

Spring 2016

Chess Horizons





85th Massachusetts Open (State Championship)

May 28-30 or 29-30, 2016

Marlborough, Massachusetts

\$6,000 in Projected Prizes, \$5,400 Guaranteed

Where: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, Mass. 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9500. Hotel rate \$119 per night standard, \$149 deluxe, single or double, **reserve by 5/4**.

What: 6-round Swiss, 4 sect: Championship (open to players rated 1800 & above), U2100, U1800, U1500.

Time Control: 40/100, SD/60, d5. 2-day rds 1-3 are G/45, d5. **No 2-day Championship section schedule.**

Registration: 3-day: Sat. 5/28 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 2-day: Sun. 5/29 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Rounds: 3-day: Sat. and Sun 10:30 and 5:00, Mon. 10:00 and 4:00. **Annual meeting Mon. 9:30 a.m.**

2-day (U2100 to U1500 only): Sun. 10:30, 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00, Mon. 10:00 and 4:00.

Entry Fee: \$55 for 3-day, \$54 for 2-day if mailed by **5/23** or online (PayPal) at www.masschess.org by **5/26**, \$70 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$25 discount to players in the U1500 section rated under 1000/Unr.

Unrated: Unrated prize limits: \$100 in U1500, \$150 in U1800, \$200 in U2100, can't win title.

Byes: Half point byes are available in any round, limit 2, rounds 4-6 must commit before round 2.

Prizes: Prizes are 75% guaranteed based on 120 fully paid entries (\$25 off entries count half). Championship section prizes are 100% guaranteed. The Championship section is FIDE rated.

Championship:	\$2000-800-400	U2300: \$450	80 Grand Prix Points
Under 2100:	\$400-200	U1950: \$200	
Under 1800:	\$400-200	U1650: \$200	
Under 1500:	\$300-150	U1350: \$150	U1200: \$150

- 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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Photo Courtesy Tony Cortizas



Note from the Editor

Nathan Smolensky

Dear Readers,

Spring has at long last sprung here in Massachusetts, and with it I bring you the year's first *Chess Horizons*, headlined by a new voice for many current readers in the sometimes-inactive FM Jacob Chudnovsky, and a returning one in the young Mika Brittain, who will be departing for university in the Midwest in a few months. I've also included a tribute to the late Harold Dondis, who passed shortly before the last issue's publication. There unfortunately was not as much room for the quantity of assorted games as we have had in some recent issues, but the quality remains in these bouts between the Bay State's best. As always, enjoy!

- 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

NM – National Master, any player over 2200 USCF

LM – Life Master, permanently 2200+ USCF (may be due either to number of games played as master of 2400+ peak rating).

FM – FIDE Master. 2300+ FIDE.

SM – Senior Master. 2400+ USCF.

IM – International Master. Norm-based FIDE title.

GM – Grandmaster. Norm-based FIDE title.

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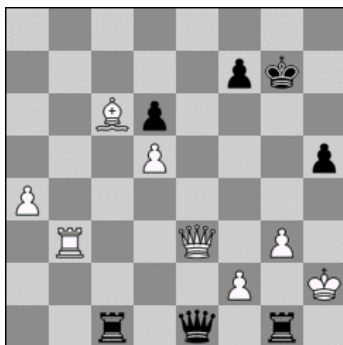


The Challenge Page

FM Chris Chase and Nathan Smolensky

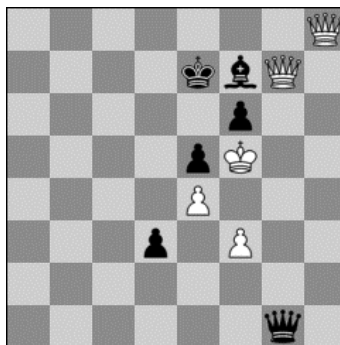
Find the best move! Solutions and answers on p. 22.

1.



Black to move

2.



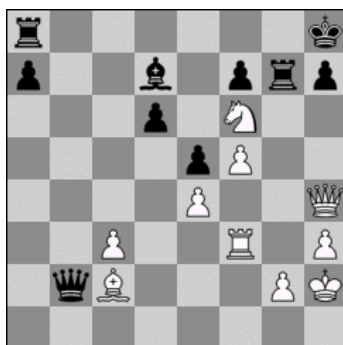
Black to move

3.



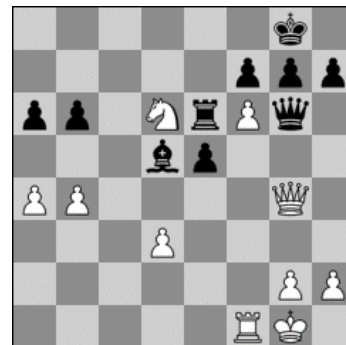
Black to move

4.



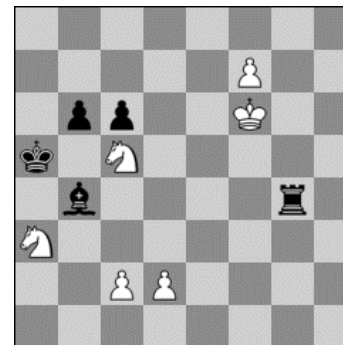
White to move

5.



White to move

6.



White to move

Chess Trivia: Born to be an American

The following chess players all famously played under the U.S. flag. But where were they born?

1. Bobby Fischer
2. Edmar Mednis
3. Fabiano Caruana
4. Harry Nelson Pillsbury
5. Jackson Showalter
6. Walter Browne
7. Isaac Kashdan
8. Samuel Reshevsky
9. Pal Benko

- a. New York, New York
- b. Ozorkow, Poland
- c. Somerville, Massachusetts
- d. Amiens, France
- e. Sidney, Australia
- f. Chicago, Illinois
- g. Riga, Latvia
- h. Miami, Florida
- i. Minerva, Kentucky



News in Brief

Nathan Smolensky

The year in chess started off with a bang as **FM William Kelleher** upset guest-of-honor GM Luke McShane, the British supertournament stalwart, at the Boston Chess Congress at the Harborside Hyatt in Boston, MA. The upset would end McShane's hope of winning the tournament, even as he swept his remaining games for a 4/5 finish. Instead, first in the premier section went solely to **GM Alexander Shabalov**, who had 4.5 points out of five in a tournament which also featured GMs Alexander Ivanov, Daniel Raznikov, and Eric Hansen.

Unfortunately, the score of Kelleher's triumph, which came from the first round in the accelerated schedule and was mired in time trouble, could not be recreated.

The Mass G/60 was conquered, as it seems so often to be, by **GM Alexander Ivanov**, who scored a 3.5/4. This was Ivanov's second consecutive G/60 crown, and his fourth in the past five years.

The New England Masters returned in late March, hosted by the Boylston Chess Foundation. Harvard student **IM Darwin Yang** took first in a formidable field which included GM Ivanov, IM Denys Shmelov, and FM Jacob Chudnovsky, who writes about the tournament later in this issue.

The 2016 Spiegel Cup Finals saw the fourth consecutive victory by **FM Mika Brattain** in the High School section, completing a sweep for his years of eligibility. **Raymond Xu** took the 8 & Under section, **Bernie Xu** and **David Zhou** shared the 11 & Under, and **NM Carissa Yip** conquered the 14 & Under.

Speaking of FM Yip, the Andover wunderkind made her first visit to the U.S. Women's Championship earlier this year, and delivered a formidable performance which included a victory over GM Irina Krush! We'll be sure to check on Carissa and her increasingly

incredible feats in the next issue of *Chess Horizons*.

The 2nd annual Massachusetts Girls' Chess Championship was held at the Boylston Chess Club on May 2nd, and concluded with **Joy Cao** winning the trophy and National Girls' Invitational Tournament qualification after a blitz playoff.

And finally, congratulations to **Ryan Wang**, perhaps the newest superstar in the Massachusetts chess world. Young Ryan, seeded fifth with a rating of 1363, took clear first place at the K-1 National Championship in Nashville, Tennessee. His 7/7 was the only perfect score in a massive field.



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The Elder Statesman: A Tribute to Harold Dondis

Nathan Smolensky



Harold Dondis was born at a very young age.

Difficult as it may be to conceive for someone who had only encountered the man in his final epoch, Mr. Dondis' frailness belied the strength of being and character that carried

him through nearly a century, through societal troubles and through his personal tribulations, which included the untimely losses of a wife and a niece. Here was a sharp mind, a graduate of Harvard Law School who had risen through the ranks at Rich May to become full partner and to argue before the United States Supreme Court. And here was a man with a truly unique passion for the game of chess, discovered through poetry and founded upon a fascination with how the brain worked and how it could be improved.

What most struck me about Harold, whom I first met around 2011, was just how universally beloved he seemed to be within the local chess community. Curmudgeons and malcontents, who seemed to gripe about everyone, spoke about the man with uncharacteristic reverence and admiration. One such player told the story of his first victory as a youngster over Harold, after which Mr. Dondis took him out for a celebratory ice cream.

Even in the contentious world of chess politics, he was a man who had seemingly made no enemies. It was Harold's nature – the man did not want to mire himself in petty arguments, and had far more interest in understanding and

implementing the logistics of positive change than in proving himself right.

Harold preceded me as MACA (then MSCA) president by some fifty years. His achievements in chess organization included playing a vital role in the 1966 founding and subsequent maintenance of the U.S. Chess Trust – a charitable organization which funded a number of major tournaments – and the 1980 certification of MACA as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, which followed a decade-long effort to do so. All throughout, Mr. Dondis displayed a relentless pursuit of solving these organizations' challenges, and a strident dedication to seeing his solutions through. This was simply Harold's nature.

Harold Bayer Dondis was born in 1922 in Rockland, Maine, a harbor town of some seven thousand people at the time. He was the younger of two children of Ida (*née* Povich – yes, that Povich, second cousins some generations removed with the famed Maury) and Joseph Dondis, who ran a movie theater in the town. The cinema sparked wonder in the young Harold, who claimed in a 2004 *Chess Horizons* interview to have seen every film played there during his childhood. He even worked as an usher for some time, but stopped so that his father could hire others, who were in more pressing need of work during the Depression.



His parents had high hopes for Harold, who was a strong student. So when he had finished his schooling, they used what resources they had to send him off to Bowdoin College, Maine's finest. Again, Harold excelled, and by

1942 he was off to Harvard Law School, from which he graduated three years later.



Turning his eyes toward practice in Boston, Harold found work at Burns, Blake and Rich (now Rich May Law), a corporate law firm founded eight years prior, and the only firm willing to hire Dondis, who was Jewish. Their newest employee would repay them with a fierce loyalty, sticking with the firm, where he eventually became a full partner, for more than seventy years.

Harold Dondis learned the game of chess at the age of ten, after a counselor at his boys' camp had grown tired of being beaten by the boy in checkers. He took a liking to the game instantly, and sometime later found a friend in town who shared his enjoyment. The two would play in a Rockland library on an almost daily basis, but never partook in any tournaments. In those days, and especially in Rockland, they were hard to find.

His chess adventures would not resume until the early 1960's, when a date suggested they attend a poetry club in Dorchester. There, Harold met Jim Burgess, *Boston Globe* chess writer at the time. The two became friends, and Burgess introduced Dondis to Harry Lyman and others. Soon, Harold started participating in tournaments himself.

By the time of his win over then-U.S. Champion Bobby Fischer in a simultaneous exhibition less than five years later, he had become not only a player of around expert strength, but a vital part of the community and the president of the Massachusetts State Chess Association (now MACA).

His intimate knowledge of the local chess community was in fact vital in that win over Fischer, as Harold's close friend Harry Lyman had won two prominent games as black against Dedham's own Weaver Adams in what has become known as the Frankenstein-Dracula variation of the Vienna. As luck would have it, on the evening of March 2nd, 1964 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Fischer found himself against Dondis, one of his fifty-six challengers that

night, in the very line. Here, without further comment, is the crown jewel of Harold Dondis' chess-playing journey:

GM Robert J. Fischer
Harold Dondis
Simultaneous Exhibition, Fitchburg
03.02.1964
Vienna Game [C27]

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bc4 Nxe4 4. Qh5 Nd6
5. Bb3 Nc6 6. d4 Nxd4 7. Nd5 Ne6 8. Qxe5 c6
9. Nc3 Qf6 10. Qxf6 gxf6



11. Nge2 Nf5 12. g4 Nfd4 13. Nxd4 Nxd4 14. Be3 Nxb3 15. axb3 d5 16. Rxa7 Rxa7 17. Bxa7 Bxg4 18. Bd4 Be7 19. Kd2 c5

0 – 1

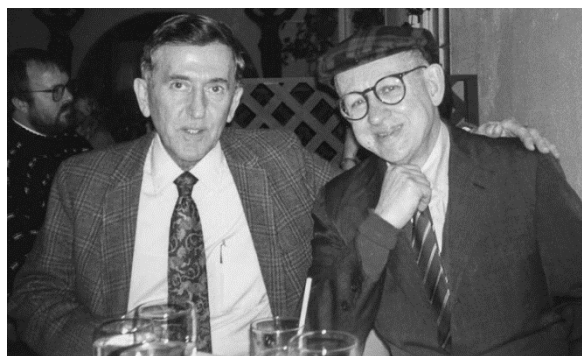
The game is covered in depth in John Donaldson's *A Legend on the Road* (Russell, 1994), about Fischer's 1964 simul tour. It also features the following quote from Dondis:

"Fitchburg, site of the simul, is a mill town which, perhaps due to organizers like George Mirijanian, was quite wild about chess. As I recall, Fischer had asked for as many boards as possible. There was not enough room for the overflow crowd and it was so enthusiastic about seeing a possible world champion that, when Fischer erred against me, and a move later graciously resigned, the crowd bore me



out of the room on its shoulders! I've never seen that in chess."

Jim Burgess died of a heart attack suddenly on July 24th, 1964. In the wake of his passing, the fate of the *Boston Globe* chess column was in question, as no capable and willing candidate to replace Burgess was in sight. And so his friend Harold took it upon himself to take the reins, though he needed to get permission first – his firm represented the *Boston Record*, the *Globe's* competition at the time.



Sometime into his running the column, Harold found help from his friend John Curdo, he of the record tournaments won and the countless state championships. Curdo would provide annotations until his retirement from that post in 1998.



After Curdo's departure, Harold enlisted the help of former U.S. Champion Patrick Wolff, who expanded the array of published games to feature a more international flavor. Wolff was a Belmont native, whom Dondis had previously

known when the former was a precocious child storming up the ranks of competitive chess.



In more recent years, Wolff left the post as well, and FM Chris Chase, a close friend of Harold, took over as annotator. The column faced several cancellation scares, one in 2001 when ownership of the *Boston Globe* was transitioning and the other in early 2015. In both cases, the column returned, buoyed by an outcry among its loyal local readers. It is continued now under the sole stewardship of Chase, after more than fifty years with Dondis at the helm.

Perhaps Dondis' most exciting work as chess writer came at the peak of the game's interest in the United States, when in 1972 his old nemesis Bobby Fischer was in Reykjavik playing for the World Championship. For that event, Harold journeyed to Iceland, where he worked with *Life* Magazine Brad Darrach and Fischer's manager Fred Cramer to get updates on the match relayed to the States. At one point, Cramer even called upon Harold to act as a legal counsel to resolve issues in the contentious and controversial match.

When Fischer threatened to withdraw from the match, it was Harold who came up with the idea of petitioning the Grandmaster with telegrams urging he resume. With the help of MACA's Stephen Dann stateside, such a campaign was begun. Whether or not Fischer would have resumed if not for the campaign is unknowable, but there is the possibility that, in a remarkable career, this was Harold Dondis' most profound impact on the world of chess.



The longtime bachelor Harold finally settled down in the 1960's. His wife was the remarkable Dr. Donis A. Dondis (1925 – 1984), who would eventually become dean of the Boston University School of Communication. Sadly, she passed at the age of 59 after a battle with cancer. Harold would remarry a few years later, and remained with his second wife, Claire, until his passing.

Harold Dondis' legal career reached its grandest stage in 1976, when he argued on behalf of his client, Freetown, Massachusetts – based Algonquin SNG in the Supreme Court case *Federal Energy Administration et al. v. Algonquin SNG, Inc, et al.* The case pertained to an oil tariff in place at the time, and a number of Northeastern utility companies' assertion of its unconstitutionality. Though Mr. Dondis would lose the case, the tariff was soon overturned.

Long fascinated with the nature of problem solving and how the human mind approaches it, Harold wrote three books on the subject, though none were published. In the last of these, *Mental Improvement*, he embarks on finding universally applicable truths of the nature of the human mind, and of building upon them a method for the titular goal. From the back cover:

“Human beings are given the joyful gift of life and functionality. It is a flame that rises brilliantly, though it must ultimately expire. To make the most of it is a sacred opportunity.”

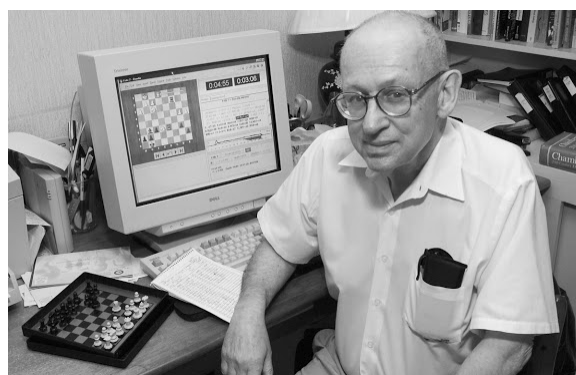
Harold Dondis passed away on December 10th, 2015, at the age of 93, when he suffered a heart attack during the second-round game of the Boylston Chess Club's Thursday Night Swiss tournament. It was a hero's end – the one Harold wanted – but it was difficult for the players that night to find comfort in its poetry. It was, after all, the sudden loss of a dear individual, a pillar of the chess community who had done so much and who meant so much to those players, some of whom had known Harold for forty years or more.

It also wasn't Harold's first heart attack at the board, and he alluded to that in his 2004 *Chess Horizons* interview:

“I'm not an impressive player, but I love [chess]. I'm 81. I still play it. I love it. I even had a heart attack during one game. It doesn't bother me. I love it so much.”

Such was the man's passion for the game of chess, and such was his passion for life. Fiercely loyal, dedicated to his friends and his community, he was a talented professional who took the time to use his legal acumen and writing ability to add so much to the world of chess in Massachusetts and in the United States.

Harold Dondis passed away at a very old age, but he will be sorely missed.



Special thanks to Christopher Chase, George Mirijanian, and Stephen Dann for their previous articles on Mr. Dondis and their help on this one.

Photos, in order of appearance: a very young Harold Dondis; as a youth; with Curdo; with Wolff; with Chase; on his honeymoon with Donis in Paris; at home in his “Chess Center”

Photos courtesy Tony Cortizas and Claire Dondis



Boston Chess Congress 2016 Ivanov-Raznikov

GM Alexander Ivanov

GM Alexander Ivanov (2578)

GM Daniel Raznikov (2582)

Boston Chess Congress (4)

01.10.2016

Sicilian – Najdorf, Zagreb Variation [B91]

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6 6. g3**

My pet line doesn't offer White much in terms of opening advantage, but I have a lot of experience with it.

6... e5

6... e6!? and 6... g6!? are both intriguing.

7. Nde2 b5

The most active try. Other moves are 7... Nbd7, 7... Be7, and 7... Be6.

8. Bg5 Nbd7 9. Nd5 Be7 10. Bxf6 Nxf6

11. Nec3 Bb7

11... O-O!? 12. a4 Nxd5 13. Nxd5 Bb7 14. axb5 Bxd5 (14... axb5!? 15. Bxb5 Bxd5 16. exd5 Qb6 was Burnett-Gustafsson New York 2000)

15. Qxd5 axb5 16. Rxa8 Qxa8 17. Qxa8 Rxa8 18. Kd2 Ra1 19. Kc3 and although Black should be able to hold, this is not a dead draw yet, and I won this ending against GM Har Zvi (New York State Open, Lake George 2006).

12. a4 b4 13. Nxf6+ Bxf6 14. Nd5 O-O?!

14... Rc8 is better. Here if White wants to place Bf1 on c4, he must start with 15. b3 which helps Black.

15. Bc4 Rc8 16. Qd3

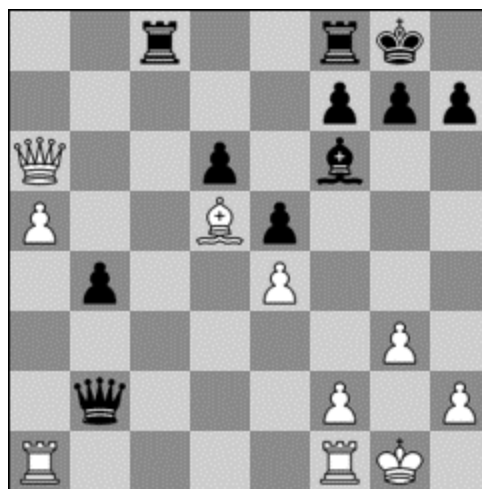
(16. Qe2)

16... Bxd5 17. Bxd5 Qc7?

Perhaps a decisive mistake. I was expecting 17... a5 18. O-O-O!?±.

18. Qxa6!± Qxc2 19. O-O Qxb2 20. a5

Now the white passer on a5 supported by the Bishop is much more dangerous than Black's pawn on b4.



20... h5?!

(20... Qd4 21. Qb6!?±)

(20... Qc3 21. Qxd6!? b3 (21... Rfd8 22. Qb6 Rb8 23. Qa7 b3 24. Ra3!+-) 22. a6 b2 23. Rab1 +-)

21. Qb7!?+-

Although 21. Qxd6!? should be enough to win, White's move is more logical: Black's pawn on d6 is a liability here because it prevents the bishop on f6 from getting into play.

21... Qc3

After 21... Rb8 the computer sees a forced win after 22. a6! Rxb7 23. axb7 Qd4 (23... Qc3 24. Ra8 Qc7 25. Rfa1+-) 24. Ra8 Qb6 25. Rfa1+-)

22. a6 h4 23. a7 Qf3 24. Qd7

24. Bxf7+ also wins if after Kh7 White finds the precise 25. Be6! Ra8 26. Qxb4 Bg5 27. Qb3+-)

24... Ra8

24... hxg3 25. hxg3 Bg5 26. a8=Q and there is no perpetual after Be3 27. Qaxc8 Qxg3+ 28. Kh1 Qf3+ 29. Kh2 Bf4+ 30. Kgl+-

25. Bxa8 Rxa8 26. Rfc1 Qxe4 27. Rc8+ Kh7

28. Rxa8 Qxa8 29. Rc1 b3 30. Qf5+ g6

(30... Kh6 31. Rc8+-)

31. Qxf6 h3 32. Qh4+ Kg7 33. Qxh3 b2

34. Rb1

1-0



New England Masters 2016

FM Jacob Chudnovsky

From March 17th to the 20th, I had the privilege of playing in the first, and hopefully far from last, New England Masters tournament to be hosted at the Boylston Chess Club. This iteration of the New England Masters was the brainchild of Farzad Abdi and Andrew Hoy and the first of its kind for the Boylston – a multiday, FIDE-style tournament, played under FIDE rules and a relatively long FIDE time control, and FIDE rated as well. The tournament was very well organized, and was run smoothly and professionally by TD Frank Vogel. Every round started on time, and pairings for each round were posted in advance, including online, allowing the rare luxury (for a weekend Swiss) of being able to prepare for your next opponent. Playing only one or two games a day, at the comfortable time control of G/90 + 30s increment, made for less stress and higher quality chess. I certainly hope this tournament and others like it become a new tradition at the Boylston.

The Masters section was dominated by Darwin Yang, who finished in clear first with 6/7, a full point ahead of the field. Yang is originally from Texas and is currently a student at Harvard. Although technically still an IM, Yang has three GM norms and only needs to raise his FIDE rating to get the title. Seeded second, he took quick draws against the number 1 and 3 seeds – GM Alexander Ivanov and IM Denys Shmelov, respectively – and won his other four games, including against the number 4 and 5 seeds, namely myself and Chris Chase. Shmelov ended up in clear second, overtaking me with a head-to-head victory in the last round. 3rd-5th places were shared by Ivanov, myself, and 12-year-old Carissa Yip. A special mention must be made of Carissa's performance. She played well above her rating, getting 3/4 with three half-point byes and holding IM Shmelov to a draw with black along the way.

In the U2200 section, first and second places were shared by Matthew Manzo and Jerry Li. Curiously, Jerry Li had byes in the 6th and 7th rounds, but no one was able to overtake him. 3rd-5th were shared by Elliott Wu, Natasha Christiansen, and Robert Oresick. Bob is well known in the Boston chess community for the tournaments he has organized, his photos, his blogging, and other activities. He had a spectacular tournament, gaining nearly 180 rating points.

Let's take a look at some key games from the tournament.

IM Darwin Yang (2568)

FM Christopher Chase (2390)

New England Masters – Masters' Section (7) 03.20.2016



Black played an unusual version of the King's Indian in which he delayed the development of his g8 knight in order to get in f7-f5 earlier. Unfortunately for him, the outcome of this experiment was the black king getting stuck in the center, protected by a very wobbly wall of pawns. Here, White methodically removes the defenders in front of the black king and crashes through.

17. g3! (removing the first defender) **fxg3**

18. hxg3 Kf7



More tenacious would have been 18... h5!? to stop the coming g3-g4 thrust, and after 19. Rdf1 Qd7 Black is holding for the moment, e. g. 20. Bxh5?! Rxh5 21. Rxh5 Nxb5 22. g4 Nf4 and looking much better than a few moves earlier. However, White should still be able to break through sooner or later, as there is no safe place for the black king.

19. Rdf1 Qd7 20. g4! (removing the second defender) **Bxg4 21. Bxg4 Qxg4 22. Rhg1 Qh3 23. Qb5**

And now the white queen invades to complete the attack, while Black has no pieces with which to stop the incursion.

23... Rhg8 24. Qc6

With no defense against White's numerous threats, including 25. Rxg7+, 25. Bg5, 25. Ne4, and 25. Qxc7+, **Black resigned.**

With this crushing win, Darwin Yang assured himself of clear first and ended his tournament on an emphatic note.

FM Jacob Chudnovsky (2404)

IM Denys Shmelov (2467)

**New England Masters – Masters' Section (7)
03.20.2016**



This game decided the fate of second place in the tournament. Do you remember my mention of the way the advance pairings allowed for pre-game preparation? To quote the immortal wisdom of Spider-Man, "with great power comes great responsibility." Well, I managed to

prepare for my opponent so incompetently that I ended up worse straight out of the opening, with white. I chose a line against the Caro-Kann in which my opponent had been recently defeated by GM Eugene Perelshteyn. However, as the game went on, I soon realized I had prepped straight into an advantage for black. I would have been better off doing no prep at all. To avoid repeating my mistake, when preparing a particular line for an opponent based on a game he/she recently lost, remember to ask two questions: (1) Was the loss actually due to the opening? (2) How could they deviate from the way they played in their lost game?

After being on the defensive throughout the game, in the diagrammed position White looks OK. At the moment, attacking ideas of ... h3 and ... Ng3+ don't work for Black, the d4 knight holds the b6 bishop at bay, and White's weak pawn on c3 is balanced by Black's weak pawn on d5. White dreams of starting his own attack with a4-a5 and b4-b5. However...

26... Qf4!

A strong and highly versatile move. Black frees up c7 for the bishop to set up a battery against h2, pins the e3 knight, prepares ... Ng3+ by allowing his queen to be able to come to the h-file if White accepts the sacrifice, and creates the possibility of ... h3 if White moves the d4 knight. 26... Qf4 also sets up a devious trap...

27. Nf1?

...into which White jumps with both feet. This move attempts to defend against all of Black's threats at once – and loses by force. To be clear, Black's last move dispelled the notion that the position is equal, and White does not have a lot of good ideas. One example of a bad idea: 27. a5 Bc7 28. Nf1 Ng3+! 29. Kf1 (29. hxg3? hxg3+ 30. Kg1 Qh4+-) Nxf1 30. Qxf4 Bxf4 31. Rxf1 (31. Kxf1 Bxh2) Bd2! 32. Ne2 (32. Ra3 Rc8 33. Ne2 is not an improvement) Rhe8 33. Kf2 Be3+, and after 34. Ke1 White's position will be ripped apart, e. g. 34...Bf4 35. h3 d4 36. cxd4 Rxd4 +. Relatively solid was 27. Rad1, although Black could pile on pressure with 27... Rde8, and if 28. Nf1, Black has 28...Ng3+! 29. hxg3 hxg3+ 30. Kg1 Qh4 31. Rxe8+ Rxe8



32. Ne3 (*Black threatens 32... Rh8*) Bxd4
33. cxd4 Qh2+ 34. Kf1 Qh1+ 35. Ke2 Qxg2+
36. Kd3 Qxf3, and White's piece is no match for
Black's three pawns and attack.

27...Ng3+! 28. Kg1

28. hxg3? hxg3+ 29. Kg1 Qh4 +- as above

28... Qxd2 29. Nxd2 Rc8!!

The key move, which I had missed in my calculations. I thought Black had to play 29...Nf5 (*or the similar 29...Bxd4+ 20. cxd4 Nf5*), and that after 30. N2b3 White would maintain approximate equality, e. g. 30...Rc8 31. Nc5! Instead, however, Black leaves the knight on g3 hanging and creates unanswerable threats against White's c3 pawn, which holds the entire position together. As c3 falls, the whole house of cards comes tumbling down with it.

30. a5 Ba7 31. N2b3 Rxc3

Black would have replied 31...Rxc3 to almost any move by White, including a rook move to defend that pawn.

32. Nc5 Rxc5! (the final finesse) **33. bxc5 Bxc5**

34. hxg3 Bxd4+ 35. Kh2 Bxa1 36. Rxa1 hxg3+

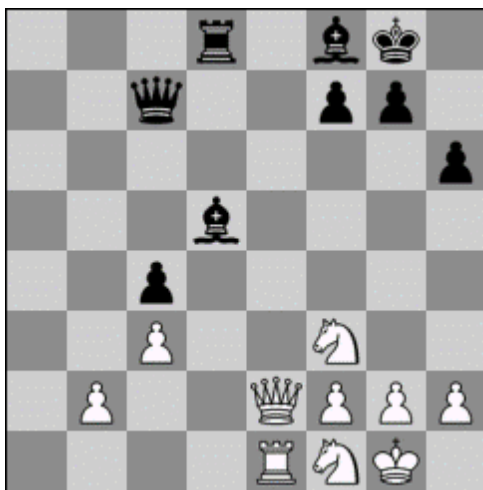
37. Kxg3 Rd8.

White is simply down two pawns, and Black's accurate last move has prevented any active counterplay. Therefore, **White resigned**.

GM Alexander Ivanov (2596)

FM Jacob Chudnovsky (2404)

**New England Masters – Masters' Section (5)
03.19.2016**



Earlier, Black turned an anti-Marshall into something like a Marshall, sacrificing a pawn

for dynamic compensation. I suspect the sacrifice is objectively unsound, but that's not easy to prove over the board. For the pawn, Black got the bishop pair and piece activity. Several exchanges and a bit of maneuvering followed, and White retained his extra pawn, while Black retained the two bishops. Now, White plans Nf1-e3 and Nf3-d2 in order to win the c4 pawn or exchange one of Black's bishops.

28...Rb8!

Black does not worry about defending c4 and counterattacks White's b2 pawn instead. Now 29. N3d2 is impossible, and 29... Bxf3 is threatened, for example 29. Ne3 Bxf3 30. gxf3 Re8!, and with no way for White to win the c4 pawn, and ...Bc5, ...Qf4, and...Re6 coming (e. g. 31. Rd1 Bc5 32. Qxc4? Rxe3! +-), White seems to be in trouble despite his extra pawn.

29. Nd4

This prevents 29... Bxf3 and prepares 30. Ne3. However, White's b2 and g2 pawns are both vulnerable...

29...Qb7 30. Ne3 Be4!

Judging by GM Ivanov's reaction when I played this move, I believe he had not foreseen it. The c4 pawn is free for the taking, but it cannot be taken for free. White has to choose which pawn to exchange for the one on c4: b2 or g2.

Moreover, he cannot avoid the exchange and go back to maneuvering, as the b2 pawn cannot be protected. 31. Nxc4 Bxg2 leaves White with two connected passed pawns but an open king; even though after e. g. 32. f3 Bh3 Black has no specific threats, it's a scary position to play for White, especially given that my opponent was in time pressure by this point. With all these things considered, he chose the safer route.

31. Qxc4 Qxb2

Now that White has failed either to win a second pawn or to deprive Black of the bishop pair, and Black has some initiative against White's king on the first and second ranks, Black is at least equal despite being down a pawn. However, White certainly should not lose. A logical conclusion to the game would be for White to defend against the threats to the king, and for Black to win the c3 pawn, likely at the cost of



exchanging one of his bishops for one of White's knights, leading to total equality. On the other hand, the computer, which knows not fear of gods, men, or beasts, suggests 32. Ne6!? Qd2 33. Rf1 Bd3 34. Qc7... but after some excitement, it ends up in a drawn endgame anyway. However, finding himself in time trouble that was both severe and (this being a sudden-death time control) permanent, GM Ivanov proceeded to self-destruct in the next two moves.

32. f3

This is OK, but a step onto a slippery slope.

32... Qd2

White seemed surprised again upon seeing this move.

33. Qe2?

And this is a blunder that puts White on the brink of defeat. 33. Re2 was fine, as 33...Rb1+? 34. Kf2 does not lead to checkmate but loses a piece, and after 33...Qc1+, either 34. Kf2 or 34. Nf1 is playable (34. Nf1 Rb1?? 35. Rxe4 +-).

33...Qxc3 34. fxe4

34. Nb5? Rxb5! 35. fxe4 Bc5! was even worse

34... Qxd4 35. Qf3?

The final, fatal error. White had to unpin the e3 knight with 35. Kh1! and try to hold the position a pawn down after 35...Qxe4 36. Nf1.

35... Bc5!

Now White can't play either 36. Kf1 Rb3 or 36. Kh1 Qxe3! Thus, the pin is now unbreakable and Black will win the e3 knight. You could say that White will not survive past knightfall.

36. Kf2 Rb3

Not 36...Rb2+ 37. Re2

37. Qf5

White has no defense against the threat of 37...Rxe3 38. Rxe3 Qd2+ 39. Qe2 Bxe3+, e. g. 37. Qf4 g5, so he tries a couple final tricks.

37... g6

Bizarrely, Black could fall into the trap and still win: 37... Rxe3 38. Qc8+ Kh7 39. Qf5+ g6! 40. Qxf7+ Kh8 41. Qe8+ Kg7, but this is totally unnecessary.

38. Qd5 Qf6+.

Black will take the knight on the next move.

White resigned.

This was my second lifetime victory against GM Ivanov but my first with black. Indeed, I would like to take this opportunity to clear up a longstanding misunderstanding. In most databases, one can find a game that I supposedly won against GM Alexander Ivanov with black in the 1994 Chicago Open. This game even gained a few minutes of fame, with the late GM Larry Evans using it for one of his puzzles in the "What's the Best Move?" column in *Chess Life*. The only problem is, I didn't beat GM Ivanov in that game. I defeated an entirely unrelated gentleman named Alexander Ivanov (a 2200+ or 2300+ master, if memory serves). It is only now, 22 years later, that I was fortunate enough to gain a full point against GM Ivanov with black.

Matthew Manzo (1926)

Paul Hodgden (1958)

New England Masters – U2200 (6)

03.20.2016



Up to this point, White has been outplaying Black little by little in the English / reverse Sicilian. However, White's last move, 17. a4, has made the a4 and b4 pawns loose, creating opportunities for counterplay.

17... Nd4?!

Better was 17...Bd5! Black threatens to win a pawn by 18...Bxe4 19. dxe4 Qxd2 20. Nxd2 Nxb4. 18. b5 runs into a similar problem: 18...axb5 19. axb5 Bxe4 20. dxe4 Qxd2 21. Nxd2 Nd4. If 18. Qb2, defending the pawn



and avoiding the queen trade (*for example*, 18. Rb1 Bxe4 19. dxe4 Qxd2 20. Nxd2 Rcd8 looks favorable for Black), Black has 18...a5! 19. b5 Nb4 with an excellent position.

18. Nxd4 Qxd4?!

And here better was 18... exd4, not only forcing White to defend the a4 pawn but also taking away the c3 square from White's pieces. After 19. a5 Bd5, Black seems OK.

19. Qc3! Rfd8

Even here 19...Bd5!? may have been better.

20. Nd2 (threatening 21. Bb7) c5 21. bxc5 Qxc3?

Although the game continued for a long time after this move, this is the decisive error. Black hands White a crucial extra tempo and ends up losing a pawn. Correct was 21...Rxc5 22. Qxd4 Rxd4 23. Rxc5 bxc5, and after 24. Rc1 Rxa4 25. Ne4! White is a little better, but the game goes on with equal material and play for both sides.

22. Rxc3 Rxc5 23. Rxc5 bxc5 24. Rc1 Rd4

In the analysis above, this position arises with Black to move – a key difference.

25. Ne4!

Black likely missed this move in his calculations. Now White wins a pawn and goes on to convert it without too much trouble.

25...c4 26. Nc5 Bf7 27. e3! Rd6 28. dxc4 a5 29. Nb7 Ra6 30. Rd1!? Bxc4

Losing an exchange, but the position is winning for White regardless.

31. Rd8+ Kf7 32. Nd6+ Rxd6 33. Rxd6 Bb3 34. Ra6 Bxa4 35. Rxa5 Bb3 36. Be4 h6 37. Kg2 Bc4 38. Ra7 Ke6 39. h4 Bb3 40. Kh3 Bc4 41. g4 Be2 42. Ra8 Bf1+ 43. Kg3 Be2 44. Bf3 Bc4 45. Be4 Be2 46. Bc2 Bc4 47. Rb8 Be2 48. Bb3+ Kd6 49. Rh8 Kd7 50. Rh7 h5 51. Rxh5 f5 52. f3 e4 53. fxe4 Bxg4 54. Rg5 g6 55. exf5 Bxf5 56. Kf4 Bb1 57. e4 Ke8 58. Ke3 Kf8 59. Rg1.

1-0

With this solid positional win in the penultimate round, Matthew Manzo caught up to Jerry Li for the lead. He maintained this position with a last-round draw to claim his share of 1st-2nd.

Congratulations to the winners, and major kudos to Farzad and Andrew for organizing and running such a great tournament. Many people have good ideas, but it takes talent and perseverance to turn those ideas into reality. Farzad and Andrew have said that they plan to organize more strong tournaments at the Boylston in the near future. Having played in the New England Masters, I have full confidence that they can make these tournaments happen and look forward to playing in them.

About the Author



FM Jacob Chudnovsky has been studying and playing chess since the age of nine. He was one of the top scholastic players in the U.S. in the 90s, with notable results including a tie for first in the 1993 National Junior High School Championships, a tie for 7th-14th in the 1994 World U-14 Championship, winning the 1993 National 9th Grade Championship, and winning the 1996 U.S. Junior Open U-17 Championship. Jacob was ranked second in the U.S. in his age group throughout most of his scholastic playing career. Later he played first board for his college and grad school teams in intercollegiate and open team tournaments. After being mostly on hiatus from serious chess for a number of years, he has resumed chess competition, writing, and teaching over the past year.

Photo credit: Steve Stepak



BCC Championship 2015 The Road to Victory

FM Mika Brattain

The Boylston Chess Club Championship is a nine-round Round Robin contested by ten of the club's strongest players. I really enjoyed the level of competition in the 2014 BCC Championship and was looking forward to playing in the 2015 edition. After drawing my opening round, I immediately faced several of my nearest rivals whom I needed to beat in order to make a run for the top of the standings. My first challenge was winning a narrow endgame against Lawyer Times:

FM Mika Brattain (2435)
NM Lawyer Times (2303)
BCC Club Championship (3)
09.28.2015
King's Indian Defence (A48)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 g6

Not a very common response. 2... Ne4, 2... d5, 2... e6, and 2... c5 are the main lines.

3. Nd2

Usually White takes the opportunity to play 3. Bxf6 exf6 4. e3 with chances for a small advantage. I chose a more flexible option.

3... Bg7 4. Ngf3 h6 5. Bh4 g5

I think hunting down the bishop this early is a little premature, but there is no clear refutation.

6. Bg3 Nh5 7. e3

7. Be5!? f6 8. Bg3 is interesting. Black's light-square weaknesses on the kingside could be worth the two tempi spent provoking ... f6.

7... Nxg3 8. hxg3 d6 9. Bc4 e6 10. c3 a6 11. Qe2 Nd7 12. Bb3?!

This move is prophylactic but slightly inaccurate. 12. O-O-O± is superior.

12... b6 13. O-O-O Bb7 14. Ne1 Qe7

Black is ready to castle queenside with equality. If White had kept the bishop on c4, Black would

need to play ...b5 before castling, which would be rather weakening.

15. Bc2!

Keeping the black king in the center as long as possible

15... c5

If 15... O-O-O, 16. Bd3 is a little uncomfortable for Black.

16. dxc5 bxc5 17. Nc4

17. e4 and 17. f4!? are other tries for the initiative.

17... d5 18. Na5 Bc8?!

Black doesn't need to preserve the bishop and 18... Nb6 and 18... Rb8 are better alternatives.

19. e4!

White has the initiative.

19... d4 20. cxd4

20. Kb1! is a very accurate continuation. If 20... dxc3? (20... e5 21. cxd4 cxd4 22. Nd3±) 21. Nc6 Qf6 (21... Qf8 22. e5) 22. Rxd7!! Bxd7 23. e5 traps the queen.

20... cxd4 21. Qc4 Qd6 22. Qc6 Qb8 23. Rd3 O-O 24. Rb3 Qa7 25. Nd3

White looks very active, but over the next few moves Black will be able to untangle with strong defensive play.

26... Rb8 26. Kb1 Rb6 27. Rxb6 Nxb6 28. Bb3!?

White is angling for an endgame. 28. Qc5 Bd7 29. Nc4 Rb8 and Black escapes the pressure.

28... Bd7 29. Qb7 Qxb7 30. Nxb7 Bb5

30... Bc6 31. Nbc5 a5 32. Rc1 Rc8 33. f3 and the computer thinks Black is doing well, but I prefer White's queenside pressure and the blockade of the d4-pawn.

31. Nbc5 Rc8

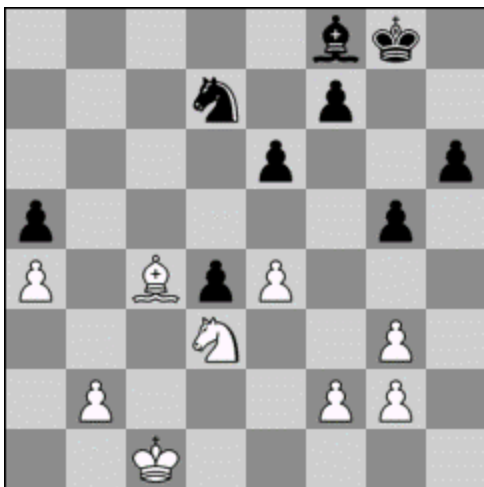
My opponent offered a draw with this move. The position is relatively even, although I still saw some chance in a potential queenside passed pawn. The position of the kings is also in White's favor: White's is much closer to the action.

32. Rc1 Bf8?!

Now White can force favorable simplifications. 32... a5 33. a4 Be8 34. Bd1 33. a4! Bxd3+ 34. Nxd3 Rxc1+ 35. Kxc1 Nd7 35... a5 36. Ne5! and the pawn on a5 is very hard to save.



36. Bc4 a5



Black is one move away from playing ...Nc5 and completely locking down the queenside with a dark square blockade. I took my one chance at creating a passed pawn with a temporary sacrifice.

37. b4! axb4 38. a5 Nc5 39. a6 Nxd3+

40. Bxd3 Bc5 41. Kb2 Kf8 42. Kb3 Ke7

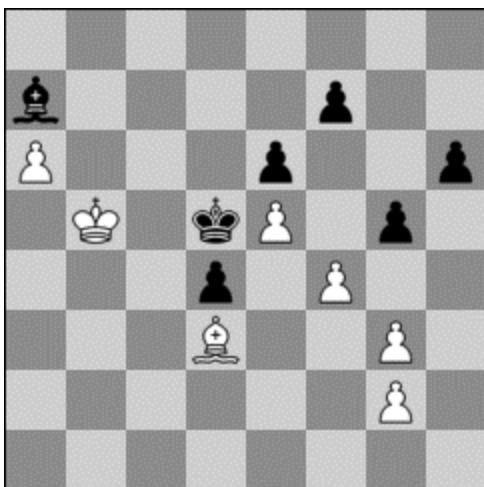
43. Kc4 Ba7 44. e5!

This was absolutely the only way to keep the game alive. Black's f7 and e6 pawns are fixed on light squares, and the d4 pawn is artificially isolated. 44. Kxb4 e5 and there is no way to crack the Black position.

44... Kd7 45. Kxb4 Kc6 46. f4 Kd5??

Black makes a decisive mistake. Something like 46... Bc5+ 47. Kc4 Ba7 is drawn but White can play 48. Be2 with the annoying threat of Bh5. Black would still need to play very accurately.

47. Kb5☹



Black's entire army is in zugzwang. The king is stalemated, and the bishop has no safe squares. Black can only move his kingside pawns.

47... h5 48. Bc2??

White naturally tries to force Black to expend all the kingside pawn moves. 48. fxg5 Kxe5 49. Kc6+- is completely winning, however, and this move is not.

48... h4??

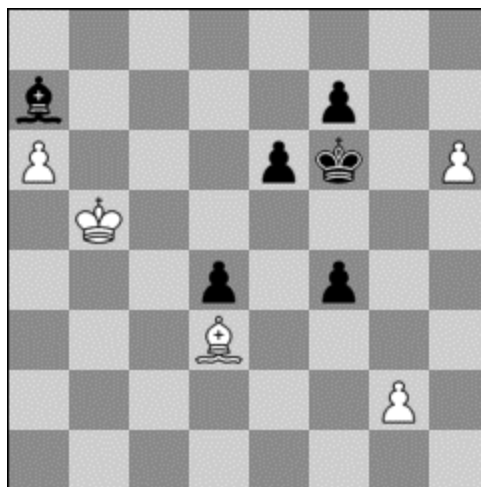
48... d3! is the reason Bc2 is wrong. The computer gives 49. Bxd3 gxf4 50. gxf4 h4 51. Bc2 Kd4 52. Kc6 Ke3 53. f5 h3! 54. gxh3 exf5 55. Bxf5 Kf4 56. Kb7 Bf2 57. e6 fxe6 58. Bxe6 Kg5= and White will be left with a bishop and "wrong rook pawn."

49. gxh4 White is winning again.

49... gxf4

49... gxh4 50. Bd3 \$1 and the same zugzwang from move 47 appears again, only this time Black has no options at all.

50. h5 Kxe5 51. h6 Kf6 52. Bd3!



A very picturesque situation. Black is actually up a pawn, but is completely paralyzed and can only watch as White plays Kc6-b7 winning the game.

52... e5 53. Kc6 e4 54. Bxe4 d3 55. Bxd3 Bd4 56. Kb7 Kg5 57. h7

1-0

After the encouraging win against Times, I had Black against Charles Riordan - my biggest



threat this tournament. At the time this game was played, he had a perfect score and was leading me by a half point. I figured this was my chance to seize control of the event. As it turned out, we both would score 7/8 against the rest of the field, making this the game that decided the championship:

FM Charles Riordan (2342)

FM Mika Brattain (2435)

BCC Club Championship (4)

10.05.2015

Catalan (E04)

1. c4 e6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. Nf3 Nc6!? Black steers the game into a Catalan.

5. d4

5. O-O d4 is pretty comfortable for Black. **5...**

dx c4 6. Qa4 Bb4+ 7. Bd2 Bd6!?

I like this sideline 7... Nd5 is the solid main line, but it is not particularly exciting for Black.

8. Qxc4?!

The only try for an advantage is 8. Na3.

8... O-O 9. O-O e5=

Black is already very comfortable.

10. dxe5 Nxe5 11. Nxe5 Bxe5 12. Bc3 Qe7 13.

Bxe5

13. Bb4 Qe6=

13... Qxe5 14. Nc3 c6 15. Rfd1 Qe7

16. Qh4 Be6 17. Rd2

Both sides have nothing better to do than contest the d-file.

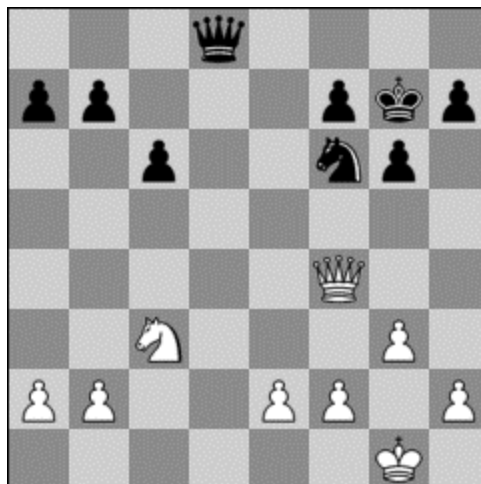
17. Ne4 Rad8

17... Rad8 18. Rad1 Rxd2 19. Rxd2 Rd8 20.

Rxd8+ Qxd8 21. Bh3 Bxh3 22. Qxh3 g6 23.

Qh4 Kg7 24. Qf4

White offered a draw here. Even though the position is completely equal and very simplified, I decided there was still enough play left due to the asymmetrical pawn structure.



24... Qe7 25. g4

There is objectively nothing wrong with this move, but in the end White's kingside proved to be a decisive weakness, so g4 needs to be reconsidered.

25... h6 26. h3

26. h4 Nh7 leaves White a little overextended.

26... b6 27. Kg2 Qe6 28. a3 c5 29. Qa4?!

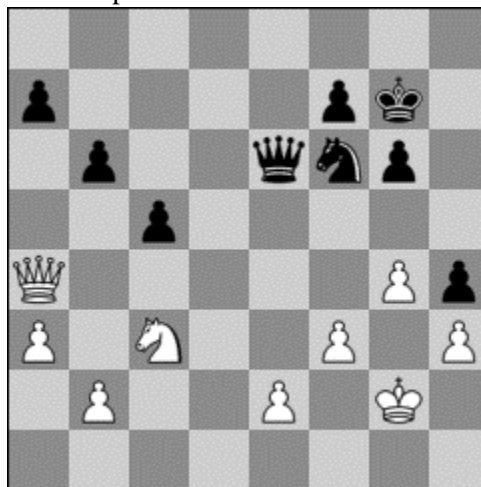
White's king is a little drafty and Black can look to create threats.

29... h5!?

White faces a difficult decision on the last move before time control.

30. f3?

30. gxf3 was the only move, but it is extremely counterintuitive to expose the White king and leave the h3-pawn isolated. **30... h4!±**



White's king is suddenly very unsafe. For the rest of the game, White needs to worry about a Black queen landing on g3 with decisive effect.

**31. Qd1**

31. Qxa7 Qd6++ and after playing ...Qg3+ and ...Qxh3, the advanced pawn on h4 will decide the game.

31... Qe5 32. Qe1 g5 33. e3 Nd5 34. Nxd5 Qxd5 35. Qc3+ f6

The f6-g5-h4 pawn clamp is very menacing in an otherwise equal queen ending.

36. Kf2?

36. Qc1 might hold. 36... Qe5 37. f4 at least keeps the black queen away from g3.

36... Qd6++

The black queen infiltrates White's kingside and suddenly the game is all over.

37. Qb3 Qg3+ 38. Ke2 Qxh3 39. Qe6 Qh2+ 40. Kd3 Qc7 41. f4 Qf7

0-1

After stringing together several wins in a row, I was in the lead and feeling good. The only problem was that many of my games were extremely technical and I was getting home too late. The tactical flair of the next game was a nice change of pace:

FM Mika Brattain (2435)

Soren Pedersen (2036)

BCC Club Championship (4)

10.26.2015

Caro-Kann (B10)

1. e4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. cxd5 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nxd5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Bb5 a6?

7... e6 is the best move. Black shouldn't encourage White to play Bxc6--White often plays it unprovoked in the main line.

8. Bxc6+ bxc6 9. O-O e6 10. d4 Be7

10... f6 is the computer's horrifying #1 suggestion; this already shows that Black is in a difficult situation.

11. Ne5! Qc7

11... Bb7 12. Qg4!± and Black is in trouble. 12... O-O 13. Bh6 Bf6 14. Ne4 is very dangerous.

12. Nxd5 cxd5 13. Bf4

White is making threats with every

developing move.

13... Qb7 14. Rc1 Qxb2??

Black cannot get away with pawn grabbing so far behind in development. 14... O-O had to be played. Here I intended the dangerous rook-lift 15. Rc3! when Black still cannot play Qxb2? due to 16. Rg3 with decisive threats.

15. Rc3!+-

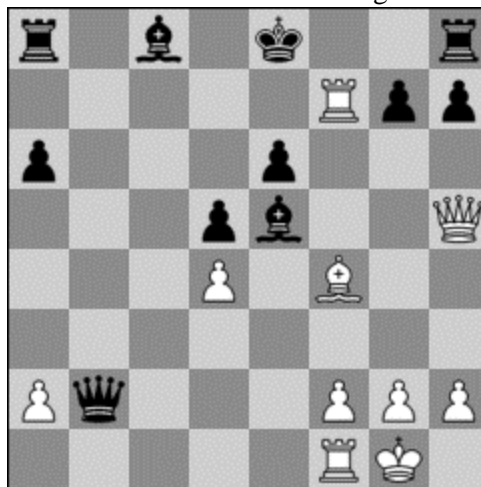
White is already +5 according to the computer. Black has no way to castle; the bishop is hanging on e7 and if it moves, the f7-pawn falls.

15... Bd6

Black has to try this, but it fails tactically. **16. Rxf7! Bxe5 17. Qh5!**

Rxf7! Bxe5 17. Qh5!

And White has constructed a mating attack!

**17... g6**

17... Bxf4 and White actually has mate in four: 18. Rxg7+! (18. Rb7+?? g6) 18... Kd8 19. Qh4+ \$1 Bg5 20. Qxg5+ Ke8 21. Qe7#



17... Qxd4 18. Rxg7+ Kd8 19. Qh4+ Bf6 20.
Bc7+ Ke8 21. Qh5+ Kf8 22. Qf7#
18. Qxe5 Kxf7 19. Qxh8 h5 20. Rc1

1-0

White has three attackers surrounding Black's king who has zero defenders. After this victory I finished the tournament off scoring 8/9, which proved to be enough to win clear first by a full point. I am very grateful to the Boylston Chess Club for giving me the opportunity to play several good games against local experts and masters, and I am proud to be the 2015 BCC Champion!

About the Author



The young Mika Brattain has been a dominating force in Massachusetts chess for some years now. In addition to his second consecutive BCF championship (he shared the 2014 title with FM Chris Chase), he also took a stunning clear first at the 2014 Mass Open, upsetting several titled players.

In the scholastic ranks, he holds Spiegel Cup titles in 2006 (8 & Under), 2007 (8 & Under), 2009 (11 & Under), 2012 (14 & Under), High School Champion for the past four years running, and a 2nd place at the National 8th Grade Championship which earned him his first of two *Chess Horizons* covers to date.

Brattain now heads off to Ohio State University, where he plans to study engineering.

Photo Credit: Tony Cortizas



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Solutions (problems on p. 5)

1. 1... Rg2+! 2. Kxg2 (2. Kh3 Qh1#) Qh1#
2. 1... Qg6+! 2. Qxg6 Be6#
3. 1... Bb5! and the white queen is trapped:
2. Qa3 c4
2. Qb3 c4
4. 1. Rg3! and there is no defense to the threats of both Rxg7 and Qh6:
1... Qxc2 2. Qh6 Rag8 3. Qxh7+ Rxh7
4. Rxg7#
5. 1. Rc1!
1... h6 2. Qxg6 fxg6 3. f7! +-
1... gxf6 2. Rc8+ Kg7 3. Nf5#
6. 1. f8=Q Rf4+ 2. Ke5!! Rxf8 3. Nc4+ Kb5
4. Nd6+ Ka5 (4... Kxc5 5. d4#) 5. Ndb7+ Kb5 6. c4+! Kxc4 7. Nd6+ Kxc4 8. d4#

Answers to Chess Trivia

1. f
Born 1943. Moved to Brooklyn in 1949.
2. g
3. h
Born 1992 as dual U.S. and Italian citizen.
Moved to Europe in 2004.
4. c
5. i
6. e
7. a
8. b
9. d

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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. To add a listing for your club in future issues, please contact 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

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

(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., Billerica, MA

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

For further information, 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

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

Casual Events Fridays, 7:00 P.M.

For further information, contact andoverchessclub@gmail.com

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