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NM Peter Lessler shares insights from the Grand Pacific Open



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Table of Contents

Peter Lessler at 2014 Grand Pacific Open by Blue Giraffe Photo.....	Front Cover
Insights from the Grand Pacific Open by NM Peter Lessler.....	3
Washington Chess News.....	8
Oregon Chess News.....	10
Newport June Open (Newport, OR, June 14-15) Half-page ad.....	15
Portland Chess Club Summer Open (Portland, OR, June 21-22) Full-page ad.....	16
Idaho Chess News.....	17
Northwest Chess Grand Prix Report by Murlin Varner.....	20
Seattle Chess Club Events.....	22
Upcoming Events.....	23
Nick Raptis at Clark Harmon Memorial by Joshua Sinanan.....	Back Cover

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Peter Lessler at the 2014 Grand Pacific Open. Photo credit: Blue Giraffe Photo.

On the back cover:

Nick Raptis, first place winner of the Clark Harmon Memorial. Photo credit: Joshua Sinanan.

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Insights from the Grand Pacific Open by NM Peter Lessler

This past spring I made the fortunate decision to play in the Grand Pacific Open (April 18-21) in Victoria, BC. If you have never before played in this event—the largest annual tournament in British Columbia—I would strongly encourage you to try it out sometime. Victoria is a beautiful city that’s fun to explore, and it’s easy to hop a boat there from Seattle or Anacortes. The tournament itself is classy and comfortable: clocks are provided on every board; door prizes are given out before every round; the top games are broadcast on a screen. This year before round four every player found a chocolate egg above his or her king’s rook! All the players owe a great deal of thanks to the superb tournament organizers—Brian Raymer, Paul Leblanc, and Roger Patterson—and the head tournament director, Mark Dutton. The Grand Pacific Open is truly a singular event. There weren’t many players from the US this year, but hopefully that will change in the future!

The tournament was particularly special for me this year because I tied for first with FM Jonathan Berry. In such situations I always try to remember some words of wisdom from an old coach: “You’re never as good as you think you are when you win, and you’re never as bad as you think you are when you lose.”

With this spirit in mind, I have decided to annotate my first game of the tournament as honestly as possible. When I am paired down and win in the early rounds of a tournament, I have a tendency to assume that the game wasn’t very interesting—that I was destined to win all along. But my early games are often closer than I care to admit. My first-round game of the Grand Pacific Open was played on board 17, far from the fanfare of the top two boards, but it ended up being one of my closest games. Despite her 500-point rating deficit, Naomi put up a valiant fight, and aside from a few missed opportunities, the position was drawn until the final moves.

I spent a lot of time on the following annotations, so I hope they will be entertaining and/or instructive. (Disclaimer: In some places there are a lot of variations. I have a guilty habit of reading annotated games with a focus on the words, skimming over much of the concrete analysis, but for many years I think this stunted my chess growth by getting me in the habit of looking at positions superficially. I would

encourage anyone who is reading this article for instructional value to really dive in to the concrete analysis. If you’re reading for fun, do whatever you want. Either way, thanks for reading my article!

NM Peter Lessler (2220) – Naomi Bashkansky (1714) [A00]
Grand Pacific Open Victoria, BC
(R1), April 18, 2014
[Peter Lessler]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Bxc4 Nc6 6.0–0



This is one of the main lines of the Queen’s Gambit Accepted. It looks like a gambit out of the open games until you notice that White’s c-pawn and Black’s e-pawn have magically disappeared. The ideas are similar, though: I am ahead in development and secretly hope to earn a brilliancy prize with some sort of violent sac on f7.

6...Bc5

This is supposedly a bad move, and I play the recommended antidote. (In *Play the Queen’s Gambit*, Chris Ward writes: “Simple tactics include 6...Bc5 7.Ng5 Nh6 8.Nxf7 Nxf7 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qh5+ when material equality will be restored but with Black retaining the weaker king.”)

7.Ng5

Just what I have been waiting for! The idea is to sac on f7 and then pick up the c5-bishop with a queen check on h5.

7...Nh6

Forced, obvious, and good.

8.Nxf7 Nxf7 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qh5+ g6 11.Qxc5

[Diagram top of next column]

And so, after a series of forcing moves, we reach the following position. Black’s king seems somewhat exposed. Given that I just executed a flashy combination, it is easy to evaluate this position as better for me. And yet I’m not at all sure that’s the case. Take a

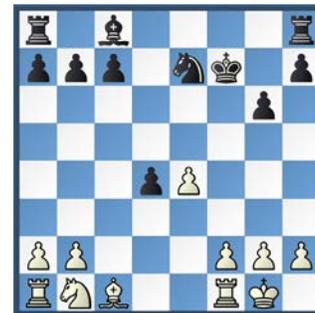


look at Black’s next move.

11...Qe7

The computer suggests alternatives like 11...Re8, but for a human offering the trade of queens is much more natural. If I decline the queen trade with 12.Qc2, then I will fall behind in development and it will be hard for me to exploit the ostensibly exposed black king.

12.Qxe7+ Nxe7



I am the higher-rated player, I have white, my opponent plays a move that is known to theory as a mistake, and this ending is all I get? The frustration alone could be enough to derail me here. Actually, it was enough to derail me here; I had gotten to this same position in the Oregon Open a couple years ago against local expert Paul Bartron. I can’t find the game score, but I’m fairly certain of how it continued. Watch how quickly I get wiped off the board: 13.Rd1 c5 14.b4 cxb4 15.Rxd4 Nc6 16.Rd1 Bg4 17.f3 Rhd8! 18.Nd2 Be6 19.Bb2 Rd7

Analysis





The playing hall at the 2014 Grand Pacific Open. Photo credit: Blue Giraffe Photo.

White looks like he's doing okay but in reality he's losing. Black's pieces are nicely centralized, and White has trouble activating the rook on a1 without losing the a-pawn. From here Paul won quickly and convincingly.

Needless to say, I was aware of the dangers. The Bartron game was a reminder to me that developing the pieces is important in the endgame as well as the opening! I didn't remember much of my analysis from that game, but I remembered I needed to develop my pieces, so I was fairly confident of the following two moves.

13.Bf4 c5 14.Nd2 b6



This position is critical. I spent a lot of time here trying to decide how to fight against Black's queenside majority. Where should the rooks go?

15.Rfe1

Probably not the best move, but definitely better than both 15.Rac1 and 15.Rfd1, two alternatives I was thinking about. (After a game it always surprises me how many of the moves I was seriously considering would have been absolutely terrible.) The computer recommends 15.b4!?, temporarily sacrificing a pawn to undermine the pawn

chain. I remember looking at this during the game, but after 15...cxb4 16.Nf3 Bb7 I wasn't very convinced. Haunted by the Bartron game, I was worried about getting a weak pawn stuck on a2. I missed that Black isn't immediately threatening ...Bxe4 due to Ng5+. Looking further, after 17.Rfd1 Rhd8 18.Rac1 Rdc8 (According to my computer 18...Rac8 is significantly inferior due to 19.Bc7, but moving the already-developed rook twice in a row is strange; I am skeptical many humans would opt for 18...Rdc8 in an actual game) 19.Rb1! I would rather be White but there are chances for both sides.

So maybe this variation is the reason nobody plays 6...Bc5? I doubt it; I think it is more likely that 7.Ng5 has enough of a refutation-ish feel to it that most strong players haven't looked into this line. In his repertoire book *The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White* (which relies heavily on the analysis of high-powered computer engines) Larry Kaufman recommends 7.Qb3 instead of 7.Ng5. This suggests he couldn't find anything after the latter, but 7.Qb3 strikes me as unconvincing.

I apologize for spending so much time on the opening here, but it has theoretical importance: If 6...Bc5 is equalizing then that makes the QGA more appealing for Black. More to the point, it has a lot of practical importance. 6...Bc5 is a very natural-looking move, and I suspect a common choice for those who don't know much of the theory. It is frustrating to play against as White because your opponent likely hasn't anticipated 7.Ng5, but they get a fine position anyway. I generally try to play opening systems where my opponent will have to solve difficult problems if they don't know the theory. I'm not certain this

line of the QGA fits into that category, but I digress.

15...Ba6

The computer says this is one of the best moves. To Naomi's credit, she's played very well up to here. When I play significantly stronger players I have a tendency to self-destruct, but she hasn't done this. She chose a sound opening, responded very sensibly to my aggressive knight sortie, and then played a bunch of good moves. Now the position is roughly equal. I felt under pressure to justify going into this ending for the second time.

16.b4

I expected 15...Ba6, and this was my idea.

16...cxb4



Another good move; Black cannot allow the c-pawn to become backwards on an open file.

17.Bd6?

The computer liked 16.b4, but this is not the correct follow-up. It is better to go after the d-pawn with 17.Nf3. (Though almost any reasonable move is an improvement—even 17.a3!? is better than what I played.) I rejected 17.Nf3 due to 17...Rhd8, when

Black is up a pawn (for now) and has a potentially dangerous queenside majority (I remain haunted by the Bartron game), but activity is more important than material here. For instance: 18.Ng5+ Kg8 (18...Kf6 19.Nxh7+ Kg7 20.Ng5 and the threat of Ne6 gains another tempo; 18...Ke8 19.Ne6 and the dual threats of Nc7+ and Nxd8 net an exchange) 19.Rc7 and the knight is almost trapped! 19...Re8 (19...Nc8 20.Nxh7 and the threat of Nf6+ is decisive) 20.Bd6 h6 21.Nf3 Nc8 22.Bxb4 Rxe4 23.Rac1

Analysis



At a first glance, how would you evaluate this position? If you're like me, you think Black's extra passed pawn on d3 looks a bit threatening; perhaps the position is unclear. But the computer says White is winning: +2.14. There are no immediate threats, but Black's queenside is completely paralyzed. This is obvious if you look at the position a little longer, but very difficult to see from many moves away!

As an aside: I played the moves 15.b4 and 16.Bd6 very quickly, because I forced myself to decide on a reply to 14...Ba6 before playing 14.Rfd1. Recently I have been doing this a lot: I'll take a lot of time on one move and be very clear with myself about what moves I think my opponent might play and how I will respond to each of them. Supposedly this is how the top players play, and since I have adopted this more concrete thinking style, my results have improved (though this could be random or unrelated). What's interesting is that often the planned moves I've played quickly (like 16.Bd6) have been mistakes. I'm not sure what to think of this, and any sort of generalized self-evaluation should be taken with a grain of salt, but perhaps the confidence/time/energy gained by playing in this way makes up for the mistakes?

17...Rac8 18.Bxb4



I thought my structural advantage was the most important factor here, but in retrospect my lack of coordination is more

relevant. "Coordination" is a tricky term to define (and it's probably not a good idea to think about such terms during games—for me the process of getting better has largely consisted of thinking less about words and more about moves) but in this position I use it to encompass the following:

- White cannot move or exchange his rook on c1 without ceding the file and allowing ...Rc2. (Black on the other hand can play ...Rxc1 whenever she wants and follow up with ...Rc8.)

- White cannot do much with his queen's rook as long as the c1 rook is clogging the lanes.

- The king on g1 is out-of-play and subject to back-rank mating threats. White could move the f-pawn and advance the knight toward the center, but that takes time.

- If White is going to claim any sort of structural advantage, he needs to either put real pressure on the pawn on d4 (not possible here: for one thing it can always advance to d3) or make his kingside majority a serious threat. Advancing the majority by playing f4 and e5 takes time. It also weakens a lot of squares, specifically: d5, f5, e4, g4, and e3. None of these weaknesses can be immediately exploited, but in the long term they may be a problem. Furthermore, it is not clear how the pawns would advance further—Black has strong control of e6 and f5.

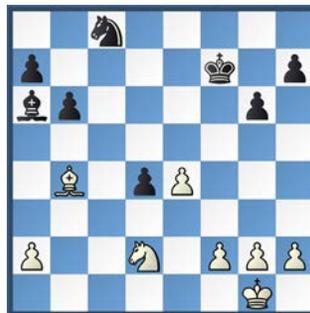
- White's bishop on b4 is undefended and not really doing anything. It can go to b2 to attack the d4 pawn and guard the c1-square, but that takes time.

Basically my position has no purpose. I have many small problems, all of which take time to solve, and in the meantime Black can pose me more. An example variation is the following: 18...Nc6 19.Ba3 Rhd8 (it is counterintuitive to keep the c-file blocked, but White doesn't have time to rearrange the rooks, e.g. 19. Re1? d3 20.Rac1 Nd4 threatening both ...Ne2+ and ...Nc2) 20.f4 d3 and I would rather be Black.

18...Rxc1+?

A mistake. The tension on the c-file favored Black (see comment above) and there was no reason to release it so soon.

19.Rxc1 Rc8 20.Rxc8 Nxc8



20...Bxc8 was a valid alternative. Now the position is probably equal, but I wanted

to win, and I had to come up with an idea that offered some winning chances. In the next couple moves, Black will likely try to activate the knight with Nc8-e7-c6, gaining a tempo on the bishop. If White allows this and doesn't create any threats, Black can follow up with Na5-c4. The trade of knights would result in an almost certainly drawn bishops-of-opposite-color ending, but allowing the knight to stay on c4 could hardly be better. I was imagining the likes of 21.f4 Ne7 22.Kf2 Na5 23.Bb2 Nc4 24.Nxc4 Bxc4 26.a3 d3, which I thought was clearly drawn. The computer evaluates this ending at +1.01, but I am skeptical.

Regardless of the objective evaluation of this ending, the possibility of its occurrence convinced me that I had to take Black's knight as soon as it got to e7. I dreamed of forcing Black's pawn to d3, blockading it with a king on d2, and eventually winning it by attacking it with my knight—a thematic exploitation of my structural advantage. Alas, there is no way to successfully implement this plan. I thought here for a while, calculating everything over and over again. The following (which you may feel free to skim) is the best reconstruction of my thoughts I can come up with on paper:

- 21.Nb3 Bc4 and the pin looks ugly.

- 21.a3 prepares Nb3, but after 21...Bb7 my bishop is almost trapped.

- 21.Nf3 d3 22.Kf1?? d2+ Oops! I better move the king via f2. That means I have to move my f-pawn.

- 21.f4 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nf3 d3 24.Kf2 Kd6 25.Ke3 Kc5 26.Kd2 Kb4 27.Ne1 This looks great for White! If 27...Ka3 28.Nxd3 Bxd3 (not 28...Kxa2 because of 29.Nb4+) 29.Kxd3 and White's pawns are faster. Black needs to try something else.

- 21.f4 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nf3 Bb7 Dam counterattack! 24.e5 Bxf3 25.gxf3 looks ugly for me.

- 21.f4 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nf3 Bb7 24.Nxd4 Bxe4 25.Nb5 a6 isn't what I was going for.

- 21.f4 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nf3 Bb7 24.Ng5 h6 and I'm losing the pawn on e4. I can play 24. Nd2 but the whole point of moving the knight to f3 was to force the d4 pawn to d3. I need to try something else.

- 21.f4 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nb3 A different route! Now if 23...Bb7 then 24.e5 doesn't allow ...Bxf3. But 23.Bc4 is annoying, pinning my knight. Oh wait, I can win a pawn! 24.Nxd4 Bxa2 25.Nc6+ Kd6 26.Nxa7. But after 26.Kc5 my knight is almost trapped and the b-pawn looks very dangerous. 21.f4 doesn't seem to be working.

- 21.f3 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nb3 Bc4 looks no different from the equivalent variation with 21.f4. White can't allow the knight to be pinned.

- 21.f3 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.a3 revives an older idea. 23...Kd6 24.Nb3, and now 24...Ke5 25.Kf2 looks double-edged—after 25...Bc4 26.Nd2 I can think about playing g3 and f4—and 24...d3 25.Kf2 Bc4 26.Nd2 Kc5 27.Ke3 looks reasonably good for White.

- 21.Nf3 d3 22.Nd2 Now White can safely move the king to f1. 22...Ne7 23.Bxe7 Kxe7 24.f4 Kd6 25.Kf2 Kc5 26.Ke3 looks pretty good for me. Black can't move the king too far forward or else the e-pawn will run. But is it all forced?

- 21.Nf3 Bb7! This again... (I don't remember if I looked at 22.Ng5 here, which looks like a decent try for White. I feel like I did but I don't remember why I rejected it. Perhaps it was inconsistent with my plan to force the d-pawn forward. In any case I rejected 21.Nf3)

- Maybe I should go back to the double-edged idea. 21.f3 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.a3 looks like it retains some winning chances.

- I could try the similar idea 21.f4 Ne7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.a3 Kd6 24.Nb3, which prevents 24...Ke5, but then after 24...Bb7 could be a problem.

- I'm using too much time... I'll go for the best idea I've seen so far, 21.f3 and 23.a3.

I'm not sure how many readers will actually wade through the above mess, but if nothing else it gets a point across—chess is really hard. I was thinking for a long time, and failed to find a concrete route to advantage. This is as it should be, because the position is equal. There were many mistakes in my analysis, but I will focus only on the one that turned out to be relevant in the game.

21.f3 Ne7 22.Bxe7?! Kxe7 23.a3?

I played these last two moves quickly and confidently, and they both turned out to be mistakes, but given that I won the game in time pressure, this may not have been a bad decision—see the aside after move seventeen.

23...Kd6 24.Nb3



24...d3?

Here Naomi missed her only chance to gain a serious advantage. 24...Ke5! is not “double-edged” as I thought, but simply good for Black. After 25.Kf2 Bc4 26.Nd2 b5 Black is better and possibly winning. I missed the ...b5 idea completely—in all

variations—until Naomi played it later in the game. Even if this wasn't possible, Black could simply move the bishop and be better. The point is that Black will respond to g3 with ...g5, solidifying the king's post on e5. Then she can start pushing the queenside pawns.

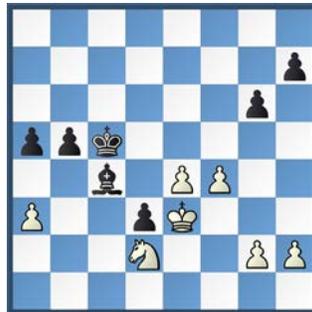
25.Kf2 Bc4 26.Nd2 b5

Like I said earlier, I didn't see this move was possible. In this position, however, it comes with a risk: after Ke3, Black's bishop cannot move without dropping the d-pawn.

27.Ke3

I also considered 27.f4, and eventually just had to make an intuitive choice, centralizing the king. I didn't record the time on my score sheet, but I had something in the vicinity of fifteen minutes here. Naomi, if I remember correctly, had more than that.

27...Kc5 28.f4 a5



This is a scary position to be in from either side when time pressure is approaching. It is a race between our respective majorities, and while the bishop is typically stronger in such situations, here it is awkwardly stuck on c4 and by no means superior. I now had to decide whether to advance the f-pawn or the e-pawn.

29.f5

The nice thing about this move is it prevents 29...b4, because after 30.axb4+ axb4 31.Nxc4 Kxc4 (31...gxf5 32.Nd2 fxe4 33.Kxe4) 32.f6 Kc3 (32...b3 33.f7 b2 34.f8=Q b1=Q 35.Qc8+ Kb3 36.Qb8+ Kc2 37.Qxb1+ Kxb1 38.Kxd3) 33.f7 d2 34.f8=Q d1=Q 35.Qc5+ Kb3 36.Qd5+ Qxd5 37.exd5 (yet another pawn race!) 37...Kc3 (37...Kc4 38.d6 b3 39.Kd2!; other king moves like 37...Ka2 allow White to force the queens off similar to after 37...Kc3) 38.d6 b3 39.d7 b2 40.d8=Q b1=Q 41.Qc7+ Kb2 42.Qb7+ Kc2 43.Qxb1+ Kxb1 44.Kf4 and White is winning because Black's king is too far away. For example: 44...Kc2 45.Kg5 Kd2 46.Kh6 Ke2 47.Kxh7 Kf2 48.Kxg6 Kxg2 49.h4 and finally Black doesn't have any more pawns with which to race! I don't remember calculating all twenty (!) moves of that but the nice thing about such endings is you can calculate fairly far without forgetting where the pieces are, and I remember being pretty confident 29...b4 was unplayable.

The computer says the other move I was considering, 29.e5, is equally good (both

moves should result in draws), but it allows 29...b4. The difference between this variation and the one above is that after 30.axb4+ axb4 31.Nxc4? Kxc4 32.e6 Kc3 33.e7 d2 34.e8=Q d1=Q White doesn't have any way to force the queens off the board and is actually losing! Eventually White will run out of checks and Black will advance the b-pawn.

29...gxf5 30.exf5 Kd5?

This is one of those positions that is interesting for humans but not for computers. It evaluates the position as (0.00) after 30...b4, 30...h5, or 30...h6. The reason Black can play 30...b4 is because after the pawn race ends White doesn't have the Qd5+ resource. The reason 30...Kd5 is bad will be shown shortly.

31.g4 h6



31...a4 is actually best, preventing 32.a4 as in the next note, but this looks anti-positional and I can't imagine anyone actually playing this way. If you saw the 32.a4 idea, why would you even play 30...Kd5?

32.h4?

Here I missed an opportunity in 32.a4!, an unusual method of stifling Black's pawn majority. I considered it, but I was worried about allowing Black to undermine my own majority with 32...Ke5 33.h4 h5. The point I missed is that after 34.axb5 Bxb5 35.Nf3+ Kf6 36.g5+ Kxf5 white has 37.Nd4+, winning the bishop. But what else can Black do? In fact Black is lost. White will be able to force a pawn to f6, at which point all the tactics are in his favor.

32...Ke5? 33.Nf3+?

For the last two moves, any move that was not a4! (or ...a4!) was a mistake. But by now we were in time pressure—I think I still had about ten minutes (with increment) and maybe Naomi had a little less—and obviously neither of us realized the value of the a4 idea. The position should be drawn, but “should” is an iffy concept in time pressure. I give the rest of the game with lighter notes; situation we both had to play mostly by feel.

33...Kf6 34.Ke4 b4 35.g5+ hxg5 36.hxg5+ Kg7 37.axb4 a4!?

I missed this move but I am still fine; neither of us has made any mistakes and the position should still be drawn.

38.Kd4 a3 39.Kc3 a2 40.Kb2



At the time I thought I might be winning here, but in reality if Black does nothing then White has no way to break through. For example: 40...Bd5 41.Nd2 Kf7 42.b5 Kg7 43.b6 Kf7 44.b7 (what else?) 44...Bxb7 45.Kxa2 Be6+ 46.Kb2 Kg6 47.Nf3 Bd5 is drawn. Funny business like 48.f7 Bxf7 49.Ne5+ might win a piece but after 49...Kxg5 White has no mating material.

40...Bd5 41.Nd2 Bc6?

This looks like an obvious mistake now— why give up the a-pawn for no reason?— but it wasn't so obvious at the time. Naomi had only about a minute left, and with such

little time the idea of “doing nothing” is surprisingly hard to find. White is winning from here on out.

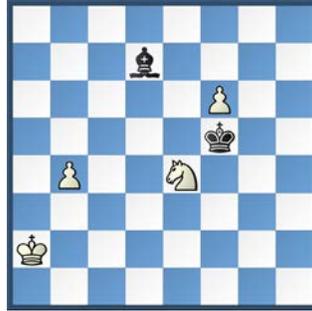
42.Kxa2 Bd7 43.f6+ Kg6 44.Nf3?

44. Kb2 is simpler. 44...Be6 45.b5 Kxg5 46.b6 Bd5 47.b7 etc. I missed Black's next move. Now I have to play with some degree of accuracy.

44...d2! 45.Nxd2 Kxg5 46.Ne4+

Not objectively the best move, but a smart idea in time trouble. White sets a trap.

46...Kf5?



46...Kg6 is better, avoiding the knight fork tricks. Eventually that will lead to a theoretical-looking knight and pawn vs. bishop ending. If you're like me, you looked at this ending a long time ago but all you remember is the idea of blocking the bishop with the knight so it can't sacrifice itself for the pawn. Apparently White can get a better version of this ending with 46.f7!? Be6+ 47.Ka3 Bxf7, but I'm glad I played 46.Ne4+.

47.f7! Be6+ 48.Ka3 Bxf7 49.Nd6+ Ke6 50.Nxf7 Kxf7 51.Ka4

A stressful game, an interesting game, and a good reminder not to take ratings too seriously.

1-0

Joshua C. Sinanan

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Washington Chess News

Clark Harmon Memorial Tournament

by Murlin Varner

Clark Harmon was a valuable and important member and leader of the chess community. During his life, he took leadership roles in both the Oregon Chess Federation and the Washington Chess Federation. A resident of the Portland area at the time of his death, he has been honored in memory by this annual tournament. For a period of time, the Northwest Chess Grand Prix was also named in Clark's honor. This tournament switches between Oregon and Washington on an annual basis. 2014 was Washington's turn.

Forty one players converged on the Seattle Chess Club for the 2014 event, May 2 to 4. Sixteen played in the Open section, with Nick Raptis of Oregon as the top rated (2401). Other Masters in attendance included Roland Feng (2267), Peter Lessler (2228) and Viktors Pupols (2216). Raptis blew through the field, scoring a perfect 5.0 while playing five of the top six finishers behind him (Anthony He, Pupols, Feng, Lessler, and Paul Bartron). Lessler finished in a clear second place with four points, losing only to Raptis, or so it seems. For Peter, this was a re-entry, as he had lost to Aaryan Deshpande (1819) in the initial first round on Friday evening. Starting over, Peter improved his chances by defeating Brendan Zhang (1800) in the G/60 first round on Saturday morning. Anthony He (1918) finished clear third with 3.5 to take the U2100 prize, while Pequi "Tony" Jiang (1691) took the U 1900 prize while tying with Pupols for fourth with 3 points.

Twenty six players entered into the U1800 section. Three players tied for first, each scoring 4.0. These included Olga Cherepakhin (1767), Robert Allen (1702) and Ralph Anthony (1671). Anthony lost to Cherepakhin in round five while Allen lost to Anthony in round four. Cherepakhin took an HPB in round two and drew with James Nelson (1632) in round four. Four players under 1600 tied with 3.0, Sujatha Chalasani (1596), Mike Hasuiki (1567), Morgan Larkin (1529) and Evan Ruan (1478). Ishaan Puri (1371) scored 2.5, as did Michael Gellings (303) and Ethan Hu (105) to share the U1400 and U1200 prizes.

If all holds true to form, this tournament should be played in Oregon next year. Please join us.

FM Nick Raptis (2400) –
Roland Feng (2245) [E04]
Clark Harmon Memorial
Seattle, WA (R3), May 3, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0–0 Nf6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Ne5 Bd7 8.Na3 cxd4 9.Naxc4 Rc8 10.Bf4 Nxe5

10...b5!? While weakening c6 generally makes it harder for Black to hold the c-file, here it encourages exchanges.

11.Nxe5 Qb6 12.Nxd7 Nxd7 13.Qa4 Bd6



14.Bxb7

Regaining the gambit pawn with rough equality. White doesn't need to rush into this, however. 14.Rac1 points up Black's difficulty connecting his rooks. White will pick off one of the queenside pawns soon enough. 14...Rc5 (14...Ke7 15.Bxd6+ Qxd6 and now White should show a profit snacking on the queenside.) 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qxa7 0–0 (16...Ke7 is the same as the last note.) 17.Qxb7 Rb8

Analysis



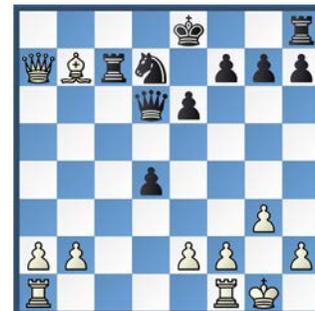
18.Rxc5! Nxc5 (18...Rxb7 19.Rc8+ Nf8 20.Bxb7 Qb6 21.Bf3 Qxb2 22.a4 should be quite good for White.) 19.Qc6 Qxc6 20.Bxc6 Rxb2 21.Rc1! White is winning a piece, since 21...Rxe2 22.Rxc5 d3 23.Be4 deals with the passed pawn.; Also worth a look: 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rad1 e5 16.e3

14...Rc7 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qxa7

[Diagram top of next column]

16...0–0

16...Ke7! with play against the pinned bishop. 17.Rac1 Rb8 18.Rxc7 Qxc7 19.Qa3+ Qd6 20.Qxd6+?! (20.Bc6 Qxa3 21.bxa3 Nc5 +=; 20.Qa7 Qc7 =) 20...Kxd6



21.Bg2 Rxb2 22.Rd1

17.Qa6! Qb4 18.Bg2 Qxb2 19.a4 Qb4 20.Rfb1 Qc5 21.Rb5 Qc3 22.Rbb1



22...Ne5?

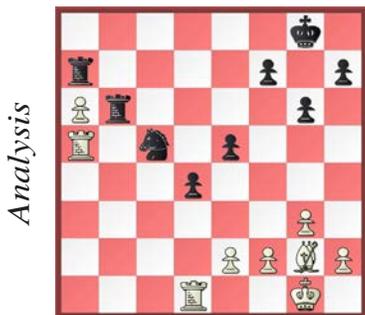
There are several reasons this is not the best chance for Black. First, the knight is unprotected, and any time there are hanging pieces tactical ideas start to show up. Second, the move fails to challenge White's dominance of the b-file. Third, as the game continuation shows, Black plans to defend the knight with ...d3, thus reducing the impact of his potentially mobile center pawns and reducing the pawn majority from 5/4 to 4/3.

Why is this last point important? Larger kingside pawn majorities tend to be harder for the defending side to handle, for two main reasons. One, the passed pawn created will be farther from the defending king and the rest of the pawns. Two, more pawns means more potential variety of attacking plans.

This general rule can be seen in the specific case of rook and pawn endings, where R+P vs R is generally easily drawn, if the defending king is in front of the pawn, R+2P vs R+P (same side, of course) is usually drawn, R+3P vs R+2P is fairly easy to hold, R+4P vs R+3P is significantly harder, but drawn with best defense if the right structure can be achieved, and R+5P vs R+4P hasn't been studied enough to render a general verdict — aside from the bromide that all rook endings are drawn — but the defense is clearly very hard-pressed. Better is 22...Rb8! challenging the file. Tactically, White can't exchange on b8, the knight remains protected, and Black can continue

at some point with a supported advance of the e-pawn.

Even after this better try, White has an edge with that outside passed a-pawn, but Black has more going on to distract White from its advance. 23.a5! g6 One line here: (23...Rxb1+ is possible, but seems slightly suspect on principle. One should only initiate the exchange if there is gain (time, material) involved. 24.Rxb1 g6 25.Qb5 Qc5 is still at least +=) 24.Rd1 e5 25.Qd6 Ra7 26.a6 Rb6 27.Qe7 Qc5! 28.Qxc5 Nxc5 29.Ra5



29...Nd7 (29...Nxa6?! 30.Rda1 (30.Rxe5!? Nb4 31.Rxd4? (31.Re8+ Kg7 32.Rd8 Ra2 33.Bf3?! (33.R8xd4 Rxe2 34.Rd7 +=. The knight is a bit cut off from the action, so the bishop is a better piece, but Black should be able to grovel a draw anyway. (34.Rb1?! Nc6 35.Rxb6 Re1+ 36.Bf1 Nxd4 =)) 33...d3 34.exd3 Rf6 35.Kg2 Nc2 36.Re8 Nd4 37.Re3 g5 and White is a bit too tied up to profit from the extra pawn.) 31...Ra1+ 32.Bf1 Nc2 33.Rd8+ Kg7 34.Re7 Rbb1 and now White is the one chasing the draw, albeit successfully, with 35.Rdd7) 30...Kg7 31.Be4 and now Black must part with the exchange and defend the unclear ending (31.Bd5? Rd7) 31...Nc5 32.Rxa7 Nxe4) 30.Rda1 and White is having more fun, but must somehow break the blockade to actually win.

23.Qd6 d3 24.exd3 Rd7 25.Qa3!

Black is not well placed to handle the passed a-pawn when the queens come off.

25...Qd4 26.Qb2! Qc5

26...Qxb2 27.Rxb2 Nxd3 28.Rb5 should be decisive, as the knight is dominated.

27.Rc1?!

27.a5! Nxd3 28.Qb6 is consistent and powerful.

27...Qd6 28.Qa3 Qd4 29.Qc3 Nxd3

29...Qxc3 30.Rxc3 Rfd8 31.a5 is very good for White.

30.Qxd4 Rxd4 31.Rc7 e5 32.Bb7! f5 33.a5 f4

33...Nb4 34.a6 Nxa6 offers no real hope.

34.a6 fxg3 35.hxg3 Nxf2 36.a7 Rd2 37.Bc8 Rf3 38.Be6+

A very impressive technical performance by the Oregon State Champion.

1-0

**Roland Feng (2245) –
NM Peter Lessler (2220) [E37]**
Clark Harmon Memorial
Seattle, WA (R5), May 4, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Ne4 7.Qc2 c5 8.dxc5 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qxc5 11.e3 Nxd2 12.Nxd2 d4



13.e4?

A positional error, dooming the white bishop and allowing Black to solidify his dark square hold on the queenside.

What caused White to choose something like this? Apparently it was fear of the isolated e-pawn that results from allowing Black to play ...dxe3 at some point. However, 13.b4! Qe7 14.Nf3 dxe3 15.fxe3 0-0 16.Bd3 offers White at least a small advantage. That e-pawn helps control the d4-square, and White has claimed space on the queenside while activating his pawn majority. The bishop is much happier, and White may even find play on the half-open f-file; e3 is only a weakness if it can be attacked.

13...a5!

Now Black maintains a persistent edge.

14.b3 0-0 15.Bd3 e5 16.0-0 Be6 17.Qb2 Qe7 18.Rfc1 b6 19.Rc2?

This is White's opportunity to begin rehabilitating the oversize pawn on d3. 19.c5 is needed to keep the disadvantage to more or less manageable levels. 19...Rab8 (19...bxc5 20.Qc2) 20.cxb6 Rxb6 21.Bc4 and though Black must still have an edge — that is a protected passed pawn on d4 — White is not too unhappy.

19...Nb8 20.Rac1 Nd7 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Rfb8 23.Qb1 Ra3 24.Rb2 g6 25.Nf3 Kg7 26.h3 Rba8 27.Qc2 h6 28.Qd2 Qd6 29.Ne1 Rc8 30.Rbc2 Ra4



31.e5?

White tries the active way. 31.Rb1 waits for Black to prove something.

31...bxc5 32.Bb5 Rxb4 33.Qxb4?

At this point the best White can achieve is a pawn-down ending: 33.Bxd7 Bxd7 34.Rxc5 Rxc5 35.Qxb4 Rc6 36.Qxd6 Rxd6 which is surely lost.

33...cxb4 34.Rxc8 b3 35.Nd3 Qa3 36.R8c6 b2 37.Rf1 Qb3 38.Rxe6 Qxb5 0-1

Tacoma News

by Gary Dorfner

The 2014 Pierce County League was held at the club on the four Fridays in February with four 3-player teams. The first place team was the Crusaders with Paul Bartron, Larry Anderson and Gary Dorfner - 12.5 points. The second place team was the Warriors with Steve Buck, Rich Raymond and Mike Mellott - 9.5 points. Top Boards: Board 1 Tom Walker 3.5, Board 2 Rich Raymond 2.5, Board 3 Gary Dorfner 1.5. Prizes were certificates. TD was Gary Dorfner.

Two tournaments were organized and run by H.G. Pitre on the 2nd and 3rd weekends in March at the Tacoma Chess Club. The Saturday event was the Tacoma CC Semi-Class and had eleven players. Winners were; 1st Paul Bartron 3.5 \$150.00, 2nd -3rd Mike MacGregor, Viktors Pupols & Alan Bishop 2.5 \$70.00 each, 1st U1800 Robin Tu 2.5 \$90.00, 2nd U1800 Mike Hasuike 2.0 \$70.00, 3rd U1800 Stephen Buck and Ralph Anthony 1.5 \$30.00 each.

The Sunday event was the Tacoma CC March Open. This event drew ten players, seven of whom were also in the Saturday event. The winners were; 1st Paul Bartron, Alan Bishop and Naomi Bashkansky 3.0 \$120.00 each, 1st U1800 Stephen Buck 2.5 \$90.00, 1st U1400 Ron Taylor 1.0 \$90.00, and best game prize by a non-prize winner Travis Olson \$60.

The Spring Championship G/15 event was held on March 28 with twelve players. The winners were; 1st Paul Bartron 4.0, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tom Walker, Mike Mellott & Archie Escobido 3.0 each.

The Daffodil Open was held on Saturday, April 19th with ten players. The winners were; 1st Paul Bartron 4 \$44.00, 2nd Arjun Thomas 3.0 \$24.00, U2000 James Nelson \$30.00, and U1700 Ralph Anthony, Boas Lee & Rich Sewell 2.0 \$10.00 each. TD for both events was Gary Dorfner.

A Membership Blitz was started last January. Letters were sent to a large number of former members and followed up with emails and phone calls.

Oregon Chess News

Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation State Championship

by Jeff Dobbins

The Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation's Ninth Annual State Championship, held on April 11-12 in Seaside, Oregon, was its largest yet. Events began on Friday with two rounds in the Middle School Elite (1300+) and High School Elite (1400+) sections, and continued on Friday evening with raucous Blitz and Bughouse events. By Saturday morning, a total of 372 scholastic players had gathered together to compete in sixteen age- and ratings-based sections (along with an additional 36 players in the "Friends and Family" section). Six of the sections were dual USCF- and NWSRS-rated, with the others NWSRS-rated only.

Place winners in each section received one of the golden taffy-filled trophies that this tournament has become known for. Players in the Middle School and High School Elite sections also competed to become Oregon's nominees to the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, which are to be contested in Orlando this summer over the opening weekend of this year's U.S. Open. In their comments below, NM Aaron Grabinsky and Seth Talyansky describe their roads to becoming Oregon's Denker and Barber nominees. The Elementary

Elite (1200+) champion, Owen McCoy, weighs in with his own commentary on that section's events. Maxwell Chen, a Portland-area second grader who just established his rating in March, took the Primary (K-2) section with a perfect 5.0 score.

The top-rated girls after the event received Oregon's nominations to the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational (held in St. Louis this July) and the National Girls Invitational Tournament (also held in Orlando during the U.S. Open). Congratulations to Andrea Botez (1579; Polgar alumna), Hailey Riley (1288; NGIT nominee), and Lauren Mei Calora (1193; Polgar nominee). We look forward to hearing more about all these players' experiences this summer.

The OSCF State Championship will be held once again in Seaside on April 24-25, 2015. It will be our Tenth Annual tournament, and we hope to have a record-breaking event once again.

OSCF High School Elite Section Report

by NM Aaron Grabinsky

This year's high school elite section was very difficult for me as the top player at 2214, knowing well beforehand that my competition would consist of 1800s and 1900s. I knew that losing to these players

could be a reality as most of them are probably severely underrated. Frankly, it's not a very pleasant feeling!

Anyway, the tournament went well for me as I scored four points out of the first four games (albeit the fourth round can hardly be considered smooth as I barely ground out a rook endgame which should have been a draw against a 1600!).

In the last round I was paired against Yogi Saputra, the second highest player at 2014. I had a good personal record against him but I seem to draw him more than I like which was kind of irksome as a draw would not be ideal in this situation.

The beginning went well with me gaining equality from a Nimzo-Indian but I couldn't seem to gain headway and got slightly frustrated, resulting in me losing two pawns and going into a knight endgame! Things weren't looking good but time was on my side as he had around two minutes to my 20. Anyway, I ended up drawing somehow! See the game below. Though I was extremely happy with a draw as I was losing, as I mentioned earlier, a draw really wasn't ideal as I was now tied with Clemen Deng (1956) for first with 4.5 out of 5. This meant that we would have to play blitz to decide who would represent Oregon at the Denker tournament of High School Champions in Orlando, Florida! Quite a nerve-wracking situation. I was especially nervous as I had drawn Clemen (twice!) the night before in the blitz tournament! Anyway, I was expecting a stiff fight.

I was quite surprised and relieved as I won the first two games rather smoothly thus securing the Florida invitation! The games were played with 5 minutes and a 2 second increment. The first game I won easily but the second game I dropped a pawn and got a bad position but I have come to learn that with blitz anything can happen! I eventually outplayed him by opening up his king and executing a rook sacrifice which resulted in checkmate a few moves later. It was quite a stressful finish to a very stressful tournament! I hope not to make Oregon look too bad at the Denker, but I can say that sometimes I feel playing at Seaside is harder than playing at the Denker!

**Yogi Saputra (2014) –
Aaron Grabinsky (2214) [E11]**
OSCF State Championship
Seaside, OR (R5), April 12, 2014
[Aaron Grabinsky]

**1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7
5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Nbxd2 d6 7.Qa4+ Nbd7**



OSCF State Championship 2014 @ Seaside, Oregon
Skittles Room at 2014 OSCF State Championship. Photo credit: Herma Ornes



OSCF State Championship 2014 @ Seaside, Oregon

Aaron Grabinsky, 1st Place, Top Section, Blitz Tournament (and eventual HS Elite co-champion and Denker nominee). Photo credit: Herma Ornes

I still have no idea why he played Qa4+, to me it doesn't make any sense.

8.e4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be2 0-0 11.b4 Rd8 12.0-0 Nf8

My idea is to play Ne6 at some point in order to get to either d4 or f4.

13.Rfd1 Bg4 14.Qc2 a5

Perhaps c5 is better to prevent his next move.

15.c5! Ne6 16.Qb2 Nf4 17.Bf1 Ng6

I wasn't really sure how to proceed here.

18.Be2 Nf4 19.Bf1 h5 20.h3 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 Ng6 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.bxa5 Qxc5 24.Qxb7 Qxa5

I have a feeling that those exchanges favored White.

25.Rc1 c5 26.Be4 Rd7 27.Qc8+ Qd8 28.Qxc5 Nxe4 29.Qe3 Rd1+

So far Yogi has been playing very well and I have been forced to look for moves which don't lose!

30.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 31.Kh2 Nd6 32.Bb3 Qa1 33.Qc5 Qb2



A very interesting position!

34.Qb4 Kh7

I missed White's next move when I played Qb2

35.Bxf7! Qxb4 36.Bxg6+ Kxg6 37.axb4 Kf5

I was prepared for a long, tedious defense.

38.Nd2 e4 39.Kg1 Ke5 40.Kf1 Nb5 41.Nb3 g5 42.Ke2 Nc3+ 43.Kf1 Kd5

I thought I had time to grab the pawn and still get back to the kingside in time but I was wrong.

44.Ke1 Kc4 45.Nc5 Kxb4 46.Ne6 Nd5 47.Nxg5 e3 48.fxe3 Nxe3

If White hadn't taken my pawn and had played say f3, I might have been able to drum up counter-play with it.

49.Kf2 Nc2

My pawn on h5 is probably a goner which will leave me two pawns down.

50.Kg3 Kc4 51.Ne4 Ne3 52.Kf3 Kd4 53.Ng3 h4 54.Ne2+ Kd3

There's not much to do but wait in this position.

55.Nf4+ Kd4 56.Ng6 Nc4 57.Kf4 Kd5

There it goes!

58.Nxh4 Ke6 59.Kg5 Nd2 60.Kg6 Ne4 61.Nf5 Nf2 62.h4 Ng4 63.Ng7+ Ke7 64.h5 Ne5+ 65.Kf5 Nc4 66.g4 Kf7 67.h6 Nd6+ 68.Kg5 Ne4+ 69.Kh5 Ng3+ 70.Kh4 Ne4 71.Nf5 Kg6 72.Kh3 Ng5+ 73.Kh4? Nf7

Miracles do happen!

74.h7 Kxh7

I was VERY relieved at this point!

75.Kh5 Ne5 76.g5 Ng6 77.Nd6 Nf4+ 78.Kg4 Ne6 1/2-1/2

OSCF Middle School Elite Section Report

by Seth Talyansky

The middle school section attracted twenty-two players. We came from many places:

Portland, Corvallis, Bend, Coquille, Canby, Beaverton, Eugene, and Tualatin. Most of us have known each other for years already, meeting over the board at past versions of Seaside and elsewhere.

The tournament started with two rounds on Friday morning, when those of us who did not come Thursday evening arrived in Seaside. After the rounds were finished, the serious, focused atmosphere of the tournament hall vanished for one afternoon, as the majority of us participated in the fun, cordial blitz and bughouse events. Then Saturday the tournament resumed, with the last three rounds taking up most of the day, from 9am until 6pm.

The much-awaited first two rounds of the championship were action-packed: there were only one cumulative draw and several upsets. Marshal Xu (1618) lost to Torrey Gage-Tomlinson (1342), Jake Winkler (1465) lost to Leonardo Sun (1186), and Ethan Allison (1581) lost to Mason Bagoyo (1341), all in the first round. Most impressive of all, however, was when Liam Booth (1477) toppled Maxwell Sun (1994), the highest rated player in the section. That way four people were leading the section with two points each: Liam Booth, Josiah Perkins (1566), Ethan Wu (1635), and me. I had won two interesting, involved games with Keshav Siddhartha (1362) and Torrey Gage-Tomlinson.

On Saturday morning, after we had all loosened ourselves by spending an enjoyable evening playing blitz and bughouse (I was in an especially good mood as I had won in both of my blitz and bughouse sections), we returned to the Convention Center and continued our clashes. I was paired with Josiah and Liam was paired with Ethan. On board one, I misplayed the white side of the Winawer Variation of the French and quickly got myself into a worse, unpleasant position. Suddenly, Josiah made a mistake, missing that I could win a pawn and get into a much better situation. After another inaccuracy of his, I capitalized and won a rook ending. On board two, Ethan achieved a winning position against Liam, but failed to realize it when Liam complicated the position by creating passed pawns on either side of the board for both of them. Thus, after round three, I was in sole lead with three points, Liam and Ethan were tied for second with two and a half points, and five people were tied for third place with two points each.

In the fourth round, I was matched against Ethan and Liam was matched against Marshal Xu, who had two points. Going into the bout, I knew that this was the most important game of the tournament for me; whether I won or not would most likely decide the outcome of the championship for me.

Ethan Wu (1635) –
 Seth Talyansky (1854) [D35]
 OSCF State Championship
 (R4), April 12, 2014
 [Seth Talyansky]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.cxd5
 exd5

I have never liked playing placid, minimally tactical positions like this.

6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 Bf5 8.Bd3 Bg6!?±

Probably objectively an inaccuracy. However, I simply did not want to take and let his queen to d3 at this point in time.

9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 Nbd7 11.Qc2?!



An inaccuracy, By playing his queen to c2, White allows Black to play a variation that immediately equalizes.

11...Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Ne4! 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 =
 14.a3

Most likely the wrong idea. I do not believe the standard minority attack works in this position because of the gaping hole on c4.

14...Nb6 15.Ne5 f6 16.Nxe4 fxe5 17.Nd2
 e4

[Diagram top of next column]

Shutting the center down and temporarily keeping the knight and queen out of play.



Already here I think I am better.

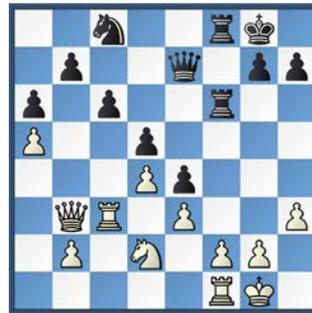
18.Qb3 Rf6

On the attack.

19.a4 Raf8 20.a5 Nc8 21.Rac1 a6!

Allowing me to play Nd6 without worrying about a6, undermining the c-pawn.

22.Rc3?!



I don't see the point. 22.f3 was called for. This opens up the position for his rook and knight, which will be key in his defense. Also, it allows his queen to get into the game via d3 and his c-rook, which is not doing anything, to become more useful. 22...exf3 23.Rxf3 Nd6 24.Rxf6 Rxf6 25.Rf1 I am still better because of the outposts for my knight on c4 and e4 and his weakness on e3, but my vicious attack has been subdued.

22...Nd6 23.Qb4?

Losing. The pin on my knight does nothing and only further brings his queen away from the kingside. 23.f3 had to be played. White is now much worse, but he is not losing. 23...Rg6 24.Rc2 exf3 25.Rxf3 Rf5μ with a very pleasant position for black to play.

23...Rg6! →

A natural, yet decisive move.

24.Kh2

Quickens the process. 24.f4 Qh4

24...Qg5 25.g3

25.g4 Qh4 26.f3 Rh6

25...Rxf2+!!



26.Kh1

26.Rxf2 Qxg3+ 27.Kh1 Qg1#

26...Qxg3 0-1

Meanwhile, Liam nicely outplayed Marshal on board two, meaning that I would face off with him in the last round, for he was the closest rival to my four points, with his three and a half. Jake Winkler and Josiah were tied for third place, each with three and a half, entailing that they were the only ones, aside from Liam who would surpass me, who would catch me if I lost my upcoming game.

After all of us had taken walks on the waterside Ocean boardwalk that beautiful, bright day or used other means to clear our minds, we began the "money round." I obtained an advantage out of the opening when Liam played 3... d6 instead of 3... a6 in the Ruy Lopez. Early on, my dark squared bishop was clearly dominant to that of his, but I squandered my edge when I made a mistake by allowing him to trade knights and develop his bishop to f6 where it was active. Soon we traded all of our major pieces and the two bishops and arrived at a king and pawn endgame where I was slightly better. However, Liam defended perfectly and we agreed to a draw. The result guaranteed me first place with four and a half out five points, and as Jake and Josiah drew on the second board, Liam was lone second with four points and Jake and Josiah tied for third place, each of them with three and a half points. Andrea Botez (1552) ended up getting fifth place with three out of five points.



Seth Talyansky and Matt Dalthorp (l-r), winners of top section in Bughouse tournament at 2014 OSCF State Championship. Photo credit: Herma Ornes

Finally, following two days of difficult and diligent chess, the award ceremony took place. All of the participants of the 2014 middle school state championship were congratulated on qualifying for the tournament, coming all the way to Seaside, and playing excellent chess.

OSCF Elementary Elite Section Report

by Owen McCoy

The Elementary Elite division at the OSCF State Championship was full of excitement and suspense! There was quite a bit of tough competition happening. There were many strong players who were highly rated and hoping for big wins. I must say that quite a few people must have been underestimated in their ratings, which resulted in many upsets.

In the first round, I was on board 1, where I could see just about every board. I had some friends playing, so I was interested in how they were doing. I scored a full point, along with many others. One of my friends, Victor Dossin got an upset! In my next round, stronger players were starting to get paired up. My second game was against Sean Uan-zo-li. I expected it to be an easier game, but I soon found myself in an inferior position. In the end, we agreed to a draw, which shook me, because I fell behind some people early in the tournament.

At the start of the third round, Colin, Jack, and Victor, all had 2.0, so Jack played as white against Colin, while I played as white against Victor. Praveer also had 1.5, so he played Sean. Colin beat Jack, I beat Victor, and Praveer beat Sean. Joshua obtained an equal position, and then decided to exchange his Queen for a rook and bishop. This decision suits Joshua's style, and he eventually won.

In round 4, the final round, Colin stood alone with 3.0, while Praveer and I followed with 2.5 each. I played black against Colin, while Praveer played white against Joshua Grabinsky, who had 2.0. Gavin Zhang and Jack McClain each had 2.0 at the beginning of the fourth round, and they played out an exciting battle, which Jack won in the end.

My final game against Colin, which decided the tournament, was a long one. I could tell that Colin was expecting me to play a certain opening, so I decided to surprise him with something different. At one point toward the end, I gained an advantage, and the game could have been over, but to his credit, Colin kept fighting, and I had a hard time forcing the full point. Eventually, I won the long hard battle. We were the last game in the room! I was totally exhausted after that.



OSCF State Championship 2014 @ Seaside, Oregon

Blitz tournament at 2014 OSCF State Championship. Photo credit: Herma Ornes

The top winners in the section are listed below; congratulations to everyone who played, because everyone who made it to state is a really good player and worked hard to get there!

1. Owen McCoy (1670) (3.5/4);
2. Jack Woo McClain (1436) (3.0/4);
3. Colin Liu (1568) (3.0/4);
4. Joshua Grabinsky (1564) (3/0/4);
5. Praveer Sharan (1567) (2.5/4).

Here is my game against Sean:

Owen McCoy (1670) – Sean Uan-zo-li (1504) [B23]
OSCF State Championship (R5), April 12, 2014
[Owen McCoy]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 b6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.g3 e6 6.Bg2 d5 7.d3 Nge7 8.0-0 g6 9.Qe1 Bg7 10.e5 0-0 11.Bd2 Nf5 12.Ne2 Rc8 13.c3?!

This might be where I messed up. However, I couldn't see anything better to do.

13...Ba6 14.Nc1 f6 15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Rb1 Rfe8 17.b3 Nd6

And Black clearly has a more comfortable position.

18.a4 Qf5 19.Nh4 Qf6 20.Nf3 Rb8 21.c4 Nd4 22.Qd1 N6f5 23.Ne5 Rbd8 ½-½

I thought you might want to see the

championship game, this is a long one!

Colin Liu (1556) – Owen McCoy (1655) [D63]
OSCF State Championship (R4), April 12, 2014
[Owen McCoy]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5!? 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 c6 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nbd7 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 c5 11.Rc1 b6 12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Ba6!? Bxa6 14.Qxa6 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.Qb5 a6?! 17.Qe2 Qd7 18.Rfd1 Qb7 19.h3 Rfe8 20.a3 Rac8

And White may have a slight edge, but Black is not in any trouble.

21.Bg3 Bf8 22.b4 Ncd7 23.e4 g6!? 24.e5 Nh5 25.Bh2 Ng7?

Black loses a pawn. I didn't see his next move.

26.Qd2! Red8 27.Qxh6 Nf5 28.Qf4?

Returning the favor. Black wins the exchange, but White has compensation on the dark squares.

28...Bh6! 29.Qg4 Nxd4 30.Qxd4 Bxc1 31.Rxc1 Qc6 32.Bf4 Qc4 33.Qe3 Nf8 34.Ne4?

Black will be up a whole rook. Here are a few more moves.

34...Qxc1+ 35.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 36.Bxc1 Rd1+ 37.Kh2 Rxc1 38.Nf6+ Kh8 39.g4

Rc3 40.h4 Rx3 41.h5 a5 42.bxa5 bxa5 43.h6 Ra2 44.Kg3 Re2 45.f4 a4 46.Ne8 Rc2 47.Kh4 Rc3 48.Nd6 Rc7 49.Kg5 Nh7+ 50.Kh4 Rd7 51.Nb5 Nf8 52.Kg5 a3 53.Nxa3 Rd3 54.Nb5 Rh3 55.Kf6 Rxh6 56.Kxf7 Nh7 57.Nd6 g5 58.Ke7 Kg8 59.Nf7 Rh4 60.fgx5 Kg7 0-1

PCC April Game 60

by Brian Berger

Although the Portland Chess Club's April Game 60 did not reach the near record number of attendees as in March (39), a still healthy crowd of 25 avid souls sat out the April showers during four rounds of mental combat.

Near to starting time, Chief TD Mike Morris, assisted by Jon and Barb Fortune, were somewhat surprised by a last minute influx of ten players, but managed to still get the tournament started near the advertised hour. Perhaps some were lured to participate by the knowledge of a recently added second bathroom, nearly assuring that they could find relief in a timely fashion. Whatever the reasons, everyone in attendance looked eager to be there.

There was no lack of strong competition, the prize fund drawing two players above 1900, and three above 2000, including Master Nick Raptis. As nearly always, Nick posted four wins, and found himself \$75 richer. Hard on Nick's heels was the fast rising young contender, Andy Trattner, who, dressed in suit and tie to attend his school prom, danced his way through the

competition, taking a bye in the forth round and a \$50 2nd place.

Tied for 3rd place were Michael Goffe and Micah Smith, each with three wins, and each stymied in the quest for 1st place by beating on a stone wall--also known as Nick Raptis.

Lisa Still, with a pre- tournament rating of 1363, turned in a sparkling and surprising performance by taking out a 1642 and 1716

player in her three wins, losing only to the 1917 rated Trattner!--a showing strong enough to win the U1800 prize of \$43.75.

Not to be outdone in the upset department was Praveer Sharan, who with a rating of 1311, won the U1500 with 2.5 points, and in the process powered through 1816 rated Dagadu Gaikwad, and 1739 rated Benjamin Pikus! Like Still, his one loss was at the hands of Trattner.



(L) Dave Prideaux vs (R) Lisa Still. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Carl Haessler
Chess Master



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carl@chessworksNW.com



(L) Stephen Buck vs (R) Mike Hasuike. Photo credit: Brian Berger

Coffee Time

by Galen Pyle

Chess PDX's monthly coffee time chess tournament was really a lot of fun. This month the surprise winner was a little kid named Seth. (Sorry I forgot to take his picture) He was around 16 years old and speaks Russian. I heard that he was second in the OR scholastic states this year. Seth has a Grandmaster chess coach in Washington. Seth beat two experts - Richard and Lennart - as well as two more strong players to win the tournament. He's only 1400 rated but he featured a ~ 2300 rating performance this event!

[Galen is probably referring to Seth Talyansky, based on our coverage of the OSCF State Championships on page 11 — Editor]

COFFEE TIME chess tournament (NW 21st & Irving) EVERY FIRST SATURDAY! Registration at 6:30 pm with first round at 7:05 pm.



Coffee Time Clock. Photo credit: Galen Pyle

Super fun, social four round Swiss with game in fifteen minutes per player per game. Valid USCF membership required and the entry fee is \$5. Prizes guaranteed! Check out our website: <http://www.chesspdx.com>



Galen Pyle. Photo credit: Allen Chalfen

NEWPORT JUNE OPEN June 14-15, 2014 in Newport, Oregon

Wishing you were here ... Newport, Oregon ... The sight and sound of ocean waves crashing on shore, powerful yet soothing.

What we're doing: Spending as many days as we can at the ocean celebrating Father's Day, and playing chess in the NEWPORT JUNE OPEN, June 14-15, 2014. The Yaquina Bay Bridge leads to it all.

Want to join us?

#1 thing to do: Make your hotel reservations early. Newport is a popular destination for Spring and Summer, and Father's Day weekend is a prime time for travel. Don't be left without a room.

Format: 4 rounds, 4 sections, a NWCGP event, USCF rated, TC: Game/90, inc/30.

Prizes: \$1,500 based on 52 players, 70% guaranteed.

Playing site: Central Lincoln PUD, 2129 N. Coast Hwy, Newport, OR.

Hotel: Knights Inn, 1823 N. Coast Hwy, Newport, OR. Phone 541-265-4533. 20% off rates. Call the number and mention you are playing in our event.

Organizer/sponsors: Central Coast Chess Club of Newport, Bill Barrese, H.G. Pitre, Russell Miller.

For more information, details and entry form:

Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

Click on the "Calendar" navigation button

Scroll down to June and find the Newport event

Click on "See information and entry form"

Or email H.G. Pitre, hgpitre@gmail.com

Portland Chess Club Summer Open

June 21-22, 2014

\$1300 Guaranteed

5-round Swiss: Two sections: Open and Reserve (U1800)

Time Control: 40/90; SD/30; d5

Registration: Saturday 9-9:45 am. *Limited to first 55 entrants. Online reservations taken (www.pdxchess.org) but only held until 9:15 am Saturday.*

Rounds: Saturday 10:00; 2:00 & ASAP; Sunday 10:00 & ASAP

Location: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219

Byes: 2 half-point byes available for rounds 1-4 if requested before 1st round.

Open: 1st \$300 2nd \$200 U2000 \$150

Reserve: 1st \$200 2nd \$150; U1600, U1400, U1200/unrated each \$100

Entry: \$40; \$30 for PCC members.

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF/ICA required (OSA).

A NW Grand Prix event.

Junior Scholarships!

Thanks to generous donations, any junior player (under 19) will receive a free one-year membership to NW Chess (OCF/WCF/ICA) or an extension of current membership.

Name _____ Section _____

Address _____ City and Zip _____

USCF ID # _____ USCF Exp _____ OCF/WCF Exp _____ Rating _____

Email _____ Bye Rd _____

Entries: Payable to Portland Chess Club; mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave., Portland, OR 97212

Idaho Chess News

BCC #3 Tournament

The third Boise Chess Club tournament of the year, called BCC #3, was played on May 10, 2014 at the Ada Community Library at the corner of Victory and 5-Mile in Boise, Idaho. Jeffrey Roland (Boise) was the Tournament Director.

Entry was free and it was USCF-rated. Time control was Game/45;d5. There were four rounds of play. Participation was down this month (which was surprising because it was held at a quiet library facility and the weather was rainy outside) but as always with games it was fun for those who played.

There was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Chris Amen (Boise, 1397) and James Inman (Nampa, 1763) with 3 points each. Tom Booth (Caldwell, 1551) and Paul Edvalson (Eagle, 1622) tied for 3rd-4th with 2½ points each. Sebastian Chao (Meridian, unrated) was 5th place playing in his first USCF-rated tournament and earned a very impressive first provisional rating of 1516.

The Boise Chess Club plans to hold free USCF-rated tournaments each month. Also, don't forget that the Boise Chess Club meets weekly at All About Games on Overland in Boise, Idaho on Mondays from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



L-R: Chris Amen, James Inman tied for first place. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

Corey Kenneth Longhurst (1443) – James Inman (1763) [B13]
BCC #3 Boise, ID (R1), May 10, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bf5?!

A bit too optimistic, trying to develop the bishop outside the pawn chain before playing ...e6. The problem with this move here, and in many Queen's Gambit lines as well, is that it weakens b7 and the queenside light squares, and though it is a developing move, it does not add to the defense of d5.

6.h3?!

The normal attempt to gain advantage would be 6.Qb3 hitting b7, d5, and indeed the entire a2-g8 diagonal. After 6...Qb6 7.Qxb6 axb6 8.cxd5 White is unlikely to hold the extra pawn, but should keep at least a slight pull due to structure and mobility: 8...Na6 9.Nf3 (9.Bb5+ first probably reaches the same positions.) 9...Nb4 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Kxd7 12.Ne5+ Ke8 13.Ke2 +=

6...e6 7.Qb3 Qd7

7...Nc6! since 8.Qxb7? Nxd4 looks winning for Black.

8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Be3?!

Better is 9.Ne5 right away.

9...Bb4 10.Ne5

10.c5 =

10...Nxc5?

10...Qc7 11.Nxc6 Bxc3+ looks equal.

11.dxe5 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Ne4 13.Qa3 Qe7 14.Qa4+ Qd7 15.Qxd7+ Kxd7 16.g4 Bg6 17.cxd5 exd5



18.Bb5+

Or 18.f3 which wins material: 18...Ng3 (18...d4 19.Bxd4 Ng5 20.Bb5+ Ke6? 21.Kf2) 19.Bb5+ Ke6 20.Rg1; 18.Rd1 is also good for White.

18...Ke6 19.Bf4?

Prevents the white pawns from advancing,

uses a bishop to defend a pawn when another pawn is available, and allows the trapped knight a route to escape. There's not much good to say about this move. [Much better is 19.f4 threatening to win the bishop. 19...f5 20.exf6 Kxf6 21.Bd4+ Ke7 22.Bxg7 and White is ahead in material and position.; 19.f3 is also a good idea here.]

19...Nc5

Both sides miss chances to activate rooks. 19...Rac8 +=

20.0-0 a6 21.Be2 h5

21...Bd3 22.Rfe1 Bxe2 23.Rxe2 Nd3 24.Bg3 g5 =

22.Bg3

22.Rfd1 +=

22...Rad8 23.f4 hxg4 24.hxg4 Be4 25.f5+ Ke7 26.Bf3?!

26.Rac1 =

26...Bxf3

26...Nd3!?

27.Rxf3 Ne4

27...g6!?

28.Kg2?!



L-R: Corey Longhurst, James Inman in round 1. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland



28.Be1 =+

28...Rh6?!

Grab the file while it's hot! 28...Rc8! with a clear advantage to Black. 29.Rb3 b5 30.Rd1 Rc2+ 31.Kg1 Nxc3 (Or the more complex, and perhaps less clear, 31...g6!? Black plans to open the g-file and go after that bishop.) 32.Rxc3 Rxb2 33.Rxd5 Rc8 34.Rg2 Rcc2

29.Rh1?

The net result of this exchanging offer is to undevelop the white king. Black isn't threatening much on the h-file, and the swing along the sixth rank might be better met by activating the a1-rook to the open c-file: 29.Rc1 +=

29...Rxb1 30.Kxb1 f6?!

30...Nxc3+ 31.Rxc3 d4 32.Rd3 g6 moves the white pawn base up to the more vulnerable f5-square, freezes the white kingside pawn mass, and wins material due to Black's superior king position: 33.Kg2 gxf5 34.gxf5 f6 35.e6 Rd5

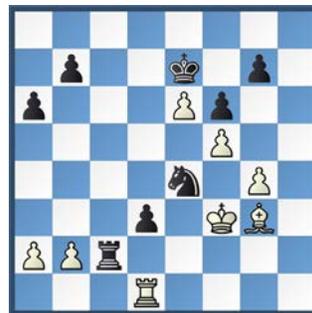
31.e6?!

31.Kg2 saves a tempo and looks drawish: 31...Nxc3 (31...d4 32.exf6+ Nxf6 33.Rd3 Nxc4 34.Kf3 Nf6 35.Bf2 Rd5 36.Kf4) 32.exf6+ Kxf6 (Or 32...gxf6 33.Kxc3 Kd6 34.Kf4) 33.Kxc3 d4 34.Kf4

31...d4 32.Kg2 d3 33.Rf1 Rc8

33...d2 34.Rd1 Rd3 35.Bc7 Re3 36.Kf1 g6! with an edge to Black.

34.Rd1 Rc2+ 35.Kf3



35...Nc5?

Losing the d-pawn and the game. Perhaps the simplest draw is the repetition 35...Rd2 36.Rc1 (36.Rh1 Nxc3 37.Kxc3 Rxb2 38.Rh7 is also going to end in a repetition.; 36.Rxd2? Nxd2+ 37.Ke3 Nf1+ and Black wins.) 36...Rc2 37.Rd1 Rd2; Also good enough to hold is 35...Nxc3 36.Kxc3 (Or even 36.Rxd3!/? still draws, as the extra knight has little influence. On the other hand, this isn't actually a winning attempt; White will have to take a perpetual/repetition shortly.) 36...d2 37.b4 Rxa2 =

36.b4 Na4 37.Rxd3 Rc3 38.Bd6+ Ke8 39.Ke3 Rxd3+ 40.Kxd3 Nb6 41.Bc5 Nc8 42.Ke4 b6 43.Bd4 b5 44.Kd5 Kd8 45.Kc6 Ne7+ 46.Kb7 Nd5 47.Bc5 Nc7 48.Bb6 1-0

Paul Edvalson (1622) – Chris Amen (1397) [A03]

BCC #3 Boise, ID (R1), May 10, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 d5 3.b3 Nf6 4.e3 g6 5.Bb2 Bg7 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bd3?! 0-0 8.Ne5 Be6 9.0-0?

[Diagram top of next column]

9.Nc3



9...Nbd7

9...Ng4! wins a pawn due to the pin on e5 and the inability of the d-pawn to advance in defense. 10.Qf3 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Bxe5 12.fxe5 Nc6 13.Qf4 Qc7; 9...Nfd7 doesn't work, though: 10.Nxd7 Bxb2 11.Nxf8 Qxf8 12.Nc3 Bxa1 13.Qxa1 +=



L-R: Paul Edvalson, Chris Amen in round 1. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

10.f5 Bxf5 11.Bxf5 gxf5 12.Rxf5 e6 13.Rg5 Kh8?



13...Ne8 14.Rg3 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 f6 offers rough equality.

14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Qf3

15.Rxc7! wins on the spot. 15...Kxc7 16.Qg4+ with mate in three. The idea of Rxc7 was also killing on move 14.



L-R: Paul Edvalson, Chris Amen in round 1. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

15...Ne8 16.Bxg7+ Nxg7 17.Qf6 Rg8
18.Rh5?

18.Rg3 first keeps an advantage, intending Rh3.

18...Qd8 19.Qe5??

19.Rh6 is about equal.

19...f6 0-1

**Jarod N Buus (1562) –
Corey Kenneth Longhurst (1443) [B54]**
BCC #3 Boise, ID (R4), May 10, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
5.Be3 g6?

A bit cavalier, trying to do without knight development. There's a reason Black generally plays ...Nf6, and the loss of time going both ...a6 and ...g6 to reach Dragon positions could also have repercussions. 5...e5 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Nc3 reaches a main-line Najdorf.

6.Nc3

Since his e-pawn is not under pressure, White could chose a Maroczy Bind structure with 6.c4 clamping down on the d5-square.

6...Qc7??



Necessary is development of the minor pieces, aiming for kingside castling. 6...Nf6 followed by ...Bg7 and ...O-O.

7.Qd2

7.Nd5! Qa5+ 8.b4 Qd8 9.Nb5! axb5 (9...Bg7 10.Nbc7+ Kf8 11.Nxa8) 10.Bb6 and wins.

7...e6 8.Be2 Nd7 9.f4 b5?



L-R: Corey Longhurst, Jarod Buus at the start of round 4. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

Develop, please.

10.a3

10.f5! is a blunt — but effective — attempt to grab control of d5.

10...Nc5?!

Aren't there some other pieces? 10...Ngf6 11.Bf3 Bb7 is maybe only +=

11.Bf3

11.e5!?

11...Bb7 12.0-0 Nf6 13.e5



13...Nd5?

13...Bxf3 14.Nxf3 (14.exf6 Bb7) 14...Nce4! 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Qd3 d5 and all of Black's problems are solved.

14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Rad1 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.e6! Bg7 18.f5



18...0-0-0?

18...f6 is still awful for Black, but holds onto material for awhile longer.

19.f6 Bf8 20.e7 Bxe7 21.fxg7 Qxe7 22.Bg5 e3 23.Bxe7 exd2 24.Bxd8 Kxd8 25.Rxf7 Be4 26.Rxd2 Re8 27.Re2 h5 28.Ra7 Re5 29.Rf2 Ke8 30.c3 h4 31.Rf6 Rg5 32.Re6+ 1-0



Tom Booth in round 1. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

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2014 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, CPA (Chess Point Awarder)

Of the two tournaments with multipliers that were conducted in May, one, the Clark Harmon Memorial, is included in the statistics below. The other, the Washington Open, occurred Memorial Day weekend (way after the deadline for this column) and will have added hundreds of points (perhaps thousands?) and dozens of players to the GP spreadsheet. Once the Washington Open results are processed, I will send the standings to the Northwest Chess website. It may already be there by the time you read this.

In June, we will have many nice Grand Prix tournaments to attend. Along with single point events in Seattle (2), Tacoma, Spokane and Portland, we will also have three multiplier events. These include the Newport June Open, June 14-15, in Newport, OR. This event offers triple GP points from a \$1500 "based-on" prize fund, with 70% guaranteed. It also offers the great amenities of the Pacific Ocean and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The following weekend you have to make a choice, with the 2x Emerald City Open in Seattle (\$1000 "based on") going head-to-head with the 3x Portland Summer Open with its guaranteed prize fund of \$1300.

Multipliers are determined by the guaranteed portion of the prize fund. Per USCF rules, a tournament prize fund based on attaining a certain number of entrants must guarantee to distribute a minimum of half the published prize fund. If an event guarantees \$500 or more, they get their points doubled. If the guarantee reaches or surpasses \$1000, then the event gets a 3x multiplier. At \$2000 the multiplier rises to 4x, and at \$5000 it reaches 5x. We have had very few 6x events, which require a guarantee of \$10000 or more. We have never had a 7x event, which would require a guaranteed fund of \$20000 or more.

The standings below are current through May 8th.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Masters											
			1	Raptis	Nick	63	1	Pupols	Viktors	58.5	
			2	Grabinsky	Aaron	13	2	Feng	Roland	43.5	
			3	Haessler	Carl A	10	3	Lessler	Peter	37.5	
			4	Gay	Daniel Z	5	4	Schill	William J	11.5	
							5	Bragg	David R	10	
M/X/Class A											
1	Havrilla	Mark A	18.5	1	Parnon	Calvin J	18	1	Bartron	Paul R	67.5
2	Leslie	Cameron D	18	2	Bjorksten	Lennart	17	2	Smith	Micah	31.5
3	Kircher	Caleb P	7	3	Heywood	Bill	5	3	Nagase	Toshihiro	24.5
4	Parsons	Larry R	6.5	4	Cigan	Jason	4.5	4	Nagase	Masayuki	22
5	Gorman	Cody A	5.5	5	Polasek	Preston F	3.5	5	He	Sam	20
Class B											
1	Bodie	Brad	24.5	1	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	24.5	1	He	Anthony B	49
2	Carr	John B	6	2	Trattner	Andrew L	19.5	2	Olson	Travis J	46.5
2	Roland	Jeffrey T	6	3	Murray	David E	14	3	Buck	Stephen J	45.5
4	Bartell	Fred	5.5	4	Stern-Rodriguez	Elias A	13.5	4	Cambareri	Michael E	26
5		three tied at	5	5	Goffe	Michael P	13	4	Brusniak	Benjamin	26
Class C											
1	Weyland	Ronald M	19	1	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	23.5	1	Anthony	Ralph J	82
2	Lombardi	George	13.5	2	Shimada	Masakazu	18	2	Thomas	Arjun	41
3	Imamovic	Nedzad	5.5	3	Wu	Ethan	14.5	3	Zhang	Eric M	35.5
4	Porth	Adam	5	4	Eagles	Roland	14	4	Tu	Robin L	34.5

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
5 Lang	Jamie	3	5 Blevins	Jimmie	12.5	5 Raffel	Brian	33
Class D			Class C					
1 Handeen	Bjorn J	10.5	1 Hasuike	Mike L	62.5	1 Piper	August	53
2 Jaroski	Jeffrey A	9	2 Berger	Brian F	28.5	2 Ruan	Evan	27
3 Knoll	Lucas	5.5	3 Austin	Jeff J	20	3 Spasic	Petar	18
4 Mabry	William B	5	4 Harry	Ken	18.5	4 Frostad	John C	17.5
4 Porth	Desmond	5	5 Beverly	Jacob P	13.5	5 Chalasani	Sujatha D	16
Class E and Below			Class D and Below					
1 Hiatt	Arlene	17.5	1 Sharan	Praveer	16	1 Richards	Jerrold	25
2 Wetmur	Harold R	10.5	2 Prideaux	Dave	12.5	2 Puri	Ishaan	24
3 Murphy	Andre R	4.5	3 Buerer	Harry F	12	3 Guo	Raymond	23.5
4 Simonson	Jay L	4	4 McClain	Jack W	10.5	4 Hwang	Matthew	19
5 Porth	Dylan	3.5	5 Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	10	5 Wallace	Stephen C	17.5
Overall Leaders, by State								
1 Bodie	Brad	24.5	1 Raptis	Nick	63	1 Anthony	Ralph J	82
2 Weyland	Ronald M	19	2 Hasuike	Mike L	62.5	2 Bartron	Paul R	67.5
3 Havrilla	Mark A	18.5	3 Berger	Brian F	28.5	3 Pupols	Viktors	58.5
4 Leslie	Cameron D	18	4 Gaikwad	Dagadu B	24.5	4 Piper	August	53
5 Hiatt	Arlene	17.5	5 Doddapaneni	Venkat S	23.5	5 He	Anthony B	49
6 Lombardi	George	13.5	6 Austin	Jeff J	20	6 Olson	Travis J	46.5
7 Handeen	Bjorn J	10.5	7 Trattner	Andrew L	19.5	7 Buck	Stephen J	45.5
7 Wetmur	Harold R	10.5	8 Harry	Ken	18.5	8 Feng	Roland	43.5
9 Jaroski	Jeffrey A	9	9 Parnon	Calvin J	18	9 Thomas	Arjun	41
10 Kircher	Caleb P	7	9 Shimada	Masakazu	18	10 Lessler	Peter	37.5
11 Parsons	Larry R	6.5	11 Bjorksten	Lennart	17	11 Zhang	Eric M	35.5
12 Carr	John B	6	12 Sharan	Praveer	16	12 Tu	Robin L	34.5
12 Roland	Jeffrey T	6						

From our Business Manager:

Only a very limited number of extra copies of Northwest Chess are available for 2008-2013. Please contact the business manager by June 30 if you would like to order some. (Email info@nwchess.com or eric@holcomb.com) The price is only \$1.00 each plus shipping charges, and PayPal invoices are available on request.

*Be sure to like 'Northwest Chess' on Facebook
Also, check out nwchess.com/blog/*

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ←
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←
 Seattle WA 98133
 ↗ Infoline ↖
 206-417-5405
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with a large sign proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

It's Summertime: 5/30; 6/6, 13, 20.

Firecracker Quads (G/25): 6/27.

Hot as Hades: 7/4, 11, 18, 25.

Dog Days: 8/1, 8, 15, 22.

☞ June 1, 29; July 27

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Sunday Tornado☞

☞ June 7, July 5

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Saturday Quads☞

June 28

Seattle Scrabble Club
See www.seattlescrabble.org for details.

Seattle Scrabble Club

July 6

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 7/4, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

☞ July 18-20 or 19-20

Format: 5-SS. **TC:** 40/120, SD/60; d5 (2-day schedule - Rd. 1: G/60; d5). **EF:** \$41 if rec'd by 7/16, \$50 at site. GMs, IMs, & WGMs - FREE. Unrated - Free w/purch. of 1-yr. USCF & 1 yr. WCF. SCC Memb. - subtract \$11. Memb. of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, ID, OR, or WA - subtract \$5. Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day sched. **Prize Fund:** \$1620 b/66, 6/prz gp. **Prizes:** \$300g-195g-115g, U2200 140, U2000 135, U1800 130, U1600 125, U1400 120, U1200 60, UNR 45, Best Upset (Rds. 1-4) 10/rd, Plus-Score Pool 215. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45p, Sat. 9-9:45a. **Rds:** 8, (10@G/60)-12:30-6:45, 11-5. **Byes:** 2 avail. (Sunday rds commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF, WCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Seattle Seafair Open☞

Emerald City Open

June 20-22

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 & SD/60;d5 (Rd 1 of 2-day schedule - G/60;d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on fifty-five entries.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1700)	
First	\$250	First	\$175
Second	\$160	Second	\$110
U1950	\$120	U1450	\$80
		Unr	\$25

Upset (rds 1-4) \$20

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 6/18, \$42 at site. SCC members-subtract \$9. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, and WA-subtract \$4. Unr-free with purchase of 1-year USCF and WCF. Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45 p.m., Sat. 9-9:45 a.m.

Rounds: Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 (for Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2014 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 22

Jun 7 Boise Chess Festival, **Boise, ID.** www.BoiseChessFestival.info

♣ **Jun 7** Evergreen Empire Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: The Tacoma Chess Club in the DTI Soccer Store Building on the second floor at 409 Puyallup Ave across the street from Alfred's Cafe. New! Prize Fund: 1st Place \$100 Guaranteed! Secondary Prize Fund to be made up of 50% of total entry fees, divided into 5 equal prizes, 2nd place overall and first place in Classes A, B, C, and D. Unrated players can play for 1st and 2nd place only. Registration: 9 – 9:45. Format: 4 round Swiss in 1 section. Time Control: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$25.00. Rounds: 10:00, 1:00, 3:15 and 5:30. Byes: 1 half point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253)535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

Jun 7 Maryhill Museum Game/15 Quads. Location: Maryhill Museum of Art, overlooking the Columbia River on Washington's SR 14, just west of US 97 and across the Biggs Rapids-Sam Hill Bridge from I-84. See <http://www.maryhillmuseum.org/visit/directions-parking>. Starting at 10:30 a.m. Round two at 12:30 p.m. and Round three at 1:15 p.m. Entry fee is free. Prizes: 1 year Northwest Chess subscription/membership for resident state (WA, OR or ID) to first in each quad. Registration by e-mail to publisher@nwchess.com or at site from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. Most likely a simul by Jeremy Silman will be held following his book signing. This event co-sponsored by WCF and Northwest Chess. Related events at the Museum the same day: 11:00 a.m. - a live re-creation of the chess game from The Sorcerer's Stone, on the Maryhill Grand Lawn. This outside activity is free. 2:00 p.m. - Jeremy Silman will be our guest speaker in the M.J. Murdoch Room. Following his talk, Mr. Silman will sign his book, How to Reassess Your Chess, 4th edition. 5:30 p.m. - Enjoy a Northwest Salmon Dinner with Jeremy Silman. \$35/museum members and WCF members, \$40/non-member. For reservations call 509-773-3733 ext. 25. Student artists represented in the Cardboard, Clay and Crayons exhibit enjoy free museum admission from 10-5:00 on June 7.

♣ **Jun 14-15** Newport June Open, **Newport, OR.** See half-page ad on page 15.

♣ **Jun 14** Qualchan Quads, **Spokane, WA.** Site: Spokane Valley Library, E. 12004 E. Main, Spokane, WA 99206. Chess downstairs - take elevator. Reg: Sat 8:30-9:45. E.F. \$16. Format: 3 Rds, G/2Hr (5 second delay). USCF membership required. n/c. USCF rated and NWGP event. Coffee & snacks provided. Ent/Info: Dave Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037, phone (509) 994-9739, email: dbgrffin@hotmail.com, website www.spokanechessclub.org.

♣ **Jun 21-22** Portland Summer Open, **Portland, OR.** See full-page ad on page 16.

♣ **Jun 28/Jul 26** Portland CC Game in 60. **Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: e-mail portlandchessclub@gmail.com, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

Jun 28 2nd Annual Olympia Open **Olympia, WA.** Location: Legion room (Lobby of Urban Onion restaurant), 116 Legion Way SE, Olympia. Format: Game/60, 4 rounds USCF rated Swiss in one section. Rounds: 10:00AM, 1:00, 3:00, 5:30; Registration 9:00-9:45AM. EF: \$25 advance if received by 6/18, \$30 at the door. Prizes: (based on 20 entries) 1st \$100, 2nd \$60, U1800 \$45, U1500 \$45, U1200/unrated \$30, best under age 15 \$30. Misc: USCF membership required. Please bring chess sets & clocks if you have them. Free street parking. One 1/2-point bye available round 1-3. Info/Entries: Jim Mathis, 1001 Cooper Point Rd SW #140-155, Olympia WA 98502; (360) 463-8387, mathisje@att.net. Olympia Chess Club info, see www.meetup.com/Olympia-chess-club

♣ **Jun 28-29** Idaho Open, **Boise, ID.** Site: Library! Plaza Business Mall, 3085 N. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704. 5SS. Game/120;d5. 2 Sections: "Open" and "U1400 Reserve". Prizes (based on 30): Open: \$200, \$100, \$75. Reserve \$100, \$75, \$50. Entry Fee: \$30 (\$25 if under 18 or 60+ years old) if registered by June 23, 2014. Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after June 23, 2014. E-mail entry will lock in advance entry rate. USCF Membership required. Register & check in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. Saturday, June 28, 2014. Those not paid and checked in by 8:45 a.m. may not be paired in first round. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive first round bye as long as they arrive before 1:15 p.m. Round Times: Saturday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Half-point bye (maximum 1) available in any round. Must notify TD before round 2 is paired. Entries: Jeffrey Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706, E-mail: jroland@cableone.net, www.idahocheessassociation.org. Make all checks payable to Idaho Chess Association. No Computer, No Smoking, Wheelchair access.

♣ **Jul 12** Puget Sound Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: The Tacoma Chess Club in the DTI Soccer Store Building on the second floor at 409 Puyallup Ave across the street from Alfred's Cafe. New! Prize Fund: 1st Place \$100 Guaranteed! Secondary Prize Fund to be made up of 50% of total entry fees, divided into 5 equal prizes, 2nd place overall and first place in Classes A, B, C, and D. Unrated players can play for 1st and 2nd place only. Registration: 9 – 9:45. Format: 4 round Swiss in 1 section. Time Control: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$25.00. Rounds: 10:00, 1:00, 3:15 and 5:30. Byes: 1 half point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253)535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Jul 19-20** ICA Summer Classic, **Boise, ID.** Site: Library! Plaza Business Mall, 3085 N. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704. 5SS. Game/120;d5. 2 Sections: "Open" and "U1400 Reserve". Prizes (based on 30): Open: \$200, \$100, \$75. Reserve \$100, \$75, \$50. Entry Fee: \$30 (\$25 if under 18 or 60+ years old) if registered by July 14, 2014. Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after July 14, 2014. E-mail entry will lock in advance entry rate. USCF Membership required. Register & check in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. Saturday, July 19, 2014. Those not paid and checked in by 8:45 a.m. may not be paired in first round. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive first round bye as long as they arrive before 1:15 p.m. Round Times: Saturday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Half-point bye (maximum 1) available in any round. Must notify TD before round 2 is paired. Entries: Jeffrey Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706, E-mail: jroland@cableone.net, www.idahocheessassociation.org. Make all checks payable to Idaho Chess Association. No Computer, No Smoking, Wheelchair access.

