

FALL 2014

Chess Horizons





Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial

December 14, 2014

Marlborough, Massachusetts

\$1,400 in Projected Prizes, \$840 Guaranteed

Where: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, Mass.

What: 4-round Swiss. 3 sections: Open, Under 1910, Under 1510.

Time Control: Game in 65 minutes with a 5 second delay.

Registration: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Rounds: 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$39 if mailed by **12/9** or online (PayPal) at www.masschess.org by **12/12**, \$45 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$20 discount to players in the U1510 section rated under 1100 or unrated. Official December ratings used. Unofficial uschess.org ratings used if otherwise unrated.

Unrated: Unrated prize limits: \$100 in Under 1910, \$50 in Under 1510.

Byes: A half point bye is available in any round, limit 1, must commit before round 2.

Prizes: Prizes are 60% guaranteed based on 55 fully paid entries (\$20 off entries count half).

Open: \$350-150 U2110 \$150 **10 Grand Prix Points.**

U1910: \$200-100 U1710 \$100

U1510: \$150-100 U1310 \$100 Trophies to top U1100, U900, Unrated

- USCF membership required for all players, plus state membership for Mass residents: MACA \$12 adult, \$6 under 18; add \$8 (optional) for a subscription to *Chess Horizons*)

Questions: Bob Messenger. Phone (603) 891-2484 or send email to info@masschess.org. Day of the tournament phone (603) 557-1732.



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Chess Horizons

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Cover photo: Farzad Abdi, 74th New England Open co-champion
Credit: Tony Cortizas



Letter from the Editor

Nathan Smolensky

Dear Readers,

It's been a while. Since our last regular, single issue, it has been more than two years. Farzad Abdi, who graces the cover, is the first person on the cover of legal voting age in over three years. And when was the last time we had two annotations from the state's top juniors? You would have to tell me.

There's some exciting material in this issue. As I alluded to, pieces from Carissa Yip and IM Samuel Sevian are featured games here. GM Alexander Ivanov, who was on the wrong side of both of these, also gets a rebuttal, showcasing the game that gave him a share of the 74th New England Open in early September.

Larry Christiansen also returns, with some excellent chess problems for you to solve, right on the opposite page here. I've also thrown in a bit of chess trivia, which I thought might be a fun addition.

It was quite a challenge figuring out how to work in all the great content I receive into a 24-page issue. No longer viable are the 6-7 page game collections which were highlights of my last two efforts. *Kingshakers* will return in the next issue, as it had to make way here for Mark LaRocca's excellent U.S. Chess League feature here.

As always, feedback is welcome, and I want to hear what you want to see in future issues. As this is only my third issue (or fifth, I suppose, if one counts double issues as two each), there is still constant evolution in the structure, style, and substance of this publication. A great part of my mission here is to re-establish the brand of *Chess Horizons*, building this to a reliable reflection of reader demand. I look forward to hearing from you!

- Nathan Smolensky, *Chess Horizons* Editor

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Larry C.'s Chess Challenges

GM Larry Christiansen

See how many you can get! Once you've mastered these problems, you can face the three-time U.S. Champion yourself at his South Station simul, from 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of every month in the heart of downtown Boston. Check out boylstonchess.blogspot.com for more details!

Solutions on p.22.

1.



Black to move and win.

2.



White to move and win.

3.



Black to move and win.

4.



Black to play and win.

5.



White to play and win.

Chess Trivia!

Nathan Smolensky

1. In 1958, Bobby Fischer shattered the world record for youngest Grandmaster when he earned the title at 15. From what country did the next two holders of this record emerge?
2. What defence, characterized by Black's second move, takes its name from a theoretician who actually advised *not* to play it?
3. Best known for previous work together within a group, what two artists wrote the music for the 1984 stage production *Chess*?

Answers on p. 22



News in Brief

Nathan Smolensky

The Greater Boston Open was held on October 26th at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. **GM Alexander Ivanov** and **NM Michael Vilenchuk**, an Ohio native and current Brandeis student, shared first in the top section with 3.5 points out of 4. **Howard Goldowsky** and **Larry Eldridge** shared tops in the U1900 with the same score. The U1600 and U1200 would have clear winners with perfect scores in **Alan Sikarov** and **David Zhao**, respectively.

The 44th Continental Open was held from August 7th through 10th in Sturbridge. Three players tied for first with 5/6. Unfortunately, none of these three – New York **GM Alexander Stripunsky**, Connecticut **GM Sergey Kudrin**, or Connecticut **IM Jan Van de Mortel** – represented the host state. The Commonwealth fared better in the U1900, where **Mark Fins** claimed sole first, the U1700 (**Malachi Davis**), and the U1500 (**Bharath Heggadahalli**). Each of these players claimed their section's top spot with a 5.5/6 score.

Interestingly, with Maine's **Aaron Spencer** sweeping the U2100, Vermont's **Andy Yang** sweeping the U1300, and New Hampshire's **Ed Rogers** earning sole first in the U1000, this left Rhode Island as the only New England state without a section winner in the field. Puny Rhode Island.

Massachusetts was well represented at the Hartford Open between September 26th and September 28th. **IM Samuel Sevian** and **FM Christopher Chase** shared first in the open section with 4.5/6 each, while **NM Farzad Abdi** took sole third with 4/6. Read

more about Sevian's climactic match with GM Ivanov on page 13.

A remarkable feat was achieved by Worcester's **Brett Kildahl** over nine days between October 28th and November 5th. Within this stretch, he would claim first in the top section of three different multi-week evening tournaments across the state – the Metro West Chess Club's Trick or Treat Swiss (where he tied with Eric Godin), the Worcester Chess Club's Obviously October Open, and the Wachusett Chess Club's Ernest Fandreyer Memorial. With this quite possibly unprecedented achievement, Kildahl earned a healthy chunk of prize money and his first rating over 2200. Congratulations, Brett!

In Memoriam: Raymond Duval George Mirijanian

Raymond A. Duval of Brunswick, Maine, a former longtime USCF member and a life member of the Massachusetts Chess Association, died at his home on Sept. 10, 2014. He was 81. He was born July 5, 1933 in Brunswick, the son of Wilfred and Eva (Dehetre) Duval, and lived there most of his life.

An avid chess player, he ran the once active Brunswick Chess Club for a number of years at Bowdoin College and was the club's team captain. He was the first treasurer of the Maine Chess Association and served in that position for more than 25 years. His last USCF-rated tournament was the 55th New Hampshire Open in Manchester in 2005.

Mr. Duval is survived by his wife of 57 years; two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.



Abdi, Ivanov Triumphant at 74th New England Open

George Mirijanian



GM Alexander Ivanov, 58, of Newton (above), MA and national master Farzad Abdi, 33, of Rockland, MA shared top honors in the 74th New England Open, held August 30 - September 1 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Leominster, MA. The duo tallied 4.5 points each out of 6 in an Open section field of 21 players to earn the title of New England co-champions for 2014. Ivanov, who had not played in a New England Open since 2010, was dealt a setback in the first round when he was upset by 10-year-old expert Carissa Yip of Andover, MA (below), in a game that made chess history. The win by Yip set a new world record for the youngest female to defeat a grandmaster in rated play. The record was held by Judit Polgar, who had downed her first GM at the age of 11.



Despite the loss, Ivanov determined to stay in the tournament and not repeat what he did at the 2007 New England Open in Manchester, NH, where he also lost in the first round to an expert, Patrick Sciacca, and opted to drop out of the tournament and drive immediately to Albany, NY to compete in the 129th New York State Championship, where he tied for first place with fellow GM Ildar Ibragimov and won the title as a result of a playoff.



Going into the sixth and final round, seven players were tied for first with 3.5 points out of 5. Besides Ivanov and Abdi, they included former New England champions IM William Paschall of Budapest, Hungary (above, left), a summer resident of South Yarmouth, MA and FM Chris Chase of Somerville, MA (above, right), as well as 2014 Mass. state champion Mika Brattain of Lexington, MA (below), FM Steven Winer of Belmont, MA, and NM Andrew Liu of Westborough, MA.





Draws resulted in the games Paschall vs. Liu and Brattain vs. Winer, while Ivanov bested Chase and Abdi downed fellow NM Lawyer Times of Hyde Park, MA.

Capturing the top U2300 prize with a score of 4-2 was Andrew Liu (below), while Sherif Khater of Nashua, NH won the top U2200 prize with a 3.5-2.5 tally.



In the 32-player Under 2000 section, Scott Didham of Sharon, MA and James Aperi of Worcester, MA tied for first place with scores of 5-1. Sharing the top U1850 prize with 4-2 results were Howard Goldowsky of Canton, MA and Joseph Bennett of Hubbardston, MA.



A total of 36 players competed in the Under 1750 section, where Kevin Zimmerman of East Hartford, CT finished first with a score of 5.5-0.5. Tying for

second place with 4.5-1.5 tallies were Anton Barash of Brighton, MA (above), and Stephen West of Westford, MA. Sharing the top U1600 prize with 3.5-2.5 results were David Todd of Boxford, MA, Nikita Roldan-Levchenko of Allston, MA, Evan MacLure of Lexington, MA, Allen Song of Wellesley, MA and Abhinav Govindaraju of Concord, NH.



In the 23-player Under 1500 section, first place with a score of 5-1 went to Udhay Vijay of Nashua, NH. Sharing the 2nd/U1350 prizes with 4.5-1.5 results were Robert Walton Jr. of Manchester, NH, Gershon Gilman of Newton, MA, Stacy Angle of Acton, MA and Jiahui Li of Worcester, MA. Tying for the U1200 prize with 3.5/6 were Pooja Welling of Nashua, NH and David Katsman of Chestnut Hill, MA.

The 74th New England Open Blitz Championship attracted 17 players. FM Denys Shmelov of Pepperell, MA won the championship with a score of 9 points out of ten. Sherif Khater finished second with a 7.5 point tally. Farzad Abdi won the top U2300 prize with 6/10, while William Ravn of Standish, ME captured the top U2000 prize with the same score. Nikita Roldan-Levchenko won the top U1800 prize, scoring 5.5/10.



74th New England Open Scholastic Results:

K-12 U1500 (15 players):

1st: Abhinav Govindaraju, 3.5/4
2nd: Max Bennett, 3.5
3rd: Jerry Li, 3.5
Medal: Anish Kammila, Justin Jin – 3 ea.

K-12 U900 (18 players):

1st: Raymond Xu, 4/4
2nd: Andrew Gao, 3.0
3rd: Arjun Girish, 3.0
Medal: Timmy Guan, Shrujal San – 3 ea.

K-6 U1400 (20 players):

1st: Daniel Zhou, 4/4
2nd: Jerry Li, 3.0
3rd: Aaron Huang, 3.0
Medal winner: Boshen Li, 3.0

K-6 U500 (14 players):

1st: Daniel Lobo, 3.5/4
2nd: Ethan Lubomirski, 3.0
3rd: Sujith Yeruva, 3.0
Medal winner: Carah Su, 3.0

K-3 Under 1200 Section (7 players):

1st: Jerry Li, 4/4
2nd: Meghana Kancharla, 3.0
3rd: Noah Brauner, 2.0
Medal winners: Raymond Xu,
Venkatraman Varatharajan, Arya
Chawla, 2 ea.

K-3 Under 400 Section (8 players)

1st: Ethan Lubomirski, 4/4
2nd: Adam Lubomirski, 3.0
3rd: Evan Lavallee, 3.0

This year's New England Open, sponsored for the fourth year in a row in Leominster by the Massachusetts Chess Association, drew a total of 175 players in 11 sections. Chief TD was Robert Messenger of Nashua, NH. He was assisted by George Mirijanian of Fitchburg, MA, Nicholas Sterling of Needham, MA and Steve Frymer of Lexington, MA.

Waltham Chess Club**Fridays, 7 PM-Midnight**

Location: IBM Building, Cafeteria

404 Wyman Street. Waltham, MA
02451-1212.

781-790-1033

info@WalthamChessClub.org

- Diverse membership, ranging from beginners to masters
- Rated and unrated cash-prize tournaments
- Play-for-fun casual nights
- Friendly, handicapped-accessible setting
- FREE PIZZA NIGHTS!





Club Spotlight

What's Happening in Waltham

Nicholas Sterling

My time with Waltham Chess Club dates back to 1991 when I received a phone call on a wintry January afternoon. It was from a chess player named Alan Beck, who proceeded to invite me to a chess club that met in Waltham every Friday evening. I had never been to a real chess club before, so I was intrigued.

So I went, and met Alan Beck and Steve Frymer for the first time, in a rather drab-looking building behind a police station in Waltham. Not many people came that first night, but I still got to play my first club games ever, and even though I think I lost most of them, it was a thrill.

But there were some problems with that locale. One of the most serious nuisances manifested itself severely one evening in the middle of a major tournament, when Grouch Superior from downstairs (the watchman at the door) interrupted us to try to throw us out. This guy almost caused me to leave the Club for good, and it took a great deal of persuasion by Alan Beck to keep in on board.

A lot has happened in twenty-three years.

First, thanks to the intervention of Todd Chase, we moved away from the drab building behind the police station (and its rather loud-mouthed building supervisor) to our current posh layout at 404 Wyman Street. It's not perfect, having a minor problem with a lighting deficiency, but still it provides a great environment for Friday night chess. There's lots of table space for tournaments, fun chess, and Bughouse (most importantly). Drinking water is nearby, and the bathrooms are clean. The ambiance is

pleasant with a great view out the window (cars rushing down the highway); the front door guard, Marie, greets us delightfully every week; we do not have to pay rent.

Second, we have Free Pizza nights and Wild Card tournaments. For the Wild Cards, the players get to vote on the time control of the night. A great way for chess players to spend a Friday before a holiday weekend – they get free dinner if they arrive soon enough!

Third and best of all, there is an annual Club Championship, recently won by Denys Shmelov and Steven Winer (pictured below) – and now, an annual Blitz Club Championship. To give other players besides the top six a chance to participate, the Club Championship has been expanded to include a Summer Open of 10 Rounds over 5 weeks (with other options offered simultaneously). Both the Championship and Summer Open are prestigious, with much larger cash prizes than our regular weekly events. The combined tournament is held in May and June between Memorial Day and Fourth of July.



I have learned a lot from being the weekly TD at Waltham Chess Club over the last six years, and am grateful to all the players for having made our time at 404 Wyman Street of Waltham an ongoing success.



Yip – Ivanov: Carissa Explains it All

Carissa Yip

Carissa Yip 2126

GM Alexander Ivanov 2578

74th New England Open (1)

08.30.2014

Modern (Robatsch) Defence [B06]

This is one of my favorite games. Not just because I beat my first GM, but because it was sharp and exciting throughout.

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 c6 4. Be3

(4... Nf3 d5)

4... Qb6 5. a3 d6 6. f4 e5



This is a risky move. It makes the pawn on d6 weak, and the threat of exd4 is easy to defend. Perhaps better would have been 6... Nf6 7. Nf3 O-O 8. Be2.

7. Nf3 exd4

(7... Bg4 8. Qd2 Bxf3 9. dxe5 Qd8 10. gxf3 dxe5 11. Qxd8+ Kxd8 12. O-O-O+)

8. Nxd4

(8. Bxd4 Bxd4 9. Nxd4)

8... Qd8

Diagram # Black moved the Queen back to the original position, and in doing so lost two tempi.

9. Qd2 Nf6 10. O-O-O O-O 11. Nf3



Here White is trying to attack the weak d6 pawn. 11. h3 was also possible.

11... Qe8

Trying to get counterplay by attacking White's e pawn.

12. e5

This is a tricky idea to go for an advantage in material, and create a dynamic position that is unclear.

12... Ng4 13. Bg1 dxe5 14. h3 Nf6 15. Bc5



White is trying to win the exchange for a pawn, but it is unclear since Black has the bishop pair. Both sides have attacking chances, since opposite side castling is in effect.

15... exf4

(15... Bh6 16. Nxe5 Nh5)

16. Qxf4



16. Bxf8? doesn't work since 16... Qxf8

17. Qxf4 Bh6 is winning for Black.

16... Nbd7

(16... Nh5)

17. Bxf8 Nxf8 18. Bc4

White needs to make use of her rooks, and this helps develop the one on h1, her last undeveloped piece.

18... Ne6 19. Qh4 b5

The pawn storm begins.

20. Bb3

(20. Bxe6 Bxe6 21. Rhe1)

20... a5 21. Kb1 R b8 22. Rhe1

White prefers attacking with her pieces in the center instead of storming pawns.

22... b4

Breaking through...

23. Qg3!



An intermediate move that saves a tempo!
23. axb4 Rxb4 24. Qg3 results in the same position, but with Black to move.

23... Rb7

(23... bxc3 24. Qxb8)

24. axb4 Rxb4 25. Ng5

Putting pressure on the pinned knight on e6.

25... Nd5 26. Re4

I like this move since it ensures that there are no breaks on a4 by overprotecting that square.

26... Nxc3+ 27. bxc3 Rb5?

An inaccuracy! Black missed...

28. Qh4!



A double threat! Can you see both of them?

28... a4

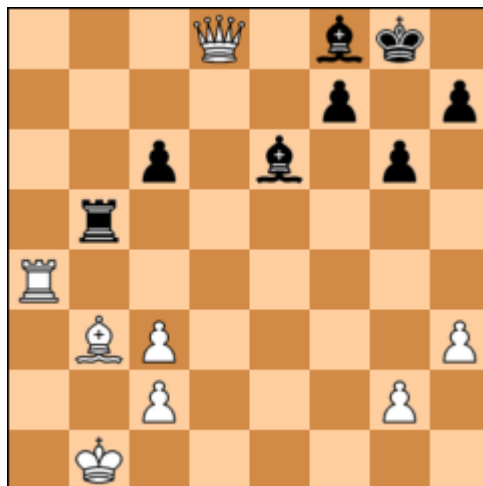
Black missed White's main threat, not Qxh7 but...

29. Nxe6! Bxe6 30. Rd8

Winning the queen.

30... Qxd8 31. Qxd8+ Bf8 32. Rxa4

Black has no chance now, and so he resigns.



1-0



Hartford Open 2014

Sevian – Ivanov

IM Samuel Sevian

The 2014 Hartford Open in Connecticut's capital would see Massachusetts players dominate the top section, occupying the first four finishing spots when all was said and done. Fittingly, the climactic match would pit our state's top two active players against each other – the veteran Grandmaster Ivanov, and one of the nation's top youngsters, the rapidly rising Samuel Sevian.

IM Samuel Sevian (2583)

GM Alexander Ivanov (2573)

2014 Hartford Open (5)

09.28.2014

Ruy Lopez – Berlin Defence (C65)

1. e4

My opponent and I had 3.5 points apiece, and so did Christopher Chase on board 2. I knew he had an easier matchup, and that more likely he would win, so I went for the win at all costs.

1... e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3

I decided to play the Anti-Berlin, as I did against Shimanov.

4... Bc5 5. c3

Avoiding 5.0-0 Nd4!?

5... O-O 6. O-O

Here I deviate from my game against Shimanov (Greensboro, 2014), as there I had played the dubious 6.Bxc6.

6... d6 7. Nbd2 Bd7

The point is to be able to meet Bxc6 with Bxc6. If 7... a6, though, I would have opted for 8. Ba4 (8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. d4 exd4 10. cxd4 Bb6 is the main line)

8. h3 a6 9. Ba4 b5

Where should I move the bishop? I thought it stood better on b3 than c2 because my

plan is not to play d3-d4, but rather to build up an attack on the kingside. Moving it to c2 would better support the former plan.

10. Bb3

(10. Bc2!? Bb6 11. Re1 Ne7 12. Nf1 Ng6 13. Ng3 c5 14. d4=)

10... Bb6

10... Be6 was the main move here, and the main drawback to 10.Bb3. But then one starts thinking of 11. Bc2, and realizes that maybe black's bishop is not very well placed on e6, mainly because of d4-d5, which comes with tempo. Nevertheless, the bishop on e6 does support Black's own d6-d5 advance, so the question remains, is 10...Be6 a good move or not? 11. Bc2 (11. Bxe6!? fxe6 12. b4 Bb6 13. a4 gives White some queenside pressure) 11... h6 12. Re1 Bb6 13. Nf1 d5 14. exd5 Nxd5 15. a4=.

11. Re1 Ne7

11... Re8 12. Nf1 h6 13. Ng3 Na5 14. Bc2 c5 was also possible for Black.

12. Nf1 c5

Prophylaxis against d3-d4

13. Ng3

13. d4 exd4! 14. cxd4 c4 15. Bc2 d5! 16. e5 Ne4! 17. a4 (17. Bxe4 dxe4 18. Rxe4 Bf5 19. Re1 Bd3?) 17... Rb8= is objectively equal, but more pleasant to play as Black.

13... h6?!

Better was Ng6, preventing Nh4.

14. Nh4 Qc7 15. Qf3 Nh7

15... c4 16. dxc4 bxc4 17. Bc2 d5!? (17... Nh7 18. Ngf5 Nxf5 19. Nxf5 Bxf5 20. exf5! followed by Be4 gives white an obvious edge) 18. exd5 Nexd5 19. Ne4!±

16. Nh5?!

This throws away most of the advantage. 16. Nhf5 Nxf5 17. Nxf5 Bxf5 18. exf5! would give White an edge, due to powerful presence on the light squares.

16... Kh8?!

16... c4! 17. Qg3 g5! would equalize:



18. dxc4 bxc4 19. Bc2 f5! 20. exf5 Nxf5 21. Bxf5 Bxf5 22. Nxf5 Rxf5 23. Be3 Nf6 24. Nxf6+ Rxf6=.



17. Nf5

Here I took some time calculating other options, but eventually understood that none of them work. 17. Nxc7? Kxc7 18. Qh5 (18. Qg3+ Kh8 19. Bxh6 Rg8 20. Qf3 c4+) Ng8 19. Re3 (19. Bxh6+? Nxc6 20. Re3 c4! 21. Rg3+ Ng4!-) c4 20. Rg3+ Kh8 and Black manages to stop White's attack. Worse still are 17. Bxh6?? gxh6 18. Qe3 Ng5+ and 17. Bxf7?? Be8+. 17. Qg3 was my original intention, but after some thought I realized that black can take over the initiative with g5!

17... Nxf5 18. exf5 Bc6 19. Bd5

I take full control over the light squares.

19... Bxd5 20. Qxd5 Qd8

He wants to get rid of my annoying knight on h5 through either Qh4 or Nf6.

21. Qe4 Nf6 22. Nxf6 Qxf6 23. c4

White's plan here is to play Re2 Be3 b3 and finally start an attack on the kingside, while Black is trying to play d6-d5.

23... Rab8 24. Re2

24. b3 would allow Black's bishop to nicely get to d4 with 24... Ba5! 25. Re2 Bc3 26. Rb1 Bd4=

24... Bd8

If Black manages to exchange queens here, he won't have a kingside attack to fear, and will be able to easily play d6-d5.

25. g3 Qe7

Black wants to establish Qd7, Be7 (or Bf6), Rfd8, and d6-d5.

26. Be3 Qd7 27. h4 Be7 28. Rc1 Rfd8

Black is finally able to prepare d6-d5, so I decided to go all out for the win

29. Qf3

29. Kg2 d5 30. cxd5 Qxd5=

29... Qb7 30. Qh5 Kg8 31. Bd2

Sharpening the game in time trouble, my idea was Re4-g4

31... d5! 32. cxd5?!

32. Qg4 Kh7 33. cxb5 Qxb5 34. Rxe5 Bf6 35. Bf4= would keep the balance.

32... Qxd5

32... Rxd5! offers Black an edge.

33. Ba5?

A tricky move, but easily refutable.

33... Rd7

33... Rd6? 34. Bc7± was the point.

34. Rce1 Bf6?

From here Black makes three huge mistakes to lose the game. After 34... f6, I'm not sure how I would progress.

35. g4! Qxa2?

After this white wins material (35... Qf3! 36. Re3 Qf4! 37. Re4 Qf3=)

36. b4!±

I attack the queen and threaten g5 at the same time.

36... cxb4??

With seconds on the clock Black blunders the queen, but it was close to lost anyway: 36... Qd5 37. g5 hxg5 38. hxg5 Bxg5 39. Qxg5 f6 40. Qh5±, and White still has to work for the win, but because of threats like Re3-h3 it will be hard for black to defend.

37. Rxa2

1-0



New England Open Ivanov – Chase XVI

GM Alexander Ivanov

As the past few issues have spent so much time on his upset losses in the Mass and New England Opens, or his defeat by the young IM Sevan in Hartford, it's easy to forget that GM Ivanov remains a dominating force in local chess, or that, despite his opening round upset, he still shared first in the New England Open! He did so largely thanks to his last round victory over FM Chris Chase, an opponent he knew all too well.

GM Alexander Ivanov 2578

FM Christopher Chase 2405

74th New England Open (6)

09.01.2014

Modern (Robatsch) Defence [B06]

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Be3 a6

5. Nf3 Nd7 6. Bc4 e6

This is practically forced Because of the threat Bxf7+ (e.g. 6... b5 7. Bxf7+)

7. a4 b6

I've had this position several times in games with Chris Chase.

8. d5

Our previous game saw 8. O-O Ne7 9. Qd2 h6 10. h3 Bb7 11. Rfe1 g5 with complex play.

8... Bxc3+

8... e5 9. g4 h6 10. Qe2 Ne7 11. Nd2 f5? 12. gxf5 gxf5 13. Rg1 Kf8 14. f4± (Ivanov-Chase, 70th New England Open 2010)

9. bxc3 e5

(9... Nc5 10. Bxc5 bxc5 11. dxe6 Bxe6 12. Bxe6 fxe6 13. e5±)

10. O-O

(10. Nd2 Nc5 11. f4±)

10... Ndf6?!

(10... Ngf6!?)

11. Bd3

11. Nd2?! Ng4 (trading the e3 Bishop is fine for Black)

11... a5



This is an improvement over 11...h6?! 12.a5 b5 13.Ne2 g5 14.f3 Ne7 15.c4 with White getting the advantage in Ivanov-Chase, 82nd Mass. Open 2013

12. Ne1

Planning f4 right away

12... Ng4

(12... Nh5!?)

13. Bd2?!

Better is 13. Bc1!?, planning to use the Bishop on the a3-f8 diagonal in case of the Pawn exchange on e5 (e.g. 13... f5 14. f4 Ne7 15. fxe5 dxe5 16. Bc4! ±, as Qd6 would be met by Qd6 17. Nd3 f4 18. h3 Nh6 19. Ba3+-

13... f5 14. f4 Ne7 15. exf5?!

Opening the dark squared diagonal looks more natural (15. fxe5!? dxe5 (15... Nxe5 16. Bh6 fxe4 17. Bxe4 Bf5 18. Bxf5 Nxf5 19. Rxf5!±). I was worried about letting the Black Queen out by way of the d6 square. Still, after 16. Qe2! Qd6 17. Bb5+ Bd7 18. Bxd7+ Qxd7 (18... Kxd7 19. Nd3±) 19. Nd3 O-O 20. exf5 gxf5 21. Nxe5 Nxe5 22. Qxe5 Nxd5 23. Rf3, White stands better.

15... gxf5 16. c4

(16. fxe5 dxe5 17. Bb5+ Bd7 18. Be2! ±)

**16... O-O**

It was more exact to close the position right away: 16... e4!? 17. Be2=

17. h3 Nf6 18. Bc3

The computer again prefers 18. fxe5, but the lines are far from easy: 18... dxe5 19. Bh6!? (19. Bc3 Qd6∞) 19... Re8 (19... e4!? 20. Bxf8 Qxf8 21. Be2±) 20. Qc1 f4 21. Nf3 Qd6 22. Nxe5! Qxe5 23. Bxf4 Qd4+ 24. Be3 Qc3 (24... Qe5 25. c3 Nf5 26. Bf2±)

18... e4 19. Be2 Qe8= 20. Ra3

Taking aim at the Kingside (20. Kh2 Qg6 21. g3 Rf7=)

20... c6?

The wrong approach. Opening up the position helps White, who has two Bishops. Black could still maintain the approximate balance keeping it closed: 20... Bd7 21. Bb2 Qg6 (21... Bxa4?? 22. Qa1+-) 22. g3 Rf7 23. Ng2 =) or 20... Qg6 21. Bb2 Rf7=

21. Bb2± Ng6?! 22. Qa1± Qe7
(22... Qf7 23. dxc6 Be6 24. g4! +-)

23. dxc6 Be6 24. Rb3 Rab8

**25. g4! Ne8 26. Ng2 Qc7**

(26... Ng7 27. Bd4 Qc7 28. Qb2+-)

27. Rg3 Qxc6 28. Ne3±

After bringing my misplaced knight on e1 to a perfect blockading square I was sure I was winning. The computer agrees.

28... Qc8 29. gxf5 Bxf5 30. Nxf5

(30. c5!? Qxc5 31. Bc4+ +-)

30... Qxf5

(30... Rxf5 31. Bg4 Kf7 32. Qd1!? +-)

31. Bg4 Qc5+ 32. Bd4 Qxc4 33. f5

The immediate capture on g6 is not a threat, but Black can't use the tempo, since the King has no place to hide. The knight on g6 can't move because of Be2+.

33... Rb7 34. Rf2

Not falling for 34. fxg6?? Rxf1+ 35. Qxf1 Qxd4+±

34... Ng7 35. fxg6 Rxf2

(35... hxg6 36. Rxf8+ Kxf8 37. Bxb6 Rxb6 38. Qf6+ Kg8 39. Qd8+ Kh7 40. Qxb6 +-)

36. gxh7+ Kxh7 37. Bxf2 Qxc2 38. Qf6

Black resigned.

1-0

This would be the 16th meeting between these two since the USCF started maintaining its database in 1991, and the 16th win for GM Ivanov. The streak would not be broken until the two drew, less than a month later, in Hartford.



U.S. Chess League **Boston Blitz Season Recap**

Mark LaRocca

Chess is a game; Chess is a sport; Chess is a refuge for antisocial single-minded nerds!

The Boston Blitz finished this US Chess League (USCL) 10th season with a woeful record of 1 win, 4 draws, and 5 losses, (3 – 7) placing them in 5th place in the Eastern division and out of the playoffs. For those of you keeping score, this was the 3rd worst record in the league, besting only the L.A. Vibes (2.5 – 7.5) and our neighboring N.E. Nor’easters (0.5 – 9.5), who, by the way, are the Blitz’s only victim this season in the infamous week 8 “Toilet Bowl.” “If it weren’t for bad luck, we’d have no luck at all” (sing along if you know the words) was our theme and the sound of the Nor’easters gurgling down the drain was our only consolation. We kid NE, really; they are, after all, one of us... except, I think they are black on the left side (a little Star Trek reference for you fans out there).

Well, back to my opening thought about Chess. I guess we can debate the first two points, but, the Blitz’s week 10 draw with the New Jersey Knockouts categorically refutes the third (nerds) point as the Blitz demonstrated the brotherhood that exists among fellow chess players by celebrating their fourth board loss. Yes, a celebration it was... the debut of the team’s 10th man, William “Billy” Collins.

Billy is a regular in the Harvard Square chess scene, often hustling a few dollars from the unsuspecting with his amazing skill at speed chess. Smack talk and fun-filled

banter are always present in these matches, as is a smile belying the tough times that he has come upon. He has many friends, many of them quite good chess players, and they offer no quarter as they take him on. And it is these friends that brought him to this match, relayed the moves as he played, and helped him to help us. In the end, he lost, the Blitz drew the match, and we all won.



And in this spirit of comradery, I would like to present Billy’s game, along with Steven Zierk’s win from the same match as a sort of tour de Blitz, a representation of our season within one single match, a promising win and a dramatic loss.

William Collins - BOS, 2122

Aaron Jacobson - NJ, 2158

U.S. Chess League (10)

10.28.2014

Caro-Kann, Classical [B19]

**1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5
5. Ng3 Bg6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. h4 h6 8. Bd3
Bxd3 9. Qxd3 e6 10. Bd2 Ngf6 11. O-O-O
a5**

The first non-book move in this thoroughly analyzed line of the Caro-Kann. Black indicates that he will not castle queenside. More typical is 11... Qc7 12. Kb1 O-O-O 13. c4 =

12.Kb1 a4 13. a3 Be7 14. Bc1



White waits, but the bishop may have been better placed where it was. 14. Ne4 Nxe4 15. Qxe4= seems more normal, but the position is fairly equal in any case.

14... O-O 15. Qe2

White does not want to trade queens should he move the knight to e5.

15... Qb6 16. Ka2?!

A bit passive. Black now has a slight edge. The best way to defend Black's threat of 16... Bxh3 was... (16. Rd3 =)

16... c5 17. Rhe1 cxd4 18. Nxd4 Bc5

19. Be3 Nd5

Black wants bishop for knight.



20. Ndf5

This is flashy, but, the machines say not best. Simple was 20. Ne4 Nxe3 21. Qxe3 Rfd8 22. Nxc5 Qxc5 and Black has a very slight edge.

20... Nxe3 21. Nxe3 Nf6 22. Nc4 Qa7

Black keeps his eye on f2 and maintains his advantage.

23. Rf1?

This passive defense gives Black a free hand on the queenside. Instead, White could have sacrificed the f-pawn for the initiative:

23. Ne4 Nxe4 24. Qxe4 Bxf2 25. Rf1.

Black is still better, but White probably has enough activity to hold.

23... b5 24. Ne5 b4 25. axb4 a3!

A nice interpolation, forcing a weakening around White's king.

26. b3 Bxb4 27. Nc6 Qc5

This is not as good as 27... Qc7: 28. Nxb4 Qc3 29. Rb1 (29. Nd3 Nd5 30. Rb1 Qd4 31. Ne4 f5 32. c3 Qxe4 -+) Qxb4 30. c4 Rfd8 and Black has a large advantage.

28. Qc4!

Billy finds the right defense.

28... Qxc4 29. bxc4 Bc3

This is only equal. The Bishop is not active on b2. The alternative 29... Bc5! ties down Whites pieces putting pressure on both sides of the board. 30. c3 Rfc8 31. Ne5 Ra5, though White is still in the game.

30. Rd3 Bb2 31. f4?

This is a mistake and turns the game in Black's favor. 31. c3! blocks the bishop out of the game (31... Ra4 32. Ne5).

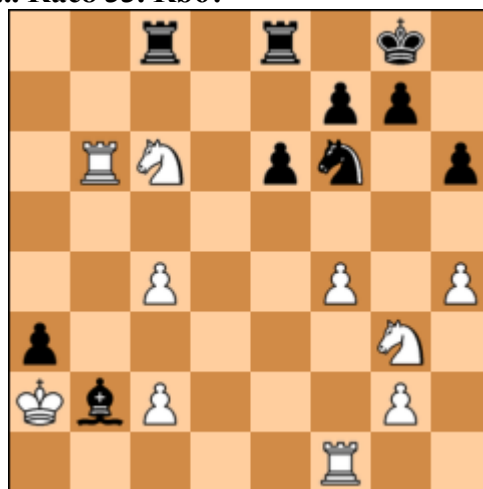
31... Rfe8?!

Guarding the check to attack the knight from c1 and win the c-pawn. But, this was not the best. Simply... (31... Ra4 32. c5 Nd5 and Black's knight decides the game.)

32. Rb3

Again, 32. c3 saves the day, but Black is a little better than in the previous line due to White's weakened kingside pawns.

32... Rac8 33. Rb6?



The losing move, as the knight will force its way to attack the White king.

33... Nd7 34. Ra6

34. Rb7 Rxc6 35. Rxd7 Rxc4 is also winning as White has too many weaknesses

34... Nc5 35. Rb6 Na4 36. Ra6 Nc3+

37. Kb3 Rxc6



In the other room, we all saw this coming, but we felt that if it was going to be a loss, a spectacular mate is the way to go!

38. Ra5

White can safely resign here, but, Billy is a street chess player, and that means it ain't over 'til it's over. 38. Rxc6? is mate after 38... Rb8+ 39. Rb6 Rxb6#.

38... Rb8+ 39. Rb5 Nxb5 40. cxb5 Rc3

Billy's opponent fails to give him an honorable death. There was still a mate after 40... Rxb5+ 41. Ka2 Rxc2 42. Ne4 Bf6+ 43. Kxa3 Rc7 44. Ka4 Rb8 45. Nxf6+ gxf6 46. Rd1 Ra7#

41. Kb4 Rxc3 42. c4 a2 43. c5 a1=R

0-1

After the match, we all analyzed the game with him, as if this were the only thing that mattered, this one struggle, one game, and for this moment, this night, we were content.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."

Now, how often do we get to quote Shakespeare in a chess article?



Meanwhile, back on first board, Steven was in the midst of his own struggle with New Jersey's top board, GM Alex Stripunsky. Steven is definitely the Blitz MVP this season with a record of 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss (a total of 4/6) on first

board against 3 GMs and 3 IMs. This week 10 win with Black was, in my opinion, his finest performance.

GM Alex Stripunsky - NJ, 2656

IM Steven Zierk – BOS, 2543

U.S. Chess League (10)

10.28.2014

French Defence, Labourdonnais [C00]

1. e4 e6 2. f4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. c3 d4

Somewhat of a sideline to a sideline. More common is 5... Nh6 6. Na3 Nf5 7. Nc2 =.

6. Bd3 Nge7 7. Na3 Nd5 8. g3 a6

This is new. But just as equal as the known move 8... Be7. Black is doing fine here and Steven decides to play aggressively.

9. Nc2 b5 10. cxd4 Nxd4 11. Ncxd4 cxd4

12. a3 Bc5 13. b4 Bb6 14. Bb2 Bb7 15.

Qe2 h6 16. Rc1 Rc8

Black should delay this trade until his rooks are connected. 16... O-O 17. Bb1 Qd7 18. Qd3 f5 is better for Black.

17. Rxc8 Qxc8 18. O-O O-O= 19. h4...

Perhaps a bit loosening, but, as it turns out, also quite useful. 19. h3 Nc3 20. Qe1 Qd7 21. Kh2 is equal according to Deep Fritz 14.

19... Nc3 20. Qe1 Qa8=

Another road is 20... Qd7 21. Kh2 Rc8 22. Ba1 Na4=

21. Kg2!

This is best: 21. Qf2 Be4! 22. Bxe4 (22. Be2 d3 23. Qxb6 dxe2 24. Rc1 Na4 loses a piece) Nxe4 23. Qg2 d3+ 24. Kh2 Qd5+ and Black has a large advantage as White's rook needs to guard f7 from the bishop intrusion.

21... Be4 22. Bxe4 Nxe4

The game is equal. White now wins a pawn, but Black takes over the initiative.

23. d3 Nc3 24. Bxc3 dxc3 25. Qxc3 Rc8

26. Qd2 Qd5

Both sides have played best and only moves so far.



27. d4?

A mistake which hands Black the advantage. This pawn cannot be saved, so White should try to exchange pieces and get to a draw.

27. Rc1 Rxc1 28. Qxc1 Qxd3 29. Qc8+ Kh7
30. Qb7 Be3 31. h5 Qe2+ 32. Kh3 Qf1+ 33.
Kg4 Bf2 34. Qxf7 Qg2 35. Qg6+ secures it.

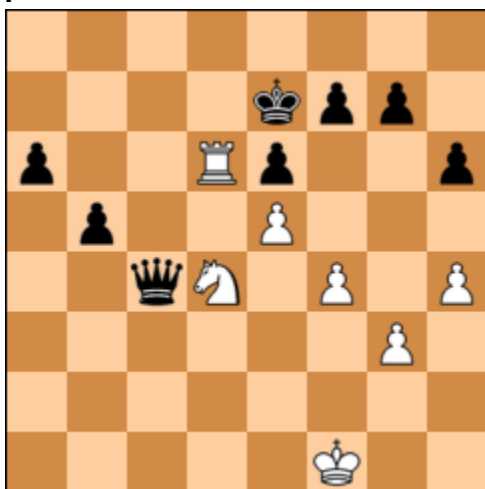
27... Rc4

More exciting was 27... Qb3! 28. Rc1 Rc4 29. h5 a5 and Black is breaking through on the queenside and has an advantage even though he is a pawn down.

28. Rd1??

Possibly the only immediately losing move.
28. Qe3 Bxd4 29. Qe2 Bb6 30. Rd1 Qa8 is
only a very slight edge for Black.

28... Rxd4 29. Qxd4 Bxd4 30. Rxd4 Qa2+
31. Kf1 Qxa3 32. Ke2 Qb2+ 33. Kf1 Kf8
34. Rd8+ Ke7 35. Rd6 Qxb4 36. Nd4
Qc4+



Black has two pawns and a Queen against White's knight and rook, it is no contest.

37. Kg2 g6 38. Nc6+ Kf8 39. Rd8+ Kg7
40. Ne7 Qc7 41. Rg8+ Kh7 42. Re8 b4 43.
Kf2 Qd7

0-1

What can I say about this lost season? Without pointing fingers, we performed reasonably well on the top two boards, perhaps a little below expectations on the 3rd board, and pretty miserably bad on 4th board.

Team manager, NM Ilya Krasik, put together a fairly balanced team. And, on the top boards, it seemed to work. We really couldn't expect much more on boards 1 and 2 since we were out-rated and out-titled there in many matches. Definitely, our strength, which should have been boards 3 and 4, failed to perform. So, now what?

I'll leave that up to greater minds. Oh, there are no greater minds, you say. Hmmmm... you make a good point. I guess we'll let Ilva have another crack at it then.

See ya next year,

GO BLITZ!

For more info on our heroes, check out the Boston Blitz blog on Chess.com, the team page on Facebook, and U.S. Chess League site.

Photos Credit Tony Cortizas



Dondis on Chess Writing

Nathan Smolensky

Harold Dondis is, remarkably, both the oldest active chess players in Massachusetts and one of the most prolific. He is also in his 50th year of writing the Boston Globe's excellent chess column, and I spoke to Mr. Dondis about his column and the state of chess in the mainstream press.

NS: This is now the 50th year of your column in the *Boston Globe*. Is that correct?

HD: I believe so, yes. I filled in as the *Globe* columnist at the death of Jim Burgess in 1964 and continued as a permanent columnist because I felt there was no one available to write the column week after week. I had met Jim Burgess at a poetry club, and he introduced me to Harry Lyman and chess circles.

NS: When, exactly, was your first *Globe* column? Do you remember what it covered?

HD: I'm afraid I have mislaid a folder with my original columns, so I can't remember the exact date. However, I think it was just before the U.S. Open in Boston in 1964. I recall the first column was not well written, though I learned to improve.

NS: Are there any editions of the column from throughout the years that you're particularly proud of? That stand out as especially memorable?

HD: For me the most interesting columns I wrote were on the Fischer v. Spassky match. I followed Fischer's career with great excitement, hoping that he would play for the World Championship. My editor was Peter Hotton, who was in a small chess club at the house of Herb Kenney (literary editor of the *Globe*), and was very supportive, even in the writing of provocative headlines. I wrote an article stating that the Cold War was about to be continued between America

and Russia on 64 squares, through the sublimated war game of chess. Peter put it on the front page, and the *Globe* was ahead of the *New York Times* on this news by a few days. I flew to Iceland in the hope that Bobby Fischer would play, and even functioned for a day as attorney for Fischer's helper Fred Cramer, when Fischer refused to play. I held the phone to the stadium during the day of default, and sent reports back on the first games of the match. The attendance of many prominent people at the match was spectacular.

NS: What makes a good chess column?

HD: A good chess column in my eyes presents the current news as well as interesting chess games with capable analysis. A little witticism helps, if it is not too obscure, and an explanation of the drama and the excitement of chess is also a goal. Many times a chess column is welcome on particular subjects such as the careers of particular chess players, and the scope of chess currently and in history. I have to say that chess for me is a marvel not only for recreation but also for its aura of intellectual activity, which has taught me lessons in my own private life and profession. If a column can convey that mystique, then it has done its job.

NS: Recently, both Stephen Dann's *Worcester Telegram* column and Dylan McClain's long-running *Times* blog ended. What is your reaction? Is it indicative of a trend? Why do you think it is?

HD: I don't know much about the *Telegram* happenings. I believe that the *Times* column will be restored if there is a strong public response, but I am not sure who will lead it. Recall that my column was terminated once for a short time, but my editor was an avid player and the players in New England sent in a wave of objections after a notice was placed on the bulletin board of Metrowest.



Solutions (problems on p. 5)

1. Korchnoi-Portisch, Wijk aan Zee, 1968
1... Bxd5! 2. exd5 g3
2. Timman – Huebner, Wijk aan Zee, 1982
1. Ne6! Qxe6 (1... fxe6 2. Qxe4#)
2. Nf8#
3. Maggliolo – Suarez, Argentina, 1994
1... Qg3+! 2. Kd2 Rd1+ 3. Kxd1
Qxd3+ 4. Ke1 Nf3+ 5. Kf1 Qd1#
4. Votava - Zatoniskih, Reykyavik 2004.
1... Qxf3+! 2. Nxf3 (2. exf3?? Bh3+
3. Kg1 Re1#) Bh3+ 3. Kg1 Rxe2
4. Qxd3 Rg2+ 5. Kf1 Rxd2+ 6. Kg1
Rxd3+ +-
5. Rabiega – Schebler, Germany, 2004
1. Rb5+! cxb5 2. Qd6+ Ka7 3. axb5 a4
4. Qc5+ Kb8 5. Qe5+ Ka7 6. b6+ Kxb6
(6... Ka6 7. b4) 7. Qc5+ Ka6 8.b4

Answers to Chess Trivia

1. **Hungary.** The incomparable Judit Polgar claimed the more than thirty-year-old record just after turning 15 in 1991, only to be bested by countryman Peter Leko three years later.
2. **Damiano's Defence.** In one of the earliest chess books ever written, Pedro Damiano (1480 - 1544), a Portuguese pharmacist, denounced 2... f6 as the worst logical move after 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3. His explanation was so thorough, in fact, that the move ended up named after him!
3. The music for *Chess* was composed by **Benny Andersson** and **Björn Ulvaeus**, collectively better known as the men of ABBA. Broadway legend Tim Rice provided the lyrics.

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Places to Play

This is a partial overview of active clubs in and around Massachusetts. Time controls are listed to give some idea of relative pace and time commitment. Most include some sort of delay, and events G/30 or slower (and some faster) require USCF membership unless otherwise specified. Start times refer to round starts, and registration may end as early as fifteen minutes prior. For full details and club calendars, please visit club site or www.masschess.org. To add a listing for your club in future issues, please contact info@masschess.org.

Metro West Chess Club – 117 E. Central St. (Rt. 135), Natick, MA
Regular Events Tuesdays, 7:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M., 40/90 SD/30 (1 rd / wk)
www.MetroWestChess.org

Boylston Chess Club – 240B Elm St., Somerville, 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
www.BoylstonChessClub.org (617) 629 - 3933

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 (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 (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 (508) 339 – 6850

Billerica Chess Club – 25 Concord Rd., MA
Regular Events Fridays, 7:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M., G/90 (1 rd / wk)
For further inquiries contact 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 (401) 497 - 8366

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Fall 2014

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