

**HOLIDAYS 2015**

**DOUBLE ISSUE**

# **Chess Horizons**



**Harold B. Dondis**

**1922 – 2015**



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### Chess Horizons

Holidays 2015  
Volume 47, #3-4

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*Cover photo: Harold Dondis  
Photo Courtesy Tony Cortizas*



## Note from the Editor

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Nathan Smolensky

Dear Readers,

Another issue, another long wait, and for that, I sincerely apologize. Work obligations for myself and my contributors have been difficult to manage, and my own change in address has led to some distraction and confusion – if you have been sending mail to my previous address in recent months, I could not receive it. To allay this problem, I will be using a P.O. Box, and I hope that it will allow me to better maintain correspondence – hearing from the readers is very important to me.

- Nathan Smolensky, Editor

### Annotation / Player Title Key

! – Strong move	!! – Brilliant move
? – Weak move	?? – Blunder
!?! – Interesting move	?! – Dubious move
± (♣) – White (Black) is slightly better	
± (♣) – White (Black) is significantly better	
+ - (-+) – White (Black) is winning	
∞ - Unclear	⊙ - Zugzwang
<b>NM</b> – National Master, any player over 2200 USCF	
<b>LM</b> – Life Master, permanently 2200+ USCF (may be due either to number of games played as master of 2400+ peak rating).	
<b>FM</b> – FIDE Master. 2300+ FIDE.	
<b>SM</b> – Senior Master. 2400+ USCF.	
<b>IM</b> – International Master. Norm-based FIDE title.	
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**Larry C.'s Chess Challenges**

GM Larry Christiansen

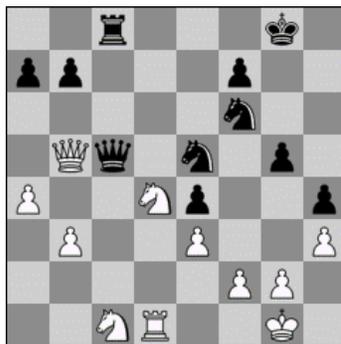
*Solutions on p. 46.*

1.



Black to move and win.

2.



Black to move and win.

3.



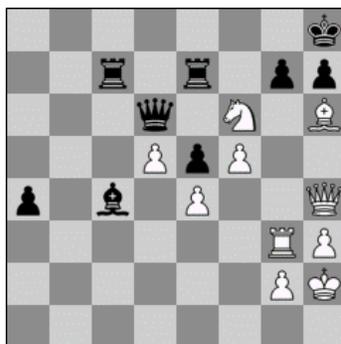
White to move and win.

4.



White to move and win.

5.



White to move and win.

6.



White to move and win.

**Chess Trivia: Second Careers!**

Nathan Smolensky

Match the famous player with his other career!

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10. Mikhail Botvinnik

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- c. Insurance agent
- d. Mathematician
- e. Engineer
- f. Farmer
- g. Psychologist
- h. Pianist
- i. Accountant
- j. Male model



## News in Brief

---

Nathan Smolensky

The 84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open was held May 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> in Marlborough. **GM Alexander Ivanov** won, incredibly, his 21<sup>st</sup> state title with an outright victory in his section. 236 players participated in the event, besting the recent high set in 2014.

The milestone 75<sup>th</sup> New England Open was held September 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Boxborough, and saw its Championship section split by **FM Steven Winer** and **FM Mika Brattain**. 131 players participated in the adult events, while an impressive 94 came for the booming scholastic offering.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Greater Boston Open, held in Marlborough on October 18<sup>th</sup>, saw five players tie for first in the top section with 3.5 points out of a possible four. 2014 co-champions **GM Alexander Ivanov** and **NM Michael Vilenchuk**, **FM Steven Winer**, **NM Michael Chen**, and **Joseph Perl** – who gained over 60 rating points for his strong outing – shared the top prize. 110 people attended the tournament.

December 6<sup>th</sup> saw the H.N. Pillsbury Memorial in Marlborough. **IM David Vigorito** and **NM Alex Cherniack** tied for tops in the top section in the 73-person event.

At the Fall Team Tournament on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in Boxborough, the team from **Newton South High School** – **Alan Sikarov**, **James Rao**, **Nicholas Komarovsky**, and **Samuel Burnham** took first in the K-12 section. The K-6 was taken by “Rook and Roll” – **Krishna Mutnuri**, **Meghana Kancharla**, **Arjun Girish**, and **Venkatraman Varatharajan**. And for the K-3 section was **BCCUW** – **Joshua**

**Verhoest, Hernan FitzGerald-Lara, Henri Medernach, and Isabella Sawicka.**

In individual achievements, Andover superstar **NM Carissa Yip** broke 2300 on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Boylston Chess Club. She also tied for first, losing on tiebreakers, at the Under 12 section of the World Youth Chess Championships held in Greece in November.

A three day stretch in December saw the passing of not only Massachusetts icon Harold Dondis, who is discussed later in the issue, but of Stephen Brandwein, who passed away in San Francisco on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the age of 73. Brandwein rose to prominence as a chess master in Boston in the 1960’s, but had been living out west for some decades.



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## Remembering Harold Dondis

---

Christopher Chase



*This article originally appeared in the Boston Globe, as part of Mr. Dondis' and FM Chase's regular chess column there.*

Harold Dondis, the longtime co-writer of this column, has died at the age of 93. On Dec. 10, Harold suffered a heart attack at the Boylston Chess Club, while playing the game he loved. With his passing, we have not only lost this column's writer of more than 50 years, but the chess community has lost a great benefactor, and I have lost a wonderful friend.

Harold Dondis was a key founding member of the US Chess Trust, a nonprofit fund-raiser for chess. He was also involved in the development of the US Chess Hall of Fame, now at the St. Louis Chess Club in Missouri. He has been a longtime member and financial supporter of the Boylston Chess Club.

Harold would say that his greatest chess accomplishment was his 1964 triumph over a young Bobby Fisher in a Fitchburg simul in which he caught Fischer in an opening trap. The standing-room-only crowd was so

impressed that they carried Harold out of the playing room on their shoulders. Harold was a frequent traveler to chess events throughout the United States and across the globe. He was in Reykjavik during the run-up to the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match, where he tried to help the Fischer camp in their negotiations. His role, he told me, was essentially just to answer the phone, but at some point in the chaos of trying to persuade Fischer to play, he feared that an angry, rampaging Fischer was going to punch him.

Besides loving chess, Harold was a great baseball fan, supporting at first the St. Louis Cardinals and then the Boston Red Sox. Recently, he started rooting for the New England Patriots.

Harold was born in Rockland, Maine, in 1922. He and his family suffered though the Great Depression, which left an indelible mark on him. He was educated in the Rockland public schools, at Bowdoin College (class of 1943), and at Harvard Law School (class of 1945). His first job out of law school in 1945 was at the Boston firm of Rich, May, Bilodeau and Flaherty, where he rose to senior partner and remained for his entire legal career. Among his great legal accomplishments was the honor of arguing a case before the US Supreme Court. His professionalism was so great that he was still working at the firm until the day he died. And I am sure that he would want this mentioned: He never missed a deadline for this column!

Rest in peace, Harold.

*Photo courtesy Tony Cortizas*



## *Club Spotlight* **NESSP Kids' Chess**

---

Nagendranath Natti

*When the SCS made its debut in the 2013-2014 season, I noticed a surge in activity from an affiliate I did not recognize. What was NESSP, and how was it putting together so many successful events? Now, chess parent and organizer Nagendranath Natti tells the story of chess at the New England Shirdi Sai Parivaar temple, an exemplar of local youth-oriented programming.*

NESSP Kids' Chess was started in June 2013, to provide a playground for elementary school chess players in Chelmsford and neighboring towns. This is part of the many charity activities led by NESSP. Registration is open to all, and there is no entry fee. Participating players can choose to make a voluntary contribution of any charity item like food or clothing which are donated to various organizations in need, or to area schools.

In its early days, as interest levels grew, the group began getting help from some of the older / higher rated players. And then we felt the need for a regular trainer, and to offer training programs. The group currently holds two meetings a week, on Friday nights and on Sunday mornings.

Training programs are offered round the school year for players of all levels, again on an entirely non-profit basis. Some of our trainer profiles include a former US Amateur Women's Champion, a Class A player. The training programs include classroom lessons, puzzle sessions, and mini tournaments.

To provide a forum for the players who got training in the NESSP programs, the concept of starting USCF rated tournaments took shape. At the time of writing, on

average, NESSP has been conducting one rated tournament per month, attended by around 30 players on average.

The unique feature of NESSP tournaments is that each and every event is volunteer-driven, and non-profit. Right from setting up chairs and tables, to post-event cleanup, all event-tasks are handled by players' parents. All the entry fees collected (after deducting costs), are redistributed to the players in terms of school supplies, gifts, chess equipment or free entries to upcoming events. We even serve a free pizza lunch to all the players and accompanying family members, at no extra charge, for all our events.

NESSP's chess kids have been consistently playing and winning trophies in many of New England's prestigious scholastic events, including the Hurvitz Cup, MA Open, NE Open, Spiegel Cup, etc. Internally, we run an annual chess Grand Prix, awarding trophies to the top three players in NESSP events.

NESSP also holds a Kids.vs.SeniFors Chess event at a nearby senior center, which has been successfully running since April 2014. The center supports the kids' interest in chess and the parents make a contribution the Senior center. This is one chess tournament where the whole town wins!

NESSP's temple plans for the future include moving to a fully owned premises in Littleton by summer 2016. The new location will be a \$ 10 million, 28-acre facility, including a 500 seat hall, which obviously means a lot more chess to come.

NESSP is all about kids, having fun, playing chess.... don't move until you see it!

*More info can be found at [www.nessp.org](http://www.nessp.org)*



*2015 Mass Open Best Games*  
**U1500: Cao - Sigman**

FM David Griego

**Joy Cao (1138)**

**David Sigman (1346)**

**84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (4)**

**05.24.2015**

**Pirc (B08)**

**1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7  
 5. Bc4**

Sort of a mix of lines. Usually with Bc4, white delays or omits Nf3 and plays Qe2. And of course 5. Be2 here is an old Karpov specialty.

**5... O-O 6. O-O a6?!**

Looks a bit out of place here - the tried and true tactic 6... Nxe4 7. Nxe4 (7. Bxf7+ Rxf7 8. Nxe4 h6 is also fine for black) 7... d5 8. Bd3 dxe4 9. Bxe4 Nd7 is about equal.

**7. Re1**

Going into "punish mode" with 7. e5!? looks tempting, after dxe5 (7... Ne8 8. Qe2) 8. dxe5 Qxd1 9. Rxd1 looks attractive, although 9... Ng4 10. Nd5 Nc6 may not be so bad for Black, due to the pressure on e5. For example: 11. Nxc7 Ra7 12. a4 Ngxe5 (or 12... b5!? which is quite messy). 7. Qe2 is a natural move which should be somewhat better for White.

**7... b5 8. Bb3 Bb7 9. a3**

Unnecessarily meek. 9. e5! is even stronger here when compared to the previous note: dxe5 10. dxe5 Qxd1 11. Rxd1 Ng4 12. e6!, now possible with the bishop on b7, seems unpleasant.

**9... Nc6**

9... c5! is both natural and good

**10. Nd5**

10. e5 again looks strong

**10... e6 11. Nxf6+ Bxf6 12. d5 Ne5**

12... Na5! chasing the bishop and not worrying about the loss of a pawn looks fine for black: 13. dxe6 (13. Ba2 exd5 14. exd5 Re8 offers Black some counterplay)

13... Nxb3 14. exf7+ Rxf7 15. cxb3 Qd7 clearly offers excellent compensation due to open lines and two strong bishops.

**13. dxe6**

13. Nxe5 is a more precise order.

**13... fxe6?**



13... Nxf3+ 14. Qxf3 fxe6 15. Bxe6+ Kh8 appears to give more play for the pawn, and is similar to the game.

**14. Bxe6+?**

It's tempting to just grab the pawn, but the bishop on e6 looks merely strong. A knight appearing on that square, on the other hand, is a different story. Thus, 14. Nd4! is nearly decisive for white: Qe7 15. Nxe6 Rf7

16. Nf4 Nc4 17. Nd5 +-

**14... Kg7 15. Nxe5 Bxe5 16. Qg4?**

It's sometimes the case that after winning material, you begin to realize the position isn't all that great. This looks like one of those positions, and it's easy in such situations to lose your bearings and make an immediate error.

16. Bd5 offers to exchange a strong piece:

- 16... Bxd5!? is ambitious: 17. exd5 (17. Qxd5?? Bxh2+ 18. Kxh2 Qh4+ 19. Kg1



Qxf2+ and the rook is dropping with check) 17... Qf6 offers some compensation (17... Bxh2+ is a draw).

- Bxh2+ is an immediate perp: 17. Kxh2 Qh4+ 18. Kg1 Qxf2+ 19. Kh2 Qh4+

## 16... Bc8?

Very passive. There is no need to retreat a well-placed piece, and this also helps White solve the problem of poor piece coordination. 16... Qf6! makes things very awkward for White. Aside from the attack on f2 (and b2), the queen is tied to the defense of the problem e6 bishop: 17. Be3 (17. f3 might look normal, but 17... h5 18. Qh3 Rae8 19. Bb3 Bc8!+- is now decisive.) 17... h5 18. Qh3 Rae8 and the counterattack is rolling.

**17. Bxc8 Rxc8 18. Bg5 Qe8 19. c3 Qc6**

## 20. Re3

The counterplay has dissipated, and white is now safely up a pawn. 20. f4!? looks even stronger, as Bf6 21. Bxf6+ forces Kxf6.

## 20... Qc5 21. Bh4

21. Qd7+ Kh8 22. Be7 Rg8 leaves Black seriously uncoordinated.

## 21... Rce8 22. Qd7+ Kg8 23. Rh3?!

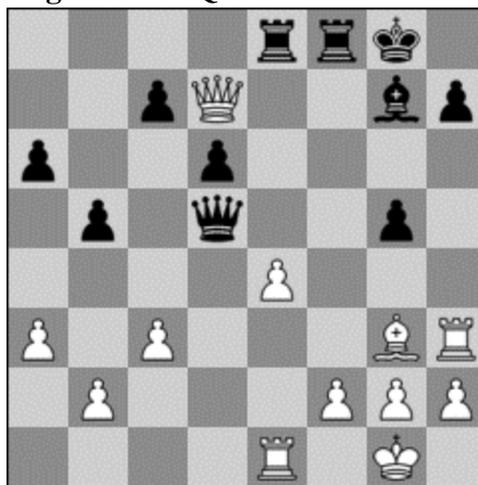
Unless a move like this is connected to a knockout blow, it's not a great idea to put the rook out of play in this manner. It's possible that White decided against 23. Be7 due to Bxh2+ but 24. Kh1! +- spoils all the fun (if 24. Kxh2 Qe5+ 25. Kg1 Rxe7, Black regains the pawn with at least equal chances).

## 23... g5 24. Bg3

24. Bxg5?? loses immediately to Qxf2+ 25. Kh1 Qf1+. 24. b4 is a very clever in-between move which the computer suggests. The very subtle idea is to deflect the queen away from access to e5. 24... Qb6 (24... Qc4 25. Bxg5 Qxe4 26. Bh6 Re7!? 27. Qxe7 Bxh2+ 28. Kxh2 Qxe7 29. Rg3+ Kh8 30. Bxf8 Qxf8 31. Re1 is also easily

winning for white) 25. Rf1! gxh4 26. Rxh4 and black has no way to defend h7. If Bg7, then 27. Rg4+-. Finally, 24. Rf1 without b4 doesn't work: 24... gxh4 25. Rxh4 Bg7 26. Rg4 Qe5!

## 24... Bg7 25. Re1 Qd5!?



Quite an interesting and creative way to generate some counterplay. Aside from the fact the queen can't be taken, the idea is to stir up some trouble with ....Qd2.

## 26. Qg4 Qd2 27. f3 h6 28. Qd7 Rc8?

28... Qxb2! would have been the consistent follow-up. A somewhat forced variation is 29. Qxc7 Qxa3 30. Bxd6 Qxc3! 31. Qxc3 Bxc3 32. Bxf8 Bxe1 Here Black is losing all of his king-side pawns, but the 2 he has on the queenside look very fast: 33. Bxh6 b4 34. Bxg5 Bc3! (not 34... b3? 35. Bf6) and Black looks like he's close to winning

## 29. Qe6+ Kh7 30. Qb3 Rf6 31. Rb1!?

It's tempting to say..."A computer move!" Certainly not the first move to come to mind, but there is a clear idea of evicting the queen with Qd1. 31. Rd1 Qe2 32. Bf2 Rcf8 and the rook out of play on h3 continues to cause issues for White.

## 31... Rcf8 32. Qd1 Qe3+?

White's plan beginning with 31.Rb1!? looks very good now. 32... Qxd1+ 33. Rxd1 Re6 with the idea of ....g4 gives more play.



**33. Bf2 Qf4 34. Bg3 Qe3+ 35. Bf2 Qf4 36. Rg3!**

White is absolutely correct playing on here.

**36... c5 37. b3?**

Having played the last series of moves very well, White starts to go wrong. It's difficult to say what plan this move puts in motion, as it mainly seems to weaken the queenside.

37. Rg4 would be the consistent continuation, and looks very good for White: 37... Qe5 38. h4! is very direct, but it gets the job done. 38. Bg3 Qe7 39. e5!? dxe5 40. Qc2+ Kh8 41. Re1 also looks nice.

**37... Qe5 38. Rc1 h5 39. Qd5?**

The exchange of queens hurts White now. After 39. Be3 g4 40. Qd3 White keeps a certain amount of control.

**39... Qxd5 40. exd5 Bh6**

Not bad, but the direct 40... Rf5 looks simpler. This also underscores the problem with 37.b3?, as the rook can't defend both d5 and c3 now (41. Rd1 Bxc3+).

**41. Be3 Rf5 42. Re1**

42. Rd1 Re8, followed by either 43. Kf2 Rfe5 or 43. Bf2 Re2 (43... Bg7), gives the initiative to Black.

**42... Re5 43. Kf2 Rxd5 44. Ke2?!**

44. Bc1 gets out of the way of the potential pin on the e-file.

**44... Re8 45. Rh3??**

45. Kf1 Rd3 46. Bd2! is tricky, and it is White's best chance to save the game. 46... Rxe1+ 47. Kxe1 (47. Bxe1 Rd1+) 47... d5 still leaves White with a tough defense ahead.

**45... Rxe3+!**

Very accurate, and winning. 45... g4? is the wrong order, as 46. fxg4 defends the bishop on e3.

**46. Kxe3 g4+ 47. Ke4 Re5+!**

The final precise move. Black is now just up a piece, and wins handily.

**48. Kd3 gxh3**

And now the ugly duckling rook on h3, stuck there since move 23, is gone! 48... Rxe1 49. Rxh5 gxf3 50. gxf3 Re3+ also wins.

**49. Rxe5 dxe5 50. gxh3 Kg6 51. c4 Kf5 52.**

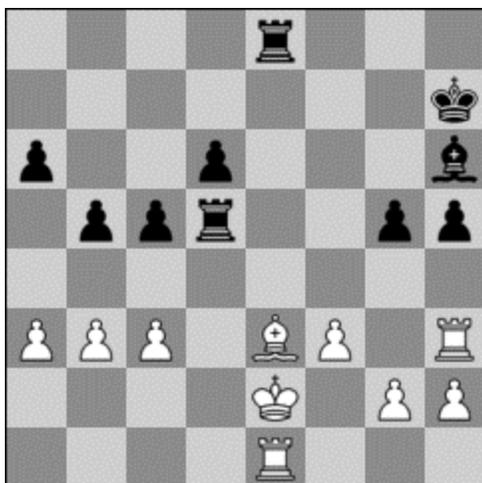
**b4 cxb4 53. axb4 bxc4+ 54. Kxc4 Kf4**

**55. Kc5 Kxf3 56. Kb6 Be3+ 57. Kxa6 e4**

**58. b5 Bd4 59. b6 Bxb6 60. Kxb6 e3**

**0-1**

*This game was one of four winners of the annual Most Interesting Game prize at the Massachusetts Open, as selected by judge FM David Griego. A key match between two of the eventual top scorers in the Under 1500 section (Sigman finished tied for first with five points out of six, while Cao tied for sixth with 4/6 and a substantial rating boost), this is the first such highlighted match. Look out for the other winners throughout the issue.*





## 2015 Mass Open Best Games U1800: Xu - Brodsky

FM David Griego

**Bernie Xu (1519)**

**Erik Brodsky (1751)**

**84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (5)**

**05.25.2015**

**QGD – Semi-Slav (D43)**

**1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6  
5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 dxc4 7. e4 g5 8. Bg3 b5**

A very topical line at the highest levels for at least the last decade.

**9. a4**

Quite rare, and perhaps for good reason. Heavy duty theory lines include 9. Be2, 9. Ne5, 9. h4, and 9. e5 which can also arise via the 5...dxc4 6. e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3!? order.

**9... Bb4?!**

9... b4 should be the most critical test.

Following 10. Na2:

- 10... Ba6!? looks like a good alternative to taking more material. 11. Ne5 (11. e5 Nd5 0-1 (25) Kamrukov, A - Krasnov, Y (2055), Novosibirsk 2008; 11. Be5 Nbd7 0-1 (25) Misovic, S (1945) - Hitter, G (2026), Busevec 2009) 11... Nbd7!? 12. Nxc6 (12. Nxc4 Bxc4 13. Bxc4 Nxe4; 12. Bxc4 Bxc4 13. Nxc4 Nxe4) 12... Qb6 is good for Black.
- 11. Be5 Nf6 12. Bxc4 Nbd7 13. O-O gave White some compensation in Cori Tello, D (2361)-Paikidze, N (2279), Puerto Madryn 2009 1-0 (48).

**10. Qc2 Qa5?!**

Looks risky, and usually not a great idea in this sort of position. If White gets castled quickly, axb5 will be a very unpleasant

threat. 10... Nbd7 or 10... Bb7 both seem better.

**11. Be2!?**

Interesting, as it gives up more material for a large lead in development. However, 11. Nd2! defends everything, and prepares Be2 and 0-0, setting up axb5:

- 11... Bb7 12. Be2 (or 12. h4!?)
- 11... Nbd7 12. Be2 Bb7 13. O-O and now Qb6 is virtually forced. 14. e5 (14. Rfd1!?) 14... Nd5 15. Nde4 leaves White up a tempo in a sharp position, due to ...Qa5-b6.

**11... Nxe4 12. O-O Nxc3**

12... Bxc3? 13. Qxe4 is a disaster: 13... Bxb2 14. Rab1 c3 15. Bxb8!? (15. Ne5 playing for a direct attack is probably even better.) 15... Rxb8 16. Qe5+- is an unusual forking tactic.

12... Nxc3 13. hxc3 also looks like a ton of compensation.

**13. bxc3 Bxc3 14. Rac1**

OK... so it's 3 full pawns, but it looks extremely dangerous for Black. Over the board, it's very difficult to navigate through even a few moves without landing in trouble. 14. Rad1!? could also be considered.

Since White apparently doesn't mind giving up material, even 14. Ra3!? b4 15. Rxc3! bxc3 16. Ne5 could be tried. Looks pretty terrifying for Black, actually!

**14... Bb4?**

And black immediately goes wrong. 14... b4 15. Ne5 Qd8 (Black can't allow Nxc4-d6+ with the king still on e8) 16. Nxc4 O-O and now White should put a piece on d6, although it's tough to say which one is correct:

- 17. Nd6 Ba6 (17... Bxd4 18. Qe4 looks very dangerous) 18. Nxf7!? Rxf7 19. Qg6+ Rg7 20. Qxe6+ Kh7 21. Qe4+



Kg8 is a possible line ending in a perpetual.

- 17. Bd6 Ba6 (17... Re8 18. Bh5! threatens the decisive Bxf7+ Qd7 19. Ne5+-) 18. Bxf8 Qxf8 19. Ne5 Bxd4∞ and Black should be reasonably happy here.

## 15. axb5 Qxb5 16. Bxc4 Qb6



## 17. Be5

Not bad, but 17. d5! blows the position apart with decisive effect: 17... exd5 (17... cxd5 18. Bxd5 Bb7 19. Bxb7 Qxb7 20. Qc8+ wins everything) 18. Bxd5 and the black king is stuck in the center with no defense. Of course if 18... O-O, 19. Qg6+ follows.

## 17... O-O 18. Bd3?

Threatens mate, but definitely not incisive enough. Both 18. Bf6!? with the idea of 18... Nd7? 19. Bxe6 and the ultra-direct 18. h4 seem more to the point: If 18... g4 19. Nh2 f5 20. Nxg4, everything is collapsing around the black king.

## 18... f5

This looks safest. 18... f6 19. Bh7+ (19. Ba6!? is a very creative, silicon idea, which looks super strong after 19... f5 20. Bxc8 Rxc8 21. d5!) 19... Kh8 20. Qg6 fxe5 21. Qxh6 looks crushing, but maybe it's not so clear: 21... Qc7 22. Nxg5 (22. Nxe5?? Qxh7 23. Ng6+ Kg8-+ as the

bishop defends f8; 22. Be4+ Kg8) 22... Qg7)

## 19. Rb1 a5 20. Qb2?! Qa7

20... Nd7 followed by ...Ba6 starts to dry up White's compensation.

## 21. d5?

Looks like a wild swing... 21. Rfc1 still gives reasonable compensation

## 21... cxd5?!

Seems illogical. 21... exd5 keeps the c-file closed, and it's hard to say what the follow-up is. If 22. Nd4 c5+ with the black queen always having access to the kingside for defensive purposes.

## 22. Rfc1 Nd7?

Now the black queen gets a bit cut off (see the comment to the previous note). 22... Qe7 23. Rc7 Nd7 and anything is possible:

23... Bd7 24. Nd4∞

## 23. Rc7 Qb6 24. Rbc1 Bc5



Hard to suggest something here. 24... Nxe5 25. Qxe5 Rf7 26. Rxf7 Kxf7 27. Rc7+ Be7 28. Nd4 offers White too many threats.

## 25. Bb5??

Missing 25. R1xc5! Qxb2 26. Bxb2 winning at least a piece, as 26... Nxc5 27. Rg7+ Kh8 28. Rxg5+ Kh7 29. Rg7+ Kh8 30. Nh4 has mate coming.

## 25... Bxf2+!

The best chance

## 26. Kh1



26. Qxf2 Qxb5 27. Bd4 still gives Black a lot of problems. Qe3 will not only threaten e6, but Nxc5 as well: 27... Qb4 28. Qe3 Qe7 looks forced, and 29. Bc5 wins material without slowing the attack down.

### 26... g4

26... Rb8 is forced, and maybe then black is defending: 27. Bh8 e5 (27... Rf7 28. Rxc8+) 28. Bxe5 Qxb5 29. Qxf2 Nxe5 30. Nxe5 Qb2 31. R1c6 Qxf2 32. Rg6+ =

### 27. Bxd7??

27. R1c6! Qe3 28. Rxe6 breaks through decisively: 28... gxf3 29. Rg6+ Kf7 30. Rg7+ Ke8 (30... Ke6 31. Rc6#) 31. Rxc8+ Rxc8 32. Bxd7+ Kd8 33. Bf6+ Kc7 34. Bxc8+ and many mating ideas loom.

### 27... Qxb2 28. Bxb2 Bxd7 29. Ne5 Be8?

29... Be3! 30. Rxd7 (30. Re1 Rfb8) 30... Bxc1 31. Bxc1 Rfb8 when the 2 pieces are no match for the rook and mass of pawns, especially the guy on the outside. 29... Rab8 should also be winning.

### 30. Nxc4!

White immediately capitalizes on his chance.

### 30... fxc4 31. Rg7+ Kh8 32. Rcc7

Threatens mate in 2, and looks winning except for:

### 32... Bd4!



A great resource! Was this really foreseen back at move 29?

### 33. Bxd4?

Tough to keep one's bearings (and objectivity) here, but taking the perpetual with 33. Rh7+ Kg8 34. Rcg7+ Bxg7 35. Rxg7+ Kh8 36. Rxg4+ was necessary.

### 33... Rf1+ 34. Bg1 Rf7?

34... Rb8 looks logical, and (maybe!) winning for Black: 35. Rh7+ Kg8 36. Rcg7+ (36. Rhg7+ Kf8 37. Rh7 Rf7) 36... Kf8 37. Ra7 Rf7 (37... Bf7 38. Raxf7+ Rxf7 39. Rh8+ Ke7 40. Rxb8) 38. Rh8+ Kg7 39. Bd4+ Kg6 40. Rg8+ Kh5! and now (40... Kf5 41. Rxf7+) 41. Rxf7? isn't check. so (41. h3) 41... Rb1+ 42. Bg1 Bxf7 wins easily; 34... e5! is safer and best, shutting down any funny business on the long, dark squared diagonal. 35. Rh7+ Kg8 36. Rhg7+ Kf8 37. Rh7 Rf7 is clearly winning.

### 35. Rxf7 Bxf7 36. Bd4 Rb8?

Now Black is the one who should be taking the draw with 36... e5 37. Bxe5 Re8 38. Rg5+ Kh7 (38... Rxe5 39. Rxe5 Kg7 isn't a legitimate winning idea, as 40. Re7 followed by Ra7 only gives White chances) 39. Rg7+ Kh8 40. Rg5+ is again a draw.

### 37. Rxg4+ Kh7 38. Rg7+ Kh8 39. Rxf7+ Kg8 40. Rg7+ Kf8 41. h3

41. g3! is better 41... Rb4 42. Bf6 gives White good winning chances.

### 41... Rb4! 42. Rg4

42. Bf6 Rf4. This is the big difference between 41. g3 and 41. h3. 43. Be5 Re4 gives Black an unusual "perp" by menacing the bishop on all squares of the diagonal.

### 42... Kf7 43. Rf4+?!

43. g3± or 43. Kg1± seem more productive, with White retaining good winning chances.

### 43... Kg6 44. Rg4+? Kf5

The last few moves just allowed Black to activate his king "for free".

### 45. Rh4 e5



45... a4 46. g4+ Kg6 47. Bc5 Rb3 48. Bf8 should also be equal.

**46. g4+ Kf4 47. Bc3 Rb3 48. Bxa5 Kg3**

48... Kf3! immediately forces a draw, as White has no way to escape the checks on b1 and b2.

**49. Be1+ Kf3 50. Rxh6 Rb1 51. Rf6+ Ke3!**

51... Ke2? isn't good as 52. g5 Rxe1+ 53. Kg2 Ra1 54. g6 Ra8 55. h4 d4 56. h5 d3 57. g7 d2 (57... Rg8 58. h6) 58. Rd6 wins.

**52. Rf1 Ke2 53. Kg2 d4?**

Black has to go for the queen ending after 53... Rxe1 54. Rxe1+ Kxe1 55. g5 d4 56. g6 d3 57. g7 d2 58. g8Q d1Q 59. Qg3+ Kd2 (59... Ke2?? 60. Qxe5+ Kd3 61. Qd5+ Kc2 62. Qxd1+) 60. Qxe5 Qc2!= which is a tablebase draw, but there are of course practical chances for White.

**54. Rf2+! Ke3**

Of course the bishop is untouchable:

54... Kxe1 55. Rf1+ Kd2 56. Rxb1

**55. Bd2+**

55. Kf1 seems a little safer, as the black king is cut off from the pawns, and the d2 square will always be under lock and key: 55... d3 56. g5 e4 57. g6 Rb7 58. h4+-

**55... Kd3 56. g5 e4 57. g6?**

57. Bf4! e3 58. Rf1 Rb2+ (58... Rxf1

59. Kxf1 Kd2 60. g6 Kd1 61. Bg3) 59. Kf3 still wins.

**57... Rb6**

57... e3 58. Bxe3 dxe3 59. Rf3 (59. g7?? exf2 60. Kxf2 Rb8 is unfortunate)

59... Rb2+=

**58. Kf1 e3 59. Bxe3**

59. g7 Rb1+ 60. Kg2 exf2 61. Kxf2 Rb8 62. Bf4=

**59... dxe3**



**60. Rg2??**

OH NO!!! Definitely not a good time to follow the rule, "Rooks belong behind passed pawns!" A draw was still available via 60. Rf7 Rb1+ (60... Rxg6 61. Rd7+ Ke4 62. Re7+ Kf3 63. Rf7+=) 61. Kg2 e2 62. Rd7+ Kc4! (62... Kc3 63. Re7 e1Q 64. Rxe1 Rxe1 65. g7 Re8 66. Kf3 Kd4 67. Kf4 and white draws by a hair) 63. g7 (63. Re7?? now loses, as the black king position has been improved by one square 63... e1Q 64. Rxe1 Rxe1 65. g7 Re8-) 63... Rg1+ (63... e1Q?? 64. g8Q+ and black will get mated) 64. Kxg1 e1Q+ 65. Kg2, provided White doesn't drop his rook somehow.

**60... Rb1#**

Despite the very unfortunate ending, a truly amazing battle, showing great fighting spirit from both sides.

**0-1**



## 2015 Mass Open Best Games U2100: Brand - Keegan

FM David Griego

**Stijn Brand (1944)**

**Thomas P. Keegan (1840)**

**84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (3)**

**05.24.2015**

**Queen's Pawn Game (D02)**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 g6 3. e3 d5 4. Nf3 Nbd7  
5. Nbd2 Bg7 6. Be2 O-O 7. Ne5 Nxe5  
8. Bxe5 Nd7**

Certainly not bad, although it looks a little accommodating. 8... Bh6?! is a strange (and probably dubious) looking move, admittedly stolen from a common Queen's Indian motif, with colors reversed. The idea is to evict the bishop on e5 with ...Nd7, and then regrouping and going for an eventual... e5. 9. O-O (9. h4!? Nd7 10. Bg3 also might give black second thoughts about his creativity) Nd7 10. Bg3 c5 (10... Re8 11. c4) 11. c3 Bg7 12. Qb3!?!± 8... c6 is probably best and normal 9. O-O Qb6 10. Rb1 Bf5 and black has no problems.

**9. Bxg7 Kxg7 10. Nf3**

It seems more aggressive to take a shot at the center with 10. c4 or maybe even a "head shot" with 10. h4!?

**10... c6 11. O-O f6?!**

This is connected to an ambitious but faulty plan of playing ...e5 quickly. 11... Qc7 is much more solid.

**12. c4 e5?!**

The incorrect plan continues. 12... dxc4 13. Bxc4 Nb6 14. Bb3 Bg4 is only very slightly better for white.

**13. cxd5 e4**

13... cxd5 14. Qb3 (14. dxe5 Nxe5 15. Nd4± {is good for an edge as well, as the IQP position is worse than normal with the weakness on e6) e4 15. Nd2 transposes

**14. Nd2 cxd5 15. Qb3±**

The resulting position is just quite a bit better for white, somewhat like a reversed French with many advantages.

The d5 pawn isn't that easy to defend, white doesn't have the traditional bad bishop, and the c-file will soon be under his control.

**15... Nb6**

15... Qa5 16. Nb1!? is a regrouping which would be familiar to French Defense players. 16... Nb6 17. Nc3±

**16. Rac1?!**

16. a4 looks more ambitious. 16... a5 17. Rfc1 and white's initiative is growing smoothly. Rc5 is on the way, and the weakness on b5 and a5 only helps white.

**16... Be6?**



Seems like a tactical oversight. 16... Qd6 17. a4 (17. Rc5 Bd7 18. Rfc1 Rfc8 is also manageable.) 17... Bd7 18. a5 Nc8 19. Qxb7 Rb8 20. Qc7 Rxb2 offers a good amount of counterplay for black.

**17. Nxe4! dxe4 18. Qxe6 Re8 19. Qb3 Re7  
20. Rc5 Rc8 21. Rfc1**

So white is pretty much "routinely" up a pawn, and it's hard to imagine where black's counterplay will appear.



**21... Rxc5 22. Rxc5**

22. dxc5 Nd7 23. Qa4 a6 24. Qd4 looks totally dominating for white as well.

**22... Rc7**

It's understandable that black fears white doubling on the c-file, but an exchange of rooks will only lead to suffering.

**23. Qc2**

23. Rxc7+ Qxc7 24. Qe6 (24. Qc3? isn't so good due to Qxc3 25. bxc3 Nd5 26. c4 Nc3) 24... Qc1+ 25. Bf1 Qxb2 26. Qe7 Kg8 27. Qxe4 Qxa2 28. Qxb7+-

**23... Re7!**

Understanding his mistake from the previous move, White finds the best fighting chance. It's often not so easy to admit an error in this manner! 23... Rxc5 24. dxc5 Nd7 is equivalent to rolling over: both 25. b4 f5 26. Qc3+ +- and 25. c6 Qc7 26. Qxe4 +- (25... bxc6 26. Qxc6 doesn't help) lead to a quick victory for White.

**24. Bc4 f5**

24... Nd7 25. Rb5 b6 puts the rook in an awkward situation. Black could consider undertaking some kingside action after this refinement.

**25. g3**

Not so bad, and it's understandable wanting to hold up ...f4. However, this does give black a future target for an attack. 25. Bb3 f4 26. Qc3 +- keeps everything under control for White.

**25... h5 26. Bb3 h4 27. a4 hxg3 28. hxg3 Kf6!**

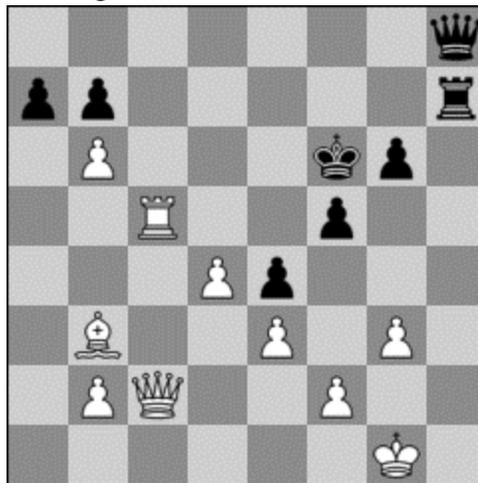
We've probably entered the "Hail Mary" portion of the game now. Black manages to set White some serious problems using an aesthetically pleasing configuration of his forces.

**29. a5 Rh7!**

Again the best chance. 29... Nd7 30. Rc7 Rh7 31. Rxb7 Qh8 32. Qc6+ Kg5 33. f4+

Kg4 (33... exf3 34. Qxf3 and the queen covers h1) 34. Bd1+ mates soon.

**30. axb6 Qh8**



**31. Kf1**

Absolutely forced. 31. Rc6+ doesn't work here: 31... Kg5! (31... bxc6 32. Qxc6+ Kg5 33. f4+ exf3 34. Qxf3) 32. Kf1 bxc6 +-

**31... Rh1+ 32. Ke2 Qh3 33. Kd2!**

Again completely forced! Vacating c2 for the king still walks into mate: 33. Qc4?? Qf1+ 34. Kd2 Qe1+ 35. Kc2 Qc1#

**33... Qf1 34. Kc3!**

Again 34. Qc4?? Qe1+ 35. Kc2 Qc1#. 34. Qd1 Qd3+ 35. Kc1 Rxd1+ 36. Bxd1 axb6 isn't good either.

**34... axb6 35. Re5 Qa1 36. Kb4 Rc1**

**37. Qd2 Kg5**

After a series of perfect defensive moves by White, the attack has now run out of steam. A final gasp try would have been the pseudo-interference (and slick looking!) idea 37... Rc5!? hoping for 38. dxc5?? (38. Rxc5 bxc5+ 39. dxc5 is of course the end) 38... Qa5+ 39. Kc4 b5+ 40. Kd5 Qxd2#.

**38. Rb5 Rc6 39. d5 Rc5 40. Rxc5 bxc5+ 41. Kxc5 Qa7+ 42. Kb4 b6 43. Qd4 Qa5+ 44. Kc4 b5+ 45. Kc5 b4+ 46. Kc4 Qa6+ 47. Kxb4 Qe2 48. d6 Qxf2 49. d7**

**1-0**



2015 Mass Open Best Games  
**Championship: Hoy - Lomeli**

Andrew Hoy

*Selected by judge FM David Griego as the most interesting game in the Mass Open's top section, this King's Indian frenzy is annotated by its survivor / winner, Boylston Chess Club president Andrew Hoy.*

**Andrew Hoy (2163)**  
**Ian Lomeli (2028)**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (4)**  
**05.24.2015**  
**King's Indian (E97)**

After a fairly lackluster start to the tournament, I was paired with Ian Lomeli. Ian and I have attended many of the same tournaments, but this was our first game. When I found out, to my horror, that this game won the "Most Interesting Game" prize, I was aghast that my blunders would be publicized for everyone to enjoy. Ian played a very thematic KID attack and I was saved only by a trick that he overlooked in my time pressure.

**1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. c4 d6 4. Nc3 Nf6**  
**5. Be2 0-0 6. Nf3 e5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7**  
**9. b4 a5**

A sideline for Black, though not an uncommon one. I had seen a video by John Fedorowicz some years ago suggesting a quick capture on a5 followed by the repositioning of the f3 knight onto b3. Fedorowicz, who had been a big proponent of the KID, cited the bayonet attack as a reason for giving up the defence as Black.  
**10. bxa5 Rxa5 11. Nd2 Ne8 12. Nb3 Ra8**  
**13. Be3**

White tries to position the dark square bishop on the a7-g1 diagonal before it gets shut out by Black's advancing pawns. White can also advance the c pawn immediately,

and after this game, there's a fair chance that I would proceed in that vein instead.

**13... f5 14. f3 f4 15. Bf2 g5 16. c5 Rf7**  
**17. Nb5**



In the KID, Black throws everything at the white king. The c8 bishop is a crucial resource, often sacrificed on h3 or g2. While Black aims to checkmate White's king, White tries to checkmate the c7 square.

**17... Bf8 18. cxd6 cxd6 19. Nd2 Bd7**

The only good move to prevent Nc4!

**20. Qb3 Nc8 21. Rfc1 h5 22. Rc2**

Perhaps 22. Rc3 would be better, because on c2 the rook becomes a tactical target for Ba4 skewers. : 22. Rc3 Rg7 23. Rac1 g4 24. Nc7 Nxc7 25. Rxc7± and the rook on c7 basically shuts down Black's attack, e.g. 25... g3 26. hxg3 fxg3 27. Be3 Qh4 28. Nf1.  
**22... Rg7 23. Rac1 g4**





To my horror, I realized now that my intended Nc7 was impossible because of Ba4, when Black's material advantage more than compensates for White's queenside pressure.

### 24. Kh1

Since the dark square bishop is about to run out of squares on the diagonal, the king must stalemate itself in the corner

24. Nc4 g3 25. hxg3 fxg3 26. Be3 Qh4-+;  
24. Nc7 Ba4 25. Qb4 (25. Qxb7 Bxc2 26. Qxa8 Rxc7) 25... Nxc7

### 24... g3 25. Bg1 Qg5 26. Bf1 h4 27. Nc4

27. h3 Bxh3 28. Nc7 Nxc7 29. Rxc7 Bxg2+  
30. Bxg2 Ne7-+ 31. Nf1 h3 and the pressure is overwhelming, e. g. : 32. Bxh3 g2+ 33. Kh2 gxf1N+ 34. Rxf1 Qg3+ 35. Kh1 Qxh3+.

### 27... h3 28. a4

I was tempted by 28. gxh3 Qh5 29. a4 Bxh3  
30. Bxh3 Qxh3 31. Rg2 Nf6 32. a5 Nh5 33. Qb4 gxh2 but there is no stopping ... Ng3.

### 28... Qh5 29. Rd2 Be7



### 30. Nxe5

The only practical solution to Black's kingside assault.

### 30... hxg2+ 31. Rxc2

31. Bxg2 Qxe5 32. Bd4 Qh5-+

31... dxe5 32. d6+ Kh8 33. dxe7 Nxe7 34. Rd2 Nf6?

A misstep which let me back into the game. 34... Bh3 is the thematic next step in Black's winning attack.

### 35. Nd6 Rg8 36. Bg2 Ng4?

Again, 36... Bh3! is the proper continuation. But Black, after a lengthy think, goes for this fancy line, missing White's corresponding trick.

37. fxg4 Bxg4 38. Rf1 f3 39. Bxf3 Bxf3+  
40. Qxf3 Qxf3+ 41. Rxf3



After finally making time control, Black has to resign in the face of 41... g2+ 42. Rxg2 Rxg2 43. Rh3+!!, a miraculous saving throw.

1-0



## The Square

Nathan Smolensky

“Bam, sucka!”

Somewhere between a summer night and a summer dawn, in the witching hours of a Saturday when the city sleeps, the crescendo of the chess players by the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Dunster Street in Cambridge can be heard for some distance.

Of course, they don’t care. William Collins, the dreadlocked homeless man making the proclamation, is winning his game, and Billy Collins is not a quiet man. Perhaps the game is a crucial point in a match against a rival, or perhaps some New York or Philadelphia hustler passing through town is now regretting challenging the Harvard Square icon for small stakes. The thrill of blitz in the Square is the same.



Some hours later, the area in front of the Au Bon Pain fills to its brim with all variety of visitors, tourists from around the world and locals who come by daily. But the chess tables – sturdy things of stone with checkered engravings of sixty-four squares on top – are reserved for their intended use, and they fill up, even spilling over into the

plain black tables closer to the Holyoke Center.



*FM Bill Kelleher plays black against an unknown opponent, surrounded by his wife and spectators.*

When I began frequenting the Square around 2011, I heard murmurs that it was not as popular a site as it once was, but the place I saw was still bustling when weather permitted, headlined by strong regulars whose appetite for the game seemed insatiable.



*IM Marc Esserman plays a simul in Harvard Square.*

Marc Esserman was something of a big man on campus. Fresh off of earning his IM title, the Miami native who came to Harvard in 2001 for college had an incredible passion for the square, which was something of a second home to him. Considerably higher rated than anyone else visitors could reliably find, Esserman was also a fanatic of speed chess, with quick hands shaped by a

## CHESS HORIZONS



## HOLIDAYS 2015

childhood of competitive tennis and an innumerable body of experience with his favorite game. He would offer wild time odds, advertising forty seconds against five minutes to all comers and willing to go even lower – he claimed his record was twelve – against the right customer. A favorite variant featured an extra black queen on a7 for his opponent, an advantage which seemed insurmountable in theory. Marc, however, knew his way around such an obstacle, and bested even seasoned experts under the conditions, to his opponents' great dismay.



Vadim Martirosov was a strong master who would occasionally hold private lessons in the Square. He played almost exclusively against a few select rivals, among them IM Esserman, his good friend NM Ilya Krasik, and of course Billy, with whom he would have long matches well into the night.

Vadim and Marc I had known previously through the community of tournament players, but there were many faces I would see around the Square and only around the Square, taking in countless games of blitz with no interest in more “serious” controls. This is not to say they were weak – every so-called amateur player was seasoned with years upon years of experience in the square, and they all had their tricks.



*Andrey Froim (wearing hat, left)  
Photo Courtesy Steve Stepak*

On weekdays, and particularly when school was in session and the area was more subdued, perhaps the person I saw most was an old Russian by the name of Andrey Froim. Insistent on using his huge Soviet analog clock, Andrey played all comers for two dollars a game. Never a tournament player in the United States, he was seen as master strength, and held his own even when some stronger players from afar would pay anonymous visits trying to hustle him.

Another option for tourists looking to play for money was to visit the Chess Mister, a quiet curmudgeon who largely kept to himself. Of around 1600 strength and playing without a clock, he offered a vastly different pace and feel of play to the more intense players who surrounded him, though one which was more conducive at times to a casual tourist with limited knowledge of the game of chess.

There was talk of another player – a strong master who used to call the Square his own, who played more than anyone. His name was Murray Turnbull, and he was a legend in Harvard Square.

I had seen him when passing through the Square in my childhood, always offering two dollars a game, always with his iconic



“Play the Chess Master” signage. But his activity had decreased, and though he still infrequently passed by, even those visits were dropping. Quietly, an era was ending.

### Beginnings

The Harvard Square chess players of the 1970’s and early ‘80’s were a nomadic people, drifting from café to café in search of a hospitable arena. Murray was among them, as was chess photographer extraordinaire Steve Stepak and a few other regulars who would stick around in the coming decades. But it was a small group, and they were beholden to the whims of the café owners, who might on any given day deem them loiterers or noise pollutants and throw them back to searching for a place to play.

Louis Kane was something of a fan of chess, however, and he was also conveniently the founder of Au Bon Pain. By 1983, his five-year-old business was beginning to expand within the Boston area – he would spread to New York City the following year – and he wanted to make the Harvard Square location special.

Forbes Plaza, as it is formally called, was long ago just another city block in bustling Cambridge. That block was razed in the 1950’s, but the open space that came alongside the new Holyoke Center, a Harvard University building, was for decades overlooked and underused. Kane, seeing the area’s potential, installed tables and chairs in front of his new restaurant, including the row of stone structures that would become the headquarters of the Boston chess community.

### Billy the Kid



William Collins came to Harvard Square in the 1970’s, but he didn’t originally come for the chess. He was fond, he says of the hippie culture that had sprung up locally, and found comfort in the Bohemian crowd.

But Billy was also a chess player. A member of the school team at Braintree High, he remained active throughout his adult years and frequented local clubs. So when Murray Turnbull and Arnie DuBow started challenging comers in front of the new café, Billy jumped at the opportunity to test his mettle.

I sat down with Mr. Collins recently to discuss his experience with the Square, and he recalled this early experience as somewhat humbling. Often faced with weaker opponents growing up, his talent allowed him frequently to dominate, and that gave him a brash confidence he would find unwarranted against the two masters.

But confidence, Billy argues, was not the enemy. An avid boxing fan, he sees the winning spirit as a prerequisite to success, not its outcome.

“You can’t win a tournament if you come in thinking you’re going to lose. You have to come in knowing you can win,” Collins offered.



The experience with Murray and Arnie was a learning one, and Billy did not let his early missteps get him down. He kept coming as the Square blossomed, finding new opponents and new tools to use against them, amassing an arsenal of catchphrases which would become his iconic calling cards. What was once a brash, bombastic confidence has turned into a brasher bombastic confidence. Collins credited it as the key to an incredible day when he bested an onslaught of increasingly strong masters, among them perennial 2400 Chris Chase and IM Dave Vigorito, for a Boylston Club tournament sweep that would gain him close to a hundred rating points.

For helping the environment flourish where that confidence could grow, Collins credits Murray Turnbull first and foremost.

“He treated it like a job. Never missed a day. Murray was the only one who was there every single day. He would put in the hours. So even when he wasn’t getting games, he would still be sitting there waiting. I can’t do that, I could never sit for two or three hours, not playing. I’d be like, ‘damn, I could be out in the streets, begging – something.’ Just waiting, like that, I could never do. It was really important to him.”

### Play the Chess Master

Before attempting to contact Murray Turnbull, I asked regulars in the Square if they happened to know his whereabouts offhand. They didn’t, and one suggested that we couldn’t be sure that the man was still alive.

“He is,” Chris Williams offered, “I’ve seen him on ICC. He has a handle there.”

The words were strangely prophetic.



Murray Turnbull lives only a few blocks from Harvard Square, in a condo by the corner of Concord Avenue and Garden Street. A diabetic, Turnbull – who also had a bout with oral cancer some years back – is in good shape now, and his space is simple and orderly.

For fun these days, Murray plays bullet chess on the Internet Chess Club. One minute a side, and he claims to have stockpiled close to 200,000 such games on the site, averaging by his estimate 70-80 per day. He has favorite systems – one cannot improvise in the opening in such a control, he asserts – for which he is quite enthusiastic. The Latvian Gambit (1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5) is a favorite, as is the Albin Countergambit (1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5).

It turns out Billy’s assertion that Murray viewed his role as resident Chess Master as a job was no exaggeration. And now, Turnbull is, by his own words, retired.

He has fond memories of the Square – of the many famous players who came and



faced him, his memories particularly fond of those he'd beaten. IM Kamran Shirazi, a longtime Massachusetts resident, apparently lost to Murray three games in a row, a run Turnbull attributes to his opening flexibility.

"[Shirazi] played some offbeat stuff, and would get people with it. There's a thinking – 'oh, I bet he won't know what to do here,' 'I bet he's never seen this move!' – but the thing is that I played everyone. I'd seen every weird opening there was, and I'd learned not to be bothered by it."

He was not as successful in beating Nigel Short when the British chess legend passed through town, though he laments that he should have drawn one of their games. He recalled in great detail the ending that he had: three pawns against Murray's two, all on the same side, with a knight for Short against a bishop and a queen and a rook of each color. If he could only exchange down to one piece, Turnbull remarked, the game would be a draw. But alas, the then-U.K. champion flagged him.

This was all in the 1980's and '90's. By the aughts, Murray laments, the popularity of the Square began to diminish.

"There just weren't as many people," he shrugged, offering no explanation to the trend.

Turnbull, who has not played a tournament game since 1989 – his USCF is parked at 2390 – does not rule out the possibility of a return.

"I always thought I would go back [to playing in tournaments] after I retired. Just haven't gotten to it yet," he said.

But to the Square, to blitz?

"Nah," the old master replied. "I get my fix from the bullet."

## Mr. Chess

The man who calls himself the Chess Mister declined to give his legal name. Given the added insistence that I not make any video recording for use with the magazine, I feel it is also fitting to exclude images here.

He is something of a corrosive wit, a feature evident in the way he has presented himself through the years. He admits his current moniker and signage are jabs at the great Mr. Turnbull, and in fact his original alias was also a piece of pointed allusion. Referring to a woman who called herself the Chess Lady sometime around the year 2000, he termed himself the Bearded Chess Lady, and with that title began his career in the Square.

Before that point, the Mister had not thought about chess, he contends, in decades, since dabbling in tournaments while a graduate student at U.C. Berkeley in the 1970's. The jump to offering games for money was quick, though.

"The allure of making \$100 in a day just playing out here, that was attractive to me," he offered, matter-of-factly, a sigh in his breath lamenting that that was not to be a regular occurrence.

He started, after all, early in the millennium, when the Chess Master had noted the first major decline in attendance. Though he didn't notice that so much, he did seem to feel another downturn some years later:

"When the recession hit in 2008, I think people were a little less eager to go throwing money to strangers here," he theorized. "There were fewer tourists, and all that. But the thing is, it never really recovered here."

An occasional FICS player, he cites the online game as one of the lasting factors in



the decline of attendance in the Square. But he also notes that there are just generally so many more options for entertainment in the digital age, that patience for the game of chess is harder to expect. So why does he still come?

“Habit,” he shrugs, flashing a rare smile.

### New Designs

As the infamous New England winter sets in, things always tend to quiet down in the Square. But it is when there are fewer faces that the lack of familiar ones is most felt.

The Mister still comes around a few times a week, putting his hours in, reading the paper as he waits for the rare customer.

Andrey has not been seen in some months, though he is in good health. Simply taking a break, he says, though he sounds ambivalent on when he might return.

Esserman, normally one of the loudest and most visible of the Square’s players, is spending time abroad. Vadim and Ilya are busy with their classes. Some of the older masters simply aren’t up to coming down for blitz as often.

Among the players who do continue to frequent the café and the familiar outdoor tables, by and large a group of old friends of varying class player strength, conversation turns often to the rumors of renovation.

As part of a large scale renovation project on the Holyoke Center and the plaza, Harvard University proposed early in 2015 a redesigned square with some of the tables removed, where the familiar outdoor area would be encased in a glass structure. Designs proposed do feature some new chess tables added in.

The plan has met with some resistance, locals arguing the importance of the open space, while the company line has been that open access will ensure nothing to conflict with the outdoor culture that has built up.

At the time of this writing, after a number of public meetings, the city waits for the university to present an updated version of their plan, to assuage concerns before moving forward with a timetable. But the general sentiment in the Square is that mostly minor details are in question, and that change will be coming sooner or later.

All these designs do not threaten the end of chess in the city, nor the end of chess in the Square. But it would certainly not be the same.

I wanted to put this article together because, whatever may come next, the Square will change, and it is worth remembering just how special it has been.

There’s something to be said, in a town where every point of interest seems to be a square of sorts, for a place that becomes, simply, *the Square*.

*All photos courtesy Tony Cortizas unless otherwise noted.*



2015 Mass Open

Honorable Mentions

FM Christopher Chase

Honorable Mention: U1500

Lawrence Legros (1000)

Joy Cao (1138)

84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (3)

05.24.2015

Queen's Pawn Game (D05)

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. Bd3 Bd6 5.

0-0 0-0 6. Nbd2 Nc6 7. e4 e5?!

The advance is premature and should lead to the loss of a pawn after the ensuing captures, due to a check on h7.

8. dxe5 Nxe5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Bxe5

11. Re1?

A missed opportunity. 11. Bxh7+ Kxh7 12. Qh5+ Kg8 13. Qxe5± and White is comfortably better.

11. Qh5 f5 11... Re8

And suddenly Black has threats, with ideas of Qh4, Bg4, and Bxh2+. The development edge is also a factor.

Still there is a pawn to be won for White

with 12. Bxh7 Kxh7 13. Qh5+ Kg8 14.

Rxe5, but again White fails to find the line.

12. Nf3 Bg4



13. c3?

A quiet move when none can be afforded. The tactical threats are very serious now.

13. h3 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 Bh2+ 15. Kf1

13... Bxf3 14. gxf3

14. Qxf3 Bxh2+ 15. Kf1 (15. Kxh2 Qh4+ 16. Kg1) 15... Rxe1+ 16. Kxe1 Be5 17. Qf5 Nf6 18. Bg5∞ is probably the best continuation for White, but hard to find.

14... Qh4 15. Re4 Qxh2+ 16. Kf1 Qh3+

17. Ke2 Bf4 18. Bc4

Very little to be found here. White's sanctuary is crumbling.

18. Qf1 Qh5 19. Bd2 f5 20. Rxe8+ Rxe8+ 21. Kd1 Qxf3+

18... Nf6 19. Bxf4 Nxe4 20. fxe4 Rxe4+

21. Be3 Rxc4 22. Qd5 Rc6 23. Rd1 Rf8

24. Bc5 Re8+ 25. Kd2 Qh4 26. Kc2 h6

27. Rh1 Qe4+ 28. Qxe4 Rxe4 29. Bd4??

A basic tactical error, and with it White loses his last hope of holding the game.

29... Rxd4

0 – 1

Honorable Mention: U2100

Natasha Christiansen (1901)

Anton Barash (1881)

84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (5)

05.25.2015

Pirc (B08)

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7

5. Be2 c5 6. dxc5 Qa5 7. 0-0 Qxc5 8. Be3

Qb4?!

Losing sight of c7, and asking for trouble.

The threat of taking on b2 is miniscule compared to the massive damage White can deal to an underdeveloped queenside.



9. Nb5! Na6 10. Bd3 10. e5! Ng4 11. Bd2 Qc5 12. exd6 exd6 13. Bf4± 10... 0-0 11. c3  
Passive play by White here fails to seize the moment.

11... Qa5 12. b4 Qd8 13. Qd2 Bg4  
14. Bh6?



The reasoning here is unclear. There's nothing to be gained for White, and the fall of the knight on f3 leads to weakness on the dark squares and kingside, yielding all the positional initiative.

14... Bxf3 15. gxf3 Qd7 16. Bxg7 Kxg7  
17. Qe3 Qh3 18. Rfd1 Nh5?! 19. Bf1

19. e5! and the tables would have turned again: 19... dxe5 20. Qxe5+ Kg8 21. Bf1 Qc8 22. Qxe7

19... Qh4 20. Nxa7?!

This was the last chance for a powerful e5 riposte. The pawn gained here is superficial.

20... Nc7 21. Nb5 Ne6 22. e5

By this point, given the useful knight standing on e6, the advance has lost its luster.

22... d5 23. Rxd5 Nhf4 24. Rd7?

A significant error. White is unable to line rooks up on the d-file, and an influx of threats there will more than make up for any 7th-rank presence.

24... Rfd8 25. Rxd8

25. Rad1?? Rxd7 26. Rxd7 Rxa2 27. Rd1 Ng5+

25... Rxd8 26. Nd4

Avoiding the threat of Rd3.

26... Nxd4 27. cxd4 Rxd4 28. b5

28. Qxd4 Ne2+ 29. Bxe2 Qxd4++ and White would be hopelessly lost due to weak pawns, discombobulated pieces, and an exposed king.

28... Rd5 29. a4 Qg5+ 30. Kh1 Rxe5

31. Qb6?

31. Qc3 is a stronger alternative, slowing down the rook by way of a momentary pin.



31... Qh4?

Close, but not quite accurate. Black should first get the queen off of its important diagonal. 31... Qh5 32. Qxb7 (32. Bg2 Rg5 33. Rg1 Qxh2+ 34. Kxh2 Rh5+ 35. Kg3 Ne2+ 36. Kg4 f5#) 32... Qh4 33. Qa7 (33. Qc7 Rh5) 33... Rh5 34. h3 Nxh3 and mate is coming in a few moves.

32. Qd4 f6 33. Rd1 Rh5 34. h3 Rd5

35. Qa1 Qxf2 36. Rxd5 Qxf3+ 37. Kh2 Qf2+ 38. Kh1 Nxd5 39. Bg2 Nf4 40. Bxb7 Qg3 41. Qf1 Nxh3 42. Qg2 Qe1+ 43. Kh2 Nf4 44. Qg3 Qd2+ 45. Bg2

The carnage ends with Black up several pawns, and careful play in the second time control shuts the door.

45... h5 46. b6 Nxb7 47. b7

47. Qxg2 Qd6+ is also very much winning for Black, but perhaps the best practical chance for White. The a-pawn is a menace, and



queen endgames have a tendency to be chaotic.

**47... Ne3+ 48. Kg1 Qc1+ 49. Kf2 Qb2+ 50. Kxe3 Qxb7**

0-1

## Honorable Mention: Championship

**Nithin Kavi (2099)**

**NM Carissa Yip (2257)**

**84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (5)**

**05.25.2015**

**King's Indian, Panno Variation (E63)**

**1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. d4 d6 5. Bg2 0-0 6. 0-0 Nc6**

The Panno variation. A hypermodern approach which I'm personally privy to. Named for Oscar Panno, it seeks to give Black flexibility and create chaos and confusion in the trenches.

**7. Nc3 a6 8. b3 Rb8 9. Nd5 Bg4**

9... Nh5 is more common, disallowing an exchange after 10. Bb2 e6, and maintaining the non-committal lucidity that the opening intends.

**10. Bb2 b5 11. cxb5 axb5 12. Ne3 Bd7**

**13. Rb1 b4 14. d5 Na7?**

14... Na5 offers the possibility of a b7-c5 maneuver. Flexibility is key!

**15. Nd4 Nb5 16. Nxb5 Bxb5?**

Better would be to take with the rook, as the game line sees White gaining a tempo through the threat upon an unguarded pawn on b4.

**17. Nc2 Bd7 18. Nd4?**

18. Qd2! and the pawn falls, albeit with some complication.

**18... Rb6 19. Qd2 e6 20. e4 Qb8 21. Rfc1 e5**



An important advance to make, and now Black seems rather comfortable.

**22. Nc2 Nh5**

22... c5!? 23. dxc6 (23. Ne3 Bh6) 23... Bxc6 24. f3

**23. Ne3 Bh6 24. Rc4 f5?**

Premature. The pieces on the h-file end up looking very loose after the ensuing exchanges, leading to a variety of tactical problems.

**25. exf5 gxf5**

25... Bxf5 26. Rbc1 Bxe3 27. Qxe3 Nf6 (27... Rf7 28. g4) 28. Rxc7

**26. Rh4 Be8**

26... Bxe3 27. Qxe3 f4

**27. Bf3 Bxe3 28. Qxe3 f4 29. Qd3 Bg6**

**30. Be4 Qe8 31. Rg4 Kg7**



**32. Rg5?**

32. Rc1! Qc8 (32... Rb7 33. Qa6) 33. Bxg6



(33. Rg5) 33... Qxg4 34. Rxc7+ Kg8

35. Bxh7+ Kh8

32... Qf7 33. g4 Nf6 34. Bf5 Kh6 35. h4



35... Rg8??

35... Nxd5! 36. Be4 c6 and White lacks a breakthrough. Black can hold onto the pawn and defend the weakness. One is not enough!

36. Rxg6+ hxg6 37. Be6 Qf8 38. g5+ Kh7

39. gxf6 Rh8 40. Rc1

White is firing from all angles. There is no way to defend everything. Black's forces will crumble.

40... Rb7 41. Qa6 Qa8 42. Qc6 Rd8

43. Bf7

43. h5 Ra7 (43... Kh6 44. hxg6) 44. hxg6+ Kh6

43... Qc8 44. Be6 Qa8 45. Qc2 Rf8 46. h5

Rxf6 47. Bf7 Qc8 48. hxg6+ Kg7 49. f3

Rf5 50. Qh2 Rg5+ 51. Kf2 Qa8

51... Qh8 52. Qxf4 Qh6 53. Rc4 Would certainly stand to slow White down, though Black lacks real counterplay. The ineffective rook on b7 is of no help.

52. Rh1 Qd8 53. Qh6+ Kf6 54. Qxg5+

Kxg5 55. g7

1-0

## Bonus Game: U2100

*Though not an official Honorable Mention, I thought the following game was aesthetically pleasing enough that it should be included in this issue. I present it without further commentary – ed.*

Michael Cavallo (2000)

Howard Goldowsky (1878)

84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (5)

05.25.2015

Scotch Game (C45)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5

5. Be3 Qf6 6. c3 Nge7 7. Bc4 Ne5

8. Bb3 O-O 9. f4 Qg6 10. fxe5 Qxg2



11. Rf1 Qxb2 12. Rf2 Qxa1 13. Nc2 Bxe3

14. Rxf7 Qxb1 15. Rxf8+ Kxf8 16. Qxb1

Bg5 17. Qd1 Ng6 18. Qd5 Ke7 19. Qf7+

Kd8 20. Qg8+ Ke7 21. Qxg7+ Kd8

22. Qg8+

1-0



## 2015 Mass Open

## Ivanov - Vigorito

GM Alexander Ivanov

*For all the beauty and excitement of the games highlighted so far in our coverage of the 84<sup>th</sup> Mass Open, perhaps the most important game of the tournament was the third round battle which pitted the top two seeds in the highest section against one another. After claiming victory here, then 20-time Mass Open champion Ivanov cruised through his remaining matches, taking two draws and a win to claim the trophy outright.*

GM Alexander Ivanov (2621)

IM David Vigorito (2508)

84<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Open (3)

05.24.2015

QGD – Slav (D12)

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Be2 Nd7

5... c5 leads to sharper lines, for example 6. Be3 Qb6 7. Nc3 etc; 5... Ne7 is another common move order.

6. 0-0 h6

6... Ne7

7. b3

One of the most popular tries in this position. White wants to play c4 and recapture with a Pawn in case of dxc4.

Statistically only 7. Nbd2 has been played more often.

7... Ne7 8. c4

8. Ba3 Ng6 9. Bxf8 Nxf8 won't stop Black from castling short eventually.

8... Ng6 9. Be3

The immediate 9. h3 deserves attention.

Also known is 9. Na3 Nf4!? 10. Bxf4 Bxa3 11. Bd3 Bg4 12. Rb1 Be7 13. h3 Bh5 14. Qe2 0-0 15. Qe3 Bg6!=, which happened in a number of games.

9. Nc3?! Bb4 10. Bd2 Nf4!?

9... Be7 10. h3 dxc4?!

This move followed by c5 practically forces White to sacrifice a pawn. On the other hand, the position opens up and White's two Bishops give him an excellent compensation.

10... 0-0 11. Nc3 f6 was probably better.

11. bxc4 c5 12. Nc3 cxd4 13. Nxd4 Ngxe5

14. Nxf5 exf5 15. Qd5!



As the rest of the game illustrates, Black underestimated this powerful centralising move. Now White is better, as the threat of Rd1 followed by f4 is not easy to repel.

15... 0-0 16. Rad1 Bb4

16... Bf6 17. f4!? Nc6 18. Qxf5 Bxc3

19. Rxd7±

17. Nb5 a6

17... Qe7!?

18. Nd6?!

I spent a lot of time here leaving just 12 minutes on the clock. 18. a3?! was my intention at first, but then I found Black's 20th move in the following line: 18... axb5 19. axb4 bxc4 20. f4 Nd3! 21. Bxd3 (21. Qxc4? Nb2!±) 21... cxd3 22. Rxd3 Nf6 23. Qxf5 Qc8=.

Perhaps 18. Nd4!? was more accurate, not allowing Black to capture the Knight since 18... g6 (18... Qf6? 19. f4!±; 18... Qc7!? 19. Nxf5±) fails after 19. Nc2!+- planning a subsequent f4.



### 18... b6?!

18... Bxd6 19. Qxd6 Re8!∞ 20. f4 Nc6  
21. Qxd7 Qxd7 22. Rxd7 Rxe3 23. Bf3  
Nd8=

### 19. f4

Even stronger is the computer idea which was beyond me: 19. c5! bxc5 (19... Bxc5 20. Bxc5 bxc5 21. f4 Ng6 22. Nxf7! Rxf7 23. Bc4+-; 19... f4 20. Bxf4 Qf6 21. Bg3 bxc5±) 20. f4 Ng6 21. Nxf7! Rxf7 22. Bc4±

### 19... Ng6 20. Nxf5± Nc5 21. Bf3

21. Bh5!±

### 21... Nh4?

Missing White's zwischenzug on move 23. Though after 21... Rb8 22. g3 White is clearly better.

### 22. Qxa8 Qxa8



### 23. Ne7+

Black was counting on 23. Bxa8? Nxf5μ and White can't save one of his hanging Bishops since on 24. Bc5 Black will recapture with a check. After the text Black loses the exchange with a b6 pawn advance soon to follow, so he chose to resign immediately.

1-0



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## 2015 New England Open Winer - Yang

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FM Steven Winer

*As the 75<sup>th</sup> New England Open entered its final round, the top two boards in the championship section were populated by four strong Massachusetts masters, all stalwarts of local clubs. While young FM Mika Brattain would best veteran FM Chris Chase in a grind, FM Steven Winer would win his game against NM Yi Yang in an unexpected flurry to take his own share of the regional championship.*

**FM Steven Winer (2425)**

**NM Yang Yi (2333)**

**75<sup>th</sup> New England Open (6)**

**09.07.2015**

**Queen's Pawn Game (D02)**

### 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3

Normally an unremarkable move, but in this case I knew before the round that I was going to play Yi Yang and some research suggested that he would play the Benko Gambit against 2. c4. I decided that although Nf3 is not objectively any better, it could lead to a position that my opponent was less familiar with.

### 2... c5 3. d5 b5 4. Bg5 d6?!

Surprisingly enough this natural-looking move is already a mistake.

### 5. e4!

Opening up the position makes sense with Black spending time on the queenside. I found the idea because in several variations in this line White will play e4 as an outright pawn sacrifice - I figured it would be good when it doesn't even come at material cost.

### 5... Nxe4 6. Bxb5+ Bd7 7. Bd3!

Although a retreating move it is strong because it both attacks e4 and leaves the

bishop on d7 where it blocks other Black pieces.

### 7... f5?

This might be good if the knight could remain on e4 but since White can force it away it only weakens Black's position - Nxf5 8. Nxf5 Qb6 was relatively better.

### 8. Nbd2 Nf6 9. 0-0

I thought for quite a while on this move. On the one hand I found it hard to believe that Black could get away with Nxd5 with so little development, but I still was not totally sure as sometimes a large lead in development is not as useful as one might expect. I eventually calculated 9. 0-0 Nxd5 10. Nc4 threatening both Nxd6+ and Bxf5 Bxf5 Qxd5. Ultimately though I also was guided by the idea that it is often not possible to calculate all lines when sacrificing material, and a player must rely on experience. While chess engines can be programmed to calculate all possible options up to a certain depth, humans cannot play that way, and should not attempt to. Decisions, even risky ones, must be made with imperfect information.

### 9... Nxd5?

The flip side of the attacking comment is that sometimes a sacrificial offering should be avoided based on a sense of danger rather than purely relying on calculated variations. I was fairly surprised Black decided to take the pawn. The pressure of a key last round game can influence decision making. It also influenced me later when I just wanted to win safely rather than worrying about finding the quickest possible victory.

### 10. Nc4 Nf6 11. Bxf6!

At this point I figured the knight had moved so many times it made sense to trade it to emphasize Black's lack of development. It also turns out that both recaptures have tactical drawbacks.



11... gxf6



exf6 would not have been any better because of 12 Re1+ Kf7 13. Nxd6+! Bxd6 14. Bc4+ Kg6 15. Qxd6 with winning threats. I did not bother looking any deeper than that since it was clear that line was highly favorable. If I had actually reached the position then I would have looked at it more thoroughly. One needs to calculate far enough to be confident of an evaluation, but it excessive deliberation when a verdict is clear can be costly when time and energy are taken into account.

**12. Nfe5 h5**

The only way to stop Qh5#

**13. Nxd7?!**

13. Be2 would have been better but the move did not occur to me. Seeing attacking retreats is often difficult unless there is a specific reason to be looking at the piece already. In this case, focus on other favorable lines left me without a great need to consider my bishop. This also illustrates the importance of identifying candidate moves since many errors are based on missing a move entirely rather than seeing it but miscalculating it.

**13... Qxd7?!**

Nxd7 would at least develop some pieces although White is still winning after Bxf5. The impulse to try to keep the pawn on f5 is

understandable, but in this case the pawn is lost anyway and Black's pieces remain out of play.

**14. Qf3 Qc6**

14... Nc6 15. Bxf5 e6 16. Bxe6! Qxe6 17. Qxc6+ is even worse

**15. Qxf5**

White should have a very strong attack so long as a queen trade is avoided.

**15... d5 16. Rad1!**

Rfe1 is similar. The key is to realize that dxc4 is met by 17. Be4 winning at least the rook on a8 – given that, there's no need to move the knight from the c4 square.

**16... Bg7 17. Rfe1**

Qg6+ is not necessary since chasing the king off of f8 actually may make it safer than it is on e8. Before giving a check or other forcing move it is important to figure out if forcing the piece to move is actually useful. Often it is, but chasing away a badly placed piece can actually help your opponent.

**17... Qd7 18. Qf3!**

Unlike move 13 here I saw the strong retreating move, though already looking at the queen – it needed to do something – made things considerably simpler.

**18... Nc6**

Black has no good alternative since e6 allows Bf5 winning everything based on the numerous pins it creates.

**19. Bf5 Qc7 20 Qxd5 Kf8 21. Bd7**

There are faster mates according to the engines. However, finding a sure win is good enough. Bd7 wins substantial material without allowing counterplay, so I saw no need to look further.

**21... Rc8 22. Bxc8 Qxc8 23. Qxc5 Rh6 24. Na5 f5 25. Nxc6 Qxc6 26. Rd8+**

And now mate is forced, though by this point it was superfluous.

**1-0**



## 2015 New England Open

### Brattain - Khater

FM Mika Brattain

FM Mika Brattain (2436)

NM Sherif Khater (2215)

75<sup>th</sup> New England Open (5)

09.07.2015

Caro-Kann (B10)

After a draw with Steve Winer, the tournament's sole leader, I was at a solid 3/4 needing a win to have any chance of catching up to the top of the standings. Fortunately, Steve had black against Denys Shmelov and drew rather quickly, so I spent most of this long game knowing that a win would put me in a tie for first going into the last round.

**1. e4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. cxd5 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6!?**

This is more of a sideline when White's pawn is still on d2 because White has really good chances of hanging onto the extra isolated pawn on d5. 5... Nxd5 is more natural.

**6. Nf3**

6. d4 transposes into a theoretical line of the Panov-Botvinnik attack, which I had no interest in. As will be seen, there is an advantage in leaving the pawn on d2. However 6. Bc4 can be played immediately to reduce Black's options.

**6... Bg7**

Thanks to my move-order, it's not too late for 6... Nxd5.

**7. Bc4 0-0 8. 0-0 Nbd7 9. d3**

By avoiding d2-d4, White now has a nice chain of pieces supporting the d5-pawn.

**9... Nb6 10. Qb3 Bf5 11. Bf4**

11. Re1 is also possible. If 11... Nfd7? (11... Rc8) 12. Bg5! is already almost winning.

**11... Rc8 12. Rfe1 Nfd7?!**

This is a very natural attempt to "play around" the pawn on d5 but fails for tactical reasons.

**13. d6?**

13. Bg5! basically refutes Black's play. After 13... Nc5 (13... Re8 14. d6) 14. Qa3± Black's e7-pawn collapses, for example if Black tries to defend with 14... Re8? 15. Bb5! Bd7 16. d6! is winning.

**13... exd6 14. Bxd6 Nc5 15. Bxc5 Rxc5**

Black has just enough compensation for the missing pawn, although still needs to be careful.

**16. Qa3!?**

This was my attempt at stirring up trouble 16. Ne4 and 16. Re3! are both alternatives, but everything is equal if Black plays correctly.

**16... Qc7**



The unexpected exchange sacrifice 16... Nxc4! 17. Qxc5 Nxb2 equalizes immediately.

**17. Rac1 Bh6?**

17... Rc8 piling forces on the c-file was correct. After 18. Ne4 Rc6 19. b3, the game is objectively balanced, although I like the extra pawn.

**18. Rcd1 Bg7**



If 18... Bg4 trying to mess up White's kingside, 19. Nb5 Qc6 20. Nbd4!

**19. Nb5± Nxc4 20. dxc4 Qb6 21. Rd6 Rc6 22. Rxc6**

White chooses to go for mass simplifications. A waiting move like 22. b3 was possible too.

**22... bxc6 23. Qxa7 Qb8**

23... Qxa7 24. Nxa7 Bxb2 25. Nxc6± was a different possible simplification. With two extra pawns White has decent winning chances, even against the "full" bishop pair.

**24. Qxb8 Rxb8 25. Nbd4 Rxb2 26. Nxf5 gxf5 27. Re8+ Bf8 28. g3 f6 29. Nd4 Rxa2 30. Rc8!+-**

Suddenly White is threatening everything: the c6- and f5-pawns, as well as Ne6, winning the bishop. 30. Nxf5? allows Black to activate his pieces: 30... Kf7 31. Rc8 Bc5! 32. Ne3 Bxe3 33. fxe3±

**30... Kf7 31. Rxc6 Ra5 32. Kg2 Kg6**

**33. Nf3 f4 34. gxf4 Rc5 35. Rxc5 Bxc5**

**36. Nh4+ Kf7 37. Kf3 Ke6 38. Ke4 Bxf2**

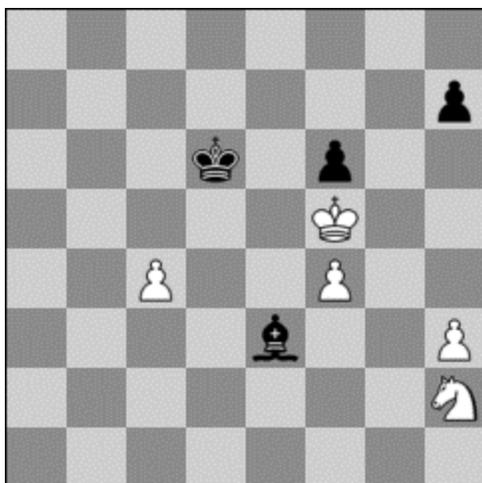
**39. Nf5**

With an extra pawn and the superior minor piece, I knew the win was not far away. But Black has the fifth-rank under control so cracking his position required a little finesse.

**39... Bc5 40. Nd4+ Kd6 41. Nb3 Bg1**

**42. h3 Ke6 43. Nd4+ Kd6 44. Nf3 Bf2**

**45. Kf5 Be3 46. Nh2!**



The Knight maneuver to g4 decides the game, as Black is tied down to the f6-pawn allowing the White king to get to d5 with impunity.

**46... Bd4 47. Ng4 Ke7 48. Ke4 Bg1**

**49. Kd5 Kf7**

49... h5 50. Nh6, and Nf5 follows.

**50. c5 Ke7**

50... h5 trying to trap the knight doesn't work: 51. c6 hxg4 52. c7+-

**51. c6 Bb6**

Nxf6 was threatened.

**52. f5 Bc7 53. Ne3 Bf4 54. Nc4 Bc7**

**55. Kc5 Kd8 56. Ne3 Kc8 57. Nd5 Be5**

**58. Kc4**

Black is completely pinned down and I spent the next several moves coaxing the h7-pawn all the way down to h4 where it becomes weak and denies Black a waiting move, allowing me to set up a winning zugzwang.

**58... Kd8 59. Kd3 Kc8 60. Ke4 Kb8 61. Kf3 h5**

To prevent Kg4-h5-h6

**62. Ke4 Kc8 63. Nb6+ Kd8 64. Nd7 Bc3**

**65. Kd5 Ke7 66. Nc5 Be5 67. Ne6 Bg3**

**68. Ng7 h4**

Now I can finally finish the game off.

**69. Ne6 Be5 70. Nc5 Bh2 71. Ne4 Be5**

**72. Kc5 Kd8 73. Nd6 Kc7 74. Nb5+ Kc8**

**75. Kd5 Kd8 76. Ke6 Kc8 77. c7⊙**

White will be able to play Kd6-c6, with mate to follow, or win the f6-pawn depending on where the bishop goes.

**77... Bb2 78. Kd6**

This lengthy win put me right back in the tournament, and with a last-round win against Chris Chase I took home a share of first place in the 2015 New England Open.

**1-0**



2015 World Youth Championship  
Yip - Mahdian

NM Carissa Yip

*This fall, Massachusetts superstar Carissa Yip, the youngest female master in USCF history, went off to Greece in what has become an annual tradition of competing in the World Youth Championships. This time, she came away tied for first in the Girls' U12, earning a silver medal after tiebreak. She highlights one of her (many) victories here.*

NM Carissa Yip  
Anousha Mahdian  
World Youth Championships  
Porto Carras – Halkidiki, Greece  
10.28.2015  
Giuoco Piano (C54)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Bc5  
5. c3 Nf6 6. e5 d5 7. Bb5 Ne4 8. cxd4 Bb6  
9. h3

This may be a useless move, but I wanted to make sure Black couldn't play Bg4.

9. . . 0-0 10. 0-0 f6 11. Nc3 Nxc3

11. . . Bf5 is a better move, and I wouldn't sure what to do. Maybe 12. Be3 fxe5 13. Bxc6 Nxc3 14. bxc3 bxc6 15. Nxe5.

12. bxc3 Bf5



This is worse than Bf5 right away because now I have the great a3-f8 diagonal for my bishop.

13. Ba3 Re8 14. Re1 Be4

This is a really bad move. Black just loses a tempo and it helps me start my kingside attack.

15. Nd2 Bf5 16. Qf3 Be6 17. Qg3 fxe5

18. Bxc6 bxc6 19. Rxe5 Qf6 20. Rae1 Bf7?



21. Be7!

I'm certain my opponent missed this move. Now she's just dead lost.

21. . . Qh6 22. Nf3 g6 23. Nh2 Qg7 24. Ng4 Rxe7 25. Rxe7 c5 26. Qf4 g5 27. Nh6+

1-0


*US Chess League*
**Boston Blitz Highlights 2015**

NM Ilya Krasik

NM Ilya Krasik – BOS (2276)

Dennis Li – CON (2107)

US Chess League – Week 4

09.15.2015

King's Indian, Sämisch (E81)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3  
0-0 6. Be3 Nbd7 7. Nh3 c5 8. d5 Ne5  
9. Nf2 a6 10. Be2 h5

I think a6 and h5 are somewhat inconsistent:  
if you play a6 you have to be ready to play  
b5 a la the Benko. Plus, h5 seriously  
weakens the g6 square.

11. 0-0 e6 12. Bg5 Qe8

12... exd5? 13. Nxd5 Re8 (13... Ned7 14. e5  
Nxe5 15. Ne4 Ned7 16. Qe1 Re8 17. Qh4+-)  
14. f4 Nc6 15. e5 dxe5 16. Ne4+- and the  
pin decides.

13. f4

13. Re1 or 13. Qd2 are also possible.

13... Neg4 14. Nxc4

Computers denounce this move but I had a  
concrete idea based around the e5 pawn sac.

14... Nxc4 15. Bxc4 hxc4



16. e5!? dxe5

16... exd5 17. Nxd5+- with unstoppable  
threats of Nc7, Ne7 and Nf6.

17. fxe5 Bxe5

17... exd5 18. Re1! dxc4 19. Nd5 Be6 20.  
Nf6+ Bxf6 21. Bxf6 and Black's king is in  
trouble.

18. Qxg4 exd5 19. Qh4

The position I envisioned when I planned  
e5. White's attack is very dangerous.

19... Bd4+ 20. Kh1 f6 21. Rae1

21. Rxf6 Bxf6 22. Bxf6 Rxf6 23. Qxf6 is  
considered best by the engine but the game  
move is just as decisive.

21... Qf7

21... fxg5 22. Rxe8+- is the point and Black  
doesn't have time to take the queen.

22. Bh6 Re8

22... Bxc3 23. bxc3 Rd8 (23... Be6 24. Rf3  
dxc4 25. Bxf8 Rxf8 26. Rfe3 Re8 27. Qg3  
Kg7 28. Qd6+-) 24. Rxf6+-

23. Rxe8+ Qxe8 24. Nxd5 Qd8 25. Qe4!  
Kh7 26. Ne7 Bf5 27. Rxf5!

27. Qh4 Bf2 doesn't work due to 28. g3!  
(28. Qxf2?? Qxe7=)

27... Kxh6 28. Rxf6 Qe8 29. Rxc6+ Kh7  
30. Qh4#

1-0

NM Ilya Krasik – BOS (2276)

Brandon Jacobson – NJ (2192)

US Chess League – Week 5

09.23.2015

Grünfeld (D90)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 Bg7 5.  
h4

A rare and aggressive line in the Grünfeld.

5... dxc4 6. e4 c5 7. d5 b5 8. h5 0-0 9. hxc6  
fxg6 10. e5 Ng4 11. d6 e6



11... exd6 12. Qd5+++; 11... Bb7? 12. Bg5 Nc6 13. dxe7 Qxd1+ 14. Rxd1 Rf5 15. Nxb5 Ngxe5 16. Nd6± 1-0 (43) Gareev,T (2674) - Robson,R (2620) Saint Louis 2013  
Was the game I briefly looked at the before my own.

### 12. Nxb5

12. Rxh7 Has been tried in some games, and here is an illustration: 12... Kxh7 13. Ng5+ Kg8 14. Qxg4 Rf5 15. Be3 Nc6 16. Qh4 Nxe5 17. 0-0-0 Bd7 18. Nce4 Qa5 19. Qh7+ Kf8 20. Nxc5 Rxg5 21. Bxg5 Qxa2 22. Rd4 Qa1+ 23. Kc2 Nd3 24. Nxd7+ Kf7 25. Ne5+ Nxe5 26. Rf4+ Ke8 27. Qg8+ Kd7 28. Qxg7+ Kc6 29. Qxe5 Qxf1 30. Qe4+ Kb6 31. d7 1-0 (31) Vitiugov,N (2719) - Ragger,M (2680) Tromso 2013

### 12... Qa5+

My young opponent continued to blitz through a heavily theoretical line without seemingly knowing the position very well. Meanwhile, I took a lot of time but it paid off quickly.

12... Nc6 attacking the base pawn on e5 was best.

### 13. Nc3 Nd7

White to play and make things crazy!



### 14. Rxh7!? Ndx5

14... Kxh7 15. Ng5+ Kg8 16. Qxg4 Nxe5 17. Qh4 Rf5 accepting the sac would lead to

a wild and unbalanced position, where I like White's chances.

### 15. Rxg7+! Kxg7 16. Bd2! Qb6

16... Nxf3+ 17. gxf3 Nf6 18. Ne4 Qb6 19. Bc3 Bb7 20. Qd2+- and again due to the fact that White's dark squared bishop is a monster and has no opponent in Black's camp, White's attack is very strong against the Black king.

16... Kg8 17. Nd5! Qd8 18. Ne7+ Kg7 (18... Kh7 19. Ng5+ Kg7 20. Bc3+-) 19. Nxe5 Nxe5 20. Bc3+-

### 17. Nxe5 Nxe5 18. Ne4 Qb7?

18... Kg8 19. Bc3 Rf5 20. Qd2 Nf7 21. 0-0-0+- with a winning position similar to the game continuation;

18... Bb7 19. Bc3 Bxe4 20. Bxe5+ Kf7 (20... Kg8 21. Qg4 Bf5 22. Qh4) 21. Qg4 Bf5 22. Qh4+- and White wins on the dark squares.

### 19. f3 Rf5 20. Bc3 Kf8 21. Qd2 Nf7 22.

### Bxc4 Bd7 23. 0-0-0+- Rd8 24. Rh1

It's a lot of fun to attack with all your pieces!

### 24... Bc8 25. Rh7 Rh5 26. Rg7?!

Missing mate in 2 in a completely winning position.

[26. Bg7+ Ke8 27. Nf6#]

### 26... Qd7 27. Qf4 Rf5 28. Qh4 Rh5 29. Qf6 Re8 30. Rg8+

1-0

*In consecutive weeks, both of these games managed to earn the USCL's Game of the Week honor. The Blitz would finish the season with a 3.5 – 6.5 record.*



US Chess League

**N.E. Nor'Easters Highlights**

Nathan Smolensky

*Though they did not post any Games of the Week, the New England Nor'Easters, the Blitz's crosstown rival, did post their best record since their championship season, earning the top seed in the Eastern Division before being eliminated in a close quarterfinal match to the eventual league champion Manhattan Applesauce. Crucial to their success was the play of FM Alexander Katz, who arrived in town this year to start college, and two critical match victories against their rival.*

**FM Alexander Katz – NE (2464)**

**GM Giorgi Kacheishvili – NY (2192)**

**US Chess League – Week 9**

**10.20.2015**

**French Defence (C14)**

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7
5. e5 Nfd7 6. Bxe7 Qxe7 7. f4 O-O 8. Nf3
- c5 9. Nb5 Nc6 10. Bd3 f6 11. c3 a6 12. Nd6
- cxd4 13. cxd4 fxe5 14. fxe5 Rxf3 15. Qxf3
- Nxd4



16. Qh5 g6 17. Bxg6 hxg6 18. Qxg6+ Qg7
19. Qe8+ Qf8 20. Qg6+ Qg7 21. Qxg7+
- Kxg7 22. Rc1 Nc6 23. O-O Ndx5 24. Rc3
- Ne7 25. Rg3+ N5g6 26. h4 e5 27. Rf7+

- Kh6 28. h5 Nf4 29. Rxe7 Ne2+ 30. Kf2
- Nxg3 31. Kxg3 d4 32. Kh4 d3 33. g4 Bxg4
34. Kxg4 Rg8+ 35. Kh4 Rf8 36. Rxe5 d2
37. Rd5 Rf2 38. b3 Rh2+ 39. Kg3 d1=Q
40. Rxd1 Rxa2 41. Nxb7 a5 42. Rd6+

**1-0**

**GM Alexander Ivanov – BOS (2628)**

**IM Steven Zierk – NE (2562)**

**US Chess League – Week 10**

**10.27.2015**

**Sicilian, Najdorf (B91)**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6 6. g3 e5 7. Nde2 Be7 8. Bg2 b5
9. a4 b4 10. Nd5 Nxd5 11. Qxd5 Ra7
12. Be3 Be6 13. Qd3 Rd7 14. c4 bxc3
15. Nxc3 Rb7 16. O-O O-O 17. Nd5 Bg5
18. f4 exf4 19. gxf4 Bh4 20. Rab1 Qa5
21. b3 Bxd5 22. exd5 Nd7 23. Kh1 Rfb8
24. Bd2 Qb6 25. a5 Qb5 26. Qf3 Bd8 27. b4



- 27... Bxa5 28. bxa5 Qxb1 29. Rxb1 Rxb1+
30. Bf1 R8b2 31. Be3 Re1 32. Bd4 Rc2
33. Kg1 Rcc1 34. Qg4 Nf6 35. Qf5 Ne8
36. Kg2 Rxf1 37. Qd7 Kf8 38. Qb7 Rfd1
39. Bb6 Rd2+ 40. Kf3 Rc3+ 41. Be3 Rdd3
42. Qxa6 Rxe3+ 43. Kf2 Rh3

**0-1**



Games Potpourri

Nathan Smolensky

*A collection of notable games from the top players in Massachusetts. Note that FIDE ratings are used for the U.S. Championship and tournaments abroad.*

*GM Samuel Sevian, the youngest American GM ever and a Southbridge resident, has been brewing up a storm on the world stage, besting some of the biggest names in the game.*

GM Samuel Sevian (2511)

GM Jan Timman (2593)

Tata Steel Chess Tournament

01.25.2015

Pirc (B07)

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Be3 c6 5. h3 Bg7 6. f4 Qb6 7. Qc1 Na6 8. a3 Qa5 9. b4 Qc7 10. Nf3 Nh5 11. Bd3 Ng3 12. Rg1 c5 13. Bf2 Nh5 14. g4 Nf6 15. e5 Nd7 16. Nd5 Qb8 17. bxc5 dxc5 18. f5 Nc7 19. c4 Nxd5 20. cxd5 cxd4 21. e6



- Ne5 22. Bb5+ Kf8 23. Nxd4 h5 24. g5 gxf5 25. Qc2 Qd6 26. Rc1 fxe6 27. Qxc8+ Rxc8 28. Rxc8+ Kf7 29. dxe6+ Qxe6 30. Nxe6 Nf3+ 31. Kd1 Rxc8 32. Rg3 Kxe6 33. Rxf3 a6 34. Bd3 Rf8 35. Bc2 Ke5 36. Be1

1-0

GM Kayden Troff (2532)

GM Samuel Sevian (2531)

U.S. Championships

04.07.2015

English, Symmetrical (A34)

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 c5 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. e3 O-O 6. Nge2 e6 7. Nf4 Nc6 8. O-O d6 9. a3 Bd7 10. Rb1 a5 11. d3 Rb8 12. Nb5 d5 13. b3 d4 14. exd4 Nxd4 15. Nxd4 cxd4 16. b4 axb4 17. axb4 b5 18. c5 Qc7 19. Ne2 Ne8 20. Bb2 e5 21. f4 Rd8 22. fxe5 Bg4 23. Rf4 h5 24. Bxd4 Bh6 25. Bf2 Bxf4 26. gxf4 Qd7 27. c6 Qxd3 28. Qxd3 Rxd3 29. Ng3 Nc7 30. Ne4 Bf3 31. Nc5 Ra3 32. Nd7 Rc8 33. Rc1 Bxg2 34. Kxg2 Nd5 35. f5 Nf4+ 36. Kf1 Nd3 37. Nb6 Re8 38. Rd1 Nxf2 39. Kxf2 Rc3 40. Rd6 Rxe5 41. fxc6 Rc2+ 42. Kf3 Re6 43. gxf7+ Kxf7 44. Rd7+ Kf6 45. Nd5+ Ke5 46. c7 Ra6 47. Kg3 Rd6 48. Rd8 Rxc7 49. Nxc7 Rxd8 50. Nxb5 Kf5 51. Nc7 Rd3+ 52. Kf2 Rb3 53. Nd5 Ke5 54. Ne7 Ke6 55. Nc6 Kd6 56. Nd4 Rxb4 57. Nf3 Ke6 58. Kg3 Kf6 59. Nh4 Rg4+ 60. Kh3 Rf4 61. Kg3 Kg5 62. Nf3+ Kf5 63. Nh4+ Ke4 64. Kh3 Rg4 65. Nf5 Kf4 66. Nd4 Kg5 67. Nf3+ Kf6 68. Nh4 Ra4 69. Kg3 Kg5 70. Nf3+ Kf5 71. Nh4+ Ke4 72. Ng2 Ra3+ 73. Kh4 Kf3 74. Ne1+ Kf2 75. Kxh5 Kxe1 76. h4 Kf2 77. Kg6 Kg3 78. h5 Kg4 79. h6 Ra6+ 80. Kg7 Kg5 81. h7 Ra7+ 82. Kg8 Kg6 83. h8=N+ Kf6

0-1



GM Samuel Sevian (2511)  
 GM Vladimir Potkin (2608)  
 Tata Steel Chess Tournament  
 01.13.2015  
 Sicilian, Paulsen (B48)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6  
 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. f4 Bb4  
 9. Bd3 Na5 10. a3 Bxc3 11. Qxc3 Qxc3+  
 12. bxc3 d5 13. e5 Ne4 14. Nb3 Nc4  
 15. Bxc4 dxc4 16. Na5 Bd7 17. Bd4 Rc8  
 18. Nxb7 Bc6 19. Na5 Bd5 20. Rb1 Kd7  
 21. Ke2 f5 22. Ke3 h6 23. h4 g5 24. hxg5  
 hxg5 25. fxc5 Nxc5 26. Rxh8 Rxh8  
 27. Rb4 Rh4 28. Nxc4 f4+ 29. Kf2 Ne4+  
 30. Ke2 Ng3+ 31. Kd2 Bxg2 32. Nb6+ Ke8  
 33. Bf2 Rh5 34. Rxf4 Ne4+ 35. Kd3 Rh3+  
 36. Kd4 Nxc3 37. Rf6 Ke7 38. a4 Bc6  
 39. Be1 Nxa4 40. Nc4 Bd5 41. Nd6 Rf3  
 42. Rh6 Rf4+ 43. Ke3 Rf3+ 44. Kd2 Nb6  
 45. Rh7+ Kf8 46. Rc7 Rf4 47. Kd3 Rf3+  
 48. Ke2 Rf4 49. Bd2 Bc4+ 50. Kd1 Rf1+  
 51. Be1 Rf4 52. Bg3 Rd4+ 53. Ke1 Ba2  
 54. Bf2 Rb4 55. Be3 Kg8 56. Bg5 Rg4  
 57. Bf6 Nd5 58. Ra7 Rf4 59. Rxa6 Bb1  
 60. Ra8+ Kh7 61. c4 Nxf6 62. exf6 Rxf6  
 63. c5 e5 64. Rd8 Bd3 65. c6 e4 66. Kd2  
 Rf2+ 67. Ke3 Re2+ 68. Kd4 Rc2 69. Rd7+  
 Kg6 70. c7 Ba6 71. Nxe4 Bc8 72. Re7 Bh3  
 73. Ke5 Bf5 74. Kd6 Rc1 75. Nc5 Rd1+  
 76. Kc6 Rc1 77. Re2 Bh3 78. Rh2 Bc8  
 79. Rh8 Bf5 80. Rf8 Bh3 81. Rf3 Bc8  
 82. Kd6 Rc2 83. Rf8 Bh3 84. Nd3 Kg7  
 85. Rf3 Bc8 86. Ne5 Rc1 87. Rf7+ Kh6  
 88. Rf8 Rd1+ 89. Ke7 Bb7 90. Rb8 Rb1  
 91. c8=Q

1-0

GM Wesley So (2788)  
 GM Samuel Sevian (2531)  
 U.S. Championships  
 04.03.2015  
 Semi-Slav (D45)

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 c6 5. e3  
 Nbd7 6. Qc2 Bd6 7. Bd3 O-O 8. O-O dxc4  
 9. Bxc4 b5 10. Bd3 Bb7 11. a3 Rc8  
 12. Ng5 c5 13. Bxh7+ Kh8 14. f4 g6  
 15. Bxg6 fxc6 16. Nxb5 Qe7 17. Qxg6 Bb8  
 18. dxc5 Rxc5 19. Nd4 Rg8 20. Qh6+ Nh7  
 21. e4 Ndf6 22. b4



22... Rcxg5 23. fxc6 Be5 24. Bb2 Ng4  
 25. Qh5 Qxg5 26. Qh3 Qe3+ 27. Qxe3  
 Nxe3 28. Rf2 Ng5 29. Kh1 Nc4 30. Bc3  
 Nxe4 31. Rf7 Nxc3 32. Rxb7 Bxd4 33. Rf1  
 Rg7 34. Rb8+ Kh7 35. g3 e5 36. Rff8 Ne3  
 37. h4 Ne4 38. Rh8+ Kg6 39. h5+ Kg5  
 40. h6 Rf7 41. h7 Rf1+

0-1

# CHESSE HORIZONS



# HOLIDAYS 2015

IM Steven Zierk – BOS (2562)

IM David Vigorito – NE (2511)

U.S. Chess League – Week 3

09.08.2015

Caro-Kann (B18)

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5  
5. Ng3 Bg6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. h4 h6 8. h5  
Bh7 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 e6 11. Bd2  
Ngf6 12. O-O-O Be7 13. Ne4 Nxe4  
14. Qxe4 Nf6 15. Qe2 Qd5 16. c4 Qe4  
17. Qxe4 Nxe4 18. Be3 f5 19. g3 Bg5  
20. Nxc5 hxc5 21. g4 f4 22. f3 Nd6 23. c5  
fxe3 24. cxd6 Rf8 25. Rd3 Rxf3 26. Re1  
Rd8 27. Rdx3 Rxe3 28. Rxe3 Rxd6  
29. Re5 Rxd4 30. Rxc5 Kf7 31. Kc2 Rd5  
32. Rg6 e5

0-1

IM David Vigorito – NE (2511)

IM Jonathan Schroer – CAR (2427)

U.S. Chess League – Week 7

10.06.2015

English (A11)

1. c4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Bf5  
5. O-O e6 6. b3 Nbd7 7. Bb2 Be7 8. d3 h6  
9. Nbd2 O-O 10. Qc2 Bh7 11. Bc3 a5  
12. a3 b5 13. cxb5 cxb5 14. b4 Qc7  
15. Qb2 Nb6 16. Be5 Qb7 17. Nb3 Na4  
18. Qd4 axb4 19. axb4 Rfc8 20. Rfc1 Ne8  
21. Bh3 Bf8 22. Qf4 Qe7 23. Nc5 Nxc5  
24. Rxa8 Rxa8 25. bxc5 Rc8 26. c6 g5  
27. Qe3 Qa3 28. Nd4 Bc5 29. Qd2 Bxd4  
30. Bxd4 Qd6 31. f4 gxf4 32. Qxf4 Qxf4  
33. gxf4 b4 34. Kf2 Bf5 35. Bxf5 exf5  
36. Ke3 f6 37. Rc5 Kf7 38. Rxd5 Ke6  
39. Rc5 Nc7 40. Kd2 Nd5 41. e4 fxe4  
42. dxe4 Nxf4 43. Rf5 Rd8 44. Ke3 Ng2+  
45. Kd3 b3 46. Rxf6+ Ke7 47. Rf2 Ne1+  
48. Kc4 Kd6 49. Rf6+ Ke7 50. Rf1 Nc2

51. Bf6+ Ke6 52. Kxb3 Ne3 53. Bxd8 Nxf1  
54. Kc4 Nd2+ 55. Kd3 Nf3 56. Bc7 h5  
57. Bf4 h4 58. Ke3 Ne1 59. c7 Kd7 60. Be5  
h3 61. Bg3 Nc2+ 62. Kf3 Nd4+ 63. Kg4  
Ne6 64. Be5 Nc5 65. Kf5 Nb3 66. Bf4 Nc5  
67. Bg3 Na6 68. Kf6 Nc5 69. Kf5 Nb3  
70. Bd6 Nd4+ 71. Kg4 Nb5 72. e5 Nxc7  
73. Bxc7 Kxc7 74. Kf5 Kd7 75. Kf6 Ke8  
76. Ke6

1-0

IM Steven Zierk – BOS (2562)

GM Julio Becerra – MIA (2616)

U.S. Chess League – Week 6

09.29.2015

Ruy Lopez, Exchange (C68)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 dxc6  
5. O-O Bg4 6. h3 h5 7. d3 Qf6 8. Nbd2  
Ne7 9. Re1 Ng6 10. d4 Nf4 11. hxg4 hxg4  
12. g3 gxf3 13. Qxf3 Ne6 14. dxe5 Qh6  
15. Nb3 g5 16. Be3 Bg7 17. Kf1 Bxe5  
18. c3 O-O-O 19. Ke2 Qg7 20. Rad1 Rde8  
21. Rh1 b6 22. Qf5 Kb7 23. Nd2 f6  
24. Rxh8 Qxh8 25. Nc4 Qh5+ 26. Ke1  
Qh1+ 27. Ke2 Qh5+ 28. g4 Qh8 29. Nxe5  
fxe5 30. Bxg5 Qg8 31. Bh6 Re7 32. f3 Rh7  
33. Qf6 a5 34. b3 a4 35. Rh1 axb3  
36. axb3 Nc5 37. Qxe5 Qxb3



# CHESS HORIZONS



# HOLIDAYS 2015

38. Ke3 Qc2 39. Rh5 Qc1+ 40. Ke2 Rxh6  
41. Rxh6 Qxh6 42. g5 Qh3 43. Qf6 Qg2+  
44. Ke3 Qg1+ 45. Kf4 Nd3+ 46. Kf5 Qg3  
47. Ke6 Nf4+ 48. Kf7 Qxf3 49. Qf5 Qf1  
50. e5 Qc4+ 51. e6 Nh5 52. g6 Ng3 53. Qe5  
Ne4 54. g7 Qf1+ 55. Ke8 Qg2 56. Qxe4  
Qxg7 57. Qf5 Qg8+ 58. Kd7 Qc8+ 59. Ke7  
Qg8 60. Qf7 Qh8 61. Qg6 Qxc3 62. Ke8 b5  
63. e7 b4 64. Kf8 Qc5 65. Qd3 Qf2+  
66. Kg7 Qg1+ 67. Kf7 Qf2+ 68. Ke6 Qa2+  
69. Kd7 Qf7 70. Qe4 b3 71. Qb4+

1-0

FM Dov Gorman – PHI (2403)  
GM Alexander Ivanov – MIA (2628)  
U.S. Chess League – Week 1  
08.25.2015  
Queen’s Pawn Game (A41)

1. d4 d6 2. Nf3 Bg4 3. c4 Nd7 4. Nc3 e5  
5. e4 Bxf3 6. gxf3 Ne7 7. Be3 Ng6 8. Qd2  
Be7 9. O-O-O exd4 10. Qxd4 O-O 11. f4 f5  
12. exf5 Nh4 13. Bh3 Bf6 14. Qd5+ Kh8  
15. Ne4 Qe8 16. Ng5 Nb6



17. Qd3 Qa4 18. Bxb6 axb6 19. a3 b5  
20. Ne6 bxc4 21. Qc2 Rfc8 22. Qxa4 Rxa4  
23. Kc2 Ra5 24. Rhe1 h6 25. Re4 d5  
26. Re3 c6 27. Nd4 c5 28. Ne6 d4 29. Re5  
d3+ 30. Kc1 Nf3 31. Rd5 d2+ 32. Kc2 c3

33. bxc3 Rxa3 34. Bg4 Rxc3+ 35. Kb1 Ra8  
36. Rxc5 Ne1

0-1

GM Eugene Perelshteyn – BOS (2592)  
FM Deepak Aaron – ATL (2416)  
U.S. Chess League – Week 1  
09.25.2015  
King’s Indian Attack (A07)

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 e6 4. O-O Bd6  
5. d4 O-O 6. c4 b6 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Nc3  
Re8 9. Qc2 h6 10. Re1 Bb7 11. Nb5 Qd7  
12. Nxd6 cxd6 13. Bd2 Nc6 14. e3 Rec8  
15. Qa4 Ne4 16. Rec1 a5 17. Be1 Ba6  
18. Nd2 Nf6 19. a3 Rc7 20. Qd1 Rac8  
21. f3 Qe6 22. Bf2 Be2 23. Qe1 Bb5 24. h4  
a4 25. g4 Bd3 26. Rc3 Bc4 27. Nxc4 dxc4  
28. e4 d5 29. e5 Ne8 30. Qd1 Ra7 31. f4  
Nc7 32. f5 Qd7 33. g5 Nb5



34. Rg3 Ne7 35. gxh6 Nxf5 36. Bh3 g6  
37. Rg5 Kh8 38. Bxf5 gxf5 39. Qh5 c3  
40. bxc3 Nxc3 41. Kh2 Ne4 42. Rag1 Qe6  
43. Rxf5 Rc2 44. Rg2 Rac7 45. h7 Rc8  
46. Rxf7 Rxf2 47. Rgxf2 Nxf2 48. Rxf2  
Qe7 49. Qg4 Rf8 50. Rf3 b5 51. Qg5 Qe8  
52. Rg3 Qf7 53. e6 Qxh7 54. Qe5+

1-0



*IM Richard Wang is a newcomer to the Massachusetts chess scene, having arrived in town to attend Harvard University. He joined the Boston Blitz in the U.S. Chess League to rousing success.*

**IM Richard Wang – BOS (2425)**

**GM Zviad Izoria – MAN (2638)**

**U.S. Chess League – Week 7**

**10.07.2015**

**Queen's Pawn Game (A40)**

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 c5 3. e3 d5 4. Bd3 c4 5. Be2 b5 6. a4 b4 7. c3 bxc3 8. Nxc3 Nc6 9. b3 Qa5 10. Bd2 Bb4 11. Rc1 cxb3 12. Qxb3 Nge7 13. O-O O-O 14. Bb5 Rb8 15. Qc2 Ba6 16. Bxa6 Qxa6 17. Nb5 Bxd2 18. Nxd2 Rfc8 19. Qd1 Qa5 20. Rc5 Qb4 21. Qc2 Na5



22. Rb1 Rxc5 23. dxc5 Qg4 24. Nxa7 Rxb1+ 25. Qxb1 h6 26. Qb5 Nc4 27. Nf3 Nf5 28. h3 Qe4 29. c6 Ncd6 30. c7 Qc2 31. c8=Q+ Nxc8 32. Qe8+ Kh7 33. Nxc8 d4 34. exd4 Nxd4 35. Ne7 Nxf3+ 36. gxf3 Qc1+ 37. Kg2 Qg5+ 38. Kf1 Qc1+ 39. Ke2 Qc2+ 40. Ke3 Qc3+ 41. Kf4 Qc7+ 42. Kg4 h5+ 43. Kxh5 Qe5+ 44. Kg4 f5+ 45. Kh5 f4+ 46. Kg4

**1-0**

**IM Marc Esserman (2426)**

**GM David Navara (2736)**

**Reykjavik Open**

**03.17.2015**

**Sicilian, Najdorf (B90)**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 Ng4 7. Bc1 Nc6 8. h3 Nf6 9. Be3 e6 10. g4 h6 11. Bg2 Be7 12. Qd2 Ne5 13. b3 g5 14. f4 gxf4 15. Bxf4 b5 16. O-O Bb7 17. Bxh6 Rc8 18. Be3 Qc7 19. g5 Qxc3 20. gxf6 Bxf6 21. Qf2 Bh4 22. Qf4 Rg8



**0-1**



## Interview

### **Percy Yip: Raising a Star**

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*Behind every scholastic superstar in the game of chess is an exceptional support system. For NM Carissa Yip, the youngest female master in USCF history, that system is father Percy Yip, a fixture at every event the young starlet attends, traveling with her around the world, including to Greece for this autumn's World Youth Championship, where Carissa won Silver in the Girls' U12. Recently, I sat down with Mr. Yip to discuss his role in the history-making, and his insights into world-class chess competition.*

**Nathan Smolensky:** Did you introduce Carissa to chess? Had she shown interest in similar games before?

**Percy Yip:** She wanted to play in the school chess club (no teaching there), and so asked me to teach her how to play. She was 6 1/2 at that time and I hadn't introduced any strategic games to her before. I thought she was too young to learn.

**NS:** At what point did you realize that high-level competition could be a possibility? How did you react to it? How did Carissa?

**PY:** After the first tournament game in Metrowest chess club in November 2010, Steve Frymer told me that she was very good, and told me about Spiegel cup. She was excited to be able to qualify for the Spiegel cup by rating, but we had to rush to get 26 games to have an official USCF. After that, parents kept telling me that she was very talented, but I didn't pay much attention to it until Summer 2011 when I received a letter from the USCF that she was qualified to play in the world youth chess championship 2011 in Brazil. Once that happened, I started to contact a number of chess organizations to see what help we could get from them. Though the support they could provide was limited, the response was clearly there.

**NS:** How does her play, and the travel associated with, affect your (and Carissa's) lifestyle?

**PY:** She skipped many sport activities that usually happened on Saturdays in order for her to play more. The travel means that she might miss some school, and we have to make up the missed work. In general, we found that we don't have enough time. I use all my vacations for her chess tournaments.

**NS:** In traveling to all these international events, what insights have you gained into world chess cultures?

**PY:** Players that are serious to chess and willing to put the hard work will excel. A lot of countries emphasize chess to the point that they are willing to sacrifice other activities in order to have the time to study. If they win in one of the prestigious international events, they will be the heroes of the countries, and highly rewarded by the countries. However, in the USA, we don't care too much about chess, and we don't have national support from the government. To be successful in the top level, one needs talent, hard work, and resources (top coaching, opportunities to compete in high-level tournaments, financial support to travel, etc.). Here, most public schools don't allow more than two weeks' absence. I know some kids dropped out of school, had to repeat the same grade next year, or became homeschooled if they really wanted to become serious about chess.

**NS:** Of all the milestones Carissa has reached, the wins and the records broken, what was your favorite?

**PY:** My favorite hasn't happened yet. But so far, I would say the youngest female master.



## Solutions (problems on p. 5)

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CORRECTION: In problem (1) in the previous issue, there was a typo in the solution. The correct solution was

**1... Rxc2! 2. Kxc2 (2. Rxc2 Qe1+ 3. Rg1 Qxe4+ 4. Rg2 Qe1+ 5. Rg1 Bd5#) Qxe4+ 3. Kh3 Bd6+ 4. g4 Qf3+ 5. Rg3 Qf3 6. Rg3 (6. Kh4 g5+ 7. Kh5 Qh3+ 8. Kxc5 Qh6#) Qf1+ 7. Rg2 (7. Kh4 g5+ 8. Kh5 Qf6) Bxc4+ +-**

1. Fuchs – Korchnoi, Yerevan, 1965  
**1... Bd3! 2. Bxd3 (2. Rxd3 Re1) Qxd6**
2. Internet Chess Club, 2014  
**1... Qxc1! (2. Rxc1 Rxc1+ 3. Kh2 Ng4+ 4. hxc4 Nxc4+ 5. Kh3 Nxf2+ 6. Kh2 Rh1#**
3. Internet Chess Club, 2014  
**1. Qh8+! Kxh8 2. Rh4+ Kg8 3. Rh8#**
4. Internet Chess Club, 2013  
**1. Qg4! Qc6 (1... Qxc4 2. Rxe8+ Kg7 3. Bf8+ Kg8 4. Bh6#) 2. Qc8**
5. Internet Chess Club, 2007  
**1. Bxc7+! Rxc7 2. Qxh7+ Rxh7 3. Rg8#**
6. Internet Chess Club, 2007  
**1. Rc6!!**  
**1... Bxc6 2. Qe6#**  
**1... Rxc6 2. Qd5+ Re6 3. Qxe6#**  
**1... Qxc6 2. e8=Q+ Qxe8 3. Qxe8#**

## Answers to Chess Trivia

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- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. d | 3. i | 4. h | 5. a  |
| 6. j | 7. c | 8. b | 9. f | 10. e |

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## Places to Play

*This is a partial overview of active clubs in and around Massachusetts. Most time controls listed feature five second delay. Registration may end as early as 15 minutes prior to event start. For full details and club calendars, please visit club site or [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org). To add a listing for your club in future issues, please contact [info@masschess.org](mailto:info@masschess.org).*

### **Boylston Chess Club** – 40 Norris St., Cambridge, MA

Regular Events:

Thursdays, 7:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M., 40/90 SD/20 (1 rd / wk)

Saturdays, 10:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M., G/60

Fridays, 7:30 P.M., G/5

[www.BoylstonChessClub.org](http://www.BoylstonChessClub.org)

(617) 714 - 3022

### **Waltham Chess Club** – 404 Wyman St., Waltham, MA

Regular Events Fridays, 7:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M., Various Controls:

G/5, G/10, G/20, G/30

[www.WalthamChessClub.org](http://www.WalthamChessClub.org)

(781) 790 - 1033

### **Wachusett Chess Club** – C159, McKay Campus School,

Fitchburg State Univ., Fitchburg, MA

Regular Events Wednesdays, 7:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M., G/100 (1 rd / wk)

[www.WachusettChess.org](http://www.WachusettChess.org)

(978) 345 – 5011

### **Sven Brask Chess Club** – 16 E. Bacon St., Plainville, MA

Regular Events Wednesdays, 7:30 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., 40/90, SD/20 (1 rd / wk)

[www.Svenbraskcc.org](http://www.Svenbraskcc.org)

(508) 339 – 6850

### **Billerica Chess Club** – 25 Concord Rd., Billerica, MA

Regular Events Fridays, 7:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M., G/90 (1 rd / wk)

For further inquiries contact [arthur978@comcast.net](mailto:arthur978@comcast.net)

### **Chess Master Connections** – 201 Wayland Sq., Providence, RI

Regular Events:

Thursdays, 7:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M., G/70 inc. 20 (1 rd / wk)

Fridays, 7:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., G/8

Saturdays, 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., G/30

[www.ChessMasterConnections.org](http://www.ChessMasterConnections.org)

(401) 497 - 8366

### **Andover Chess Club** – 360 South Main St., Andover, MA

Casual Events Fridays, 7:00 P.M.

For further inquiries contact [andoverchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:andoverchessclub@gmail.com)

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c/o Robert D. Messenger  
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