

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION





NM Bryan Tillis

What makes him one of the hardest working FCA board members?

See Page 4!

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Florida Champions

StateMykola BortnykScholasticNM Raghav VenkatTop K-8NM Bach NgoTop GirlSisira YerrajennuBlitzAdithya BalaQuickFM Corey AcorSeniorNM Eric CookeTop K-5Brejesh Chakrabarti

FCA Membership Dues

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

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

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Contributing Editors

Colby Fararro, Jon Haskel, George Foote, Timotey Gospodinov, Matthew Kolcz, Paul Leggett, Bryan Tillis, Mike Moschos,

Editor - Harvey Lerman

Assistant Editor - Kevin Pryor Games Editor - Miguel Ararat Book Reviewer - Miguel Ararat Cover Artwork - Roberta Lerman Cover Masthead - Mike Halloran

Software - Microsoft Publisher, ChessBase

Editor Harvey Lerman Speaks



The Pandemic is slowly being defeated, but I am approaching my 84th birthday, though still fighting my "onset dementia".

I haven't played chess for a long time, replacing it with "Empire Deluxe" the greatest war-game ever! I still plan to help out at some up-coming chess tournaments as a Floor-TD and other things. I also have items about myself for "Harvey Plays Chess". Anony Mous is still actively sending me "Games from the ages", and he hopes to be able to

return to Florida in a few more years. I know that many besides myself miss him.

Thanks for all the help you (Kevin) and others like Miguel Ararat, Bryan Tillis, Paul Leggett, Peter Dyson, Jon Haskel, Larry Storch and so many others (It's hard for me to remember names!) have given me over these past many years!

Harvey

Harvey has left a wonderful legacy as the editor for our chess publication for over a quarter of a century. He is in a class with few others in chess history and we are so grateful for his service to us all twenty-eight years. We will continue to keep him involved. This publication will continue, but it will not be the same without his seemingly effortless production and commitment to making it the award winning publication it has been under his watch. Thank you, Harvey for setting an example for all of us.

~The Florida Chess Association board

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from the President's desk

2021 Spring President's Message

Winter has turned to Spring, and more than flowers have started to bloom as OTB chess events are growing too. Last year there were seventy-four (74) OTB events in the seven months after Florida's comparatively brief lockdown. So far, in the four months of 2021, there have been eighty



(80) OTB events in our state, with new locations of Fernandina Beach, Lakeland, Gainesville and Pinecrest added to the cities mentioned in my last address. How many players are going? There have been five OTB events with 40 or more players, and with the mass vaccination efforts allowing most adults to get shots within a day or two, expect those numbers to soar. OTB chess is also springing to life on the national scene, with Continental Chess Association announcing OTB events around the country and the National Open in Las Vegas is on and expected to draw over 300 players. US Chess, however, remains optimistic about the back third of the year for OTB chess, but they canceled more events planned for the early Summer.

As the authorized state affiliate for US Chess, we must identify our state representative for the five national tournaments that require one person from each state, whether online or OTB. As the board of directors, we have continued to push forward with championship events online. Thanks to the efforts of NM Bryan Tillis for organizing those events on LiChess. We have held online events for three of those with just two remaining, the senior (50 yrs.+) and girls (K-12). Still, we are planning to hold our Florida Senior Championship OTB as most seniors who desire the vaccination have received it by now. Therefore, look for more information about us partnering with our FCA affiliate. The Villages Chess Club, in July for the senior event. In addition to the Senior event, we will run our state championship this Labor Day weekend OTB as We hope that our state is our tradition. continues to rebound from the worst year in our lifetimes.

(President's desk continued on page4)

Cover

On The Cover - NM Bryan Tillis by Kevin Pryor, FCA President

I have served with various volunteer organizations over the decades and have seen the many ways members apply themselves to a volunteer role. Rare has it been that I've seen one person care as much about the furthering of a service organization in the way seen with FCA Boardmember Bryan Tillis. His work ethic, dedication and commitment to chess in Florida is the reason why he is on the cover of our newsletter this quarter.

Bryan is hardworking when it comes to the FCA. When others tell you how busy they are, Bryan springs into action and never makes excuses. He delivers. In 2019, Bryan agreed to host the state championship and had everything set, venue prepared, prizes, players registered, and then a hurricane shut it all down. He turned around and redid everything a few weeks later. Many would have quit, thank the people of Florida and especially after refunding over 100 registrations, but Bryan was determined to make the event happen, and he did. So, in essence, he did all that work twice to ensure Florida had its annual championship.

While some volunteers are content to do the same things every year, Bryan finds new ways to bring value to chess in Florida. He partnered with Matt Kolcz to create the Florida Chess Live Twitch stream, where they provide event coverage of tournaments and conduct interviews of chess influencers in our state and beyond. It is a great show and one that separates our state from most in the country. In a similar vein, Bryan's name is called out at the end of each episode of Ben Johnson's globally popular "Perpetual Chess Podcast" as he and his Palm Beach Chess organization is a sponsor of the show. Also, it was Bryan who approached the board wanting to run FCA tournaments online and helped pull us out of the pandemic's shadow and back to crowning champions.

After being appointed by the FCA board to the Vice President position, I asked him to be Events Director, a role that did not formerly exist prior and charged him with creating new statewide events. Bryan began working on our first Women's Championship by personally contacting several titled female players who registered to play in the mid-2020 March event making it one of the most competitive state women's championships in the country, but then COVID shut down the world the day before the tournament. He was also working with the Villages Chess Club to deliver our first Senior Championship that same year and planned to be the Chief TD. This would have allowed our senior-aged board members to play in it instead of working the event, but COVID impacted this event.

Bryan understands the importance of volunteerism and is committed to service. Bryan is a chess professional. He has coached several winning teams at Franklin, works to create content for free and paid Chessable courses, is a paid personal chess coach and author of several books/courses. It is vital to remember chess is part of Bryan's livelihood, and business has been good; however, it is impressive to see someone offer so much of himself as a volunteer to our state. This year alone, Bryan has run three online championship events to qualify Florida players for national championship tournaments, and he will oversee two more before the Summer is done. He has set a high bar for performance and selfless service to all of us. Bryan, Florida salutes you!



(Continued from page 3)

Finally, I was identified by a nominations committee looking for candidates to run for the Executive Board of US Chess and have launched my campaign. I have worked to represent Florida, and the effort has gained national attention. I our board of directors for our collective success over my three years as President. If you are interested in more information about my campaign, see my US Chess candidate website at kp4eb.org.

Stay safe. Take available precautions. Embrace the new normal and go play some chess.

Here's to seeing each of you over the board again in 2021,

Kevin Pryor

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Per our Bylaws, we are requesting FCA members nominate themselves or other current to run for the upcoming elections for the FCA Board of Directors in July. We are always looking for leaders, not just chess players who will make time to further chess in our state. Please email our Election Point of Contact

George@floridachess.org OR go to www.floridachess.org Governance Tab to the Election Headquarter page for details.

The Villages Chess Club

by Mike Moschos

The Villages is centrally located in the state of Florida, spreading into three counties including Sumter (most populated), Lake and Marion. The Villages is approximately 55 miles to downtown Orlando and 28 miles to the Paddock Mall in Ocala.

Harold Schwartz, the founder/developer of The Villages, which was originally named Orange Blossom Gardens, turned a mobile home park in rural Central Florida (Lake County) into an enormous community that is a retiree's dream. The community has seen continuous growth for over 30 years. "Between 2010 and 2017, The Villages was the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States, growing 32.8 percent, from 94,279 in 2010 to 125,165 in 2017. According to U.S. Census data released in March 2018, The Villages was 10th in the annual list of fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the United States." Wikipedia

The Villages is paradise for a retiree from a recreational aspect, with over 650 holes of golf played on 40 Executive Golf Courses (9 holes) and 12 Championship Golf Courses, over 3,000 Clubs/Organizations, numerous sporting activities including bowling, tennis, swimming, softball, pickle ball and the list goes on.

The premiere club is obviously chess in which players get to meet 5 days a week for approximately 3 hours at various beautiful recreational centers. All different "time controls" including Classical, Rapid, Blitz, Bullet, etc. are played.

In addition, USCF rated tournaments are frequently played including 6 one day events and the annual Villages Open on a 2/3-day schedule. In 2020 before COVID-19, The Villages Open attracted more than 95 players.

The Villages chess players consist of beginners to expert players. The typical player has the same sort of story: they learned how to play chess in Elementary School and played through High School. Then after High school, life sent them in many directions for approximately 40 years and they picked up the game again in retirement.

From the months of November through April/May the Villages has an influx of Snowbirds from various geographical locations, which increases the number of players participating in the daily playing. The players enjoy visiting and playing other chess clubs including another retirement community of Solivita which is located just outside Orlando in Kissimmee, FL.

The Villages Chess players are looking forward to playing tournaments OTB with the initial event scheduled for July 9-11.

Contact Information: email <u>TheVillagesChessClub@outlook.com</u> or Mike Moschos at 407-497-2261.

FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS

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

111 3		
Players 18 & Under	Age	Rating
Venkat, Raghav	16	2298
Zhao, Erick	12	2270
Ngo, Bach	13	2222
Chen, Benjamin Lj	17	2192
Hernandez, Ronald	13	2172
Kumar, Naman	14	2157
De La Colina, Nicolas Alejandro	16	2111
Stone, Vincent William	15	2075
Gao, Marvin	13	2066
Yang Jr., Andy	15	2064
Chakrabarti, Brejesh	11	2023
Gospodinov, Antony	14	2010
Shukla, Aniket	13	2008
Lang, Jayden	13	1997
Reddy, Satvik	16	1991
Yisrael, Shama	17	1978
Pothuri, Abhiram Sai	11	1948
Sibbitt, Brandon	17	1947
Starkman, Elliot	18	1947
Eickelman, Connor	18	1940
Shen, Jason(Haohan)	14	1938
Ng, Kelvin	18	1937
Cruz, Jancarlo	17	1930
Bregar, Michael	18	1930
Farragut, Cannon	11	1920
Guan, Michael Xukun	13	1914
Kleidermacher, Justin	18	1902
Yao, Jerry	12	1893
Drum, Robert David	15	1884
Ziegler, Nate	11	1873
Wu, William	12	1854
Sattaru, Sritej Sai	11	1796
Yu, Dylan	11	1763
Yang, Maxwell Z	9	1677
Jiang, Benjamin	11	1632
Roy, Ayush	9	1544
Petrella, Gerard	10	1494
Judy, Jack	9	1212
Datta, Riyaan	9	1181
Kumar, Ishir	8	1157
Cui, Chris	6	1083
Ratliff, Ryan	7	1055
Thomas, Henry	7	942
Shekel Nosatzki, Adam	7	887
Jani, Aakash	6	856

	CHESS	COA	CHES
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<u>Professional - Level V</u> Mark Ritter

National - Level IV Tania Kranich-Ritter Tim Tusing

Advanced - Level III Miguel Ararat

GIRLS U<21		
Tianhui Cindy Jie	20	2014
Shama Yisrael	17	1975
SISIRA S YERRAJENNU	13	1788
Priya Anna Gutta	16	1753
ALICE WU	13	1742
Zoe Zelner	16	1696

SENIORS (65+)
Fabio Larota 70 2279
Stephen Stoyko 72 2241
Constantine Xanthos 73 2200
Sergey Berechenko 74 2200
William Cornwall 76 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 2450

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Associate National TDs Stephen Lampkin

Senior TDs Charles Hatherill Michael Hutsko Kevin Pryor Paul Tomaino Steven Vigil

FIDE ACCEPTED *

International Organizer & Arbiter
Jon Haskel

International Coordinator Elizabeth Tejada

National Arbiter
Harvey Lerman
Stephen Lampkin

National Instructor Miguel Ararat

* Active and USCF certified

OVERALL *

<u>·</u>	VERALL	3-4!
	Active FL Masters with Current I	
	GM OLEXANDR BORTNYK	2665
	IM DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2529
	IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA	2498
	ROBERT M PEREZ	2497
	GM RENIER GONZALEZ	2481
	GM RONALD W HENLEY	2456
	ROBERTO ALVAREZ FERREIRO	2407
	FM NIKHIL KUMAR	2392
	FM MARK RITTER	2341
	FM COREY ACOR	2335
	FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT	2307
	RAGHAV VENKAT	2298
	FM CESAR JOSE VALIDO	2282
	FM DALTON PERRINE	2281
	BRYAN TILLIS	2274
	CM ERICK ZHAO	2270
	DAGOBERTO DIAZ	2268
	TROY E DALY	2267
	CM ANTONIO ARENCIBIA	2261
	FM LUIS BARREDO	2255
	MARTIN HANSEN	2255
	MR. BRITT RYERSON	2241
	MR. NICHOLAS ROSENTHAL	2240
	TODD CHARLES BRYANT	2236
	ROBERT YORISAN RAMIREZ	2228
	BACH NGO	2222
	PEDRO HERNANDEZ-PEREZ	2221
	ERIC COOKE	2217
	RYAN EDWARD HAMLEY	2214
	RAVINDRA WIJESUNDERA	2210
	FM JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	2200
	CARLOS ANDRETTA	2196
	BENJAMIN LJ CHEN	2192
	THEODORE LUKE SLADE	2189
	HAN SCHUT	2187
	RONALD HERNANDEZ	2181
	ABHIMANYU BANERJEE	2180
	YANDRI MORALES	2177
	IBRAHIM SELIM YUKSEL	2175
	ESTEBAN OQUENDO	2172
	MIGUEL RECIO	2171
	MR. JOSE CABRERA	2166
	MICHAEL GIANATASIO	2160
	NAMAN KUMAR	2157
	REYNIER MONTERO	2142
	JOSHUA ALAN HARRISON	2141
	OSCAR LUIS MARQUEZ	2136
	MR. EDUARD ZHAKAMUKHOV	2124
	JUAN C POZA	2123
	LEOVEL BARBON	2121

CORRESPONDENCE

Keith Rodriguez	2346
Dana Sylvander	2164
Paul B. Ott	2112
David Spencer	2014
Allen Jeffrey Woollen	1979

Interview with Chess Author FM Graham Burgess

by FI. Miguel Ararat MS.,MPharm

I am glad to present this interview of FM and chess author Graham Burgess to the FloridaChess readers. Let's start with how I learnt about Burgess's work. At my first Orlando After Memorial chess tournament in Orlando (2006-07) I had a brief talk with LM.Larry Storch at a Burger King before the last round. The conversation was like this:

Larry S: How are you doing in the tournament?

Miguel A: I am holding my ground it is a tough tournament, but at least my last round opponent is not as hard as yours LOL (Storch will face FM Marcel Martinez in the last round)

<u>Larry S</u>: In no time you will be preparing your last round games as I am doing it right now. I am preparing against Marcel's Slav Defense (opens a book on the Slav by Graham Burgess and starts explaining to me his game plan). This casual encounter opens a window on how masters prepared before a game and the type of books and authors they trust (note: When I drew Daniel Ludwig at simul at the University of Florida, he showed me a game collection he was working on and recommended to me, as a tool to improve. The game collection was The World's Greatest Chess Games, Burgess is one of the authors). Since this day I become a fan of Burgess's publication and I had been fortunate to review several of his books over the past years.

1) What can you tell us about you as a person, hobbies and other interests besides chess?

I love to travel, particularly to places way off the beaten track (such as Greenland, Patagonia, Antarctica, Atacama, etc.). In winter I ski as much as possible, and hike when there's no snow. I live in Minnesota, with my wife June, who is a pharmacist, and our two beautiful cats. When at home and not working, I sometimes play computer games, and was a developer of an open-source computer game project. By education I am a mathematician (applied, theoretical physics), and had the honour of attending lectures by Stephen Hawking among others.

2) What is the story of Graham Burgess as a chess player? Highest achievement?

I learned to play some time before my fourth birthday, and Spassky-Fischer in 1972 was one of my earliest coherent memories. However, I didn't join a club until I was nine, and my achievements as a player are rather modest: junior and club championships, and a few regional championships. After university, playing took a back seat to writing, and from 1993 onwards writing took a back seat to editing/publishing, though I have still found time to write a total of 30 books over the last 30 years. Best achievement? Either finishing joint first in an open tournament in France (Val Thorens 1988) with a performance around 2600 FIDE, or setting a world record for marathon blitz in 1994 (510 games, with an 87% score).

3) Why do you like to write books on chess openings?

It's an interesting task, and it's a type of book that is directly useful to readers. As author, you make a plan for the book, but you can never be quite sure where the road will lead, as you'll inevitably uncover both interesting new paths and unexpected problems during the work. The scientist in me finds the search for truth very appealing.

Opening study tends to get maligned ("don't waste time on openings; study tactics/endgames/whatever instead"), but as John Watson has pointed out, there are good reasons why most players ignore this advice (often including those who offer it!). Opening study provides a concrete base and motivation for analysis of many different types of positions, and leads to a better understanding of many middlegame structures – arguably in a more effective way than most attempts to "study the middlegame" on its own. That's as long as people don't just try to memorize sequences of moves, but I don't think anyone does that. You can't help but absorb many ideas when you study openings. And you don't tend to learn false ideas, as you are focused on the objective evaluation at all times.

4) In your opinion what is the ideal repertoire for a club player? Is it different from a player looking to reach expert/master level?

A club player primarily needs a reliable response to everything the opponent is likely to throw at them. Something playable where they won't get slaughtered right from the start. They need to be ready for all sorts of move-orders, and to understand the opening well enough to find something on their own when their opponents deviate at an early move-number. At club level, it's OK to have a narrow repertoire that you know well; variety can be added if necessary when playing at a higher level, or if facing the same opponents repeatedly. So a base repertoire spiced up with a few additional weapons is ideal. At higher levels, a wider repertoire becomes more important, as opponents will more easily find your games and be more likely to prepare before the game with an engine. At any level it is good to have a few lines "of your own" that you really enjoy playing and have confidence in. You don't always want to be following fashion, especially if you're getting out of your depth and having to remember moves that you don't understand. And you should certainly avoid having a lot of dubious lines in your repertoire, as you'll eventually find yourself in a key game having to choose between making something up, or ploughing ahead with a line that you know is objectively bad.

Interview continues on Pg 8

5) What can you tell us about the motivation to write a book repertoire such as An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire?

I have written a number of repertoire books, but this is the first that provides full repertoire for both White and Black in one book. I felt such a book would be very useful for readers, as making everything fit together in terms of move-orders and (as far as possible) thematically is not something authors are normally concerned about when they are only dealing with one section of a repertoire.

I must confess that the book is in part a reaction against the inflation in the size of repertoire books, which I see as self-defeating. The purpose is meant to make the reader's life easier, but you see publishers offering 500-page "repertoire" books covering just one small portion of an opening. So 3,000 pages later you have a full repertoire? It makes no sense. My goal was to keep it so a reader could legitimately read the whole book and remember enough of it to keep the essential variations in their memory, while absorbing enough of the ideas to help them with the concepts they would need when their games left the specific variations behind. With that in mind, I avoided giving excessive detail once a position had been reached where you can "just play chess". While deeper analysis would often have been interesting from an intellectual viewpoint, if you give 20 pages of analysis, readers will naturally assume they need to study those 20 pages and remember a fair amount of it. But that is time they would do better to spend assimilating other parts of the repertoire.

6) What is the philosophy/game plan behind An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire?

The unifying theme is that we are seeking to avoid positions that are overly simplified, highly static, too symmetrical to allow for a full battle, or so sharp and forcing that it becomes a straight shoot-out. In all those cases, the slightest slip, especially as Black, can prove instantly fatal. Or we might have no chance to outplay a weaker opponent. The principal point is that we are human, and we sometimes go wrong. That's what I mean by "idiot-proofing" the repertoire. It is designed to be forgiving of slip-ups and memory lapses. If we don't find or remember the right move, the outcome might be a disadvantage, but not an instant loss, and there will still be scope for the opponent to let us back into the game. Strategically, with Black I was seeking openings without too many open lines, but non-symmetrical and not totally blocked either. So an asymmetrical exchange of one pair of pawns was what I was seeking. I found this in an acceptable form in the Scandinavian (with 3...Qd6) and the QGA/Slav hybrid 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 c6. Obviously the first task was to check that these lines held up objectively, and then I could build the rest of the repertoire around them. In the 1 Nf3 and 1 d4 lines with a delayed c4, the natural complement was to choose lines where we meet cxd5 asymmetrically with ...exd5 (but actively deploying the queen's bishop before playing ...e6). This required some tactical ingenuity here and there, but I believe it all works well. One line that threatened to derail this approach was 1 Nf3 d5 2 c4, since neither 2...dxc4 nor 2...c6 is compatible with the rest of the repertoire. However, I was delighted to discover that 2...d4 has been infused with dynamic and aggressive ideas for Black. I'd almost give 2 c4 a dubious marking in fact, and I think readers should score excellently with the ideas presented there, and have a lot of fun with them too.

7) What level of chess player is the target audience for An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire? Why?

The main target audience is club-level players. It has to be, since that is the bulk of the chess-book buying public! However, I believe the repertoire is playable up to a very high level indeed. Though as I mentioned earlier, it should then be used as part of a broader repertoire, so opponents won't be able to focus all their preparation on a single line that they know you will play.

8) To what degree is An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire influenced by the latest chess engines?

I believe that as an author (and publisher!) you have an obligation to use the best tools at your disposal, so engines are very important. When training, it may make sense to set the engine aside, but readers have a right to expect that everything presented to them has, one way or another, been scrupulously checked, and that engine-inspired ideas have been fully incorporated.

On the other hand, the human author must take full responsibility for the lines offered, so the engines must always stay as a tool. This can feel a little awkward when the "tool" is 1000 points higher rated than the writer, but a book is essentially a communication between two humans, so you should never present material that you haven't understood yourself.

My standard modus operandi when working in ChessBase was to have windows open for the online database, local database search and the development versions of the two top engines (Stockfish and Lc0). That's a lot at your fingertips! And they are constantly offering up interesting ideas. But I would always bear the readers in mind, and try only to write what would be useful and comprehensible to them. Once the material was complete, it was put through another comprehensive blunder-check, so the engine works back from the end of each variation, with every assessment standing on the shoulders of ones from a later point, leading to enormous effective search depths. Very few significant analytical errors will survive that level of checking.

9) What were the criteria to select the opening choices in An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire?

I have already described the selection of most of the repertoire for Black. As White, the English was an easy choice. It can almost be played using common sense alone, yet is logical and strategically ambitious. Given the choice of the Symmetrical English as Black, this allowed for a lot of transplantation of ideas that can be used with both colors. (Don't

worry; we break the symmetry early on, and the line in the book where Black copies our moves exactly ends with him losing a whole piece!) Some care was needed with move-orders to avoid being forced to transpose to main-line 1.d4 openings, but I believe the repertoire has some real bite while staying within Flank Opening territory.

10) What are the strong points of An Idiot-Proof Chess Opening Repertoire?

The almost unique feature of the book is that it is a complete repertoire for White and Black in one volume. The key points can be assimilated quickly, so club-level readers will be ready to start playing the repertoire almost immediately. More details from the book can (and should) be fleshed in fairly soon, of course. Readers should study the introduction carefully and the next things to learn are the most critical lines of the Scandinavian (especially what to do after 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 c6 6 Ne5 Nbd7 7 f4), and to understand how Black handles the inevitable attack on his bishop in the lines following 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 c6 4 e3 Be6 (if reading on Gambit's Chess Studio app, I recommend doing a text search for "Ng5" to find each instance!).

11) Anything you want to add about the book or any other subject.

Thanks for reading! Please do check out Chess Studio, as it makes it much easier to play through the moves. This reader app is for Android and Apple, but runs well on a PC under an Android emulator too. Also take a look at Gambit's new YouTube channel, which includes John Nunn talking about the book's coverage of 1 Nf3 d5 2 c4 d4 3 b4 g5!?. If you would like to read an extended sample of the book, then Amazon has a free sample ("Look inside") – the fact that it ends just before that critical Scandinavian line I mentioned above is pure coincidence, by the way. Beyond that, please look after each other in these difficult times.

Congratulations Florida State Champions!



Online Invitational Championship Results

The tournament decided our representatives for the National Tournament of Champions events hosted by the United States Chess Federation:

Denker Tournament of High School Champions: Raghav Venkat

Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions: Bach Ngo

Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary Champions: Brejesh Chakrabarti

Haring Tournament of Girls Champions: Sisira Yerrajennu

2021 Florida Senior Open Championship

July 9-11, 2021

Over the Board USCF Rated Chess Tournament at Laurel Manor Recreation Center, The Villages, FL 32162 Tel: 352-751-7110

Registration is open to all aged **50+** that have **current USCF & FCA memberships**.

Winner or top finishing player will be Florida's representative to the:

National Tournament of Senior Champions

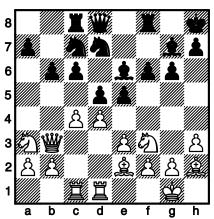
More tournament information can be found on registration page, register here: Senior



Bach, Ngo (2222) Erick, Zhao (2270) [D00]

Florida State Scholastic Invitational C (2), 18.04.2021 [Ararat, Miguel]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 [3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 The dangerous Gruenfeld Defense. (4...d6 5.e4 0-0 Kings Indian Defense.)] 3...d5 4.Bf4 A popular choice at high levels of chess. L. Aronian likes this method to face the Indian defenses especially at critical games against 2700+ opposition. It is worth to study Aronian games if you are interested in this opening. 4...Bg7 5.Nb5 Na6 6.e3 0-0 [6...c6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bxa6 bxa6 9.h3 Nd7 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Na4 Rc8 12.b4 1-0 (50) Aronian,L (2797)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2793) Caleta 2018] 7.h3 Bf5 [7...c6 8.Nc3 Nc7 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Bh2 c5 12.a4 with a different type of middlegame.1-0 (78) Aronian,L (2802) -Vachier Lagrave, M (2804) Tbilisi 2017] 8.c3 c6 9.Na3 Nc7 10.Be2 Nd7 [10...Be4 11.0-0 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nd7 13.e4 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.exd5 cxd5 1-0 (31) Rapport,R (2735)-Shankland,S (2731)Saint Louis 2019] 11.0-0 f6 [Black may consider to play e5 without f6 with a complex position. 11...e5 12.dxe5 Re8 13.Nd41 **12.c4 e5 13.Bh2 Be6 14.Qb3 b6** [14...Qc8 This a popular response in the Slav to Qb3 that works in this position.] 15.Rac1 Kh8 16.Rfd1 Rc8



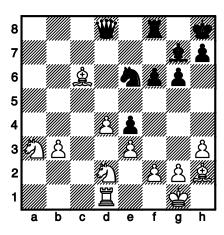
gaze of both the rook on c1 and the bishop on h2. 16...Rc8 does not look instructive material for the improving as a mistake when you go over this amateur player. I will give my objective game without a computer assistance. evaluation of the position first and then [16...e4 17.Nd2 Rc8] 17.Qa4 dxc4 make a personal evaluation of the 18.Qxc6 Bd5 19.Qa4 It seems that it is position. Both kings are safe, white has the same to play Qd6 and the Qa4, but two passed pawns and the material Qd6 lures the Bg7 away from the e5 balance is about equal. Yet White's square. Maybe this nuance can be bishop pair and passed pawns control analyzed at home but, over the board it a lot of squares. white because increase to 21.Nd2

[21.Bxc4 exf3 (21...Bxc4 22.Nxc4 exf3 32.b4 Nd5 Black blocks white's central 23.Nd6) 22.Bxc7 Rxc7 23.Bxd5 fxq21 pass pawn with the knight at the same 21...b5 22.Qa5 Nb8 23.b3 Nc6 time that supports the f5-f4 pawn 24.Qb6 cxb3 25.axb3

[25.Nxb3 f5 (25...Ne6 26.Qxa6 Ra8 27.Qxb5 Black has no access to the a5 square with a white knight on b3. 27...Ra5 28.Nxa5) 27.Qxc6]

25...Ne6 26.Qxa6 Ra8 27.Qxb5 [27.Rxc6 Rxa6 28.Rxa6 f5 29.Nxb5 pawns for the queen.1

27...Ra5 28.Rxc6 Rxb5 29.Bxb5 Bxc6 30.Bxc6

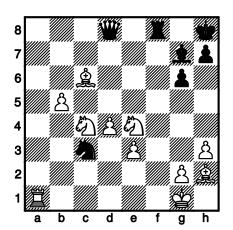


The computer labels this move as a The game takes a turn and it is time to mistake, yet it is difficult for a human evaluate the position and determine not to defend the knight on c7 from the what Ngo and Zhao should aim for.

This game provides plenty of

is hard to find nuances when your The personal evaluation is that this queen may be trapped. [19.Qd6 Rf7 position favors white because Bach's 20.Qb4 Bf8 21.Qa4] 19...a6 [19...b5!? coach (and my previous coach, Lars 20.Nxb5 Bc6] 20.Qb4 e4!? A move Bo Hansen) know the ins and out of that sets up practical problems for the imbalance queen versus two minor his pieces. Lars developed a series of advantage white needs to take risks training positions and model games (see the couple of variations below) that allows his students to play with and compromise his king after exf3. two minor pieces against a queen without fear. 30...f5 31.Nac4 Nc7 break. 33.b5 Nc3 34.Ra1 f4!? Black sacrifices a pawn to activate his rook. **35.Nxe4** [35.b6 This is the chess engine Fat-Fritz-2 recommendation. 26.Rxc6 Bxc6 The idea is to blockade the white passed pawns and break connection between the strong bishop on h2 and the promoting square b8. As White gets rook, minor piece and two the game shows, Erick plays to activate his pieces instead of setting up a blockade. 35...Qc8 36.Na5 Qd8 37.b7 Qb6] **35...fxe3**□ Bach finds the only move in the position, keeps his

position together and avoids the complications. Now is Erick's turn to find the only move to keep the balance in the position, [35...Bxd4 is a thematic move in the Indian defenses (Benoni, Benko and KID) with a bishop on q7 and targets on the long diagonal and f2. 36.Ra8 (36.exd4? Qxd4 37.Nxc3 Qxc3 38.Rd1 Qxc4 Wins material for Black.) 36...Qxa8 37.Bxa8 Rxa8=] 36.fxe3

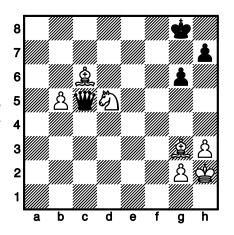


[36.Nxc3 exf2+ 37.Kf1 Qxd4 38.Rc1 Qxc4+ Black gets material back and a dangerous pawn on f2.] 36...Bxd4 [36...Nxe4 37.Bxe4 Qh4 38.Bd5 Bxd4 This is a better version of the main because the combined threads on the back rank and the dark squares. For example, the natural Rf1 aiming for simplification runs into problems. 39.Rf1 Rxf1+ 40.Kxf1 Bc3] 37.exd4 Qxd4+ 38.Kh1 Qxc4 **39.Be5+** Erick missed this intermediate check and White can take on c3. It is time to evaluate the position again after this radical turn of events in the 2020)] 9.e5 [9.Qe2 b5 (Comes from a game. 39...Kq8 40.Nxc3 Rf1+ 41.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 42.Kh2 Qf2 43.Nd5 Qc5

See diagram on next page.

44.Ba3

[44.b6 The passer runs free since the light square bishop is indirectly defended by a knight fork. 44...Qxc6 45.Ne7+ Kf7 46.Nxc6] **44...Kf7 45.Nc7** Kf6 46.Ne8+ Kf5 Black tries to bring achieve a draw. For example, Nikkitinhis king closer to white counterpart and Lemke, 1995, quoted below. [10...b5 counterplay. 47.Bd6 create **48.Bc7** Now the bath for the b pawn is 14.h4 h6 15.c3 b4 16.c4 Nb6 17.Rad1 control by the white bishops. 48...Qc5 Rc7 18.Ng4 Qf8 19.Qe3 Nd4 0-1 (44) 49.Nd6+ Ke6 50.Nb7 Qc4 51.Nd8+ Svidler,P (2760) -Kramnik,V (2800) Kt5 52..b6 The b-pawn is unstoppable Moscow 2018] 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Bh3 and White wins.



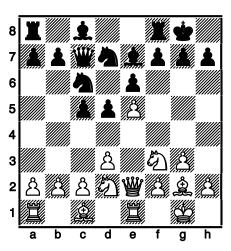
1-0

Brejesh, Chakrabarti Cannon, Farragut [C00]

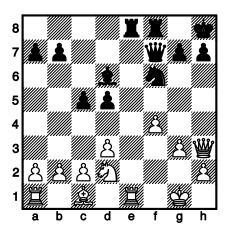
Florida State Scholastic Invitational C (1), 18,04,2021 [Ararat, Miguel]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.d3 c5 6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.e4 White cuts down on opening theory by using the Kings Indian Attack (KIA). You can get this position out of different openings, such as the Sicilian or the French. 7...0 -0 You can also play the KIA if you play the Kings Indian defense as Black as GM Amin does (one of the strongest chess players in Africa) 8.Re1 Qc7 [8...h6 9.c3 b5 This an alternative option that comes from a Sicilian defense. Game was won by Nakamura, H (2736) against Giri, A (2764) in 55 moves (chess24.com INT French)1-0 (50) Nisipeanu,L (2687)-Ragger,M (2700) Austria 2016 10.Nf1 dxe4 1-0 (36) Amin,B (2686)-Studer,N (2573) Karlsruhe 2020] 9...Nd7 10.Qe2

See diagram on next page 10...f6 This is no a bad plan if Black is eager to get a draw. Black may suffer a little, but with error-free play can Qd4 11.Nf1 Bb7 12.Bf4 Rfc8 13.Ne3 Qd8 e5 13.Bxc8 Raxc8 [13...Qxc8 14.Nxe5

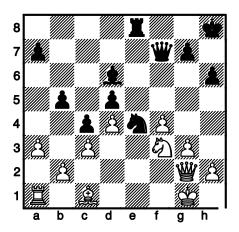


Nd4 15.Qd1 Bd6 16.c3 Nc6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.f4 Qh3 19.Nf3 h6 20.Bd2 Rab8 21.b3 g5 22.Qe2 Rbe8 23.Qg2 Qxg2+ 24.Kxg2 gxf4 25.gxf4 Nh5 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Ne5 1/2-1/2 (27) Nikitin, V (2490)-Lemke, H (2500) ICCF corr 1995] 14.Nxe5 Nxe5?! [14...Nd4 Black needs to know this move if he plays 10...f6] 15.Qxe5 Bd6 16.Qe6+?! White has the advantage, but needs his gueen on a dominant position and the check on e6 is his ace under the sleeve, see the variations below. [16.Qf5 Ne4 (16...Qc6 17.Nf3 Ne4 18.Qe6+) 17.Qxd5+] 16...Kh8 17.Qh3 Qf7 18.f4 Rce8



Black's forces are fully mobilize and he has compensation for the material deficit. 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Nf3 c4 An instructive moment in the game. White has the opportunity to change the pawn structure to increase the range of his dark square bishop and deny access to the black knight to the e4 square. [20...Re2] 21.d4 [21.Bd2 cxd3

22.cxd3 h6 23.Bc3] 21...Ne4 [21...Re2 Chessbase DVD How to Exchange white scores well recently. The second are more active and the second player years position is the black knight on e4 that paehtz the right exchange) 1-0 and supports Rf2 preventing the king or the queen to Raghav, Venkat (2305) come to f1 (white loses the f3 knight to a double attack)] 22.c3 b5 23.a3 h6= 24.Qg2



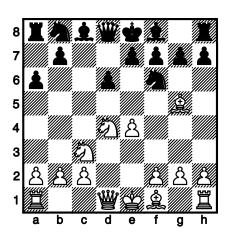
Black reached a solid position, so solid that he can hold even posing the move to white with a king move. 24...Qe7 [24...Kg8 25.Ne5 Qh5 26.Be3 a5] 25.Bd2 White sets up a positional trap. 25...Nxd2? Blacks surrenders his best minor piece (the "glue' keeping his position together) and opens the e-file. White can use the open e-file to exchange pieces and convert his extra pawn. 26.Qxd2 From this point white converts his advantage flawlessly. After the exchange of major pieces his pawns contain the black bishop and the knight will manuvre un opposed. 26...Qf6 27.Re1 Qq6 28.Rxe8+ Qxe8 29.Kf2 Qe4 30.Qe2 Qxe2+ 31.Kxe2 32.Ne5 Bxe5? The pawn endgame is lost and this transition do not favor black. 33.dxe5 Kq6 34.Ke3 Kf5 35.Kd4 Ke6 36.g4 g6 37.h3 h5 38.f5+ gxf5 39.gxf5+ Kxf5 40.Kxd5 a5 41.e6 Kf6 42.Kd6 a4 43.e7 Kg7 44.e8Q Kh7 45.Qxh5+ Kg7 46.Ke7 Kg8 47.Qg5+ Kh7 48.Kf7 b4 49.Qg7# A good fight with an important lesson to the amateur chess player. As you move up to face experts and master the importance of piece exchanges becomes a critical element to success over the board (interested readers may want to check out Elisabeth Pähtz's

back

Ben.Chen (2192) [B94]

Florida State Scholastic Invitational C, 18.04.2021 [Ararat, Miguel]

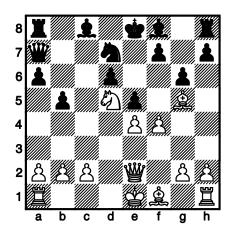
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 The following game is a clear example of why the Sicilian is such a complex and dangerous opening for both colors. Passive or reckless plays are equally punish. A sophisticated mix of active and prophylactic thinking is required to navigate the Sicilian maze successfully. The statements above supports the statement that the Sicilian defense is not a good choice for inexperience players. Especially, because the Sicilian can not be played with rules of "thumb" such as develop all your pieces, do not make too many pawn moves in the opening and castle early. A good deal of tactical and strategical skill are required in addition to fine sense for concrete play and prophylaxis. 4...Nf6 5.Nc3 [5.f3 is possible approach to face the Sicilian. White aims for a strong center with c2c4 and take the game away from decades of chess theory. A recent repertoire book around the 5.f3 ideas is Beating the Sicilian main lines by FM Jonas Hacker.] 5...a6 6.Bq5



Black is now at crossroads. The tested 6...e6 is heavily analyzed and exploit white weakness. In contrast, a

22.Bd2 Ne4 23.Rd1 h6 Black's pieces Pieces, reviewed by me a couple of option in this position is 6...Nbd7, a https://shop. modern approach that gives black the is at least equal. The key in this chessbase.com/en/products/ chance to pose practical problems to white early in the game. The last alternative is very popular and the Carlsen - Svidler game in biel 2018 is a good model game to study. 6...Nbd7 7.f4 [7.Qe2 h6 8.Bh4 g6 9.f4 Qc7 10.0-0-0 Bg7 11.g4 e5 12.fxe5 Nxe5 13.h3 Be6 14.Qf2 Nfd7 15.Bb5 0-0 16.Bxd7 gxf5 17.Nf5 18.gxf5 Qxd7 19.Rhq1 Bh8 20.Bq3 Rac8 21.Bf4 Qe7 22.fxe6 fxe6 23.Qq3 Rq8 24.Qf2 Rqf8 25.Qg3 Rg8 26.Qf2 Rgf8 1/2-1/2 (26) Carlsen,M (2842)-Svidler,P (2753) Biel 2018 CBM 186 [Ftacnik,L]] 7...Qc7 [#] White has several options such are the preventive 8.a3 and Qf3,Be2 and Qe2. The last three alternatives involve a light square strategy with different roles for the white queen and light square bishop respectively. The idea of the first two moves is to put pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal to fight against black expansion with b5 (a white piece will eye the black rook on 8.Qe2 fights against black expansion with a different method (pressure on both, the f1-a6 and d1-h5 diagonals with the queen) as this games shows. 8.Qe2!? Venkat deviates from 9.a3 and shows good preparation as the game unfolds. [8.a3; 8.Qf3; 8.Be2] 8...e5 9.Nf5 g6?! Black wants to remove the white knight from f5 to prevent Nxg7 (a threat that is common in these type of positions), but 9...g6 helps white to move the knight to the ideal e3 square. A white knight on e3 cements white's control of the d5 square and creates a light square bind. [9...h6 A move that keeps a dynamic balance in a complex position, but does not guarantee a safe path for the second player. 10.Bxf6 Nxf6 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.0-0-0 Bb4 13.Nxg7+ Kf8 14.Qf3 Qc6 15.Nd5 Kxg7 0-1 (52) Yu,Y (2646)-Le,Q (2717) Qinhuangdao 2011] 10.Ne3 The Sicilian defense is a difficult opening to face because it demands. both, tactical and positional skills. If the player with the white pieces is a tactical wizard, but lacks positional understanding, black steer the game to

positional oriented player will falter 13.a4 against the Sicilian when concrete A thematic move in the Ruy Lopez to shows white players should not avoid action and risk as the only way to play fight against black pawns on a6 and the Open Sicilian and actually use it as for a win 10...b5?! Black starts active b5. Black lacks control on both, black, an effective way to put black's opening actions against the e4 pawn with a and light squares. For example, the to the test. Usually, a miniature in flank pawn. The push b7-b5 prepares white knight on the d5 outpost chess is decided with forcing lines and Bb7 and b4, both moves target the threatens a fork on c7 (rook and king) visually pleasant sacrifices. In this white pawn on e4. Chen plays the if the Black queen starts active play game Venkat showed excellent preventive measures. In most cases, dxe5 14.Qf3 As mention in the notes to between active play and preventive active play forces lower rated players move into defensive move and black can counterplay on the queenside as Bb7 vision to play on both flanks with both rack points easily. However, against allows a checkmate in one with Nc7 tactical and positional blows. Chen strong opposition a more balanced and post his queen on an active played this game in the spirit of the approach may give black better square. Venkat choice in the game is Sicilian, with active play and the results. **11.Ned5** White moves the not the best and underline how difficult outcome of the game is also part of the same knight three times in a row and these Sicilian positions are to white nature of the opening. Looking forward double attacks the black gueen and and the knight on f6 to answer the the 15.Nc7#) 13...Bg7 Chen prepares 0-0 the Sicilian brings home the point. 1-0 threat b5-b4. 11...Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qa7

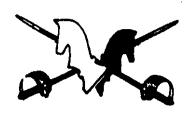


actively and disregards away from her position. [13.f5; 13.fxe5 theoretical preparation, a good balance white hinders 8. and aims a the white pawn on b2. 14.axb5

> Venkat exploits the pin along to win material and create a powerful passer in the process. 14...a5 15.f5 White plays on both flanks and creates direct threats around f5-f6 advance. First, white uses 15.f5 to stop 0-0 (f6 wins the black bishop on g7) and also prevents f7-f6 since that opens up a path for the white gueen to the black king (Qh5 will highlight white's total control of the board.

> 15...gxf5 16.exf5 Black is unable to defend the a5 pawn and the knight fork on c7 since Qc5 or Qb7 run into Qc4.

Also 16...h6 allows f5-f6. This game black measures and overall good board black. 14...Bg7 (14...Bb7?? to annotate one Chen's games when





2021 Florida State Rapid Championship (Online)

by Bryan Tillis

The second FCA state championship event of the COVID19 pandemic continued to surpass expectations with 50 players competing. We had another clean event with no fair play violations after the investigation from the organizer and lichess.org. It is always fantastic when a plan comes together!



Open

Champions - Aniket Shukla and Corey Acor - Florida State Rapid Co-Champions Top U2000 & U1800/Unr - Tyler Von Lindenberg, Grayson Cooke, Paul Leggett

U1600

1st Agrim Kumar 2nd Carlos Rodriguez Top U1400: Soham Patel Top U1200: Cole Holloway

Scholastic:

1st Daniel Fellerhoff 2nd Cameron Foles Top U750: Christian Frenett

A critical game from one of our Co-Champions:

Tony Burrus: Swordoftheword16 (2361) -Aniket Shukla: farpecan328 (2218)

Rated Rapid game lichess.org, 02/27/2021

The move that I consider best piece!] in this position following

analysis Master from the Defense French on Chessable.com (Diagram 1)



7. Bxe7 Qxe7 8. Nb5 A rare sideline that Black needs to know a bit about to play this line. 8... Nb6 9. a4 a6 10. a5 Nc4

[10... axb5 11. axb6 Rxa1 12. Qxa1 c6 13. Qa8 Qb4+ 14. c3 Qxb2 With a draw as a likely result. If White decides to grab the b8-Knight he could find himself lost immediately after... 15. Qxb8 Qxc3+ 16. Ke2 O-O 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. 17. Qd6 Qxd4 Black is simply Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. h4 h6 getting too many pawns for the

11. Bxc4 dxc4 12. Nc3 Nc6

Black has equalized in the critical game (Diagram 2).



13. Ra4 O-O

[13... Nb4 Comes as a strong consideration.1

14. Nf3 Rd8 15. O-O Qd7

The pressure is mounting in the center. 16. Qe2 b5 17. axb6 cxb6 18. Rxc4 a5 19. Na4 Rb8 [19... b5 Is premature resulting in 20. Nb61

20. Qe4 Nb4

A difficult position for White in the rapid time control.

21. b3

[21, Ra1 Bb7 22, Qe2 Bd5 Black has some edge here as White's pieces are awkward. It was important to get away from the potential skewer threat.]



21... Ba6

After Black wins the exchange he never relinquishes control. 22. Nb2 Bxc4 23. Nxc4 Qd5 24. Qe2 Qc6 25, c3 Nd5 26, Rc1 Ra8 27. Nd6 Nxc3 28. Qd3 Ne2+ 29. Qxe2 Qxc1+ 30. Kh2 Qc6 31. Qe3 Rxd6 32. exd6 Qxd6+ 33. g3 b5 34. Ne5 a4 Where Black went on to win cleanly with the outside passed pawn. **0-1**

Regional Reports

Chess for Charity. by George Foote, Northeast Regional VP

The Northeast Florida Region is continuing to unpack the mothballs from the dormancy that was 2020. The big story in this part of the state continues to be **Ray Ratliff** of Jacksonville and his "**Chess for Charity**." I spoke with Ray to get more information about this growing success.

Here are photos from the region. See full story on page 16.



Central Region by Paul Leggett

The Central Florida Chess Club has been holding regular online guick chess tournaments on Chess.com. They have been wellattended, and the cash prizes have attracted some strong international players (living here or abroad). The rules for playing in the CFCC events need to be known before registering, so I am including them here in the hopes that it saves both new players and the Club some unnecessary work later on: "NOT SURE HOW TO JOIN OR PLAY? Learn more about our chess.com Online Prize Tournaments or check out our 3 easy steps to make sure you're ready to play! TD's NOTES: REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO WIN PRIZES In our continued effort to eliminate online players who are violating chess.com fair-play rules by "using alternate chess.com accounts to hide their identity

and/or using chess engines to assist them in making their moves" the club is now requiring online players to abide by the following 2 rules in order to be eligible to win prizes in our Saturday Rapid tournament events: Players must complete our online registration in order to be eligible to win cash prizes in our Saturday Rapid tournaments hosted on chess.com (>Live Chess>Tournaments Tab) exactly at 2pm (EST). The chess.com account you use to play in our prize tournaments must display your real first and last name on your profile before the tournament begins and it must match your player registration information, otherwise you will not be eligible to win cash prizes in our Saturday Rapid tournaments."

West Regional News

by Timotey Gospodinov W RVP WEST FLORIDA CHESS IS ALIVE!

This year we continued to run only OTB tournaments at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. We are running two kinds of tournaments. Every 1st Saturday of the month we have regular tournaments and every 2nd or 3rd Saturday we have Quad tournaments. Sometimes we have an extra tournament in case some people want to play more chess. Some very strong players from other States have moved to Saint Petersburg to have a chance to play real chess, because many clubs in the USA are still not doing OTB tournaments. National Master Gunnar Andersen moved to live in Saint Petersburg so he could play more chess. So far, he has won all his tournaments played at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. Grandmaster Bryan Smith with a rating of over 2500 moved to live in St. Petersburg as well. Bryan analyzed all his games he played at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. If you want to take a look at his games you can visit our Facebook page SAINT **PETERSBURG** CHESS **TOURNAMENTS -**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/385692191510406.

Five people from the FCA board have played in our tournaments so far. Thanks to Kevin Pryor, Paul Leggett, Jon Haskel, and Colby Ferraro who visited the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. Beginning February, we started doing group chess lessons at the club every Sunday at 2:00 pm. So far, we have a huge interest. Chess Club Joy continues to do online chess lessons. You can visit our website for more information- https://chessclubjoy.webs.com/

Sarasota is becoming a hot spot for chess in Florida. Recently established is the **Manasota Chess Center**, a brick and mortar chess club located at the *Crossings at Siesta Key*. It provides a venue for all players by offering chess tournaments, scholastic programs, casual play, and lectures by titled players. Founded by Nicholas Lewis and Daniel Hersey in January 2021, its grand opening is Sunday, June 6th. The **Manasota Chess Center** is passionate about chess in the community, and it looks forward to helping grow chess collectively in Florida.

Here is what **Krista Alton** said about chess in Tampa: "Covid has been hard on all of us, but we have struggled back. Since last May we started 3 Zoom chess classes for Beginners, Intermediates, and Intermediate/Advance players. We also teach 17 students online through private lessons. We are slowly adding more in-person events. This Summer we are offering 5 Chess Camps, which are filling up and one is already closed. We started doing small rated tournaments in our home and host about 25 students at a time. We decided to try to host a larger "End of School Year Championship" at a local church... "The Tampa All Stars Championship" held on Saturday, May 1st. All players also received a FREE chess t-shirt. Plus, more trophies, bigger trophies, and a \$50 Mixed Doubles prize. Information on all our events are at our website www.alton4chess.com."

South Regional Report

by Jon Haskel S VP

More and more chess club activities are re-starting in South Florida.

Palm Beach Chess is resuming their tournaments at the North Palm Library, 303 Anchorage Drive, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. On May 22 they will be holding a Quads tournament. This will be followed by a tournament on the last Saturday of each succeeding month. The email address for more information is nmbtillis@gmail.com.

In Fort Lauderdale, Richard Slagle, whose library chess clubs are still closed, has started an informal outdoor club at **Lakeside Park**, 2002 NE 16th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 (behind Fort Lauderdale Fire Station 29).

Fireman's Cove Chess Club meets Wednesdays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to dark. The club's email address is FortLauderdaleChess@gmail.com.

The South Miami Chess Club has resumed having tournaments at Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124th Street, Pinecrest, FL 33156. More info is at www.southmiamichessclub.com.

NE Florida Regional Report

by George Foote

The Northeast Florida Region is continuing to unpack the mothballs from the dormancy that was 2020. The big story in this part of the state continues to be Ray Ratliff and his company "Chess for Charity." I spoke with Ray to get more information about this growing success.

The impetus for the company is Ray's 7-year-old son Ryan. After becoming the state champion in the K-1 category in early 2020 and with his chess career taking off, all the "over the board" chess came to a screeching halt. Later in the year Ryan expressed his concerns to his dad that OTB chess may never come back. Ray's solution? "Chess for Charity," with the primary goals as follows; 1) Give players a chance to get safely back to OTB Chess, using parks, social distancing, masks, and so on. 2) Give back to the community - Rays says, "Everyone gives something instead of a few players taking something." and "We measure currency in community." That said, the group has helped local businesses, including a local Pizza restaurant owned by a chess mom, local museums, and many food trucks. 3) Free Chess Education - Ray teaches chess weekly at local parks and is now employing the "Dutch Step Method" to help new students. Ray picked up on the Dutch Step while listening to Jop Delemarre on the "Perpetual Chess" Podcast. He followed up by contacting Jop and is currently being certified in this teaching method.

Since its inception in January, Chess for Charity has run 12 tournaments with 18 sections, 255 players (96 unique), and grown their facebook page to nearly 250 members. Another interesting insight, the tournament at the Cummer Art Museum drew 68% of it's attendees from in-state, meaning that 32% of the participants traveled to Jacksonville from out-of-state! Also, worth noting, Chess for Charity is a family affair, run by Ray, his wife Monica, and their two children, Ryan, and Myra. Ray handles the TD & coaching; Monica is Tech Support & Website designer, and the kids help with set-up and breakdown of tables chairs and chess sets.

What's next for this group? They will continue their existing tournament schedule and training. They are working to add a Simultaneous Game with a notable (to be announced later) chess celebrity and there are plans for a chess festival. There are also plans for Ray to be interviewed on Florida Chess Live TV (a production of the Palm Beach Chess Club) ... So, stay tuned... and Thank you "Chess for Charity" for the energy and effort you have added to chess in Northeast Florida!

You can learn more about "Chess for Charity" a <u>ChessForCharityJax.com</u> and follow them on Facebook at <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/370628087500262</u>

Northwest Region by Colby Ferraro & Kevin Pryor

Colby recently informed me that he will be making plans to re-locate

as part of the Manasota Chess Center team. He has learned a lot about the "Doing vs. Playing" sides of the chess experience while working with the FCA Board. We know he will be a welcomed resource for Nick Lewis and company down there. Thanks Colby for helping us jumpstart the Panhandle Initiative. We'll take it from here.

The Northwest/Panhandle Region of the FCA consists of the counties of Dixie, Taylor, Lafayette, Alachua, Levy, Gadsden, Waukulla, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson, Bay, Washington, Holmes, Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Jefferson, Gilchrist, and Escambia). Although there have been board members from the area, it has remained an area of a potential outreach effort. The area of Alachua (Gainesville) County is the outlier with multiple state and national chess championship-caliber school programs between K-12th grades. Tallahassee has also had a consistent presence with the former Tallahassee Chess Club meet-ups and Dr. Banghao Chen's work with scholastic chess programs, not to mention his son Ben, who is a National Master. Another bright spot has been the FSU Chess Club which has a solid history of meeting over the years and even throughout the pandemic.

Last year, the board supported the initiative to make new inroads into the Panhandle by connecting with as many people in the area as possible with the hopes of identifying current activity. To help with this Panhandle initiative, we appointed Colby Ferraro and he proved himself to conduit to understanding chess in our capital city.

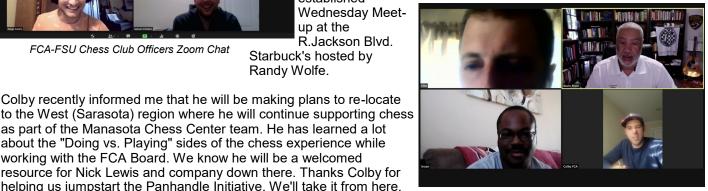


FCA-FSU Chess Club Officers Zoom Chat

Colby was also relentless in tracking down the leaders of the FSU club which led to us connecting with their club's officers for a Zoom meeting to learn the status and activity of their club during the pandemic. Colby also hosted our first Panhandle Chess Zoom meeting, which included chess players from Panama City, Tallahassee and Gainesville. It led to restart the Panama City Chess Facebook page and FCA promotion of the page and their re-

established Wednesday Meetup at the R.Jackson Blvd.

Starbuck's hosted by Randy Wolfe.



Panhandle Initiative Zoom Session hosted by Colby (I-r: Randy Wolfe, Kevin Pryor, Brian Williams & Colby Ferraro

Brick & Mortar Chess Club In Sarasota area by Kevin Pryor

On Saturday, June 6, the official opening of Florida's newest dedicated chess space was held. The Manasota Chess Center is led by founding partners, Nick Lewis, Rick Knowlton and Dan Hersey is located in a mall space called Siesta Key Mall on Tamiami Trail South which features a MACY's as its anchor store.

The Sarasota area has a long history of competitive chess with players who have known each other for years, but never put together such an enterprise until Nick relocated after graduating from Florida State University to work in the technology field. There he partnered with chess book author, Rick Knowlton, and local chess enthusiast, Dan Hersey to go into business together. However, they are not alone in thinking a chess center can make it based upon the opening day turnout as about 20 players came out to play and some purchased memberships on the spot. We wish them all the best!



Nick Lewis



Rick, Nick & Dan

View from inside mall

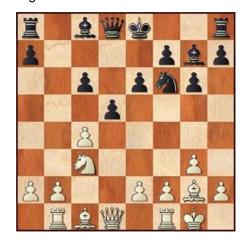
Online Game Review

By Paul Leggett, Central Regional V.P.

Durham. Todd (1701) Bill Waite (1707) [A31]

Live Chess, Chess.com Ratings

1.d4 The following game is a classic Central Florida matchup between wellknown long-time chess regulars Todd Durham and Bill Waite: 1...Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 q6 4.q3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 **6.Nxc6** This move only occurs 7 times in my database, and only scores 28% from such a small sample. That said, the idea shares some ideas with lines of the Accelerated Dragon, which this game resembles a bit. However, it is not an Accelerated Dragon, and Black equalizes here- with a full game still to follow. [6.Bg2+/= Is almost overwhelmingly played at the top level.] 6...bxc6 Logically capturing towards the center in the spirit of the Dragon, but the computer just slightly prefers [>=6...dxc6 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8] **7.Bg2 d5** This is a thematic move, but in retrospect probably a little premature here. The computer says 7...h5= should be considered, which is why we are seeing such moves appear more and more in top level chess. It may take we mortals a little longer to warm up to the idea.] 8.0-0+/= White is slightly better. 8...Bg7 9.Nc3 [9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nc3] 9...e6!? This has been played by some stronger players in this position, but the engines call for immediate castling. 10.Rb1

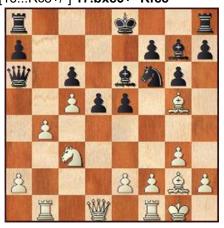


10...Qa5?N This is definitely inferior, mainly because Black's king is still in

the center. [10...0-0=; Predecessor: 10...0-0 11.b3 Nd7 12.Qc2 Nb6 13.Ba3 Re8 14.Rfd1 Qc7 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Rbc1 Bd7 1/2-1/2 (59) Sietio, J-Tuominen,T Finland 1996] 11.b4+/- [%mdl 32] Powerfully played. 11...Qa6 [11...Qc7+/-] 12.c5!? [Less strong is 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.b5 (13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.a4 0-0+/=) 13...Qa5+/-; Best is 12.b5+- cxb5 13.cxd5 and the combination of the loose rook on a8 and the king in the center gives White excellent play.] 12...e5? [%mdl 8192] [12...0 -0+/-] 13.Bg5 Be6



Black's king were on g8 and his rook on f8, he would have a promising position. But they are not, and that is the difference. **14.b5 Qa5 15.Bd2** [>=15.Qd2 e4 16.Rfd1] **15...Qc7** [15...Qa3 is a better defense. 16.Qc1 (16.bxc6 0-0+/-) 16...Qxc1 17.Rfxc1 Kd7] **16.Qa4** [16.Bg5+-] **16...0-0** Finally, but too late. In this position Black does not really have any good moves, so he can only buckle down try to complicate matters for White. [16...Rc8+/-] **17.bxc6+- Rfc8**



18.Bq5 [18.e4!+- The computer's suggestion, and it is very strong. 18...Nxe4 (18...dxe4 19.Nxe4 Nd5 20.Ng5+-) 19.Nxe4] 18...Qxc6 [18...e4+/-] **19.Qxc6** The only move to retain the advantage- but it retains a big one. 19...Rxc6 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 [20...Rxc5 is preferred by the computer, with a lesser but still substantial plus for White. 21.Bxg7 Kxg7] 21.Nxd5 White is clearly winning. 21...Bxd5 22.Bxd5 Rac8 23.Bxc6 Rxc6 [%mdl 4096] Todd has been voraciously studying Dvoretsky's Endgame Manuel since before COVID, and his technique has rocketed skyward. 24.Rfc1 Be7 25.e3 Rxc5 26.Rxc5 Bxc5 KR-KB 27.Rb5 Bd6 28.Kf1 f6 29.Ke2 Bc7 30.Kd3 Bb6 31.a4 [%mdl 32] 31...h5 32.a5 Bc7 33.Kc4 Kf8 34.Kd5 Ke8 35.Ke6 f5 36.Kf6 Kd7 AT this point, I believe the game continued out of "short clock inertia"- the outcome is not in doubt. 37.a6 Bb6



38.Rxb6! [%mdl 576] Promotion **38...axb6 39.a7 1-0**



Reviews by Miguel Ararat -



The pandemic touched every aspect of our lives, including an increase in the number of chess thanks to Netflix blockbuster series The Queens Gambit. In a short period of time more people become involved in chess online. Thereby a need for easy to use software and proper computer power to run appeared.

Chessbase 16 (CB16) and Fat

Fritz 2 by ChessBase are considered in my opinion the bare minimum software tools to teach and train chess online at the moment. CB16 is a chess database that helps coaches to organize chess information such as games, DVD's, training materials (tactics, strategy, endgames among other relevant chess topics) including the creation of personalized files for each student. A key feature in CB16 to improve chess coaching praxis is the replay training function. The replay training tab in CB16 allows the student to cement the retention of chess information, get a quantitative score for his performance and explore the value of the student's alternative answers to a chess position. CB16 capabilities can be enhanced by adding a chess engine, a supplemental game database and an opening encyclopedia as well as particular base on specific openings (to be discuss in next fall 2021 book review column)

I suggest the chess engine Fat Fritz 2 (FF2) to add analysis capabilities to CB16. FF2 runs on a new neural neural technology that do not require a graphic processing unit (GPU) and can be run on a regular CPU. In other words, you run FF2 without investing additional money to upgrade your computer. However, keep in mind the minimum hardware to run FF2 "PC Core i3 other i5 / AMD FX or Ryzen 3, 2 GB RAM, Windows 7/8/8.1 64 Bit, DirectX9, graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive. windows media player 11 and access" (Chessbase). FF2 has a different evaluation function and bigger neural network than the free chess engine Stockfish 12. Importantly, both, Fat Fritz 2 and Stockfish 12 can be add and run on CB16 without too much computer expertise.

Chess For Educators by Karel Van Delft is a new book that explains in detail how to start, organize and promote a quality chess program in the classroom. Van Delfts's is a manual with step by step guide on how to build a chess program. The book is easy to read and the content is outstanding. I wish I had access to a book such as Chess For Educators earlier in my chess coaching career to save me time building up several chess programs from scratch. I highly recommend this book to new and seasoned chess teachers and administrators. Chess For Educators is a bridge between the school teacher with an interest in chess and the chess coach with an interest in education.

The Lasker Method to Improve in Chess by Gerard Welling and Steve Giddins is a chess manual for club players using the second world chess champion Emmanuel Lasker as a role model. The authors advocate to use Lasker's methods to approach competitive chess and to aim for maximum efficiency of study time and decision making over the board. The book has a structure that supports the author's goals. For example become

familiar with the Lasker philosophy of chess and the discussion of endgames (long term lasting knowledge) are presented early in the book instead of material on openings. Welling and Giddins lay out his method of chess improvement around ten core chapter explained in seventy three games and fifty puzzles. The Lasker Method to Improve in Chess provides club players with high quality content to improve at chess at the same time that help the reader to change his practical and mental way to play the game.

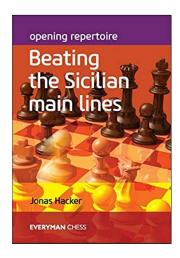
Desert Island Chess Puzzle Omnibus by Wesley So. teaching, learning and playing Michael Adams, John Nunn and Graham Burgess is a good resource to sharpen your tactical chess skills. The content of this book is modular with batches of 25 puzzles on different topics that grow in difficulty. The user can locate and use a portion of the book easily and customize his/her training or teaching sessions. For example, if you are teaching/training openings or endgames you can find both topics in Desert Island Chess Puzzle Omnibus address your training needs and move on. The book also provides hours of pleasure to players from novices to professionals.

> Beating the Sicilian Main Lines by FM Jonas Hacker and The Open Sicilian Bundle Chessbase DVD by GM Roeland Pruijssers and IM Nico Zwirs, Win with the Caro Kann by Johnsen and Hansen are my opening recommendations for this issue of Floridachess. The Open Sicilian is the target topic in both efforts, but the target audience is different as well as the proposed repertoire.

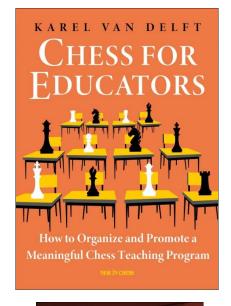
> Beating the Sicilian Main Lines by FM Jonas Hacker is a repertoire book for white with a fresh approach to play the open Sicilian with an early f3 against 2... d6 Sicilians, 7. Nd5 against the Sveshnikov, 6. g4 against the Scheveningen. Amateur players taking on the open Sicilian will benefit from a complete repertoire without delving into a maze of theory. As the ambitious player gets more experience in some Sicilian structures than a transition to a more sophisticated repertoire is the natural

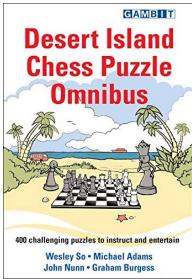
> At this point, The Open Sicilian Bundle (How to Slay the Sicilian Vol 1,2,3 and Tactic Toolbox Open Sicilian Chessbase DVD by GM Roeland Pruijssers and IM Nico Zwirs comes handy to take on the Sicilian main lines and engage black in hand to hand combat. The game Venkat-Chen (Pg 12) annotated in this issue is a good example of the level of preparation needed to play the Open Sicilian at master level. In addition to deep understanding of the nuances of opening theory the tactical themes related to each variations have to be at your fingertips. Pruijssers and Zwirs put together a sharp and a sound repertoire for white plus a compilation of the most important tactical themes associated with the repertoire (a tactic toolbox). The authors present the material in a very engaging fashion, eager to share with the viewer every piece of knowledge they have. Despite the dense nature of the material Pruijssers and Zwirs do a great job presenting each chapter and taking full advantage of the power of video couple with color arrows and interactive question and answer exercises to help the audience to assimilate the new information. The final review in this column is about the repertoire book for black Win with the Caro-Kann by Sverre Johnsen and GM Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen. I read Johnsen's book on the Stonewall in 2009 (review available on Amazon) and adopted the opening with good results even at a high stakes game versus Elena Grataskaya at the USAT 2014 (my team tied for first with Grataskaya's team, but lost the title on tiebreaks. I will trust my most important chess games to Johnsen's analysis. Win with the Caro-Kann does not disappoint. The authors provide the reader with a present - day analysis in all critical variations.

Regardless of the large amount of theory in the Caro- Kann the material is divided into good size lessons with a fluid and coherent explanation of key ideas. I like the "Theory Magnifier" snippets to increase clarity and retention of relevant information. Importantly, the suggested improvements in some positions such as the Steiner variation (page 217) take into consideration how easy will be for a human to play it.

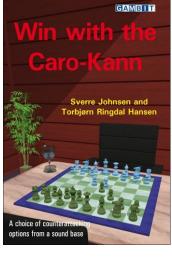


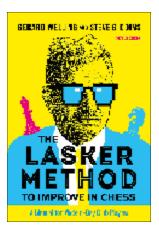












Anony Mous Annotates

Another game from the ages

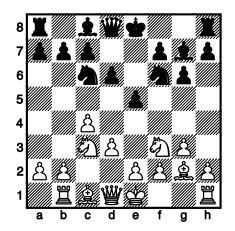


Anony Mous our Chess-playing monk

Anony Mous Mark Ryan [A26] 02/16/1991

Mark has long been one of my toughest opponents, and he holds a considerable plus-score in the several decades that we played, mostly at the Winter Park/Central FL Chess Club 13.bxc6 bxc6 Tornadoes. Of all these games, I have only managed to force him to tip-his-King twice. This game, however erupts quickly from a normally placid English, into an intuition-based piece sacrifice.

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.d3 Nf6 7.Rb1



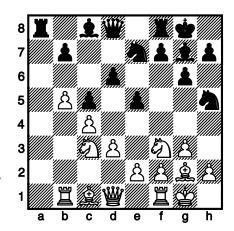
7...a5?! This just creates a hook/lever White b-pawn, accelerating his attack. Now is the right

time to 0-0 period!

I had a discussion with FM grab the a-file, as well. Jennifer Shehade after she beat me in 18...Qc6 19.Nb5!! our tournament game, and strangely, she likes the a5 move. But I just do not on f3 to bring all his forces into play buv it!

8.a3 0-0 9.0-0 Nh5 10.b4 axb4 11.axb4 Ne7 12.b5 c5?!

play...f5 and get his attack started, soon or he will be overrun.



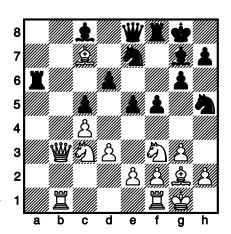
(So 12.cf?! accomplished nothing for Black but a lost tempo.)

14.Qb3 Ra6 This just looks Awkward. 15.Be3 f5

After all this pseudo-prophylactic play, Black only now, gets around to ...f5. It is fitting that it goes no further 24.Bb8 Qe6 25.Nxc8! for the rest of the game.

16.Bb6 Qe8 17.Bc7 c5?

White R, N, Q & Bs. However 17...Qd7 18.Qb8! loses the pd6 by force.



Using Black's discoordination to

Anony happily sacrifices his Night with a tempi.

Of course I was unable to calculate all the variations, but I noticed that I Perhaps over-reactive. Black must would, to begin with, win at least 3 pawns, and that all my pieces would be termite in the Black foundation.

19...Rxa1 20.Rxa1 e4 21.Ra7!

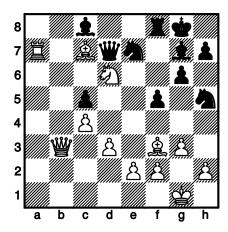
The Point!

21...exf3

Might as well..!

22.Bxf3 Qe8 23.Nxd6

23.Bxd6 may have been stronger. 23...Qd7



You can not get more counterintuitive than this! You either see the Opening the floodgates for the idea right away, or it is very difficult to make this one of your candidate moves.

25...Rxc8

(25...Qxc8 26.Bd6 and Black's game is helpless.)

26.Bd5!

Trading off the Octopus Night and the Dragon Bishop for their lazy counterparts for...a powerful passed Pawn!

(Anony Mous game continued on page 22)

Harvey Lerman — Part 6 **Judge Lerman**

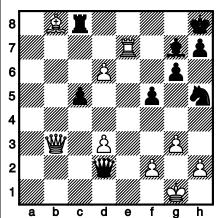


I had volunteered to do this for Orange County mainly for cases where drivers thought that their automobiles were "Bad Lemons".

I later also mediated a few cases in Seminole County involving other types of problems.

This only lasted a couple of years until it was decided to only use professional paid lawyers.

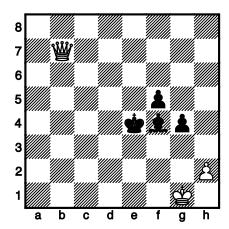
26...Nxd5 27.cxd5 Qxe2 28.d6+ Kh8 continuation... 29.Re7 Qd2



Anony told this Editor that other players in the event crowded around his table at this point, and after the game was over they all got to this move. It seemed according to a short run that 29...c4! here looked liked it saved the game for Black! If so, both players may be forgiven for missing 30.d7 Rf8 31.Re8 Bd4 what the Silicon beast found!

I did so and this was my result: 32.Rxf8+ Kg7 33.Be5+! [Chess engine says this is the best

29...c4 30.d7 Qxd6 34.Bxd6 Bf6 35.Be5 Bxe5 36.Qf3 36.Rxg8+ Kxg8 37.d8Q+ Kf7 38.Qd5+ Kf6 39.f4 Nxf4 40.gxf4 Bxf4 41.Qxc4 1-0 g5 42.Qc6+ Ke5 43.Qc7+ Ke4 44.Qxh7 g4 45.Qb7+ and should eventually win for White.]



Back to the actual game... One last trick!

Giving back some material to avoid

Rf8 mate.

31.Qb4 Qxd3 32.Re8 Rq8 33.Qd6 33...Bxe5 34.d8Q Bd4 35.Qb7+ Kh6

Black resigns.



CHESS CA

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House 6 Perry Lane, FL 32701

harveylerman@brighthouse.com (407)629-6WIN (629-6946)

<u>Date</u>	Event	Location	Contact
<u>2021</u>			
July 9-11	Florida State Senior Championship	The Villages	Moschos
July 23-25	29th Annual Southern Open	Wyndham Orlando Resort	CCA
Sep 3-6	Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship	Hilton Hotel Carillon Park—St. Petersburg	Haskel
Oct 9	National Chess Day	Various Locations	USCF
Oct 9	National Chess Day	Jacksonville MOSH	Foote
Nov 6	Greenwood Scholastic	Jacksonville Greenwood	Foote
Nov 12-14	19th Annual Turkey Bowl	Marriott Hotel - Coral Springs	Haskel
Dec 3-5	National Grades K-12 Championships	Rosen Shingle Creek - Orlando	USCF

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Statz Chess Academy of Tampa
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Other Contacts	
M.DadeColl	(305

Othior Contacto	
M.DadeColl	(305)237-8901
P.Dyson	(321)452-9863
J.Haskel	(561)302-4377
M.Hutsko	(305)779-7341
G.Luna	(305)300-2055
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BAC	BayAreaChess.com

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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
JAXCC: The Jacksonville Chess	(904)607-9111
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
SCO : ScholasticChess.Org	(904)304-1639
SCF : Space Coast Chess Foundation	(321)431-3060
TCC : Tallahassee Chess Club	(850)345-7838
USCF : United States Chess Federation	(800)903-8723
Joseph Committee Charles Gillood Calolation	(555,550 67 20

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

Florida Chess Association, Inc. 14260 Newberry Rd. #236 Newberry, FL 32669

July 9-11, Florida State Senior Championship, The Villages

Sept. 3-6, Lerman Florida State Championship. Hilton Carillon Park - St. Petersburg

Nov. 12-14, 19th Annual Turkey Bowl, Marriott Hotel - Coral Springs

Dec. 3-5, National K-12 Grade Championships - Rosen Shingle Creek - Orlando



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