

and a missed check by his opponent in Round 4 meant that Perumalla would play Rohan Guduru in the final round. He got a good game from his Caro-Kann and finished 4-1, picking up \$325 as he tied with O'Brien for second - third.

While his family was battling away in the Under 1000, Russell was facing his own difficulties. These difficulties started with the other title player in the Open, and the winner of the Autumn Open, FM Dirk Troltenier. Russell managed a draw with Troltenier (a noteworthy upset and not the only one to deserve mention, as Swanik Gandhe (1184) beat Jeffrey Johnson (1928) and Akhil Kapalavayi (1157) drew Preston Ladson (1870) in the first round) Russell then upset Ladson, before losing to Johnson. He then beat another 1800, Roy, before ending the day with a half-point bye. His performance rating was over expert level, and he earned 188 rating points in a section with adults and strong players!



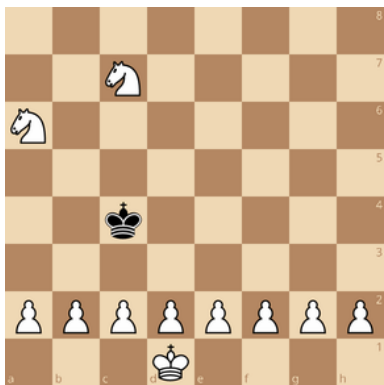
**The Unknown Chess Player - "Don't Worry We All have Games like That!" Photo by Nettem**

Many of a tournament director's responsibilities are not covered by the rulebook, especially when running events for small organizations where the roles of organizer and tournament director overlap. These include explaining ideas and rules to new parents, putting together the Swiss sys files for the tournament directors, corralling the kids when rounds are accelerated as they often are, keeping parents out of many of the playing spaces, taking pictures and handing out prizes. Nettem did all of that and more and was thus named head tournament director for the event by the organizer.

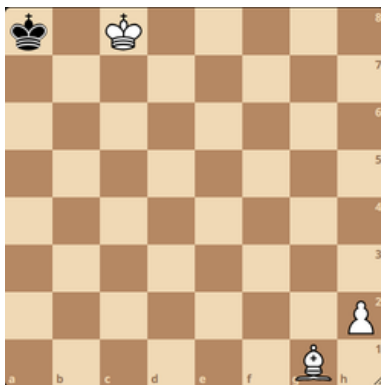
Results for these event can be found at - <https://ratings.uschess.org/event/202601311003>

## Retrograde Puzzles

In retrograde puzzles, you are given a position, and you usually have to figure out what the previous moves were or where a certain piece was. Can YOU solve these 4 puzzles?



In this chess game, where is the queen located so it can give checkmate on the next turn? Obviously, this game was played with only legal moves.



This position: Black played last. What was his last move, and what was White's last move?



How did this position arrive after exactly 4 moves for each side?



How did this position arrive after exactly 4 moves for each side?

Solutions on page 9