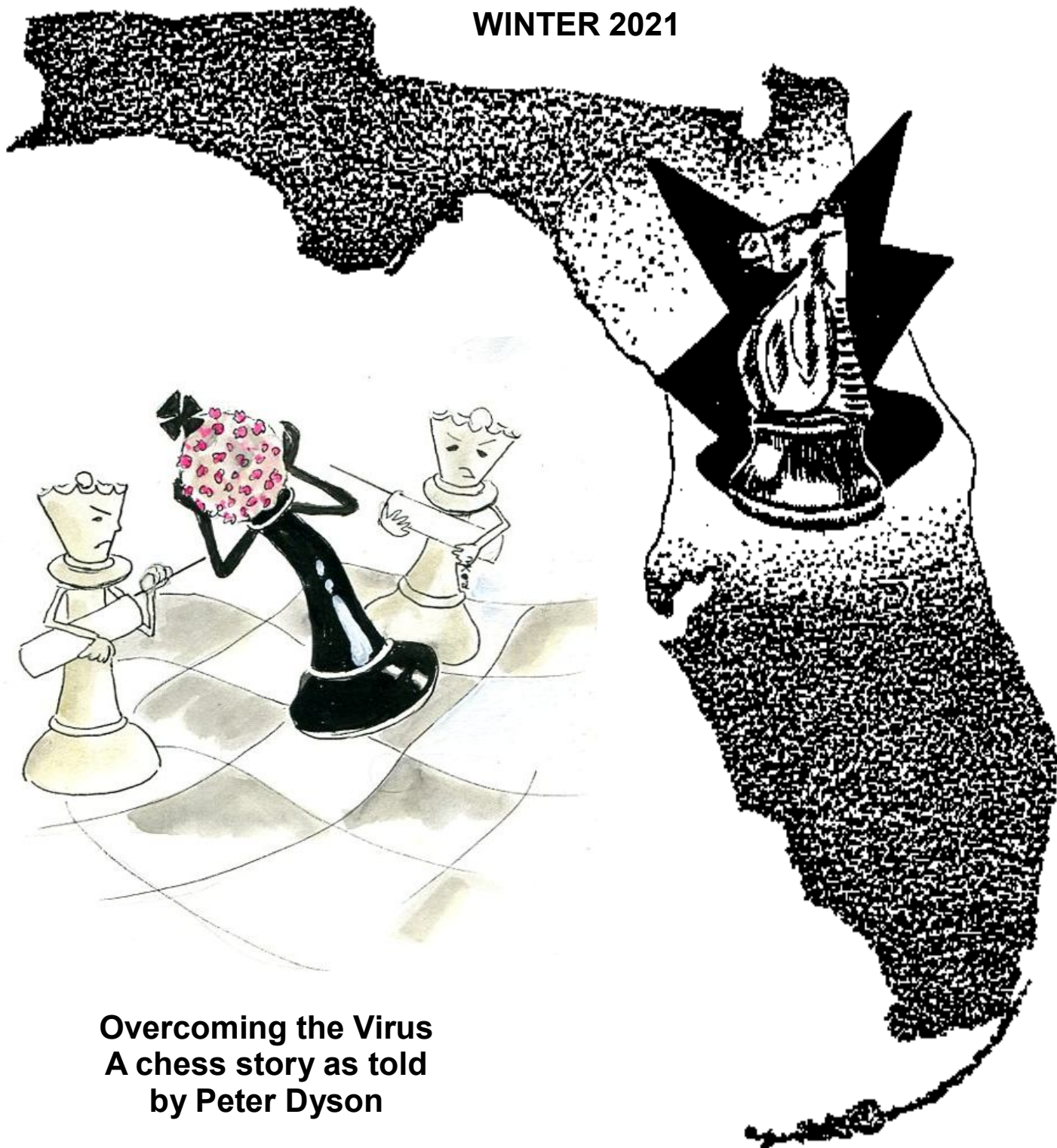


Florida **CHESS**

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

WINTER 2021



Overcoming the Virus
A chess story as told
by Peter Dyson

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Florida Champions

State	Mykola Bortnyk	Scholastic	Ryan Hamley
Top K-8	Raghav Venkat	Top Girl	Cindy Jie
Blitz	Adithya Bala	Quick	Corey Acor
Senior	George Grasser		

FCA Membership Dues

Send to the FCA (c/o Treasurer) or online

Regular	—	\$20 (for two years)
Scholastic (under 20)	—	\$15 (for two years)
Club Affiliate	—	\$30 (for two years)
Family	—	\$30 (for two years)
Life	—	\$200 (10 times Regular Dues)

Check your mailing label for membership expiration date.

Florida Chess Association (FCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Florida. FCA is the official USCF affiliate for the state of Florida. FCA web site — <http://www.floridachess.org>

floridaCHESS is a publication of the Florida Chess Association and is available four times a year online. Contact Editor for advertising rates.

The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Chess Association, its Board, or anyone else.

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Games Editor - Miguel Ararat

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Cover Masthead - Mike Halloran

Software - Microsoft Publisher, ChessBase

Editor Speaks

It has been a long Pandemic and now we jump to the **Winter 2021** issue. We are now beating the Covid Virus as you can see from our front cover. Peter Dyson has told the story how we are doing it. Hopefully it will work.

There was very little Over-the-board-chess played this period. It has been replaced by On-line chess using fast time controls. This has forced many players to think differently when they play. There is no time to relax and think deeply into a combination. One must go with what one "seems" to be best. Greatest idea is to always have more time on your clock than your opponent has!

You can see that the Villages Chess Club has learned how to do this and has been running many successful events. But not much other important chess tournaments were run this year. So we have gone back and found a few things from the past... especially from our Chess-playing monk Anony Mous.

Hopefully things will be picking-up as we go along this year and chess will return to over-the-board events, like the Florida State Championship in my name where I might be able to come out and meet everyone instead of staying at home working on my computers and watching TV!

In the meantime, checkout the Regional Reports that have been reported upon by our Regional Vice-Presidents.

Lastly, there is a lot one can do on the internet if you wish to continue playing chess. So please support this magazine by sending in reports on anything you wish to write about. I try to publish all stories, photos, and annotated games that I receive. Just send it to harvey@floridachess.org and I'll put it in the next issue of floridaCHESS. Members can see these magazines at : <https://floridachess.org> and click on floridaCHESS to find the Magazine Rack.

Please check the FCA website [floridaCHESS.org](https://floridachess.org)

If your membership is expiring, we ask that you take this special opportunity to renew and help us continue to promote chess in Florida. Please renew online at [floridaCHESS.org](https://floridachess.org) under "Membership".

Harvey Lerman

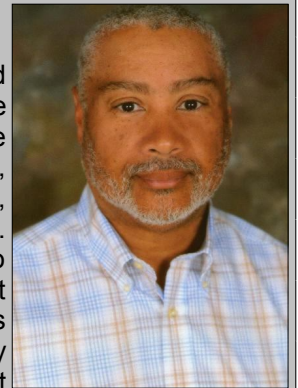
Floridians with USCF jobs:

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- College Chess, Jon Haskel, Member
- Endowment Fund Investment: Peter Dyson, Member
- Finance: Jon Haskel, Member
- FIDE Events: Jon Haskel, Member
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- Scholastics: Jon Haskel, Member
- Senior: Kevin Pryor & Jon Haskel, Members
- E.B. Nominations Committee: Daa'im Shabazz
- States & Affiliates/Senior: Kevin Pryor, Member

from the President's desk

2021 Winter President's Message



We initially thought it would be gone by now. We'd be back to playing in huge ballrooms, meeting spaces, coffee shops, chess houses, or even our own homes now. COVID-19 continues to dominate almost every aspect of everyday life. The virus has shown itself to be entirely indiscriminate as to whom it spreads, and even worse, which lives it claims. Worldwide the numbers are approaching 100 million infected with 2 million lost. In the U.S., we lead the world with 25 million cases and 430,000 lives lost. Florida is 3rd in cases with 1.6 million, and 25,000 have perished, with the highest concentration in our southern Atlantic coastal cities. Distance when gathering continues to be the watchword around the world. Many fear gathering with strangers and with family until recently announced vaccines can be administered. It is a very challenging time, indeed. As a result, the U.S. Chess Federation continues to cancel large national in-person events to prevent the opportunity for "super spreader" gatherings. Our national organization has continued investment toward online play, including a recently developed online rating addition to each member's page. We also have made our debut in online rated games with our first state championship event, Florida State Blitz Championship. This event would have been a side event during the state championship weekend, but it drew 61 players in our first online competition. The effort was championed by board-member, Bryan Tillis, of F.C.A affiliate Palm Beach Chess. We have plans to continue to expand our online championship tournament portfolio in 2021 as we can no longer wait out the virus. As it stands now, we lost a year of activity, and we all need to bring some normalcy back, and playing chess is a part of that normal state. HOWEVER, some people/clubs are working to bring OTB back with limited gatherings and finding options like outdoor events. In our state, new clubs like the Volusia County Chess Club, Cheesy Chess Club, and Chess At The Park have sprung up, and people (masked or not) are coming out to enjoy playing OTB after almost a solid year pause. A look at statewide activity shows there have been 74 rated events in Florida after the total shutdown of rated chess from mid-February to May 1st. Although that list consists of

(President's desk continued on page 4)

Letters

No letters this time.



online & OTB, the leading OTB cities are Miami, Tampa, St. Pete, and Jacksonville. Our board has discussed our next move concerning the March placeholder for the scholastic championship. The consensus among board-members is not to hold the event as the virus continues to drive more cases and hospitalizations continue to increase, which means more online state championship events for the majority of the calendar year. As a board, we continue to look for people who are ready to use their talents and resources to help fulfill the F.C.A mission. In a move to support board activity transparency, we recently opened access to our Legislative Action webpage to allow members to see how each board member has voted on issues over the last three years. Also, we recently backfilled our only open position, Northwest/Panhandle Region Vice President, with Colby Ferraro, who lives in the Tallahassee area, but has ties to Pensacola as well. We will support him in building a team that helps the F.C.A. better connect in a long-neglected section of our state. Colby is currently developing a team with representatives from Gainesville, Tallahassee, Panama City, and Pensacola. Other board members have taken on roles to expand the chess media footprint with endeavors like the Florida Chess Live stream. I continue to be thankful for such a responsive and engaged chess volunteer team during this challenging time. We will get through this - together. Yours In Service, Kevin Pryor

See you over the board soon, I hope,

Kevin

The Villages Chess Club battles COVID-19 index

First Game (Page 6) we Annotated : (Best Game)

This was On-Line Tournament on Chess.com

The Villages Chess Club of Florida

pmipmi = Peter Irwin : Black (0-1) , Black Wins

Calcul8tor Ken Bastin : White

Date : October 9, 2020

Tournament Name : TV#42

Tournament Winner : Peter Irwin

No prizes

Number of Players in the tournament : 10

Number of Rounds : 3

Time Control G/17 increment 2 seconds

Peter Irwin : 3 wins 0 losses

Second Game (Page 13) we Annotated : (Best Game)

This was On-Line Tournament on Chess.com

The Villages Chess Club of Florida

pmipmi = Peter Irwin : Black (0-1) , Black Wins

KnightHawke7 = Eddie Menendez : White

Date : November 13th, 2020

Tournament Name : TV#47

Tournament Winner : Jon Haskel

No prizes

Number of Players in the tournament : 7

Number of Rounds : 3

Time Control G/17 increment 5 seconds

Jon Haskel: 3 wins 0 losses



The Villages Chess Club battles COVID-19

by Mike Moschos

When our OTB chess games stopped here at The Villages Retirement Community with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Villages Chess Club players developed acute withdrawal symptoms big time! The chess players typically had the opportunity to play casual chess 5 days a week at various Recreational Centers. In addition, a subset of the players regularly participated in USCF rated tournaments here in The Villages and other venues. The chess addicts also played on-line via the Chess.com platform mainly playing the “Daily Chess” versus “Live” games.

One of our regular players, Joe Schultz, established The Villages Chess Club of Florida back in October 2017, and he organized multiple “Daily” themed tournaments for individuals both within and external to The Villages. Once the COVID-19 pandemic started to accelerate, The Villages Recreational Department closed the recreational centers to all clubs which numbered over 3,000. Thus, our club leadership decided to utilize the Chess.com platform to organize on-line tournaments. Some of the players were initially skeptical about how well this would work, but they were very surprised at how much fun it turned out to be. We were able to chat light-heartedly online for a while before the tournaments started. It felt almost as if we were all in the same room. The tournament games themselves went very smoothly, and when we finished our games, we were able to observe and comment on the remaining games. Several of our out-of-state snow-bird players were also able to participate, which they really appreciated. It was a great experience, so much so, that we are going to continue a weekly online tournament.

The initial on-line tournament was played on March 31st with Connor Eickelman winning 1st place in the three round event. The tournaments are classified as “Rapid,” with most of the games being 15 minutes per player increased by 5 seconds after each move. From inception to date, 56 tournaments have been played with **Peter Irwin** finishing in 1st place 20 times, FCA Regional Vice President (central) **Paul Leggett** 8 times, and **Eddie Menendez** 7 times. Both Peter and Eddie are residents of The Villages. Paul is a frequent player in our OTB tournaments and helps promote the events here in The Villages. Peter has had a stellar chess career winning the U.S. Junior Championship in 1963 and the US Amateur Championship in 1999.

The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) organized its first U.S. Junior Open (called the USCF National Junior Chess Championship) in July, 1946, at the Lawson YMCA in Chicago. The winner that year was 16-year-old Larry Friedman of Cleveland. In July 1956, Bobby Fischer (born March 3, 1943) won the 11th U.S. Junior Championship, held at the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club in Philadelphia. For his efforts he was given a portable typewriter.” Source : ChessManiac.com

Peter Irwin was quoted as saying: “As a game, chess is addictive. But it relies on skills that have more general utility - an ability to rigorously analyze and envision possible outcomes. Chess problem solving improves one's ability to seek alternatives and envision the consequences of change. In my profession, I found this useful in organizing my thoughts, clinical study protocol design, logistics planning, inferential statistics, accurate interpretation of findings, prediction, publications, and presentations. Socially, I have found many friends through chess and, thus, gravitated to chess clubs when visiting a new city. Chess provides wonderful neuronal massage.” Peter participates in many activities other than chess, such as soccer, platform tennis, Philosophy Club, Civil Discourse Club, Freethinkers Club, Humanists Club, Backgammon Club, etc.

The Villages Chess Club is hoping the 2021 Villages Open will be played in May, if conditions are deemed safe. In 2020, its 3rd year, The Villages Open had over 90 players participating.

The **first game** we show was from an on-Line tournament by The Villages Chess Club of Florida on **Chess.com**. **Ken Bastin** was White. **Peter Irwin** had Black and won (0-1), Date: October 9, 2020. Tournament Name: TV#42. There were no prizes. Number of Players in the tournament: 10. Number of Rounds: 3. Time Control G/17 increment 2 seconds.

Tournament Winner: **Peter Irwin : 3 wins 0 losses**

Calcul8tor (Ken Bastin) - pmipmi (Peter Irwin)

The first game is annotated by Mike Moschos and shown on the next page.

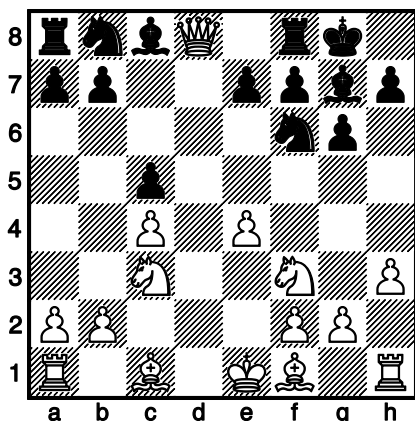
The Villages Chess Club of Florida

on Chess.com — First game

October 9, 2020. Tournament Name: TV#42

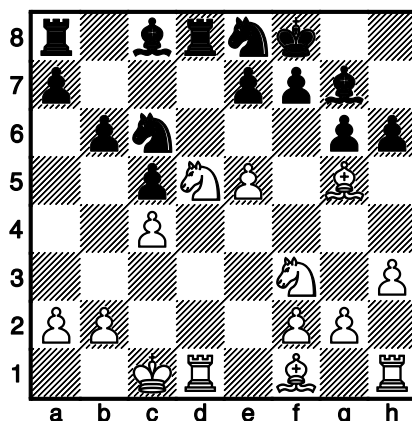
Calcul8tor – pmipmi [E90]

1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.h3 c5 A move mostly used for rapid & blitz games at the top these days. That said, we're not at the top, and this IS a rapid game! White now has a solid advantage. **7.dxc5** A rare move, only seen in 46 of 2075 games in my slightly out-of-date database. First played by Carlos Hounie Fleurquin in 1935, and not repeated until Ruderfer assayed it in 1979. White has given away his advantage, and the game is now level. **7. d5** is better. **7...dxc5 8.Qxd8**



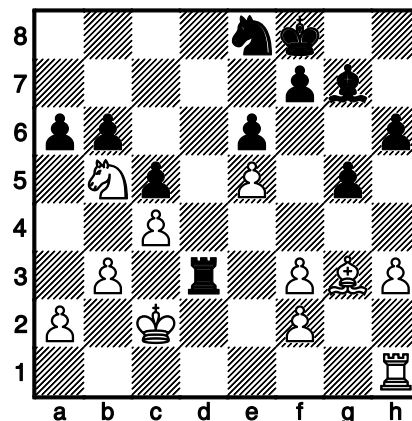
[But here White goes astray. This move removes two undeveloped pieces, but places Black's king's rook on the open d-file. Black essentially now has the opening advantage that White traditionally starts with, and a little more. **8.Be3** is better from both a principled standpoint (develops with tempo, continues to contest the d-file directly), and from a computer evaluation perspective.] **8...Rxd8 9.Be3 b6 10.e5** I wonder if Calcul8tor had prepared this variation for pmipmi. We play each other a lot, so home cooking is not out of the question. This is a new move ... **10...Ne8** ... but after this not a new position. We are now following a very obscure game between two 1770 rated players from the 1998 Bavarian Seniors Championship, Hahn-Reinhardt. **11.Nd5 Nc6 12.Bg5N** Finally, a true

new move! Continuing to develop with long castling is probably a little better. The position is tactically sharp now. **12...Kf8** [The obvious move, but when I first looked at these games, I noticed that Stockfish preferred the awkward looking **12...Rd7** But after a few moments the reasons become clear. The rook won't be blocking the light-squared bishop, as it wants to be on the long diagonal anyway. It gets out of the pin, allowing an eventual ...e6, and potentially doubling rooks on the d-file. It's really quite clever! Black does have to consider **13.e6** but **13...fxe6** clearly leaves Black for choice.] **13.0-0 h6**



[**13...Rd7** doesn't work as well now because **12...Kf8** would then be a wasted tempo.] **14.Bf4 e6 15.Nc3 Rxd1+ 16.Kxd1 Bb7 17.Be2 g5 18.Bg3 Rd8+ 19.Kc1 Nd4** The last several moves have all been very sensible, and 'accurate' as judged by our mechanical friend, at least. Weirdly, Stockfish wants to play **19...Bh8** first, and only then ...Nd4. I did not understand this. **20.Bd1** [Here Stockfish prefers **20.Re1** The reason is to be found not in the 'best line', but in some of the straightforward lines that could be played. For example, if **20...Nxe2+ 21.Rxe2 Bxf3 22.gxf3** as roughly occurred in the game, then **22...Rd4** is met by **23.Re4** with the dreaded triple zeroes in multiple lines. These aren't the best moves for Black, but it shows WHY **Re1** is a slightly better choice for White.] **20...Nxf3** And

here, if you let Stockfish sit long enough, we're back to ...Bh8. I came to realize that in some variations it is helpful for Black to have the **Ne8-g7-f5** route available. Here, though, it is only fractionally better than what was played, if that. **21.Bxf3 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Rd4** Apparently winning a pawn. **23.b3 Rd3 24.Nb5** It's hard to call this a mistake, but it is. Now the knight runs off on an errant adventure. He needed to stay home and guard the home front. [24.Nd1 And now Black has to thread a needle to get an advantage if he takes the pawn. **24...Rxf3 25.Kd2** It's a trap! **25...h5 (25...f5 26.Ke2** And Black better sac the exchange for **26...g4 27.hxg4 fxe4 28.Ne3** is much better for White.) **26.Ke2 Rxe4** is best, believe it or not. (**26...g4 27.hxg4 hxe4 28.Ne3=**) **27.fxe4 Bxe5** And Black still has most of the advantage he's been nursing since the queens came off. I can't decide if this would be easier or harder to play in a rapid game. "De gustibus non disputandum est."] **24...a6 25.Kc2**



Now Black is winning. The difference is that the knight is not close enough to help corral the Black rook. **25...Rxf3 26.Nd6** The rest is straightforward. **26...Nxd6 27.exd6 Ke8 28.Rd1 Kd7 29.Kd2 f5 30.Ke2 Rc3 31.Rd2 f4 32.Bh2 Rc1 33.Kf3 Bc3 34.Rd3 Bd4 35.h4 Rc2 36.Bg1 e5 37.hxg5 hxg5 38.Kg4 Bxf2 39.Bxf2 Rxf2 40.Kxg5 e4 41.Rd1 e3 42.Kg4 e2 0-1** (see page 13 for 2nd game.)

FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS

(Using latest USCF Rating Supplement's "Top 100" Lists, except for "OVERALL")

UNDER AGE 18

Kumar, Nikhil	16	2423
Venkat, Raghav	16	2303
Zhao, Erick	12	2270
Ngo, Bach	12	2222
Chen, Benjamin Lj	16	2192
Hernandez, Ronald	13	2158
Kumar, Naman	14	2138
De La Colina, Nicolas Alejandro	15	2111
Stone, Vincent William	15	2075
Gao, Marvin	12	2066
Yang, Andy	15	2064
Alvarez, Xavier	17	2055
Chakrabarti, Breshesh	10	2018
Shukla, Aniket	12	2008
Wang, Alan John	17	2000
Lang, Jayden	12	1997
Reddy, Satvik	16	1991
Singh, Keshav	15	1980
Sibbitt, Brandon	17	1947
Shen, Jason(Haohan)	14	1938
Cruz, Jancarlo	17	1930
Farragut, Cannon	10	1920
Guan, Michael Xukun	12	1914
Yao, Jerry	12	1893
Cheng, Leon	13	1870
Ziegler, Nate	11	1866
Wu, William	12	1854
Sattaru, Sritej Sai	11	1796
Yu, Dylan	11	1763
Yang, Maxwell Z	8	1682
Roy, Ayush	9	1353
Kaidash, Platon	8	1174
Gupta, Anay	8	1159
Kumar, Ishir	7	1157
Thomas, Henry	7	942
Shekel Nosatzki, Adam	7	887
Moguillansky, Gabriel	6	812
Liu, Elizabeth	7	736
Li, Sophie	7	719
Bryant, Jack Myer	6	711
Blouet, Jackson Hicks	7	701
Jani, Aakash	6	692

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National - Level IV

Tania Kranich-Ritter

Tim Tusing

Advanced - Level III

Miguel Ararat

GIRLS U<21

Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	19	2014
Shama Yisrael	16	1975

SENIORS (65+)

Fabio Larota	70	2279
Stephen Stoyko	73	2241
Constantine Xanthos	73	2200
Sergey Berechenko	74	2200
William Cornwall	77	2147
Jose Hernandez	66	2133

WOMEN

Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	2014
Shama Yisrael	1975

TOP BLITZ

Julio Becerra	2659
Robert M Perez	2496
Corey Acor	2450

TOP QC

Robert M Perez	2394
Corey Acor	2339
Alex Barnett	2323

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OVERALL *

2677 BORTNYK, OLEXANDR	2261 ARENCIBIA, ANTONIO
2627 HANSEN, LARS BO, DR.	2259 NARDANDREA, JOHN P
2619 MAHARRAMZADE, JAVAD	2257 KELLEHER, NAT
2617 SCHWARTZMAN, GABRIEL	2255 BARREDO, LUIS
2659 BECERRA, JULIO J	2255 HANSEN, MARTIN
2587 BORTNYK, MYKOLA	2253 ELOWITCH, STANLEY J
2570 SHERZER, ALEX I	2253 MOORE, NICKOLAS
2498 LEYVA RIVERA, YUNIER	2252 YANOVSKY, VLAD
2497 PEREZ, ROBERT M	2246 RYAN, MARK R
2481 GONZALEZ, RENIER	2245 ZONTEK, SEBASTIAN
2474 MARTINEZ, MARCEL	2241 RYERSON, BRITT
2473 LEON OQUENDO, JORGE	2241 STOYKO, STEPHEN, MR.
2461 LUDWIG, JOHN GABRIEL	2240 ROSENTHAL, NICHOLAS J
2456 HENLEY, RONALD W	2236 BRYANT, TODD
2434 VALDES, LUIS ENRIQUE	2228 RAMIREZ, ROBERT YORISAN
2414 KUMAR, NIKHIL	2228 REYNALDO, JORGE
2410 BUCKLEY, MARK	2225 NGUYEN, TRUNG
2407 FERREIRO, ROBERTO ALVAREZ	2223 CASTILLO, ROMMEL E
2396 BALA, ADITHYA	2223 CHAVIRA, WILMER
2390 LUGO, BLAS	2222 NGO, BACH
2363 SCHUT, LISA	2221 ANDREWS, STEVEN
2352 BORTNYK, MARIIA	2221 HERNANDEZ-PEREZ, PEDRO
2344 ZELNER, ALEXANDER	2219 KRIENKE, MAKAI
2341 RITTER, MARK	2217 COOKE, ERIC
2331 BARNETT, ALEX	2214 HAMLEY, RYAN
2330 ACOR, COREY	EDWARD
2314 MC CLINTOCK, DOUG R	2212 PERSANTE, ROBERT
2307 FERRAGUT, ARNALDO	2203 MEDINA, RODELAY
2304 VENKAT, RAGHAV	2202 GOLYAK, ISAY
2292 MIELLIER, YAN	2201 PETERSEN, MIKEL G
2291 PERRINE, DALTON	2200 BENJAMIN, RICHARD
2284 VIGOA APECHECHE, YANIRA	2200 GOLDSBY, AJ
2283 GALOFRE, CHARLES	2200 MARQUEZ PEREIRA, JUAN EDUARDO
2283 STEIGMAN, AJ	2200 SALOMON, MIGUEL F
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2279 LA ROTA, FABIO	2200 TORRES, JAVIER
2279 NIENART, CHRISTOPHER	ANTONIO
2279 ZAPLETAL, JINDRICH	2200 XANTHOS, CONSTANTINE
2277 ALVAREZ, ERNESTO	
2276 BOUSFIHA, MOHAMED EL AMINE	
2274 TILLIS, BRYAN	
2272 CRUZ, DARIO	
2271 ZIATDINOV, RASHID	
2270 ZHAO, ERICK	
2268 DIAZ, DAGOBERTO	
2267 DALY, TROY E	
2264 FIELDS, PAUL H	
2263 RUGE, EDISON	
2262 SPITAL, ROBIN D	

*

Active FL Masters with Current Ratings

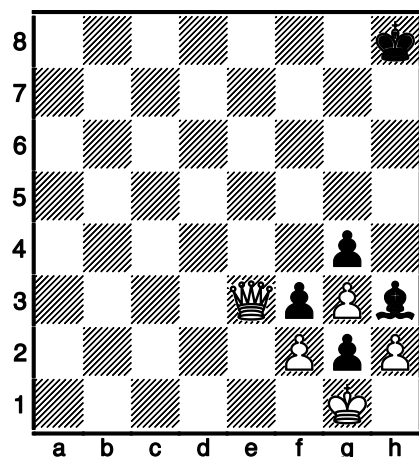
CORRESPONDENCE

Keith Rodriguez	2360
Dana Sylvander	2179
Paul B. Ott	2102
David Spencer	2014
Allen Jeffrey Woollen	2029

Everyone Fighting the Virus – The Coronavirus

Harvey's COVID-19 Puzzle Orlando, FL, 01,2021

by Peter Dyson



Harvey Lerman placed this "Great Puzzle of the COVID" on the back of the "COVID 2020" issue of floridaCHESS.

"White to play and win. This would seem to be an easy puzzle as the only pieces that can move are White's Queen and Black's King. The others are stuck inside like the rest of us waiting for this Covid to be finished! But how can White force a win...even if White takes Black's Bishop the game would end as a stalemate. But White can win! Can you find it? A prize may be awarded to the 1st player that can solve this puzzle."



1.Qh6+

I tend to fall behind on my reading and only picked up the floridaCHESS COVID issue to read in mid-January. No doubt someone has already solved it and won the prize. But it was fun to think of a story to go with the solution. So ... The setup:

The resources to fight the virus are the **White Queen** (especially all the front line people) and pawns. The White King is all of us stuck inside waiting to see if the virus will ever end.

The **Black King is the virus**. Also, sometimes the Black King represents naysayers or is someone who for nefarious or political reasons wants to put obstacles in the way of fighting the virus. And finally, the Black King also encompasses different people or organizations who are competing for the limited resources available to fight the virus. Even if some of their intentions are good, their solutions are not always equitable. The **Black Bishop and pawns** are the last obstacles to delivering a vaccine for the virus – these obstacles span logistics, politics, competition, medical, and anything else that gets in the way of bringing relief to the people (**White King**). It seems hopeless. Many resources are available to fight the virus. But only the White Queen is available at the start, and she cannot checkmate the Black King by herself.

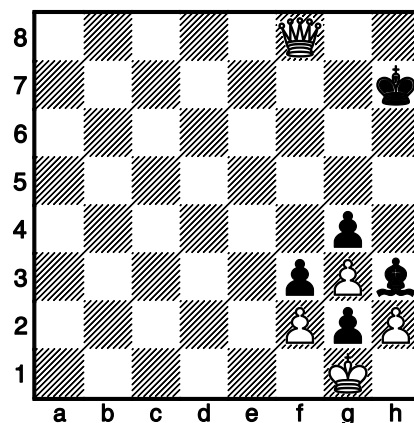
What to do?!?

1.Qe8+ Sometimes we think we have a promising approach, but it leads nowhere. 1...Kh7 2.Qf8 Kg6 3.Qe7 Kh6 4.Qf7 Kg5 5.Qg8+ Kh6 6.Qh8+ Kg6 7.Qh4 Kg7 8.Qh5 Kg8 9.Qh6 Kf7 10.Qh8 Kg6

"Ha ha ha" cries the Black King. "You are spending a lot of energy and getting nowhere. You look foolish and the people are in great despair!" 1...Kg8 2.Qf6! Having tried 1. Qe8+ and the waiting game without success, it is time to take a step back. We need to give the people (**Kg1**) hope. They are beginning to despair. So great minds formulate a plan. I need a vaccine. I have promising **vaccines** in development (**the pawns at g3 and h2**, along with a backup at f2), but they are stuck. So I tell the people, "I will drive the Black King across the board and then take the Bishop followed by getting new Queens with the pawns. If the vaccine needs 2 doses, I will first Queen the g-pawn and then the h-pawn, and the vaccine will be effective a few moves later."

This gives some of the people hope. But the naysayers scoff "You will never get the King across the board with only your Queen".

2.Qg6+ Perhaps if we just wait it out, the virus will go away... 2...Kh8 3.Qe8+ Kh7 4.Qh5+ Kg7 5.Qg5+ Kh8 6.Qf4 Kg7 7.Qf5 Kh8 This strategy is not working either!
2...Kh7 3.Qf8

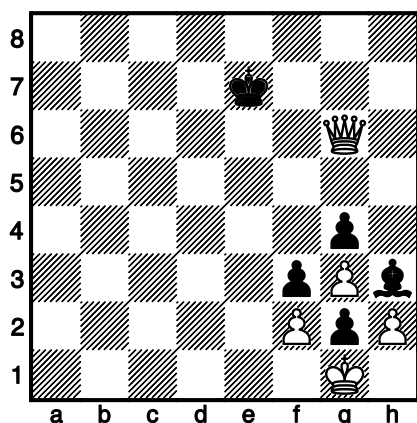


Note the pattern with Black to move...but still the virus lurks in the corner... 3...Kg6 4.Qg8+ Kh6 5.Qf7 Hmmm, we have seen this pattern before! Now the virus has only one move. 5...Kg5 6.Qh7 Hmmm, same pattern from the other side...Again the virus has only one move. 6...Kf6 7.Qg8

7.Qd7 This is a mistake that costs time. We can recover, but time, as well as the virus, is not our friend. 7...Kg6 8.Qe7 Kh6 9.Qf7 Kg5 10.Qg7+ Kh5 11.Qh7+ Kg5 12.Qh4+ Kg6 13.Qh8 Kf7 14.Qh6 and now we are back on the right track.

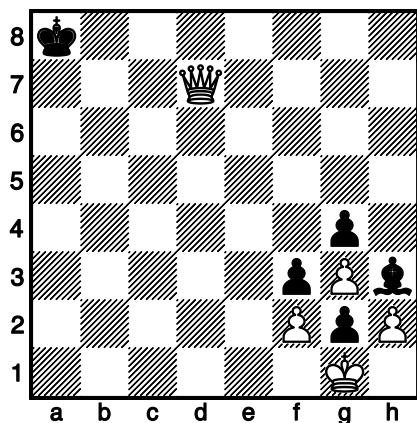
7...Ke7 The naysayers don't understand our strategy. They are laughing and smirking and calling us fools. "Look you are running in circles and not making progress! You will never cure this virus! Ha ha ha ha ha!"

8.Qg6!



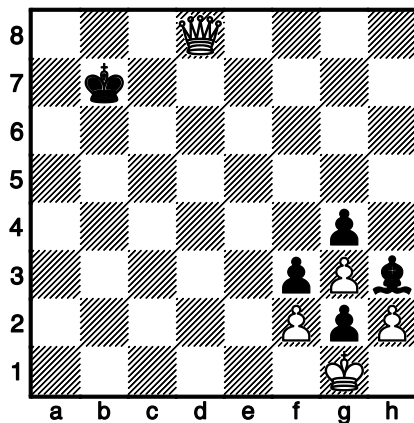
But we have a **Chess Player** on the team. The chess player says, "You need only gain a tempo and then position the Queen a **Knight's hop** from the Black King, and then it must yield ground. All our maneuvering has gained the tempo we needed and our Queen now owns the corner where the virus was hiding out!" **8...Kf8 9.Qh7!**

We tell the people, "don't despair, **Phase I** trials have been completed." [9.Qf6+?! Kg8 The direct attack on the virus does not work. We must be patient. If the virus can move to be a Knight's hop from our Queen, we lose ground and the people become scared and worried that the virus cannot be beaten. 10.Qe7. Yes, we can move a Knight's hop away... 10...Kh8 11.Qf7?? Whoops! **Stalemate is like a win for the virus.** 9...Ke8 10.Qg7 Kd8 11.Qf7 Kc8 12.Qe7 Kb8 13.Qd7 Ka8

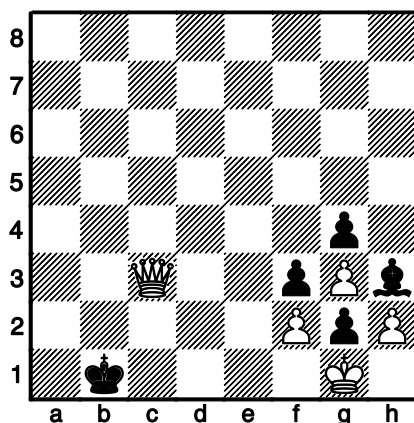


What now? **14.Qd6!** "Where are you going", the naysayers exclaim. "Have you given up and now turning

tail?" [14.Qc8+?! Ka7 The virus say, "ha ha, I mutated and now it is me a Knight hop from you!" We can recover from this misstep, but it costs us precious time.; 14.Qc7?? Oh, no, stalemate again. We must recognize when the strategy needs adjustment. **14...Kb7** [14...Ka7 "I am sneaky! Now what will you do?" 15.Qf8 What is this?! 15...Kb7 16.Qd8! Oh ye of little faith! We reach the same position as in the main line.] **15.Qd8!**

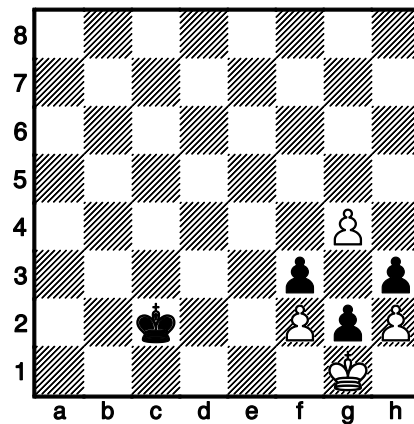


15...Kc6 [15...Ka7 This is no better. 16.Qc8!] **16.Qe7!** With our Queen maneuvering we have completed **Phase II** of the vaccine trials (by driving the King out of the other corner) and we return to our Knight hop strategy. Whatever direction the virus mutates, we push it across the board as we make the final push before release of the vaccine. **16...Kd5 17.Qf6 Kc5 18.Qe6 Kb5 19.Qd6 Ka5 20.Qc6 Kb4 21.Qd5 Ka4 22.Qc5 Kb3 23.Qd4 Kc2 24.Qe3 Kb2 25.Qd3 Ka2 26.Qc3 Kb1**

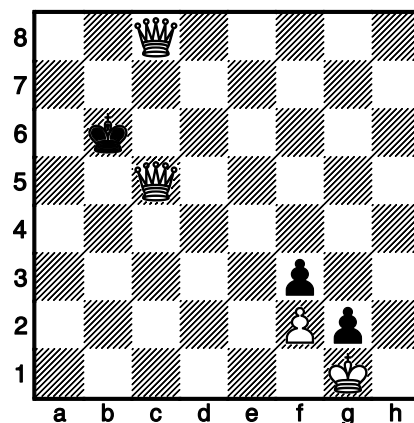


Our valiant heroes on the front

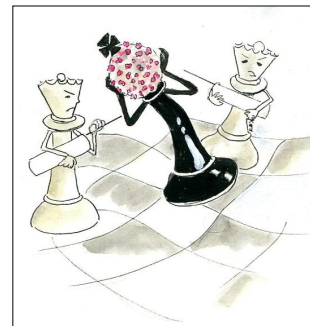
line have done their job. It is time to pass the baton. **27.Qh8 Kc2 28.Qxh3 gxh3 29.g4**



The virus cannot defeat (catch) the vaccine. **29...Kd3 30.g5 Ke4 31.g6 Kf5 32.g7 Kg6 33.g8Q+** The first dose of the vaccine is delivered. The people are uplifted. They see light at the end of the tunnel. **33...Kf6 34.Qg3 Kf5 35.Qxh3+ Ke4 36.Qg4+ Kd5 37.h4 Ke5 38.h5 Kd5 39.h6 Ke5 40.h7 Kd5 41.h8Q** The **Second Dose** is delivered. It will be fully effective in a few moves. **41...Kc5 42.Qe5+ Kc6 43.Qc8+ Kb6 44.Qec5#**



And that is the end of our story. 1-0



Some games from recent events by Miguel Ararat



Andretta,Gaston (2224) Ludwig,John Gabriel (2295) [A13]

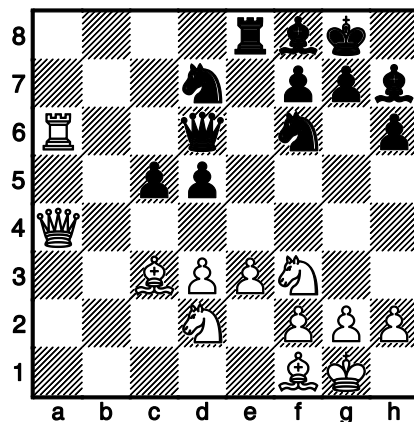
Southern op 22nd Orlando (3),
20.09.2014

[Ararat,Miguel]

This issue of Floridachess I decided to annotated games about the Reti. The idea is to help the class player to understand and play better the Reti with both colors. The Reti is a maze of transpositions, but thanks to the collaboration of NM Gaston Andretta a straight forward way to play the Reti is presented, 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5. I am grateful Gaston shared his opening files with me and make these analysis public.

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 White avoids g3 for the time being, but can return to g3 channels latter as in the game Arkell – Collins (yes the author of the Reti book reviwed in this issue of FloridaChess) **4.e3** [4.d4 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.dxc5 Bxc5 1-0 (67) Arkell,K (2450) – Collins,S (2447) Crawley 2016. White gets play against black's IQP. The sustained pressure against the isolani is latter transformed into a pass pawn and finally in an extra exchange that Arkell converts smoothly.] **4...Nf6 5.b3 Be7 6.Bb2 0-0 7.Be2 c6** [7...Bg4 8.0-0 Transpose to the game but the reader can see how Ludwig's (2295) play in 2014 resembles the s play of a 2693 player four years later. Fedoseev–Inarkiev, 2018. Andretta told me that Ludwig play in this game is a model of

a solid game and White does not get enough to play for a win. However, the Inarkiev's game below shows that these positions can lead to disaster for White. Unfortunately, Inarkiev did not capitalize his chances and ended losing the game. 8...Nbd7 9.Nc3 c6 10.d3 Bd6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nd4 Bxe2= 13.Ncxe2 Re8 14.Qc2 Rc8 15.Rad1 Bf8 16.Nf3 c5 17.e4 Bd6 18.Rfe1 Qc7 19.Nc3 Qc6 20.Re2 b5= 21.Rde1 d4 22.Nxb5 Qxb5 23.e5= Bf8 24.exf6 Nxf6= 25.Ba3 Nd5 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Rxe8 Qxe8= 28.Qc4 Nb6 29.Qa6?! Qe2+ 30.Qxa7 Black to play and win. 30...Bd6?? (30...Qd1+ 31.Kh2 Bd6+ 32.g3 Qxf3 33.Qxb6 Qxf2+ 34.Kh1 Qe1+ 35.Kg2 Qxg3+) 31.g3? Qxf3 In contrast to the winning variation above white keeps his f2 pawn and his king is safe. (31...Bxg3 32.fxg3 Qe3+ 33.Kg2 Qe2+=) 32.Qxb6 Bf8 33.Bxc5 Bxc5 34.Qxc5 h5 35.Qxd4 g5 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qxg5 1-0 (37) Fedoseev,V (2719)–Inarkiev,E (2693) St Petersburg 2018] **8.0-0 Bg4 9.d3 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.a3 Bf8** Ludwig redeploys his bishop to activate his rook on e8 and ease the white pressure along the a1-h8 diagonal. **12.b4 a5 13.Bc3** [13.b5?! cxb5 14.Nd4 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Qb6 Black keeps the pawn and stands better.] **13...axb4 14.axb4 Qc7 15.Qc2 h6 16.Qb2 Rxa1 17.Rxa1 b6 18.Bf1 c5 19.bxc5 bxc5 20.Ra4 Bf5 21.Qa1 Bh7 22.Ra7 Qb8** [22...Qd6 23.Ra6 Qb8] **23.Qa4 Qd6 24.Ra6**



24...Qe7

From this point the Megabase 2018 has the moves of the game wrong. Gaston Andretta sent me this

game and Ludwig played 24...Qe7 instead of Qc7 that fails to Bxf6 followed by an exchange sac on the same square. [24...Qc7 25.Ra7 Qc6 26.Ra6 Qc7 27.Ra7 Qc6] **25.Ra7 Qe6 26.Ra6 Qe7 27.Ra7 Qe6** ½-½

Andretta,Gaston (2225) Lopez,Aldo (2065) [A13]

Miami Sharks Tournament Orlando (4),
10.08.2014

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.e3 c5 5.b3 Nf6 6.Bb2 [6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Bb2 Be7 9.d4]

6...Nc6 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 Early in the game black reaches = by avoiding the passive 8...Be7

8...Bd6 [8...Be7 Assuming black will implement the bxc6 idea as in the game. 9.d4 a6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Ne5 Be7 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Rc1 Rc8 15.Qe2 Qa5? 16.Nxd7 Black loses to a tactic similar than in our main game. This example highlights the dangers luring black out of Reti positions. The positional struggle may distract black from being tactically alert. In contrast, the first player combines sustained positional pressure with tactical alertness making the Reti a great point scorer at amateur levels. 16...Nxd7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qg4+ 1-0 (58) Ionescu,M (2274) –Fluerariu,R (2030) Calimanesti Caciulata 2017]

9.d4 a6

[9...cxd4 10.Nxd4

At high levels of chess the IQP is the preferred method to play this position. I provide four games below to illustrate successful outcomes from this IQP structure. 10...0-0 11.Nd2

a) 11.Be2 Qe7 12.Nd2 Ba3 13.Bxa3 Qxa3 14.N2f3 Rac8 15.Qc1 Qxc1 16.Rfxc1 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 a6 1-0 (50) Karpov,A (2628)–Sveshnikov,E (2508) Riga 2015;

b) 11.Nc3 Qe7 (11...Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Re8 13.Bxd7 Be5 14.Qd2 Qxd7 15.Rad1 Rac8 16.Nb1 Ne4 17.Qe2 Rc6 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Rc1 Rg6 20.Kh1? h5?! 21.Nc3 Nf6 22.Nb5? d4+ 0-1

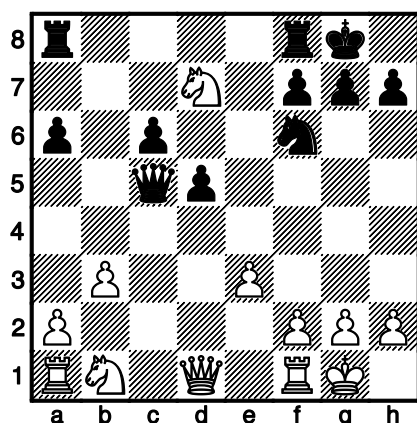
(34) Balbuena Fuentes, M (2234)–Goluch, P (2413) Lisbon 2020) 12.Nf3 Be6 13.Be2 a6 14.Qd3 Rad8 15.Rad1 Rfe8 16.Qb1 Bb8 17.g3 Ba7 18.Nd4? Nxd4+ 0-1

(33) Zhukova, N (2462)–Gustafsson, J (2627) Caleta 2010; 11...Re8 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.N2f3 Qe7 14.Qe2 Bb8 15.Rfd1 Qd6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Ba6 1/2-1/2 (59) So, W (2822)–Radjabov, T (2710) Shamkir 2017]

10.Bxc6 bxc6 [10...Bxc6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Bd4±]

11.Ba3 [11.Ne5; 11.dxc5 Highlights the weaknesses of a king in the center and sets up a trap. 11...Bxc5 12.Ne5 0-0 13.Qc2 Qe7? (13...Be7) 14.Rc1+-]

11...Qe7 12.Bxc5 Bxc5 13.dxc5 Qxc5 14.Ne5 0-0 15.Nxd7



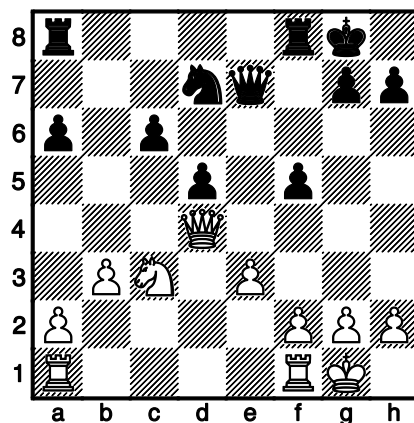
White gets closer to a major pieces endgame with clear play against the c5 square and a6 pawn. This stage of the game is very instructive for the amateur player.

Here the master plays not the top move by the engine, but the move that give him a clear winning plan.

I can provide the reader several references with great annotations for self study (one of them in Spanish) Rubinstein – Salwe, Lodz 1908 Annotated by Zenon Franco in Rubinstein Move by Move, pages 331-339, Everymanchess 2015.

Donaldson and Minev The Life and Games of Akiva Rubinstein vol 1, pages 161-163, El Cambio de Piezas by IM Diego Valerga pages 9-10 NM Andretta just follows the classics...

15...Nxd7 16.Qd4 Qe7 17.Nc3 f5



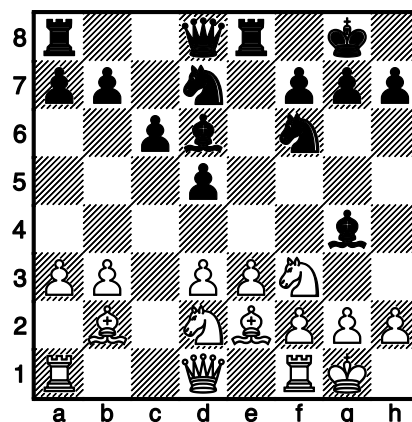
This idea does not look as a mistake. Black controls the square e4 and restrains the white knight, increases the scope of his kingside rook and plans to defend c6 with Rf8–f6 creating counterplay on the kingside with Rf6–g6–h6. [17...Nc5 This is the natural plan for black in this position. In contrast, to the Rubinstein game cited above, black has better chances to prevent white from cementing his control of the c5 square. 18.Rac1 Ne6 19.Qe5 Rfd8=] **18.Rac1** NM Andretta sticks to his plan to control the c5 square and develop an initiative on the queenside. **18...Rf6?** Black executes his plan mentioned above. Unfortunately, the plan needs a preparatory move, Rae8 to make it tactically sound. [18...Rae8 Removes the rook from the a8 square as a required step to play Rf6 with a worse position, but creating counterplay.] **19.Nxd5 1-0**

Andretta, Gaston (2217)
Wijesundera, Ravindra (2180)
[A13]

USATS 2018 Orlando (2), 23.02.2018
[Ararat, Miguel]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.e3 [4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 Bd6 6.b3 0-0 7.Bb2 Re8 8.0-0 c6 9.d3 1-0 (47) Duda, J (2753)–So, W (2770) chess.com INT 2020. In this game white plays g3 and Bg2 plus d3 with the a1–h8 diagonal open for his dark square bishop.] **4...Nf6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.Be2 Re8 8.0-0 Bg4 9.d3 c6** In this game black places his c pawn on c6 as Ludwig did

in the first annotated game. **10.Nbd2** White adopts a Hedgehog structure versus black's Torre attack (with color reversed). Gaston Andretta. **10...Nbd7 11.a3**



With a black pawn on c6, white goes for a Hedgehog. The first step is to control black's counterplay and then expand on the queenside to start the minority attack.

11...a5

[11...c5 12.Re1 Rc8 13.h3 Bh5 Black has to wait for Black to play a pawn break such as b4 or d4. Simplification as in the game is not the best way to play the position because white retains a lasting positional edge. 14.b4 b6 15.bxc5 bxc5= Black has hanging pawn, but his c5 pawn is well defended.]

12.Re1 Qc7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Nxf3 Ne5 15.Qd2 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Bh2+ 17.Kh1 Be5 18.b4 Nd7

[18...axb4 19.axb4 Nd7 Black gets a weak pawn on c6 as in many variations of the Queens Gambit Declined and a draw is the best outcome for him.]

19.Be2 h6 20.Bf1

The light square bishop remains on the f1–a6 diagonal to support b4–b5 and saddle black with a weak pawn on the queenside. The position remains = and Black has many options to chose from such as Ra7 or axb4.

20...Ra7

[20...axb4 21.axb4 Bxb2 22.Qxb2 Qe5]

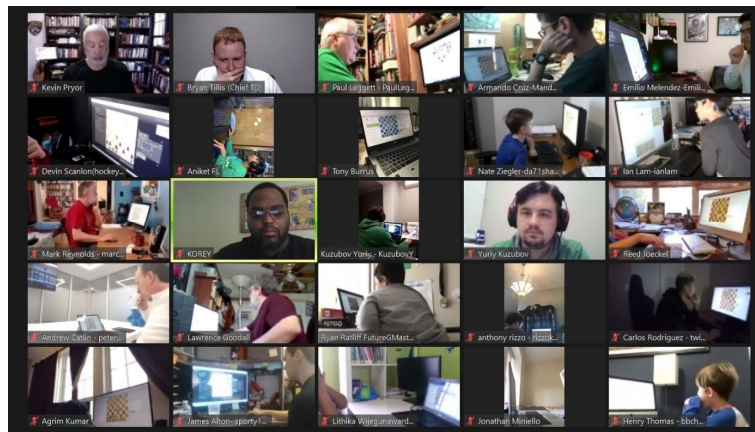
21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22.Qb2

(Continued on page 16)

2021 Florida State Blitz Championship (Online)

by Bryan Tillis

The first state championship event of the COVID19 pandemic surpassed expectations with 62 players competing in arguably the strongest and most well attended Blitz championship in Florida ever.



If you would like an opportunity to obtain a state champion title yourself check out chessregister.com where registration for the **2021 Florida State Rapid Championship** is open for February 27, 2021.

Open

Champions – GM Yuriy Kuzubov and FM Corey Acor (Florida resident and State Champion)
Top U2000 – Abhiram Pothuri
U1800/Unr – Advait Nair

U1600

1st in Section – Brooks Chandler
2nd – Vasilii Filosofov
Top U1400 – Carlos Rodriguez
Top U1200 – Devin Scanlon

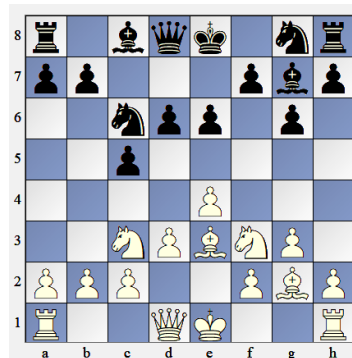
Scholastic:

Co-Champions: James Alton, Riyaan Datta

The final round game from the new/old state champion FM Corey Acor:

Corey Acor: Tampa-Chess (2614) - Yuriy Kuzubov: KuzubovY (2723) [B26]
Rated Blitz game lichess.org,
01/23/2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 e6 7.Nf3

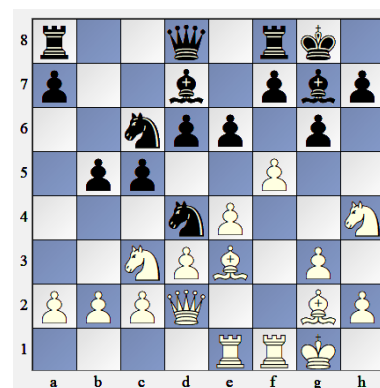


(Diagram 1)

[7.Qd2 Rb8 8.Nge2 Nd4 9.0-0 b5 Is a bit more popular following 0-1 (56) Artemiev,V (2708)-Giri,A (2764) Chess.com INT 2020.]

7...Nd4 8.0-0 Ne7 9.Nh4 Nec6 10.f4 Bd7 11.Qd2 [11.e5 dxe5 12.Ne4 With attacking pressure for White.]

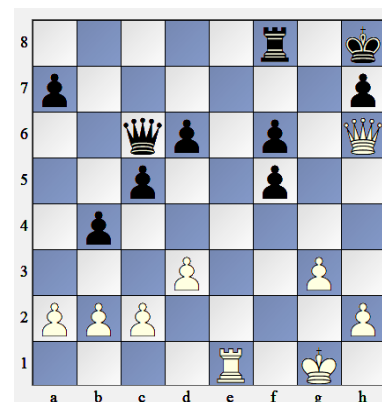
11...0-0 12.Rae1 b5 [12...Nb4 Gives black some pull in the position.] **13.f5**



(Diagram 2)

13...exf5 [This structural change causes issues from here forward. [13...Ne5 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Kh8 Black is under pressure the engine sees nothing for White.]

14.exf5 b4 15.Nd5 Nxf5 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Rxf5 [17.g4 A strong move! 17...Bxg4 18.Bg5 Winning material] **17...gxf5 18.Bh6 f6** [18...Rb8 lcy defense 19.Rf1 Nd4 Where Black is better.] **19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Nf4 Qd7 21.Ne6+ Kh8** [21...Kg8 Is necessary 22.Bd5 (22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.Qh6 Ne7) 22...Rf7] **22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.Bxc6 Qxc6 24.Qh6**



(Diagram 3)

[24.Re7 Is much stronger and ends the discussion.] **24...Rf7** [24...Kg8 25.Re7 Rf7 Is a drawn ending from the machine's perspective.]

25.Re6 Qd7 26.Rxf6 Rxf6 27.Qxf6+ Kg8 28.Kf2 Qg7 29.Qd8+ [29.Qxd6 Wins 29...Qxb2 30.Qb8+ Kf7 31.Qxa7+ Kf6 32.Qb6+ Kg5 33.Qxc5] **29...Qf8 30.Qd7 Qf6 31.Qe8+ Kg7 32.Qd7+ Kh6 33.c3 bxc3 34.bxc3**

Qe5 35.a4 [35.Qxa7 Queen endings are difficult, with this move White would be in the drivers seat again with the outside passer.] **35...f4** [This blunder ends the game, time trouble hits al of us hard.] **36.Qh3+ Kg7 37.Qg4+ Kh6 38.Qxf4+ 39.gxf4 Kg6 40.Kf3 1-0** With the won K & P ending FM Acor was able to tie for first and as the top finishing FL resident grasp the title of **FL State Blitz Champion**. If you would like an opportunity to obtain a state championship title yourself check out chessregister.com where registration for the **2021 FL State Championship** is open for February 27, 2021.

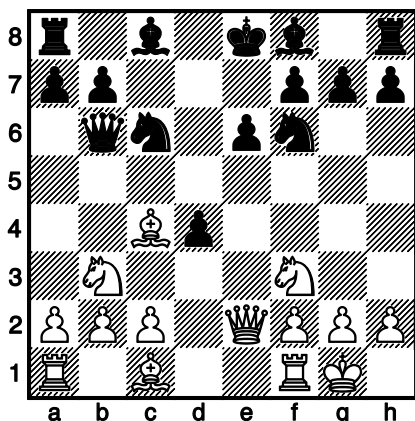
The Villages on Chess.com - 2nd game November 13th, 2020. TV#47

KnightHawke7 (1507)

pmipmi (1818) [C07]

pmipmi won by resignation 17/5

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 First seen in Tarrasch–Thorold, 1890, just the third known game with the Tarrasch Variation of the French Defense. That's game 180 in Tarrasch's "Three Hundred Games" for you chess bibliophiles. White temporarily gambits a pawn for good development. **6...Qc5** pmipmi deviates with a move of Vladimirs Petrovs from 1937. Not a popular choice, though the computer (Stockfish 12 C0) doesn't hate it. **7.Qe2 Nc6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nb3 Qb6**



Here I'd like to take stock of the position four ways: one natural; one ancient & somewhat forgotten; and two very modern.. The natural method would suggest White is much better: White has already castled, Black is two moves away from being castled; White has five pieces developed (counting the king's rook), Black only three; White's king & queen are safely tucked away, Black's king & queen

are somewhat exposed; White will have his choice of squares for his undeveloped pieces, Black will struggle to find a use for either of his bishops; Black's one plus, his extra pawn on d4, is going to fall.. Znosko–Borovsky in his book on middlegames gave three ways to assess a position: material, space and tempi. Material and space will be roughly even after the d4 pawn falls, though maybe give White a small space advantage as the pawn on e6 is a more hindrance than help. Oddly, both sides have six tempi exactly by the old count. This would suggest the position is somewhat even. The first of the modern methods is a database dive. (I'm using Mega Database 2019 for reference.) If I sort by White's rating (meaning look at the highest rated White players of this position), White has won the first 10 games on the list! Okay, maybe rating disparities account for this. But looking at the first ten games when sorting for Black, I see White still scores 6+, 2-, 2=, and in three of the four games White didn't win he was badly out-rated. Essentially, if White is a strong player, this position is near to hopeless for Black..The fourth method is to let a strong program shew over the position for a while. When I do this, SF12 (contempt 0) seems to think White has the slight advantage he started with. Different programs on better machines might disagree, but I doubt it if they run long enough..So, what to believe? The natural method and the database

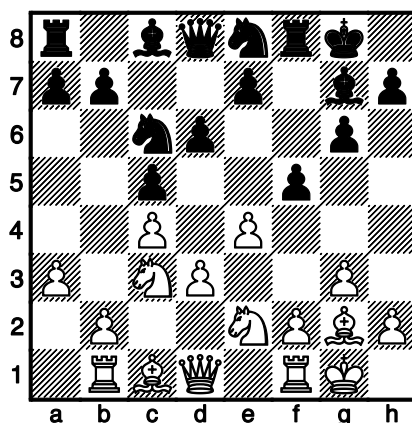
better, perhaps even winning. The ancient ways Znosko–Borovsky uses and the strong programs suggest a slight plus for White..The truth is that both points of view are correct – except that for most of us all are wrong. For stronger human players the position is almost winning for White in a practical game. For computers and in the sense of chess perfection, the game is probably close to even: Black hasn't done anything especially egregious in nine moves (save perhaps to move his queen three times in the opening), so it's hard to think he should just be busted..But for most of use these considerations just don't matter! Below a certain point (say 2200 FIDE, just to put a number on it), the results start to randomize as the mistakes pile up. This esoteric opening theory & analysis are meaningless: Adhere to principles as best one can, buttressed with experience & perhaps even study, to get to the middlegame, and then let fly the pieces!.(This long note is dedicated to Lubosh Kavalek, who one wrote a four page note to a move most would pass over, and that long before the era of computer-assisted analysis. R.I.P.) **10.Rd1** An excellent move! White's advantage lies in superior development & piece mobility, so he should concentrate on that. The point isn't to win back the pawn so much as to "have at him!" Black isn't in danger (yet) of getting mated, but he does need to react.

(2nd Game continued on page 16)

by Paul Leggett

Beyond the games, the people were great. There is a very strong

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6
5.e4 Nf6 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 Ne8 8.d3
d6 9.a3 [9.Be3 is more to the point,
since ...Ng4 is no longer on the table.;
9.Be3 Nd4 10.Rb1 Nc7 11.b4 Nce6
12.bxc5 dxc5 13.f4 Nxe2+ 14.Nxe2 b6
15.e5 Rb8 16.g4 Bb7 17.Bxb7 Rxb7
18.f5 Nc7 19.d4 Na6 20.Qa4 Nb8
21.Rbd1 cxd4 22.Nxd4 Rd7 23.Nf3
Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Qc7 25.Qb5 Nc6 26.Bf4
a6 27.Qb2 Na5 28.Qd4 Qxc4 29.Qxc4
Nxc4 30.Rd7 Re8 31.Ra7 a5 32.Rc7
b5 33.Rc5 Rb8 34.f6 Bf8 35.e6 Rd8
36.Rc7 exf6 37.e7 Bxe7 38.Rxe7 Kg7
Vachier Lagrave,M (2789) –Zhao,J
(2604) Riyadh 2017 1-0] **9...f5!? 10.Rb1**



[I meant to play 54.Rd5+ but I dropped it on the wrong square I was lucky it was not a blunder, but it did extend the game a few moves.] 54...Re3+ 55.Kg2 Re2+ 56.Kf3 Ra2 57.Kg3 Rxa3 58.Rd5+ Kh6 59.Kg4 Ra1 60.Rd6+

Kh7 61.Rd7+ Kg6 62.h5+ Kh6
63.Rd6+ Kh7 64.Kf5 Rf1+ 65.Ke4
Rh1 66.h6 Rh5 67.Rd7+ Kxh6
68.Rxa7 Kg6 69.Rb7 Rh4+ 70.Ke3
Rh3+ 71.Kd2 1-0

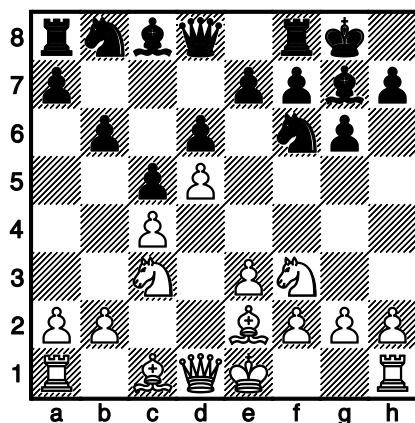
Lyszkowski, Brett (1668)

Leggett, Paul (1810) [A34]

Dothan Open (3), 09.01.2021

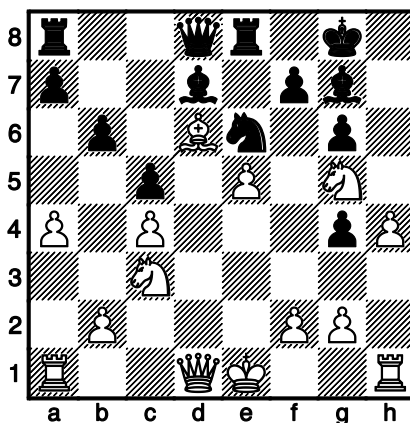
[Leggett]

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.d4 b6
5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d5 d6 7.Be2 0-0

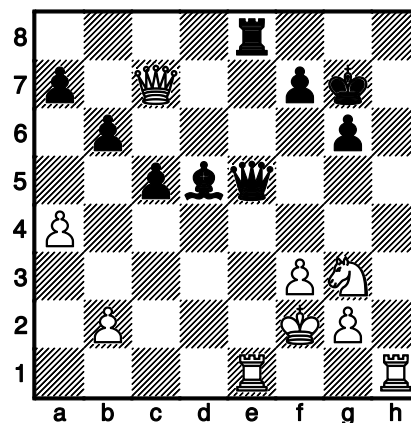


8.h4N

My teenage opponent goes all out, but it squanders his opening plus. [8.h3; 8.0-0; Predecessor: 8.e4 Bg4 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Bf4 Ne8 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 a6 13.a4 Nc7 14.Be2 Qb8 15.Qd2 Re8 16.Kh1 Bd4 17.Bg3 Nf6 18.Bd3 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.cxb5 Qb6 21.Ne2 Nxb5 22.Bxb5 Qxb5 23.Nxd4 cxd4 24.Qxd4 Nd7 25.Rfc1 f6 26.Kh2 Nc5 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.b4 Nb3 29.Qc4 Qxc4 30.Rxc4 Nd2 31.Rc1 Rb8 32.f3 Rxb4 33.Bf4 Nc4 34.h4 f5 35.Re1 Kf7 36.Bg5 Ne5 37.Kg3 fxe4 Arsovic,Z (2468)–Zubov,A (2567) Ohrid 2009 1/2-1/2] **8...h5?!** Wrong application of an idea. [8...e6 A central response is the correct approach.] **9.Ng5 Na6 10.e4 Nc7 11.a4 Bd7 12.Bf4± e5!?** **13.dxe6 Nxe6 14.Bxd6** Correct, or at least not incorrect, but during the game I thought snagging a pawn with his King in the center was questionable. [Both Fat Fritz (FF) and Dragon by Komodo (the Komodo team's new neural network engine) prefer 14.Nxe6] **14...Re8 15.e5 Ng4 16.Bxg4 hxg4**



17.Qd5? [17.f4=] **17...Nxc5** Queen's are lousy defenders, and White's center comes under tremendous pressure with the King still on e1. **18.hxc5 Qxc5 19.Kf1?** [19.0-0 is better, but my opponent was very aggressive, and wanted to keep his rook on the h-file.] **19...Rad8** [19...Be6+] **20.Ne4 Qf5?** During the game, I thought to myself that I had spent too much time in the intervening months looking at a two-dimensional board. The conversion back to 3D was not as easy as I thought it would be. I remember reading that former World Champion Anand (a pioneer in modern GM computer prep) likes to move back to a physical board a few days before the start of a tournament, and now I understand why. [20...Qf4+] **21.Re1?** [21.Bc7=] **21...Be6+** We both apparently struggled understanding the position, but here I realized my attacking possibilities were becoming more tangible. **22.Qb7 Bxc4+ 23.Kg1 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Rxe5** [24...Qxe5 also works.] **25.Qc6 Kg7** A little useful prophylaxis to cover the f6 square, endorsed by FF. **26.f3 g3 27.Rc1 Bd5 28.Qc7 Rde8 29.Nxc3 Re1+??** [I have to give this two question marks, because the error is so silly. White has two loose pieces on the board, and GM John Nunn's LPDO (Loose Pieces Drop Off) fits perfectly here. 29...Qf4 is a simple queen fork that ends matters quickly.] **30.Kf2 Qe5** Black is still probably winning (White has no compensation for the pawn), and FF gives the odds at 3% white, 34% drawn, and 63% for black. **31.Rcxe1?**



I was very generally thinking we were headed for a position where it would either be a R&N vs R&B endgame, or a Q+P vs two rooks ending, but then I realized there was a better option. [31.Qxe5+ had to be played, for better or for worse.; 31.Rhxex1 Qxc7 32.Rxe8 Qf4+] **31...Qd4+!** [31...Qxc7 also wins, and it is what I had originally intended, but the game move is better. Missing a simple fork tends to focus one's thoughts after the fact.]

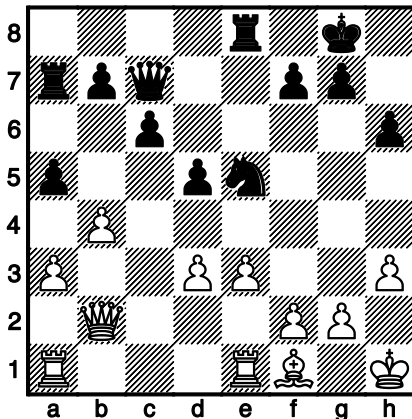
32.Kf1

My opponent was visibly shocked, and played the "move of most resistance". It's a mate in 11 from this point, but of course I did not have it worked out. The game does coincidentally end 11 moves later, but it is a lost ending that prompts the resignation.

32...Bc4+ 33.Ne2 Qe3 [33...Bxe2+ 34.Rxe2 Qd1+ 35.Kf2 Rxe2+ 36.Kg3 Qxh1]

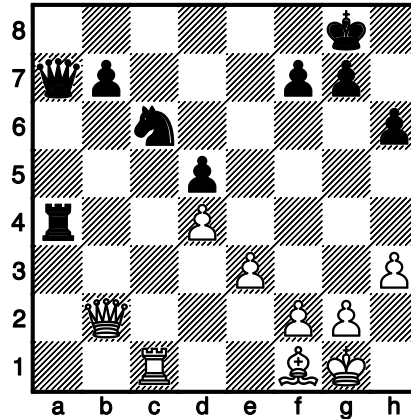
34.Qg3 Bxe2+ I see a clear path to a won ending, so I take it. **35.Rxe2 Qxe2+ 36.Kg1 Qe1+ 37.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 38.Kh2 Rxh1+ 39.Kxh1 Kf6 40.Kh2 Ke5 41.Kg3 a6 42.f4+ Ke4 43.Kg4 f6 0-1**

(Continued from page 11)



22...axb4 [22...Rea8?! 23.b5 The threat b5-b6 will force the black knight to the passive d7 and white will stand better after d3-d4.] **23.axb4 Rea8** **24.Rxa7 Rxa7=** **25.b5** White carries out his opening plan (minority attack), yet black is not worse. **25...Ra4**

26.bxc6 Nxc6?! Black takes on two weaknesses instead of one and makes more complicated to draw the game. [26...bxc6 27.Rc1 Nd7 28.Qc3 c5=] **27.d4** Fix the weak pawn on d5 and takes away the e5 square from the knight. **27...Qa5** **28.Rc1 Qa7?** **29.Kg1?!**



[29.Qb3 Ra5 (29...Ne7? 30.Qb5 Qa8

31.Qd7 White uses the threat against the d5 pawn to penetrate black's position.)]

29...Ra2 White opening strategy of sustained pressures pays off and black plays an "active move" and helps white to find the ideal square for his queen (White missed this move a couple of moves ago) [29...Rb4 30.Qd2 Qa4 and black holds the position together.] **30.Qb3 Ra5** **31.Rb1 Nd8** **32.g4 g6** **33.Bg2**

White just piles up on black's weak pawn and wins a decisive material advantage.

33...b5 **34.Qxd5 Ne6** **35.Rxb5 Ra1+** **36.Kh2 Qe7** **37.Qe5**

Black has no reply to Rb8# and d5 winning the knight. 1-0

(2nd Game continued from page 13)

10...Be7 Reasonable. Black's king wants to flee the scene of any potential crimes against his person, so the bishop shuffles nervously out of the way. **11.Nfxd4** The right way to recapture the pawn! It's better to leave a knight on b3, where it takes away the a5 and c5 squares from the Black queen. **11...0-0?!** [Understandable, but perhaps a bit dubious. Black's king isn't the only royal in danger. 11...a6 or 11...Qc7 would have been better. Also 11...Nxd4 12.Rxd4 is playable, but here Black has to show restraint and play ...a6, ...Bd7 or ...O-O, as 12...Bc5 13.Nxc5 Qxc5 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.Bxd7+ Nxd7 16.Be3 Qe5 17.Qd3 leaves Black in a world of hurt, as his king is stuck and his pieces lack any coordination. Believe it or not, White is winning here.] **12.Be3?** [I'm giving this a question mark even though White still has a better game. 12.Nb5 Here's the move that caught my

eye sifting through the game quickly with Stockfish. White is now threatening to win Black's queen outright with 13. Be3. Black is forced to play one of several bad options, the best of which is 12...Bd7 13.Be3 (13.Bf4!? when Stockfish gives 13...Na5 14.Bc7 Bxb5 15.Bxb6 Bxc4 and now only 16.Qe5 gives White an advantage, with all other moves close to losing! And now Black has to find 16...Nc6 or he's lost. Good luck finding this in an online rapid game! And the interested reader can look these variations up on his own....) 13...Qd8 14.Nc5 There are games where one side wins just by moving pieces towards the enemy king. Here White is almost winning by just moving his pieces closer to the enemy queen! 14...a6 or 14...Qc8 and Black is just keeping his head above water, but any other moves and he starts to sink beneath the water. What a great, rich position! Play might go 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Nxd7 Nxd7 17.Nxf7]

12...Qc7± **13.h3?!** [13.Nxc6 is better. It eliminates Black's best minor piece, and gives White latitude to play all across the board. Now the game is even, or perhaps Black is slightly better. The point is that when the advantages are in superior development or mobility, one needs to use those factors. The g4 square doesn't need protecting.] **13...a6** But the b5 square DOES need protection! **14.Nxc6 Qxc6** **15.Bd3** The computer suggested several moves here, all evaluated as 0.00. However, the position isn't stale equality. Someone just needs to come up with a plan ... and wait for errors. **15...b5** **16.Nd4 Qc7** **17.Qf3?!** And here's the first one! Black is now somewhat better. I'm not sure what White was planning here. **17...Bb7** **18.Qg3 Qxg3** **19.fxg3** White has ruined his pawn structure and traded off queens, both of which seem like bad ideas in the position from two moves

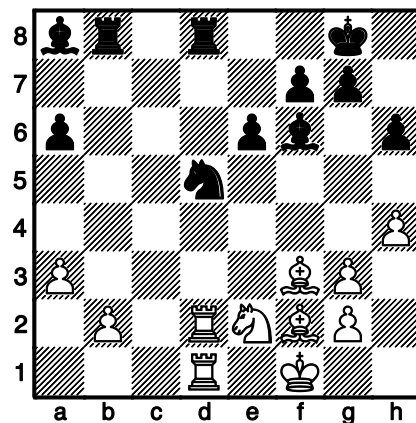
(2nd Game continued on page 17)

(2nd Game continued from page 16)

back. He might not be dead lost in a pure pawn endgame now, but I'd hate to defend it. **19...Nd5** The computer will give 19...b4 as best. The reason is that keeps White from getting in an easy c3. Again, easy for the annotator sitting in a comfy chair with the aid of a computer! The move played is logical enough, centering the knight and hitting a loose piece. **20.Bf2** [Best. White could try 20.Be4 but after 20...Nxe3 21.Bxb7 Ra7 22.Rd3 he's just losing to not only 22...Bc5 but even 22...Nc4. White has too much hanging, and something will go wrong. The absence of the f2 pawn is telling.] **20...Nb4?** Right square, wrong unit! The pawn should have gone to b4 instead, again to keep White from playing c3. The game is once again level – but not drawish. **21.Be2=** [21.Bf1 is also level.] **21...Rac8** [Many moves keep the balance here, including the slightly bizarre 21...Rab8] **22.c3** Yes! Not earth-shattering, and other reasonable moves also keep the balance, but I like this for accomplishing four things at once: protecting the c-pawn, kicking the Black knight, supporting the White knight, and restraining Black's queenside pawns. **22...Nd5** **23.Bf3** A fine move, though I'd prefer 23. a3 to keep Black's queenside pawns under lock and key. Truly just a matter of taste, though. **23...Rfd8** [Now Black could try 23...b4 The point is to break up White's queenside pawn formation. If White gets stuck with a single pawn on the queenside, it will be weak, and Black's kingside structure gets stronger in every endgame scenario. That's why the computer has liked that move, and why I do as well. But again, sitting at home while the clock isn't ticking makes it easier for me!] **24.h4**

We're talking fractions of a pawn in evaluation here, if that, but 24. a3 has to be better conceptually. It isn't clear how White can best arrange his pawns on the kingside yet, but making it harder for Black to move his pawns the queenside must be good. Still, the position is level, but with too many imbalances to be drawish. I imagine it was a tense game for both players. **24...Bf6** **25.Rd2** **Ba8** With this move, Black starts to get a slight advantage again. The move itself isn't mysterious, though. The bishop clearly belongs on the long diagonal (it's the only one available), and a8 is the only secure square. If one doesn't have a clear plan of action, improve the position of one's pieces! **26.Rad1** White has doubled up on the d-file, which could result in all the rooks coming off. Black probably wouldn't mind this. Ideally, Black exchanges off his queenside pawns for two of their counterparts, and uses whatever pieces he has remaining to attack the remaining pawn, getting whatever gains he can. But how to do it? **26...h6** [26...b4 and now anything but 27.cxb4 Nxb4 28.a3 and Black starts achieving his goals. Here 28...Bxf3 29.gxf3 Nd5 Offers something for both sides. White has fixed his pawns, while Black has put his worst piece back in the box, has a nice square for his knight, and has better influence on the c-file. The position is still almost exactly even, but now Black has a definite goals to work towards, namely those queenside pawns.] **27.Kf1?** [A mistake! But why? Partly the answer is that other plausible moves (27. Nc2, 27. a3, 27. Nb3, 27. Ne2) either directly or indirectly work to stop the b4 advance, and partly because f1 is an unfortunate square for the king. Consider the line 27.a3 Nb6 28.Nxb5 Rxd2 29.Rxd2 Nc4

30.Nd6 This position is even after the knights take the respective rooks. But in the line played in the game 30...Nxd2 comes with check. Oops! Yes, I had to dig for the answer to this one.] **27...b4** [Finally! And it's a miss! I can't call it a full mistake, as Black still gets an advantage with best play, but better was 27...Nb6 The point is that White will find himself tied up in most variations. Here are a couple of examples. 28.Nb3 (28.Bxa8 Rxa8 29.Nf3 Rxd2 30.Rxd2 Nc4 31.Rc2 h5 And look at the differences in pawns and bishops!; And of course 28.Nxb5 fails as in the last note.) 28...Nc4 29.Rxd8+ Bxd8 30.Rb1] **28.cxb4 Nxb4** **29.a3 Nd5** [29...Bxf3 is also fine.] **30.Ne2 Rb8**



The computer prefers both ...Rde8 and ...Rdf8 here, as well as ...a5 and ...g5. It wants to keep pieces on to work on White's weak pawns. **31.Bd4??** [A fatal mistake! Best was 31.b4 keeping the balance!] **31...Bxd4** **32.Nxd4** [Or 32.Bxd5 Be3 33.Rd3 (33.Bxa8 Bxd2) 33...Rxd5] **32...Ne3+** pmipmi cleans up with ruthless efficiency. **33.Ke2** **Bxf3+** **34.gxf3** **Nxd1** **35.Kxd1** **e5** **36.Nc6** **Rxd2+** **37.Kxd2** **Rxb2+** **38.Kc3** **Re2** **39.Kd3** **Ra2** **40.Nxe5** **Rxa3+** **41.Ke2** **a5** **42.Nc4** **Ra2+** **43.Nd2** **a4** **44.Kd1** **a3** **45.Kc1** **Rxd2** **46.Kxd2** **a2** **0-1**

The 2020 States Cup provided by Matthew Kolcz

The States Cup is a unique online chess tournament in the style of USCF Amateur Team created by Saumik Narayanan. A total of 30 states participated in the inaugural season getting sectioned off into the East, South, Central, and West divisions. With modern ant-cheating measures in place for online competition and constant communication through discord chat, this first season seemed to be the start of something great.

The Florida Chess Association Secretary, Matthew Kolcz, captained the Florida chess team for the South, assisted by the FCA's Vice President, Bryan Tillis. Together, we gathered a large roster of active Florida players. The following players were selected in the 6 weeks of competition: NM Raghav Venkat, NM Yan Miellier, NM Bryan Tillis, NM Martin Hansen, NM Ryan Hamley, NM Makaio Krienke, NM Eric Cooke, Tony Burrus, Xavier Alvarez, Aniket Shukla, Brandon Sibbitt, and NM Troy Daly. We sincerely appreciate all the help from those mentioned and nameless and look forward to next season where we hope to have the best team in the league.

The blow by blow in season one:

Week 1: Florida received a Bye, with uneven rosters every team in the division got a week off from play.

Week 2, Florida faced Alabama and won by a small margin of **8.5-7.5**.

Week 3 it was Florida versus Virginia but lost a tight match with **6.5-9.5**.

Week 4, it was Florida versus Georgia, a rough week for us as availabilities of players created many difficulties for lineups under the rating restrictions, netting only **3-13**.

Week 5, Florida was able to regroup and pull off a strong showing of **5-11** against North Carolina.

Weeks 6 and 7 were wildcard games to see which of the lower seed teams would make it to the playoffs, where the team would face against the other 3 divisions of the country. Florida again was able to win by the skin of their teeth against North Carolina with **8.5-7.5**, but were unfortunately taken out by Virginia with a rough **3.5-12.5**, and were unable to make it to playoffs.

The Florida team had a wonderful time playing in the tournament and represented their state well. We thank you for your continued support on the broadcasting platform www.twitch.tv/FloridaChessLive.

Here, we have one game submission from one of our players from Round 2 versus Alabama. The game is as simple as a higher rated opponent understanding the long-term nuances more than them. You may find the rest of the games with live commentary at: www.youtube.com/c/PalmBeachChess/videos

[Site "https://lichess.org/oRZ8YJFr"]

[Date "2020.09.18"] Round 2

[White "Faruk Ergin (1992)"]

[Black "NM Bryan Tillis (2274)"]

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 [Czech System]



continues==>

The tournament began September 8, 2020. and Florida's run ended October 20, 2020.

Week 1: 1-point Bye

Week 2: Alabama v Florida, 7.5|8.5, Florida wins.

Week 3: Florida v Virginia, 6.5|9.5, Virginia wins.

Week 4: Florida v Georgia, 3|13, Georgia wins.

Week 5: North Carolina v Florida, 5|11, Florida wins.

Week 6: Florida v North Carolina, 8.5|7.5, Florida wins.

Week 7: Virginia v Florida, 12.5|3.5, Virginia wins.

4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be3 e6
6.Be2 Be7 7.Qd2 O-O
8.O-O d5 9.e5 Nfd7
10. h3



(This position is already practically lost for White, who simply made natural moves).

10. ... Bxf3 11.Bxf3 c5 12.Rfe1 Nc6 13. g3



13. ... cxd4 14. Bxd4 Nxd4 15. Qxd4 Qb6
16. Qxb6 Nxb6



(White has a weakness on e5 and Black has a "Fixed-French" structure).

17. Bg2 Bb4

(White can resign as this move creates an imbalance that makes life overly difficult for the first player).

18. Red1 Bxc3 19. bxc3 Rfc8 20. Rd3 Rc7
21. Rb1 Rac8 22. Rb3 Na4 23. Ra3 b5 24.
Bf1 a6 25. Rd4 Rxc3
26. Rxc3 Rxc3 27. Bd3 g6 28. Kf1 Nc5 29.
Ke2 Nxd3 30. Kd2 Ra3
31. Rxd3 Rxa2 32. Rc3 b4 33. Rb3 a5 34.
Kd3 g5

(Knowing this structure will provide an entry for the King to win the K+P ending).

35. f4 gxf4 36. gxf4 Kg7 37. c3 Ra3 38.
Rxa3 bxa3 39. Kc2 Kg6

40. Kb3 Kf5 41. Kxa3 Kxf4 42. Ka4 Kxe5

43. Kxa5 f5 (0-1).

Monday Night Team Battle

by NM Bryan Tillis

Want to play online but hate the Blitz and Bullet time controls? The Memphis Chess club has invited us (Florida/Palm Beach Chess) to compete in a weekly tournament on lichess.org. The time controls are 10min+5inc with teams all over the globe. COVID19 may have slowed down our over the board play but it will not stop great chess from taking place online. With U1700 and Open sections there are strong games to be found by everyone.

Monday Team Battle	
1	Santa Barbara County Chess Club
2	Memphis Chess Club
3	Alabama
4	Murfreesboro Chess Club
5	Palm Beach Chess
6	Fox Valley Chess Club
7	Xadrez entre amigos BR
8	GFCC
9	Everett Chess Club
10	Team Louisiana

The Usual Suspects

Here is a strong positional example game coming out of the tournament:

NM Graham Horobetz vs. IM Ron Burnett

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O b5 6. Bb3 Be7 7. Re1 O-O 8. c3 d6 9. a4 b4 10. a5 Rb8 11. Bc4 bxc3 12. bxc3 d5 13. exd5 Nxd5 14. Nxe5 Nxe5 15. Rxe5 c6 (Diagram 1)

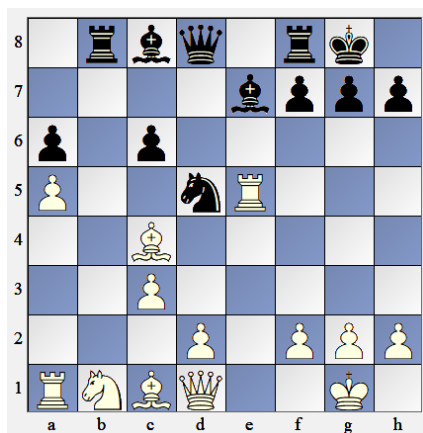


Diagram 1

16. Bxd5 Bd6 17. Re1 cxd5 18. Ba3 Rb5 19. Bxd6 Qxd6 20. d4 Bf5 21. Nd2 Qc7 22. Nb3 Qxc3 23. Nc5 Rxa5 24. Rxa5 Qxa5 25. Re5 Bc2 26. Qe1 Qxe1+ 27. Rxe1 (Diagram 2 reaches a position showing fine technical effort by the IM) 27... a5

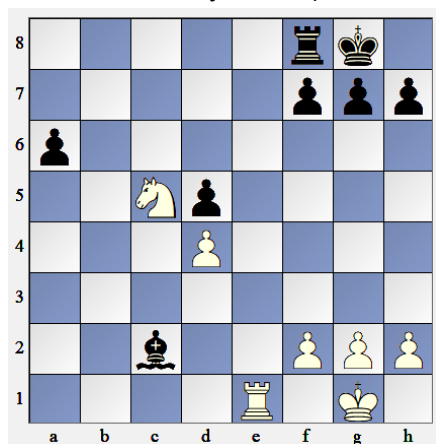


Diagram 2

28. Ra1 Ra8 29. f3 a4 30. Ra3 h5 31. Kf2 Rb8 32. Ra2 Bb3 33. Nxb3 axb3 34. Rb2 Kh7 35. Ke3 Kg6 36. Kd3 Kf5 (Diagram 3) the dust begins to settle reaching a winning Rook and Pawn ending, but how best to convert?

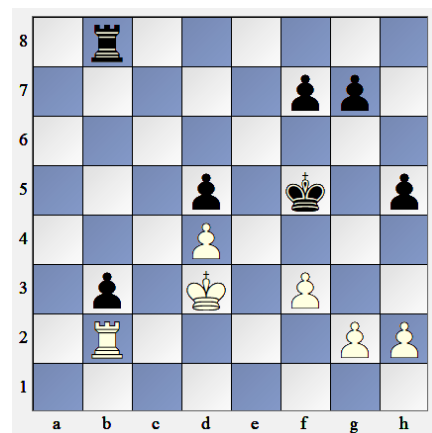


Diagram 3

37. g3 g5 38. Kc3 g4 39. fxg4+ hxg4 40. Rf2+ Kg5 41. Kb2 f5 42. Re2 Rb4 43. Kc3 b2 44. Rxb2 Rxb2 45. Kxb2 f4 (Diagram 4) the key pawn-break leading to the win.

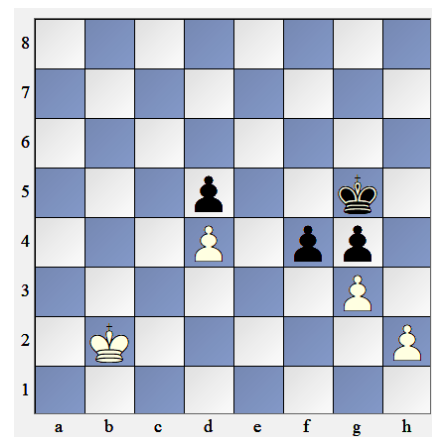


Diagram 4

46. Kc3 f3 47. Kd3 Kf6 48. Ke3 Kf5 49. h4 gxh3 50. Kxf3 Kg5 51. g4 Kh4 52. g5 Kxg5 53. Kg3 Kf5 54. Kxh3 Ke4 55. Kg3 Kxd4 56. Kf2 Kc3 57. Ke1 Kc2 0-1

A well-played game from start to finish.

If you are interested in taking part, email nmbtillis@gmail.com and we will get you involved in this very competitive weekly league.

Do you have a favorite chess book?

by George Foote

Well, its 2021 and the pandemic has been keeping us at home more than normal. It might be a good time to curl up with a good book. When it comes to the subject of chess books, I find myself at the intersection of two of my favorite things. My chess library contains many titles, but my first chess book and still one of my favorites is *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess*. I received it shortly after getting my first chess board at age seven and I still recommend it to players today. Another of my favorites is my 1913 first edition of *The History of Chess* by H.J.R Murray. I enjoy his scholarly approach to the subject and thumbing through the pages of a book that is 108 years old (a sort of time travel). I polled a few chess friends in my region for more opinions on the timely topic.

Coach Joe Whale – So my favorite chess book is kind of hard to choose, I usually prefer tactic books like Polgar's 5000 tactics or something ridiculous like that. But my favorite learning of the game comes down to chess master 3000 pc program, which included educational courses both read and one of which that was read to you by the author. Josh Waitzkin. This program single handedly helped me exceed my dad who never let me beat him. Never. I learned fundamentals in the endgame and pawn structures like pawn islands, space weaknesses, and my favorite quote of the program "look for the space left behind" aka every moves leaves something behind and if you look for it you can find a new weakness in their position. I was even able to create AI players with customized playing styles, I used this to create a player just like my family members to practice.

Advait Nair – My favorite chess book is *Chess Structures A Grandmaster Guide* by Mauricio Flores Rios. It has in depth study of the most important pawn structures in the opening. It also provides many exercises with detailed answers and talks about key positions in openings and what to do in those positions.

Scott Pfeiffer – Currently, a favorite chess book of mine is GM-RAM: *Essential Knowledge* (1998) by International Master Rashid Ziatdinov and Peter Dyson. Both authors were prominent Florida chess players who brought much to the table in terms of over-the-board experience, cumulative chess expertise, coaching skill, and insight. Their book comprises 256 diagrams, more than half of which are "essential" endgame positions (think: Lucena), the remainder a collection of key positions from 'classical' chess games (like Adolph Anderssen's year 1851 "Immortal Game" vs. Lionel Kieseritsky). The reader is exhorted to learn the material 'cold' (by heart). In the case of endings, the outcome of any given diagram, regardless of who's on the move, must be evaluated and the practical technique mastered, while the games, too, are to be reviewed carefully, studied, and ultimately memorized.

What differentiates these 96 pages from other chess books is the fact that evaluations are not given to the endgame positions and there is minimal discussion; neither are the classical games annotated or discussed! As the authors point out, the evaluations to all the diagrams are readily available in many other print sources, tablebases, websites, etc. But, the reader must do the necessary work to understand the material, backwards and forwards, to achieve chess mastery. The fact that the authors have codified key positions and games greatly enhances my learning prospects.

To supplement the study of GM-RAM, I've been examining photos, memorabilia, and anecdotes from 2 other books I am reading concurrently --- *A Picture History of Chess* (edited by Fred Wilson, 1981) and A. Soltis' *The Great Chess Tournaments & Their Stories* (1975). It's been a joy studying chess as of late, discovering more history and anecdotes when I visit chessgames.com to review the classical games in digital format. Tournament cross tables are available, and I especially relish the considerable knowledge and insights within contributors' commentaries.

So, there you have it. Do you have a Favorite Chess Book? If so, please share it with me along with your reason why. Feel free to email me at George@FloridaChess.org and we may publish your response in a future issue! Remember, it can be a non-fiction book that teaches chess skills, an historical account, or even fiction, like the book used as source material for the Netflix series of the same name, *The Queen's Gambit*. Thanks to those that contributed this quarter!



Winning Quickly with 1. b3 and 1... b6 by IM Ilya Odessky is an avid player of both 1. b3 and 1... b6 and probably the best author to teach the ins and outs of these unorthodox openings. My impression after reading this book are that, the move 1.b3 give you a playable middle game in slow time controls, but you can get the upper hand when you are the stronger player or studied the opening deeply. In contrast, the positions out of 1.e4 b6 are dangerous for black against

higher rated, well prepared opponents. Does my previous caveats make 1...b6 unplayable at slow time controls against 2500 USCF rate players? The answer is not. For instance the game Bortnyk, Olexandr (2591) Valido Bouza, Cesar Jose (2212), Florida State Championship 2019 is a good example of a master taking the fight to a 2500 + rated player with good chances to draw after a complex battle.. I analyzed this game extensively in the autumn issue of FloridaChess (page 14) [FCASOct2019_FINAL.pdf](https://www.floridachess.org/FCASOct2019_FINAL.pdf) ([floridachess.org](https://www.floridachess.org)). In summary, **Winning Quickly with 1. b3 and 1... b6** is a road map to an interesting and offbeat paths in chess. The system is playable with white pieces and risky to play with the black pieces.

World Champion Chess for Juniors by GM Joel Benjamin is a book to increase the chess culture of junior chess players. The author brings to the reader's attention the chess legacy of every official world chess champion including Paul Morphy. Joel Benjamin understand how juniors learn and the book is not a heavy read, but a door to future independent study. Benjamin's writing style in **World Champion Chess for Juniors** is engaging, light but not simplistic and definitely will keep a young reader engage and make older readers avid to review their "classics". For example, after reading this book I realized it is time to learn more about the chess legacy of Smyslov and Anand so I asked for a review copy of **Master Class 12 Anand** by ChessBase, and dusted oof my printed copy of Smyslov's best games (My Best Games of Chess 1935- 1957). **World Champion Chess for Juniors** is a great book for chess trainers and parent looking to provide young players with a well-rounded chess education at early stages of their developments.

Master Class 12 Anand is a DVD produced by ChessBase and presented by GMs Pelletier, Marin, Muller and Oliver Reeh and A. Shultz. The authors provide the reader with a one stop source on Anand's chess style, preferences and key contributions to chess. The DVD has practical value to the audience since Anand's repertoire against popular openings such as the Sicilian or 1e4-e5 are

explained. The busy amateur chess player will find **Master Class 12 Anand** a convenient way to learn about Anand in just one week (7 daily sessions of 1 hour). Importantly, each topic in **Master Class 12 Anand** is well presented and researched. The video clips length is just right to keep the audience engage and make every study session a pleasure.

How to Beat Magnus Carlsen. This time, IM Cyrus Lakdawala gets into the thorny path of writing about Magnus Carlsen's mistakes. This type of book is very uncommon and risky since Carlsen is one of the best chess players of all time and readers may consider the book displeasing. In my opinion, Lakdawala's annotations in **How to Beat Magnus Carlsen** help the reader to navigate the openings and middlegames fashionable at the top level. Many amateur follow top chess with their chess engines on, but fail to grasp the practical aspect of playing the practical move instead of the best move. The author explains when a practical move is the right way to go to beat the world champion. Magnus loses rarely and the author illuminates how players have to perform to beat the world champion. It is impressive to see how Carlsen finds resources to give his opponents chances to go wrong. The world number one sets up cunning traps and transitions to technically difficult positions to convert as means to save a game. **How to Beat Magnus Carlsen** is full of good games with clear annotations and a fun book to read.

Keeping in line with the topic of Magnus Carlsen's resourcefulness in desperate/difficult positions we can ask ourselves the following question. What skills do we need to learn play chess in a more resilient fashion as Carlsen does? I think we can follow on Carlsen's footsteps by playing better equal positions and defend better worst positions. My book recommendations to accomplish both goal are **Defend Like Petrossian** and **Playing Equal Positions**.

Defend Like Petrossian by Alexey Bezgodov is a great resource for chess players and trainers. The author explains and illustrates different aspects of defense in the context of the games of the 9th world chess champion, Tigran Petrossian. The author annotates the one hundred and seventy five games with an original blend of good analysis, prose and timing to insert the notes at the relevant point in each game. The reader also has the opportunity to enjoy a few anecdotes related to some of the games in this book. **Defend Like Petrossian** will for sure increase your chess culture and help you play better defense. Scoring half a point can be the difference between success and failure at all levels of chess, so do not underestimate defense in chess.

How to Play Equal Positions by GM Vassilios Kotronias is a chess resourced geared toward intermediate/ advance chess players looking to learn how to think in equal positions. The author explain his proposed thinking method and used high level games to illustrate a series of methods to play equal positions (or near equal position). It is worth to mention that the term equal reflects a human evaluation of "bone dry" equality. In contrast to equal from a

computer perspective, that may include also razor sharp, nerve racking positions. Kotronias proposed thinking method to play equal positions is a key tool to the autodidact chess player.

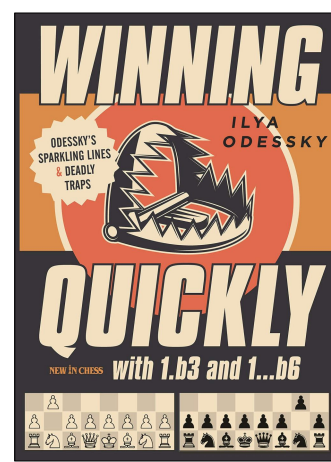
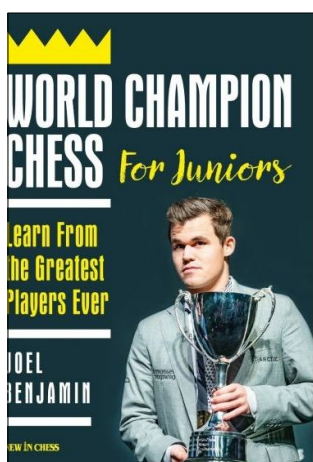
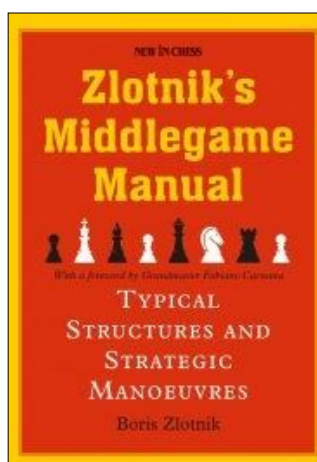
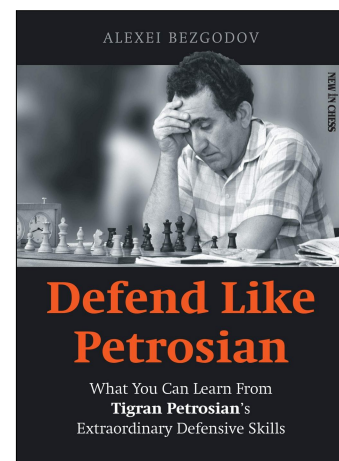
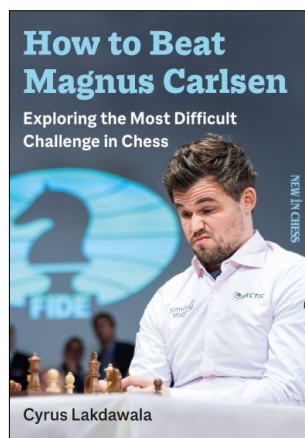
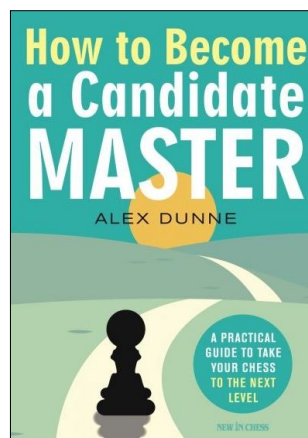
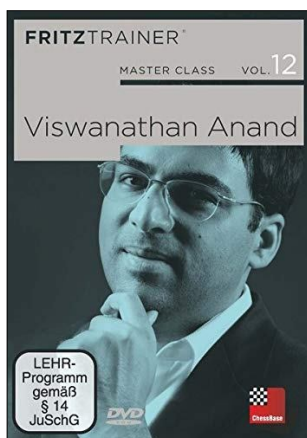
Zlotnik's Middlegame Manual

What is the best way to successfully navigate the resulting middle games out of your favorite openings? Study the typical structures and maneuvers related to your openings. This simple answer is overlooked for many amateurs that focus his study time memorizing the opening moves and lack a grasp of the resulting middle game. To improve your middle game play work on **Zlotnik's Middlegame Manual** by Boris Zlotnik. The author explains in detail how to play middle games with an isolated queen pawn, the Carlsbad structure (Queens Gambit, Caro Kan exchange variation, among others opening), Kings Indian, Sicilian among other openings. **Zlotnik's Middlegame Manual** is the best single volume book on the middle game for the amateur player because it helps the reader to learn practical ideas and the way to think about some particulars mileages. Great book!

The Reti Move by Move by Move IM Sam Collins aims to explore the most recent developments in the Reti, particularly, the move sequence 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 with a t exploration of 2.g3. The material is well researched and clearly explained. Collins make a good effort to help the

reader to sail the myriad of transpositions out of the Reti. To be honest the only way for me to check the material of the book on time for publication of this review was to buy the e version of the book. The pgn version of the book allowed me to use my computer to check some evaluations and critical positions. No major error or omissions were found. The potential buyer may consider the e version option to facilitate absorbing and analyzing the material from the printed version of the **Reti Move by Move**. The work on this book motivated me to use my game annotation column in this magazine to explore the Reti a little further with the collaboration of NM Gaston Andretta a successful Reti player in the Florida chess circuit.

How to Become a Candidate Master by FM Alex Dunne is classic book on solitaire chess. It is well know that playing solitaire chess is a proven method to improve in chess. Especially, when the improving players has few opportunities of over the board play. The key is to work on every one of the fifty two games (at a pace of one game per week, the busy reader can finish this book in one year) game as in a real game and recording the variations you calculate. Many digital resources are available to play solitaire chess, yet a printed copy of **How to Become a Candidate Master** remains a solid resource to improve at chess.



Regional Reports

West News

by Timotey Gospodinov

OTB CHESS IS BACK AT SAINT PETERSBURG!!!

From March to October, we did not have any chess activity at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club, which was closed because of Covid19. We hosted Online chess tournaments during this time of closure for the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. On 10/20/2020 after many emails, my Covid19 protocol plan was approved by management. On 10/30/2020 the city let me to Open the club with 50% capacity. I was surprised how many new people wanted to play OTB chess. We had meetings every Friday from 6:00 pm, and played at the club all night long. For 2 months we had about 20 new members, who paid the chess club membership of \$60 per year. Every Friday night we had 15 or more chess players, and most of them were new members. Some of the players live about 40 miles from the club, so they travel a long way just to play chess for a couple of hours. Now, the Saint Petersburg Chess Club is Open just for members. Anyone can be member of the club. You can pay your membership online at my website - <https://chessclubjoy.webs.com/>, it is \$60 for adults and \$30 for children. Members of the club pay \$5 less for every chess tournament. In addition, we are running OTB chess tournaments two times per month. Our first tournament was on 10/31/2020. Every 1st Saturday of the month we have Regular chess tournament with Over 1000 and Under 1000 sections. Every 3rd Saturday of the month we have Quad tournaments where you play with players close to your rating. Originally, the Quad tournament was not so popular, but now we have more players in our Quad tournaments than in our regular tournaments. The advantage of Quad Tournaments, and why players enjoy them so much, is that players of the same strength and experience are able to compete against each other. In addition, the less experienced players are able to win the same "First Place" prizes as their more experienced, stronger counterparts in Quad I and II. You have an opportunity for your rating to go up much faster!!! We are also running Online chess tournaments with an entry fee and cash prizes once per month. We have a chess tournament at least 3 times per month. For more information you can visit our website, send me an email to timotey_gospodinov@yahoo.com, or call me (727) 776-5583. During our first tournament of 2021, the President of FCA Kevin Pryor visited us, and all of the chess players were so excited. He also became a member of the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. In the end I want to say that chess is so popular in Saint Petersburg right now, and I think that one of the main reasons is the release of the movie "Queens Gambit". Every day I receive many emails from chess players asking me about the tournaments, chess club, or lessons. We all can't wait for this Pandemic to be over, so we can start doing bigger tournaments with full capacity of player in the chess club. See photos from SPCC.

NorthEast Regional Report

by George Foote

While over the board tournaments are still at a minimum in the Northeast, there is still a lot of chess being organized and played in the region. In the extreme northeast is Amelia Island Chess Club, guided by **Thomas Rowan**. The club has adapted to the pandemic constraints and is running strong. They meet outside once a week (Wednesdays at 4pm at **Eagan's Creek Park** in Fernandina). Coach Rowan has launched a YouTube Channel for "green" students (Coach Toms Chess Lessons) and also does some one on one tutoring.

Moving down the region to Jacksonville, standout scholastic player, **Advait Nair**, frustrated by a, pandemic driven, lack of chess competitions has taken matters into his own hands by hosting several online tournaments. Impressive. The **Jacksonville Chess Club** recently partnered with the **Ratliff family's "Chess in the Park"** to run an OTB event on January 16th, getting in some rated games for the first time in a long while. Kudos to the Ratliff family for their efforts to start an outdoor chess group that allows OTB chess in a safer environment. Several of the local coaches and players have gravitated to this program. **Tammy Pedersen**, Teacher of the Gifted for Duval County Schools, has been using ChessKid.com to teach her students and had a student participate in the Worldwide Tournament held this past weekend. JaxCC is also getting ready to run some OTB tournaments with a 20 player cap. Stay tuned.

Chess promoter extraordinaire, **Estelle Thibodeau**, is bringing chess back to the people (in St. Augustine) with her **Cheesy Chess Club**. They play chess every Wednesday at **Borrillos Pizzeria** and Beer & Wine Garden at 6pm (88 San Marco Ave, St. Augustine). Casual chess with cheesy people from all walks of life, all levels of skill and all ages. Don't worry about that guy/gal, that can chew up your pieces blindfolded, they're not likely to be here playing with greasy fingers. We love this approach and applaud Estelle's efforts in this area.

Anthony Cipollina is running the Volusia County Chess Club in Daytona Beach. He has just launched his website, which by his account is a work in progress. To that I say, better to have something than nothing and his Facebook group is looking good as well. It's a real, live, local chess club and a great opportunity to play. Weekly club tournaments start at 7pm on Tuesdays at **GameMasters** (2550 S. Nova Road, South Daytona). They take precautions with masks, sanitizer, and spread out as needed in their meetings.

(Continued on next page.)

There are many more groups and projects going on in my region and I look forward to talking/texting/messaging with them as we all learn how to do chess in what is still pandemic conditions. Thanks to all the clubs that gave updates this quarter. If your club wasn't mentioned here (and there is a good-sized list), please contact me at: george@floridachess.org and let's talk about your program. If there is something the FCA can do to help, please let me know.

NorthWest Regional Report

by Colby Fararro

(1) Pensacola's Chess Club still active, but only meeting up once a week at the local Books-A-Million. Retired US Navy Chess champion and Surgeon Cap. John Perciballi of Pensacola says "Ever since early 2020 we have really only been meeting up at the Books-A-Million on Sunday afternoons." John is a decorated Navy veteran and was selected as captain for the US Navy Team (1998-2004) as well as the US NATO Team in Copenhagen, Denmark (2003).

(2) Tallahassee chess boom under Dr. Chen comes to a screeching halt due to Covid during early 2020. Local in person meet-ups ended in early February and have been replaced by virtual meetings for select students that are interested.

(3) FSU Chess Club resorting to online only meet-ups, limited participation. FSU elects new President Samuel Childers. No in-person meet ups scheduled for the 2021 calendar year.

(4) Attempting to promote chess in the region. It seems everything here is going online for now. Covid is stifling this region and fears still seem to be high among the local chess community (or what's left of it). Scholastic chess is at a stand still here for now. We are in the process of getting a website set up for Panhandle chess and are also in the process of forming a 5 person committee for the NW Florida region.

South Regional Report

by Jon Haskel

Trying to find over-the-board chess during the pandemic?

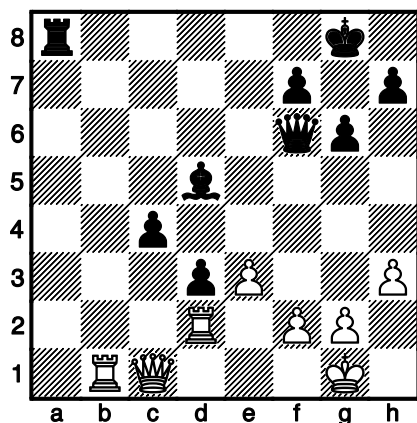
The newly formed **Chess Club Bobby Fischer**, in Miami, has been having in-person meetings and events. You can find out more on this Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MFFerragut.

Also starting up, in Miami, is the **Gambit Chess** organization, www.gambit9.webnode.com. They are running an over-the-board scholastic chess tournament in Miami on February 27.

The **Boca Raton Chess Club**, in anticipation of the end of the pandemic, has already booked a hotel in Coral Springs for the return of the **Annual Turkey Bowl**. The dates are November 12-14. Check-out www.bocachess.com for details.

The Boca Raton Chess Club will also be looking for a new location for the restart of its Friday night tournaments once the pandemic has eased up. In the meantime, the Boca Raton Chess Club will soon start holding online events on Friday nights.

(Anony Mouse game continued from page 26)



35.e4 Be6 36.Rdb2 Kg7

[36...c3 also wins.]

37.Qe3 c3 38.e5 Qd8 39.Rb6 c2

40.Rf1 d2 41.Rd6 d1Q 0-1

For some reason, although Steve has always been higher-rated, I have managed a surprisingly plus score against him. In spite of this, Steve has maintained a Master rating since I first met him some time in the 1980s, and himself has clipped many a titled player.

This game was preceded by a successful Budapest Defense, so Steve chose 2.Nf3 to sidestep that option for Black. Black employs one widely recommended defense — playing for a center break.

Eventually, Black is able to grab space

and create a Pawn-grip, leading to a Botvinnik-type exchange sacrifice to restrain White's pieces further, enabling Black to maneuver his pieces and force the duo through to their destination.

Prophylaxis!

Anony Mous Annotates

Another game from the ages



Anony Mous
our Chess-playing monk

Andrews, Steve
Mous, Anony [A48]
1985

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5

Inviting a Benoni

3.c3

Preferring a Colle structure

3...b6

Keeping the "Drawing Line" of overprotecting the square e4 such that if White breaks with e4, eventually a lot of material gets exchanged and the result is a near dead "tablas".

4.Bf4

London System

4...Bb7 5.e3 d6

Changing tacks. Black is now playing in the center, himself. The double-fianchetto System is a good choice to avoid the main lines in the London.

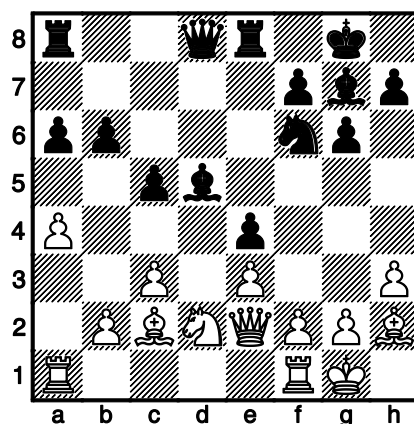
6.h3 g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.a4 a6 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bh2

Playing a "Standard Move", but is it necessary yet? Seems awfully slow... should probably activate the R or Q.

11...Re8

Preparing... e5. Black may already be better.

12.Bd3 e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Qe2 e4 16.Bc2 Bd5?!



I don't like this move. Black clearly has a space advantage, but really lacks a clear follow-up plan. 16. ...Qe7 seems right, getting the Q off the d-file. The best I can imagine for a reason for the text move, is to tempt White to play the weakening 17.c4.

17.Rfd1 Qc8 Planning to increase control of the White squares.

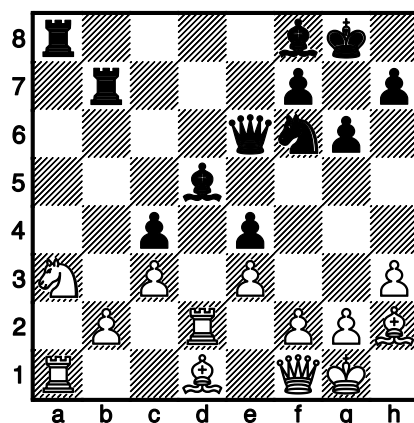
18.Nc4 Qe6 19.Na3 Bf8! White's Bh2 is shut out, so Black reroutes his dark-squared B to where it will support the Q-side pressure.

20.Rd2? b5! Clearance! The P-sacrifice opens up lines for black's Rs & Bs.

21.axb5 axb5 22.Qxb5 Greedy or desperate, hard to tell.

22...Re7! 23.Qf1 [23.Qxc5?? Rb7 Causes indigestion and bleeding! Black breaks through, and the pinned White Na3 is in danger of falling back into the box.]

23...Rb7 24.Bd1 c4!



Thanks to 20.Rd2?, White's pieces operate in harmonious discord... meaning they are all tripping over one another.

25.Be2 Bxa3 26.bxa3 Rb3

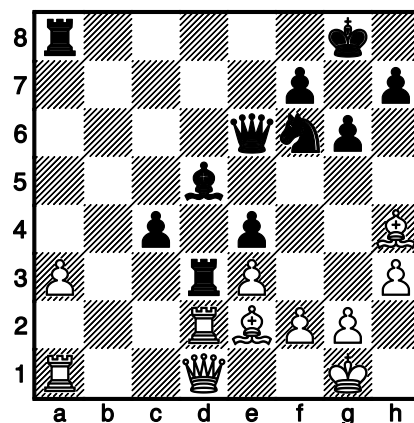
Black regains his P for starters. Of course he recognizes that his N will become far more valuable than either of White's Bs.

The position is already -+.

27.Qc1 Nd7 28.Qd1 Nf6

Black missed this shot, but it doesn't change the evaluation.

29.Bg3 Rxc3! 30.Bh4 Rd3!!



The famous Botvinnik Exchange Sacrifice!

31.Bxd3 exd3 32.Bxf6

Necessary, or Black simply redeploys his N to any number of safe spots on White's Q-side.

32...Qxf6 33.Rb1?

[33.a4? Seems more resilient.]

Technique is still required. Schematic thinking indicates that Black should solidify the dark squares, resist exchanges unless clearly winning, overprotect d3 so c3 can be forced through. First, of course, is King safety to prevent annoying back-rank checks.

33...Rxa3 34.Qc1 Ra8!

(Anony Mous game continued on page 25)

CHESS CALENDAR

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House
6 Perry Lane, FL 32701
harveylerman@brighthouse.com (407)629-6WIN (629-6946)

Date	Event	Location	Contact
2020			
Mar 14-15	Florida State Girl's and Women's Championship **	Franklyn Academy - Boynton Beach	FCA
Mar 27-29	18th annual Southern Class Championships **	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CCA
Apr 24-26	National Jr High School (K-9) Championship **	Hyatt Regency - Jacksonville-Riverfront	USCF
May 1-3	27th Space Coast Open **	International Palms Resort - Cocoa Beach	SCF
Jun 6-7	Florida Royal Chess Tour 2020: Spring Classical	University of Central Florida - Orlando	OCC
Jun 19-21	CFCC 2020 Sunshine Open & Scholastic **	Holiday Inn Resort - Orlando-Lake Buena Vista	CFCC
Jul 24-26	2020 Southern Open **	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CCA
Sep 4-7	Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship **	Days Hotel by Wyndham Celebration-Kissimmee	BRCC
Oct 2-4	CFCC Autumn Open **	Holiday Inn - Lake Buena Vista	CFCC
Oct 10	National Chess Day		USCF
Nov 20-22	19th Annual Turkey Bowl **	Marriott Hotel - Coral Springs	BRCC
Dec 11-13	National Grades K-12 Championships **	Rosen Shingle Creek - Orlando	USCF
2021			
Feb 27-28	U.S. Amateur Team South	(ONLINE EVENT)	Page 28
Sep 4-7	Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship	TBD	TBD
Dec 3-5	National Grades K-12 Championships	Rosen Shingle Creek - Orlando	USCF

** CANCELED

FCA Florida 2020 Affiliates

Alton Academy 4 Chess
Archimedean Middle Conservatory Chess Club
Bortnik's School of Chess LLC
Capablanca Chess Academy
B & B Chess Club
Chess with Cochez
Jacksonville Chess Club
ScholasticChess LLC
CHESS 4 US
Space Coast Chess Foundation, Inc.
SW Florida Chess Club
Boca Raton Chess Club
Florida College Chess Foundation
The Stormont Kings Chess Program
Daytona Beach Chess Club
Florida Scholastic Chess League
Palm Beach Chess
Ocala Chess Club
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind
Chessregister.com
Chess Club Bobby Fischer

Other Contacts

M.DadeColl	(305)237-8901
P.Dyson	(321)452-9863
A.Goldsby	(850)484-7803
J.Haskel	(561)302-4377
M.Hutsko	(305)779-7341
G.Luna	(305)300-2055
C.Stormont	(305)552-1493
T.Washington	(407)721-4262
BAC	BayAreaChess.com

Other Affiliates and Organizations

ACP	: American Chess Promotions	(478)973-9389
BM	: Beatriz Marinello	(917)553 4522
CACC	: Castle Chess Camp	(404)314-3142
CCA	: Continental Chess Association	(914)496-9658
CFCC	: Central Florida Chess Club	(407)629-6946
FSCL	: Florida Scholastic Chess League	(786)444-2467
HCA	: Hanley Chess Academy	(714)925-3195
VILLC	: The Villages Chess	(407)497-2261
KCF	: Kasparov Chess Foundation	(773)844-0701
OCC	: Orlando Chess Club	(407)721-4262
OCG	: Orlando Chess & Game Center	(407)248-0818
SCSC	: Space Coast Scholastic Chess	
SCF	: Space Coast Chess Foundation	(321)431-3060
TCC	: Tallahassee Chess Club	(850)345-7838
USCF	: United States Chess Federation	(800)903-8723

Organizers: Please contact the clearing house when scheduling a tournament.

Florida Chess Association, Inc.
6 Perry Lane
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-7948

2021 U.S. Amateur Team South

February 27 – 28, 2021

US Chess Rated (Online Event)

Event Information: Online via ICC. 6-round Swiss, one section, 4-player teams. Team average under 2200 (US Chess Jan 2021 Rating List). Higher of US Chess Regular or Online Regular rating for each of the four players will be used.

Time Control: Game/60 +10 inc.

Rounds: All times are Central Standard Time. Saturday 10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm; Sunday 10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm

Entry Fees: \$160 per team if received USPS or online by 2/12, \$180 if received USPS or online by 2/19, \$200 online until 2/26 12 noon CST, when entries close.

Prizes:

Winning team qualifies for national playoffs. Prizes to:

- Champion team: Commemorative plaque and commemorative chess clock for each team member.
- 2nd and 3rd Place team members: Commemorative chess clocks and medals.

US Chess Sales Gift Certificates and Commemorative medals for all team members of:

- Top teams U2000, U1800, U1600, U1300, U1100
- Top College team
- Top K-12 team
- Top Mixed Doubles team (2 men and 2 women)
- Top Senior team (all members 50 or over as of the start of the event)
- Top All-Female team
- Top Military team (all members active duty or retired)
- Top Texas Chess Association (TCA) team (Current TCA membership required)

Top Individual score each board.

Prizes will be awarded approximately two weeks after tournament concludes to allow for Fair Play review of results.

Registration: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/usats2021>

Enter by mail: Checks made payable to: Texas Chess Association, and mail to Texas Chess Association, c/o Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Please include team's name and roster (plus ID#), captain's email and phone number.

For additional Information please see tournament website (link above). Questions:

flguadalupe@aol.com **Sign up today! Join us in this exciting National Championship!**

See floridaCHESS.org for a complete list and details of Florida chess events.