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Quick on the Draw?

More on Draws in Tournament Chess

By Joe Mucerino

In the last issue, a discussion of short draws was begun. This letter is to more formally and thoroughly state my views on the subject.

Naturally, we should begin by asking ourselves, why do short draws occur at all? First of all, there is no concrete FIDE or USCF rule that forbids their occurrence. The FIDE Laws of Chess do not mention short draws at all. Article 5.2, paragraph 3, states, "The game is drawn upon agreement between the two players during the game. This immediately ends the game." If the two players agree to a draw, game over. It is simple as that.

The often quoted rule 14B6 of the USCF's Official Rules of Chess (5th edition) states, "it is unethical and unsporting to agree to a draw before a serious contest has begun...In case of clear violations...penalties should be imposed at the director's discretion." The ambiguity of the phrase "serious contest" renders the whole rule useless. Even GM Maurice Ashley, a vocal critic of short draws, wrote, "the way [the rule] is worded means it has no bite whatsoever" (CHESS LIFE, June 2003, page 38). I agree. Exactly what is a "serious contest"? Without a clear definition of that term, when a "serious contest" begins can be argued endlessly. When the pairings are made? When the clocks start? After a certain number of moves?

The rule also does not explicitly state that it is illegal to make a short draw. "Unethical" and "unsporting", while they may be detested, are not necessarily illegal. Implicitly, it could be argued that it is illegal with the phrase "penalties should be imposed." But the "TD Tip" after rule 14B6 cautions, "Trying to enforce this rule is difficult. Forcing two players to continue playing...will produce...a draw anyhow..." This is basically a warning that tournament directors (TDs) will have an uphill battle if they choose to take action. It is almost justification for the TDs to do nothing.

In practice, the vast majority of TDs do not impose penalties for players who agree to short draws. The USCF and FIDE rules do not really give them a leg to stand under. Knowing this, the players are going to go ahead and quickly split the point. So why do they do it?

The answer, not surprisingly, is the almighty dollar. The players want to win the greatest amount of money by exerting the least amount of effort and taking a minimum amount of risk. Class players rarely win a prize in the hundreds, if not the thousands of dollars, so if they get the opportunity to win that kind of money by making a short draw, they will usually do it. Many would see it as a once in a lifetime opportunity. In fact, many class players are happy to win a prize of any size. A higher rated player is sometimes willing to trade rating points to a lower rated player in exchange for a lock on first place.

Titled, or so-called "professional" players, are not any different. They make their living from chess, which is very difficult to do in this country, unless they have a working spouse who is the breadwinner. I believe the vast majority of titled players make less than \$50,000 a year strictly from competition (and I would bet many make less than

\$25,000 from playing). Of course, they get additional income from giving lessons, writing, simul, etc. But let us not forget the fact that these players are earning only cash; they are not getting any benefits (medical, dental, pensions, 401 (k) plans, etc.) unless they have a working spouse. A single player would have to pay for all of these bills out-of-pocket, in addition to their living expenses and constant traveling and lodging costs. Because of these fixed expenses, and no (or little) fixed income, when the opportunity to win a decent prize comes up by making a short draw, they take it. I believe the attitude of the titled players is, "Hey, we are all in this together, so let's split the pot so we can all survive." Remember, when you go to a large Swiss such as the World Open, the players on the top boards, while they may be some of the best players in the world, they are not millionaires like the world's top athletes.

I frown upon some of the comparisons between chess and sports. It is often said that sports fans would be upset if two sports teams agreed to an early tie. Obviously, that is correct, but let us take that a step further. The four major sports (baseball, basketball, football, and hockey) do not have any kind of rule that would allow this to happen. That is simply not an option at any stage of the game, just as resigning is also not an option. The players, managers, and team owners are also well aware that fans are a major part of the franchise's income, and, therefore, the players' income. Keeping them happy and wanting to come back to watch another ballgame is very important to the team economically, so the teams try their hardest to win. In chess, where spectators watch for free (except for something like a World Championship match), the prize money the players win comes from entry fees, not ticket sales. Therefore, satisfying non-paying spectators is not a priority for the players.

People also complain that a short draw takes all of the drama out of the last round. Yes, it does. But similar things happen in sports too! For example, I was watching bowling on television a few years ago. One bowler needed to knock over a single pin in the tenth frame to win the tournament. Did he try to excite the crowd by trying to throw a strike? No. He threw the ball right down the center of the lane (the worst thing a bowler can do other than throw a gutter ball), he got a split, but he did get that single pin he needed to win. No one blamed him, no one booed. In basketball, towards the end of a game, if one team is ahead, the leading team, when in bounding the ball, will usually walk the ball down the court. This runs time off the clock, and forces the other team to foul, which could allow the leading team to extend their lead. Watching a basketball player take a casual stroll down the court is not what I call exciting. But, I do understand the strategy involved. How many times have you seen a football team take a knee in the final minute of a game if they are in a lead? Boring, but good strategy! The basketball and football team are doing what they can to make sure the other team cannot win. If the basketball player ran down the court, or if the football team ran a play, their fans would be scream, "What are you doing?!" The fans understand the teams are playing it safe to ensure their victory. But when a chess player, who is not under contract with a six or seven figure contract, plays it safe to ensure their victory by taking a short draw to win a few hundred or a few thousand dollars, some spectators moan and groan.

If the reader is thinking, "Well, when I watch a football game, and if I see fifty-nine minutes of action, then I don't mind if one of the teams take a knee in the final minute", I would suggest that in chess terms, watch the earlier round games. Players do not make it to the top boards in the final round by agreeing to short draws throughout the tournament. True, they pick their battles, and use their energy against the weaker players that they know they can beat. That is also part of the strategy! It is kind of like intentionally walking a baseball player to make the pitcher come to bat. Paying sports fans want their team to win the game. Since they are parting with their hard earned money, they have the right to expect their team to give an honest effort. But nonpaying spectators at a chess tournament cannot expect the players to jeopardize a big payday just to give them a thrill. The spectators are giving the players nothing, so they cannot expect anything in return.

Sponsors, however, can expect to see hard fought games from the players. They are spending a large amount of money, and they expect to see a great tournament. At the 2003 U.S. Championship, the players, who were spoiled by short draws weekend after weekend, thought that they could do the same thing in this event, because it was "normal business". Since the players and sponsors had different expectations, when four of the top five boards in the final round agreed to short draws, the sponsors got upset. In the future, sponsors should make it clear what they expect of the players, and the players should also have the common sense that if they want future events to be sponsored, they should put on a good show.

Maurice Ashley, one of the players in the 2003 U.S. Championship (but not one of the ones who agreed to a short draw in the last round), is the most outspoken proponent against short draws. By his own admission, his feelings were shaped by two events that happened almost at the same time. The first was the final round of the 2003 U.S. Championship, and the other was the final game of the Garry Kasparov-Deep Junior match, where Kasparov agreed to a draw in the middlegame because he was afraid of losing (CHESS LIFE, June 2003, page 38).

Ashley felt the negative reaction of the sponsors at the U.S. Championship. As a commentator, he heard the boos of the spectators at Kasparov-Deep Junior match. These two reactions inspired him to take action. What he decided to do was to organize his own tournaments where draw offers could not be made before a prerequisite number of moves. His first event was the Generation Chess tournament where a draw offer could not be made until move 50 (CHESS LIFE, August 2003, page 41). At the 102nd New York Masters event on May 18, 2004, players could agree to a draw ten moves earlier, on move 40 (CHESS LIFE, November 2004, page 24). Now, at the HB Global Chess Challenge in Minnesota on May 18-22, 30 moves will be required before a draw offer can be made.

While I commend Mr. Ashley for taking his stance, he has said some things that I do not agree with. He stated, "Players in the [tournament] will benefit from some innovations that I have long championed. There will be no early, prearranged draws that can have the effect of distorting the scoring results" (CHESS LIFE, April 2005, page 8). As Dr. Hey, one of my former economic professors at Lebanon Valley College would say, "Not exactly." A quick scan of the Tournament Life Announcement (TLA) shows that most players will not "benefit" from this rule. In bold, one sentence reads, "No agreed draws before 30 moves." The next three words, however, were not in bold, "(open section only)".

For someone who is as critical of short draws as Mr. Ashley is, I am surprised that he is allowing draws in any section of the HB

Global Chess Challenge. I believe Mr. Ashley's primary goal is to attract new spectators and sponsors to chess, in order to raise prize money to unprecedented levels. The No Early Draw Rule off the HB Foundation's website (<http://www.hbfoundation.org/gcc/resources/TournamentPolicies.doc>) reads, "The No Early Draw Rule...is based on a simple concept: fans wish to see real chess games...Anything else makes a travesty of our wonderful game, and completely disrespects the viewing public..." Apparently, making a "travesty of our wonderful game" in a lower section is perfectly fine with Mr. Ashley. If it would be, he would make all players in all sections play 30 moves before being allowed to offer a draw. But, since the vast majority of the spectators will not be watching what is happening in the lower section, what happens there is apparently irrelevant. I wonder how those players feel to be considered irrelevant? I also wonder how they would feel if they lost thousands of dollars because there was a short last round draw in a tournament organized by Mr. Ashley, who "champions" against short draws? For someone who "champions" against short draws, I do not see Mr. Ashley (and I apologize if I am incorrect on this point) trying to change USCF or FIDE rules.

There are other rules on that website that I do not agree with. For example, under "The Rules", rule 4b states, "[It would be unacceptable] if the two players play an intentionally lifeless opening with the object of steering the games towards a dead draw as soon as possible. For example, playing the exchange French defense and immediately trading off all of the pieces is not acceptable." I understand what Mr. Ashley is saying, but the players, in any given position, should have the right to make any legal move on the board. If Mr. Ashley wants them to make at least 30 moves, fine. But to tell the players what legal moves they can and cannot make is wrong.

As a player, I like short draws. As a spectator, I understand that they are part of the overall tournament strategy. It is a nice option to have available, and I have used it to win several tournaments. My goal is to win the tournament I am playing in, and not necessarily to make a perfect score or to raise my rating. I try to build an early lead to give me the luxury of being able to win the tournament with a last round draw. To me, that is good and simple strategy. I do not believe in risking defeat in order to satisfy spectators who have nothing to lose.

My solution is this: if the spectators have to pay an admission fee in order to watch, then they should be guaranteed a certain amount of entertainment. They pay to see play, not short draws. A game should not be agreed a draw until a certain amount of time or number of moves (or a combination of both) has been played. Perhaps if the players agree to a short draw, they can refund the spectators out of their own pocket. That may provide the needed incentive to not split the point too quickly. Of course, spectators would not be refunded for a short decisive encounter, such as game 6 of the 1996 Kasparov-Deep Blue match. That would be the equivalent of an early round knockout in boxing.

If the players are paying an entry fee (and do not forget, titled players who win prize money generally have their entry fee deducted from their prize, so they have to pay too), then they should be allowed to make short draws. They are paying to play chess, and, hopefully, win a prize. They are not paying so they can entertain the spectators. Those who make their livelihood from chess should not be losing money in order to entertain a few dozen (or perhaps a hundred or so in a large Swiss) unpaid spectators. In a big Swiss event, such as the World Open, if the top boards agree to a draw, there will most likely be a reasonably strong player on board 10. I bet you will see some good games in

the U2200 section. Oh dear, you may have to stand in order to watch these games. But even if half the games in every section of the World Open ended 1.e4 draw, there is still plenty of chess action to watch.

The weak USCF rule 14B6, a lack of a FIDE rule, and the inaction of most TDs, allow short draws to occur. Only a change in the rules will stop this practice. The only successful way of doing this would be to revamp rule 14B6, and replace it with a firmly worded rule stating, in black and white, that an agreed upon draw is illegal before a designated number of moves. Of course, that new rule would be meaningless unless the TDs have the fortitude to enforce it. After all, what is the point of making any rule if it will not be enforced?

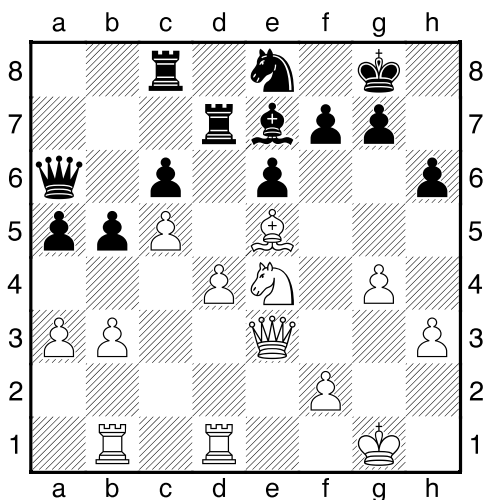
ALEX'S COLUMN by FIDE-Master Alex Dunne

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Alex Dunne (2250) – Mark Hirsch (2067) [D01]

Rochester (4), 3/20/2005

When playing a player rated lower than you, it is almost always good policy to keep pressing him: set problems, complicate the issue, strive for the initiative -- in other words, keep on keeping on. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3** The dangers of education -- I had recently read a book on the Veresov Opening and decided to play it for awhile. It has some merit but isn't as strong as 2. c4. **2...d5 3.Bg5 Bf5** The best line to play for equality **4.Nf3 h6 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 e6 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3** White hasn't gotten much out of the opening -- a tempo more, but that's still a gain. **8...Nbd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 0-0 13.c4 Nf6 14.Qe3 Qb6 15.h3** White can afford to ignore the attack on the b2 Pawn as **15...Qxb2 16. Rfb1 Qc2 17. Rxb7** helps White. **15...Rfd8 16.Rfd1 Ne8 17.b3 a5 18.Rab1 Bf6 19.a3 Qa6 20.Be5 Rac8 21.Nd2** Simpler was 21. Bxf6 Nxf6 **22. Ne5**, but in order to win, White needs to keep things complicated. **21...b5 22.c5!?** How should the annotator evaluate this move? Should it be !? or ?! White creates a weak square on d5 and a strong square on d6. Technically **22. a4** was better, but White needed to set difficult problems for Black. **22...Rd7 23.Ne4 Be7 24.g4**



This is the position White played for when selecting 22. c5 -- a potential kingside attack is brewing **24...Rcd8 25.b4 f6?** Black finally cracks. The e6 Pawn becomes indefensible due to a little tactical trick. **26.Bg3 a4** Black had planned on 26...e5 here, but **27. Qb3+** guards d1 so White can win the e-Pawn. **27.Nc3 e5 28.dxe5 Qc8 29.Rxd7 Rxd7 30.Re1 Qd8?** The reward of pressure -- discouraged by the turn of events, Black errs again,

losing a second Pawn. **31.exf6 Nxf6 32.Qe6+ Kh8 33.Qxc6 Rd2 34.Qe6 Bf8 35.Be5 Nd5?** Oops -- but the game was basically over. **36.Qxh6+ Kg8 37.Qxd2 1-0**

PA TODAY: Tournament and Club News

from around the Keystone State

By Joe Mucerino, Roving Reporter

patzerpounder@hotmail.com

MUCERINO'S MESSAGE:

I have three topics I wish to discuss. First, thank you to all of you (and there were many) who offered me condolences for my mother's passing. I was deeply moved by the response. It is nice to know that I have so many friends to help me through this difficult time.

Second, just as a reminder, that ANYONE can write an article or submit a game for PA Today! Just because I write the majority of the articles an submit most of the games does not make it my column. It is open to anyone and everyone. The only restriction is that the article or game must relate to Pennsylvania in some way (hence the name, "PA Today").

Third, it is spring time, and I believe that the club listings need some spring cleaning. Those of you with eagle eyes will have noticed that some clubs have been deleted and the information for several others has changed since the last issue. That is because I have contacted most of the clubs in the eastern half of the state that I do not play in to make sure the information we have is still current. However, I need you assistance. I ask all of you who belong to a club to make sure that the information that we have is correct. Please contact us if a change needs to be made. It can only benefit your club's attendance.

Also, there are a few clubs whose existence I question. Information on the following clubs would especially be appreciated:

- Chambersburg Chessmen
- Cheltenham Chess Club
- Susquehanna Valley Chess Club in Sunbury

Thank you all very much for your time. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Mayor Street's Opening Address Highlights 2005 Greater Philadelphia Chess Championship

Mayor John Street opened the fifth annual 2005 Greater Philadelphia Chess Championship Friday night with a warm welcome to all the players. The mayor expressed support for the chess community, and his support was understandable since his son Leteef was a participant! A record total of about 100 players competed for approximately \$4,000 in prizes. The event, open to anyone, was held in Houston Hall at the University of Pennsylvania over the Apr 15-17 weekend.

Defending champion Grandmaster Aleks Wojtkiewicz of Baltimore was the clear winner of the \$1,000 first prize with a 4½-½ score. Grandmaster Jaan Ehlevest, Bryan Smith, Norman Rogers, and Edward Formanek tied for 2nd place with a 4-1 score. Rogers and Smith were declared area co-champions. Alisa Melekhina and Jonathan West were co-junior champions. Shigong Kor of Bucknell won the Expert prize while Larry Pugh, West, Yew San Lim took the Under-2000 prize.

Besides the prestigious Championship section, there were two other sections for players seeking less rigorous competition. In the Under-1800 section, limited to players with US Chess Federation ratings below 1800, Thomas Messineo finished clear first with a 4½-½ score. Leteef Street tied for second with Lamont Rogers and Rodney Bardwell. Young Matthew Slesinski swept the Under-1400 section with a perfect 5-0 score.

The PaigeMasters Chess Club won the prize for the Top Club, edging out Bucknell University; Conestoga High School was third. The sponsoring Main Line Chess Club (MLCC) had the highest score, but was ineligible for the prize, a wood chess set. This fine set was sponsored by Jenkintown Building Services and made available via the House of Staunton chess equipment supplier. The organizers would like to thank both for their continued generosity in supporting this prestigious event.

MLCC was the principal organizer and the University of Pennsylvania Chess Club was the host. MLCC Vice President Dan Heisman was the tournament director; he was assisted by Craig Klein and MLCC President Dr. John F. Bayley.

For more information, contact Dan Heisman, 610-649-0750. Also, photographs of the event are available upon request.

UPCOMING EVENT: Third Annual Holly Heisman Memorial

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Wynnewood, PA JCC, which has once again donated a free room for the event, the 3rd annual Holly Heisman Memorial Fundraiser is set for Aug 7, 2005. I donate my time as the organizer and TD. This is a rated USCF event, G/30, 5SS.

This event is unique in that it offers a free advance entry and no set prizes in order to raise money for the Holly Heisman Memorial Fund at the Philadelphia Foundation (www.philafound.org). This fund offers support for women in need, and is named for Susan Hollis Bloom Heisman, who died of breast cancer in 1994. You can read more about the Fund at the Foundation (which runs many such funds) website. Over the years the fund has raised almost \$10,000, including over \$1,300 each of the past two years via this event. All monies raised go directly to the Fund – there is no money taken out of donations for running the event. The web page for the event is http://mywebpages.comcast.net/danheisman/Events_Books/Holly_Heisman_Memorial_03.htm and there will be two TLA's in the June and July issues of *Chess Life*. I would like to thank all the sponsors for their past support. All prizes are via donation; a list of last year's prizes is available near the bottom of the website. The donor can mark what his prizes are for among the three sections or can simply leave that up to me (sometimes a donated lower prize is better than a higher one! – that's not usual but here it can happen).

If you are again interested in donating prize(s) for this event, please let me know either by e-mail or send me your number and I will give you a call. As soon as the 2005 prizes are donated, I will be adding them to my website. In addition to the JCC, George Marker has already donated some trophies for scholastic players. Any type of prize is appreciated.

Also, I will probably be sponsoring a second, chess-scholarship related Fund at the Philadelphia Foundation in the near future! More about that when it becomes finalized.

Best wishes, NM Dan Heisman www.danheisman.com 610-649-0750

MLCC G/10 Tournament

GLADWYNE - The Main Line Chess Club, which usually holds G/75 events, holds this event every year as a change a pace. The tournament was eight rounds in length, held over two weeks. An even 40 players took part as some stage. Although the crosstable shows a four way tie with a score of 6/8, because FMs Matthew Bengtson and Peter Fleischer entered late, they do not share in the title. The other two, Vinko Rutar and your author, were declared the official champions.

Yours truly had a difficult first round victory against Frank Macke, but then had easier wins again Charles "Al" Pearson and James Blakey. In round 4, I was black against Bengtson, who was upset in the prior round by Zach White. He shocked me by playing 1.e4 (he is a 1.d4 devote), and I got a good position with the Center Counter. I screwed it up, though, and forced a draw by perpetual check. The next week, I began with my first ever victory against Rutar, which put me into first place. However, Fleisher entered that week, and he was given a score of 3½ points for the four rounds he did not play (the MLCC does this to ensure competitive pairings). I played horribly and lost. Rutar lost again, to Bengtson. In the penultimate round, my play was again sub par, but I managed to draw with Jonathan Plaskow. Bengtson gave me a big assist by defeating Fleisher. In the final round, Bengtson drew with Plaskow, Rutar beat Lasaad Sanane, Fleisher defeated TD Craig Klein, and I bested Zach White to earn my share of first place.

MLCC Haverford Quads

HAVERFORD - These quarterly quads were held for the first time this year. Dan Yeager and I tied for first in quad one, TD James Blakey and James Wu shared first in quad two, Jack Archer won quad 3, and Matthew Angiolillo took the Swiss section with a score of 2½/3.

Southampton DVGP

SOUTHAMPTON - The clouds were crying rain because of the death of Pope John II, but that did not stop players from coming out on the latest stop of Steve McLaughlin's Delaware Valley Grand Prix. An enthusiastic 87 players in one section or another. Joshua Bowman swept the scholastic open section 4-0, Andrew Ding copied that score in the U1100 section, as did Jacob Kelly in the K-6 U750 section, and Adam Kong in the K-3 U500 section. Seven players played in the Octo, but five of them were scholastic players! Only Greg Nolan and I were old enough to vote. We showed the kids how it's done, although Greg was held to a draw in the first round by Keane Basco. Nolan and I met in the final round, and he beat me to overcome his half-point deficit and win the tournament. I tied for second with Erica McLaughlin and Samuel Harmatz.

Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship

WEST HAZLETON - They asked for it, and they got it! Last year, the Greater Hazleton Area Chess Club (GHACC) came up with the idea of creating and hosting this state championship. At the State Championship in Allentown, GHACC Vice-President Jim Patterson talked to PSCF President Tom Martinak about the idea. Martinak, who never heard of a state title he did not like, gave his approval. After a few months of correspondences, and some advice from Martinak, the GHACC wound up having a very successful turnout! Sixty players took part, with 46 in the open and the balance in the one-day scholastic section (although, it should be pointed out, that many scholastic players chose to play in the two-section event). The turnout was double of what was expected.

There were a few snags in this inaugural event. Because of the unexpectedly high turnout, the playing room for the two-day section was crowded until the scholastic section ended. Three games were played on a table until round three. TD Michael Jemo also had some

computer problems that delayed the start of some rounds. But other than that, things went pretty well, and everyone had a good time.

There were no real upsets in the first round, but in round two, I was held to a draw by Frank Biskupics on board 2, and number three seed Ira Weiner of New Jersey was upset by James Joline. The next round saw the fourth highest rated player, Robert Feldstein of New York, lose to tough Jim Drasher. After day one, there were four perfect scores: top rated Greg Nolan, Bernard DeLuca, Drasher, and Joline.

After looking at the wall chart Sunday morning, I figured it would be Nolan's tournament to win. In round 4, as black, Nolan quickly won an exchange against DeLuca, and converted it. Joline defeated Drasher in a very tough game. With this win, Joline became the sensation of the tournament. He began ranked 14th on the wallchart with a 1680 rating, and had upset three people ranked in the top ten! Nolan was also playing very well, and he would have white against Joline, so I figured Nolan would win quite easily. Not to be! Joline gave up a rook for two pieces, and they began to swarm around Nolan's exposed king. But something went wrong, and Nolan won a piece for free. He beat back Joline's other pieces, and then won a second piece with a good tactic. So Greg Nolan won another tournament to add to his enormous tally. Five people tied for second. Joline quite correctly was given second place on tiebreaks. I was lucky enough to take the third place trophy. Also scoring four points but not taking home hardware were Douglas Caldwell, James Drasher, and Richard Harry. The top U1600 prize went to Tamara Corey, top U1400 went to my roommate Sam Lamonto, top U1400 to Todd Ace, best U1200 to Henry Bickel, and the top U1000 was Douglas Puccetti.

In the scholastic section, Shumin Ye scored a perfect 5-0 score to win the event. Antonio Scalzo took home the second place trophy. Adam Freeby won third place. The top K-8 player was Shawn Mitchell, and the second best was Kevin Diver, and the top K-5 was Mike Wiest.

Would you like to hold a state championship in your area? It can be done! GHACC did it, and they had a wonderful tournament. Simply contact PSCF President Tom Martinak with your proposals!

Howard Meiser (1516) – Joseph Mucerino (2083)

PA State Amateur Championship, Round 3, 4/16/05

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Nxe2 Qxd5 6.OO Nc6 7.Nbc3 Qf5 8.a3 OOO 9.Be3 e5 10.d5 e4 11.Ng3 Qe5 12.Qe2 Nxd5 13.Nxd5?! It is safe to recapture the pawn with 13...Nxe4. 13...Rxd5 14.f4 exf3 e.p. 15.Qxf3 f6 I did not like the simplifying combination with 15...Qxe3 16.Qxe3 Bc5 17.Qxc5 Rxc5 18.Rxf6 Rxc2 19.Rxg7 Rxc2 20.Rf1, with the idea of doubling the rooks on the seventh rank. 16.Rae1 Qd6 17.Ne4 Qd7 18.Qf2 a6 19.Nc3 Re5 20.Rd1 Qe6 21.Rfe1 Bd6 22.Re2 Re8 23.Rde1 Qg4! Trying to trap the queen with ...Rf5. 24.h3 Qh5 25.Kh1 Rf5 26.Qg1 g5 27.Bf2 Rxe2 28.Nxe2 g4 29.h4? Better was 29.Ng3 Bxg3 30.Bxg3 gxh3 31.gxh3 Qxh3 32.Qh2 29...Bc5! Winning material. 30.Bxc5 Qxh4 0-1 31.Qh2 Qxe1 is forced. No better is 30.Rf1 Bxf2 31.Rxf2 Qxh4 with the same idea.

Erie Chess Championship

ERIE - Another successful City Chess Championship was concluded this past Friday. Over ten players won awards. Co-City Champions were named this year for the first time ever. Dan Miraglia and Craig Schneider tied based upon an identical Cumulative Score, and a draw in their head to head match. Luka Glinsky had the third best overall score, and won the Junior Championship again. Shawn Shelters won Class C on Cumulative tiebreaks over Ethan and Evan Oppenheim. Congratulations to everyone, and especially to Chris and Rick Mitchell for running this event.

Trophies will be passed out on Friday, May 6th downstairs at Barnes and Nobles Bookstore at 59th and Peach, across from the Millcreek Mall. Please feel free to invite your friends and family. The City Speed Chess Championship will also be contested that night. The entry fee will be \$1, winner take all, with players seeded into two sections, based upon rating.

-Craig Schneider

West Chester First Saturday Quads

WEST CHESTER - The quads began the new year just as popular as it finished the old year. In January (held on the 8th because of New Year's), there were eight quads and a six-man Swiss! Do you want to play strong players at a slow time control (40/90 SD/30)? Quad one fielded two experts, quad three had all class A players, and even quad six had all class B players! This should not discourage novices from attending, because the all of the players in the Swiss were rated below 1200. So, no matter what your strength is, you will not be mismatched at the West Chester Quads!

Quad one was a race between James Larsen and myself. Larsen began by defeating expert Yury Polsky, and I drew tough class A player Keith Thompson. We met in round 2, our first encounter in 11 years! As class C players, we drew in the West Chester Quads in May 1994. We both became stronger over the years, but the time did not change the result: we drew each other again. I beat Polsky in the last round, and Larsen pressed Thompson until he cracked to win the top quad by half a point over me. Ironically, Larsen also won quad 4 back in 1994 by half a point over me!

Other quad winners were (in quad order): Peter Moss, Nigel Mitchell and Larry Dulany, James Fisher, Roy Eikerenkoetter, Max Dugan, Joseph Casey and James Blakey, Ronald Thoman, and Jonathan Martin swept the Swiss 3-0.

MasterMinds Chess Club Open Swiss

PHILADELPHIA - In the beautiful Germantown section of Philadelphia, the MasterMinds Chess Clubs holds a tournament on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. The second Sunday is usually a quad, and the fourth Sunday is usually a Swiss. This was a Swiss tournament. Although only eight players took part, it was a very competitive event. I am very happy to announce that two handicapped players took part. David Rosenkoetter is blind, and Thomas Nordeman has cerebral palsy. The players and organizers made sure that they were well accommodated, and I am sure they had a good time.

There were no upsets in round 1, but Rosenkoetter, rated 933, played a very good game against Leteef Street (1730), before losing on time. The top two players were matched in round 2, and Street-Mucerino ended in a hard fought draw. Street then beat the third highest rated player, Garnel Wilkins (1613) in round three, and I had an easy win. I was now a little bit worried, because Street had played all of the strong players. Round 4 almost saw the upset of the tournament:

David Rosenkoetter (933) – Joseph Mucerino (2065)

MasterMinds Swiss, Round 4, 2/27/05, G/30

Mr. Rosenkoetter is the first blind opponent that I have ever played against. He plays on a set specifically made for blind players, which is smaller in size than the standard USCF set. The pieces are pegged into the squares, and the black pieces have a pinhead on top of them so they can be distinguished from the white pieces.

I played on my normal board. Mr. Rosenkoetter would announce (in algebraic notation) his move, and we would both play the move on our

respective board, and he hit the clock. Obviously, I also announced my move, and, from time to time, informed him on how much time was remaining on both clocks. Periodically, I would glance at his board to make sure he had the correct position. He always did.

We played a skittles game prior to the tournament. I won relatively easily, but Rosenkoetter was obviously not your average 933 player. In the first round, he played very well against Leteef Street (1730) before losing on time, so I was a little nervous when we were paired

1.d4 e5 I played this to get Rosenkoetter out of his opening book and to try to catch him in a trap. **2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nc3** Unusual, but of course perfectly playable. Now, we were both out of our opening preparation. He played very well, and I did not, and he almost pulled off a huge upset! **3...Nxe5 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 d5 6.Bf4 Ng6** Developing a piece with 6...Bd6 was possibly better. **7.e4?** Destroying White's pawn structure. **7...Nxf4 8.gxf4 d4?** Too aggressive. Black should play 8...dxe4 and then try to exploit white's weak kingside pawn structure. **9.Nce2 e5** Not 9...Bc5 10.Nf3 **10.c3 d3?** Again, overly aggressive and over confident. This loses a pawn. **11.Ng3 Nf6 12.Bf1 Be7** The pawn cannot be saved. If 12...c5 13.Qa4 and both pawns fall. **13.Bxd3 OO 14.Qc2** Threatening 15.e5 and 16.Bxh7 **14...h6 15.e5 Nd7** The knight gets trapped after 15...Ng4 16.h3. Also, if 16...Nd3, white can try to win the knight after 17.000, i.e., 17...Qa5 18.Bh7 and 19.Rxd5 or 17...Nxf4 18.Bh7 wins the queen **16.N1e2 Qc7 17.Rg1!** Now white gets a powerful attack. I am so happy all 933s do not play like this. **17...c4?** Trying to free up the c5 square, but this is too slow. **18.Be4?!** White misses his golden opportunity. 18.Bh7! Kh8 19.Nh5! and white is winning because black cannot adequately defend g7. If 19...g6 20.Bxg6 fxf6? 21.Qxg6 and black must give up material to avoid mate. **18...Nc5 19.Nh5 g5** Very ugly, but I believe this move is forced, but there is a trick. **20.fxf6?** Very natural, but it gives black too much counterplay. White should crack black open with 20.h4, and if 20...g4, 21.f3. **20...Qxe5** Black is still alive! **21.gxh6 Kh8 22.Qd2??** 22.Bf3 hangs on to the material. **22...Qxe4 23.Qd4** Here, on his board, Rosenkoetter played the move 23.Qg5, which would lose his queen. As he said the word "Queen", he felt the bishop on e7 and retracted the move. He whispered to himself, "I have to move the queen", which, according to USCF rule 35F3, was correct. According to rule 35F4, he would not be committed to the move 23.Qg5 unless he made the move on the board and also announced it. **23...Qxd4 24.Nxd4 Nd3 25.Kd2 Be6 26.Rg3 Rg8 27.Rxg8 Rxg8 28.Ng7 Bg5 29.Kc2 Bd5 30.Ndf5 Bxh6 31.Ne7 Rg7 32.Nxd5 Rg2 33.Rd1 Rxf2 34.Rd2??** Rosenkoetter only had about two minutes on the clock, and must not have touched the bishop on h6 when he was feeling the pieces. **34...Rxd2 35.Kb1** Rosenkoetter tried to play 35.Kxd2, but I pointed out that was illegal. **35...Rd1 36.Kc2 Rc1 mate 0-1** I announced the mate, and, after feeling the pieces, he agreed.

After that close call, I was able to defeat Wilkins in the final round, while Street coasted to victory in the final two rounds to tie me at 4½ points. Rosenkoetter and Phil Willis, losing only to the top two players, tied for third with three points. A great achievement for Rosenkoetter, who told me prior to the tournament, that he would be moving to California. How unfortunate we are to lose such an underrated player. Nordeman did not do so well, but from what I saw, he was very competitive in all of his games.

For more information on the MasterMinds club and the tournaments they hold, please check out their website at www.mastermindchess.com

West Chester Chess Club Championship

WEST CHESTER - This was the first of the three club titles that I won last year, and, obviously, the first that I would have to defend. Next

year at this time, I will be defending this title once again. Although the length of the event was shortened from five rounds to four, it did not make any difference, and I won with 3½/4.

Round one saw the two new club members, Leo Munley and Craig Daulton, defeat the second and third highest rated players, Mel Ross and Roy Eikerenkoetter, respectively. Sadly, this was the only round Daulton played in. Jim Merickel stopped Munley in round 2, and, with 1½/2, Merickel's personal schedule did not allow him to continue. Ross and Eikerenkoetter got back on track with victories. The two perfect scores met in round 3. Jim White, with white, had a very good position against me, but then dropped a piece to assure me a tie for first. Ross won again, and the final round saw the defending champion play white against the 2003 champion. I offered a short draw, but Ross wanted to contest the title. After building up an advantage with black, Ross made a mistake and lost an exchange but had an extra pawn. He offered me a draw with white having a rook and five pawns, and black having a very strong bishop and six pawns. A victory for white would have been extremely difficult, and perhaps even impossible, so I accepted. Ross, Eikerenkoetter, and Robert Upleger all tied for second with 2½ points.

While the quads the West Chester Club holds are very popular, only twelve people took part in this event. The club meets on Thursday nights at the same location as the quads, and uses the same slow 40/90 SD/30 time control. If you want to play at a slow time control and do not want to spend your Saturdays playing chess, this may be the club for you.

4th Annual Knights of Columbus

DUBOIS - This free, unrated, 4-round G/45 event was held once again this year, made possible by various generous sponsors. There were about 40 players, down from 57 a year ago. In the adult section, the same three players who contested the tournament a year ago, John Caliguire, Basil Selden, and your roving reporter, were back again to see who would be the strongest this year. After we all won in the first round, round 2 saw Caliguire-Selden, where white emerged the winner:

John Caliguire – Basil Selden

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nf6 5. Bf4 Na6 6. c3 Nc7 7. Nd2 g6 8. Ngf3 Bg7 9. O-O O-O 10. Qe2 Re8 11. Rae1 Bg4 12. h3 Bxf3 13. Nxf3 a6 14. Ne5 Ne6 15. Bd2 Qb6 16. b4 Rad8 17. a4 Nd7 18. a5 Qd6 19. f4 Nxe5 20. dxe5 Qc7 21. f5 Nf8 22. e6 fxe6 23. fxf6 Bxc3 24. gxh7+ Kh8 25. Qg4 Bg7 26. Bh6 Qc3 27. Kh1 Nxh7 28. Qg6 Ng5 29. Bxg5 1-0

I won against Ryan Miller, who played well but paced himself poorly, and he blundered in time pressure. The penultimate round saw Caliguire-Mucerino on board 1, and the other player with two points, Dr. Vernon Ordiway, took on tournament organizer Tom Shade, who had 1½ points. As Ordiway crushed Shade, Caliguire and I castled on opposite sides of the board, and the game could have gone either way. With both of us under five minutes (I had a little more time), I sacrificed a pawn, thinking I would get a decisive attack. However, I missed a check which forced the exchanged of queens. Caliguire, up a pawn but down on time, offered a draw to avoid a time scramble. I had enough time to evaluate the position, and I determined that I most likely had a technically lost position. I was a pawn down, and Caliguire had a pawn on the sixth rank that I could not capture, so I accepted the draw.

John Caliguire – Joe Mucerino

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bc4 Bg4 5. f3 Bf5 6. Nc3 Nbd7 7. Nge2 Nb6 8. Bb5+ Bd7 9. Bxd7+ Qxd7 10. O-O O-O-O 11. a4 Nbx5 12. d3 e5 13. Bg5 h6 14. Bxf6 gxf6 15. Nxd5 Qxd5 16. Nc3 Bc5+ 17. Kh1 Qe6 18. Qe2 h5 19. Ne4 Be7 20. Qe3 Kb8 21. a5 a6 22. Rfb1 f5

23. Nc5 Qd5 24. b4 c6 25. Na4 h4 26. h3 Rhg8 27. Qb6 Rg3 28. Nc5 Rxh3+ 29. Kg1 Bxc5+ 30. bxc5 Qd4+ 31. Kf1 Rh1+ 32. Ke2 Rxb1 33. Rxb1 Rd7 34. Qxc6 f4 35. Kf1 f5 36. Qb6 h3 37. gxh3 Rg7 38. Qd6+ Qxd6 39. cxd6 1/2-1/2

In the final round, Ordiway blundered his queen against me, and Caliguire dismantled Miller, so we tied for first. The Youth section was won by Mark Ishler of Curwensville, and Mitch Veltri of Brockway won the Teen section.

NPCC Winter Round Robin

LANSDALE - With its eight-player sections, this tournament is probably the largest round-robin event held in Pennsylvania every year. Many of the club's players turn out to see who really is the strongest of all. The top section, while missing the very strong Joe Weber, Greg Nolan, Albert Pinhasov, and Curtis Schwartz, did field two experts, four class A players, and two players rated 1775.

While my 3-0 start against Glenn Duley, Eric Funk, and Preston Ladson, may appear pretty impressive, I should not have won any of the games. Duley could have had a draw, Funk missed winning an exchange, and Ladson could have saved his bad position. Since Funk and Ladson were the two men I feared most, and because I had three whites and one black left (due to the switching of some rounds), I thought the tournament was mine for the taking. I hit a snag when I played my last round game against Joe Brightman in advance on one of the makeup weeks. With a +8-1=3 lifetime record against Brightman, I was dreaming of going 4-0, but that dream was shattered when I dropped a rook while up two pawns. That brought Funk, Ladson, Brightman, and Nigel Mitchell, who had a 2½/3 score, back into contention. I was down, but not out, as I came back to score my first victory in four attempts against Mitchell. Ladson defeated Funk to emerge as my main challenger for first place. The good news for me is that I would end the tournament against the two class B players, Stephen Brod and Father Joseph Farrell, but although they were not scoring many points, they were playing very competitive games. My final black was against Brod, and I had to imbalance the position in order to win. I did not believe I could lose with white against Father Farrell in the final round, but that is almost what happened. I was in bad shape after dropping a pawn, but then perhaps divine intervention came to my rescue, and Farrell lost an exchange. I tried my best to convert the material into a point and the tournament victory, but Farrell's pieces were on better squares, and I conceded a draw to ensure me a tie for first. Ladson had one game to make up, against Brod. I expected a Ladson victory, but Brod turned the tables, and scored an upset. My score of 5½/7 was good enough for the victory. Funk scored 5 points for second, and Ladson wound up in third with 4½. Brod and Farrell both won at least one game and both scored a respectable two points in this difficult field.

Section two, with six class B players and two class C players, was won by the elder Funk, Donald, and William Champion. They both scored five points. Again, last place scored two points and won a game en route. The bottom section was an eight round Swiss with 13 players. Tom DiMarco won it with 6 points, and Will Moyer came in second with 5.

All of the sections were extremely competitive. With the exception of one player in the Swiss who withdrew after losing his first two games, all of the other 28 players, regardless if they won their section, finished in the middle, or was a tailender, won at least one game, and lost at least one game. Now that's a competitive tournament!

7th Pennsylvania Quick Chess Championship

CARLISLE - For the first time in its history, this tournament had

a decrease in participants. Last year, a record 154 players played in one of the three sections. This year, there were only 98. But this did not come as a surprise to organizers, because a switch was made in the K-12 Open Section. Because this section is the most prestigious of all of the scholastic sections, it has grown to the point that five rounds was not enough to determine a winner. Therefore, the tournament was lengthened to six rounds, with the first round beginning on Friday night, in conflict with the G/10 tournament. The players in the K-12 Open decided to play in all six rounds of that event, instead of taking a half-point bye in round one and playing in the speed tournament. However, those kids who thirst for speed tournaments should note that a blitz or bughouse tournament is being considered for Saturday night.

The sections in this year's tournament were altered slightly from last year, because 2004's U1600 section drew 89 players. In order to force more people into the Open section, the sections were changed from Open, U1600, and U1000 to Open, U1500, and U1100. Only 20 players played in the open section (again, most were in the K-12 Open), and a more manageable 40 players were in the U1500, and there were 38 in the U1100.

On top of the wallchart was a new name for me: Shihong Khor of Bucknell. While his 2408 rating was impressive, it was not a USCF or FIDE rating. It was a Malaysian rating of 2308. After playing him myself and talking to some of the other players about him, the consensus was that his USCF rating would be in the 2100-2250 range. Gerald Bailleau would also be a favorite, as he won or tied for first the last two years. Peter Minear, Michael Glick, and Daniel Yeager are also strong speed players who were participating.

The favorites pretty much had it their own way. Khor showed that he was not the best speed player, as he was held to a draw in round two by Khanh Huu Thai, and he lost in the next round to Glick. That made Glick the sole perfect score, as Minear and Bailleau drew in round three. Bailleau beat Glick in the next round after Glick claimed a draw by repetition which no one else saw, so the tournament director, Greg Vaserstein, had them continue. Minear lost to Tom Magar, who had 3½ points after being held to a draw in the first round. Khor got back on track by handing some guy named Joe Mucerino his third loss of the event. In round 5, Bailleau beat Magar to take the lead. Glick beat Michael Opaska, Minear bested Thai, and Khor won again against Mikhail Sher. In the final round, Khor drew Bailleau, which allowed Glick to catch up when he beat Magar. So, Bailleau makes it a hat trick, although he has to share the honors with Glick. Minear won against Opaska to take third place. Emily Chu, from State College, had a perfect 6-0 score to win the U1500 section, and in his first tournament, Anthony Barnes, coach of University City High School, did the same in the U1100 section.

Carlisle Open

CARLISLE - This is the twelfth consecutive year that I have played in some section of the PA State Scholastic festival, and I have noticed one trend: every year, it seems, there are more and more scholastic sections to play in, while there was always only one section for adults to chose from. No more! After 80 players entered the Carlisle Open last year, it was decided to make two sections: an open and an U1500 section. Two sections did not attract more players, however, this year only 67 players (38 in the open and 29 in the U1500) took part. After a quick glance at both crosstables, there was one fewer collegiate team this year (curiously, only one of the five collegiate teams that took part last year returned this year: the University of Pittsburgh), and it appears that many of the lower rated players did not come back again in 2005.

The first round of the Open Section was pretty much business as usual,

although Tom Magar was held to a draw by Curtis Kramer. Round 2 was terrible for Lancaster, as Michael Opaska upset Omar Rivera, Ron Gross played a King's Gambit and lost badly to Peter Minear (Gross's king wound up on e3 with the heavy pieces still on the board. Ron, you gambit a pawn in the King's Gambit, not your king!) and Marty Frank lost to Ari Oxman. The author played this difficult game:

Vincent Waters (1800) – Joseph Mucerino (2065)

Carlisle Open, Round 2, 3/5/05

I lost to Vince in the speed tournament the night before, so I was out for some revenge. 1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Nc3 c6 7.e3 Qa5 8.Qc2 Bd6 9.Bd3 OO 10.Nh4 Re8 11.Nf5 Bf8 12.OO c5 13.b3 Qa6? 14.Nb5 Ne4 15.Bxe4 White could win material with 15.Bf4 Qf5 16.f3 15...dxe4 16.Ng3 Qc6 17.a4 f6 18.Qc4 Kh8 19.d5 Qb6 20.a5 Qd8 21.Bf4 Ne5 22.Qxe4 a6 23.Nc3 Ng4 24.Qc2 g5 25.Nh5 Perhaps 25.Bxg5 fxe5, with the idea of pushing the connected passed pawns in the center, would have been better, although after ...Bg7, the bishop is on a strong diagonal. 25...gxf4 26.Nxf4 Qd7 27.e4 Qg7 28.h3 Ne5 29.f3 Qg5 30.Nce2 Bd6 31.Kf2 Bd7 32.g3 Rac8 33.h4 Qg8 34.Rab1 Bb5 35.Rg1 c4 36.b4 Nd3 37.Kf1 Nxb4 38.Qc3 Qf8 39.Ne6 Qe7 40.f4 Nd3 41.g4 Rg8 42.g5 Qf7 43.gxf6 Rxe1 44.Kxg1 Rg8 45.Kh2 h6 To give the king a square to move to off the diagonal. 46.e5?? White goes from a winning position to a losing position in one move. 46...Qh5 47.Ng7 Qxe2 48.Kg3 Qf2 49.Kh3 Qf3 50.Kh2 Qxf4 51.Kg2 Qf2 52.Kh3 Qf3 53.Kh2 Bxe5 54.Qxe5 Nxe5 55.Rg1 Ng4 0-1

In the third frame, top rated Shihong Khor, with a Malaysian rating of 2308, conceded a draw to Andrew Tichenor. I was also unable to defeat Michael Opaska. Board one on day two saw the Michael Glick-Peter Minear game. They both had the only perfect scores. Glick made a dubious piece sacrifice, and when the dust settled, Minear was the remaining player with a perfect score. This game was played on board two:

Shihong Khor (2409) – Joseph Mucerino (2065)

Carlisle Open, Round 4, 3/6/05

1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 d4 3.Nce2 e5 4.d3 c5 5.f4 Nc6 6.g3 Bd6 7.f5 Bd7 8.Nf3 Qe7 9.Bg2 Nf6 10.a3 OOO 11.OO g6 12.Nh4 gxf5 13.Nxf5 Bxf5 14.Rxf5 Nd7 15.Bh3 Kb8 16.Qf1 f6 17.Rh5 Qf7 18.Bg4 c4! Black will now penetrate into white's position. 19.Bd2 cxd3 20.cxd3 Qb3 21.Ne1 Qxb2 22.Ra2 Qb1 23.Be6 Ne5 24.Bc4 Nxe4! The only way to continue the attack. 25.dxe4 Qxe4 26.Qf5 Qxf5 27.Rxf5 e4 28.Rxf6 Ne5 29.Bb5? I would have played 29.Be2 to protect the f3 square. 29...a6 30.Bf4 Nf3 31.Kg2 Bxf4 32.Rxf4 axb5 33.Rxe4 d3! White must now lose material. 34.Ne2 Ng5 35.Re5 dxe2 36.Rxe2 Nf7 37.Rxb5 Rhe8 38.Reb2 Nd6 39.Rh5 Re7 40.Rd5 Rdd7 41.Rg5 Ne4 42.Rg8 Ka7 43.Rb4 Rd2 44.Kh3 Nf2 45.Kh4 Re4 46.Rxe4 Nxe4 47.h3 Rd7 48.Rg4 Ne5 49.Kh5 Kb6 50.Rb4 Ka5 In a time scramble, black had to sacrifice his knight for the g pawn. 1/2-1/2

In the final round, Minear had white against Magar, who turned his first round draw into an unintentional, but successful, Swiss gambit. Glick was white against Khor on board two, and I was black against Rivera. Rivera beat me easily, Glick-Khor was drawn, and Minear, needing only a draw with white, somehow blew it, and Tom Magar emerged as the winner of the tournament. Minear, Rivera, and Frank all scored four points. Glick and Opaska both were fighting for the state collegiate title, and they both were in the 3½ group. Glick, of Lehigh University, won on tiebreak. There was a four way tie in the U1500 section with William SENDERER, Anthony Barnes (winner of the U1100 speed tournament!), Joseph Hall, and Sam Lamonto all hauling away cash. David Pfendt of the University of Pittsburgh scored three points to be the top collegiate player in this section. The team collegiate title went to

the University of Pittsburgh (it did not matter which section the players played in). The second place team was Bucknell.

As I noted earlier, four of the five collegiate teams who played in 2004 did not return this year. That is quite a shame. I am sure that if enough colleges sent a team, there could be an separate collegiate section, which would probably entice more colleges to send a team. If you are in college, or if you are heading to college next year, field a team in the 2006 event. With only four collegiate teams contesting for two prizes, you would have a good chance of taking home a trophy!

Michael Williams (1740) – Natal Carabello (1610)

Carlisle Open, Round 5, 3/6/05

Notes by Joe Mucerino

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qe5 4.Nge2?! 4.Qe2 is better than having a piece pinned. 4...Bg4 5.d4 Qa5 6.Qd3 Nc6 7.d5 Nb4 8.Qb5 Qxb5 9.Nxb5 OOO 10.Na3 Rxd5 11.Bd2 e6 12.Ng3 Nf6 13.Bc3 Be7 14.Bc4 Rd7 15.h3 Bh5 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.c3 17.Nxh5 does not win a piece because of 17...Bxb2. Black does not fear 17.cxb4 for the same reason. 17...Bg6 18.Ke2 Nd5 19.Rhe1 Bg5 20.Nb5 a6 21.Nd4 Nf4 22.Kf1 Nd3 23.Re2 Bf6 24.Nxe6 Ne5! (Carabello) Winning material. If 25.Bb3 Bd3 25.Rxe5 Bxe5 26.f4 Re7 27.f5 Bxg3 28.Nxg7 Be5 29.Re1 Bf6 30.Rxe7 Bxe7 31.fxe6 hxg6 0-1 White must lose a piece. If Bxf7 then Rf8.

Games By PSCF Members

“And they’re playing chess in Allentown,
While they’re closing the French Defense down....”
(The Editor apologizes to both Eric Johnson and Billy Joel for this introduction.....)

Eric Johnson – Dominick Danielsson

Allentown Chess Club Tournament

Notes by Eric Johnson

French Defense, Advance Var. (by transposition): 1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nc6 3. d4 e6 4. Nf3 d5 5. e5 Qb6 6. a3 Bd7 7. b4 cxd4 8. cxd4 Rc8 9. Be3 Nh6 10. Bd3 f5?! (normal so far --better are 10. ... Nf5 or 10...Ng4) 11. 0-0 a5?! 12. b5 Na7 13. a4 Bb4 14. Ra2 (or 14. Bd2!? idea Qe1 xa5) Nf7 15. h4 0-0 16. Bf4 Qd8 17. Qe2 b6 18. Rc2 Rxc2 19. Qxc2 Qb8 20. g3 Rc8 21. Qe2 g6?! 22. Ng5 Be7 23. Nxf7 Kxf7 24. Bg5 Bf8 25. Qe3 Bg7 26. h5 Rc7 27. Kg2 Qf8 28. hxg6+ hxg6 29. Rh1 Nc8 30. Qf4 Qg8 31. Qh4 Be8 32. Bd8! (I was rather pleased with the following switcheroo) Rd7 33. Rc1 Ne7 34. Bxb6 Qf8 35. Rc7 Rxc7 36. Bxc7 Bd7 37. Bd6 Qd8 38. Qxe7+ Qxe7 39. Bxe7 Kxe7 40. Nd2 Kd8 41. Nb3 Kc7 42. Nxa5 Kb6 43. Nb3 Bf8 44. f4 Bb4 45. g4 Bc8 46. Kg3 Be1+ 47. Kh3 Bd7 48. Be2 Bc8 49. gxf5 gxf5 50. Bh5 Bd7 51. Bf7 Kc7 52. Kg2 Kd8 53. Kf3 Ke7 54. Bh5 Kd8 55. Ke3 Kc7 56. Bf7 Bb4 57. Nc5 Kd8 58. Nxe6+ Ke7 59. Ng5 Ba5 60. Bxd5 Bb6 61. Bc6 Bc8 62. Kd3 Bc7 63. d5 1-0

Next we have three games from the PA State Scholastic Champ in Carlisle. Henry Bickel, the Morphy of Pocono Mountain East, reminds us why the King's Gambit is eternally youthful:

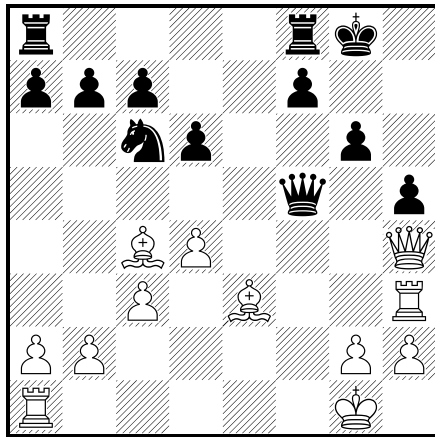
Henry Bickel – Unfortunate Opponent [C34]

PA State Scholastic Championship

Notes by Neil Brennan

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Qe1 Nc6 8.Nd5 0-0 9.Nxe7+ Qxe7 10.d3 Bxf3 11.Rxf3 Nh5 [11...Nd4 would have been more annoying for White to meet.] 12.Rh3 Qe5 13.Qh4 g6 14.c3 Nf6 A blunder, as White shows us. 15.Bxf4 Qc5+ 16.Be3 Qe5 17.d4 Qxe4 [17...Qe7 18.Bg5 Qxe4 19.Bxf6 Qxh4

20.Rxh4 and Black is SO busted!] 18.Qxf6 Qf5 19.Qh4 h5

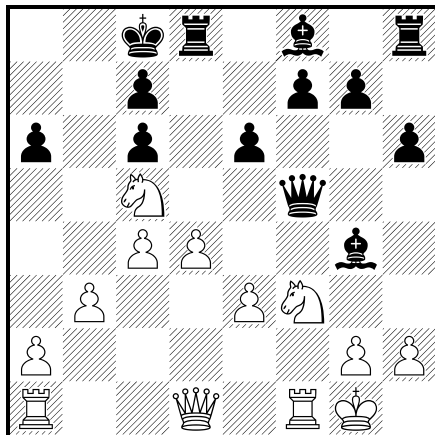


20.Rf1 Qg4 21.Qf6 Kh7 22.Rg3 Qe4 23.Bxf7 Ne7 24.d5 Qe5 25.Bxg6+ Nxg6 26.Qxg6+ Kh8 27.Qh6# A nice performance by the future World Champion. :-) 1-0

Thomas G. Pfendt – John Foster [B01]

PA State Scholastic Championship K-12 Open, rd 6, 3/6/05

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Bb5 a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.Be3 Nd5 11.Ne4 Nxe3 12.fxe3 Qb5 13.b3 h6 14.c4 Qf5 15.Nc5 e6



16.Ne5 Qxe5 17.dxe5 Rxd1 18.b4 Bxc5 19.bxc5 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Rd8 21.Rf1 Bf5 22.Rf2 Rd3 23.e4 Bg6 24.g4 Rd4 25.h4 h5 26.Rg2 hxg4 27.Rxg4 Rxe4 28.Rxe4 Bxe4 29.a3 Bd3 0-1

The next game, although long and hardly perfect, is worth it for the missed swindle at the end.

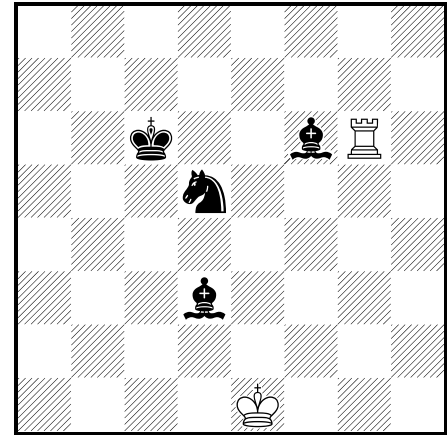
Shawn M. Mitchell – Frank Trinisweski [B06]

PA State Scholastic Championship K-9 U1000, rd 2, 3/6/05

Notes by Neil Brennen

1.e4 g6 2.Bc4 Bg7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.Ng5 Qe8 7.Bxf7+ Rxf7 8.Nxf7 Qxf7 9.d3 b6 10.Nb5 Bb7 11.Nxc7 d5 12.f3 dxe4 13.dxe4 Ba6 14.Re1 Bb7 15.Bf4 Nh5 16.Bg3 Nxc3 17.hxg3 Na6 18.c3 Nxc7 19.Qb3 Qxb3 20.axb3 Nb5 21.Rac1 Rc8 22.Re3 Bh6 23.f4 g5 24.c4 gxf4 25.Ree1 fxc3 26.Rcd1 Nc7 27.Rd7 Bc6 28.Rxe7 Bf8 29.Re5 Re8 30.Rg5+ Bg7 31.Rxg3 Rxe4 32.Rxe4 Bxe4 33.Rg4 Bf5 34.Rf4 Be6 35.b4 Bxb2 36.c5 bxc5 37.bxc5 Nd5 38.Re4 Bf5 39.Re8+ Kf7 40.Rd8 Be6 41.c6 Ke7 42.Ra8 Bd4+ 43.Kf1 Kd6 44.Re8 a5 45.g4 a4 46.g5 a3

47.Ra8 Kxc6 48.Ra6+ Nb6 49.Rxa3 Bc4+ 50.Ke1 Nd5 51.Rh3 Be3 52.Rxh7 Bxg5 53.Rg7 Bf6 54.Rg6 Bd3



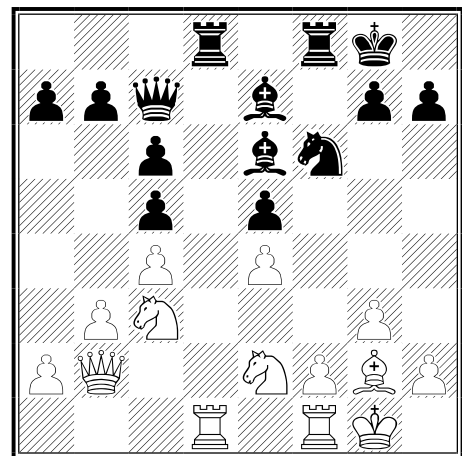
55.Rg4 White has a “practical draw” by 55.Rxf6+ Nxf6 56.Kd2, forcing an inexperienced player to mate with Bishop and Knight in time pressure. A good swindle to learn! 55...Bf5 56.Rc4+ Kd6 57.Ra4 Bc3+ 58.Ke2 Bd7 59.Ra6+ Bc6 60.Ra4 and eventually drawn. ½-½

Donald Meigs (2012) – Federico Garcia (1562)

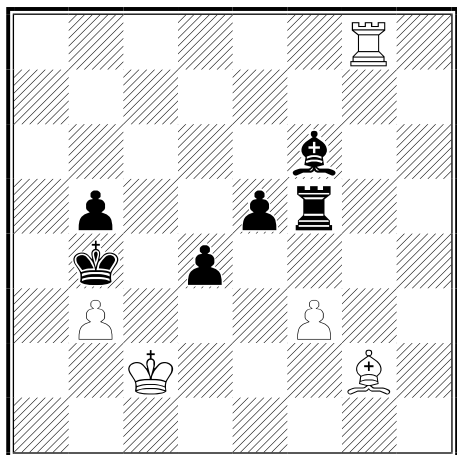
Pennsylvania State Team Champ West. Pittsburgh, 02.05.2005

Notes by Federico Garcia

1.e4 e5 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 f5?! Not very sound. White’s unorthodox system makes d4 (rather than e4) a target for Black. 4.d3 Nf6 5.g3 Be7 6.Bg2 c6 7.Nge2 Both sides have been consistent in focusing on e4, in which of course White has the advantage. Now Black trades the pawns in order to continue developing without loss of tempi—but it was probably better to tempt White with 7...Be6, since then 8 exf5?! Bxf5 makes the Black formation more in tune with the position. 7...fxe4 8.dxe4 Be6 9.b3 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Ba3 Qc7 12.Qd2 Rad8 13.Rad1 The struggle has shifted to the d6 pawn, the classical backward pawn on an open file, and White is slightly better. However, only one of White’s minor pieces can realistically attack it, and then Black has the Be7 (as ultramodern GM Suba says, “bad bishops protect bad pawns!”). Black, on the other hand, could appeal to piece play through the open f-column, or prepare the advance of the backward pawn, often a strategic theme. With the next move, the nature of the position changes once more, to Black’s disadvantage. 13...Nc5?! 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.Qb2



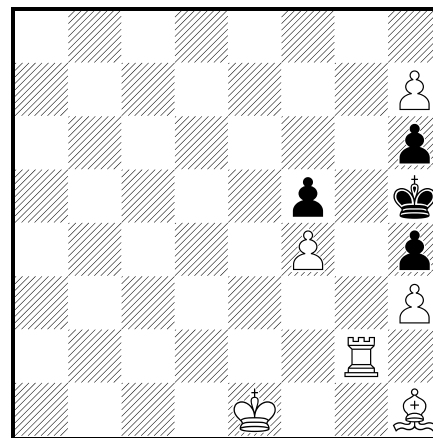
After so many wanderings, the position finally acquires the strategic character that will define the game. Black has gotten rid of the backward pawn, but now things are even more promising for White: remove all pieces, and the endgame is won for White, because his majority can create a passed pawn. Even more immediate than that: White is virtually ready for the advance f4!, and later, by obliquely attacking the e5, to force fxe4. Then his e- and f-pawns will run unopposed. I was expecting f4 in several of the next moves. Donald seemed always to be preparing it even more. At some point he had completely departed from it, and a few moves later I found that Black had developed an unlikely King-side attack. **15...Qb6** threatening Bxc4. **16.Rxd8** Is this to get the Black rook out of the f-column, or to avoid his own to be taken out? In any case, it gives Black the also important d-column. **16...Rxd8 17.Qc2 Qc7** Preparing the defense of e5, since I will do anything to avoid trading at f4. **18.h3?** Everything was ready for 18 f4! **18...a6 19.a4 19...b5** has to be prevented. **19...g5! 20.Kh2?! Nh5 21.Ng1 Ng7 22.g4?** White has taken a different path. He will not try to advance f4, but rather concentrate on more static issues: holes. After all, he has two Knights, and Black has only one. But while Black's outposts are black squares (so White's Bishop cannot get them), the Black Queen Bishop guards White's outposts superbly. The move 21.Ng1, on the other hand, was completely lost. **22...Bc8 23.Nge2 Ne6 24.Ng3 Nd4 25.Qb1 Rf8 26.Nf5 Bf6 27.Qa2** Not only the Nd4 is more powerful than any of White's pieces (including the Queen!), but it is also immune to trades: at d4, the c5 would become a strong, supported passed pawn. **27...Bxf5 28.exf5 h5** Interesting was 28...Nxf5!? **29.Ne4 hgx4** Although 29...Qh7 seems more powerful, it would be simply met by 30.Rh1, and the attack is dead. **30.hgx4 Qh7+** Now the rook cannot get in as quickly. The attack, nonetheless, should not promise anything, if White plays well. **31.Kg1 Kg7 32.Ng3?** But Donald underestimates the attack. Necessary was 32.f3 Rh8 (32...Qh4 33.Qf2) 33.Kf2 Qh4+ 34.Ng3 followed by Rh1. **32...Qh4! 33.Nh5+ Kf7 34.f3 Rh8** and there is no defense against Nxf5: Black wins a pawn. White now achieves an endgame with Rooks and opposite-color Bishops. **35.Rf2 Nxf5 36.gxf5 Rxh5 37.Re2** The idea is making sure there is no speculation with e4 and Bd4+. **37...Qd4+** But of course we both missed 37...e4! 38.Rxe4 Bd4+ 39.Kf1 Qh1+! 40.Bxh1 Rxh1+ and Rh2+, winning. **38.Kf1 g4 39.Qd2 Rxf5** Both sides bet: White gives up a second pawn to get to the endgame; Black accepts with the plan of giving the pawn back and concentrating on keeping the White Bishop out of business. **40.Qxd4 cxd4 41.Re4 Ke7** The pawn is lost anyway after 41...g3 42 Rg4, and the positive difference is that the Rook will not get to defend the f3: the Bishop will be tied to it for a while. **42.Rxg4 Kd6 43.Ke2 Kc5 44.Kd3 Kb4 45.Kc2 b5 46.axb5 cxb5 47.cxb5 axb5 48 Rg8**



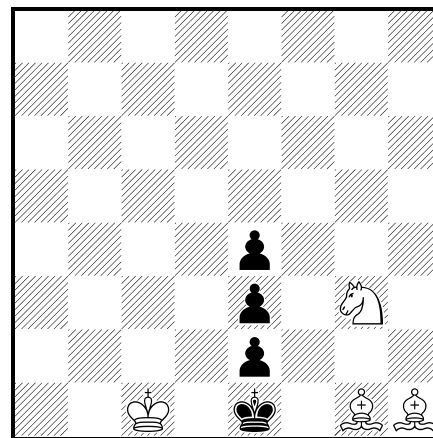
How to follow? **48...e4! 49.fxe4 Rc5+ 50.Kd2 50.Kb2? d4+. 50...Kxb3 51.Bf1 Bg5+! 52.Kd3 52.Kd1 Rc1+** and the White King gets in his Bishop's way. With the next move, the Bishop is also kept out of the battle, because the King is trapped and e2 is his only way out. **52...Be3 53.Rb8 b4 54.Bh3 Rc3+ 55.Ke2 Bf4 56.Be6+** Of course not 56.Rh8? d3+ 57.Kf2 (57.Kd1?? Rc1#) 57...d2. **56...Ka3 57.Ra8+ Kb2 58.Ra2+ Kb1 59.Ra4 d3+ 60.Kf1 b3 61.Bg4 b2 62.Ke1 d2+ 63.Kf2 Kc1 64.e5 Bg3+ 65.Kg2 b1=Q 66.Rd4 Qb7+ 67.Kg1 Qb6** Mate follows soon. **0-1**

Dowd's Dungeon by Steven Dowd

With this column I will begin featuring one of my own compositions and one by someone else with a Pennsylvania connection. Hopefully readers will send me original problems; and I will gladly work with anyone who does so. The first problem is 140 years old, but still gives a nice appearance, and the second a little miniature I put together especially for this column, and to show one of the themes in the first problem. So if you get the first one right, the second should come easily to you!



1-0
W.G. Thomas, Philadelphia Bulletin, July 16, 1864
Mate in 3



1-0
Steven B. Dowd, Original
Mate in 3

Solutions – see page 12.

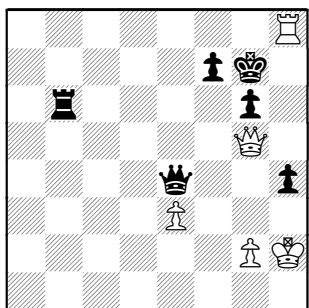
Play It Forward

By Ken Hamilton

Play It Forward is a popular feature in *Chess IN Indiana*, the magazine of the Indiana Chess Association. Unlike most tactic exercises, *Play It Forward* stresses visualization by setting the combination a few moves forward from the diagram position. The following *Play It Forward* appeared in the March 2005 issue. –editor.

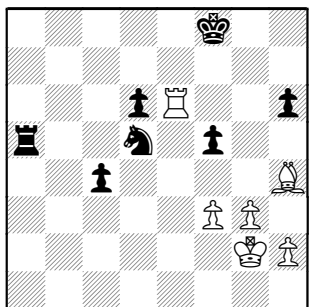
...here is a selection of positions from GM Kaidanov's games....can you find the winning move – in your head?

1. Kaidanov – Silberstein, Irkutsk 1983



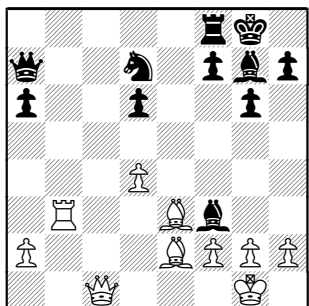
34.Rxh4 Qe6 35.Qh6+ Kf6 36.Qf8 Qd6+ 37.Rf4+ Kg5 38. ?

2. Arkhipov – Kaidanov, Tbilisi 1986



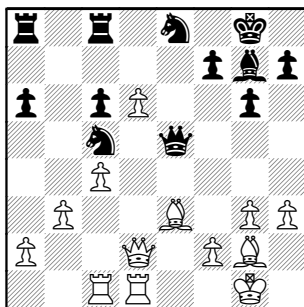
39.Rxd6 c3 40.Rxh6 c2 41.Bg5 ?

3. Kaidanov – Watson, Calcutta 1988



23.gxf3 Bxd4 24.Qc6 Bc5 25.Rb7 Ne5 26.Qc7 Qa8 27.Bxc5 dxc5 28. ?

4. Kaidanov – Reshevsky, Belgrade 1988

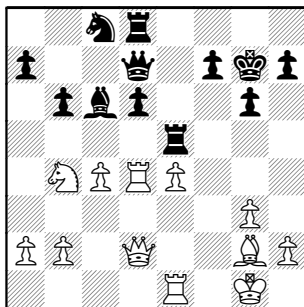


24.f4 Qe6 25.Bxc5 Nf6 26.Re1 Qd7 27.Re7 Qf5 28.Bd4 Rab8 29. ?

I hope your visualization skills are getting a good workout; these exercises should help make you a better player. Heck, maybe they'll make *me* a better player....

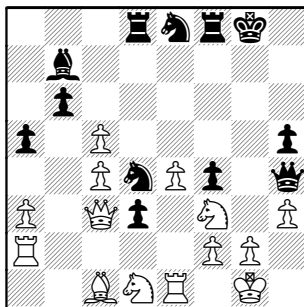
You'll have to think harder on this one-

5. Kaidanov – Shirov, Moscow 1989



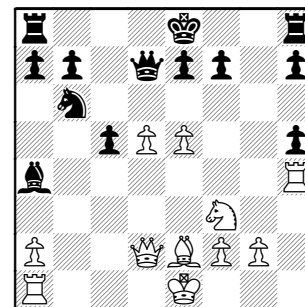
28.Nd3 Re7 29.b4 Rde8 30.c5 Qc7 31.cxd6 Nxd6 32. ?

6. Sadler – Kaidanov, Lloyds Bank 1990



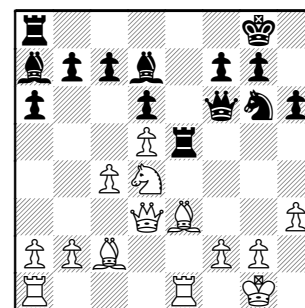
28...Nxf3+ 29.gxf3 Qxh3 30.Qe5 Rd7 31.Bxf4 ?

7. Kaidanov – Mulyar, Las Vegas 1992



17.Ng5 Qf5 18.Nxf7 Rf8 19.Rf4 Qc2 20.Qxc2 Bxc2 21. ?

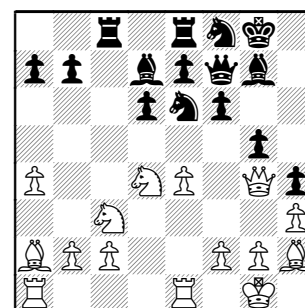
8. Shaked – Kaidanov, US Open 1993



20...Rae8 21.Qc3 Nh4 22.Red1 Rxe3 23.fxe3 ?

And here GM Gregory Kaidanov deals severely with IM Angelo Young of Chicago...

9. Kaidanov – Young, Chicago Open 1997



25.f4 gxf4 26.Bxf4 Rc5 27.Bh6 Kh8 28. ?

Many more recent games I could draw upon...oh well, maybe another time.

Solutions – see page 12.

Ad Rates for *The Pennswoodpusher*: Back Cover: \$150; 1 page: \$120; ½ page: \$80; ¼ page: \$50. Ads scheduled for 4 consecutive issues receive a 25% discount on the above prices. Contact Randi Malcuit, PO Box 453, Epping NH 03042-0453, 603-679-8164, statelinechess@yahoo.com

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

June 4. Gettysburg Chess Tournament. 5-SS. G/30. Days Inn, 865 York Rd., Gettysburg PA 17325. 7 Rated Sections, PSCF required \$5 OSA: **Adult, K-12 Open, K-9 Open, K-6 Open:** Trophies to 1st - 3rd in each section; **K-12 U1000, K-9 U1000, K-6 U1000:** Trophies to 1st-3rd, U750, U500, Unrated in each section. 4 Non-Rated Sections: **Adult, K-12, K-9, K-6:** Trophies to 1st - 3rd in each section. **All:** Reg: 8-9:30am. Rds: 10am - Noon - 1:30pm - 3pm - 4:30pm. EF: \$15 by 5/8, \$20 by 5/28, \$25 after 5/28. **Ent/Info:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Rd., Warminster PA 18974-5208, 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com

June 25 & 26. 2nd Western Pennsylvania Junior Open. 5-SS. Ballroom, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. Open to ages 20 & under. 5 sections: **2-day (Sat & Sun):** G/90. EF: \$18 postmarked by 6/18, \$28 later. Reg ends 11:30am. Rds Sat Noon - 3:15pm - 6:30pm, Sun Noon - 3:15pm. **Championship,** open to all. Top from zips 15000-16999 qualifies for Western PA Junior Invitational on August 5 - 7. **1-day (Sun only):** G/40. EF: \$15 postmarked by 6/18, \$25 later. Reg ends 11:30am. Rds Noon - 1:30pm - 3pm - 4:30pm - 6pm. **Premier,** open to U1300. **Reserve,** open to U1100. **Booster,** open to U900. **Amateur,** open to U700. **All:** Trophies to top 7 in each section, additional medallions; Teams of 4 to 7 players combined from all sections, Trophies to top 3 schools & top 3 clubs, PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Avenue, New Brighton PA 15066.

July 15 (QC). Castle Quick Chess Championship. 6-SS. G/10. Thomas Building, Penn State University, Pollock Road, University Park PA 16802. 2 sections. **Open,** open to all: Trophies to 1-5, U1700, U1500, U1300. **U1200,** open to those rated under 1200 or unrated: Trophies to 1-5, U1000, U800, U600, Unrated. **Both:** EF: \$10 received by 6/30, \$15 later, \$5 discount for playing in both this and the weekend Grand Prix. Higher of Quick and Regular Ratings used for prizes and pairings. Reg Fri 5:15 - 5:45pm in the Rotunda of Thomas on the west end of the building, Round 1 starts at 6:15pm. **Maps:** <http://www.campusmaps.psu.edu/print/> **Info:** 814-368-8009, <http://www.amchess.org/>, amchess@amchess.org **Hotels:** <http://www.visitpennstate.org/availability.php> **Ent:** American Chess School, 140 School St., Bradford PA 16701-1160. W.

A Heritage Event

July 16 & 17 **GPP:35** **Pennsylvania**
2005 Pennsylvania State Championship & 23rd Tullah Hanley Grand Prix. 5-SS. G/120. Thomas Building, Penn State University, Pollock Road, University Park PA 16802. 3 sections. **Open,** open to all: EF: \$55 postmarked by 7/3, \$65 between 7/4 and 7/15, \$75 on-site 7/16. \$\$ (1900 guaranteed): 1000-400-200-100, Expert \$100, Class A \$100. **U1800,** open to those rated under 1800: EF: \$45 postmarked by 7/3, \$55 between 7/4 and 7/15, \$65 on-site 7/16. \$\$ (1050 guaranteed): 500-250-100-50, U1600 100-50. **U1200,** open to those rated under 1200: EF: \$45 postmarked by 7/3, \$55 between 7/4 and 7/15, \$65 on-site 7/16. \$\$ (1050 guaranteed): 500-250-100-50, U1000/Unrated 100-50. **All:** Reg Fri 7 - 9pm, Sat 8 - 8:30am. Rds Sat 9am - 1:30pm - 6:30pm, Sun 8:30am - 1pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. Trophy to Top PA player in each section. **Maps:** <http://www.campusmaps.psu.edu/print/> **Hotels:** <http://www.visitpennstate.org/availability.php> **Info:** 814-368-8009, <http://www.amchess.org/>, tournaments@amchess.org **Ent:** American Chess School, 140 School St., Bradford PA 16701

August 5 - 7 or 6 & 7 **GPP:6** **Pennsylvania**
2005 Western Pennsylvania Open. 5-SS. 30/80, SD/1 (2-day option, rd 1 G/60). Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. \$\$ (1605 b/65, two-thirds guaranteed). 3 sections: **Open,** open to all: \$\$ 300-150, U2100 \$95, U2000 \$90. **Premier,** open to U1900: \$\$ 200-100, U1700 \$95, U1600 \$90. **Reserve,** open to U1500: \$\$ 200-100, U1300 \$95, U1200 \$90. **EF:** 3-day \$36, 2-day \$35 postmarked by 7/28, all \$45 at site. **Re-entry:** \$20. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6:30pm, Rds Fri 7pm, Sat Noon - 5pm, Sun 11am - 4pm. **2-day schedule:** Reg Sat 9-9:15am, 1st Round 9:30am, then merges with 3-day. Bye: 1-5, rds 4 & 5 must commit before rd 2. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** 412-908-0286, martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Avenue, New Brighton PA 15066-1208. W.

August 5 - 7. 3rd Western Pennsylvania Junior Invitational. 5-RR. 30/80, SD/1. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 1 Qualifier from Western Pennsylvania Junior Open and 5 invited based upon June 2005 ratings. Must be ages 20 & under, resident of zips 15000-16999 and current PSCF member. Rds Fri 7pm, Sat Noon - 5pm, Sun 11am - 4pm.

September 10 & 11. 2005 Pennsylvania State Senior Championship. 4-SS. G/120. Main Line Speech, 626 Haverford Rd., Haverford PA 19041. Additional parking available at Rt. 100 Train Station, 50 yards south. **Open to ages 50 & Up.** \$\$ (750 b/30): 250-150-100, U1800 \$50, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/Unrated \$50 Ages 65 & Up \$50. **EF:** \$25 postmarked by 9/1, \$35 after, PSCF required \$5 OSA. Reg 9:15 - 10am. Rds 10:30am - 3:30pm, 10am - 2:45pm. **HR:** Hotel Radner 610-688-5800. **Info:** 610-649-0750, danheisman@comcast.net. **Ent:** Dan Heisman, 1359 Garden Rd., Wynnewood PA 19096-3626.

Watch for the latest information on PSCF tournaments on our website:

<http://www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/>

Dowd's Dungeon Solutions:

1. Thomas **1. Rg4! hxg4 2. h8N! g3 3. Bf3#** Themes: stalemate avoidance, underpromotion.
2. Dowd **1. Bf3! exf3 2. Be3! f2 3. Bd2#** Theme: stalemate avoidance.

Play It Forward Solutions:

1. Kaidanov-Silberstein **38.Qh8** with an unstoppable mate next move.
2. Arkhipov-Kaidanov **41....f4**, as after 42.Rc6 (or 42. Rh8+ Kf7 43.Rc8) Ne3+ 43.Kf2 Rxd5. Note that the Black pawn on f4 serves a triple function – it excommunicates White's bishop from the defense of c1, provides Black's knight with a safe haven on e3 and clears the way for the Black rook to send the bishop to the chopping block.
3. Kaidanov-Watson **28.f4** and the knight is trapped in the middle of the board.
4. Kaidanov-Reshevsky **29.g4** and the queen is trapped in the middle of the board.

5. Kaidanov-Shirov **32.e5** as 32...Nb5 loses to 33.Rc4. Shirov played 32...Bxg2 and resigned after 33.exd6.

6. Sadler-Kaidanov **31...Rxf4** now if 32.Qxf4 Rg7+. White tried 32.Qxe8+ but after 32...Rf8 had to resign.

7. Kaidanov-Mulyar **21.Bb5+** and Black met a horrible end after 21...Nd7 22.e6.

8. Shaked-Kaidanov **23...Qg5** and White's defenses crumble, e.g. 24.Rd2 Rxe3 25.Qa5 Bxd4 or 24.Bh7+ Kxh7 25.Qc2+ Kg8 26.Kh1 Rxe3 27.Rd2 Rg3 28.Nb3 Be3. So White's 24th move was "Resigno."

9. Kaidanov-Young **28.Nxe6**. Every response leads to a lot of wood being removed from the board, unfortunately for Angelo, most of it Black's. E.g., 28...Nxe6 29.Bxg7+ Qxg7 (or ...Kh7 30.Bd5) 30.Bxe6 Bxe6 31.Qxe6 Rgh8 32.Re2. Or 28...Bxe6 29.Bxg7+ Qxg7 30.Bxe6 Nxe6 31.Qxe6 etc. So Black resigned.

Games By PSCF Members

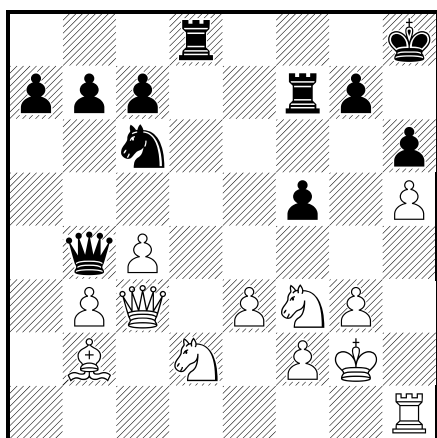
Lastly, the ageless Durwood Hatch sends us a tactical Albin Countergambit:

Durwood Hatch – Richard B. Kalfas [D09]

Erie Open (5), 1974

Notes by Durwood Hatch

The final round game which clinched the championship of this tournament with a 5–0 score, though not my best-played game of the event, I'm sure. This is a tactical skirmish all the way. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Bf5 7.a3 Nge7 8.axb4 Nxb4 9.Qa4+ Nec6 10.Bg2 Nc2+ 11.Kf1 Nxa1 12.Qxa1 0–0** Two minor pieces for a rook and pawn and a better position for Black; as so often my opening play is poor. **13.Nh4 Bd7 14.b3 Nxe5 15.Qxd4 Nc6 16.Qc3 Qe7 17.Bd5 Kh8** To play f6 or f5 when and if needed. **18.Bb2 Bh3+ 19.Bg2 Bxg2+ 20.Kxg2 f5** 20...f6 is better, but he wanted to take f5 from the Knight. **21.e3 Rad8 22.Nhf3 Rf7 23.h4 h6 24.h5 Qb4**



25.Ne5! His over-worked Knight cannot cover e5 and the Queen simultaneously. **25...Qxc3** [Where is the f7 Rook to go? If 25...Rf6 26.Ng6+ Kg8 (26...Rxc6 27.hxc6 Qe7 28.Rxh6+) 27.Qxb4 Nxb4 28.Bxf6 Rxd2 29.Bc3; And if 25...Rxd2 26.Qxb4 Nxb4 27.Nxf7+ Kg8 28.Nxh6+ gxh6 29.Bc3 Rd3 30.Bxb4 Rxb3 31.Bd2 Rd3 32.Rd1 a5 33.Kf3 a4 34.Ke2 Rd6 35.Bb4 Ra6 36.Ba3 and Black can resign.] **26.Nxf7+ Kg8 27.Nxh6+ gxh6 28.Bxc3 Rd3 29.Rc1 Kf7 30.Nf3 a5 31.Kf1 Nb4? 32.Ne5+ 1–0**

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Samuel W. Boehner, Max J. Dugan, Braden Kaib, Linda K. Kleinfeld, Stephen E. Marnik, Adam M. Mc Quaig, Ronald C. Rodgers & Robert P. Ross

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Dues are \$5 for students/adults/clubs, \$100 for Life memberships. The PSCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Address Corrections & PSCF Memberships should be sent to: Tom Martinak; 549 13th Ave; New Brighton PA 15066-1208; 412-908-0286; martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN PA

ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALLENTOWN:

Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm

ALTOONA:

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-2310

BLOOMSBURG:

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

BRADFORD:

(1) Univ of Pitt-Bradford Commons Building; Tues 8-11 pm

(2) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm

BRIDGEWATER:

The Copper Dog, 234 Bridge St; Tues 7-9 pm, Jim Scibilia 724-728-8044

CHAMBERSBURG:

C-burg Chessman; 600 Miller St; Thurs 7-10 pm

CHELTENHAM:

Rowland Community Center, Elm St; Thurs 6-10 pm

CHESTER:

J Lewis Crozer Library, 620 Engle Street; Tues 5:30-7:30 pm, 610-364-1212

CLEARFIELD:

Clearfield CC; Shaw Library; Tues and Thurs 6-9 pm; Sat 9-noon, Ron Williams 814-765-7788

COATESVILLE:

Cultural Soc, 258 E Lincoln Hwy; Thurs 5-10 pm, Bob Jones 610-384-1790

COUDERSPORT:

High School, 698 Dwight St; Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

ERIE:

Erie CC; Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafras, Room 341; Fri 6:30-10 pm, James Walczak 814-870-7763

EXETER:

Dunn Recreation Center, 4565 Prestwick Dr; Thurs 7:30-10 pm, 610-374-5882

GLADWYNE:

Main Line CC; Waverly Hts Ret Comm Game Room, 1400 Waverly Rd; Tues 7 pm, Dan Heisman 610-649-0750

GREENSBURG:

Courthouse Square; Wed 6-11 pm, 724-836-5625

HATBORO:

Chaturanga CC; Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, County Line Rd W of Blair Mill Rd; Thurs 8 pm, 215-794-8368

HAZLETON:

Greater Hazleton CC; Zola's Lamp Post, Rt 940; Thurs 8-11 pm, Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122; Also Checkers Pizza, Rt 309 & 28th St; Tues 8-11 pm

HUNTINGDON VALLEY:

Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Rd; Tues 7:30-8:30 pm

JOHNSTOWN:

St Rochus Church, 314 8th Ave; Sun 7:30-11 pm, 814-266-2272

LANCASTER:

Rodney Park, Crystal & Rodney St; Wed 6:30-9 pm, 717-892-6612

LANSDALE:

(1) North Penn CC; St John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts; Thurs and Fri 7 pm - 1 am, 215-699-8418

(2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10am

LOWER BURRELL:

Vol Fire Co 3, 3255 Leechburg Rd; 2nd Sat 11 am - 1 pm, 724-448-7521

MANSFIELD:

Wellsboro-Mansfield CC; Independence Bible Church, 33 East Ave; Irregularly 1st/3rd Mon 7-10 pm, Don Thompson 570-376-2452

MONROEVILLE:

Monroeville Chess Club; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Delbert Tyler 412-824-5015

MURRYSVILLE:

1st Presbyterian Ch, 3202 N Hills Rd; Wed 7-11 pm, Jay Griffin 724-325-2484

NEW CASTLE:

Lawrence County CC; Trinity Episcopal Ch, N Mill & Falls; Thurs 6:30-9 pm

PHILADELPHIA:

(1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Fri 1-9 pm, 215-496-0811; Sat & Sun 5-9 pm, 215-496-9686

(2) Univ of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust; Wed 8 pm

(3) Masterminds CC; Fountains @ Logan Square East, 2 Franklin Town Blvd; Wed & Fri 7-10 pm, Steve Slocum 215-455-6285

PITTSBURGH:

(1) Univ of Pitt CC; William Pitt Union; Tues & Thurs 7-11 pm, 412-908-0286

(2) Pittsburgh CC; Wightman School Community Center, 5604 Solway St; Wed 1-9 pm, Sat Noon-10 pm, 412-421-1881

(3) Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford; Sat 9 - Noon, 412-922-4234

(4) Hill Lib, 419 Dinwiddie; Mon & Thurs 3-7 pm, Sat 1-5 pm, 412-361-6170

(5) CMU CC; University Center Commons; Thurs 6-8 pm

(6) Mt Lebanon Lib, 16 Castle Shannon; Scholastics: 1st/3rd Mon Sept-May, Adults/Older Scholastics: Thurs 7-8:30 pm; 412-531-1912

(7) USC Library, 1820 McLaughlin Run Rd; Thurs 6-8 pm, 412-221-2394

POTTSTOWN:

YMCA, 724 N Adams St; Fri 6:30-8:30 pm, Michael Mullin 610-323-7300

READING:

Million Youth Chess Club; Olivets Boys & Girls Clubs; 677 Clinton, Mon 5-7; 1161 Pershing, Fri 6:30-8:30; Mike 610-373-3061

RIDLEY PARK:

Tri-State Chess Club; Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 East Dupont Street; Mon 6:15 - 11 pm, 610-586-8205

SCRANTON:

Redman's, Main & Elm; Sun 2 pm, Patrick Walker 570-347-5200

SHAMOKIN:

Shamokin CC; Burger King, Rte 61; Mon 7:30 pm

SHIPPENSBURG:

Health Care Ctr, 121 Walnut Bottom Rd; Wed 6-9:30 pm, Terry 717-486-0211

SOUTHAMPTON:

Southampton CC; Davisville Church; 215-675-9535

STATE COLLEGE:

PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 6:30 pm

STROUDSBURG:

YMCA, Main St; Thurs 7-11 pm, Eric 570-476-8939 or Jim 717-992-5475; & Loder Senior Center, 62 Analomink St, East Stroudsburg; Tues 7-11 pm

SUNBURY:

Susquehanna Valley CC; Oaklyn Baptist Church, Rte 61; Sat 6 pm

WARMINSTER:

WREN, 1101 Little Ln, Tues 6:30-8, 215-443-5428

WARREN:

Warren Library, 205 Market St; 1st & 3rd Sat 9am - 1pm

WEST CHESTER:

(1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Ch, High & Barnard Sts; Thurs 7 pm

(2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Room 112; Thurs 11 am - 2 pm

WEST SHORE (Harrisburg):

Calvary United Meth Ch, 700 Market St (Rear), Lemoyne; Mon 7-10 pm, Gerald Dubs 717-975-5589; & Our Lady of Lourdes Ch, 225 Salt Dr, Enola, Sat 10-2 pm

WILKES-BARRE:

199 S Main St; Fri, 8:30-Midnight, George Trent 570-740-7662

WYNCOTE:

Montgomery Youth CC; Calvary Presbyterian Church, 217 Fernbrook Ave; Wed 7-8:30 pm, Steve McLaughlin 215-784-5938

YORK:

(1) Trinity Un Methodist Ch, 241 E King St Rear; Wed 6-9 pm, 717-845-9368

(2) Youth CC; Grace Brethren Ch, Newberry & Parkway; Wed, 2-5:30 pm; & Light of Life Arts, 41 Cherry, Seven Valleys; Fri 6-9:30 pm, 717-852-8434

The USCF 2005 Election



"I love chess, especially what it does for children, and I believe chess is the only pure (untainted) sport for children - the future of our country.

"I know how to make a business succeed, I know how to work harmoniously with others and I've made enough money to give chess the amount of time it deserves.

"One thing I've learned in business is that if you don't evolve you become irrelevant."

Joel Channing

We, the undersigned, urge USCF members to vote for Joel Channing, a very successful business man and chess aficionado who will bring his tremendous business experience and know-how to the Executive Board table:

GM Arthur Bisguier, Dean of American Chess

*Dale F. Frey, Treasurer, General Electric (ret.) and
Chairman of the Board of General Electric Investments (ret)*

World Champion GM Susan Polgar

Erik Anderson, President AF4C

GM Yasser Seirawan, Three-time US Champion & 1979 World Junior Champion

Allen Kaufman, Former Executive Director Chess-in-the-Schools

Dan Lucas, President Chess Journalists of America

Bill Goichberg, USCF Executive Director 2003/04

Don Schultz, USCF Secretary & Board Contact Int'l Affairs

Mike Cavallo, USCF Executive Director 1996 to 1999

Dr. Frank Brady, Founder Chess Life Magazine

Franc Guadalupe, President Florida Chess Assn.

John Donaldson, US Olympiad Team Captain

Paul Truong, Team Captain & Manager 2004/05 US Women's Team

Harvey Lerman, Editor floridaCHESS

Jon Haskel, Co-chair USCF Finance Committee

Carol Jarecki, Co-author USCF Official Rules of Chess

Robert Tanner, FIDE Zonal President for USA

Dr. Joe Wagner, USCF Executive Board Member

Fabio LaRota, 2004/05 US Senior Champion

Ballots and mailing instructions will be attached to the June issue of Chess Life.

Ad paid for by Joel Channing.

PLEASE VOTE IN THE USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION FOR THE US CHESS SUCCESS TEAM:

STEVE SHUTT

RANDY BAUER

ELIZABETH SHAUGHNESSY

GEORGE JOHN

BALLOTS ARE IN THE JUNE *CHESS LIFE*

All four candidates support the following principles:

FISCAL PRUDENCE: Income must be budgeted conservatively. In the past, inflated revenue projections which never materialized contributed to huge budget deficits which eventually nearly bankrupted the USCF in the summer of 2003. Three of these candidates are on the current Executive Board which has taken the tough steps needed to curtail expenses. In fiscal 2003-04 USCF had its first surplus in many years. A further surplus is expected this year and a leaner and more efficient USCF will continue to generate surpluses to rebuild our financial reserves provided that the current economies are not jeopardized by electing untested candidates.

SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS: **You the members are the USCF.** Improving USCF services is a top priority. The ratings need to be produced both faster and more reliably. Our publications need to be improved. Our national tournaments need to run well, but also in cost effective ways. Our local clubs must be supported: they are the backbone of the USCF.

NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: **None of these candidates has any conflict of interest if elected to the Executive Board.**

STEVE SHUTT: He is the current Vice President of the USCF. He is completing four years on the Executive Board and has been one of the team that brought the USCF back from the brink of insolvency. As Board Liaison to the Scholastic and Chess in Education Committees, he has met with hundreds of parents, coaches and scholastic organizers throughout the country.

RANDY BAUER: He is another current Board member who is Budget Director for the State of Iowa, managing an annual budget of over \$9 billion. He has also served on two state chess association boards, he is a national master, a chess author and a life member of USCF. He has served on the USCF's Finance and Audit Committees. His expertise in finding operational efficiencies will help to free up funds to improve membership services.

ELIZABETH SHAUGHNESSY: She is also a current Executive Board member who is an architect, serving as the liaison between the Board and the architects to insure that the new USCF headquarters building stays on budget. She founded the Berkeley Chess School in 1982 which now teaches chess to 7000 students in 175 schools in the greater San Francisco Bay area. She is former President of the Berkeley School Board which she helped save from insolvency. She has played in four Chess Olympiads and is former Irish Women's Chess Champion.

GEORGE JOHN: He has many years of experience as a USCF tournament director, organizer, Texas delegate, five times member of the USCF Board of Delegates, Chair of the USCF Internet /Computer Committee and Treasurer, Secretary and President of the Texas Chess Association. He has over 25 years of software development experience. We need at least one Executive Board member with extensive software expertise.

Visit <http://www.USChessSuccess.com> for information and candidates' positions.

These candidates are endorsed by many, including Past USCF President Dr. Leroy Dubeck, Past NJSCF President Herman Drenth, Past Executive Board members Doris Barry and Jim Eade, and PSCF President Tom Martinak.

This advertisement is paid for by friends of the candidates.