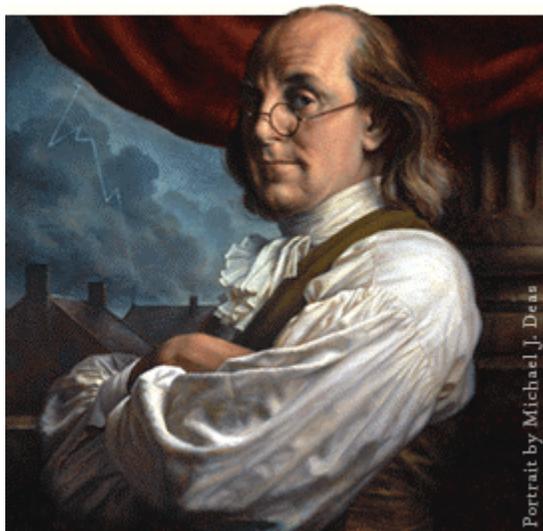


"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: IN SEARCH OF A BETTER WORLD," IS THE THEME AT HIS 300TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT PHILADELPHIA'S NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



The traveling world premier exhibition debuted in Philadelphia on December 15, 2005, and will run until April 30, 2006, before making its way to the venues of St. Louis, Houston, Denver, Atlanta, before completing its trek in Paris, France in 2008.

Members of the MasterMinds Chess Club were asked to attend this historic gathering on January 17th, 2006. MMCC members Rodney Johnson and Steve Slocum were among the hundreds who attended this event. The many who attended depicted the "Facets of Franklin," represented by the many interests, professions, and passions, that mirrored those of the great Benjamin Franklin himself.

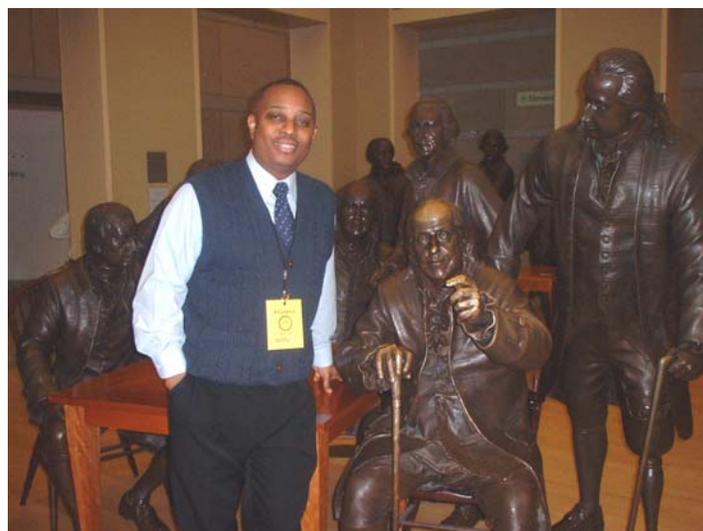
There were doctors, lawyers, teachers, students, chess players, writers, inventors, authors, scientists, and even the Honorable Edward Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania present to serve as modern day "Franklins." Benjamin Franklin was an avid chess player who enjoyed the game immensely.

Life is a kind of Chess, in which we often have Points to gain, & Competitors or Adversaries to contend with ...The game is so full of events...that one is encouraged to continue the contest to the last, in hopes of Victory from our own skill.

- Benjamin Franklin, *The Morals of Chess*, June 1779



Benjamin Franklin's chess set, 1750-1780, probably French, is made of pear wood; King: H. 3 1/2 in. (8.9 cm); pawn: H. 3 5/8 in. (9.2 cm). American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia, Pa.) This 18th-century chess set displayed above descended in his family with the history of having belonged to him is radiantly displayed as an exhibit at the Constitution Center.



MasterMinds Chess Club president Steve Slocum standing among a room full of life-sized statuesque scholars of Ben Franklin's era at the National Constitution Center.

The 300 modern day “Franklins” lit 300 birthday candles on an eight-foot-high, 14-foot-wide birthday cake in an awe inspiring ceremony in the Grand Hall Lobby of the National Constitution Center.



The program was presented by CBS channel 3 anchors Larry Mendte, Alycia Lane and Ukee Washington; United States Congressmen Mike Castle (DE) and Chaka Fattah (PA); and Governor Edward G. Rendell, The extraordinary birthday party was organized by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a private non-profit organization created to mark the 300-year anniversary of Franklin’s birth. Those representing the chess community were students from Fulton Elementary School, Gen. George A. McCall Elementary School, Simon Gratz High School, the United States Chess Federation, and the MasterMinds Chess Club of Philadelphia. **By Steve Slocum**

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHESS LEAGUE

By Leteef Street

Ever since I became active in organized chess when I was 11, I have played in chess leagues. I played in the city scholastic chess league with Masterman in middle school and then with Central High school. When I went to college I played in the D.C. chess league with the University of Maryland, College Park. I have always enjoyed the chess league experience which included an arena to play and compete on a regular basis with friends and schoolmates. Upon returning to Philly as an adult, I missed that experience. I pitched the idea of a Philadelphia area league to the rest of the Board of Directors of the MasterMinds last summer and with their help and the cooperation of other local clubs,

schools and coordinators we were able to start the Greater Philadelphia Chess League.

We were able to have two sections this season, a section for teams with an average rating under 1600 and a scholastic section for children K-12. (We were unsuccessful in offering an Under 2200, as there were not enough teams interested in registering) The Under 1600 section played a double round robin with the four participating teams: the MasterMinds chess club, Temple University, Huntington Valley Chess Society Juniors (HVCSJ) and the J.R. Masterman school. The Scholastic section played 4, four round swiss tournaments, with team scores being determined by the top 4 scorers. The Scholastic section offered individual prizes and allowed teams to join the league at any point. The participating teams included: the MasterMinds, HVCSJ, the Blair Bishops chess club, Germantown Friends (teaming up with The Philadelphia School in the last tournament), Shaw Middle School, the Fulton Knights chess club, and Torah Academy.

Getting the league started was not without its challenges; the first tournament saw a format change for the scholastic section, due to teams not having “exact teams of four” and the Under 1600 section had a little roster shuffling and make up games, but in the end the tournaments ran fairly smoothly. The tournaments were competitive, the children got to win a lot of prizes and everyone seemed to have a good time.

The Under 1600 section played a double round robin over the course of three tournaments. Entering the final tournament the Masterman school and the MasterMinds club were tied with two won matches and two drawn matches, with Masterman leading by a half point on total points. In the last round it was a victory by Masterman over Temple combined with a HVCSJ upset over MasterMinds that sealed the team title for Masterman. David Moolten of the MasterMinds scored 4 pts in 4 matches played to win the MVP award for the section. Joe Mucerino scored 3.5 pts in 4 matches for HVCSJ and joined Shinan Jin of Masterman, Daniel Bell of MasterMinds and Chris Miller of Temple, all tying for 2nd place with 3.5 pts.

The Scholastic section played four, four round swiss tournaments and the team prize was won by the MasterMinds scoring 48.5 pts. The Blair Bishops chess club finished second with 34 pts. Shira Moolten of the MasterMinds won the MVP award for the scholastic section scoring 13.5 pts in 16 league rounds. It was a Moolten family sweep of league

MVP awards, with her father winning the Under 1600 prize. Alejandro Budejen-Jerez on MasterMinds took the Under 800 prize scoring 11 pts. Raven Wake of the Blair Bishops won the Under 600 prize with 10 pts and Sabrina Ruchelli, a new tournament player from Germantown Friends captured the Under 400 prize with 8 pts.

Two outstanding young scholastic players played so well for their teams that they were actually “promoted” to play with the adults. David Lakata of HVCSJ won the first scholastic tournament with a perfect 4-0 score and then played with HVCSJ in the Under 1600 section for the rest of the league. Odette Moolten of MasterMinds won the second and third scholastic tournaments netting 11 pts in 12 games in the scholastic section before moving up to play with the adults from MasterMinds in the last tournament.

I would like to thank everyone who participated and supported the chess league this year and we hope in the future to include more clubs and schools and possibly expand the length of the season.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHESS LEAGUE 2005-2006

Under 1600 Average Section

Final Team Standings (Double Round Robin – 6 rounds)

Team	W	L	D	Match Pts	Pts For	Pts Agnst
Masterman	4	0	2	5	14.5	8.5
MasterMinds	3	1	2	4	12	11
HVCSJ.	1	4	1	1.5	9.5	12.5
Temple U.	1	4	1	1.5	9	14

Final MVP Standings

**David Moolten	MasterMinds	4.0 pts
Joseph Mucerino	HVCSJ	3.5 pts
Shinan Jin	Masterman	3.5 pts
Daniel Bell	MasterMinds	3.5 pts
David Miller	Temple U.	3.5 pts

Scholastic Section

Final Team Standings (4 swiss tournaments)

MasterMinds	48.5 pts
Blair Bishops	34.0 pts
Germantown Friends / Phila. School	23.0 pts
HVCSJ	22.5 pts
Fulton Knights	16.0 pts
Shaw M.S.	12.0 pts
Torah Academy	2.0 pts

Final Individual Standings

MVP

**Shira Moolten	MasterMinds	13.5 pts
Odette Moolten	MasterMinds	11.0 pts
A. Budejen-Jerez	MasterMinds	11.0 pts
Leon Watson	MasterMinds	10.5 pts
Raven Wake	Blair Bishops	10.0 pts

Top Under 800

Shira Moolten	MasterMinds	13.5 pts
**A. Budejen-Jerez	MasterMinds	11.0 pts
Raven Wake	Blair Bishops	10.0 pts

Top Under 600

**Raven Wake	Blair Bishops	10.0 pts
Sabrina Ruchelli	Germantown Friends	8.0 pts
Nicholas Vouros	Germantown Friends	7.5 pts

Top Under 400

** Sabrina Ruchelli	Germantown Friends	8.0 pts
Nicholas Vouros	Germantown Friends	7.5 pts
Terrill Jones	Blair Bishops	7.0 pts

** Award Winner

**“Openings teach you openings. Endgames teach you chess!”
(Stephan Gerzadowicz)**

SCHOLASTIC CLUB

By Leteef Street

One of the recent highlights of the MasterMinds club has been the expansion in our scholastic membership and activities. Entering calendar year 2006 we had 4 scholastic members, but in the past 3 months that number has grown to 11. It has been noted by members and visitors the interesting mix of players we have attending our scholastic night. It's a diverse group with children as young as 6 years old and as old as 14. With adult members in their 20's - 60's and Fountains residents in their 70's and 80's also attending, we span several generations. On Fridays you can find them all playing, practicing and studying with each other, coming together around the game of chess.

Most of our scholastic members are tournament players as well. They have been quite active this season with our 2nd Sunday tournaments, other local events, state championships and the chess league and have performed well. We proudly display the team trophies the children have won in the "Game room" at the Fountains where our club meets.

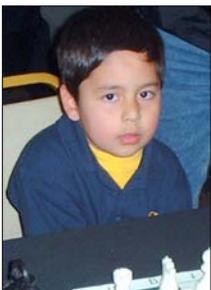


Some of the awards our kids have won include: the team prize at the 2nd Sunday event, finishing 3rd team in the Under 1200 section at the PA eastern scholastic team championships. Our team also won the overall championship of the scholastic section of



the new Greater Philadelphia Chess League with 48.5 pts over the 4-tournament league. The Moolten sisters led the way for the team.

Odette had 11 pts in 12 rounds over the first three tournaments before being "promoted" to play with the adults in the last tournament. This paved the way for her little sister Shira to capture the league MVP award scoring 13.5 pts in 16 league rounds. Alejandro Budejen-Jerez won the Under 800 prize with 11 pts during the league.



At the state scholastic championships in Carlisle on March 4-5, attended by over 500 players from across the state, our kids had outstanding individual performances. In the Primary championship (grades K-3) on March 4th, Shira Moolten and Zachary Zeelander each won 3 out of 5 games.



Alejandro Budejen-Jerez won 4 out of 5 tying for 3rd place overall and was Co-champion for 1st grade. Odette Moolten, having already captured the 2nd grade title in 2005 and the Philadelphia area Primary championship in November, won her 1st 4 games and drew the last, finishing with 4.5 out of 5 points and added P.A. state Primary Co-Champion to her impressive resume of chess titles.



On Sunday, March 5th, Leon Watson won 4 games and drew one to finish 1st place in the K-9 Under 1000 section and Sydney St. Clare won the Top under 1100 prize in the K-6 championship section. Their victories rounded off an impressive weekend for the MasterMinds children.

Playing and working with them on Friday nights has been a real pleasure and I have been delighted to see them excel in competitions. Many of them show maturity beyond their years and I look forward to more in the future.



"A strong memory, concentration, imagination, and a strong will is required to become a great Chess player"
(Bobby Fischer)



MIND OF THE MASTER



In this segment NM **Elvin Wilson** answers your chess related questions. Please feel free to take advantage of this opportunity to acquire knowledgeable insights from the mind of this accomplished chess master. Philadelphia is the home to one of the world's most

accomplished chess players. When one looks at the chess résumé of **Elvin Wilson**, it's an endless string of successes stemming from his days as a scholastic standout until his current reign as the Philadelphia champion.

Elvin made master at age 18 and played on legendary scholastic teams at Washington High School and was highly-touted as a chess prodigy. Learning chess at Cooke Junior High (1983-1986), Elvin states that this beginning has definitely paid dividends in all areas of his life. Elvin explains,

"After Junior High School I continued my chess career at George Washington High School (1986-1989), one of the best chess programs in the country at the time. After High School, I enlisted into the Air Force (1990-2000) where I have traveled and competed all over the world. I [have majored] in Computer Information Science (CIS) major at Temple University."

Despite an impressive chess résumé, Elvin isn't done yet. The down-to-earth chess titan hopes to achieve his quest of earning the International Master title. Best wishes Elvin!! (Profile compliments of The Chess Drum).

Garnel Wilkins asks.....

Q. How does one go about studying openings when hoping to develop a personal repertoire?

A. I learned which opening fit my style by trial and error, it is hard to determine if an opening will fit you unless you play it. You can narrow your search by modeling a player that has a style you aspire to emulate. Players that I tried to emulate in the past were Karpov, Seirawan, Andersson, etc.

Q. What is the best way to practice when you don't have time to play?

A. Studying annotated games and doing chess problems will help to keep your chess juices flowing.

Q. What do you think is the best way to improve your score in tournaments?

A. Play better chess or cheat. Seriously that question is a little broad, because the factors that can affect your score in tournaments are numerous. If you want to improve study to the extent that you are able, relax at the board and have fun playing chess.

Q. Do you recommend playing by analogy when trying to formulate a plan in your chess games? (By playing by analogy I mean copying the ideas of your favorite player)

A. Yes and no. All chess players copy ideas (not just from their favorite chess players), but there are some differences in the way different levels of player accomplish this task. To begin with strong players have a larger arsenal of ideas to select from, they also know when and how to use them to get the greatest effect. So it is not as simple as copying ideas you have learn to use the right idea at the right time in the right way.

Brad Crable asks...

Q. What is the best way to study for the endgame?

Study of the endgame can be broken down into two parts theoretical (positions that have been worked out to conclusion) and technical (general technique in the endgame). The theoretical side is mostly a matter of committing certain methods (such as opposition) and specific positions to memory (Lucena & Philador's positions). There are many books that will pinpoint the most important theoretical positions for the different types of endgames. The technical side is much like the study of the middlegame and a lot of the same principles apply with some subtle differences. I will recommend some book that will help you with both areas.

Q. Are there any particular study materials, i.e. books or software, you would recommend?

A. Theoretical: “Chess ending: Essential Knowledge,” by Averbakh, “Practical Bishop Endings,” “Practical Knight Endings” & “Practical Rook Ending,” all by Mednis, and also “Endgame Challenge” by Hall.

Technical: “Practical Endgame Lessons,” & “Questions and Answers on Practical Endgame Play,” both by Mednis. “Technique for the tournament Player” by Dvoretsky/Yusupov

There are many other titles to choose from, I really like work of the following authors; Benko, Mednis, Dvoretsky, Seirawan & Karpov.

Q. Are there any special positions to study?

A. The theoretical books will direct you to the positions that you will need to study.

David Moolten asks...

Q. What is your thought process when you're actually sitting at the board? What actually goes through your head as you attempt to decide upon a move?

A. This question is hard to answer directly, because there is no set thought process during an entire chess game. The situation on the board is going to dictate how you think about the game. When you are defending you have to constantly think about your opponent's threats, in a maneuvering game you have to think about how to create a weakness in your opponent's position, etc. The only constant is staying aware of the changes on the board; before you move you have to ask yourself what am I changing in the position and when your opponent moves you have to ask yourself what is the threat and what has changed in the position. The only other constant is the search for tactical possibilities, after every move you have to search for tactic that can be exploited.

Q. What study or practice techniques most helped you to improve as a scholastic player?

A. In high school I was lucky for four reasons: 1) My school was one of the best in the country 2) We met after school 2-3 hours five days per week 3) My coach had an extensive library 4) We had the funds to play in a lot of tournaments. In addition to having those advantages I would spend my spare time studying chess books, magazines and whatever else I could get my hands on. The last part is what set me apart from my peers, however without the first four advantages it may not have meant much.

Steve Slocum asks...

Q. What are a few of your favorite chess books, and why?

A. My favorite type of chess books are game collections annotated by the player who played them. I think you get a deeper insight into the struggle when it is being described by someone who lived it. The titles that stand out are “My 60 Memorable games” by Fischer, “The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal” by Tal, “My Best Games Vol. 1 & Vol. 2” by Korchnoi, “Tal-Botvinnik 1960” by Tal and “New World Chess Champion” by Kasparov.

Q. What chess DVD's/ Software would you recommend to a player looking to strengthen his/her tactical or positional play?

A. I am not familiar with any of the chess DVD's that are available, but as far as chess software I recommend Chessbase 8 or 9. Chessbase has many useful features that will aide your study and there are plenty of tutorials on every aspect of chess developed in Chessbase format. For more information about Chessbase check out their website: www.chessbase.com and “The Chessbase Café” at www.chesscafe.com

Q. What are some of the benefits of playing blitz chess? Would you encourage your students to play blitz?

A. Blitz chess is fun! Blitz chess is mainly recreational, however it can be used to test your openings or try new opening before risking your precious rating points. I also find it helpful to play blitz in the days leading up to playing in a tournament; this helps me get my chess juices flowing. I think blitz in moderation is a good thing!

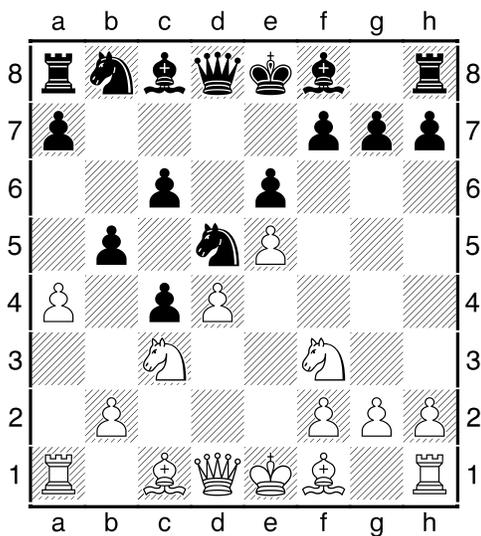
Melanie Brennan asks...

Hi Elvin, It's been great fun following your games in the recent US Chess League. On 7/9/05, in game #2 against Krasik I did not understand the ideas behind the 7th move. Your opponent played 7. a4 (attacking b5 and threatening to open the a-file for his rook, and you played 7. e6.

Q. What is the idea behind that move?

A. After

1. d4 d5
2. c4 c6
3. Nf3 Nf6
4. Nc3 dxc4
5. e4 b5
6. e5 Nd5
7. a4 e6



The move e6 is the standard opening move, blacks idea is after (8. ab Nc3 9. bc cb) retaining the extra pawn. Other move that have been tried are 7...Nc3, 7...b4, 7...Bf5, 7...h6. The idea behind e6 is to complete kingside development with Be7 and 00 while retaining the extra pawn.

Please submit your questions for NM Elvin Wilson to Steve Slocum at Steve@mastermindschess.com.

"When you absolutely don't know what to do anymore, it is time to panic."

John van der Wiel

NBC 10 WEDNESDAY'S CHILD SEGMENT SEEKS OUT THE MASTERMINDS CHESS CLUB.

By Steve Slocum



NBC 10's weekly segment "Wednesday's Child" was featured with our very own Chief Tournament Director & Web Developer Bradley Crable, who

have graciously accepted to do the feature with Vai Sikahema. Blair Christian Academy's Executive Administrator Dr. Karen Jenkins has once again opened her doors for the good of humanity and chess. This segment has introduced the public to dozens of children looking for families to adopt them and for the first time in NBC 10's history, a child has been successfully adopted.

Jonathan, 14, wants to be a chess master. He is a smart young man who loves to play chess with his friends but he wants to bring it to the next level. NBC 10's Vai Sikahema brought him for some lessons at the Blair Christian Academy in Germantown. Jonathan and Vai were joined by Mr. Crable and Brandon, one of the academy's best chess players. Both boys concentrated on the game and pretty soon Jonathan triumphed, calling out, "check mate."

The Blair Bishops Chess Club members had a present for Jonathan: his very first chess set. Please take the time to view the streaming video segment online at:

<http://www.nbc10.com/video/5525597/index.html>

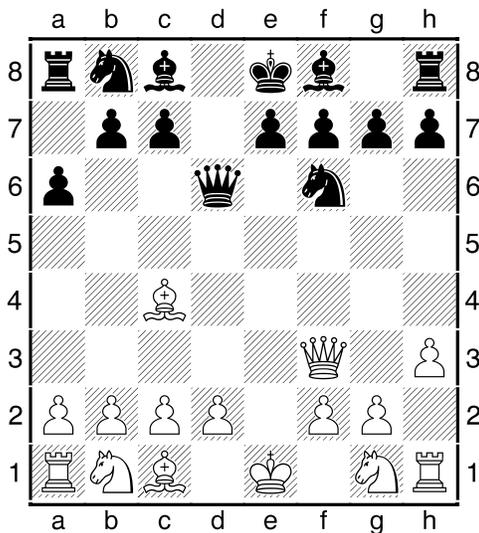
OVER THE BOARD

Enjoy some of the action from the MasterMinds Chess Club monthly tournaments.

Bell, Daniel (1547), Wilkins, Garnel (1439)

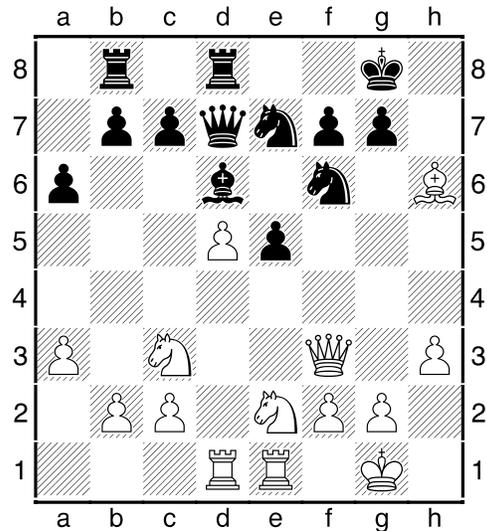
[B01] Masterminds 3RD Sunday February 25, 2006
Scandinavian 3.....Qd6 **By Garnel Wilkins**

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Qf3 3.Qf3 was a creative move and not in any of my databases **3...Qd6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.h3 a6**
Diagram

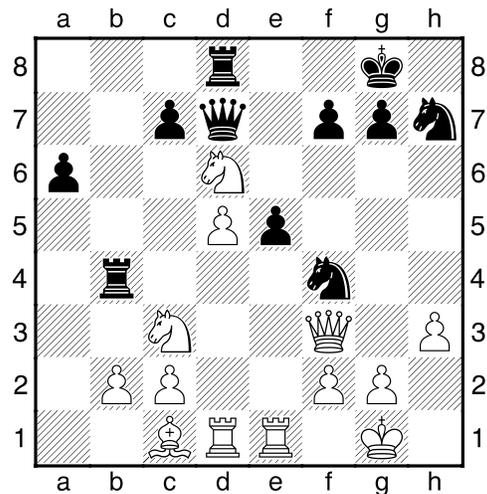


This position with the Queen at f3 instead of Knight is very unorthodox. I kept going with the plan of development that is unique to the 3.....Qd6 system. **6. Ne2 Nc6 7.Bb3 e5** in some lines of this system Black plays e5 to gain space in the center. **8. d3 Be6 9.Bxe6 Qxe6** Now that the White squared Bishop is gone Black has a 3:2 ratio in piece development and an open semi-queen file for the Rook at a1. 9....o-o is also possible. **10. a3 h6 11.0-0 Be7 12.Nbc3 0-0 13.Be3 Rfd8** the rook a1 might have been better but I was thinking about protecting my weak b7 square. **14. Rfe1 Qd7 15.d4 Rab8 16.Rad1** If White pushed to d5 Black can play e4, Ne5, and Q captures d5 pawn. **16....Bd6 17. d5 Ne7 18. Bxh6!?**

**“The Pin is mightier than the sword”
(Fred Reinfeld)**

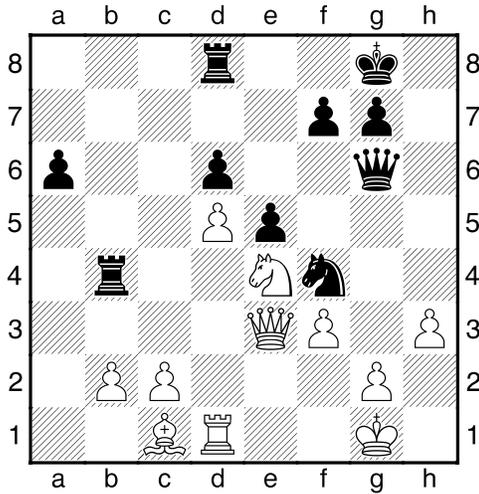


Interesting move winning the h6 pawn, I felt that there are too many pieces on the board to risk the capture of the Bishop compromising my Kings safety. The capture h6 gave Black time to try a counter on the opposite of the board with b5. **18...b5 19.Be3 b4 20.axb4 Rxb4 21.Bc1 Ng6 22.Ng3 Nf4 23.Nge4 Nh7 24.Nxd6!?**

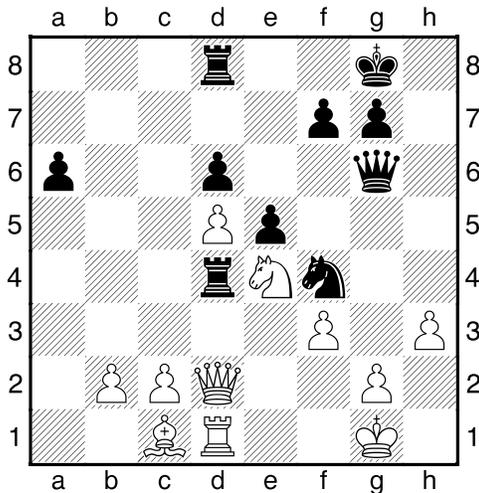


Its move helped White to defend the e5 pawn free the Rook d8 and the Queen d7. **24...cxd6 25.Re4?** White missed the Ng5 fork winning the exchange and getting an attack on the castle position. The Rook b4 gets its chance. **25...Ng5 26.Qe3 Nxe4 27.Nxe4 Qf5 28.f3** Better might have been Nf2. **28...Qg6!**





29. Qd2 Better would have been 29.g3 or 29.Rd2 Rd4 30. g3 29...Rd4



Zugzwang!!!!

The Scandinavian Defense 3....Qd6 is very playable for Black. Until next time, "May the force be with you,"

"A player surprised is half beaten"
(Proverb)

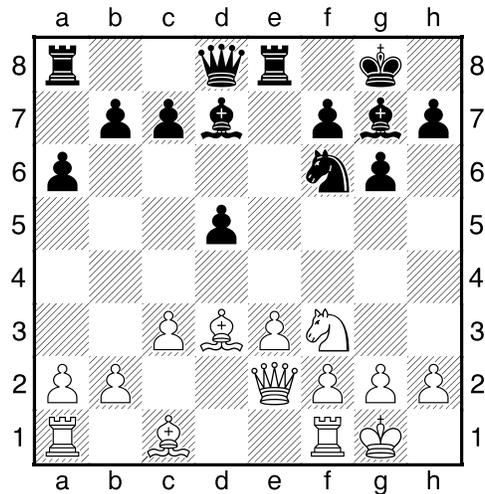
Here are two games that show why people should not resign too quickly. By Joseph Mucerino.

Mucerino, Joseph (2086) – Leverich, Steve (1900) [D04]

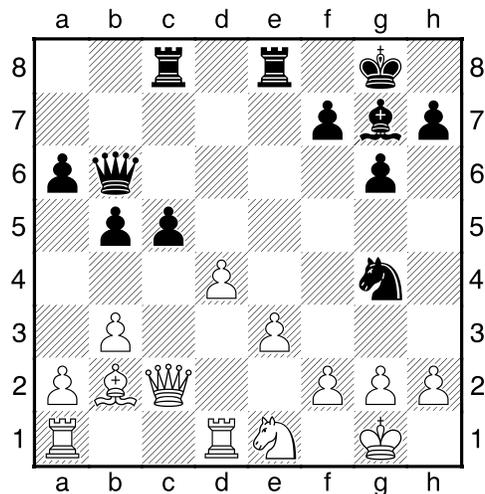
MasterMinds CC February Quads (3), 19.02.2006

1.d4 ♟f6 2.♟f3 d5 3.e3 g6 4.♟bd2 ♟g7 5.♟d3 0-0 6.0-0 ♟c6 Usually, 6...c5 is played here to put pressure on the center, but the text is playable. 7.c3 Preventing 7...Nb4, trading off the bishop. 7...♟e8 8.♟b5? I was in too much of

a hurry to punish black for his slight error on the sixth move. Fritz suggests 8.Qa4, but 8.e4 or 8.Qe2 is good too. 8...♟d7 9.♟e2 a6 10.♟d3? Wasting more time because I did not want to give up the bishop. White should go in for 10. Bxc6 Bxc6 11. Ne5 Bb5 12.c4. 10...e5 11.dxe5 ♟xe5 12.♟xe5 ♟xe5 13.♟f3 ♟e8 Diagram



13... Rh5 is another good choice. 14.♟c2 ♟g4 15.♟e2 b5 16.b3 c5 17.♟d1 ♟b6 18.♟b2 ♟ac8 19.♟e1!? Fritz suggests 19. c4, with the line 19...Bf5 20. Bd3 Bxd3 21. Rxd3 dxc4 22. bxc4. This would open up the diagonal for my bishop on b2, and cut out some tactics that would later give me problems. 19...♟f5 20.♟d3 ♟g4 21.♟e2 I only needed a draw to win the quad, so I was happy to repeat moves. 21...d4 22.♟xg4 ♟xg4 23.cxd4?? Diagram



Wow, what a whopper! White is now lost after this move. After 23.h3, black only has a slight edge. 23...cxd4 24.♟e2 dxe3 25.f3 ♟xb2 26.♟ab1 Of course not 26.Qxb2 e2+ 27.Kh1 Nf2+ 28.Kg1 Nh3+ 29.Kh1 Qg1 mate. Here, I thought that I would be able to capture either the bishop of the knight, but... 26...♟f2!! I missed the point that if now the bishop is captured by either piece, black will be able to play 27...Nxd1, and it will be immune to capture because

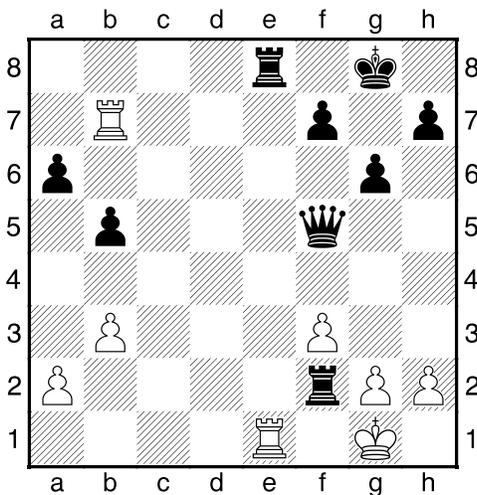
of 28...e2+. Here, I thought about resigning. If I was out of contention for a prize, I probably would have.

But in the money round, I always play on, until it is completely hopeless. 27.♖d7 ♜c3 Black can even pick up the rook with 27...Qc6 28.Ra7 Bd4. 28.♗c2 ♖e6 29.♖b7 ♜d2 There is nothing objectively wrong with this move, but I would have resigned on the spot after 29...Rcd8. White has no satisfactory defense after 30...Rd2. 30.♗e1 ♖f5 31.♖a1 ♜xe1 32.♖xe1 ♜c2! Again, I thought about resigning. How can white prevent 33...Nd3 34.Qd1 e2 35.Qxc2 e1=Q 36.Rxe1 Rxe1 mate?

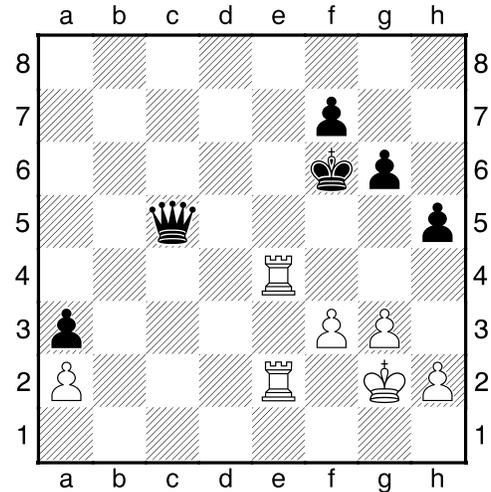
Actually, white cannot prevent this. But I found a move, a good psychological move, where, if black played some obvious moves, he would only draw, or so I thought! 33.♖f1! One exclaim because this move worked.

I am not very good at keeping a poker face, so I got up and paced in the hallway so Leverich could not "read me" and tell that something was up. After a few minutes, he played the move I wanted him to play 33...e2 Perhaps black was a little upset that I had not resigned by now.

Perhaps black was simply too eager to end the game. But after this move, white can still struggle on. After 33...Qd3, trying to trade off the queens, I don't think black would have any problems winning the game. At the time, I thought for sure that I would draw the game, but Fritz found a way for black to win a few moves later. 34.♖xf2 e1♖+ 35.♖xe1 ♖xf2?? Diagram



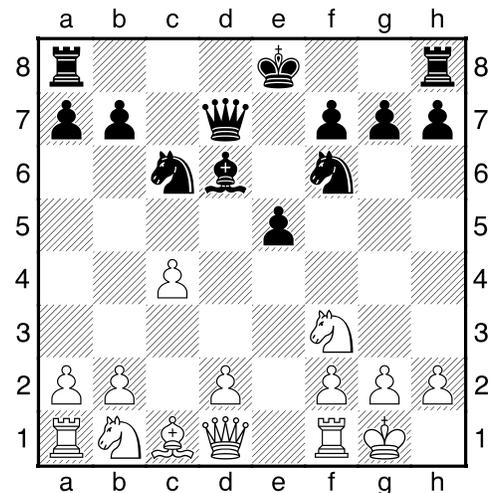
This is the move which really throws the win away. Black saw that he could win the queen on move 33, so that is why he chose this line. What we both missed was 35...Rxe1+! 36.Qxe1 Qc5+ followed by 37...Rc1. 36.♖xe8+ ♗g7 37.♗xf2 ♖c5+ As long as I don't blunder one of the rooks, I have the draw I'm looking for. 38.♖e3 a5 39.♖be7 ♗f6 40.♖7e4 a4 41.bxa4 bxa4 42.g3 a3 43.♗g2 h5 44.♖e2 Diagram



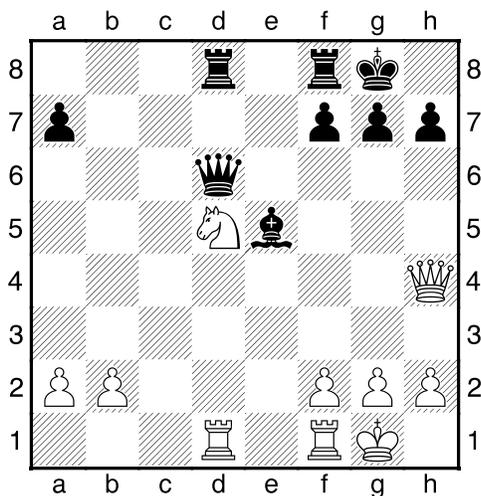
1/2-1/2 I thought white may have some remote winning chances, so I had Fritz play five games against itself in "shootout" mode. All five games were drawn. 1/2-1/2

Lang, Peter (1807) – Mucerino, Joseph (2086) [B01] MasterMinds Swiss (3), 26.02.2006

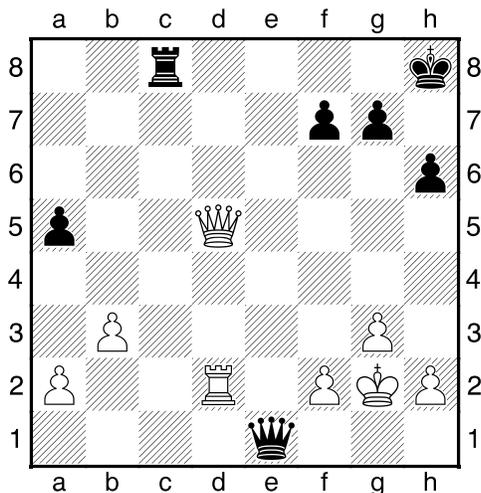
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 c6 6.dxc6 Nxc6 Black gambits a pawn for a lead in development. 7.Nf3 e5 8.0-0 Bd6 Diagram



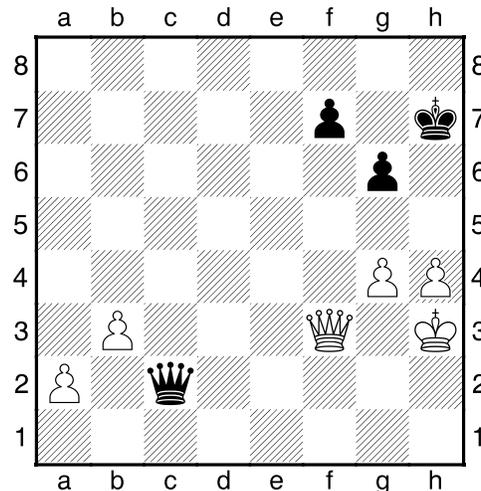
It has been years since I had this position, and I forgot the theory. Correct is 8...e4, and black has a good game. 8...O-O is good too. 9.Nc3 0-0 10.d3 Rad8 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Be7 14.d4 Bd6 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Qb3 b5 The point of this move is to trade off white's c4 pawn, which is protecting the knight. The knight is exceptionally strong, because I cannot trade it off with my bishop. 18.Rad1 bxc4 19.Qxc4 Qd6 Black is now threatening the b2 and h2 pawns, so I thought I would win my gambitted pawn back, but... 20.Qh4 Diagram



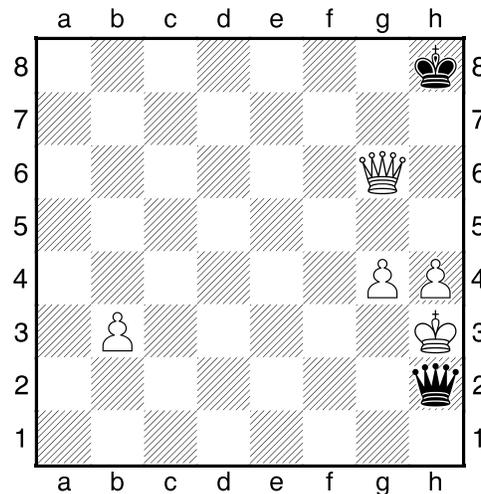
Now if 20...Bxb2 21.Ne7+ wins black's queen. 20...Kh8 21.Ne3 Qb8 22.b3 Bf6 23.Qa4 Rc8 24.g3 Rc5 25.Rd7 a5 26.Rfd1 h6 27.Nc4 Qa8 28.Nd6 Qf3 29.Ne4 Rh5 I knew my position was now going downhill. Fritz says black "hangs on" after 29...Rc2. 30.Nxf6 Qxf6 31.Qd4 Qe6 32.Rd5 Rxd5 33.Qxd5 Qe2 34.Rd2 Qe1+ 35.Kg2 Rc8 Diagram



I didn't bother to defend the pawn. In order to save the game, I had to attack the king directly. 36.Qxa5 Qe4+ 37.f3 Qe3 38.Rd8+ Rxd8 39.Qxd8+ Kh7 40.Qd1 Qc3 41.Qe2 41. a4 is perfectly playable. 41...g6 42.h4 White should concentrate on pushing his passed pawns. A move like this will only expose the white king to checks from the queen. 42...h5 43.g4 hxg4 44.fxg4 Qc6+ 45.Kh2 Qc7+ 46.Kg2 Qc6+ 47.Qf3 Qc2+ 48.Kh3 Diagram



Now what am I supposed to do? If 48...Qxa3, 49.Qxf7+ Kh6 50.g5+ Kh5 51.Qh7 mate. But then an idea popped into my mind. 48...Qxa2 49.Qxf7+ Kh8 Unlike my other game, I remained seated after this move, to give Lang the impression that I was fully expecting 50.Qxg6 to be played quickly. Lang thought for a few minutes. I could kind of tell that he realized that something was up. Perhaps he was wondering why I gave up another pawn. To my shock he played... 50.Qxg6 Qh2+ Diagram



...and we agreed to a draw due to the impending stalemate! Even after 50.h5 gxh5 51. g5, Fritz gives black good drawing chances, and, in "shootout" mode, it drew five games against itself. The fact that white only has one pawn on the queenside instead of two connected passed pawns, and white's exposed king, allows black to save the game. Joe Mucerino

(Joseph Mucerino is a writer for the PA. State Chess Federation Pennswodpusher newsletter, and a regular participant in the MasterMinds Chess Club tournament quads).

A NIGHT WITH IM JENNIFER SHAHADE

By Steve Slocum



The MasterMinds Chess Club presented a book signing, lecture, and 40-player simul with two-time United States Women's Chess Champion and Philadelphia native, International Master **Jennifer Shahade**. This event took place on Friday, October 7, 2005 at Temple University's Student Activity Center, Room 220, located at 13th & Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. The book signing began at 6PM, with the lecture immediately following with a question & answer period. The night will concluded with Jennifer playing a 40-player simultaneous chess competition with those in attendance.

Jennifer was excited about returning to Philadelphia for this event. She then stated, *"Finally, I'm doing an event in my hometown! If you're in the area, you can play in the simul or just come by and listen to a short lecture and Q & A. I'll be discussing and signing my book as well as talking about general topics like how to improve."* Jennifer Shahade is a product of Philadelphia Public School system who graduated from Masterman High School.

It was a great time shared by all in attendance. Jennifer was a very personable, energetic, and fun person to be around. She graciously took the time to greet everyone in attendance and encouraged many of the young players by commenting favorably on their playing skills and abilities.



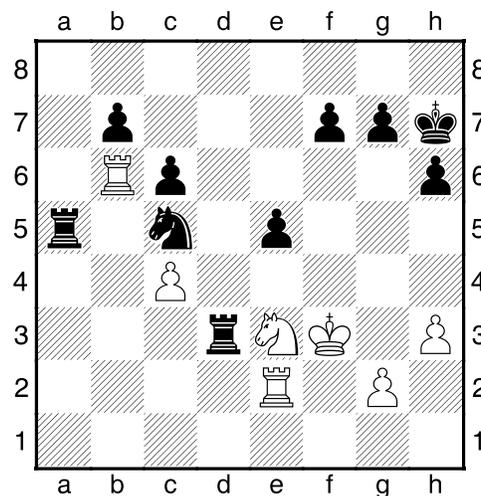
Of the forty players participating in the event there were a few that demonstrated the fortitude to actually win against the established IM.

One of the fortunate ones was MasterMinds Chess Club member Levy Nealy, whose game is featured below.

Jennifer Shahade – Levy Nealy Jr.

10. 07.2005 MasterMinds Simul

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.f4 d6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qe2 0-0 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.Qxe3 a5 9.0-0 exf4 10.Qxf4 Nb6 11.Nbd2 Nxc4 12.Nxc4 h6 13.a4 Be6 14.Nd4 Bxc4 15.dxc4 Qe7 16.Rae1 Qe5 17.Qxe5 dxe5 18.Nf5 Kh7 19.Rf2 Rad8 20.c3 Rd7 21.h3 Rfd8 22.Ree2 Rd1+ 23.Kh2 Ra1 24.b3 Rb1 25.b4 axb4 26.cxb4 Rxb4 27.Ne3 c6 28.a5 Ra4 29.Rb2 Rd7 30.Rb6 Nxe4 31.Rfb2 Nc5 32.Kg3 Ra3 33.Kf3 Rdd3 34.Re2 Rxa5 White resigns.



"Combinations have always been the most intriguing aspect of Chess. The masters look for them, the public applauds them, and the critics praise them. It is because combinations are possible that Chess is more than a lifeless mathematical exercise. They are the poetry of the game; they are to Chess what melody is to music. They represent the triumph of mind over matter."
(Reuben Fine)



MASTERMINDS CHESS CLUB'S NEW LIBRARY OF BOOKS

By David Moolten.

Here are the books available to club members, who may borrow them from the Masterminds Library. Please let me know in advance (via email) which book(s) you are interested and I will bring them to the club, usually on the following Friday.

Alekhine, Alexander – My Best Games of Chess 1908–1937

One of chess's great inventive geniuses presents his 220 best games, with fascinating personal accounts of the dazzling victories that made him a legend. Includes historic matches against Capablanca, Euwe, and Bogoljubov. Alekhine's penetrating commentary on strategy, tactics—and a revealing memoir. Numerous diagrams.

Alekhine, Alexander – 107 Great Chess Battles 1939 – 1945

One of the game's greatest players annotates scores of fascinating games involving such masters as Capablanca, Bogoljubov, Kashdan, Reshevsky, Tartakower, Keres and others, including many of Alekhine's own games. Also here are delightfully candid views on fellow masters and rivals for the world title. Edited and translated by E. G. Winter. Preface. Index.

Euwe, Max–The Logical Approach to Chess

First-rate text of comprehensive strategy, tactics, theory for the amateur. No gambits to memorize, just a clear, logical approach.

Fine, Reuben–The Ideas Behind the Chess Openings

In the opening, each player tries to control the center, set up a flexible pawn structure, develop the pieces rapidly and harmoniously, sometimes even go for direct attack. But there are so many complicated variations -- how can you memorize them all?

You can't -- and don't have to. If you understand the basic goals of the opening you're playing, you will know which moves fit logically into its overall scheme. This classic, reset in modern algebraic notation, explains everything you need to know to play the opening sensibly and successfully.

Fischer, Bobby–Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess

This book is for the beginning chess player, regardless of age. The longevity of its availability has proven that it indeed can raise the level of initial play, and can train you to have a "chess eye."

Gallagher, Joe–Winning with the King's Gambit

This book is a great guide to most variations of the king's gambit. The author, a GM, plays the opening himself and displays genuine enthusiasm for it. The selection of illustrative games includes a few early games and continues up to the most modern lines.

Keene, Raymond–The Complete Book of Gambits

Gambits are presented variation by variation, evaluated for playability and refutations. This is not an in-depth study but a light, surface volume. An easy read and good for introduction that might lead elsewhere to deeper study.

Keene, Raymond & Levy, David– How to Play the Opening in Chess

General outline of many openings. Good survey book.

Kosten, Tony–Winning with the Philidor

Thorough treatment of this stolid opening by a grandmaster who regularly uses it.

Kotov, Alexander–Think Like a Grandmaster

Classic middlegame book, with insightful analysis and commentary on the effective thought processes and habits of accomplished players. Teaches how to plan and systematically consider candidate moves.

Littlewood, John–Chess Coaching

This book is on a level consistent with intermediate players though it varies somewhat in difficulty. The Endgames chapter (5) is quite good.

Maximilian Chess Library–The Official Laws of Chess

FIDE rulebook.

Mednis, Edmar–How to Defeat a Superior Opponent

Less an instructional book than a good annotated game collection, with examples of “upset” victories.

Mednis, Edmar–How to Play Good Opening Moves

Written for the player who needs to understand, not memorize, the chess openings. The three basic principles of the opening are well established. By emphasizing these principles, the author creates a useful teaching volume.

Nimzowitsch, Aaron–My System

This is the all-time chess classic of Aron Nimzowitsch, One of the three or four best selling chess books of all time. Contains 419 diagrams. Recommended by Grandmasters and masters for 75 years.

Nimzowitsch, Aaron–Chess Praxis

This is Grandmaster Aron Nimzowitsch's companion volume to *MY SYSTEM*, a classic and a quite useful instructional book which will improve one's understanding of positional chess play.

Pandolfini, Bruce–Principles of the New Chess

Drawing on his teaching experience and the experience of the best of the new generation of teachers around the world, Pandolfini lays out fundamentals in a simulated instructional game he developed with top American and Russian students. Special attention to the opening and to the middlegame, planning and analysis techniques.

Pandolfini, Bruce–Bobby Fischer's Outrageous Chess Moves

A Study of 101 provocative moves by the famous American Chess Champion.

Pandolfini, Bruce–Pandolfini's Endgame Course

Good beginner's book on the endgame. Covers all standard checkmates and many common endgame positions and situations. Not intended to be comprehensive; advanced players may want to look elsewhere.

Pandolfini, Bruce–Pandolfini's Chess Complete

General reference book for beginners. Many tips and recommendations. More of a compendium of chess information than a true study guide, though many of the presented facts are useful for those starting out.

Pandolfini, Bruce–Chess Openings: Traps and Zaps

Instructional rather than catalogue book on chess openings. Offers explanations for the reasons behind the moves. Unique "crime and punishment" approach to provide all the previously missing explanation, instruction, practical analyses. The book consists of 202 short "openers" typical of average players, arranged according to the classical opening variations and by level of difficulty.

Pandolfini, Bruce– More Chess Openings: Traps and Zaps 2

Same style and approach as its predecessor.

Pandolfini, Bruce–The ABCs of Chess

For players ~1200-1400 USCF. 50 articles culled from his chess magazine columns, it has useful analysis and illustration of strategic ideas that players of this strength are looking for.

Pandolfini, Bruce–Weapons of Chess

For beginning and intermediate players. Encyclopedia of chess strategies. Moves are explained without heavy chess notation. Alphabetical. Based mainly on pawn formation, the detailed entries talk a player through dozens of common strategic dilemmas, such as "doubled pawn," "bishops vs. knights," and "hanging pawn pair." Diagrams show the basic position and then more complicated versions of it.

Pelts, Roman & Albur, Lev (GM) –Comprehensive Chess Course, Volumes 1 & 2

This comprehensive book is intended to turn a complete beginner into a promising intermediate player. It covers everything from the basic moves up to fairly complex combinations and mates. Each of the two volumes is divided into twelve lessons.

Schiller, Eric–World Champion Openings

Guide to the concepts of chess openings as played by the world champions. Using 100 specific champion openings, Schiller illustrates the basic concepts of each, how the champion used them, and how to react when confronted with them from the other side of the board.

Soltis, Andrew– Beating the French Defence with the Advance Variation

Comprehensive focus on the Advance Variation of the French from White's point of view.

Soltis, Andrew– The Inner Game of Chess

Book for intermediate to advanced players; similar in some respects to, and more up to date than, Kotov's *Think Like A Grandmaster*. Not entirely overlapping however. Will help one learn to calculate and evaluate positions in one's head over the board.

(56) Chess Life Magazines (Years 1994-1998)

Many thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Weeks of Philadelphia who made the generous donation of the chess books listed above. In addition to the 28 instructional books they also donated a gift of 27 tournament chess piece sets, and 17 tournament roll-up boards. Their display of generosity will go a long way towards our fun & enjoyment of the royal game that we love.



**The MasterMinds CC meet Wednesdays & Fridays
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@

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For More Information Contact:

Steve Slocum 215-455-6285

Melanie Brennan 215-844-8553

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MISSION STATEMENT

The MasterMinds Chess Club is designed to provide a meaningful and viable service to the community. In particular it is our intent to make the game of chess available to play, compete, and enjoy. We promote chess within the local community and provide a learning environment where the game can be played, taught, studied, and enjoyed in a structured format. Ultimately, we see chess as a tool for self-development, development of our community and as a bridge to other communities throughout the Delaware Valley as well through dedicated outreach.

We, the members of the MasterMinds Chess Club are dedicated to promote good moral conduct, mutual respect, and stand committed to the development of the total human being through heart felt support and genuine concern. It is also our goal to promote a healthy network of local area clubs and with clubs in other cities.

We provide a means to prepare for and participate in tournament competition and encourage membership in the United States Chess Federation. We also encourage the membership of school age children to grow academically and to supplement their educational pursuits by applying the principles of chess, which is proven to aid in their educational development. Furthermore, by playing the royal game of chess and pursuing its many disciplines, we hope to instill in some and nurture in others an appreciation for the game.



Club Officers

Steve Slocum, President, Newsletter
Leteef Street, Vice-President, Executive Dir. GPCL
Melanie Brennan, Secretary
Rodney Johnson, Treasurer
Bradley Crable, Chief TD & Web Developer
David Moolten, Club Librarian

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