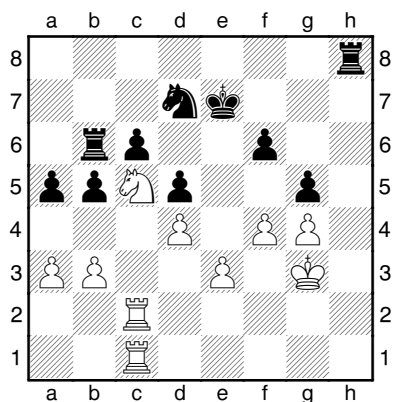


21.ghxd7?! Objectively queens on favors White: 21.ghd3 21...ghxd7 [Black has "bluffed" an initiative and White believed it. Still... 22.gh e1 22.g4!; 22.h4!; 22...ghd6 23.ghd3 gh d7 The knight "sneaks a peek" but where does it think it's go-

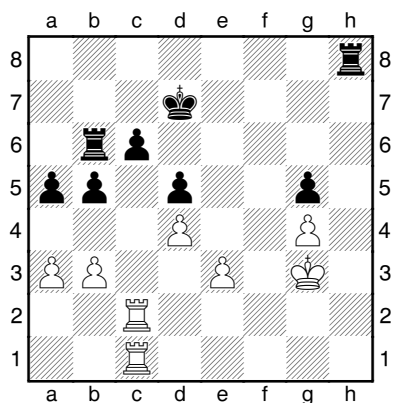
ing? b6-c4!? 23...h5 24.g4!± ♞24.f4!+- 24...♞e6 Holding back the f-pawn. 25.♟g2 25.♟f1 →e2 25...♞b6 26.♟f3 ♜b8



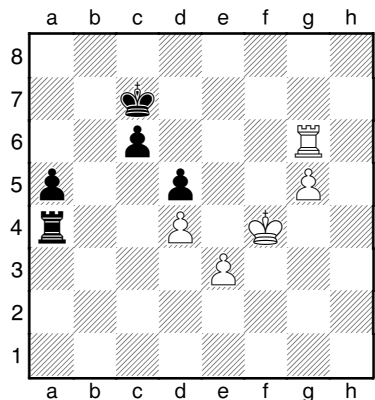
26...♟f7 27.♜c5 27.b4!+- eliminates counterplay: 27...a4 (27...a×b4 28.a×b4 grabs the a-file) 28.♜c5 And Black can't take further pressure on the kingside: 28...♞e7 29.h4 h6 30.♟e2 ♟f7 31.♞h1 27...♞e8 28.b3 ♟g6 29.♟e2 29.b4; 29.h4 29...h5 30.f3! ♞h8 31.♟f2 h×g4 32.h×g4+- ♟f7 33.♟g3 ♟e7 34.f4 (1.12/23) 34.e4!+- has better winning chances. (2.32/21) 34...♜d7±



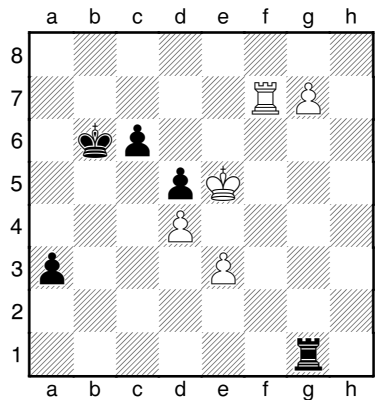
35.f×g5! f×g5 36.♜×d7? Now it's even. The king is participating, the knights are gone, Black is fine. (0.00/47) 36.e4± (1.08/21) 36...♟×d7=



37.♞f1 ♞e8 38.♞f7+ ♞e7 39.♞×e7+ ♟×e7 40.♞f2 ♞b8 41.♞f5 ♞g8 42.a4 ♞b8 43.♞×g5 b×a4 44.b×a4 ♞b4! 45.♞g6 ♟d7 46.♟f4 ♞×a4 47.g5 ♟c7? (1.67/25)



47...♞a1= and Black is okay. (0.00/40) 48.♞f6? And back to even. (0.00/32) White had to play 48.♞h6!+- (1.67/25) ♟d7 49.g6 48...♞a1= 49.g6 ♞g1 50.♞f7+ ♟b6 51.g7 a4 52.♟e5! a3



53.♞f8? (-11.84/23) Missing 53.♞f1!= (-0.05/29) ♞×g7 (53...♞×f1? 54.g8♟+-) 54.♞b1+ ♟a5 55.♟d6 53...♞×g7+- 54.♞f2 ♞a7 55.♞a2 ♟b5 56.♟d6 ♟b6 57.♟e6 ♞a8 58.♟d7 ♞a6 59.♟d6 ♟b5 60.♟e5 ♟b4 61.e4 d×e4 62.♟×e4 ♟b3 63.♞a1 Quite the fortuitous save for Anjelina! 0-1

Belakovskaia,A. (2153) - Marinello,B. (2111) [B10] (4.1), 05.11.2023

1.e4 c6 2.♜f3 d5 3.d3 ♜g4 4.♜e2 e6 5.c3 ♜f6 6.e5 ♜fd7 7.d4 ♜e7 8.♜e3 0-0 9.0-0 c5 10.h3 ♜h5 11.♜h2 ♜×e2 12.♟×e2 ♜c6 13.♜d2 c×d4 14.c×d4 ♞c8 15.♞ac1 f5 16.e×f6 ♜×f6 17.♜g4 ♟d6 18.♞fe1 ♟b4 19.♜×f6+ ♜×f6 20.♜f3 ♞ce8 21.♞ed1 ♞e7 22.♟d2 ♟×d2 23.♞×d2 ♞fe8 24.♜g5 h6 25.♜×f6 g×f6 26.♞c3 ♟f7 27.♞c1 ♟g8 ½-½

Cabrera,V. F. (1707) - Root,A. (1949) [E70](4.3), 05.11.2023

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.c4 ♜g7 4.♜c3 ♜f6 5.♜d3 0-0 6.♜ge2 ♜c6 7.f4 e5 8.d5 ♜e7 9.h3 c6 10.f×e5 d×e5 11.♜e3 c×d5 12.c×d5 ♜e8 13.♟b3 ♜d6 14.0-0 f5 15.♜b5 a6 16.♜×d6 ♟×d6 17.♞ac1 ♟h8 18.♜c5 ♟f6 19.d6 ♜c6 20.d7 ♜×d7 21.♜×f8 ♜×f8

22.♟xb7 ♖a7 23.♟b6 ♜d8 24.♟xd8 ♜xd8 25.exf5 g5 26.♜g3 h6 27.f6 ♖b7 28.b3 a5 29.♙a6 ♖a7 30.♙c8 ♙b5 31.♖fd1 ♜f7 32.♙e6 a4 33.♖c8 ♜g8 34.♙dd8
1-0

Tsodikova,N. (2061) - Teasley,D. O. (2044) [B40]

(4.5), 05.11.2023

1.e4 c5 2.♜f3 e6 3.b3 ♙e7 4.♙b2 ♜f6 5.e5 ♜d5 6.c4 ♜b4 7.a3 ♜4c6 8.g3 d5 9.exd6 ♙f6 10.♙xf6 gxf6 11.♙g2 ♟xd6 12.0-0 a5 13.♜c3 ♜a6 14.♜b5 ♟d8 15.♟e2 0-0 16.♖ad1 e5 17.♜h4 ♜c7 18.♟h5 ♜e6 19.♙e4 ♜g5 20.♙b1 e4 21.f4 ♜h3+ 22.♜g2 ♟d7 23.♙xe4 ♜xf4+ 24.♖xf4 ♟h3+ 25.♜g1 f5 26.♟g5+ ♜h8 27.♟f6+
1-0

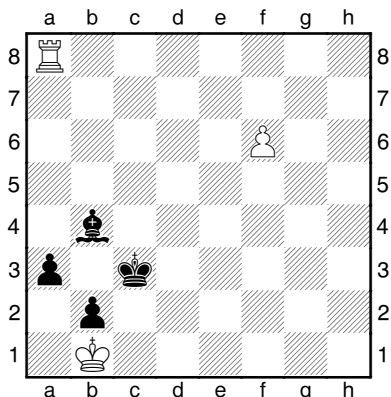
Root,A. (1949) - Tsodikova,N. (2061) [E91]

(5.3), 06.11.2023 Annotations by WIM Alexey Root

In my last round, versus Tsodikova, I was in a "drawing" frame of mind rather than a "winning" frame of mind. My opponent was still in fighting mode, refusing my draw offers on moves 18 and 46. Near the end of our game, after every other game had finished, Tsodikova over pressed with her 67th move.

I missed a win after her 67...b2? Can you find what I should play on move 68, as White? Both of us had less than five minutes on the clock, which probably contributed to our inaccuracies in an equal position.

1.d4 ♜f6 2.♜f3 g6 3.c4 ♙g7 4.♜c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♙e2 ♜bd7 7.♙d2 e5 8.d5 ♜c5 9.♟c2 a5 10.0-0 ♜h5 11.♜a4 ♜xa4 12.♟xa4 f5 13.exf5 ♙xf5 14.♜g5 ♜f4 15.♙xf4 exf4 16.♜e6 ♙xe6 17.dxe6 ♙xb2 18.♖ab1 ♙e5 19.♙f3 ♖b8 20.♟d7 ♟xd7 21.exd7 b6 22.♙c6 ♜f7 23.♖fe1 g5 24.♖b5 ♜f6 25.a4 ♖bd8 26.♜f1 h5 27.♜e2 ♙c3 28.♖d1 ♖f7 29.♖dd5 ♙e5 30.♜d3 ♖e7 31.♜d2 g4 32.♖b1 h4 33.♖f1 ♖g7 34.♖d3 ♜e7 35.♖e1 ♖g5 36.g3 ♜f6 37.gxh4 ♖h5 38.h3 ♖xh4 39.hxg4 ♖xg4 40.f3 ♖g3 41.♜c2 ♜e7 42.♖h1 ♖xd7 43.♙xd7 ♜xd7 44.♖h2 ♜c6 45.♖h7 ♖g1 46.♖d1 ♖xd1 47.♜xd1 d5 48.cxd5+ ♜xd5 49.♖e7 c6 50.♜c2 ♙d6 51.♖e4 b5 52.axb5 cxb5 53.♜b3 a4+ 54.♜a2 b4 55.♜b2 ♙e5+ 56.♜a2 ♙d6 57.♜b2 ♜c5 58.♜a2 ♜d5 59.♜b2 ♙e5+ 60.♜a2 ♙d4 61.♖xf4 ♜c4 62.♖f8 ♙c5 63.♖a8 b3+ 64.♜b1 a3 65.f4 ♜c3 66.f5 ♙b4 67.f6 b2? 67...a2+ 68.♖xa2



bxa2+ 69.♜xa2 is one way that the position can turn into a

dead draw. 68.♜a2? Winning is 68.♖b8 ♜b3 69.♖xb4+ ♜xb4 70.♜c2 (70.♜a2? ♜c3 71.f7 ♜c2 72.♜xa3 b1 ♟ 73.f8 ♟ ♜b3#) 70...a2 71.♜xb2 a1 ♟+ 72.♜xa1 And White's pawn will promote. 68...♜c2 69.♖c8+ ♙c3 70.♖b8 ♙xf6 71.♜xa3 ♙c3

Tsodikova only offered a draw at the very end, where I could give up a rook for her remaining pawn and leave her with king and bishop versus my king. Our only previous game, and the last time we had seen each other in person, at the 1995 U.S. Women's Championship was a draw also. 1/2-1/2

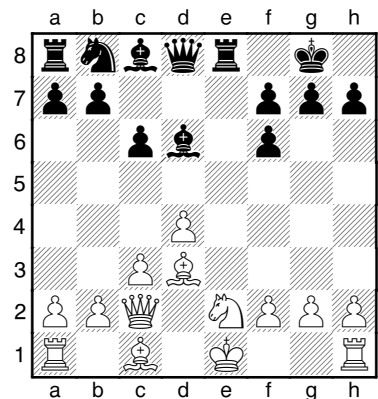
Cabrera,V. F. (1707) - Belakovskaia,A. (2153) [B15]

(5.1), 05.11.2023

Annotated by IM Elliott Winslow

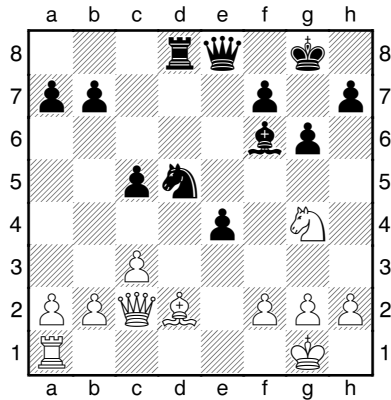
This game in the final round came so close to upsetting the whole tournament! Anjelina was in trouble again, to the one player in the tournament I'd never heard of, Varinia Cabrera of Florida. That the result "followed the ratings" was as much a tribute to Anjelina's stubborn fighting spirit as to Varinia's incredible opportunity missed.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♜c3 dxe4 4.♜xe4 ♜f6 5.♜xf6+ exf6 This line has surged in popularity, with everyone from low-rated clubbers to the superest of superstars on it. I personally don't get it! Well, sort of. The old theory is that Black has a crippled majority, while White's on the other side is healthy. The reality is that with plenty of material on the board the extra pawn for Black on the kingside isn't a problem. And there's a specific reason... 6.♜f3 [6.c3 has for years been The Way to go, gaining a tempo by threatening h7... 6...♙d6 7.♙d3 0-0 8.♟c2 ♖e8+ 9.♜e2

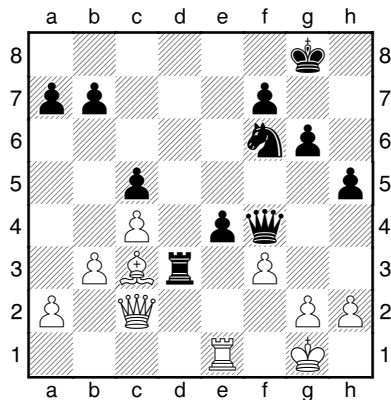


...and here's the move that has given this line new life: 9...h5! Yes, another rampaging h-pawn. I don't know who is responsible for this, human or computer even, but it is perplexingly difficult for White to handle this annoying upstart, let alone safely remove it from the board. 6...♙d6 7.h3 Here is a recent game from a couple of the best players ever. The trend of every blitz game making its way into the games databases elevates split-second decisions to theoretical importance... 7.♙d3 0-0 8.0-0 ♖e8 9.♖e1 ♙e6 10.c3 ♜d7 11.♜d2 ♜f8 12.♜e4 ♙e7 13.♜g3 g6 14.♙f4 f5 15.♜f1 ♙f6

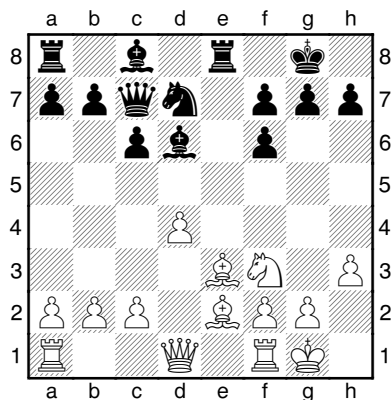
16.♖d2 ♗d5 17.♞xe8 ♜xe8 18.♚f1 ♚e6 19.♗d2 ♞d8 20.♚e3 ♗e4 21.♗xe4 fxe4 22.♜c2 c5 23.d5 ♚f4 24.♚g4! ♚xd5



25.c4 Black has won a pawn *and* undoubled the signature f-pawns, but still all is not totally well; White's bishop becomes a permanent problem for Black on the long diagonal. So watch Gukesh's handling: 25...h5! 26.♚xf6+ ♚xf6 27.♞e1 ♜e6 28.b3 ♜f5 29.♗c3 ♞d3 30.f3 ♜f4

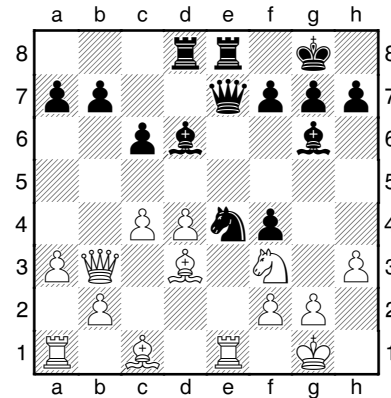


31.fxe4?? (Not even Anand can be faulted for missing the only, precise defence (and who knows how little time the players had left): 31.♜b2! ♞e3 32.♞f1 ♚h7 33.♜d2! exf3 34.gxf3!=) 31...♚g4 32.g3 ♜f3 33.♗a1 ♚e3 34.♜e2 ♜xe2 0-1 Anand,V (2754)-Gukesh,D (2744) Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (13). 7...0-0 8.♗e2 ♞e8 9.♗e3 ♜c7 0-0 ♚a6. 10.0-0= ♚d7

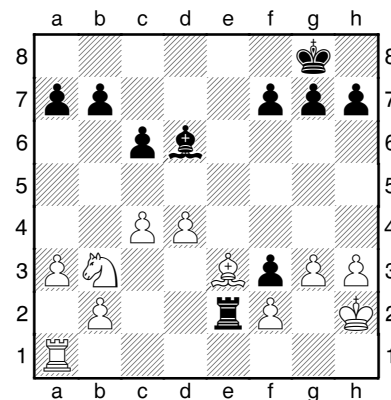


11.♜d2?!N [Chessbase brings this game up as "Predecessor" but it's no better (even worse): 11.♚h4 ♚f8

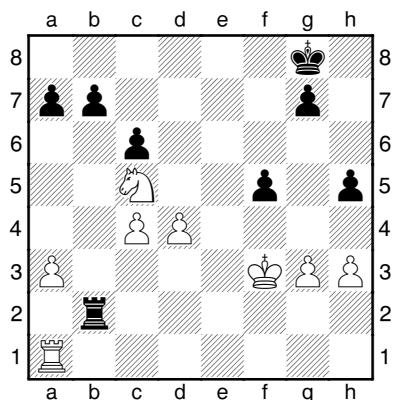
12.♗g4 ♚g6?! (12...♗xg4! 13.♜xg4 (13.hxg4 ♚h2+ 14.♜h1 ♚f4) 13...g6) 13.♚f5?? (13.♚xg6 ♗xg4 14.hxg4 hxg6 pans out to even) 13...♗f5?? (13...♚h2+! 14.♜h1 h5!+ and none of the sacrifices on h6 and g7 work.) 14.♗xf5= ♚h2+ 15.♜h1 ♚f4 16.♗d2 ♞ad8 17.c3 ½-½ Tarnowska,A (1876)-Herman,D (1957) Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Sep Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (6); 11.c4! 11...f5! 12.♜d3 ♚f6! 13.c4 ♜e7 13...♚e4 14.♞fe1 ♚e4 15.a3 f4 15...♗e6 16.♗c1 16.♗d2!? 16...♗f5 Strongly threatening ...♚g3, but is Black overextending? 17.♜b3! ♞ad8 17...b6; 17...♜d7 18.♗d3 ♗g6??



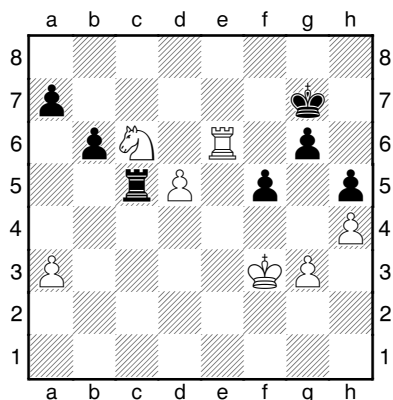
Anjelina chooses the wrong moment and the wrong piece to move out of danger. 18...♜f6!= 19.♜xb7? (19.♜c2 ♚g5!=; 19.c5 ♗c7 20.♜c2 ♚g5!=) 19...♚g5! 20.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 21.♚xg5 ♗xd3 22.♚f3 ♗e4 23.♗d2 ♗xf3 24.gxf3 ♜g6+ 25.♜h1 ♗f8! 26.♞e1! ♞xe1+ 27.♗xe1 ♜b1 28.♜g2 ♜xe1 29.♜xa7 ♜e7+ Certainly White has a dangerous armada of pawns on the queenside, but the bishop is more. 19.♗e4!+- ♗xe4 20.♚d2 Now it's White with the extra piece. Black gets a lot of forcing moves, which ultimately lead nowhere. 20...♗c2!? 21.♞xe7 ♗xb3 22.♞xe8+! Weaker is 22.♞xb7 ♞e1+ 23.♜h2 f3+ 24.g3 ♗d1 22...♞xe8 23.♚xb3 ♞e1+ 24.♜h2 f3+ 25.g3 ♞e2 26.♗e3



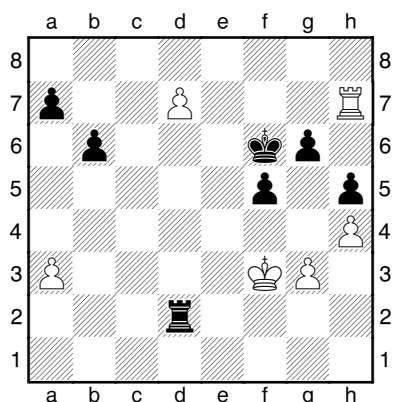
26...h5 27.♜g1 27.c5 ♗c7 28.d5! cx d5 29.♚d4 ♞xb2 30.♚xf3+ – breaks the spell. 27...♗xg3 28.♗c5 28.d5 would mobilize White's second asset (after the extra piece) 28...♗e5 29.♞d1 (29.dxc6 bxc6 30.♚d4) 29...cx d5 30.cxd5 ♞xb2 31.♚d2 28...f5 *Another* pesky f-pawn! But dealt with easily enough. 29.fxg3 ♞xe3 30.♜f2 ♞e2+ 31.♜f3 ♞xb2



White can now win "as she pleases," but sooner or later some leap has to be taken. 32.♖e1 ♕f7 33.♖e3 b6 34.♘d3 ♖c2 35.h4! ♕f6 36.♘e5 36.d5 ♖xc4? 37.♖e6+ ♕f7 38.♘e5+ 36...g6 37.♘xc6 ♖xc4 38.d5 ♖c5 This game, and this tournament, should be over! A robbery is about to be committed... 39.♖e6+?! 39.♖d3! followed unavoidably by d6, d7, d8♖. In the time it took me to type that last line, Stockfish has found mate in 17 -- no, 15, now 14... 39...♕g7



40.d6?! 40.♘e5; 40.♕f4 40...♖c3+ 41.♕g2? 41.♕f4 ♖c4+ (41...♖xc6 42.d7 ♖xe6 (42...♖c4+ 43.♕e5 ♖e4+ 44.♕d5) 43.d8♖ ♖e4+ 44.♕f3 There is no blockade here.) 42.♕e5 ♖xc6 43.d7 ♖c5+ 44.♕d4 ♕f7 45.♖d6 41...♖xc6= KR-KR 42.d7 ♖c2+ 43.♕f3 Intending ♖e7+ and mate. 43...♖d2 44.♖e7+ ♕f6 45.♖h7



45.d8♖= and White has nothing to worry. 45...♖xd8 46.♖xa7 45...a5? 45...a6!-+ Hoping for ...b5. 46.♕e3 ♖d1 46.♕e3 ♖d1

aiming for ...b5. 47.♕e2 ♖d5 And now ...b5 would win. 48.♕e3? 48.a4!= and White stays safe. 48...♖d6? Better is 48...♕e6-+ 49.♖g7 ♕f6 49.a4 ♖d5 50.♕f4? 50.♕f3= 50...♖d3-+ 51.♖h8 ♖d4+ 52.♕e3 ♖xd7 53.♖f8+ ♕e5 54.♖e8+ ♕d5 55.♕f4 ♕c5 56.♕g5 ♖d6 57.♖g8 b5 58.♖xg6 ♖xg6+ Black mates. 59.♕xg6 bxa4 60.♕xh5 K3P-KPP 60...a3 61.♕g6 a2 62.h5 a1♖ 63.♕xf5 a4 64.g4 ♖g7 65.g5 ♖f7+ 66.♕g4 a3 67.g6 ♖f6 0-1



James Eade with Elizabeth Shaunessy



Why Chess Writers Should Require Money For Their Writing, or, A Letter to Chess Journalists

By Ed Yetman, III

Edward Yetman, III writes a blog on the substack platform. This blog is reprinted here with Ed Yetman, III's permission.

Post [#822/2023](#)

© copyright 2023 Edward Yetman, III and Eric B. Yetman All Rights Reserved in all formats, print and electronic



Edward VII, by Grace of God, King of Great Britain, Emperor of India, and Defender of the Faith—all of that on a one—third farthing coin, c. 1905.

I have written elsewhere as to why you, gentle reader, should part with your money for this chess column. I now want to reach other chess writers to urge them to charge for their writing.

To begin with, Americans--and chess players are an extreme subset of Americans--do not value free things. Economists call it "the problem of the commons": if it belongs to no one, then no one values or takes care of it. A trip through a public park should reveal the truth--it is written in the graffiti and the litter on the ground. Pay nothing, get nothing--*nada por nada*. If you want your writing to be valued, attach a price to it.

Chess-players are way too stingy, and that is hurting the chess world. Yes, Magnus Carlsen is a millionaire, or as Nelson Rockefeller could say, "one of our poorer friends." In today's economy, a million dollars is chump change-- just a big version of finding a five-dollar bill in the parking lot. Nice to have, but not what it used to be.

I've had this conversation countless times as a director or organizer. Some player will come up and ask why the prize fund is so low. Well, I say, I have X number of players at Y entry fee, and X times Y yields Z dollars; after we deduct expenses, that's the prize fund. And they are never happy. Yet they will play in drafty, ill-lit halls, with crappy plastic pieces at lickety-split time controls--and if you ask them to fork over \$5 more for a bigger prize fund for a better playing site, they balk; they imagine you are trying to profiteer off them.

The thing for chess writers to do is to play their part and charge a fee. Not a huge fee, but something. Once chess players realize that if you pay nothing, you get nothing, but if you pay something, you get something, that might spill over into the rest of the chess world and for once we will see some sustained growth. It's worth a try.

There is another benefit: charging a fee or adding a price keeps out the riffraff. I've sold chess books at tournaments for forty years, and if you don't charge money, only the beggars will gather around, and you will sell nothing. If you want quality customers, charge them.

A more elevated reason is reality. If you charge nothing, then in the back of your mind you are thinking, "well, I'm not really very good at this, so I'll just give it away." If you think that little of your writing, well, maybe you are right. Maybe you *are* bad at writing. If you are,

then *give it up and go do something else with your life*. The world is full of wonderful things you can do, like sleeping late or watching birds or, best of all, reading my column--*after* you pay for it. If you don't think you are good at writing, don't do it.

But if you are good at it, then charge for it.

Many chess writers are modest about their writing because they don't have a title. I used to think this way. Twenty-odd years ago I earned--yes, earned, as this was before computers--a rating of 2296 in the International Correspondence Chess Federation. A master's rating, but not the International Correspondence Chess Master (ICCM) title. I kept the master's rating for about five years, when I played in an all-master tournament where computers were allowed. No one told me computers were allowed. I drew one ICCM and beat another master, and the rest put me to the silicon sword. Farewell, master rating. Oh well.

But gradually I discovered that non-masters are impressed by my once-and-never-again master rating. So, I started putting "ICCF Master" on my publications. My sales went up. I still didn't value my rating, so I delved deeper.

It turns out that people value my writing regardless of my rating or title. I received a great compliment from one of my readers, who told me "your posts are easily digestible." Just what I was aiming for! The master's rating only opened up more minds to reading my writing. That's all.

Having sold books for decades, I learned that most chess books are written by masters for masters, and most readers find them tedious and unrewarding. Ken Smith's Chess Digest pamphlets sold readily and steadily, precisely because they are "easily digestible." You can go on ebay and see they *still* sell. Don't short your writing, like I did for years.

This brings me to the whole grandmasters-know-it-all thing. If they know it all, why do new books keep appearing on the same old subject, and often repeating the same old material? Because the knowledge difference between a grandmaster and a master is, in fact, fairly small--the things that make the difference between them are things like appetite, will to win, killer instinct, visualization, physical stamina, capacity for work, leisure time, inborn talent--these things you can't get from a book. What is needed is writing by non-masters for non-masters. The Five-Rounder may fantasize about becoming a grandmaster, but he knows he'll never make master. But he would like to play a bit better. There's a market out there for writing for those people, so write for them and charge them a reasonable fee.

What is a reasonable fee? I've sold a lot of monographs, simple stapled pamphlets, for between five and ten dollars. And yes, *in descriptive notation at that*. The average chess book-buyer who is a Five-Rounder has learned from bitter experience that \$30 books by grandmasters don't do him any good, so he's long since stopped buying them. But a \$5 or \$10 pamphlet? If it speaks to him, he'll buy it. And the notation doesn't matter, I've noticed. Once last word of advice: don't gouge him, because he's on the lookout for that. Oh, another thing: the easy way to price something is to add \$5 to your production cost. That makes it easy, and it also prompts you to not over-invest in production values, like glossy paper or pictures of glamorous women. Chess players don't much care about those things. I don't know why.

What speaks to him? Something that will help him win. He's not interested in the latest wrinkles in some theory about a high-octane opening. He'll never get there. I speak from experience. I can't say how many hours I've wasted--at least five or six--trying to memorize lines that went out 25 moves. Those things never happen to Five-Rounders. What they need is some sound grounding in a slightly unusual opening line that they can reason their way through from opening to ending. The opening theory doesn't have to be brand-new, it can be decades old, as it will come as a surprise to his opponent. And if a Five-Rounder gets a bad position against another Five-Rounder, it won't matter--the player who understands the position better will play better and thus win. And you can help them with that understanding.

Avoid crackpot ideas at all costs. Don't advocate playing the Grob or the Paris Gambit, for example. You may be thinking, "But after Paul Keres, what can I write about in the Ruy Lopez? And won't the Grob be a surprise?" Yes, the Grob is a surprise--and a pleasant one. In the Ruy, there's plenty left to say, and there are plenty of lines left little-explored by the greats. Look at the openings played by the Big Boys. They are playing for some pretty esoteric advantages. That means nothing to Five-Rounders. There was a grandmaster I used to play from time to time, and we were discussing this very topic. I told him it would be easier for me to beat a grandmaster than to draw one.

"Why?" he asked in puzzlement.

"Because the errors a grandmaster would make that would allow me to draw will just go right by me. But the mistakes that would make them lose, I think I'd notice them." Same applies to your Five-Rounders. Give them a way to win and they'll buy it.

They don't much care about anything else. Why should they? It's just a game. We won't save the world with chess. The best we can do is pass the time in a pleasurable and rewarding pastime, doing no harm to ourselves or others, but maybe making a little beauty along the way.

Or, in our case, a little extra cash. Maybe a bit more than a farthing.



The 1982 Midwest Masters Invitational—Part 2

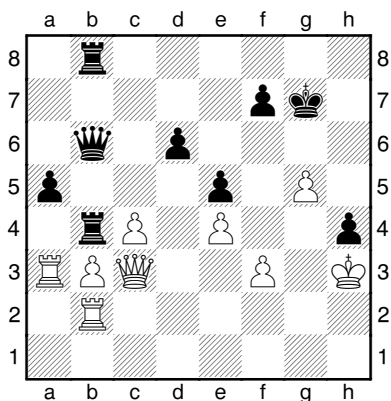
By Robert Irons

Round 3

The fighting spirit among the competitors continued into round 3; 11 of the 18 games were decisive. Szpisjak's win over Chachere qualified as an upset (their ratings were 149 points apart), and three of the five draws were between players with more than 140 points difference in their ratings.

John Rose and Leonid Bass debated the Sicilian Kan evenly until move 10, when Bass played the pawn break d5 too early. Rose advanced e5, castled and consolidated his position before taking over with the Greek Gift sacrifice ♖xh7+. White enjoyed a winning attack for five more moves before he let up on the pressure (perhaps in time trouble). A series of questionable moves gave away all of Rose's advantage, and the players agreed to a draw on move 28.

Leonid Kaushansky chose the Pelikan variation of the Sicilian Defense against Morris Giles, and his middlegame play was aggressive, but also loosened the pawn cover around his castled king. Giles built up a solid positional advantage, first gaining space on the queenside, then attacking the loosened kingside pawn structure. Unfortunately he released the queenside tension too soon, and Kaushansky took the opportunity to build up counterpressure on the queenside. The final four moves by each player shifted the advantage between sides twice.



Kaushansky has a win here by simply increasing the queenside pressure.

47...♖g1?

This gives away all of Black's advantage. Instead 47...a4! 48.♖d2 ♜xb3 49.♞axb3 ♜xb3 when Black threatens ♜d4! with an easy win. Now, he just has a check or two before the queen has to retreat.

48.♞g2 ♖h1+ 49.♞h2 ♖f1+ 50.♜xh4??+

But now it's all over. After 50...♖g1 Black gives checkmate in three moves or less.

Michael Brooks and Allen Kornfeld chose the Sicilian Dragon as the basis for their discussion this round. Opposite-side castling was quickly followed by an exchange of knights, and then five moves later the queens came off the board. When the dark-squared bishops were exchanged, the game appeared to be

headed towards a draw. Unfortunately, Kornfeld left a rook by itself for too long off on the queenside. Brooks was able to isolate the rook, making it ineffective. Then Brooks shifted the assault from the kingside to the center and back again, finally finishing by picking off Kornfeld's e-pawn for free.

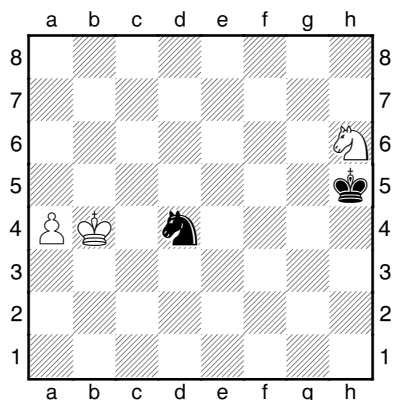
David Sprenkle played the Tarrasch variation against David Rubin's French Defense, and the play remained fairly even until White's 24th move, when Sprenkle chose to defend his rook on c7 rather than move it. Rubin responded with ♖c6, cutting off both the rook's protection and its only safe retreat. Sprenkle had to settle for getting ♖+♜ for ♞. He was unable to constrain Rubin's rook, and so Sprenkle finally tipped over his king on move 48.

The Martinovsky – Schiller game started out as a Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit Declined, but quickly transposed into a position from the Panov Attack against the Caro Kann. After the queens and minor pieces came off the board, Schiller was able to get somewhat the better of the double rook and pawn endgame. However, Schiller made one minor mistake, and that was enough for the Doctor to make sufficient threats that Schiller offered a draw on move 48.



Dr. Eugene Martinovsky.

Charles Lawton chose the Pirc defense against Mimir Stevanovic's 1.e4, and Stevanovic in turn chose to fianchetto his light-squared bishop and develop his kingside knight to e2, a solid positional setup (as opposed to the Austrian Attack). Queens came off the board on move eight, and the play remained fairly even through move 51. In a ♖+♜ ending, Lawton let Stevanovic's king penetrate and capture an extra pawn, giving him the advantage. The players continued to struggle for another 20 moves, until Stevanovic gave up all of his advantage in one move:



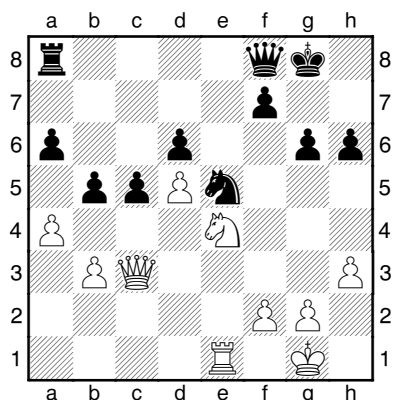
73. ♖f7?

White can win with 73. ♖c4! For example, 73... ♖e6 74. a5! ♖c7 75. ♖f5 ♖g4 76. ♖e7 ♖f3 77. ♖c5 ♖a6+ 78. ♖b5 ♖b8 79. ♖c6 ♖d7 80. a6 and the pawn will queen. There are many lines, but Stockfish gives them all as winning for White.

73... ♖g6=

The position is even. The players gave it up as a draw five moves later.

A similar fate befell Ken Mohr in this round when he chose the Auerbach variation against Steve Tennant's King's Indian Defense. The play was fairly even for the first 20 moves, but then a series of small mistakes by Tennant left Mohr with a significant advantage. Unfortunately for Ken (perhaps due to time trouble), he missed his opportunity to cash in just a few moves later:



28. f4?

White wins here by forcing the Black king onto the long dark-squared diagonal, where White's queen will give a discovered check when White's knight moves to attack and win Black's queen: 28. ♖f6+! ♖g7 (28... ♖h8 29. f4 b4 30. ♖d2 and the ♖e5 is lost.) 29. f4 b4 30. ♖a1 and again the ♖e5 is lost.

28... ♖d7=

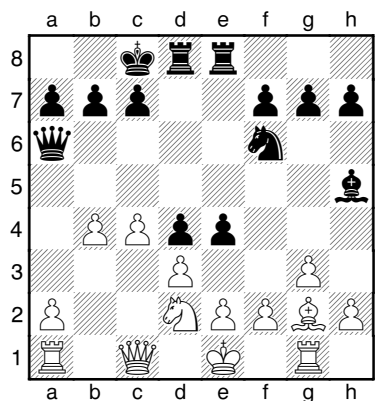
The players continued for six more moves before declaring peace.

Ken Jones' 1. e4 was answered by Fred Rhine's Scheveningen Sicilian, with Rhine first exchanging a knight for Jones' dark-squared bishop, then opening the center while his king remained there. Jones missed his one chance to begin an attack on the exposed Black king on move 13, then offered a draw two moves

later.

Charles Kramer and Albert Chow discussed the Chigorin variation of the Closed Ruy Lopez where White closes the center with d4-d5. Rather than building pressure on the kingside, Kramer chose to defuse Chow's queenside space advantage. The resulting simplification brought about a draw by move 27.

Marvin Dandridge chose the Nimzovich – Larsen Attack against Erik Karklins, who responded by advancing in the center and castling queenside. When Black's center pawns breached the fourth rank, Dandridge chose the wrong continuation. Fortunately for him, Karklins immediately returned the favor:



15. dxe4!?

15. ♖xe4 ♖b8= (or 15... ♖xe4 16. ♖xe4 ♖xe2 17. ♖xe2 f5 18. f3 ♖xe4 19. ♖xe4 ♖g6=) leaves Black in good shape.

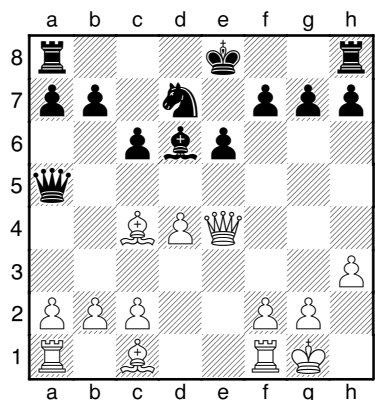
15... ♖xe4?+-

And here Black can turn things around with 15... ♖d7 16. ♖h3 ♖b8 17. ♖xd7 ♖xd7.

16. ♖xe4 ♖xe2 17. ♖xe2 f5 18. f3+-

Karklins resigned on move 30.

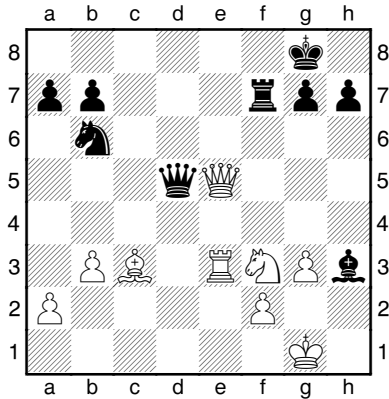
Stephan Popel played the Center Counter Defense against Allan Savage, setting up what John Watson refers to as a "white-square restraint" strategy, a strategy that I enjoy playing myself. However, on move 11, Popel neglected to defend his Bd6 with Qc7 and instead chose development with Nd7. Fortunately for him, Savage's tactical eye failed him that day:



Savage continued 12. ♖g4? ♖f8 13. c3 and offered a draw, which was

quickly accepted. Instead he could have given Popel a reason to consider resigning with 12.♙xe6! fxe6 13.♖xe6+ ♙e7 14.♗e1 ♜d8 15.♙g5 ♜f6 16.♙xf6 gxf6 17.♗e4 f5 18.♗e3 ♜d7 19.♗ae1 ♜xe6 20.♗xe6+.

Dennis Gogel opened with the English Opening, but Al Sandrin transposed the game into the Old Indian Defense for Black, against a kingside fianchetto for White. Gogel got a slight edge when Sandrin opened the center prematurely, but then gave it away by playing safely. The game ended with a triple blunder:



The position is even, and Sandrin can split the point by exchanging queens. By trying for more, he got far less.

25...♜c6?+-

Blunder #1: ♜xe5 heading towards a draw makes more sense than the text.

26.♙b4?=-

Blunder #2: 26.♜h5+- keeps up the pressure. The text lets Black off the hook.

26...♜d7?+-

Blunder #3: 26...h6!= leaves the position even. Instead Sandrin digs himself back into the hole Gogel helped him out of.

27.♜e8+ ♜f8 1-0

Sandrin resigned before Gogel could play 28.♜xf7+! ♜xf7 29.♜e5+ ♜g8 30.♜xc6 bxc6 31.♗e8 winning the knight.

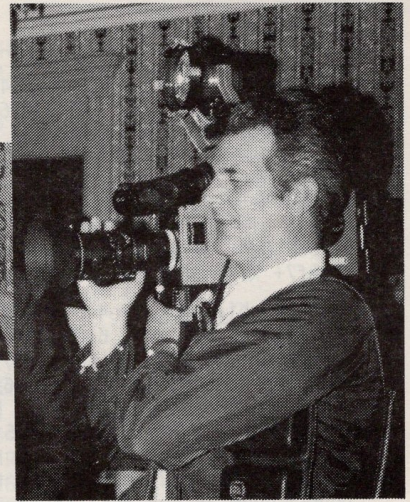
Lester Van Meter fianchettoed both bishops against Ken Wallach, who fianchettoed his kingside bishop before castling and playing c7-c5 in classic King's Indian style. White advanced d4-d5, quickly followed by c2-c4, cementing his light-squared pawn chain. Black responded by building pressure against the pawn chain by Na5, Bd7. Rb8 and b7-b5, while also advancing in the center with e7-e5. The first exchange of pawns led to the exchange of dark-squared bishops, leaving things pretty much even. Wallach tried to make use of his queenside pressure, but it went nowhere. When Van Meter countered on the kingside, Wallach allowed his kingside pawns to be compromised. Black resigned on move 41, one move before checkmate.

Ken Larsen essayed the Sicilian Dragon against Tim Sage's 1.e4, and Sage countered by fianchettoing his kingside bishop as well. In the middlegame Larsen sought counterplay on the queenside, and after a short tussle the players entered a R+B ending with pawns on both sides of the board. On move 35, Sage made a threat with his rook rather than advancing his king. It took only five more moves for White to resign.

Before the action starts....TV crews from ABC



interview 1949
U.S. Open Champ
Life Master A1
Sandrin



For this round I am analyzing the game between Tim Redman and Angelo Sandrin, a short but sharp game that is worthy of study, because Black's mistakes appear to be natural moves, while White's counterplay is brutal.

Redman - Sandrin English Opening A34

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜f3 c5 4.♜c3 ♜c6?!

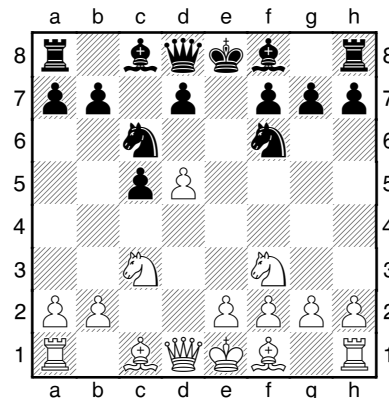
Either 4...cxd4 or 4...d5 are better than the text.

5.d5 exd5?!

5...♜a5 6.e4 d6 avoids giving up more ground.

6.cxd5

Black's simplest continuation here is 6...♜d4 7.♜xd4 cxd4 8.♜xd4 and Black must choose between following up with ♜d6 or d7-d6. Instead he chooses a move that is intended as a regrouping maneuver, but ends up sealing his fate.



6...♜e7? 7.d6 ♜c6 8.e4 ♜a5 9.♙d2+- 1-0

Black is going to lose more material after either ♜b5 or e4-e5.

Our next game, Friedman - Gratz, was lightly annotated by the winner, Ed Friedman. Ed asked me to pass along a correction to his biographical data from the last issue: his position with the University of Chicago was a staff position, not a faculty position. In the game, Glen Gratz makes two mistakes, and Ed takes ad-



At left, Dave Sprenkle, standing Stephan Popel, Charles Lawton, Ken Mohr, and Eric Schiller, also standing.

vantage of both of them.

Friedman - Gratz
Sicilian Smith-Morra Gambit B21
[Notes by Ed Friedman]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♟xc3 ♘c6 5.♟f3 d6 6.♟c4 e6 7.0-0 ♟e7 8.♟e2 a6 9.♟d1 ♟c7 10.♟f4 ♘e5

Better is 10...♟f6. If 11.e5 then 11...♟h5 12.exd6 ♟xf4.

11.♟xe5

Better is 11.♟b5+ . If 11...axb5 12.♟xb5 ♟xf3+ (12...♟b8 13.♟xd6+ ♟xd6 14.♟xe5 ♟xe5 15.♟b5+ ♟e7 16.♟xe5+-) 13.gxf3 ♟b8 14.♟xd6+ ♟f8 15.♟d2 threatening ♟xf7.

11...dxe5 12.♟ac1 ♟d7?

12...♟a5 maintains equality.

13.♟b5 ♟b6 14.♟d7 ♟xd7 15.♟d3+ ♟d6 16.♟xe5+ ♟e7 17.♟xd6+ ♟xd6 18.♟xd6 ♟xd6 19.♟xf7+ ♟e7 20.♟xh8 ♟f6 21.♟b3 ♟xh8 22.♟c7+ ♟d7 23.♟xb7 ♟c8 24.f3 ♟d6 25.e5+ ♟xe5 26.♟xg7 ♟d3 27.h4 ♟c1+ 28.♟h2 h5 29.♟g5 ♟xb2 30.♟xh5 ♟d3 31.♟a5 ♟c5 32.h5 ♟e7 33.g4 ♟c3 34.♟g2 ♟f6 35.♟f2

35.h6 ends the game more quickly.

35...e5 36.♟d5 ♟c2+ 37.♟g3 ♟c3 38.♟h4 ♟c1 39.g5+ ♟f5 40.h6 ♟f4 41.♟h3 ♟xg5 42.♟xc5 ♟xc5 43.h7 ♟c8 44.♟g8 ♟c6 45.h8 ♟xh6+ 46.♟xh6+ ♟xh6 47.♟g4 ♟g6 48.♟c4 a5 49.a4 ♟f6 50.♟d5 ♟g6 51.♟e4+ ♟f6 52.♟f5 ♟f7 53.♟g5 ♟e7 54.♟g6 1-0

Our next game is again annotated by the winner, in this case Steve Szpisjak. There were mistakes by both players, but nonetheless Szpisjak grabbed the advantage in the middlegame and rode it through until the ending.

Chachere - Szpisjak
Queen's Gambit Accepted D21
[Notes by Steve Szpisjak]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♟f3 a6 4.e4

4.e3 would lead to the main lines.

4...♟g4?

4...b5 5.a4 ♟b7 6.axb5 axb5 7.♟xa8 ♟xa8 8.♟c3 e6 leads to approximate equality.

5.♟xc4 e6 6.♟e2?

6.♟c3 gives White the edge.

6...♟f6 7.♟c3 ♟b4 8.♟a4+?

8.♟b3

8...♟c6 9.0-0 ♟xc3 10.bxc3 ♟xe4 11.♟c2 ♟f6

11...♟f5 12.♟d3 ♟d6

12.♟a3 ♟e7 13.♟b2 b6 14.h3 ♟f5?

14...♟h5 hinders the shot that White missed in the game due to the potentially doubled pawns.

15.♟ad1?

15.♟xa6! gets the pawn back.

15...0-0 16.♟fe1 ♟e8 17.♟e5 ♟e4!

Rerouting to the queenside, where there is a strong diagonal.

18.f3 ♟b7 19.♟d3 b5 20.♟b1

20.♟c5!?

20...♟b8 21.♟c2 ♟ed5?

21...♟g6 gives Black more scope for his pieces than in the game, e.g., 22.♟c1 ♟d5 23.a4 ♟b6 24.axb5 axb5 25.♟f2 ♟h4 26.♟f1 ♟a4 ♟.

22.♖g4 g6 23.♜e5 ♜b6 24.♞e2 ♙d5

A blockade of the isolated pawn couple creates problems for White.

25.♞de1 ♜c4 26.♜xc4 ♙xc4 27.♞e5 ♜d7! 28.♞5e4 ♙d5 29.♞g4 f5!?

Not the only good choice.

30.♞g3 ♞h4 31.♞f2 ♜f7 32.f4

Weakening the e4 square, but 32.♙c1 h6 is also advantageous for Black.

32...♜f6 33.♙c5 ♜h5 34.♞f3 ♞xf2+ 35.♞xf2 ♜f6

The two bishops are insufficient compensation in the ending -- the knight has too many good squares.

36.♞b2 ♙e4! 37.♙c2 ♙xc2 38.♞xc2

It is all a matter of technique now.

38...a5 39.♞b1 ♜e4 40.♙a3 ♞ed8 41.♙c1 ♜e7!

The king approaches the blockading squares.

42.♙e3 ♜d6 43.♜f1 ♞b7 44.♜e2

44.c4 b4--+

44...♞db8 45.♙d2 ♜d5 46.♜d3 ♜d6 47.a4 c6 48.♞a1 ♜c4 49.♙c1 b4

The decisive breakthrough.

50.cxb4 ♞xb4 51.♞c3 ♞b3 52.♙a3 ♜xa3 53.♞xa3 ♞xa3 54.♞xa3 ♞b4

The ending is completely winning, although Black did have quicker wins along the way; the rest of the score is given for completeness.

55.♜e3 ♞xd4 56.g4 c5 57.gxf5 exf5 58.♞a1 ♞e4+ 59.♜f3 c4 60.♞d1+ ♞d4 61.♞b1 c3 62.♜e3 c2 63.♞c1 ♞c4 64.h4 ♞c3+ 65.♜d2 ♜d4 66.h5 ♞d3+ 67.♜e2 ♜c3 68.hxg6 hxg6 69.♞g1 ♞d6 70.♜e3 ♜b2 0-1

Our final game for the round is also annotated by the winner. Kevin Bachler started the tournament with a rating of 2170, just below the coveted 2200 that qualifies as master here in the US. After two draws against masters in the first two rounds, he finally drew blood against his third-round opponent, Master Chris Kus.

Kus - Bachler

French Winawer C17

[Notes by Kevin Bachler]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5

The French Defense. Black builds a solid center, but his white-squared Bishop is hard to develop well. White chooses an aggressive line where he sacrifices some material to gain some time for development for his pieces.

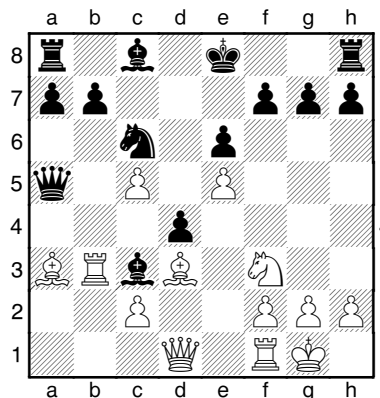
3.♜c3 ♙b4

The aggressive Winawer variation, pressuring White's e4 square - so that he locks up the center by advancing his e-pawn.

4.e5 c5

Undermining White's center at the temporary cost of a pawn.

5.dxc5 ♜c6 6.♜f3 ♜ge7 7.♙d3 d4 8.a3 ♙a5 9.b4 ♜xb4 10.axb4 ♙xb4 11.0-0 ♙xc3 12.♞b1 ♞a5 13.♞b3 ♜c6 14.♙a3



In this position, I debated between 14...00 and 14...h6. The latter prevents the Classic Bishop Sacrifice, but I became convinced that it was unsound since the Bishop wasn't on c1 to support the Knight on g5 and therefore White doesn't meet the standard conditions. There are two problems with this logic. First, since the Black Queen isn't helping to defend the Black King (i.e. g5) - I'm mistaken. Second, the primary conditions for the sacrifice include a ♙ on the ♙b1-h7 diagonal, a ♜ to g5, and ♞-h5 and/or d3, and the secondary conditions are any two of:

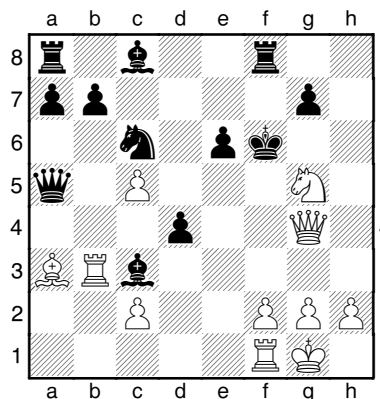
1. ♙e5
2. ♙h4 (preferably with a ♞h1)
3. ♙c1-h6 diagonal.

But there is a fourth that most books forget to mention - a shot elsewhere on the board. In addition to the Bishop potentially getting back to c1 fast enough - there is another shot here.

14...0-0? 15.♙xh7+ ♜xh7 16.♜g5+ ♜g6 17.♞g4 f5 18.exf6?

18.♞h4! ♙d7 (18...♜xe5 19.c6! The first time a shot shows up elsewhere. This threatens both 20.♙xf8 and 20 cxb7 forking the Bishop and Rook.) 19.♞h7+ ♜xg5 20.f4+ ♜g4 21.♞h3#

18...♜xf6



19.♜h7+

19.♞xb7!! - the second time a shot shows up elsewhere - is crushing. 19...♙xb7 (19...♞b8 20.♜h7+ ♜e5 21.♜xf8 ♜d5 22.♞f3+ ♜c4 23.♞xc6 White is way ahead.) 20.♞xe6+ ♜xg5 21.f4+ ♞xf4 22.h4+ ♜h5 23.♞xf4 ♜e7 24.g4+ ♜xh4 25.♞xe7+ ♜g3 26.♞f5 ♙d2 27.♞d6+ ♜h4 28.♞h5+ ♜xg4 29.♞g6+ ♜f3 30.♞f5+ ♜e3 31.♞g3+ ♜e2 32.♞d3+ ♜d1 33.♞f1#; 19.♜e4+ ♜f7 20.♞h5+ ♜e7 21.♞d1 Gives White a solid advantage.

19...♜e7 20.♞xg7+ ♞f7 21.♞g5+ ♜d7 22.♜f6+ ♜d8 23.♜d5+

White makes a series of checks to gain time on his chess clock.

23.♖xc3 dxc3 (23...♗xc3 24.♜d5+) 24.♞d1+-

23...♔e8 24.♗g8+ ♕f8 25.♗g6+

White is still clearly winning.

25...♟f7 26.♗g8+

26.♞xb7+-; 26.♞xc3+-; 26.♜f6+-.

26...♟f8 27.♗g6+ ♟f7 28.♜f6+ ♔e7 29.♜g8+ ♔e8 30.♜f6+ ♔e7 31.♜g8+ ♔e8 32.♜h6

This is a mistake, and now the game is even. After 32 ♞d1 White is still better. 32.♞bb1 ♗xa3 33.♜f6+ ♔f8 34.♗g8+ ♔e7 35.♜e4 ♞b8=; 32.♞d1 ♗c7 33.♞xc3 dxc3 34.♜c1 ♗e5 35.♜g5 is very good for White.

32...♗c7 33.♗g8+ ♕f8 34.♗g6+ ♔d8 35.♞xc3?

Now Black is winning.

35...dxc3 36.♞d1+ ♜d7 37.♜f7+ ♔c8

The King has escaped. Once we develop the Rook on a8, Black wins.

38.♜d6+ ♔b8 39.♞b1 ♜c8 40.h4 a5 41.♗d3 ♜b4 42.♗xc3 ♞a6 43.g3 ♞xd6 0-1

White resigns. Black is ahead a Knight and a Rook. After three rounds there were 16 players scored at 50%, and only one player each at 100% and 0%. Round three saw several players make significant moves up the ladder. By the end of round four, two players will share the top score.

The scores at the end of round 3:

3:	Kaushansky
2½:	Bass, Brooks, Rose, Rubin
2:	Bachler, Dandridge, Giles, Schiller, Szpisjak
1½:	Chow, Gogel, Jones, Kornfeld, Kramer, Lawton, Martinovsky, Mohr, Popel, Redman, Rhine, Savage, Sprenkle, Stevanovic, Tennant, Van Meter
1:	Chachere, Friedman, Karklins, Kus, Larsen
½:	Sage, Al Sandrin, Angelo Sandrin, Wallach
0:	Gratz

The Players: 24th – 13th

Miomir Stevanovic (1936-2018) remained an active player for many years, making USCF's June 2010 Top 100 list Age 65 and Over.

Steven Szpisjak achieved his Master title in 1989, and has been an active player and coach ever since. Steve began playing competitive chess in high school on a team that won three Illinois High School Class A Championships (1982-84). He tied for first (one of five) in the 1993 Illinois Open Championship, and he has won the Illinois State Senior Championship four times. Steven has also coached chess as part of the Warren Junior Scholars Program, and at Evanston Township High School. Steve currently tutors math and coaches chess at Glenbrook South High School.

Timothy Redman served as President of US Chess from 1981-84 and again from 2000-01. He was the founder of the chess program at the University of Texas at Dallas and served as its director until 2006. He retired from the UTD as Professor Emeritus of Literary Studies in 2020.

Angelo Sandrin (1922-2001) was a strong Expert who played for Argonne Labs in the Chicago Industrial Chess League. After retiring, Angelo became a regular at Jules Stein's Chicago Chess Center tournaments, where he earned his Master title.



Allan Savage and Angelo Sandrin

Allan Savage (1951-2022) won the Maryland Junior Championship twice, and his high school team finished second in the 1st National High School Championship. He became a National Master at age 20, and worked as a chess professional for seven years, earning a FIDE Master title by competing in international chess tournaments. He won the Maryland State Championship twice, and in 2012 he won the Maryland Senior Championship. Allan was also able to earn an IM title in Correspondence Chess, winning the APCT title in 1991 and tying for first in the 7th North American Correspondence Invitational.

Frederick Rhine is now a National Master and Correspondence Senior Master, and started as a member of the Lane Tech chess team, along with Chris Kus and Ken Mohr, that won the State High School Championship in his junior and senior years. Two of his games have been published (with his notes) in *Chess Informant* and cited in *ECO*, and a move from one of his games was voted one of the most important theoretical novelties in *Informant* 32.

Ken Mohr played board 1 for the Lane Tech chess team that won the State High School Championship in 1976 and 1977. He returned for the 1984 Midwest Masters Invitational but withdrew early. He does not appear to have continued in competitive chess.

Lawrence Chachere is a USCF Life Master who moved to New York City in 1994 and stopped active play in 1995 to focus on work. In 2016 his kids showed an interest in the game, and so Lawrence returned to competition again, and shortly after began coaching. He earned the FIDE Master title while working in Switzerland. He now lives in New York and is a chess instructor for the Marshall Chess Club. His current FIDE rating is 2305.

Ken Jones won the Missouri State Championship in 2003. His current FIDE rating is 2170. He has also been an active correspondence chess player since 1990.

David Sprenkle is a FIDE Master with a current rating of 2280. He tied for first at the Illinois Open tournament in 1979 and again in 1980. He won the city championship of Spokane, Washington in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2010. His last rated event was in 2019.

Continued on Page 34

How to Become Good at Annotating Your Chess Games

8 Ideas to Improve Your Chess Annotations

By Martin B. Justesen

Martin B. Justesen writes a weekly blog on the substack platform called *Say Chess*. This blog is reprinted here with Martin B. Justesen's permission.

Post: [August 10, 2023](#)

When you read about how to improve at chess you will often read that you have to annotate your own games. I have recently written about the Botvinnik method for chess improvement, which relies on annotating and publishing your annotations as a way to improve.



The Botvinnik Method For Chess Improvement

[MARTIN B. JUSTESEN](#)

Less is however written about how you actually become good at annotating your games. I would not characterize myself as a very good annotator. I often rush and do not spend enough time, because I'm already thinking about the next game. But I want to improve this skill. So in this newsletter, I have tried my best to list ways to improve at writing good annotations (in my opinion).

"I have a journal of everything I've ever climbed since 2005. For the entry about free soloing Half Dome, I put a frowny face and added some little notes about what I should have done better, and then underlined it. Turns out that is one of my biggest climbing achievements."

Alex Honnold

1. Clarity and Simplicity

Annotations should be clear and understandable. If you are writing something very complicated it might be a sign you do not fully understand it. The same goes if you are following a long engine line without really understanding why. Stop and try again. By shedding overly complicated lines and opting for clear explanations, you will force yourself to understand the position.

If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.

Albert Einstein

2. Structure

A chess game, like a good story, has a beginning, middle, and end. Set the stage with an overview:

- What was your state of mind going into the game?
- Where, and when was the game played?

Who was your opponent?

Delve into the middlegame with detailed breakdowns of key positions, and wrap up with reflections and lessons from the game.

3. Highlight Key Points

In the narrative of a chess game, some moves dramatically alter its course. By emphasizing these important moments, you guide the readers through the game's most crucial junctures. It is also a healthy exercise in itself to locate these moments. Fellow Substacker FM [Nate Solon](#) has also mentioned is a good idea to spend time analyzing the moves you spent the longest time on during the game. Why did you think so long and was the analysis correct?

Example: Pointing out, "Move 17...Qh4 is the turning point, because..." can help you and readers to understand the importance of a specific move.

4. Use Emotions

Some like to think of chess as a pure rational game, but chess is as much a battle of emotions as it is of tactics. Sharing how a move or decision made you feel can provide readers a glimpse into the game's psychological dimension. It might also help you understand what caused a specific mistake.

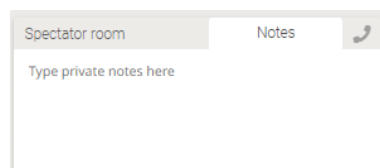
Example: "After 25...Rxd4!, a surge of excitement mixed with caution hit me when I played this move."

5. Get Feedback From Your Peers

It can be helpful to get feedback on your annotations either from a coach or fellow chess players. Sharing your thoughts and getting feedback will hopefully result in questions that you did not think of and will make you think further about the game.

6. Active Recall

Before diving into databases or engines, pause. Try to recall your thoughts during the game, also what did you calculate? A practice that not only strengthens memory but also ensures authentic, non-engine annotations. On Lichess you can write notes down while you play in the side panel, which can be helpful to review your training games.

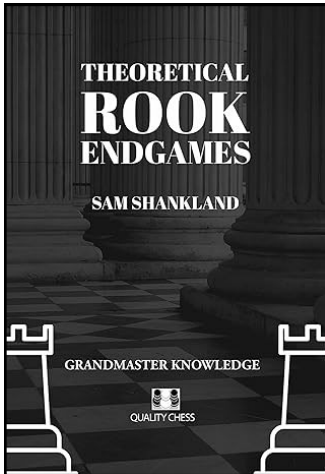


Example: "During the match, I believed 20...Nxe4 was solid. But post-game analysis showed me its flaws due to 21. Re1 pinning the Knight..."

Continued on Page 34.

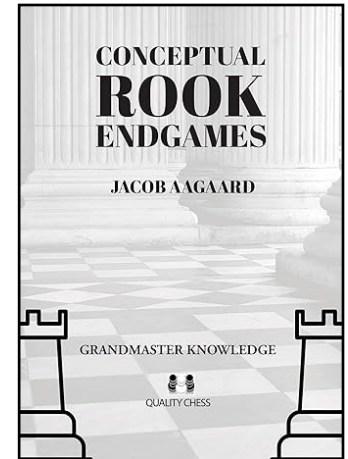
Book Review

Correspondence GM Jon Edwards



Sam Shankland, [*Theoretical Rook Endgames*](#) (Quality Chess, 2023)

Jacob Aagaard, [*Conceptual Rook Endgames*](#) (Quality Chess, 2023)



What's this? More endgame books? Not one, but two books from the same publisher on the same endgame type? Should I read one of them? Both of them? Are they really different?

Every master emphasizes the importance of studying endgames, but if indeed chess endings are a science, then it is not at all surprising that the most comprehensive endgame books through the past century have tended to be dry, encyclopedic, and quite unappealing to the average player. More than that, many of the past's endgame manuals and encyclopedias have contained significant errors and omissions, some quite significant, and perhaps more important, they involve a distinct dearth of obvious pedagogy. In my view, [*Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*](#) was a pleasing step forward, with instructive examples and well-considered planning goals interspersed. But it still left me hungry for more.

The emergence of tablebases, essentially computer-confirmed look up tables of endgames with five, six, and now seven pieces, has given us a new computer-based approach that has refined the meaning of endgame science and truth, and exposed the extraordinary depths of seemingly simple endgames. The "Secrets" series, which began with John Nunn's [*Secrets of Rook Endings*](#) (Holt: 1992; now published by Gambit), is based upon these tablebases and is well worth your time if you are rated over 1800. Their fifth entry, [*Secrets of Queen Endings*](#), like the other books in this series, are full of entertaining surprises, especially when presented pedagogically by a highly rated and articulate human.

But I seriously digress. Surely there is a path to endgame success without having to plow through such reportage. After all, as players, we need more than just the endgame truth. We also need to know the practical reality of what actually happens in the final phase of the game. There's a human factor, since these endgames frequently occur when players are tired and in time trouble. Even Grandmasters, who arguably ought to know all or most of this endgame truth, play inaccuracies and outright blunders from time to time.

We also tend to miss the human context that explains how these endgames emerge, and we miss out on the human drama of facing endgame challenges while hopefully avoiding endgame pitfalls.

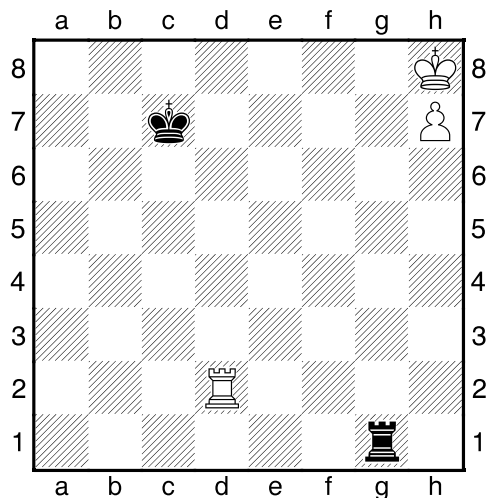
Just as Nunn began the Secrets Series with the truth about 5-piece rook endgames, the two new books from Quality Chess hopefully represent the start of a lengthy series of endgame books covering all of the main endgame types in both theory and practice.

Most of the examples in these two books are drawn directly from Grandmaster play, following a modern games-based focus. The moves are computer verified, which may cause some readers to moan, but the endgame should indeed be played like science when the truth is not wholly intuitive. Happily, here we have very strong human players providing pedagogy and commentary.

Shankland's book provides the theory. This is a product of Shankland's pandemic isolation, an admirable devotion to tackling what he perceived as the weakness in his own games.

Even if you are already comfortable with the basic Lucena and Philidor positions, you may be surprised by Shankland's coverage of the subtleties and the breathtaking transitions that have occurred within his own and others' games. But there is so much more. There is coverage of the long and short side defenses and the Vancura Defense with readable examples. If you have read this far, you have heard all of these themes, but may not have confronted them with rigor.

Now you can enjoyably master them. As you would expect, Shankland also provides comprehensive coverage of ♖+2♗ vs ♖, ♖+2♗ vs ♖+♗, ♖+3♗ vs ♖+2, all on the same side, and comparable coverage when the pawns are racing forward on both wings.



With white to play, is this a win or a draw? Do you know the optimal play well enough so that it becomes a building block in your middlegame analysis? Know that Shankland's annotations are extensive and presented throughout with the reader in mind. His presentation is memorable enough to make a lasting impression.

Just another aside, but we are truly living in an amazing technical age. As I entered this position within ChessBase 17's setup board in order to generate a diagram, it tells me that this exact position had been reached in these six games, all with a successful result for the player with the extra pawn.

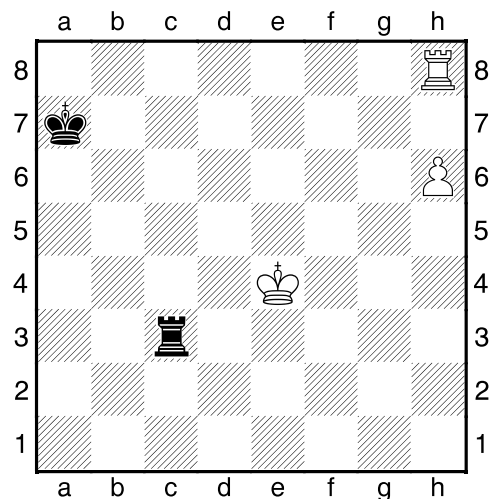
☒ Search automatically

1966: Marovic,Dr - Gromek,Jo
 1996: Busquets,Lu (2265) - Sanpera Bonet,Ju (2115)
 1998: Bellon Lopez,Ju (2455) - Pecorelli Garcia,Hu (2465)
 2003: Franck,Ru (2185) - Oldach,Eh (2054)
 2005: Milla de Marco,Ca (2092) - Blanco Villalba,Jo (198)
 2017: Stohl,Ig (2504) - Pcola,Pa (2374)

As you might expect, the positions in Shankland's book build upon each other usefully, and he has carefully laid out the learning order. In the following example, it is Black to move and draw, and you must confront two logical candidate moves, 1...Rc6 and 1...Rh3. One move draws, the other loses. Instincts can be wrong, and placing the rook automatically behind the outside passer is flawed.

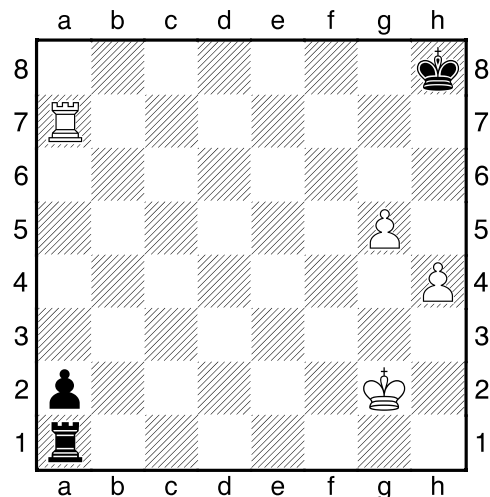
Shankland writes: "Black seems to be in a bad way. His king is light years away from the h6-pawn. Also, since the pawn has not yet been pushed to h7, White can, in theory,

still use the h7-square to hide his king from checks from behind. But the position is still a draw thanks to the Vancura defense.



Once again, a ChessBase search of similar endgames produces many examples, but here, there are many examples in which the defending side failed. Success goes to those who prepare well.

Here is a third example. As you can see, attention to detail truly matters in these endgames.



With white to move, advancing the h-pawn is tempting, but Black then has ...Rb1-b5. The correct way is to start patiently with 1.Kh2! enabling 1...Rb1 2.Rxa2 Rb5 3.Rg2

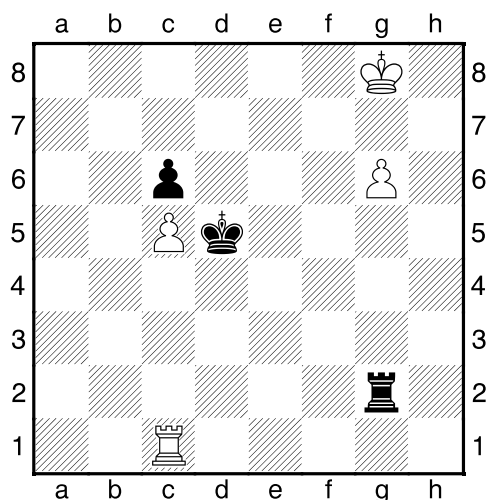
If you find these examples as pleasing as I do, you will soon have a new book, best friend. I should add, by the way, that ChessBase reveals that very few GMs found the correct way to proceed here.

This is the first endgame book that I am reading carefully, cover to cover, front to back, barely putting it down, since my misspent youth with Fine's [Basic Chess Endings](#). Given the amount of time I am investing with the book, I purchased the hard cover edition so that I can lay it flat while I

ponder each position within ChessBase. That way, I get a diagram on every move and, of course, I get the bonus of seeing all of the players who got these right and wrong.

Ah, but wait. There is much more! Shankland provides the theory, in its useful reality. In a companion volume, Aagaarde (*Conceptual Rook Endgames*) provides the grandmasterly practice. He has made no effort to mask the complexity. He is most decidedly unapologetic in presenting the difficult reality of playing rook endgames. All of the examples are drawn from GM games and Aagaarde has clustered his examples around 25 common themes, such as activating the rook first, check the checks, king activity, connected passed pawns. I hope that two examples from the book will help to clarify Aagaarde's approach. They provide a sense of the book's importance and the extent to which it belongs on your endgame shelf.

The first is from **Dhopade – Edouard**, Gibraltar 2018 with white play.



1. ♖g7!!

An amazing king move with the understandable purpose to support building a bridge with the white rook on g4 or g5.

This correct idea was discovered only in the post-mortem with an engine running.

In the game, Swapnil played the very natural looking 1.g7? ♖g3 2. ♖f7 ♖f3+ 3. ♖g8 ♖g3 4. ♖h1 ♖xc5 5. ♖h6 ♖d5 6. ♖f7 ♖xg7+! 7. ♖xg7 c5=

1... ♖g3 2. ♖f1! ♖xc5 3. ♖f6 ♖d4 4. ♖f4+! ♖d3 5. ♖f5! ♖e3 6. g7 ♖e8 7. ♖c5 ♖c8 8. ♖e6 ♖d4 9. ♖g5 ♖g8 10. ♖g4+! ♖e3 11. ♖f7 ♖c8 12. ♖f6 c5 13. ♖h4 ♖g8 14. ♖c4 ♖c8 15. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 16. g8 ♖ When a difficult Queen vs Rook endgame still beckons.

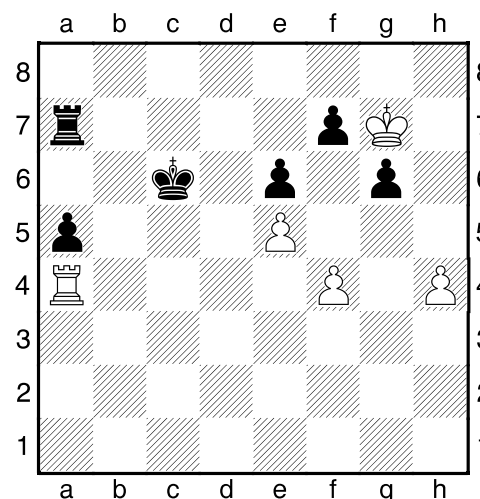
I warned you that these are hard.

If you saw all of that, know that I don't believe you. Here's another of my favorites from Aagaarde's book.

In Chapter 8: Breakthrough, we find this historic example.

Lasker, Emanuel - Levenfish, Grigory

Moscow, 1925



It's White to move and draw. It is worthwhile comparing the two variations. Lasker's choice was simply too slow.

1. ♖f6? [1.f5! exf5 2.e6 fxe6+ 3. ♖xg6 ♖b5 4. ♖a1 a4 5.h5 ♖b4 6.h6 a3 7.h7 ♖a8 8. ♖g7 ♖b3 9.h8 ♖xh8 10. ♖xh8 a2 11. ♖h1! e5 12. ♖g7 e4 13. ♖f6 e3 14. ♖xf5 e2 15. ♖e4 ♖b2 16. ♖d3 with a draw.]

1... ♖b5 2. ♖a1 a4 3.f5 [the correct idea, but too late]

3... exf5 4.e6 fxe6 5. ♖xg6 f4 6.h5 f3 7.h6 e5 8. ♖e1 a3 9. ♖xe5+ ♖c4 10. ♖e1 a2 11.h7 ♖a8 12. ♖g7 f2 13. ♖a1 ♖b3 14. ♖f1 a1 ♖+ 15. ♖xa1 ♖xa1 16.h8 ♖ g1+

0–1

Prepare to be challenged, frustrated, and entertained, all at the same time. It is clear that the rook endgame journey is a difficult one, a reflection mainly of the inherent nature of the subject. The examples throughout are instructive and often quite beautiful, but we are left with another interesting problem. Which book has the best approach, and which one should I buy? I addressed that issue in an old-fashioned sort of way... I bought them both, and they have become the two most interesting books on my endgame shelf. With luck, Quality Chess will soon expand this coverage to the other endgame types.

"Chess is a game by its form, an art by its content and a science by the difficulty of gaining mastery in it."

—Tigran Petrosian

Well, There You Go

A Tribute to Joe and Hildred Viggiano

By Kenneth E. Milutin

Originally written in July of 2012 and submitted to *Chess Life*, but never printed. Previous versions of this article can be found in the [Salisbury Chess Club Web Page dated April 30, 2013](#) and [Chess for Unity Summer Story Contest in 2022](#). It is published here with the author's permission who was 54 at the time of writing.

I would like to pay tribute to a fine person and fellow chess player, Joseph Viggiano and his lovely wife Hildred. Two issues of *Chess Life*, August 2011 and April 2012 (more on this later), prodded me to share this story.

I first met Mr. Viggiano at a Delaware State Chess Championship in the late 70's. A retired Latin teacher, Joe was a kindly, older gentleman who always wore a "golf" hat and carried his chess equipment in a white, leather, bowling ball bag. I never really found out much about Joe's early years except that, of course, he was of Italian heritage, and he was from a family of glass blowers. I next met him in the early 80's at a Central Delaware Chess Club meeting. He later took me to my first World Open in 1987, and I was amazed at the people he knew and introduced me to.

As we grew to know each other, Joe learned that my job took me on the road occasionally through the town where he lived. Joe had given an open invitation to his chess friends, including me, to stop in for lunch or dinner and a game or two of chess. I took Joe up on his offer and I am so glad that I did. His wonderful wife, Hildred, was a fabulous cook, and we had many a spirited game while having some great food on Joe's small screened porch at the front of his house.

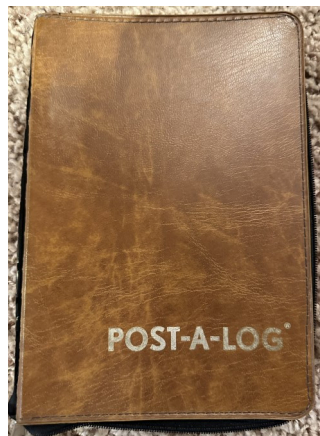
Such great memories. Joe was always fond of saying "Well, there you go" after the surprising conclusion of a game. While playing, Joe could lull you to sleep with his very slow, deliberate moves, and he had the unfortunate habit of forgetting to punch his clock. His wife made him a small cardboard reminder to "Punch the CLOCK" that he would sometimes keep in front of him during a game. For as long as I knew him, Joe always had the same small, standard analog clock. At one World Open, Joe was down two pieces to a young man who was clearly bored with the whole situation. Joe was also down on time, because of the bad habit noted above. At first glance, it looked like the game would be coming to an end fast. Joe's position was tricky, but with careful play, the young man should have had no trouble in putting Joe away. Frankly, I found myself checking my watch, wondering when Joe's game would end, so we could grab a bite to eat. The young man constantly got up from the board after making his very quick moves. He would briskly walk over to a couple of friends huddled nearby and have a few whispers, then hurriedly return when Joe would finally move (and not punch his ever-ticking analog clock). After one such sequence, Joe straightened up in his chair and carefully studied the board. I looked a little more closely, and suddenly Joe's small remaining force looked very imposing.....I then saw it and Joe saw it too.....mate in three! Joe made the first move of the combination and to my surprise, punched his clock! The young man returned, looked carefully, then slumped in his chair and sat still as a rock for what seemed like 30 minutes. He finally responded and Joe did as well, again punching his clock.....it was over. The young man

held out his hand and graciously acknowledged the defeat and I think he was probably wondering what hit him. Joe then looked around and true to his trademark, softly said "Well, there you go." A smile always comes to my face when I share that story. The April 2012 *Chess Life* issue cover features the "Winding Down" of the analog clock.....frankly.....I hope not.

Joe and his wife moved to Florida in October of 1994 to be closer to their family.....I remember the day very well. I stopped in to say goodbye to my good friends, knowing that since Joe was in his late 80's, I would probably never see either of them again. I had tears in my eyes as I left that driveway and that small screened porch where we had many games and meals. We stayed in touch over the next couple of years, but unfortunately Joe passed away in 1997. I received a few very touching letters from Hildred and we continued to correspond for a while. Some-time later, a large box arrived at my door. Upon opening it, I found a nice note from Hildred stating that "Joe would want you to have these." Inside were a number of old chess books (some autographed by famous players) and to my surprise and delight, Joe's chess clock. The stories that clock could tell. A following letter had a picture of Joe, which I look at from time to time with great fondness. What cherished mementos from such fine people. I was in Florida in the fall of 2009 and tried to look up Hildred. Sadly, she had passed away that spring.



The final phase of this story relates to the August 2011 issue of *Chess Life*. You see, Mr. Viggiano was the inventor of the "Post—A—Log". Those of us familiar with postal chess know



exactly what this is. A simple, yet effective way to safely store all of your postal games in one neat, zippered folder. THE PIECES WILL NOT MOVE UNTIL YOU MOVE THEM! Legend has it that when analyzing at night, Joe would fall asleep with a traditional slot—type recorder album for recording postal games. While Joe was dreaming of tricks on how to remember to punch his clock, the recorder album would fall to the floor, spilling pieces everywhere from numerous games in



progress. Joe came up with a great solution! The "Post—A—Log!" The August 2011 issue cover story is about the evolution of Correspondence Chess. Postal chess, I have heard, has greatly diminished in popularity due to email and the Internet, etc. Like the analog clock, postal chess may be a thing of the past in the not—too—distant future.....and again, I hope not.

Many of Joe's friends and I fondly reminisce about him, and we always say, he is one of those unforgettable characters that will always remain with you.

On rare occasions, I have returned to that same town where I shared those great games and wonderful meals with Joe and his wife. I have slowly driven down the street and looked at that house and screened porch. If I concentrated, I could still smell the aroma of those meals, see Joe in his golf hat with his bowling bag at his side and hear him saying, "Well, there you go."

I hope this was a fitting tribute to two great people. Folks like this are what make our game such a great one. In closing, I hope my old friend is smiling down on me and I want to softly whisper to him "Well Joe, there you go".

Continued from Page 29

7. Learn to Speak Chess

Effective annotations weave specific moves into the broader concepts of chess principles, tactical combinations, and strategic plans enhancing their instructiveness.

Learning the names and language used about chess concepts and relating them to your own games should also help connect dots in your mind for when a similar moment happens in future games. You can add to your vocabulary by reading master games collections or just chess books in general.

Example: "15. a4 is a classic overprotection strategy on the queenside, emphasizing the control of the b5-square before expanding."

8. Personalize

Personal anecdotes or reflections make annotations memorable. They reveal the human side of the game, relating specific moves to your chess journey.

It will also make it more fun to write and read your annotations if they are not only dry lines.

Annotating chess games is more than a simple review, it allows you to reflect, learn, and grow. Each game tells its own story and carries its own lessons. As you delve into your moves, emotions, and decisions, you will hopefully gain new insights. This concludes my 8 ideas for improving your annotations. Hopefully, you found something useful. I'm at least motivated to work on upping my annotations.

Continued from page 28

Morris Giles (1953-2012) was one of the strongest, and most feared, players in Chicago in the 1980s. His style was sharp and aggressive, and his record includes wins against GM Alexander Ivanov and GM Walter Browne at the 1988 US Open in Boston. While he was employed at Sears in their IT department, Giles played on top board for the company team in the Chicago Industrial Chess League. For a more complete understanding of the life and chess of Morris Giles, please see his obituary on The Chess Drum: <https://www.thechessdrum.net/blog/2013/01/03/morris-giles-chicago-legend-1953-2012/>

Dr. Eric Schiller (1955-2018) was a true renaissance man. A Doctor of Linguistics from the University of Chicago, he taught both there and at Wayne State University. He was co-founder of the Southeast Asian Linguistic Society, and an officer in the Chicago Linguistic Society. Prior to graduate school, Schiller founded a music group called the Long Island Sound Ensemble, and he studied conducting in Vienna and in Hancock, Maine. In 1974 he was the Illinois Junior Chess Champion, and he played for the University of Chicago team more than once at the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship. He has served as both an International Arbiter and an International Trainer, and was an arbiter for several games of the FIDE World Chess Championship in 2000. As a player he reached the rank of International Master. He also served as a chess journalist, reporting on Chess Olympiads and World Championship matches. One of the most prolific chess authors in American history, he has over 100 books to his credit, including some with such notable co-authors as GM Lev Alburt, IM John Watson, GM Raymond Keene, GM Leonid Shamkovich, GM Eduard Gufeld, and GM Joel Benjamin.

Trip to Israel

By Bill Broich

In December 2019, I traveled outside the U.S. for the first time. Now that I'm retired, I have time to write about my adventures.

I had worked as an arbiter (October 4-6, 2019) to observe one of the world's top ten chess players compete in an online event in his residence. [Chess.com](https://www.chess.com) graciously paid me to travel to Minneapolis to proctor GM Wesley So as he played in the quarterfinals for the inaugural Fischer Random World Championship, an online tournament. Wesley qualified for the semi-finals to be held in Oslo, Norway later in October. In the semi-finals Wesley defeated GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (13-5) to move to the finals. In the finals So defeated GM Magnus Carlsen 13.5 to 2.5 (with six rounds to spare!) Wesley had gone through the final stage without a single loss! Wesley became the first official Fischer Random World Chess Champion!

A bit about GM Wesley So.

- So was born in the Philippines on October 9, 1993. Mostly was self-taught due to the poor conditions of his early upbringing.
- In December 2008 FIDE awarded So the title of Grandmaster, making him the ninth youngest chess grandmaster in history.
- In 2008, So was rated 2610 and became the youngest player in the history of the game to break the 2600 Elo barrier, surpassing the record previously held by Magnus Carlsen.
- In 2012, So got a scholarship offer from Webster University allowing him to move to the United States and progress at chess, but more importantly at the time, offering the possibility of securing a degree to improve his life.
- In 2014 So transferred his FIDE country to the United States.
- In 2016 So won two super-tournaments – the Sinquefeld Cup in August and the London Chess Classic in December – which enabled him to win the overall championship of the Grand Chess Tour.
- In 2016 So was awarded the Samford Fellowship. This was key to enabling So to finally have a coach. Wesley chose GM [Vladimir Tukmakov](https://www.chess.com). GM Tukmakov had previously been GM Anish Giri's coach.
- In January 2017 So became the 11th player to pass 2800 Elo.
- In March 2017 So was ranked second in the World FIDE rankings with a rating of 2822, behind GM Magnus Carlsen (2838).
- Later in 2017 So won the US Championship.
- So has won or placed highly in a myriad of tournaments since.

GM Wesley So's next big tournament appearance (December 2019) was a prestigious FIDE Grand Prix event in Jerusalem, Israel. I decided to go and purchased a ticket to fly to Israel. Off I went, by myself, to watch Wesley compete in the FIDE Jerusalem Grand Prix!

The following pictures are from my trip. And this was a rather amazing trip. I flew from Des Moines, IA to Chicago and from Chicago to Frankfurt, Germany then finally from Frankfurt to Tel Aviv, Israel. I took an Uber from Tel Aviv Airport to downtown Jerusalem and stayed at the [Ibis Jerusalem City Center](https://www.ibis-jerusalem-city-center.com), approximately one mile from the Old City.

The history of the Old City is fascinating, and an overview can be found in Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_of_Jerusalem

From Wikipedia: "The Old City is today divided into four uneven quarters, these are the Muslim Quarter, the Christian Quarter, the Armenian Quarter, and the Jewish Quarter. A fifth area, the Temple Mount, known to Muslims as Al-Aqsa or *Haram al-Sharif*, is home to the Dome of the Rock, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and was once the site of the Jewish Temple. The Old City's current walls and city gates were built by the Ottoman Empire from 1535 to 1542 under Suleiman the Magnificent. The Old City is home to several sites of key importance and holiness to the three major Abrahamic religions: the Temple Mount and the Western Wall for Judaism, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Christianity, and the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque for Islam.

Until the mid-19th century, the entire city of Jerusalem (with the exception of David's Tomb complex) was enclosed within the Old City walls. The departure from the walls began in the 19th century, when the city's municipal borders were expanded to include Arab villages such as Silwan and new Jewish neighborhoods such as Mishkenot Sha'ananim. The Old City came under Jordanian control following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. During the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel occupied East Jerusalem; since then, the entire city has been under Israeli control. Israel unilaterally asserted in its 1980 Jerusalem Law that the whole of Jerusalem was Israel's capital. In international law East Jerusalem is defined as territory occupied by Israel."

The chess tournament was held at the [Notre Dame Center](https://www.notredamecenter.com) just outside the Old City. The Notre Dame Center is approximately 1.1 miles away from the Ibis Styles in the direction of the Western Wall. It was an easy walk or short Uber ride between the two.



This event was the final leg of the FIDE Grand Prix Series. And this distinguished tournament featured the world's top chess players: **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** (Azerbaijan), **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave** (France), **Anish Giri** (Netherlands), **Sergey Karjakin** (Russia), **Yu Yangyi** (China), **Ian Nepomniachtchi** (Russia), **Veselin Topalov** (Bulgaria), **Dmitry Jakovenko** (Russia), **David Navara** (Czech Republic), **Radoslaw Wojtaszek** (Poland), **Wei Yi** (China), **Pentala Harikrishna** (India), **Boris Gelfand** (Israel), **Dmitry Andreikin** (Russia) and **Wang Hao** (China), and of course **Wesley So**.



I was able to meet International Arbiter Alon Shulman. I too am an International FIDE Arbiter, so this was fortuitous. This tournament was a knock-out event meaning that when you lose a match you are out of the tournament completely. Unfortunately, Wesley was knocked out in the second round, but this afforded me some free time. Now, although I'm not particularly religious, I was in Jerusalem, the home of the world's three major religions. Ergo, I decided to book a few travel adventures to supplement my chess experience.

The first tour I took began with a view of [Mount of Olives](#) outside the Old City.



From Wikipedia: "The *Mount of Olives* is a mountain ridge in East Jerusalem, east of and adjacent to Jerusalem's Old City. It is named for the olive groves that once covered its slopes. The western slopes have been used as a Jewish cemetery for over 3,000 years and holds approximately 150,000 graves, making it central in the tradition of Jewish cemeteries.

Several key events in the life of Jesus, as related in the *Gospels*, took place on the Mount of Olives, and in the *Acts of the Apostles* it is described as the place from which Jesus ascended to heaven. Because of its association with both Jesus and Mary, the mount has been a site of Christian worship since ancient times and is today a major site of pilgrimage for Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox, and Protestants."

As we made our way through the New Gate, we traveled to the Christian Quarter of the Old City. The first stop was at the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#) which houses the tomb of Jesus. This is considered the holiest of places in the world according to the Christian faith.



The next stop was the [Tower of David](#) which is actually in

the Armenian quarter at Jaffa Gate.



The Old City is a bit of a tourist trap. Several shops sell a variety of goods.



Eventually, we arrived at the [Western Wall](#). The Wall is considered the holiest place in which Jews are permitted to pray as it is just outside the presumed site of the *Holy of Holies*, the most sacred site in the Jewish faith.



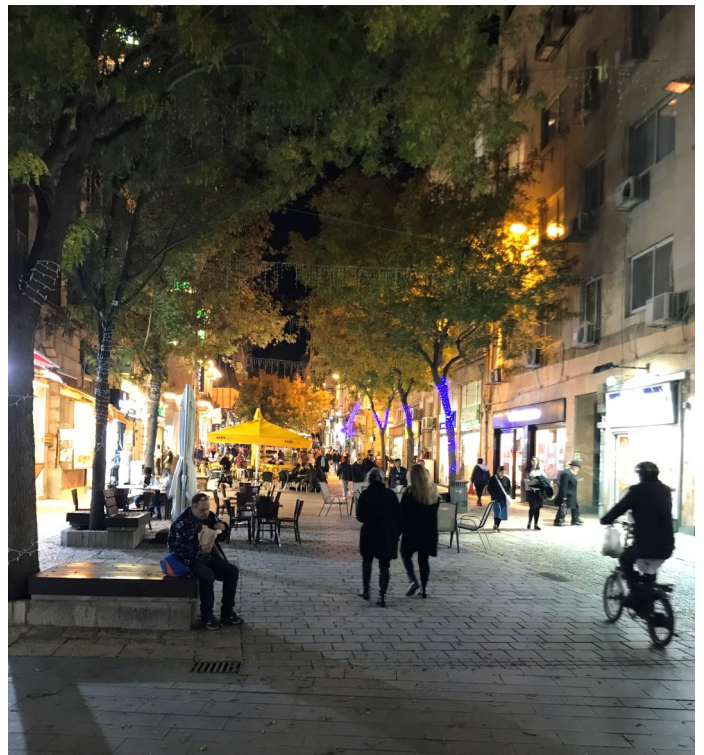
And here I am at the Western Wall.



The employees at the Ibis Hotel encouraged me to take the bus trip to the [Dead Sea](#) and [Masada](#). It turned out to be one of the most memorable days of my life. Masada is an ancient fort located on the eastern edge of the Judean Desert, overlooking the Dead Sea. The fort was built between 37 and 31 BC by Herod the Great.



I floated in the Dead Sea and Masada was incredible!



On the penultimate day of the trip, I had dinner with my friend [GM Victor Mikhalevski](#). I had met Victor in December of 2015. A mutual friend, GM Varuzhan Akobian, arranged a match between the two GMs sponsored and played at the Temecula Chess Club in Temecula California. Akobian won the match 3.5 to 0.5. I served as the arbiter for this match.

Then in June of 2016 GM Akobian, GM Mikhalevski, GM Tigran Petrosian, and FM Garush Manukyan competed in the Dream Nutrition Invitational II tournament held in Van Nuys, California. This event was a double round robin. GM Akobian and GM Mikhalevski tied for first place with 4.5 points each. I also served as the arbiter for this match.



Photo taken at the Dream Nutrition Invitational II tournament in 2016.

GM Mikhalevski won the Israeli Chess Championship in 2014. Other accomplishments include first at the Calvià Open in Majorca, Spain in October 2007, first in a category 12 invitational tournament in Montreal in 2005, a tied for first at the 2008 Canadian Open Chess Championship in Montreal, and many additional, lesser known tournaments.

GM Mikhalevski was born in Gomel, Belarus. He is married and has three children. He currently resides in Beer-sheba, Israel a bit over an hour South of Jerusalem.

Here are some random pictures from Jerusalem streets, not to be confused with inside the Old City. It was a wonderful trip and I look forward to returning!





The Queens' Corner

With Rachel Schechter



Sexual harassment is a serious issue found in all arenas and chess is no exception. Some things being done to address this issue in the Chess world are: implementation of the Safe Play Policy and the new, updated US Chess and FIDE Codes of Ethics.

We yield this issue's Queens' Corner to James Eade, American Chess Master, FIDE Master, renowned chess author, and president of the Eade Foundation—Chess Without Borders—for an inside, in depth and honest look into the matter.

Sex, Chess, and Safety By NM James Eade

The chess world has come face to face with allegations regarding sexual misconduct. It has been picked up by, for example, the Wall Street Journal: [“How Sexual Assault Allegations Against a U.S. Chess Grandmaster Went Unaddressed for Years”](#) and [“Chess World Splits Over Handling of Sexual Misconduct Allegations”](#). In addition, the reports of [chess.com cuts ties with ‘St. Louis Chess Club’ over sexual assault allegations](#) have been picked up as well.

Chess.com has also published a letter from a large group of women chess players who are denouncing the sexist behavior they have been subjected to: [‘We Have Remained Silent For Too Long’: Women Chess Players Denounce Sexist Behavior](#)

As a decades-long delegate to US Chess from Northern California, I became involved. (My background is outlined here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Eade.) I attended the Women's Committee meeting and Delegates' meeting held in August 2023 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I brought the subject up at the Women's Committee meeting and was perplexed at the lack of ownership expressed. It was almost as though I was the bad guy for bringing the issue up.

One of the Executive Board members present at the meeting displayed a rather arrogant attitude. When I mentioned that the announcement on the US Chess website that covered the bans on two players mentioned a third-party review but did not give any details, he stated that they “didn't have to.” Why would he think that? Is there some assumption of trust that he thinks the players owe the organization? A third party could mean anything. It turned out that it was a legal firm, but, even so, what constituted the review? Where was the report? And who provided input?

Fortunately, VP Kevin Pryor was also in attendance. He explained that they had made changes because of the complaints. An announcement of a hotline available to all was

made prior to the start of all rounds at national events. These announcements are an important change. TDs are going to be required to undergo something like sensitivity training to be more sensitive to these issues. (This evolved into Safe Play Policy).

It was reassuring to hear that the organization was taking steps to make women feel safer while playing in organized chess tournaments. The “boys will be boys” attitude must go. As I stated on the Delegates' floor, there is still a lot of work to do to make women feel that they have been heard on this issue. President Randy Bauer stated that this was a fair comment.

Of course this is not just a US Chess issue. I was on a panel discussion of the gender issue in FIDE. Women often feel that there is no reason to complain because nothing will be done. Worse, they fear it will get out that they complained, and then they will become the object of scorn, or worse, from others. (That panel discussion can be found [here](#)).

There are many reasons to want more women to play chess. The broader the base, the higher the peak of the pyramid will be. Chess should be open to all, and all should be treated equally. There have been many barriers to women participating in chess, but we can do better. Old bigotries and prejudices ought to be eliminated and not tolerated.

In the times we live in everyone is afraid of being sued for the slightest misstep. Organizations must have policies in place, make them known, and follow those policies (like the new US Chess and FIDE Ethics Codes). They must document the steps they take when following these public policies (like US Chess' Safe Play Policy). This is what modern organizations do to protect themselves, and it is time for the world of chess to catch up.