

## "Chess Changes"

### "CHESS CHANGES"

An Interview with ICC's John Fernandez

The following impromptu interview took place on Sunday November 26, 2000, in the skittles room at the National Chess Congress. Across the board is John Fernandez, Vice President of the Internet Chess Club, or ICC for short.

*DVC: Thank you for agreeing to this interview. As background for our readers, the Internet Chess Club has been around for about 9 years, correct?*

JF: Yes, but we weren't under that name. Before ICC we were known as the ICS, the Internet Chess Server, and before that the AICS, American Internet Chess Server. And of course there are other chess servers as well.

*DVC: John, tournament attendance is down everywhere, and many smaller clubs are suffering a decline in membership. Many chessplayers are saying chess on the Internet is to blame, and they mention one server more than any other.*

JF: Probably because ICC is the best known and most successful chess server.

The ICC may be more convenient for some people because they have tight schedules. But the usual reason people join ICC is because they don't have a chess club near them. As an example, there are four big well-established chess clubs in the US. In New York you have the Marshall and the Manhattan Chess Clubs, in San Francisco the Mechanic's Institute, and in Philadelphia the Franklin-Mercantile. All these clubs are open seven days a week.

But often a chessplayer doesn't live near a large urban club. He has to drive to some distance, and the club may be small, and perhaps it meets one night a week on a night that's bad for him, and he plays the same people every week. The ICC gives him a chance to play at other times.

*DVC: Well John, here's an example of the sort of thing chess clubs fear. One Philadelphia area club had it's treasurer quit the club, and this former treasurer now brags in his ICC fingernotes he hasn't played over the board chess in a year.*

JF: (pause) That's not typical. ICC is not trying to take anyone from over the board chess. We think the ICC complements club chess. We are simply offering the opportunity to play more chess. And chessplayers think it's great they can play more chess. As GM Mickey Adams said, "You can play chess in your underwear!" You don't have to dress, drive somewhere, just to play a game of chess.

But of course everyone's different. Some players will never play on ICC because, well, they just don't like it! GM Vishy Anand is an example. He says, "Why should I play on the ICC in my free time when I play chess for a living?"

And ICC is very different from club play. After all, very few people go to a chess club and without saying a word play anonymous strangers 5-minute all night long.

If a player doesn't like the club he goes to for whatever reason, or has a problem with a person there, he can go on ICC. Or if their schedule changes and they can't attend the club because of that. Unfortunately ICC is often a scapegoat. People blame online chess when there are often other reasons people stop coming.

One of the ICC's successes in promoting chess clubs is in Idaho. An Idaho player was on ICC one night, and he was using

the name of his town as a handle. He played another player from Idaho, and they started a conversation. "Hey, I'm from \_\_\_\_." The result was that they actually formed a chess club in this small Idaho town, and this over the board chess club was created because they met on the ICC.

*DVC: The ICC has about 25,000 members, correct?*

JF: Yes.

*DVC: Many of these players are new to chess. Does the ICC do anything to encourage these players to try over the board play?*

JF: We have announcements on the ICC every two hours about our chess club finder. If ICC members want to find a chess club they can use that to locate the nearest club. Also, we had USCF information available, while we had the contract with them.

*DVC: And did a lot of players use this feature?*

JF: We don't know for sure, but at least 150 people a year joined the USCF from the ICC. That may be higher, but that's all that the USCF could track with their software.

*DVC: The ICC also sponsors over the board chess events at the top level, such as the US Cadet.*

JF: We have been sponsoring the US Cadet since 1997, when it was held in Nashville.

*DVC: And ICC has also sponsored the Chess in Iceland tournament in April 2000, with Anand and Kasparov.*

JF: The Iceland tournament was a favorite of mine.

*DVC: You were over there for ICC covering it?*

JF: Yeah, I had to run up and down a flight of stairs to get the moves. I was watching and getting the moves from a little balcony over the stage. (grins) I think I annoyed Kasparov.

*DVC: That must have been fun - the tournament, I mean.*

JF: Iceland was great for the ICC and great for chess. Iceland TV had eight hours of coverage, and I was on several times a day as spokesman for the ICC. And people were watching. I was stopped several times by complete strangers in the street, simply because they saw the chess coverage and my reports on TV. I couldn't get over how much they loved chess in Iceland. Iceland is such a little country, and they have over forty chess clubs!

I'm not sure what it is about Iceland, whether it's in the culture, or what, but they have a level of chess interest I wish we had in this country.

*DVC: Pardon me for asking, but you're not old enough to remember Fischer-Spassky, are you?*

JF: (grins) No, I'm 22, I wasn't born when Fischer played Spassky. But I wish we had the level of interest in chess in the US that they have in Iceland.

What's interesting is that the chess clubs in Iceland are wired. And they actually have an online Icelandic Championship. ICC is now hosting this event. Iceland has it's own chess server, and the first year they hosted this championship they had 25 players. Second year, 25 players. Third year, 28 players. This year, with

the ICC hosting, we had 75 players! And afterwards we had complaints we didn't publicize the event enough, from players who said they would have played if they had heard about it.

If American chess clubs were wired, we might have something like the German League in this country, with clubs playing against each other online.

Online play is definitely here to stay. Chess changes. Look at the National Chess Congress. Tournaments like this didn't exist 30 years ago.

*DVC: So the recent turndown in tournament attendance and decline in club memberships nationwide has nothing to do with the popularity of on-line play?*

JF: Not to the extent it's portrayed. And the problems the clubs are going through hurts us too. I belong to the Manhattan and the Marshall. I'd hate to think of either of them not being around.

What has happened is that over the years the USCF has not supported the clubs the way they used to. And the clubs are suffering. But if the ICC takes off and in a few years we have 200,000 members, some of those new people will spill over into tournament and club play. So the ICC will eventually help chess clubs.

Actually, it's chess programs like FRITZ which may be hurting chess clubs more. With FRITZ you can select the playing strength of the opponent, as well as play 24 hours a day.

*DVC: I want to thank you for your time John. By the way, how did you finish in the tournament?*

JF: I went three out of six in the open section. I played six masters. That's a 2300 performance rating. Not too bad!

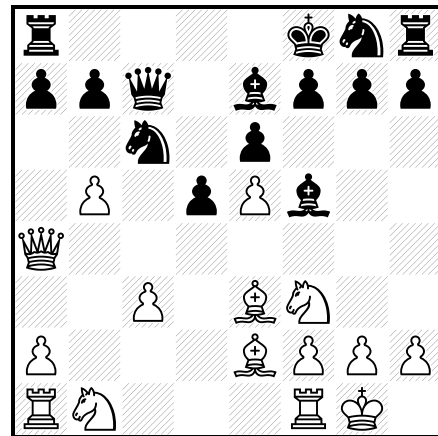
#### John Fernandez (2044) - R. Yakobashvili (2265) [B12]

National Chess Congress Philadelphia (6), 26.11.2000

Notes by John Fernandez

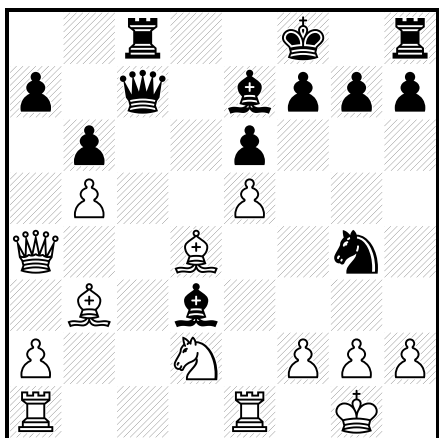
Going into this last round game, both players were standing on a score of 2/5, so the winner would be rewarded with an even score. This made it a tough tournament for me, since this was my fifth master out of six games. A win would have meant a lot of rating points for me, so I was well motivated. Luckily things turned out quite well for me. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5** Black is just scoring too well against 3. Nc3/Nd2 these days. Black's argument is that he will get a French Advance with his normally bad Bc8 outside of his pawn chain. White argues that the loss of tempo is critical. Another argument is that the Bishop is misplaced on the square f5. In this case, White's strategy is vindicated. **3...Bf5 4.Nf3** I've always believed this move was just the best move in the position. 4. Nc3 makes no sense, blocking the c-pawn, and I don't like making the weaknesses on the kingside (g4, h4, etc), unless I know I'm getting something for it. 4. c3 seems premature to me. It's very useful in a lot of lines to play c4! to blow up the center, so I make a useful developing move (you never know when Nh4 is handy), and defend my center. **4...e6 5.Be2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c3 Qb6?** Amusingly enough, this is the most natural move on the board, but it's a horrible mistake. Compare this line with the line in the French (1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6). White has gained 2 tempi (Be2 and 0-0), and in turn Black has lost one with his c-pawn, and one to put his Bishop on f5. While the tempo with the pawn is not fatal, the tempo lost to put the bishop on the useless (!) f5 square is the critical feature of this position. Much better is 7...cxd4, to remove the game continuation as an option. **8.dxc5 8.Qa4!**? was first played in Short-Seirawan, Tilburg 1990, and also gives White a solid edge. My way is just more forcing, but maybe not as good. **8...Bxc5 9.b4 Be7** The first game I ever saw in this line made a very lasting impression on me. To think that Black would be forced to resign in eight moves from this position without making any obvious blunders has always impacted me, and lead me to analyze this position deeply. 9...Bf8 10.Qa4 Nge7 11.Be3 Qc7 12.Na3 Nc8 13.b5 Nb8 14.b6+ Qd7 15.Nb5 Kd8 16.bxa7 Nc6 17.Rfd1 1-0 Ady - Furdzik, New York 1999 **10.Be3**

**Qc7 11.Qa4** This is the point. The threat is b5-b6+!. Amusingly enough the drawback of Black's third move is now apparent, since had his bishop been on c8, 11. ... Bd7 would be quite a strong move, and probably enough for a Black advantage, due to the backward c-pawn, and weak e5 pawn. But alas, the pawn on e6 is too much of a barrier to get past. 11.Bb5!? Zamora - Blankenau, Philadelphia 1995 **11...Kf8** Black has to get out of the pin on the a4-e8 diagonal at all costs. **12.b5**



**12...Na5** 12...Nxe5!? was certainly the obvious move. There are very many ways for both players to go wrong, and undoubtedly this is why he avoided taking the pawn. **A)** 13.b6!? **A1)** 13...Qd6 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Qxa7! Qb8 (15...Rb8 16.g3 Qd6 17.Bc5 Qd8) 16.Qxb8+ Rxb8 17.a4!± This variation shows the devastating abilities of the mobile 2 on 1 advantage in this ending.; **A2)** 13...Qc6! 14.Qa5 (14.Bb5?! Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 Qd6μ) 14...Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 a6 16.Nd2 Qd6 17.c4; **A3)** 13...Qd7 14.Qxd7 Nxd7 15.bxa7 Bc5 16.Bxc5+ Nxc5 17.Nd4 Rxa7 18.Nxf5 exf5 19.Nd2 Ra3μ Black will soon consolidate his position, and White's queenside is happily on the menu.; **B)** 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.Re1 (14.Nd2 Qxc3 15.Rfc1 Qe5 16.Nf3 Qb8μ) 14...Nf6 15.g3 g6 16.b6! a5 17.Bd4 Qd6 18.f4© There is some compensation for the pawn in this position. The b6 pawn has a fantastic cramping effect.; **C)** 13.Bf4! 13...Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 **C1)** 14...Bd6 15.Bxd6+ Qxd6 16.Nd2 Bd3 17.Rfc1 (17.Rfe1 Qc5) 17...Ne7 18.c4!©; **C2)** 14...e5 15.Bg3 Nf6 16.Rd1 Be4 (16...Be6 17.Qd4 Bd6 18.Qe3©) 17.Bxe4+ This position is unclear, but it's probably much easier to play it as White. **13.Na3?** I made this move immediately, and then realized to my horror that the c-pawn was en prise since after Qxc3, my knight on a3 was hanging! This move was made by intuition. Usually in these positions the Knight on a3 is good since it can later go to b5, but here it's an obvious mistake. When I realized this mistake, I offered a draw. This actually turned out quite well for me. Since I had been blitzing out my moves, he obviously felt the draw offer as some kind of psychological trick to encourage him to take the c-pawn. In that regard, I was quite lucky this game! The correct 13.Nbd2! has been played before, with great success: 13...b6 (13...Qxc3 14.Nd4! Qa3 15.Qxa3 Bxa3 16.Nxf5 exf5 17.Rad1!©) 14.c4 Rd8 15.cxd5 Rxd5 16.Rac1 Bc5 17.Nb3 Nxb3 18.axb3 Qb8 19.Bxc5+ bxc5 20.Ra1± Rudolph - Schuster, Germany 1996 **13...Nh6?** 13...Qxc3!? Would have obviously been correct. I am not so sure I would have found adequate compensation for my pawn minus. It also seems that White is literally forced to go into a losing ending after 14.Bd2 Qxa3 15.Qxa5 Qxa5 16.Bxa5 b6. This should be winning for Black. **14.c4!±** Now White has an enormous advantage. Black is lagging behind in development, has two rather offside knights on a5 and h6, and his rooks don't coordinate at all. Plus, White is ready to jump on the b, c or d files, whichever open up first, and take control of the entire position. **14...Ng4 15.Bd4** This simple move prevents Nxe3, doubling and isolating my e-pawns, getting the two bishops, and reducing support of the e5 pawn. With my nicely

centralized bishop I now harass the queenside as well as the kingside. 15.cxd5! is also a rather attractive continuation for me, one variation being 15...exd5 (15...Nxe5 16.Rac1 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Qd8 18.dxe6!+-) 16.Rac1 Qd8 17.Nd4 Nxe3 18.fxe3 g6 19.g4 Bc8 20.Rxc8 Qxc8 21.Qxa5+- **15...dxc4** Black hopes to reduce the tension via exchanging off some pieces, especially his knight on a5. However, White is now poised to dominate the c and d files. **16.Nxc4 Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Rc8 18.Bb3?!** Not the best move. I had a much more energetic way of strengthening my position. 18.Rac1! Be4 (18...Bd3?? 19.Bxd3 Qxc1 20.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 21.Bf1+-; 18...h5 19.h3 Nh6 20.Qxa7+-) 19.Nd2 Bd5 20.Qd1!!+- This move, attacking g4, and defending my rook on c1 was the move that I missed. **18...Be4 19.Nd2 Bd3 20.Rfe1 b6**



**21.h3?! Amazingly, this move is a bit of an inaccuracy, missing Black's reply.** I could have kept my substantial advantage by playing 21.Bb2± with future ideas of Rac1, and possibly swinging my queen over to the kingside. **21...Nh6?** Missing his final chance. The amazing 21...Qd7! contains a very venomous threat, Bxb5! winning my queen! This move both of us missed, since it wins a tempo to get his queen out of the way of the devastating Rac1. 22.Rac1 (22.hxg4?? Bxb5+-) 22...Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Nh6 24.Rc6 Nf5 25.Bb2² White still has an edge, but with a pair of rooks traded, White finds it very hard to get at the weakened a7 pawn. Black intends to consolidate, and get his Rh8 into the game. White must act energetically if he is to win this game. **22.Re3** Via a forced series of moves, White now wins material. The rest requires no comment. **22...Bg6 23.Rc3 Bc5 24.Rac1 Nf5 24...Kg8 25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.Rxc5 Qxc5 27.Rxc5 Rxc5 28.b6!+-; 24...Qb7 25.Bxc5+ bxc5 26.Rxc5 Rxc5 27.Rxc5 Nf5 28.Qc4+- 25.Bxc5+ bxc5 26.Rxc5 Qxc5 27.Rxc5 Rxc5 28.Qb4 1-0**

### GAMES FROM THE NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS

Gamescores from NCC website:

A. Pixton(2300) - Phil Stefano (1800) [A45]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (1), 24.11.2000  
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.d5 Qb6 4.Nc3 Qxb2 5.Bd2 Qb6 6.e4 d6 7.f4 g6 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.Rb1 Qd8 11.e6 fxe6 12.Ng5 Nf6 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.dxe6 Qc7 15.f5 a6 16.fxg6 axb5 17.gxh7 b4 18.0-0 Qc6 19.Nce4 Qe8 20.Nxf6 exf6 21.Bf4 Rxh7 22.e7+ 1-0

Gennady Geyler (1817) - Stan Ritvin (2309) [E67]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (1), 25.11.2000  
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.d5 a5 9.e4 Nc5 10.Ne1 Ne8 11.Nd3 f5 12.Nxc5 dxc5 13.Be3 Qd6 14.f4 Bd7 15.exf5 gxf5 16.fxe5 Bxe5 17.Kh1 Ng7 18.Bf4 Rae8 19.Qd2 b6 20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.Rae1 Rfe8 22.Rxe5 Qxe5 23.Rf2 Qe1+ 24.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 25.Rf1 Rxf1+ 26.Bxf1 Kf7 27.Kg2 Kf6 28.Kf3 Ke5 29.Ke3 Ne8 30.Ne2 Nf6 31.Bh3 b5 32.b3 bxc4 33.bxc4 c6 34.dxc6 Bxc6 35.Nf4 Be4 0-1

Gennady Zaitshik (2546) - Zachar Fayvinov (2302) [B11]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (2), 24.11.2000

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.a3 Nd7 7.d3 Ngf6 8.g3 Ne5 9.Qe2 d4 10.Nd1 c5 11.Bg2 Nc6 12.e5 Nd5 13.0-0 Qc7 14.f4 0-0-0 15.c4 dxc3 16.bxc3 g5 17.Rb1 gxf4 18.c4 f3 19.Rxf3 Nd4 20.Qe4 Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3 Nb6 22.a4 Rd7 23.a5 Na4 24.a6 Nb6 25.axb7+ Kb8 26.Qe2 Qd8 27.Nf2 Rg8 28.Bf4 Rd4 29.Ra1 Nd7 30.Rxa7 Qb6 31.Ra8+ Kc7 32.Rc8# 1-0

P. Ross (2106) - Peter Fleischer (2349) [C11]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (3), 25.11.2000  
1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Bf4 Qb6 9.0-0 a6 10.Na4 Qb4 11.Nxc5 Qxf4 12.Nxd7 Bxd7 13.Re1 f6 14.Qc1 Qxc1 15.Raxc1 Ke7 16.c3 Raf8 17.Rcd1 b5 18.b4 fxe5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 Rc8 21.Bf1 Rxc3 22.Rdx5 Rc1 23.f4 Rhc8 24.Rc5 R8xc5 25.Rxc5 Rb1 26.a3 Rb3 27.Rg5 Kf6 28.Rg3 Rb2 29.Bd3 Rb3 30.Be4 Rxc3 31.hxg3 Bc8 32.Kf2 h6 33.Ke3 e5 34.Bd5 g5 35.Bf3 Kf5 36.g4+ Ke6 37.f5+ Ke7 38.Be4 Bd7 39.Bb7 Be8 40.Ke4 Bd7 41.g3 Be8 42.Bxa6 Bc6+ 43.Ke3 Kd7 44.Kd3 Kd8 45.Kd2 Kd7 46.Kc3 Kd8 47.Kb2 Kd7 48.a4 bxa4 49.Be2 Be4 50.Ka3 Bc2 51.Bb5+ Kd6 52.Bxa4 Bd3 53.Be8 Be2 54.Bh5 Ke7 55.Kb3 Bb5 56.Kc3 Kf6 57.Kd2 Kg7 58.Ke3 Kf6 59.Bg6 Bc6 60.Kd3 Bb5+ 61.Kc3 Kg7 62.Bh5 Kf6 63.Kd2 Kg7 64.Ke3 Kf6 65.Bg6 Bc4 66.Kf2 Bb5 67.Kf3 Bc6+ 68.Ke3 Bb5 69.Bh7 Kg7 70.Ke4 Kxh7 71.Kxe5 Kg7 72.Ke6 Bc6 73.b5 Bh1 The drawn on move 76 ½-½

Alex Shabalov (2662) - Rodion Rubenchik (2374) [D27]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (3), 25.11.2000  
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bd3 dxc4 6.Bxc4 c5 7.0-0 a6 8.Bb3 Nbd7 9.Re1 cxd4 10.exd4 Be7 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Bf4 b5 13.d5 exd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Ra7 16.Rad1 Bc5 17.Ne5 Qb6 18.Nd3 Bd4 19.Re4 Bxf2+ 20.Nxf2 Bb7 21.Be3 1-0

Gennady Zaitshik (2546) - Alex Shabalov(2662) [E02]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (4), 25.11.2000  
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qxc4 Bc6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Nbd7 10.Qd3 Nd5 11.e4 Nxc3 12.bxc3 f5 13.exf5 exf5 14.Ne1 Bxg2 15.Nxg2 Nb6 16.a4 a5 17.Re1 Rf7 18.Nf4 Qd7 19.Qb1 Qc6 20.Qb3 Bd6 21.Nd3 ½-½

D. Shapiro (2266) - Norman Rogers (2330) [E95]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (4), 25.11.2000  
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Re1 c6 9.Bf1 exd4 10.Nxd4 Ng4 11.Qxg4 Bxd4 12.Qg3 Ne5 13.Rd1 Bb6 14.Na4 Bc7 15.b3 Qe7 16.Ba3 f6 17.c5 d5 18.f4 dxe4 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Qe3 Bg4 21.Re1 b5 22.Nc3 Qd7 23.Kh1 Rae8 24.Be2 Bxe2 25.Rxe2 Qg4 26.Rae1 f5 27.Nd1 Qh5 28.Qg1 Bg3 29.Bb2 Rd8 30.Nf2 Rd5 31.Re3 f4 32.Rxg3 fxg3 33.Nxe4 Qh4 34.Nxg3 Rd2 35.Bc3 Rd3 36.Ne4 Qf4 37.Bb2 b4 38.h3 Qh4 39.Re3 Rxe3 40.Qxe3 Rf1+ 41.Kh2 Qe1 42.Qxe1 Rxe1 43.Nf6+ Kf7 44.Nxh7 Re2 45.Ng5+ Ke7 46.Bd4 a5 47.Kg1 Rxa2 48.Nf3 Ke6 49.Be3 Kd5 50.Nd2 a4 51.bxa4 Ra3 52.Kf2 b3 53.Ke2 b2 54.g4 Ra1 55.h4 b1Q 56.Nxb1 Rxb1 57.h5 gxh5 58.gxh5 Rb4 59.h6 Rxa4 60.Kf3 Ke5 61.Bc1 Kf5 62.Bb2 Rh4 63.Bg7 Rh3+ 64.Kg2 Rh5 65.Kf3 Kg6 66.Bd4 Kxh6 67.Ke4 Kg6 68.Be5 Kf7 69.Bd6 Ke6 70.Kd4 Rh4+ 71.Kc3 Kd5 72.Kb3 Rc4 73.Be7 Kd4 74.Bd6 Kd3 75.Be7 Rc1 76.Kb2 Re1 77.Bd6 Kc4 78.Ka3 Re2 79.Bf8 Re3+ 80.Kb2 Rb3+ 81.Kc2 Rf3 82.Be7 Rf2+ 83.Kb1 Kc3 84.Bd6 Re2 85.Bf8 Rb2+ 0-1

Norman Rogers (2330) - Dean Ippolito (2455) [B33]  
National Chess Congress Philadelphia (5), 26.11.2000  
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 a6 9.Na3 b5 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nd5 f5 12.c3 Bg7 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nc2 0-0 15.Nc3 Bc6 16.Bd3 f5 17.Bc2 f4 18.Qh5 Rf7 19.Bxh7+ Kf8 20.Bf5 Qe8 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Qg4 Qh6 23.Nf5 Qe6 24.Nfe3 Qh6 25.0-0 e4 26.Nf5 Qe6 27.Nfe3 Qh6 28.Nf5 Qe6 29.Nfe3 ½-½

Alex Shabalov (2662) - Alex Wojtkiewicz (2691) [A43]  
 National Chess Congress Philadelphia (5), 26.11.2000  
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.d5 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 e6  
 8.Bf4 exd5 9.exd5 Na6 10.Nd2 Nc7 11.Nc4 b5 12.Nxd6 b4 13.Na4  
 Nfxd5 14.Bg3 Bd7 15.Nxc5 Bxb2 16.Bf3 Bc6 17.Rb1 Nc3 18.Bxc6  
 Nxd1 19.Rfxd1 Qf6 20.Nd7 Qc3 21.Bxa8 1-0

Games, announcements, news items, articles, etc., for  
 DVC may be sent to: NEIL BRENNEN  
 439 East Marshall Street Apt 4, Norristown, PA 19401  
[chessnews@mindspring.com](mailto:chessnews@mindspring.com)

## LATE BREAKING NEWS

### Greg Shahade IM; Mike Glick PA HS Champion

John Donaldson reports in the Mechanic's Institute Chess Club Newsletter: GMs Alex Wojtkiewicz and Yury Shulman won the recently concluded Linklater Memorial held at the MI with a score of 7-3, dividing \$3500. Tying for third, a half point back, were GM Alexander Baburin and IM (elect) Gregory Shahade (\$750 each). Shahade and IM Michael Mulyar made their final IM norms and will officially receive the title at the next FIDE Congress.

Dan Heisman reports: I just finished running the PA Scholastic Chess Championship. 502 attended at Bloomsburg, making this the 3rd biggest event in PA behind the World Open and the National Chess Congress (439 were in the Scholastic Sections and 63 in the Open, including some scholastic players who chose to play with the adults). The co-winners were Mike Glick of Lower Merion (Kobe Bryant's school) and Andrew Read of National Champion Masterman. Glick won on tiebreak and also won the first right of refusal to represent PA at the Denker in Massachusetts in August. If he cannot go, Read will get the next option.

### CHESS IN PHILADELPHIA By Neil Brennen, PSCF Historian

## The Living Link

In my last CHESS IN PHILADELPHIA column, "Sharp Play", I wrote of the print resources available to anyone who wants to do research on a chess figure. And while the use of newspapers, magazines, and books is part of the job to historians such as Winter, Whyld, and Hilbert, an amateur chess historian (such as myself) can find out a great deal from oral history, that is, the interview of a subject from a different chess era. Besides saving a first hand description of chess events and practices from the past, oftentimes the subject has other material such as gamescores, crosstables, photographs, and newspaper clippings of great historical value. And often these links to the past are worth exploring in their own right.

One such living link is Bethlehem's Martin Simsak. At ninety years young, Mr. Simsak has been playing chess since 1927. As a high school student in Homestead, PA, one afternoon a friend of his stopped over and said "Marty, I have to show you this neat game." And as Martin put it, "He showed me and I fell in love with it."

The love affair never stopped, continuing through Simsak's move to Bethlehem in 1933, his military service in WWII, his years as a policeman in Bethlehem, and his retirement. Simsak retired from tournament play in 1990, after winning the Allentown Championship at age eighty. His last chess game was in 1998, in the Shabalov simul held in Allentown.

Between 1927 and 1998 Simsak won the Allentown Open in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1964, and 1965. Other titles include 1981 Allentown Invitational Champion, 1987 and 1990 Allentown Chess Club Champion, 1953, 1959, and 1965 Lehigh Valley Rapid Champion, 1954 and 1965 Lehigh Valley Open Champion, 1961

PA Rapid Champion, and 1973 Christmas City Open Champion. Simsak finished second in the 1932 Western PA Championship, and third in both the 1943 and 1961 PA Championships.

I should mention, before some reader says, "Yeah, but that was just Allentown", that Allentown-Bethlehem was perhaps the second strongest chess center in the state during some of this period, and that competing in Allentown events were such players as Hermann Hesse, who finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 1948 US Championship. Also 1943 PA Champion Tom Gutekunst and 1968 PA Champion Bruce Alberston crossed swords with Martin, as did IM Paul Schmidt. The Allentown Chess Club's existence can be traced to 1920, and Martin Simsak is the last link with the early days of the club.

Mr. Simsak, a strong player whose chess career ran from Capablanca to Kasparov, is preparing his memoirs, and I am fortunate that he has allowed me to assist him. If any *Delaware Valley Chess* reader has any information they would like to share regarding Martin Simsak, please contact Neil Brennen at 439 East Marshall Street, Apt 4, Norristown, PA 19401, or by e-mail at [chessnews@mindspring.com](mailto:chessnews@mindspring.com)

I would like to share with *Delaware Valley Chess* some games from Mr. Simsak's collection, as well as a few comments on each.

There is a story behind the following game, and it involves Hermann Hesse's entry into the 1948 US Championship. The championship, held in South Fallsburg, NY, seeded players not on rating but through 19 regional qualifying events. The qualifying event for the Mid-Atlantic region was in Philadelphia, and Hesse had to be persuaded to play. Martin Simsak went to Hermann's apartment and argued with him to enter. "Hermann, you and I are the best chessplayers in the Valley. I can't play because I'm a cop and I have a wife and kids to support. I can't take the time off. You're single, and you may never get a chance to do this again. You have to go and play."

Hesse was hesitating because he was concerned about money, paying his entry fee and then paying his way to South Fallsburg. But somehow he managed to scrape enough money together from his job as a cab driver, and make the trip to Philadelphia for the qualifying event, which he won. His performance in South Fallsburg justified the effort: Hesse tied for 5<sup>th</sup>, beating Santasiere and Adams and drawing a future Grandmaster, Larry Evans.

Simsak claims to be the only player in the Lehigh Valley to administer three consecutive defeats to Herman Hesse. This is the final game between the two rivals, and was one of Hesse's last games before his death in 1987.

### Martin Simsak - Hermann Hesse [E15]

Allentown Club Championship, 1987

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 c5 6.e3 Qc8 7.b3 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7 10.Bb2 cxd4 11.Bxd4 0-0 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.Nc4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Nf6 15.Rc1 Bc5 16.Nd6 Bxg2 17.Nxc8 Bxf1 18.Nxb6 axb6 19.Kxf1 Rxa2 20.Ra1 Rfa8 21.Rxa2 Rxa2 22.Nc6 Nd5 23.b4 Bxe3 24.Ne7+ Kf8 25.Nxd5 Rxf2+ 26.Ke1 exd5 27.Qxd5 Rd2 28.Qa8+ Ke7 29.Qe4+ Kd7 30.Qxe3 Rd6 31.Qf3 Re6+ 32.Kd2 Ke7 33.Kc3 g6 34.g4 h5 35.h3 f6 36.gxh5 gxh5 37.Kc4 f5 38.Qb7+ Kf8 39.Kd5 Re8 40.Qc6 1-0 *Journal of the Allentown Chess Club* 1988

Child prodigies are nothing new in chess. Martin had to regularly fight off youngsters such as Alberston and Lehigh Valley Junior Champion (and DVC subscriber) Paul Welsh. This no doubt gave him practice for the following game. On his way to a third place finish in the 1961 PA Championship, held at the Hotel Bethlehem, the PA Rapid Champion had to hold off a 16 year old kid from St. Joseph's Prep:

### Boris Baczynskyj- Martin Simsak [D52]

PA Championship, 1961

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Qa5 9.Qb3 Ne4 10.Qb4 Qxb4 11.cxb4 Nxc3 12.Nxc3 0-0 13.Bd3 h6 14.Nf3 Re8 15.cxd5 exd5 16.0-0 b6 17.Rfc1 Bb7 18.a4 Rac8 19.a5 b5 20.Rc2 a6 21.Bf5 Rc7 22.Rac1 f6 23.Nh4 Nf8 24.Bd3 Rd8 25.Nf5 Ne6 26.h4 Kf7 27.g4 g6 28.Ng3 Ng7 29.f4 Ne8 30.h5 gxh5 31.Nxh5 Nd6 32.Rh2 Rg8 33.Nxf6 Kxf6 34.Rxh6+ Ke7 35.g5 Nf7 36.Rh7 Rh8 37.Rxh8



Nxh8 38.f5 Nf7 39.f6+ Ke6 40.g6 Kxf6 41.gxf7 Kxf7 42.e4 dxe4 43.Bxe4 Ke6 44.Rc5 Kd6 45.Re5 Rd7 46.Kf2 Rf7+ 47.Ke3 Re7 48.Kf4 Rf7+ 49.Rf5 Rxf5+ 50.Kxf5 Bc8+ ½-½ Score courtesy

Martin Simsak

Martin decided to retire from tournament play on a high note by capturing the championship in 1990. The following game was featured in a *Chess Life* article by Eric Johnson, "Seven Decades of Success".

#### Martin Simsak- Donald Woodhouse [E18]

Allentown-Bethlehem Championship, 1990

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.Ne5 Nbd7 9.f4 c5 10.e3 Qc7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.Nc3 Rd8 14.b3 cxd4 15.exd4 Bb4 16.Bb2 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Qd6 18.Qe1 Rac8 19.Bb4 Qb8 20.Bh3 Qc7 21.Nxf7 Kxf7 22.Qe6+ Kg6 23.Bf5+ Kh6 24.Bd3 g5 25.fxg5+ Kg7 26.g6 Ne4 27.Qf7+ Kh8 28.g7# 1-0 *Chess Life*, May 1991

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### GM Zaichik Slices Chaturanga "Like a Hot Knife through Butter"

Report by Jorge Amador

Grandmaster Gennadiy Zaichik blew away the opposition in a simul held December 21 at the Chaturanga Chess Club in Hatboro.

Zaichik, a native of the former Soviet republic of Georgia who now resides in the Philadelphia area, scored 15.5 points from 16 boards. Only one player, fellow Russian-speaker Gennadiy Geyler, was able to stave off defeat and earn a draw (see game below).

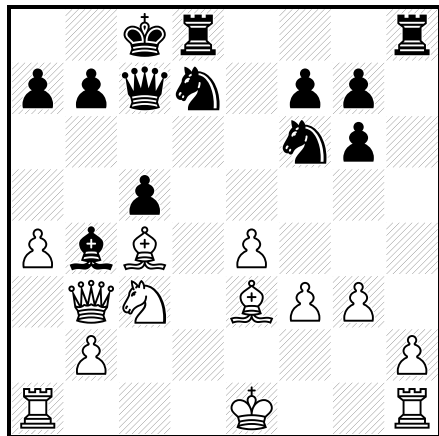
In addition to his enormous skills from a purely chessic standpoint (2600 rating), Zaichik's main weapon was the sheer speed with which he moved from table to table. "I was trying to keep score, but by the time I finished writing my move down, he was already back at my board," said Joe Rossi. "I was playing blitz," concurred Jorge Amador.

Nevertheless, all involved were happy to meet the GM, who everyone agreed is very classy in addition to playing at world-class level. At least twice, when his opponents blundered just trying to keep up, he smiled graciously and said, "Sorry" as he took their pieces!

The simul received front-page coverage (with a color photo) in the *Montgomery County Record* daily newspaper.

**GM Gennadiy Zaichik – Gennadiy Geyler,**  
**Chaturanga CC Simul, 12/21/00,**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.e4 e5 9.Be3 Bb4 10.f3 exd4 11.Bxd4 c5 12.Be3 Qc7 13.g3 Nbd7 14.Bxc4 0-0-0 15.Qb3



15...Qxg3+ 16.hxg3 Rxh1+ 17.Ke2 Rxa1 18.Bxf7 Rh8 19.Qe6 Rh2+ 20.Kd3 Bxc3 21.Kxc3 Re2 22.Bf4 Rf1 23.Kb3 Rxf3+ 24.Ka2 Rxe4 25.Qd6 Rxa4+ 26.Kb1 Rf1+ 27.Kc2 Rf2+ 28.Kb1 Rf1+ 29.Kc2 Rf2+ 30.Kb1 ½-½

### Nolan Takes Early Lead in Match

Chaturanga Chess Club champion Greg Nolan has accepted a challenge from Philip Stephano to play a five-game match this spring. The first game took place at Chaturanga February 8. The score was unavailable at press time, but observers report that, despite the 400-point rating difference, the game was quite interesting, with the outcome in doubt well into the endgame.

"We're happy to host this event," said Chaturanga vice-president Jorge Amador. "One-on-one matches have a special appeal. Players can prepare for one another and then you can watch and see how well they did their homework. Phil Stephano may have the lower rating, but he can beat anybody within 500 points and it would be a serious mistake to underestimate him. I hope we can have more matches like this in the near future."

The match will continue on the off-weeks between rounds of the club team championship, which is now in progress.

### GM Stripunsky Takes PA G-30 Title

Grandmaster Alexander Stripunsky of New York captured first place in the Pennsylvania Game-30 Championship, held February 24th in Philadelphia. Stripunsky finished with 4.5 points and wins over FM Mikhail Belorusev and former US Chess Federation President Dr. Leroy Dubeck. Stripunsky's only blemish on his perfect score was a final round draw in a Bishop of opposite color ending with 5th US Correspondence Chess Champion Paul Fielding.

Finishing second were FIDE Masters Belorusev and Boris Baczynskyj with 4 points. Belorusev, who recently finished second in the B group of the Bermuda Open, lost only to Stripunsky.

In fourth place with 3.5 points was Fielding, whose only loss was to Dubeck. Fielding, an over the board master, won the class prize for masters in the Open section.

The tournament was held in the gymnasium at St. Joseph's, a private boys preparatory school at 17th and Girard Avenue in Philadelphia. The event was sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation and directed by Dan Heisman and Dr. Ira Lee Riddle.

### PA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

By Dan Heisman

Over 100 players participated in the annual PA Team Chess Championships, held January 27 at Roman Catholic HS in Philadelphia. This tournament is sponsored annually by the PA State Chess Federation and is used to determine the state chess team champions. There were three sections, one for scholastics, one for high school teams, and one open to anyone. Each team consisted of four players. The scholastic players played five matches; the High School and Open sections had four, slower matches.

In the Scholastic Section the "Main Line Chess Club Jrs" team, consisting of Ross Berkowitz of Akiba, Pat Donnelly of Haverford MS, Rory Wasiolek of Malvern Prep, and Andrew Strahs of Haverford MS, finished in a clear 2nd place with their 4-1 match score. Another Main Line Chess Club players, Patrick Schoener of St. Aloysius, participated on a "ChessNuts" team with Steve and Erica McLaughlin and Ben Razon that finished 3-2, while Brandon and Chris Little represented their school, Masterman. Congratulations to those who were playing in their first tournament!

In the High School section, National Champion and PA #1 Masterman HS of Philadelphia entered their best four players, looking for another title. They got the first place trophy with a perfect 4-0 score, defeating all their top rivals. Their team consisted of Roman Reznik, Jon Levy, Andrew Read, and David

Friedell. Last year's co-champion's, Lower Merion HS, finished in clear second, losing only to Masterman. The Lower Merion team consisted of seniors Mike Glick, Delen Heisman, and Will Yu, plus junior Igor Fuki. The two rivals' players will meet again in March at the 2001 Pennsylvania Scholastic Chess Championships in Bloomsburg. West Catholic finished 3rd and surprising Lancaster Mennonite, which only lost to Masterman and Lower Merion, 4th. Exeter, playing without their normal top player, was fifth.

In the tough Open Section the Main Line Chess Club fielded a strong team consisting of FIDE Master Peter Fleischer, Eric Johnson, Neal Oberholtzer, and top junior Kurt Schneider. They managed a very respectable showing, losing narrowly to the eventual champion Franklin-Mercantile Chess Club 2½ – 1½.

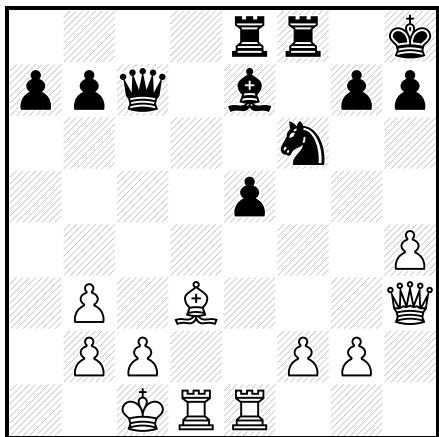
### Games from the PA Team Championship

#### Glenn Bady 2300 - Don Conner 2080 [C10]

PA Team Championship, 01.2001

Notes by Don Conner

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 f6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nxf6+ Ngxf6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qd2 c5 10.0-0-0 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nd5 12.h4 N7f6 13.Be3 e5 14.Bc4 Kh8 15.Nb3 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Qc7 17.Bd3 Be6 18.Rhe1 Bxb3 19.axb3 Rae8 20.Qh3 At first I thought this was good, but in analyzing the position I noticed a tactical trick that allowed e4 next move.



20...Bc5 21.h5 e4 If either the rook or bishop takes the pawn there will be Qf4 + this or next move which picks up a piece for the pawn. Interestingly Glenn thought at this point he was losing. 22.Bb5 Re7 23.Qc3 a6 24.Bf1 Qf4+ 25.Kb1 Interposing drops material after e3. Bxf2 26.Re2 e3 27.Qc5 Qc7 28.Qd4 Rfe8 29.h6 Qe5 30.hxg7+ Kxg7 31.Qc4 Rc7 32.Qg4+ Qg5 33.Rd7+ Re7 34.Rxe7+ Rxe7 35.Qd4 Qf5 36.g4 Qd7 37.Qd3 Qxg4 38.c4 Rd7 39.Qc2 Qg1 0-1

#### Eric Johnson 2100 (Main Line) - Vitaly Peysakhovich 2300 (Franklin-Mercantile) [B10]

PA Team Championship, 01.2001

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d6 3.d4 Qc7 4.g3 e5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.h3 Be7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.a4 Nbd7 10.a5 Nf8 11.Be3 N6d7 12.d5 Ng6 13.h4 Nf6 14.Nc1 Ng4 15.Bd2 h5 16.f3 Nf6 17.Be3 Bd7 18.Nd3 cxd5 19.exd5 Rec8 20.Nf2 Qc4 21.Bh3 Bxh3 22.Nxh3 Qc7 23.Ng5 Qd7 24.Kg2 Bd8 25.Nge4 Nf8 26.Nxf6+ Bxf6 27.Ne4 Be7 28.b3 Ng6 29.c4 f5 30.Ng5 Bxg5 31.Bxg5 f4 32.g4 hxg4 33.fxg4 Nh8 34.Rc1 Nf7 35.b4 Nxg5 36.hxg5 Qe7 37.g6 Qg5 38.c5 e4 39.c6 f3+ 40.Kg3 Rf8 41.cxb7 Rab8 42.a6 Qf4+ 43.Kh3 e3 44.Rc8 e2 45.Qxe2 fxe2 46.Rxf4 Rfxc8 47.bxc8Q+ Rxc8 48.Re4 ½-½ (Score from the rec.games.chess.politics newsgroup)

**ERRATTA:** In our last issue we mention Jeff Brunelle won first in the reserve section of the NPCC Fall Open. In fact he tied for first with John Fitzpatrick.

### TEAM MATCH RESULTS

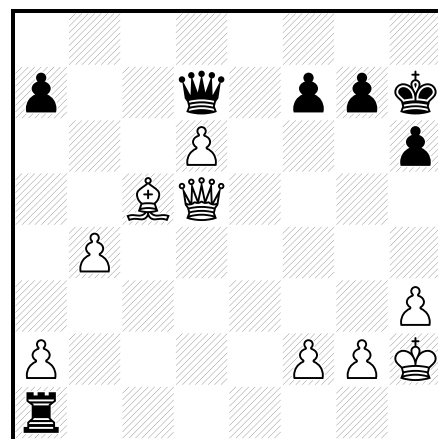
#### Chaturanga Wins Second Leg of Match

From Jorge Amador: The Langhorne-based Bucks County Chess Club traveled to Hatboro November 9 to complete a home-and-away match with the Chaturanga Chess Club. The visiting team, handicapped by the absence of two strong players, proved a generous guest as three of its members dropped pieces to their hosts en route to a 5.5 - 0.5 thrashing. Chaturanga had also won the first leg of the match, 6 - 2, held at Langhorne on October 26.

Don Conner reports: North Penn lost a match to a combined West Chester/Delaware team (1.5-4.5) on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, at NPCC's home in Lansdale. North Penn players included Art Price, Don Conner, Dominic Genuardi, and Eric Funk. The West Chester/Delaware team included Ray Cornell.

**Eric Funk 1975 (North Penn) - Ray Cornell 2050 (West Chester) [D32] Lansdale / West Chester match 11/18/2000**  
Notes by Eric Funk

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Nf6 7.e3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bb4 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rc1 Bxc3 12.Rxc3 Ne4 13.Rxc6 I think this move caught my opponent off-guard. When the smoke clears white will have a bishop pair and two extra pawns for a knight and rook.]bxc6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 If instead black seeks complications with 14. ... Qe8, then 15. Qxd5 Rc8 16. Nxa7 favors white. 15.Bxc6 Rc8 16.Bxd5 Nf6 17.e4 Re8 Black declines the opportunity to eliminate white's bishop pair with 17. ... Nxd5 as this would give white a passed d-pawn which can readily advance to the 6th rank. 18.Qd3 Qd7 19.Rd1 Rc5 20.Be3 Rcc8 21.b4 h6 22.Bc5 White has been quietly improving his position. Black needs to find to find a constructive plan. Nxd5 23.exd5 Re5 24.d6 Rce8 This is more like it for black. White's passed pawn on d6 should win the game, but now that black's rooks are active there are difficult technical problems to overcome. Both players were now starting to feel the crunch of early time pressure. 25.h3 Re1+ 26.Rxe1 Giving away the bank rank for no reason. The accurate 26. Kh2 minimizes black's counterplay. Rxe1+ 27.Kh2 Ra1 28.Qd5 Kh7



29.Qe4+ I grew very frustrated (and very short of time) searching for the elusive win. In the post-mortem Don Connor found the correct plan with 29. a4. The point is white can continue to make progress because the a-pawn is taboo: 29. ... Qxa4 30. d7 or 29. ... Rxa4 30. Qe4+ Kg8 31. Qe7 wins. Kg8 30.Qe7 Qf5 31.Be3 But not 31. d7?? Qf4+ 32. g3 Qf3 33. d8Q+ Kh7 white soon runs out of checks and then gets mated on h1. Despite his inaccurate play white is still winning. Rd1 32.a4 Qd3 A better try was 32. ... Kh7 33. Qxa7 (of course not 33. Bxa7?? Qf4+ 34. g3 Qf3 when black forces mate) Qe5+ 34. f4 Qxd6 35. Qc5 when white should eventually win 33.Bf4 Horrible. 33. Bxa7 Qxd6+ 34. Qxd6 Rxd6 35. Bc5 wins easily. Qf5 34.Qe5 Trading down to a dead draw.

Necessary was 34. Be3. **Qxe5 35.Bxe5 Rd5 36.Bf4 Rd4 37.Be3 Rxd6 38.b5 38. Bxa7 Ra6** is also a draw. **Rd7 39.a5 Kf8 40.Bc5+** Making time control literally with seconds to spare. My opponent also had under a minute left. **Ke8 41.a6 Kd8 42.b6 axb6 43.a7 Rxa7 44.Bxb6+ Rc7 45.Kg3 Kd7 46.Bxc7 Kxc7** A lot of mistakes at the end but still a fun game to play. Ray is to be congratulated for wiggling out of deep trouble. ½–½

### Don Conner 2080 (North Penn) - Bouzoukis 2200 (West Chester)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 Bf5 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.c3 c6 7.0–0 e6 8.Nbd2 Nd7 9.Ne4 Be7 10.h3 Bh5 11.Ng3 Bg6 12.Re1 0–0 13.Bxg6 hxg6 14.c4 N5b6 15.b3 Qc7 16.Qc2 Rad8 17.Bb2 Rfe8 18.Rad1 Nc8 19.Qe4 Nf6 20.Qh4 Nh5 21.Ng5 Qf4 22.Qxf4 Nxf4 23.Nf3 Nd6 24.h4 Nf5 25.Nxf5 gxf5 26.g3 Nh5 27.Kg2 Nf6 28.Ne5 Nd7 29.Nf3 Nf6 30.Ne5 Nd7 31.Nf3 ½–½

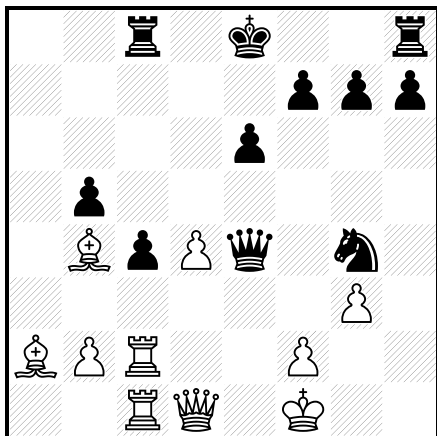
## GAMES BY OUR READERS

We start off with the long awaited and much requested deciding game from the 2000 Chaturanga Chess Club Championship.

### Greg Nolan 2220 - Ed McKinney 2050 [D45]

Chaturanga CC Championship (5), 10.2000

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3 a6 10.Ne4 c5 11.Rc1 c4 12.Bb1 Bb7 13.Ng3 Rc8 14.0–0 Bd6 15.Re1 Bxg3 16.hxg3 Ne4 17.a4 Ndf6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Bb4 Qd5 20.Ba2 Ng4 21.Re2 Ng5 22.Rec2 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Qh5 24.e4 Bxe4 25.fxe4 Qh2+ 26.Kf1 Qh1+ 27.Ke2 Qxe4+ 28.Kf1 Qh1+ 29.Ke2 Qe4+ 30.Kf1



30...Nh2+ 31.Kg1 Nf3+ 32.Kg2 Ne1+ 33.Kf1 Nd3 34.Bc3 Qh1+ 35.Ke2 Qe4+ 36.Kf1 Nxc1 37.Rxc1 Qd3+ 38.Ke1 Qe4+ 39.Kf1 Qh1+ 40.Ke2 Qe4+ 41.Kd2 Qd3+ 42.Ke1 Qxd1+ 43.Rxd1 h5 44.d5 Ra8 45.Bb1 0–0 46.d6 Rfd8 47.Be4 Ra6 48.d7 Ra7 1–0

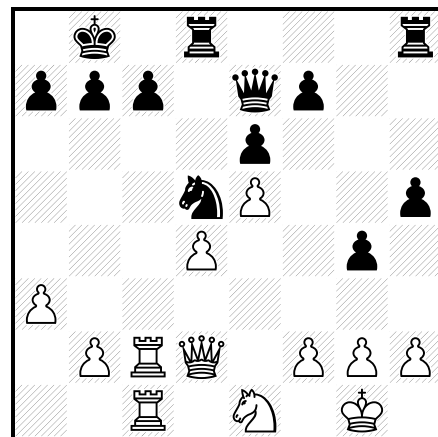
### Ray Cornell 2050 - Michael Mazock 2100 [C04]

Susquehanna Valley Open (5), 19.07.1998

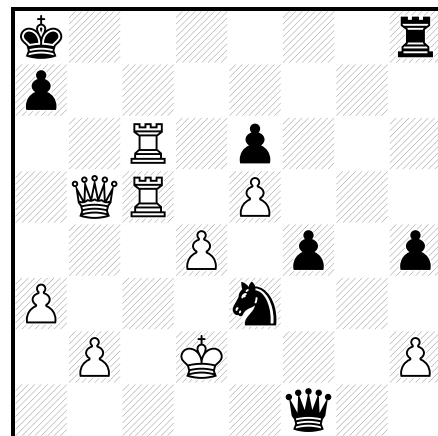
Notes by Ray Cornell

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 6.c4 The Guimard line in the French has always been a difficult line for me. With this offbeat move I wanted to get us into an original position. You have to be careful what you wish for. **6...dxc4 7.Nxc4 Bb4+** An old Pachman analysis runs 7...Nb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Be4 Bd7 11.Bxb7 Rxa2 with equality. There are not many examples of this line. The move in the game is new to me. **8.Bd2 Qe7 9.a3 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Nb6 11.Rc1 11.Nxb6 axb6** might be better than allowing the Knight to get to d5. **11...Nd5 12.Bd3 Bd7 13.0–0 h6 14.Rfd1 g5 15.Na5 15.b4** seems more natural and aggressive. Black's intentions are clear, but his King will either have to go to the queenside or stay in the center. **15...g4 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Ne1 h5 18.Be4 Ba4 19.Bc2** Neither 19.Bxd5 exd5 20.Nc2; nor 19.Nc2 appealed to me. I wanted to keep the Knight and occupy the c5 square with it. **19...Bxc2 20.Rxc2 0–0–0**

### 21.Rdc1 Kb8



So, the tournament winner will be decided by opposite wing attacks against the King. My judgment told me that now the attack with b4 was too slow. We see the rare sight of one side using pawns to pry open the King position while the other side uses pieces only (with the help of the semi-open c file). **22.Nd3 Rc8 23.Nc5 h4 24.Qd3 Ka8 25.Qb3 Rb8** Both sides keep the pawns guarding the King unweakened as long as possible. **26.Rc4 c6 27.Ne4 f5 27...Nb6?** 28.Qxb6 was too much to hope for. **28.Nd6 28.exf6 Nxf6** did not seem to offer White much. I decided to anchor the Knight on d6. But now the f pawn joins the attack on White's King. **28...f4 29.Ra4 g3 30.Rc5** Threatens mate in three. An improvement would be 30.fxg3 fxg3 31.h3 trying to keep the position blocked. I still prefer Black's game after 31...Rbf8. After 30. Rc5, as played, Black can break through first. **30...gxf2+ 31.Kxf2 b5** Played with a draw offer. But a draw gives him clear first! Under normal circumstances I would have taken it. White's King is exposed and his attack needs a couple moves to break through. **32.Ra6 Ne3** Cutting White's Queen off from defense of the King. I was more worried about 32...h3 with ...Qh4 and ...Rbg8 coming fast. I think Black is winning then. **33.Raxc6 Qg7 34.Nxb5 Qxg2+ 35.Ke1 Qf1+ 36.Kd2 Rxb5** Black has perpetual check beginning with 36...Qf2+ With the move played he gives up the exchange but keep at least a draw in hand. Black was in time pressure so I don't know if he saw the perpetual or not. **37.Qxb5**



**37...Qxb5** Time pressure. After this, White has a winning ending. The right way was to push the King over to the queenside away from the passed f pawn. 37...Qd1+ 38.Kc3 Qc2+ (not 38...Rb8? and White mates in three with 39.Qxb8+) 39.Kb4 Qxb2+ 40.Ka4 Qxb5+ (not 40...Qxd4+ 41.Ka5 winning for White.) **A)** 41.Kxb5 f3 42.Ka6 Rb8 43.Rc2 (Not 43.Rc7 Rb6+ 44.Ka5 f2) 43...Nxc2 44.Rxc2 Rf8 45.Rf2 Kb8; **B)** 41.Rxb5 41...f3! All roads now seem

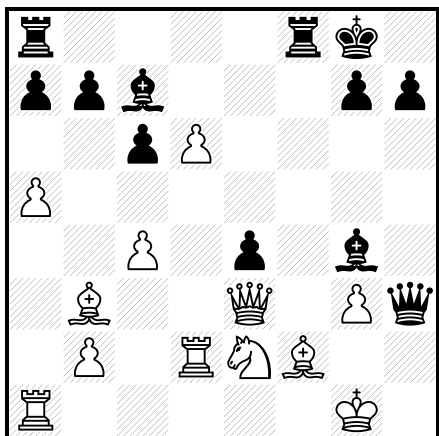
to lead to a draw. 42.Rc7 (42.Rb2 Rf8 43.Rf2 Nd1 44.Rf1 Ne3) 42...f2 43.Rbb7 f1Q 44.Rxa7+ is one way. 38.Rxb5 Nf1+ 39.Ke1 Nxb2 40.Rc7 Nf3+ 41.Kf2 Nxd4 42.Ra5 Rh5 43.Raxa7+ Kb8 44.Rcb7+ Kc8 45.Rh7 Rxh7 46.Rxh7 Nc6 47.Rxh4 Nxe5 48.b3 Nd3+ 49.Kf3 e5 50.Rh7 Time control. With this move, Black's King does not play and the win is in sight. 50...e4+ 51.Kxe4 Nc5+ 52.Kxf4 Nxb3 53.Ke5 Na5 54.Kd5 Kb8 55.Kc5 Nb7+ 56.Kb6 Times: 2:00-2:06 1-0

### Joe Weber 2200 - Joe Mucerino 1950 [B01]

NPCC Membership Drive (2), 08.09.2000

Notes by Joe Mucerino

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.f3 Bf5 6.c4 e6 7.dxe6 Bxe6 We are following our previous encounter. It took Weber ten minutes to get to this position. I just whipped out my moves. 8.Qc2 I figured Weber would vary here. This is a sound looking move that would probably not be in any opening book. 8...c6 9.Ba4 Qe7 10.Ne2 Nb6 11.Bb3 Qd7 11...Qb4+ 12.Nd2 holds the pawn. 12.0-0 Be7 13.a4 0-0 14.a5 Nc8 15.Be3 Nd6 16.Nd2 Nf5 17.Bf2 Bd6 18.Ne4 Bc7 Daring Weber to open the g file. 19.Rfd1! Qe7? The ugly 19...Qc8 seems to be the only way to save material. This move was made quickly by me because I was running a little short on time. 20.d5 Nxe4 21.fxe4 Qd6 I am losing, so I attack! 22.g3 Nxb3 23.hxg3 Bg4 24.Rd2 Qh6 25.Qd3 f5 26.d6 fxe4 Opening up lines is more important than saving the Bishop. 27.Qe3 27.Qxe4?? Bf3 27...Qh3



Weber thought for a long time after this move. The look on Weber's face made me think he was developing an ulcer. While he was not short on time, he had none to waste, and one mistake here could be fatal. 28.c5+ Kh8 29.Nd4 This is best. 29.Nf4 Rxf4 30.Qxf4 (30.gxf4 Bf3 31.Bh4 Qh1+ 32.Kf2 Qxh4+ 33.Kf1 Qh3+ 34.Ke1) 30...Bf3 31.Be1 (31.Bd4) 31...Qh1+ 32.Kf2 leads to double-edged complications. 29...Bf3 I don't think 29...Rf3 works: A) 30.dxc7! Rxe3 (30...Qxg3+! 31.Bxg3 Rxe3 32.Nxc6 Rxc3+ 33.Kf2 Rd3 34.Rxd3 exd3 35.Nd8 and White should still win.) 31.Bxe3 Bf3 (31...Qxg3+ 32.Kh1 Qxe3) 32.Rh2 (32.Nxf3 Qxg3+ 33.Kh1 Qxf3+ 34.Kh2 Qh5+ 35.Kg1) ; B) 30.Nxf3 30...Bxf3 31.Be1 Qh1+ 32.Kf2 Qg2# is not recommended. 30.Nxf3 exf3 31.Be1 Rae8 32.Qf2 Bd8 33.Bc2 Trying to force an exchange of Queens with 34. Qh2. 33...h6 34.Qf1 Qg4 35.Qd3 Rxe1+! Wisely, and without using too much time, Weber played.... 36.Kf2 [36.Rxe1 Qxg3+ 37.Kf1 Qh3+ A) 38.Kf2 Bh4+ 39.Ke3 f2+ 40.Ke4 Qg4+ (40...Qxd3+ 41.Kxd3 fxe1Q) A1) 41.Ke5 Re8# (41...Bf6#) ; A2) 41.Ke3 41...Bg5#; B) 38.Kg1 38...Qg3+ B1) 39.Kh1 Qh4+ 40.Kg1 (40.Rh2 Qxe1+ 41.Qf1 Qxf1#) 40...Qxe1+; B2) 39.Rg2 39...Qxe1+ 40.Kh2 g6 (40...Qh4+; Crafty 17.11: 40...Qh4+ 41.Kg1 f2+ 42.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 43.Kh1 Qe1+ 44.Kh2 Rf2+ 45.Kh3 Qh1+ 46.Kg4 Qh4#) ] 36...Re2+ 37.Rxe2 fxe2+ 38.Kg2 g6 39.Re1 39.Qxg6 Qf3+ 40.Kh2 Qf2+ 41.Kh3 Qf1+ 42.Kg4 Rg8 CRAFTY 39...Re8 40.Qc3+ Kh7 41.Qb3! Forcing Black's Queen to a defensive square. 41...Qd7 42.Qb4 Qf7 43.Bb3 Qg7 44.Bc4 Bf6 45.Rxe2

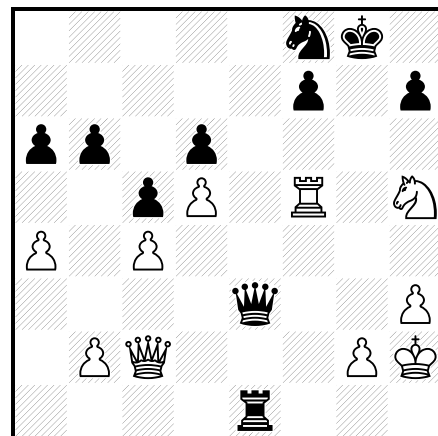
Rxe2+ 46.Bxe2 a6 46...Bxb2 47.a6 47.Bg4!+- Heading to c8. 47.Bxa6 bxa6 48.Qb6 should win for White. 47...Bd4 Desperately wanting a perpetual check. 48.Bc8 Qf6 49.Qxb7+ Kh8 50.Qxc6 Qf2+ 51.Kh3 51.Kh1?? Qg1# 51...Qf1+ 52.Qg2 Qf6 53.b4 g5 54.Bxa6 g4+ 55.Kh2 55.Kxg4 Qg5+ 56.Kh3 (56.Kf3 Qd5+ 57.Kg4 Qxg2) 56...Qh5# 55...Qe5 Threatening ...Qh5+ winning the Queen! 56.Qa8+ Kh7 57.Qb7+ Kg6 58.Bd3+ Kf6 59.Qe7+ Qxe7 60.dxe7 Kxe7 61.a6 1-0

### Eric Funk 1975 - Joe Weber 2200 [E76]

North Penn Membership Drive 2000

Notes by Eric Funk

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.f4 c5 6.d5 0-0 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.Be2 a6 9.a4 b6 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Rb1 Bb7 12.Bd3 Rae8 13.Bd2 e6 14.Qc2 Re7 15.h3 Rfe8 16.Be1 The bishop is headed for h4 where it will create an uncomfortable pin on the d8-h4 diagonal. White intends to double rooks on the f-file and then break open the kingside with a timely f5 advance. Doubling rooks on the e-file is not particularly useful for Black because he is denied entry points on e1 and e2. exd5 17.exd5 Bc8 18.Bh4 Nf8 19.Rf2 Re3 20.Rbf1 Nh5 Resourceful play. White's army is better coordinated so Black seeks complications. 21.Nd1 Nxf4 22.Nxe3 Rxe3 23.Ne1 Bd4 In hindsight, this active looking move is a mistake because it allows White to easily trade the dark-squared bishops. 24.Kh1 Nxd3 25.Nxd3 Bf5 26.Rxf5 gxf5 27.Bf2 Re4 28.Bxd4 Rxd4 29.Nf4 Headed for h5 to exploit the holes on g7 and f6. Re4 30.Nh5 Qe7 31.Rxf5 Re1+ 32.Kh2 Qe3? This move makes an excellent first impression but it's the game loser. 32. ... Re5 should hold.



33.Nf6+ Kh8 34.Ng4 Eliminating Black's key checking squares. It's all over. Qg1+ 35.Kg3 Rc1 36.Qe4 Re1 37.Qf3 Re7 38.Rxf7 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Rxf7 40.Qxf7 Ng6 41.Qf6+ Kg8 42.Nh6# 1-0

### MASTER SIMULTANEOUS

Franklin-Mercantile Chess Club is holding monthly simultaneous displays featuring a local master. Admittance is FREE to Franklin-Mercantile CC members, all others \$3.00. Please see the Franklin-Mercantile Event Schedule on Page 10 for more information.

### DELAWARE VALLEY CHESS EVENTS

The following information is provided to DVC by the individual chess clubs. DVC accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information below.

### PSCF Events

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHESS FEDERATION

Yearly PSCF membership is \$5 (Please make checks out to PSCF). Send membership info to:

Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Road, Warminster, PA 18974-5208



**ROSLYN CHESS CLUB**

The Roslyn Chess Club meets Wednesday evenings starting at 7:00 pm. It is located at the Roslyn Boys and Girls Club at Hall Avenue and Hammond Place in Roslyn. Further information contact Steve McLaughlin at 215-784-5938 or see the Roslyn CC website at <http://users.erols.com/zugzwang1/index.html/yourpage.html>

**4/01/01- Scholastic Tournament**

4SS, G/30, 2 Sections: Scholastic Open: K-12 and unr, Scholastic Reserve: K-5/U800 and unr. Both EF: \$15 by 3/28, \$20 at site. Registration: 8:45-9:30. Rds: 9:45-11:00-(Lunch 12:00-12:45)-1:00-2:15. Rds may be played sooner if possible.  
Scholastic Open: Trophies 1st-5th, 1st U1200, 1st U1000, 1st-2nd Unrated.  
Scholastic Reserve: Trophies 1st-5th, 1st U700, 1st U600, 1st-2nd Unrated.  
Chess ribbons will be given to those not receiving a place trophy. Additional trophies may be added.

Following the trophy presentation there will be a Bughouse Tournament! All who participate in the 2 main tournaments can play in the Bughouse tournament. There will be 3 pairs of trophies for the top 3 teams!! There are no restrictions on team makeup, so 1 player from the reserve section can be on a team with a player from the open.  
Ent: Steve McLaughlin, 2745 Pershing ave., Roslyn Pa 19001.  
Please include name, USCF ID#, exp. date, section, grade, school.

**WEST CHESTER CHESS CLUB**

Schedule for the WCCC 2001 First Saturday Quads

**Apr. 7** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**May 5** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**June 2** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**July 14** - Please note this is the second Saturday - 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section. Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**Aug. 4** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**Sept. 1** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**Oct. 6** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**Nov. 3** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC  
**Dec. 1** 3RR, 40/80, SD/30, EF \$15. \$30 to first each section.  
Reg. 9:00 am. Rnds. 9:30, 1:00, 5:00 NS, NC

West Chester Chess Club meets Wednesdays at 7:00pm at United Methodist Church, 129 S. High St. (Rt. 100) West Chester, PA.

**Chaturanga Chess Club Calendar**

April 12 - Rated Action Quads, G/29  
April 19 - Thematic Opening Tournament (opening TBA), G/15  
May 24 - 2-man Team Tournament (different boards), G/20  
May 31 - Open Play (no activity planned)  
June 7 - Rated Action Swiss, G/15  
**Chaturanga Spring Swiss** (40/90, 15/30)- April 26; May 3, 10, 17  
**Chaturanga Summer Swiss** (40/90, 15/30)- June 14, 21; July 5, 12  
The Chaturanga Chess Club meets Thursday nights at the Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Hatboro, Montgomery County. The club opens at 7:30 and there is no obligatory closing time.

Chaturanga Swiss information: Rounds begin at 8:15 PM. The time control is 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, then 30 minutes for each additional 15 moves. There is no sudden death; *you will never lose a game just because you had to make an infinite number of moves in a tiny amount of time.* After midnight, either player may request an adjournment. Entry fee: \$10. Prizes: First place, \$40. Second place, \$25. Lower-half prize (best score from players in the lower half of the rating group), \$15. Upset prize, \$10.

Directions to the club: **From Route 263** (Old York Road), go to County Line Road. Turn west onto County Line Road (away from donut shop). Drive past first traffic light (Blair Mill Road); the church is located on the left just past the baseball field. Take driveway to the right of the building, park in rear, enter at door on right side of building.

**From Route 611** (Easton Road), go to County Line Road. Turn east onto County Line Road (toward Catholic church). Drive past traffic light at Meetinghouse Road, and look out for church building at right; it comes up suddenly after a residential area.

For more information, please call Jorge Amador (215-794-8368) or Ed McKenney (215-355-3970).

**NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB SCHEDULE**

**3/23/01 Friday** Octo 8 PM 1of 3  
**3/30/01- Friday** Octo 8 PM 2 of 3  
**3/30/31 FRIDAY** NPCC ANNUAL CLUB OFFICERS ELECTIONS  
**4/6/01 Friday** Octo 8 PM 3 of 3  
**4/20/01- Friday** Sectional Swiss 8 PM 1 of 4 TBD 90/30 \$25 b/4 \$10/\$12 -  
**4/21/01 Saturday** Quad 9:30 3 games quad Game 100 \$25 b/4 \$12/\$15  
**4/27/01 Friday** Sectional Swiss 8 PM 2 of 4 90/30 \$25 b/4 \$10/\$12 TBD  
**5/4/01 Friday** Sectional Swiss 8 PM 3 of 4 \$25 b/4 \$10/\$12  
**5/11/01 Friday** Sectional Swiss 8 PM 4 of 4  
**5/18/01 Friday** make up blitz 8 PM  
**5/19/01 Saturday** Quad 9:30 Game 100 \$25 b/4 \$12/\$15  
**5/25/01 Friday** Game 30 8 PM 1-2 of 4  
**6/1/01 Friday** Game 30 8 PM 3-4 of 4  
**6/8/01 Friday** Quad 8 PM 1 of 3 Quad 90/30 \$25 b/4  
**6/15/01 Friday** Quad 8 PM 2 of 3 Quad 90/30  
**6/16/01 Saturday** 9:30 3 games Octo/Quads Game 60 \$25 b/4 \$12/\$15  
**6/22/01 Friday** Quad 8 PM 3 of 3 Quad 90/30  
**6/29/01 Friday** Summer Round Robin 8PM 1 of 7 RR 90/30 \$60 b/4 \$20/\$22  
**07/6/01 Friday** Summer Round Robin 8PM 2 of 7 - 90/30 - -  
**07/13/01 Friday** Quick Chess/or Make up 8PM 1&2 of 4 Swiss Game 30 \$25 b/4  
**07/20/01 Friday** Summer Round Robin 8PM 3 of 7 - 90/30  
**07/27/01 Friday** Quick chess Make up 8PM 3&4 of 4 Swiss Game 30  
**08/03/01 Friday** Summer Round Robin 8PM 5of 7 - 90/30  
**08/10/01 Friday** Summer Round Robin 8PM 6 of 7 - 90/30  
**08/17/01 Friday** Summer Round Robin 8PM 7 of 7 - 90/30  
**08/24/01 Friday** Make-up/blitz 8 PM

All North Penn Chess Club events are held at St. John's UCC, Main and Richardson, Lansdale. NPCC is open Fridays from 7:00 pm to ?. For further information on NPCC events see CHESS LIFE or call 1-215-699-8418. Visit our NEW webpage at

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

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DATE	DAY	FRANKLIN MERCANTILE CC SCHEDULE	TIME
MAR 17	SAT	MARCH GAME 30 5r SS, USCF Rated	9:30 AM
APR 7	SAT	MASTER SIMUL (No entry fee for Franklin-Mercantile members, all others \$3.00. Franklin-Mercantile T-shirt to winners. Master TBA) All winning games considered for publication in DELAWARE VALLEY CHESS!	1:00 PM
APR 21	SAT	APRIL GAME 30 5r SS, USCF Rated	9:30 AM
APR 28- APR 29	SAT - SUN	South Jersey Open Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ See Chess Life for more information	
MAY 5	SAT	MASTER SIMUL (No entry fee for Franklin-Mercantile members, all others \$3.00. Franklin-Mercantile T-shirt to winners. Master TBA) All winning games considered for publication in DELAWARE VALLEY CHESS!	1:00 PM
MAY 19	SAT	MAY GAME 30 5r SS, USCF Rated	9:30 AM
JUN 2	SAT	MASTER SIMUL (No entry fee for Franklin-Mercantile members, all others \$3.00. Franklin-Mercantile T-shirt to winners. Master TBA) All winning games considered for publication in DELAWARE VALLEY CHESS!	1:00 PM
JUN 16	SAT	JUNE GAME 30 5r SS, USCF Rated	9:30 AM
JUN 30- JULY 8		WORLD OPEN Adam's Mark Hotel, City Line Avenue, Philadelphia A CCA EVENT Please see Chess Life for more information	

All Franklin-Mercantile events are held at 1420 Walnut Street, Room 460, Philadelphia, unless stated otherwise. Franklin Mercantile Chess Club is open 365 days a year from 10:00 am- 10:00pm. For further information on FMCC events see the FMCC website or CHESS LIFE or call 1-215- 546-1883 or 1-215-545-8832. Game 30 Tournaments require USCF Membership.

*For Chaturanga, North Penn, West Chester, and Roslyn Chess Club Schedules see Page 7.*

**DELAWARE VALLEY CHESS**  
**CO Neil Brennen**  
**439 East Marshall Street Apt 4**  
**Norristown, PA 19401**