

COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



**NM Lior Lapid Wins
The Colorado Closed**



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On the cover:

"NM Lior Lapid"
by *Paul Covington*

From the Editor

In this issue there is a good sampling of what is going on chess wise in this great state of ours, as well as some reminiscing of past players and events. A nice mixture for your enjoyment.

One thought crossed my mind about this issue, in that if there is enough advertising, players from years past return also bringing in new blood to the various playing venues around Colorado to play chess. This is good to see and hear about. Nothing beats a full house of players.

So let the word on clubs and events continue to be aggressively spoken about and advertised. We all know the benefits of playing chess, and there is no reason for us not to be ambassadors to the great game that we all know and love.

May Caissa be with you.

Fred Eric Spell



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Informant Article Submission Deadlines:

January issue - December 21 / April issue - March 21

July issue - June 21 / October issue - September 21

(Email articles to spellfe@hotmail.com)

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Board Meeting Minutes (May 21, 2018)

This was an online meeting. It was open to everyone. Attendance was all Board members, Ann Davies and Shirley Herman.

Topics discussed:

Insurance: Discussed what CSCA should be responsible to cover. Jeff Cohen accepted the task to investigate the various costs and alternatives to present insurance.

Colorado Open: After discussion, time control was changed to G/90;d/5 for rounds 1 and 2 so round 3 could start at 5:00pm thus finishing earlier in the evening. The logic is that more players will play in round three if the game finishes earlier. Dean made the motion Rounds 1 and 2 will be G/90;d/5. Rounds 3, 4, and 5 will be G/90;+30. Game times will be Saturday 9:00am, 1:30pm and 5:00pm, and Sunday 9:00am and 4:00pm with the Membership meeting to be held Sunday at 2:00pm. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 2.

Discussed the prospect of inviting Chess.com's IM Daniel Rensch as our guest of honor. Dean will investigate and report on costs and potential benefits.

DGT Boards: Dean proposed investigating purchasing two laptops to make the DGT boards work better. He will investigate and report back.

Paul proposed purchasing three additional DGT boards to support streaming games live to gain more exposure for Colorado Chess. Tabled awaiting the results of trying to make the present DGT boards work better.

Class Championship: Discussed finances. More details when everything to pulled together. Earle Wilke was the Tournament Director. Dean and Paul was onsite and helped.

Rocky Mountain Team Chess Challenge: Because of the inability to get the match scheduled during the summer, the Board decided to cancel the event. Dean made the motion, Paul seconded and the vote was unanimous. Paul will notify New Mexico.

Day of Champions: Earle will run the blitz, Dean the other two.

Discussed Colorado Open TLA: TLA will be emailed to Board members before being submitted to US Chess. Dean agreed to do this.

Scholastic Closed: Dean is trying to get a free site in Denver area. Various times and formats discussed. Decision of how and where left to Dean.

Stipends for Scholastic players who are invited to represent United States in foreign events was discussed. Board decided to handle every case individually. The final decision of whether to support a specific event and level of support will be determined by the Board. Paul assigned to write the wording and submit to the Board for markup (see below).

CSCA Board approved International Stipends

After discussion, the CSCA voted to approve stipends on a case by case basis for Scholastic players who are representing both Colorado and United States in invitational events Internationally. The amounts of the stipends depend on many factors. To qualify, scholastic players must apply to the CSCA board explaining the circumstances and the opportunity. Remember the CSCA is a non-profit and your donation to this fund is tax deductible (check with your tax advisor about current laws) and 100% of your donation will go to this project or selected player.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm



2018 Colorado Closed Championship

by Paul Covington
Chief Tournament Director

The fourth highest rated *Colorado Closed Championship* gathered on Friday night, April 27, to start what would be an epic weekend battle for the title - **Colorado Closed Champion**. All of the fifteen games were hard fought with many twists, turns and surprises. As the Tournament Director, I want to thank each player for participating and providing exciting games to study for years to come. The crosstable shows the results but not the intensity of the games.

Congratulations to Lior Lapid, the 2018 Colorado Closed Champion! This was his third title in the last four years. How does this compare to the all-time greats of Colorado Chess?

We'll take a stroll down memory lane. Multiple winners include Randy Canney (5), Brian Wall (4), Lior Lapid (3) and Michael Mulyar (2). Randy also has the distinction of the longest time between the first and latest win (1988 and 2014). The earliest winner appears to be Curt Carlson in 1976. This makes the "Closed" one of the longest annual tournaments in Colorado.

After Lior Lapid, two players tied for 2nd place: Michael and Nikhilesh with 3.5 points each.

CSCA rented the *Club Chess!!* facility for the weekend. The Williams family provided the players with a variety of complimentary snacks, a private rest area, a dedicated playing area with a separate viewing area for spectators. The games were also broadcast live over the internet. Dean Clow worked hard to keep the DGT boards online and Jesse Williams added the video feed within the building. Earle Wikle interviewed the players after their games. The video interviews will be on the Colorado State Chess Association website at www.ColoradoChess.com after they have been edited.

This Closed had many firsts but as usual in every Closed, fighting chess was present in every game. Special thanks to everyone who helped make this Closed a very special event!

Lior Lapid (2311)
Kevin Seidler (2137)
Round 1 / April 27, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nge2 e5 7.Be3 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.h4 h5 10.Nc1 c5 11.Be2 a6 12.a4 Kh7 13.g4 Qa5 14.Nb3 Qc7 15.Nd2 Rh8 16.Nf1 Qa5 17.Ng3 Kg8 18.Kf2 Kf8 19.Bd2 hxg4 20.fxg4 Ke8 21.g5 Nfg8 22.h5 Bf8 23.hxg6 Nxb6 24.Rxh8 Nxb8 25.Qh1 Ng6 26.Qh7 N8e7 27.Nh5 Qb6 28.Rb1 Qb3 29.Nf6+ Kd8 30.Qxf7 Qc2 31.Ke3 Nf5+ 32.exf5 Qxf5 33.Nce4 Be7 34.Ba5+ 1-0

Nikhilesh Kunche (2280)
Michael Mulyar (2501)
Round 1 / April 27, 2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 h6 11.a4 Bb7 12.Na3 exd4 13.cxd4 Re8 14.e5 dxe5 15.dxe5 Qxd1 16.Bxd1 Nd7 17.Bf4 Nd4 18.Rc1 Nxf3+ 19.Bxf3 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nc5 21.a5 Bxa5 22.Red1 Bb6 23.Bg3 Nb3 24.Rb1 Rad8 25.f4 Nd4 26.Kg2 c5 27.b3 Ba5 28.Rd3 Bb4 29.Ra1 Nf5 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.Nc2 a5 32.Nxb4 axb4 33.Ra5 Rb8 34.Kf3 c4 35.Ke4 g6 36.Kd5 c3 37.Ra1 Rd8+ 38.Ke4 c2 39.Rc1 Rd2 40.e6 fxe6 41.Ke5 Kf7 42.Ra1 Re2# 0-1

Gunnar Andersen (2316)
Richard Shtivelband (2301)
Round 1 / April 27, 2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 Re8 7.d3 a6 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3 Na5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 b4 12.Nd5 g5 13.Nxg5 hxg5 14.Bxg5 Be7 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Re3 Rb8 17.Rg3 Qd6 18.Bxf6+ Kf8 19.Rg8+ 1-0

Lior Lapid (2311)
Nikhilesh Kunche (2280)
Round 2 / April 28, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 Nh6 7.c3 0-0 8.h3 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 f6 11.Nc3 Nf7 12.Be3 Bd7 13.Qc2 Qa5 14.Rad1 Rab8 15.Bc1 Rfe8 16.a3 c5 17.dxc5 Qxc5 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Qe2 f5 20.Bd4 fxe4 21.Nxe4 e5

22.Be3 Bc6 23.Nc3 Qb7 24.Bc1 d5 25.Na2 Bb5 26.Qc2 e4 27.Nd4 Rec8 28.Qb3 Bc4 29.Qxb7 Rxb7 30.Nb4 Ne5 31.b3 Nd3 32.Nxd3 Bxd3 33.Be3 a5 34.Rc1 Rxc1 35.Rxc1 Bxd4 36.Bxd4 Rxb3 37.Rc3 Rb1+ 38.Kh2 Bc4 39.f3 Re1 40.Re3 Rd1 41.Bb6 exf3 42.Rxf3 a4 43.Bc5 Bd3 44.Bb4 d4 45.Rf8+ Kg7 46.Rd8 Bc2 47.Rxd4 Rxd4 1/2-1/2

Richard Shtivelband (2301)
Kevin Seidler (2137)
Round 2 / April 28, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.g4 b5 10.g5 b4 11.Ncb5 axb5 12.gxf6 gxf6 13.Qh5 Qc5 14.Qh3 Qc7 15.Rg1 Bb7 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qxe6+ Kd8 18.e5 Nxe5 19.fxe5 Qe7 20.Bb6+ Ke8 21.Bxb5+ 1-0

Michael Mulyar (2501)
Gunnar Andersen (2316)
Round 2 / April 28, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 c5 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Bf4 Be6 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Qc8 12.Qb3 Bh3 13.Bxb7 Qf5 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Bxa8 Rxa8 16.Qb7 Re8 17.Rfd1 Bd4 18.Qf3 Qe6 19.Nd5 Bxb2 20.Nc7 Qe5 21.Nxe8 Bxa1 22.g4 Qc3 23.Qxc3 Bxc3 24.Rd3 Be5 25.Rxh3 Kf8 26.Ra3 Bb8 27.Nc7 Bxc7 28.Rxa7 1-0

Kevin Seidler (2137)
Nikhilesh Kunche (2280)
Round 3 / April 28, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.c4 Nf6 9.d3 0-0 10.Qe1 a6 11.Nc3 b5 12.b3 b4 13.Nd1 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Bf5 15.Qe2 Bxa1 16.Nb2 d5 17.Nh4 e6 18.Nxf5 exf5 19.g4 dxc4 20.dxc4 Qd4+ 21.Kh1 Rae8 22.Qg2 fxg4 0-1

Gunnar Andersen (2316)
Lior Lapid (2311)
Round 3 / April 28, 2018

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 c5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.c3 Nc6 8.0-0 a5 9.Re1 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qb6 11.a4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Qxd4 13.Nf3 Qb6 14.Qc2 Nc5 15.Be3 Qb3 16.Bxh7 Bd7 17.Nd4 Qb4 18.Bd3 Nxa4 19.Rec1 Nc5 20.Bf1 Rh5 21.Ra3 b6 22.f4 g6 23.Be2 Rh4 24.Qd1 a4 25.Nc2 Qe4 26.Bf3 Qc4 27.Be2 Qe4 28.g3 Rh8 29.Bf3 Qc4 30.Be2 Qe4 31.b4

g5 32.bxc5 Qh7 33.Bf2 Qxh2+ 34.Kf1 Qh1+ 35.Bg1 Bxc5 36.Re3 Rh2 37.Qd3 Qg2+ 38.Ke1 Qxg1+ 39.Kd2 Bxe3+ 40.Nxe3 Qxg3 41.f5 d4 42.Qxd4 Rd8 43.fxe6 Bxe6 0-1

Michael Mulyar (2501)

Richard Shtivelband (2301)

Round 3 / April 28, 2018

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.b3 Bg4 7.Bd2 e6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 b4 10.Na4 Ne4 11.Bc1 Nd7 12.Bd3 f5 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Qe2 0-0 15.Bb2 Rf6 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.f3 exf3 18.Rxf3 Rxf3 19.Qxf3 Qg5 20.e4 Rf8 21.Qg4 Qxg4 22.hxg4 Bg3 23.exd5 exd5 24.Rc1 Bf2+ 25.Kh2 Nf6 26.cxd5 cxd5 27.g5 Ne4 28.g4 Bg3+ 29.Kh1 Rf2 0-1

Richard Shtivelband (2301)

Lior Lapid (2311)

Round 4 / April 29, 2018

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Be7 4.e5 c5 5.f4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Nh6 7.Be3 Nf5 8.Bf2 Qb6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bxc5 Qxc5 11.Qd2 Bd7 12.Bd3 Ne3 13.Qf2 Qb6 14.Nb5 0-0 15.c3 f6 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Nbd4 e5 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.fxe5 Re8 20.Qg3 Qxb2 21.Rb1 Qxc3+ 22.Ke2 Rxf3 23.Qxf3 Rxe5 24.Rb3 Nf1+ 0-1

Nikhilesh Kunche (2280)

Gunnar Andersen (2316)

Round 4 / April 29, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 d6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 a6 7.h3 b6 8.Be3 e6 9.Nge2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Bb7 11.f4 Be7 12.Ng3 Qc7 13.Rc1 0-0 14.Nh5 Nc5 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 17.Kh1 Kh8 18.b3 Rae8 19.Qe2 Bc6 20.Bb1 g6 21.Qd3 Qd4 22.Qg3 Be7 23.Rcd1 Qg7 24.e5 dxe5 25.fxe5 f5 26.exf6 Bxf6 27.Ne4 Be5 28.Qh4 Bb8 29.Ng5 Qc7 30.Qd4+ Kg8 31.Qg1 Qg3 32.Be4 Rxf1 33.Rxf1 Rc8 34.Bxc6 Rxc6 35.Nf3 Rc5 36.Qe3 Qd6 37.Re1 Kf7 38.Kg1 Qe7 39.Nd4 Be5 40.Nc6 Rxc6 41.Qf3+ Qf6 42.Qxc6 Qf4 43.Qf3 Bd4+ 44.Kf1 Qxf3+ 45.gxf3 Kf6 46.Rd1 1-0

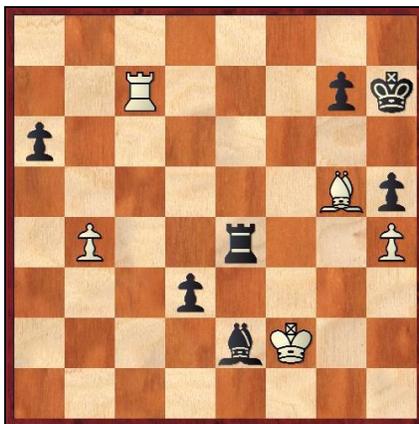
Kevin Seidler (2137)

Michael Mulyar (2501)

Round 4 / April 29, 2018

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 Bb4 5.Bg5 exd4 6.Nxd4 h6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd2 0-0 9.Bd3 d5 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Qxd8 Rxd8

14.Rfe1 Bf5 15.h3 Rd5 16.g4 Bg6 17.Kh2 Rad8 18.Re3 Kh7 19.Rae1 R8d7 20.a3 f5 21.gxf5 Rxf5 22.R1e2 Bh5 23.Re1 Rxf2+ 24.Kg1 Rxc2 25.Rxe4 Rd6 26.Re6 Bf3 27.Rxd6 cxd6 28.Re7 Rg2+ 29.Kf1 a6 30.Rd7 Rg6 31.Ra7 Bd5 32.Kf2 Bc4 33.h4 h5 34.Rc7 c5 35.b4 cxb4 36.axb4 Bb5 37.Kf3 Rg4 38.Ke3 d5 39.Bf6 Kh6 40.Bc3 Re4+ 41.Kf3 Be2+ 42.Kf2 d4 43.Bd2+ Kh7 44.Bg5 d3



45.Rb7 Bg4 46.Kg3 Bf5 47.Rb6 Rd4 48.Bd2 Rg4+ 49.Kf2 Rxh4 50.Rxa6 Rh2+ 51.Ke3 Re2+ 52.Kf4 Rxd2 53.Kxf5 Rb2 54.Rd6 Rxb4 55.Rxd3 Rb5+ 56.Kf4 Kh6 57.Kg3 Kg5 58.Kh3 g6 59.Rg3+ Kh6 60.Ra3 Rf5 61.Kg3 Kg5 62.Kh3 h4 63.Ra4 Rf3+ 64.Kg2 Rf4 65.Ra3 Kg4 66.Kh2 g5 67.Kg2 Rb4 68.Ra1 Rb2+ 69.Kh1 h3 70.Ra4+ Kg3 71.Ra3+ Kh4 72.Kg1 g4 73.Ra4 Re2 74.Kh1 Kg3 75.Ra1 Kf3 76.Rb1 g3 77.Ra1 Rf2 78.Ra3+ Kg4 79.Ra1 g2+ 80.Kg1 Kg3 81.Ra3+ Rf3 82.Re3 h2# 0-1

Gunnar Andersen (2316)

Kevin Seidler (2137)

Round 5 / April 29, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qe2 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.g4 h6 12.Bh4 Be7 13.Bg2 0-0-0 14.Bf2 Qc4 15.Qf3 d5 16.e5 Ne4 17.Bf1 Qc7 18.Be1 Nxc3 19.Bxc3 Nc5 20.Bd3 Kb8 21.Rhe1 Rc8 22.Kb1 Rhd8 23.Bb4 Rd7 24.Qe3 Qb6 25.f5 a5 26.Bd2 Bg5 27.Qf3 Bxd2 28.Rxd2 Ne4 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Qe3 Rcd8 31.Red1 b4 32.a4 Qc5 33.h4 Kc8 34.c3 Kb8 35.cxb4 Qxb4 36.fxe6 fxe6 37.Qc3 Qxc3 38.bxc3 e3 39.Rb2 Rd5 40.Re1 Rxd4 41.cxd4 Rxd4 42.Rxe3 Ka8 43.Rb6 Rxa4 44.Reb3 Rb4 45.R3xb4 axb4 46.Rxe6 Kb8 47.Re8+ Kc7 48.Re7+ 1-0

Richard Shtivelband (2301)

Nikhilesh Kunche (2280)

Round 5 / April 29, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 b5 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Kb1 Qb6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qe1 0-0-0 14.Bd3 Kb8 15.Qh4 Be7 16.Rhe1 Qa7 17.Qh5 b4 18.Ne2 d5 19.Qxf7 dxe4 20.Bc4 e5 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Qe6 Qc5 23.Bxa6 e3 24.Nc1 Rd2 25.Qc4 Qxc4 26.Bxc4 Bxg2 27.Nb3 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Rf8 29.Re1 Rf3 30.Nc1 Bh4 31.Rg1 Rf2 32.a4 Be4 33.Rg4 Bxc2+ 34.Ka2 Bf6 35.a5 Bg6 36.Kb3 e4 37.Kxb4 Rxb2+ 38.Nb3 e2 39.Rg1 Bh4 40.Kc3 Rxb3+ 0-1

Lior Lapid (2311)

Michael Mulyar (2501)

Round 5 / April 29, 2018

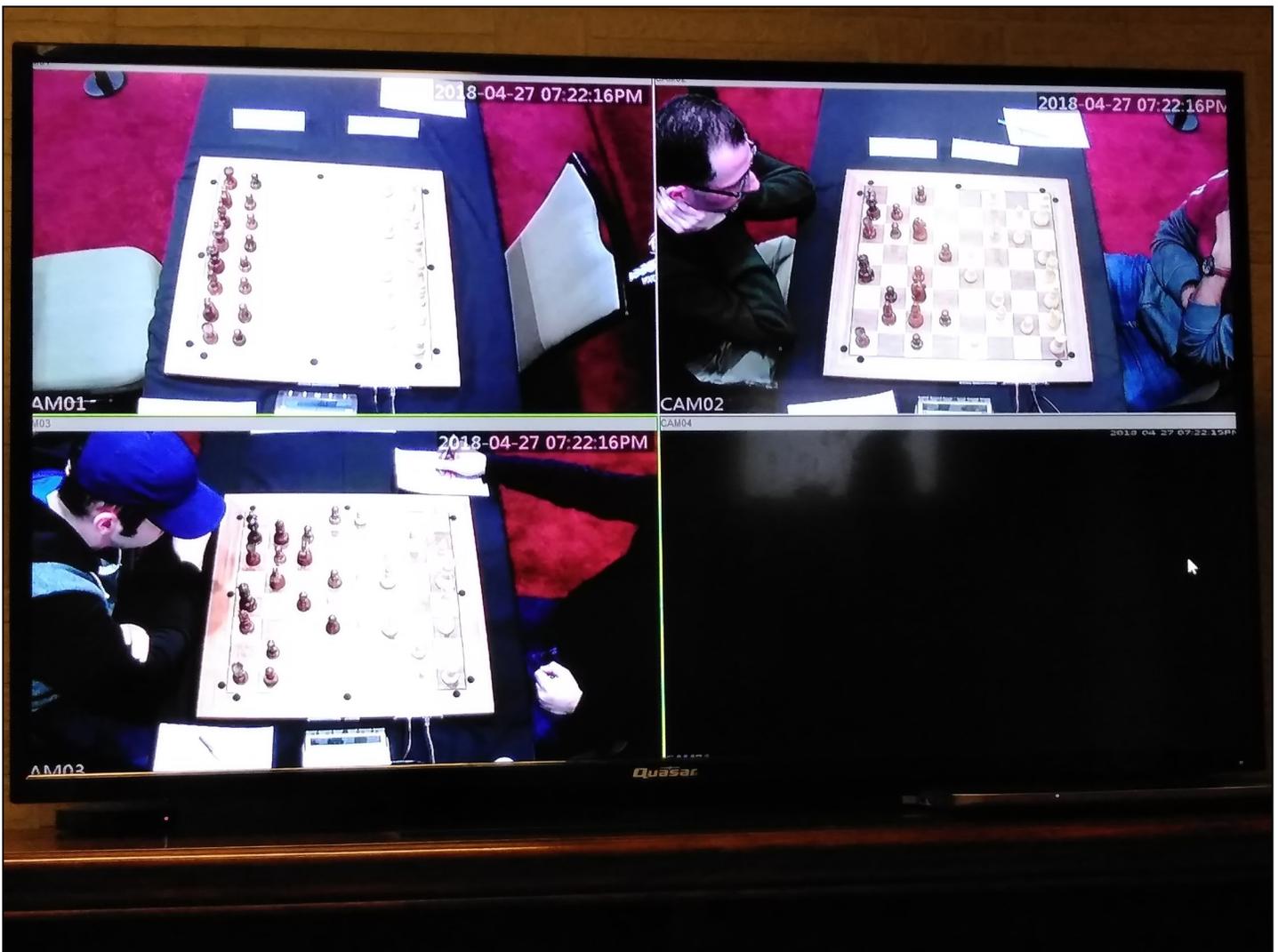
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Nge2 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rc1 0-0 11.Bg3 Bh5 12.f3 Bg6 13.Nf4 Bxd3 14.Nxd3 Na5 15.Qe2 Nc4 16.b3 Nd6 17.e4 dxe4 18.fxe4 Nb5 19.Nxb5 axb5 20.Be5 Ne8 21.Qg4 Bf6 22.Rf3 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Rxa2 24.Rcf1 Qd4+ 25.Kh1 Ra1 26.Qg3 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Qxe4 28.Rf4 Qd5 29.b4 f6 30.h4 fxe5 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Nxe5 Nf6 33.Qc3 Ke7 34.Qg3 Kf8 35.Qc3 Qd1+ 36.Kh2 Qd6 37.Kh1 Ke7 38.Qg3 g6 39.Qf4 Qd1+ 40.Kh2 Qh5 41.Kg1 Qf5 42.Qd4 Qb1+ 43.Kh2 Qc1 44.Kh3 Nd5 45.Nf3 Qc3 46.Qa7 Qc8 47.Kh2 Qc7+ 48.Kh1 Kd7 49.Qa1 Qc3 50.Qa8 Kc7 51.Qg8 Qc1+ 52.Kh2 Qf4+ 53.Kh1 Nf6 54.Qxe6 Qd6 55.Qe1 Ng4 56.Qc1+ Kb8 57.Qe1 h5 58.Qe8+ Ka7 59.Qe1 Qf6 60.Qg1+ Kb8 61.Qe1 Qf5 62.Qe8+ Ka7 63.Qe1 Qf4 64.Qa1+ Kb6 65.Qb1 Nf2+ 66.Kg1 Ne4 67.Qa1 Qe3+ 68.Kh2 Qf4+ 69.Kg1 Nd6 70.Qc3 Nc4 71.Qc2 Qd6 72.Qf2+ Kc7 73.Qe1 Qb6+ 74.Kh1 Qf6 75.Qg3+ Kc8 76.Qe1 Kc7 77.Qg3+ Qd6 78.Qe1 Kd7 79.Qc3 Kc7 80.Qe1 Nb6 81.Qc3+ Kb8 82.Qh8+ Ka7 83.Qa1+ Na4 84.Qg1+ Ka6 85.Qe1 Qc6 86.Qb1 Qe6 87.Kh2 Ka7 88.Qg1+ Kb8 89.Qd4 Nb6 90.Qe5+ Qxe5+ 91.Nxe5 Nd5 92.Nxg6 Nxb4 93.Nf4 Nc6 94.Nxh5 b4 95.Nf4 b3 96.Nd3 Ne5 97.Nb2 Kc7 98.Kg3 Kd6 99.Kf4 b5 100.h5 Ke6 101.h6 Kf6 102.h7 Nf7 103.Ke4 Kg7 104.Kd4 Kxh7 105.Kc3 Nd6 106.Kxb3 ½-½



Colorado Closed Championship

Paul Covington - Chief Tournament Director

	<u>Player</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Rd1</u>	<u>Rd2</u>	<u>Rd3</u>	<u>Rd4</u>	<u>Rd5</u>	<u>Points</u>
1.	Lior Lapid	2311	W6	D3	W4	W5	D2	4.0
2.	Michael Mulyar	2501	W3	W4	L5	W6	D1	3.5
3.	Nikhilesh Kunche	2280	L2	D1	W6	W4	W5	3.5
4.	Gunnar Andersen	2316	W5	L2	L1	L3	W6	2.0
5.	Richard Shtivelband	2301	L4	W6	W2	L1	L3	2.0
6.	Kevin Seidler	2137	L1	L5	L3	L2	L4	0.0



*Live Broadcast of Games Over the Internet
(Picture courtesy of Earle Wikle)*



The Playing Area



Lior Lapid - Kevin Seidler



Nikhilesh Kunche - Michael Mulyar



Gunnar Andersen - Richard Shtivelband



(Pictures on this page courtesy of Paul Covington)

2018 Denver Open Report

by J.C. MacNeil

(Reprinted With Permission of the Denver Chess Club)

Normally the first round of a Swiss System tournament is an easy point for the top rated players. Not so this time.

Regretfully, we did not reach our projected 100 players attendance for the 2018 Denver Open, let alone exceed that goal. I believe this was mainly because there is a glut of tournaments in the state, and chess dollars only go so far. Still, with 88 players and an \$1800 prize fund, it was certainly not a bad tournament. I especially liked the fact that there were at least 15 kids playing. It is good to see that something other than an electronic device can hold their attention. It is a credit to the parents that they realize chess is good for developing young minds. Even though they don't play themselves, they still invest the time and expense for their kids. Thank you!

Next year I would like the DCC to sponsor a separate Friday night event. Where we bring in a special guest for a lecture and/or a simul. Also, of course, for the guest to play in the main weekend tournament. If not that, then a Friday night blitz bughouse tournament. I can't believe I just suggested blitz bughouse, but it is fast and fun. Anything to make the premier DCC event special and not just another run of the mill weekend tournament.

I sure can't complain about the strength of the Open section. It saying something when Brian Wall is the lowest rated Master in the section. Four of the six masters playing were rated over 2300. Normally the first round of a Swiss System tournament is an easy point for the top rated players. Not so this time. I wouldn't believe it if I wasn't looking at the 1st round pairings. There was no less than 4 big upsets!

Wow, Sara is 15 years old. Griffin and Sullivan are even younger. I don't know William Murray, but I am sure he was

happy to draw such a strong player. Mr. Brian Wall and Mr. Lior Lapid recovered from this upsetting 1st round, and went on to tie for 1st place along with Akshat Jain. All ending up with 4 points and winning \$233.33 each.

After drawing against the strong Expert, Kevin Seidler in round 4, Mr. Lapid was paired against Gunnar Anderson for the last round. Gunnar with 3.5 points and Lior with 3. This battle between 2300 rated players was won by Mr. Lapid, leaving Mr. Andersen out of the money. Brian Wall with 3 points was paired against his new nemesis, Richard Shtivelband, who had 3.5. Brian won a nice game to earn his share of the 1st place prize money. Mr. Jain, a strong Expert, played excellent chess to finish tied with the Masters. He won his share of the money by winning a tough last round game against Mr. Seidler.

Unfortunately in this tournament, Josh Bloomer was denied a half point bye for round 4. He had requested the bye in full accordance with the bye policy stated in the TLA. The Tournament Director would only allow a zero point bye for round 4, despite a half point being DCC policy. Mr. Bloomer chose to withdraw from the tournament. The DCC chose to refund his entire entry fee as compensation for this injustice.

Nikhilesh Kunche also withdrew after a round 3 loss to Sara Herman. In this tournament Sara won against two Masters for a combined total of 580 rating points difference worth of upset. Pretty impressive, and will bring her USCF rating real close to the magic 2000 mark, despite losing her other 3 games.

The U2000 prize was shared by the young Calvin DeJong and the veteran Earle Wikle. Calvin had a 140 point rating difference upset win over Joshua Samuel in the last round. Earle didn't play round 5, but had a 32 point upset win against William Murray in round 4. They both finished with 2.5 points and won \$25 each.

Sulleiman Omar ruled the U1800 section. Taking no prisoners with a perfect 5-0 score. Regardless of what section a player in playing in, a no loss and no draw score

is not an easy feat, and it earned Sulleiman \$325. I highly recommend taking the time to read Mr. Omar's excellent summary of his games and tournament experience following this article. In a way it is a study guide for players trying to improve their game, and aren't we all.

The combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$275 was shared by Steve Kovach, Ryan Snodgrass, and Sulleiman's brother, Haroun Muellar-Omar. All ending up with 4 points and they each win \$91.67 cents. Hey Haroun, maybe your brother will give you a little coaching.

Incredibly, 9 players tied for the \$50 U1600 prize. So, Daniel Cole, Norbert Martinez, Jesse Williams, George Peschke, Dean Brown, William Wolf, Tim Mendoza, Derek Isabelle and Harsh Vishal Mali each won a whopping \$5.56. Would it really break the bank for the DCC to round these prizes up to the nearest dollar?

In the U1400 section, unrated Ruby Krebs very nearly equaled Sulleiman Omar's feat. He won all his games except for a round 4 draw with Kirk Tuesburg. If I am remembering right, Dean Clow said that Ruby hadn't played for years. I am hoping this tournament win will encourage him to play at the DCC on Tuesday nights. In exchange for a \$3 vinyl chessboard, Mr. Tuesburg donated his entire \$100 (restricted due to being unrated) 1st place prize to the DCC. Thank you very much, Sir!

Tianyi Evans Gu only lost to Mr. Krebs and won the 2nd place prize of \$175 with a 4 point score. 3rd place was shared by Daniel Kolpfer, Nicolas Torres, and Shiven Saxena. They finished with 3.5 points and they each won \$41.67. Other than Nicolas, I don't know any of these players. I do hope they can start playing at the DCC so I can mispronounce all their names.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, and thanks to all the players who attended the DCC 2018 Denver Open. Next year we do plan to bring in a special guest for a Friday night event before the main tournament.

Sampling of Games

Akshat Jain (2174)

Calvin Dejong (1853)

Round 1 / April 14, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Bd2 Bg7 6.e4 Nb6 7.Be3 O-O 8.Be2 f5
9.Nf3 Nc6 10.e5 Be6 11.O-O Bd5
12.Ng5 h6 13.Nxd5 hxg5 14.Nxb6 axb6
15.Bxg5 Qxd4 16.Qb3+ Kh7 17.Qh3+
Kg8 18.Rad1 Qc5 19.Rc1 Qxe5 20.Bc4+
Rf7 21.Qb3 Nd4 22.Bxf7+ Kf8 23.Qd5
Ne2+ 24.Kh1 Nxc1 25.Rxc1 Qxb2
26.Bg8 Qxa2 27.Qxa2 Rxa2 28.Bxa2 1-0

Lior Lapid (2305)

William Murray (2035)

Round 1 / April 14, 2018

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5
5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Bc4 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6
8.Nf3 Bd6 9.Bg5 a6 10.0-0-0 Ke7
11.Ne1 Nbd7 12.Nd3 b5 13.f3 Rhb8
14.Bh4 a5 15.a4 c6 16.g4 h6 17.Bg3 b4
18.Nb1 b3 19.Nd2 bxc2 20.Kxc2 Nb6
21.Bxe5 Bxe5 22.Nxe5 Rc8 23.Ndc4
Nxc4 24.Nxc4 Nd7 25.Rd2 Rf8 26.Rhd1
Ra7 27.b3 g5 28.Rd6 c5 29.R1d3 Rb8
30.Nxa5 Rxa5 31.Rxd7+ Kf6 32.Rh7 c4
33.bxc4 Rxa4 34.Rxh6+ Ke5 35.h4 Ra2+
36.Kc3 Rab2 37.c5 ½-½

Griffin McConnell (2018)

Nikhilesh Kunche (2307)

Round 1 / April 14, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.Qe2
a6 9.Nc3 Nh6 10.d3 0-0 11.Bd2 b5
12.Rab1 b4 13.Nd5 e6 14.Ne3 f5 15.e5
dxe5 16.fxe5 Nf7 17.Nc4 Bb7 18.c3 a5
19.a3 b3 20.Be3 Rc8 21.Bf2 a4 22.Rbd1
g5 23.h3 h5 24.h4 g4 25.Ng5 Qd5 26.Bg3
Nxc5 27.hxg5 Rcd8 28.Nd6 Ba8 29.d4
Rxd6 30.exd6 cxd4 31.c4 Qe4 32.Qxe4
Bxe4 33.g6 Rd8 34.c5 d3 35.Rd2 Bh6
36.Rdd1 Kg7 37.Rfe1 Kxg6 38.Rxe4
fxe4 39.c6 Be3+ 40.Kh1 Bb6 41.c7 Rf8
42.d7 e3 43.c8Q e2 44.Qe8+ Kg5
45.Qe7+ Rf6 46.Bh4+ Kxh4 47.Qxf6+
Kg3 1-0

Sullivan McConnell (2025)

Josh Bloomer (2346)

Round 1 / April 14, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 a6 7.Bc4 e6 8.a4 Ne7
9.d3 d5 10.Ba2 0-0 11.Kh1 b6 12.Nxd4

cxd4 13.Ne2 dxe4 14.dxe4 Bb7 15.Qd3
Rc8 16.Bd2 Qd7 17.Bb4 Rfd8 18.Rfd1
Nc6 19.Ba3 Nb8 20.Bb3 Qc6 21.Ng3
Nd7 22.Rd2 h5 23.Re1 h4 24.Nf1 Nf6
25.Rde2 Nh5 26.Rf2 Bh6 27.g3 Nf6
28.Nd2 Ng4 29.Rf3 Ne3 30.Kg1 f5
31.exf5 gxf5 32.Be7 Rd7 33.Bf6 Bg7
34.Bxg7 Kxg7 35.Kf2 ... 1-0

Brian Wall (2263)

Sara Herman (1976)

Round 1 / April 14, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.Nbd2 d5
5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.h4 c5 8.c3 Qc7
9.Qc2 Re8 10.0-0-0 c4 11.Be2 a5 12.e4
dxe4 13.Nxe4 b5 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.Bxf6
Bxf6 16.Ng5 h6 17.Bf3 Rb8 18.Ne4
Qf4+ 19.Qd2 Qxd2+ 20.Rxd2 Be7
21.Nc5 e5 22.Bc6 Rd8 23.Re2 Bxc5
24.dxc5 f6 25.f4 Bg4 26.Bf3 Bxf3
27.gxf3 exf4 28.Re4 Rbc8 29.a4 Rxc5
30.axb5 Rb8 31.Rxf4 Rxb5 32.Rd1 Rf5
33.Rdd4 Rxf4 34.Rxf4 Rc5 35.Kc2 Kf7
36.b4 cxb3+ 37.Kxb3 Ke6 38.c4 g5
39.hxg5 fxg5 40.Rf8 Rf5 41.Rxf5 Kxf5
42.Ka4 Ke6 43.Kxa5 Kd7 44.Kb6 Kc8
45.Kc5 h5 46.Kd4 h4 47.Ke3 Kc7 48.Kf2
Kc6 49.Kg2 Kc5 50.Kh3 Kxc4 51.f4 gxf4
0-1

Neil Hendren (1264)

Ruby Kerbs (Unrated)

Round 2 / April 14, 2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.d3 d6 6.h3 b5 7.Bb3 Na5 8.0-0 Nxb3
9.axb3 Be7 10.b4 0-0 11.Nc3 Bb7
12.Bg5 Nd7 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qd2 h6
15.Ne2 f5 16.Ng3 f4 17.Nf5 Qf6 18.c3
Kh7 19.g3 g6 20.N5h4 g5 21.Nf5 h5
22.Kg2 c5 23.bxc5 Nxc5 24.Qc2 d5
25.b4 dxe4 26.Nxg5+ Qxg5 27.Nd6
exd3+ 0-1

Gunnar Andersen (2314)

Rhett Langseth (2130)

Round 3 / April 15, 2018

(Notes by Gunnar Andersen)

1.Nf3 (Prepared specifically for this
opponent, do not usually like 1.Nf3.)
1...d6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d4 Nbd7 5.c4
e5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Qc2 exd4
9.Nxd4 Re8 10.Rd1 Ne5 11.b3 Bg4
12.h3 Bd7 13.Nf5 Qc8? 14.Nxe7+
(White is much better.) 14...Rxe7 15.Kh2
d5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Bg5 d4 18.Rxd4
Bc6 19.Bxf6 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qc6+
21.Qe4 gxf6 22.Qxc6 (22.Nd5! this is

better, but I thought it is easier if I trade.)
22...Nxc6 23.Rf4? (This is very greedy - I
get an extra pawn but he gets a lot of
counterplay. Better was 23.Rd2!
suppressing counterplay. 23...Rd8
24.Rxd8+ Nxd8 25.Rd1 Nc6 White is
completely winning and Black has not
even one trick.) 23...Rd8 24.Rxf6 Rd2
25.Rc1 Nd4 26.Rd6 Rc7 (26...Nxb3
27.Rxd2 Nxd2. Thought I can still win
this position, at least the pawns are
different. Still this is much worse than
what I could've had.) 27.Ne4 (Inaccurate
but it seemed the most clear. He has a lot
of annoying threats like ...Nxe2, ...Nxb3,
in this position.) 27...Rxc1 28.Nxd2 Nxe2
29.Nf3 Rc2 30.Rd7 (Giving up one of my
queenside pawns for his f pawn - trying to
keep pawns on both sides of the board
and create some passed pawns.)
30...Rxa2 31.Ng5 b5 32.Nxf7 a5
33.Nh6+ Kh8?? (33...Kf8 34.Rxh7 a4
35.Rf7+ Ke8 36.bxa4 bxa4 37.Ra7 - this
looked winning to me.) 34.g4+- (Now his
king is under attack.) 34...Nf4+ 35.Kg3
Ne6 36.Re7 Re2 37.g5! Nd4 38.Ra7 Re8
39.h4 Nxb3?? (Followed by a draw
offer.) (39...b4 40.h5 Nc6 41.Rc7 Ne7
42.f4 - he is in zugzwang, almost 42...Kg7
43.f5) 40.h5 Nc5 41.g6 hxg6 42.hxg6
(Mate is unstoppable.) 1-0

Sara Herman (1976)

Nikhilesh Kunche (2307)

Round 3 / April 14, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5 7.Bc4 Bg7 8.Ne2
Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 cxd4 11.cxd4 Na5
12.Bd3 b6 13.Rc1 e6 14.f4 f5 15.e5 Bb7
16.Nc3 Re8 17.Nb5 Qd5 18.Qe2 a6
19.Nd6 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 b5 21.Rc5 Qxg2+
22.Qxg2 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Rd8 24.Bd2 Nc4
25.Bxc4 bxc4 26.Rxc4 Bf8 1-0

Vedanth Sampath (1670)

Akshat Jain (2174)

Round 3 / April 14, 2018

(Notes by Akshat Jain)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.h3
(This is an interesting line that has
become more popular recently. The idea
is to play Be3 without having to deal with
the idea of Bg4, pinning the knight on f3.)
8...0-0 9.Rb1 (This is slightly inconsis-
tent. Better would have been to go Be3.)
9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Qd2
(11.Bd2 !? 11...Qxa2 12.Be2 b6 13.0-0

Bb7 - A line like this would have been rather interesting as well, where we will have to see whether or not the inclusion of 8.h3 0-0 will benefit White or Black.) **11...Qxd2+ 12.Bxd2 b6** (Now I think that it is safe to say that we have reached a position where Black is not worse. This is a position very similar to the lines that come about in the Rb1 lines in the Grunfeld. The only difference is that White has played h3 and Black has castled, which can only help Black.) **13.Be3 Bb7 14.Bd3 Rd8 15.Rd1?!** (This move simply wastes time misplaying a piece. Better would have been to castle and then bring the other rook to d1.) **15...Nc6 16.Bb1 e6 17.0-0 Rac8** (Although the computer does not evaluate Black's advantage to be large here, practically, I felt that this was already excellent for me. The reason for this is that Black's play is very natural with the idea to go Na5 followed by Nc4 to trade off one of White's bishops. White's plan is much harder to decipher. He can't move the rook off of d1 without losing the d4 pawn, he can't move the bishop on e3 or the knight on f3 without losing the pawn, and his bishop on b1 and rook on f1 are both horribly misplaced with nowhere to go.) **18.Rc1?** (This fails to put up any kind of resistance.) **18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Bxd4 21.Bxd4 Rxd4 22.f3 Ba6 23.Kf2 Rd2+ 24.Kg3 Kg7 25.e5 h5 26.h4 Re2 27.f4 Bb7 28.Rc2 Re1 29.Rc7 Bd5 30.Bd3 Re3+ 0-1**

Steve Kovach (1716)

J.C. MacNeil (1626)

Round 4 / April 15, 2018

(Notes by J.C. MacNeil)

1.e4 c5 2.Be2 e6 3.f4 Qc7 4.d3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.c3 Bd7 8.Kh1 h6 9.a3 Be7 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bg1 g5 12.h3 Nf6 13.fxg5 hxg5 14.Nxg5 Rg8 15.Be3 0-0-0 16.b4 d5 17.Qe1 Rg7 18.Qf2 Rdg8 19.Rg1 d4 20.Bd2 Nh7 21.Nxh7 Rxh7 22.b5 Bh4 23.Qf1 Ne5 (23...Na5 is better, planning ...Nb3 and avoiding Steve's next move. It starts to go downhill for me from here.) **24.Bf4 Bg3 25.Nd2 Bxf4 26.Qxf4 dxc3 27.Nc4 f6 28.a4 Nxc4 29.Qxc7+ Kxc7 30.dxc4 Rg3** (At this point we both stopped keeping score. Mr. Kovach completely outplayed me the rest of the game. Trading off everything and winning by queening his "g" pawn with fine technique.) ... **1-0**

Rhett Langseth (2130)

Brian Wall (2263)

Round 4 / April 15, 2018

(One of the best games of my life, although of course, the computer says I missed stuff. - Brian Wall)

1.Nf3 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.Nbd2 e5 4.e4 g6 5.Be2 (I recently sent Rhett Langseth some new books to help with his Rhetti opening which he has played for 12 years.) **5...Bg7 6.Nc4 d6 7.Bd2 Nge7 8.a4 f5 9.Qc1 h6** (My pieces are too magnificent to trade as you will soon see.) **10.h4 Be6 11.b3 d5 (+1) 12.Ne3 fxe4 13.dxe4 dxe4** (I blundered a pawn. Rhett doubled isolated pawns on an open file might just fall unless I find some super creative uses for them.) **14.Nh2 Nf5 15.Nhf1 Qe7** (15...Qf6!!) **16.h5 g5** (16...Qf6!!) **17.Nxf5!** (I was sad to see a knight go because they work so well with doubled pawns.) **17...Bxf5 18.Ng3 Bh7 19.Be3 0-0 20.Qa3 Nd4 21.Bc4+ Kh8 22.Rc1 Rad8** (I planned my knight sacrifice for 7 minutes here.) **23.c3 b6!!** (Played instantly which put Rhett into sacrificial shock. An even more amazing move shows up later.) **24.Qb2** (24.cxd4?? -2.5 Unleashes the full wrath of my doubled pawns. 24...exd4 25.Bd2 -7) **a) 25.Nf1 -2.5 25...g4** (25...Be5; 25...Qd7; 25...dxe3; 25...Rd6); **b) 25.0-0 -2.6 25...dxe3** (25...Qe5); 25...e3 (25...Rxf2!! +7 26.Kxf2 (26.Rf1 Rxf2 7.77) 26...e3+ I showed this to Rhett in the post-mortem 27.Kg1 (27.Ke1 exd2+ 28.Kxd2 Qe3+ 29.Kd1 -8.5 29...d3 (29...Qxg3)) 27...exd2 28.Rf1 d1Q 29.Rxd1 Qe3+ 30.Kh2 Be5 31.Rhf1 Qxg3+ 32.Kg1 Qh2+ 33.Kf2 Qh4+ 34.Kg1; **a) 34.Ke2 Qe4+ 35.Kf2 (35.Kd2 Qe3#) 35...Qe3#; b) 34.g3 Qxg3+ 35.Ke2 Qe3#; 34...Bh2+ 35.Kh1 Bg3+ 36.Kg1 Qh2#) 24...Ne6** (24...Nf5; 24...Qd7; 24...g4 was a concept Rhett and I discovered after the game. The idea is after White castles to play ... Qh4 and something to f3.) **25.Bxe6 Qxe6** (+.7 I was sad to see my last knight go because they work so well with doubled pawns.) **26.0-0! Rd3!** (Still finding uses for the e4 pawn.) **27.Ra1 Rf3!!** (+.8 Maximum use of the e4 pawn!!)(27...a5!! +.8 Was the type of normal move I was inspecting when I suddenly got inspired. Time left Rhett 22:16 + a 30 second increment / Brian 33:07 + a 30 second increment. I used 8 minutes here and got down to 25:34. My plan was to take on e3/g3 or

maybe play ... Qg4xh5 if Rhett moves his knight.) **28.gxf3??** ((2 minutes spent on this greedy blunder. -3.25)(28.Rfe1 Qg4!! 29.Qc1 -.6 29...Bg8; **a) 29...Rf6; b) 29...Rf8; c) 29...a5; d) 29...Bf8; e) 29...Rf7; f) 29...Rd6; g) 29...Kg8; h) 29...Bf5; i) 29...Rxf3 30.fxg3 Bf5** (30...Qxg3 +.4) **28...exf3!! 29.Kh2!** (Only Move.) **29...Qg4!! 30.Rh1!** (Only Move.) **30...Rxe3!!** (3.25)(30...Bf5!!; 30...e4!!) **31.Qc1!** (Only Move.) **31...Re2!!** (+4)(31...Bf5!!; 31...Rd3!!; 31...Re4!!) **32.Qf1!** (Only Move.) **32...Rd2!!** (Best move took 7 minutes. Time left - Rhett 18:37 + a 30 second increment - Brian 12:01 + a 30 second increment 4.25) **33.Kg1** (Only Move.) **33...e4!!** (+4 Best move took 3 minutes leaving me with 9.) **34.Qb5** (34.Qc4 Bd4!! mating. (34...Re2!! +12; 34...Be5!! +9 35.Qf7 Bd6; 34...e3!? +.77 35.Qxg4 exf2+ 36.Kf1 Bd3+ 37.Ne2 Rxe2 38.Qxf3 Rd2+ 39.Qxd3 Rxd3 - When I enthusiastically showed this variation to a crowd someone said, "Watch your language, Brian. There are children present." "They are all children compared to me!!" I replied. Best line of the 2018 Denver Open - LM Josh Bloomer.) 35.cxd4 e3 36.Qf1 Bd3 37.Re1 Qxg3+ 38.fxg3 f2+ 39.Kh2 fxe1Q+ 40.Qg2 Rxf2+ 41.Kxf2 Qe2+ 42.Kh3 Be4 43.dxc5 Qxh5#) **34...Qd7** (+3 I figured RRN = RBB so the endgame should be fine for me.)(34...Rd7!! +7; 34...Bg8!! +7; 34...Qc8!! +5; 34...Rd8!! +5 Rhett; 34...Qe6!! +6; 34...Bf6!! +4; 34...Re2!! +3) **35.Qxd7! Rxd7!! 36.Rc1! Rd3!! 37.Kh2 Bxc3!!** (3.33) **38.Rhd1! Bd4!! 39.Rxd3 exd3!! 40.Kg1 d2** (+3) **41.Rd1!** (Only Move.) **41...Bc3!! 42.Nf1!** (Only Move.) **42...Bc2** (Pawn Wave Guy.) **43.Rxd2!** (Only Move.) **43...Bxd2!! 44.Nxd2! Kg7! 45.Kh2! Kf6! 46.Kg3! Bd1!!** (+4 Time left - Rhett 7:16 + a 30 second increment - Brian 6:03 + a 30 second increment.) **47.Kg4 Ke5!!** (5.55) **48.Nc4+ Kd4!! 49.a5 Bxb3!!** (+6) **50.axb6! axb6!! 51.Nxb6! c4 52.Kxf3 Bd1+!!** (Mating) **53.Kg2! c3!! 54.Nc8! c2!! 55.Nd6 c1Q!! 56.Nf5+! Ke4! 57.Ng3+! Kf4!! 58.f3! Bxf3+! 59.Kh3!! Qe3!! 60.Nf1 Qe1 61.Kh2!! Qf2+!! 62.Kh3! g4# 0-1**

Griffin McConnell (2018)
Akshat Jain (2174)
 Round 4 / April 15, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7
 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 a6 7.Bd3 d6 8.Nxd4
 cxd4 9.Ne2 Nf6 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 e5
 12.Qe1 b5 13.c3 dxc3 14.Bxc3 Bb7
 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Bxe5 Qxd3 17.Bxf6
 Qxe4 18.Qg3 Bxf6 19.Rxf6 Qxe2
 20.Raf1 Rad8 21.R6f2 Qd3 22.Qg5 Qd4
 23.h4 Rd5 24.Qe7 Rd7 25.Qg5 Ba8
 26.Kh2 Rd5 27.Qe7 Qe5+ 28.Qxe5 Rxe5
 29.d4 Re4 30.Rd2 Rd8 31.Rc1 Kg7 0-1

Ayush Vispute (1162)
Tianyi Evans Gu (1350)
 Round 4 / April 15, 2018

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.Nf3 d6 4.d5 Nce7
 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Be3 g6 7.Qd2 h6 8.0-0-0
 Ng4 9.h3 Nxe3 10.Qxe3 h5 11.Nb5 a6
 12.Qa3 Bd7 13.Qxd6 Bh6+ 14.Kb1 cxd6
 15.Nxd6+ Kf8 16.Nxe5 Be8 17.Nxb7
 Qb6 18.d6 Qxb7 19.dxe7+ Qxe7 20.Rd5
 Bg7 21.f4 f6 22.Nf3 Qxe4 23.Rd4 Qb7
 24.b3 Bc6 25.Be2 Re8 26.Re1 f5 27.Rd6
 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Bc3 29.Red1 Rxe2
 30.Rd8+ Re8 31.Rxe8+ Kxe8 32.Rf1
 Qb4 33.Re1+ Bxe1 34.h4 Qa3 35.c4 Rh7
 36.Kc2 Rd7 37.c5 Rd2+ 38.Kc3 Qxc5#
 0-1

Jesse Williams (1568)
Andrew Starr (1783)
 Round 4 / April 15, 2018

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0
 5.e3 c5 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 Ne5 8.d3 Rb8
 9.b3 b6 10.d4 cxd4 11.exd4 Neg4 12.Bf4
 d6 13.Qc1 Nh5 14.Bd2 f5 15.h3 Ngf6
 16.Bh6 Bb7 17.d5 Re8 18.Nd4 Bxb6
 19.Qxh6 Ng7 20.Rfe1 Qc8 21.Ne6 Nxe6
 22.Rxe6 Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Rxg6+
 hxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Kf7
 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Nxd5 Qe6 29.Nf4 1-0

Davin Yin (1727)
Jose Magno (1758)
 Round 4 / April 15, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nc6 4.cxd4 d5
 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Nc3 Bxf3
 8.Nxd5 Bxd1 9.Nc7+ Kd7 10.Nxa8 Bc2
 11.d5 Ne5 12.Bb5+ Kc8 13.Bf4 Nd3+
 14.Bxd3 Bxd3 15.Rc1+ Kd8 16.Nc7 Nf6
 17.Kd2 Be4 18.f3 Bxd5 19.Nxd5 Nxd5
 20.Be3 b6 21.Ke2 Nxe3 22.Kxe3 e6
 23.Rhd1+ Ke7 24.Rc7+ Kf6 25.Rdd7
 Bc5+ 26.Ke4 Rf8 27.g4 a5 28.h4 h6 29.f4
 Bf2 30.h5 Bc5 31.b3 Bb4 32.Kf3 Bc5

33.Kg3 Be3 34.a4 Bg1 35.Rb7 Be3
 36.Rdc7 Bg1 37.Rd7 Be3 38.Kf3 Bg1
 39.g5+ hxg5 40.fxg5+ Kxg5 41.Rxf7
 Rxf7+ 42.Rxf7 Kxh5 43.Rxg7 e5 44.Ke4
 Kh4 45.Kd5 Kh3 46.Rg5 Bf2 47.Kxe5
 Kh4 48.Rg2 Bc5 49.Kd5 Kh5 50.Kc4
 Kh4 51.Kb5 Kh5 52.Rc2 Be3 53.Rc6
 Kg5 54.Rxb6 Bd2 55.Ra6 Kf5 56.Rxa5
 Bxa5 57.Kxa5 Ke6 58.b4 Kd6 59.b5 Kc7
 60.Kb4 Kb7 61.a5 Ka7 62.Kc5 Kb7
 63.a6+ Ka7 64.b6+ Kxa6 65.Kc6 1-0

Gunnar Andersen (2314)
Lior Lapid (2305)
 Round 5 / April 15, 2018
 (Notes by Gunnar Anderson)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.a3 f6
 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.Qh5+ Kd7 8.cxd4 g6
 9.Qd1 fxe5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Bb5+ Kc7
 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Nc3 a6 14.Rc1 Nc6
 15.Bxd6+ Qxd6 16.Nf3? (16.Bxc6! - I
 saw this idea, but apparently it was best
 here. I think I thought that I needed to
 develop my kingside more 16...bxc6
 17.Qd4 e5 18.Nxd5+! Kb8 19.Qb6+ Bb7
 20.Ne2+-) 16...Bd7 17.Bxc6 Bxc6
 18.Qd4 Ne7 19.Na4 Rae8 20.Qb6+ Kb8
 21.Nc5 Qd8 22.Nxa6+ Kc8 23.Qa7??-+
 (Very sick and disappointing.) (23.Qb5!;
 23.Qxd8+ - Of course I looked at this, but
 I thought that Qa7 was better because I
 blundered Qa5+ 23...Rxd8 24.Nc5±)
 23...Qa5+ (23...bxa6 - Even this isn't that
 great, just a total failure on my part to
 evaluate correctly.) 24.b4 Qxa6 25.Qc5
 Kb8 26.Qd6+ Ka8 27.Nd4 Nf5 0-1

Akshat Jain (2174)
Kevin Seidler (2159)
 Round 5 / April 15, 2018
 (Notes by Akshat Jain)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
 5.Bd2 Nb6 6.e3 Bg7 7.f4 (Although this
 may seem strange from white, this is
 actually a viable attempt at getting an
 opening advantage.) 7...a5 (This is a
 decent attempt with the idea of playing
 Na6 and following it up with c5.
 Additionally, a5 may allow black to place
 some pressure on white's queenside if it is
 allowed to a4 and a3.) 8.Nf3 Na6 9.Be2
 0-0 10.0-0 c5 11.Nb5 Nd5 12.e4 Nf6
 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nc3 (Probably not the most
 accurate. Instead Rc1 would have been
 better.) 14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 Qb6?? (A
 complete oversight on the part of Kevin. I
 can only assume that he forgot that the
 bishop on e3 would be defended by the

knight.) 16.Nxd5 Qxd4+ 17.Be3 Qxb2?
 (This loses the queen. Better was Qxd1
 although the endgame is still completely
 lost. 17...Qxd1 18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Rfxd1)
 18.Bd4 Qa3 19.Rf3 Qxf3 20.Nxe7+ Kh8
 21.Bxf3 Rd8 22.Nxc8 Raxc8 23.Bxb7
 Rc4 24.Bxa6 Rxd4 25.Qf3 g5 26.fxg5
 Bxe5 27.Re1 Bg7 28.Qxf7 Rf8 29.Re8
 Rd8 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.g3 1-0

Brian Wall (2263)
Richard Shtivelband (2308)
 Round 5 / April 15, 2018
 (Notes by Brian Wall)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c5 4.c3 Qb6
 5.Qb3 Ne4 6.Bf4 d5 7.e3 Nd7 8.Nbd2
 Nxd2 9.Nxd2 (I considered 9.Kxd2 for a
 long time.) 9...Be7 10.Bd3 c4 11.Qxb6
 axb6 12.Be2 b5 13.e4 b4 14.Bf3 Ra5
 (Richard has been blitzing out his moves
 on the increment.) 15.Ke2 b6 16.exd5
 exd5 17.cxb4 Bxb4 18.a3 Be7 19.b4
 cxb3 20.Nxb3 Rb5 (Self trapping his
 rook, rather than dropping the d5 pawn,
 but also now my king has good flexibility
 about where to move to allow Be2.)
 21.Rhb1 (Richard started taking time
 now.) 21...g5 22.Bd2 Nf6 (With the idea
 of 23...g4 trapping the bishop.) 23.Ke1
 (Having none of that.) 23...Ne4 24.Be2
 Bd7 25.Bxb5 Bxb5 26.Nc5 Nd6 27.Nb7
 Bd3 28.Nxd6+ Bxd6 29.Rxb6 Kd7
 30.Rb7+ Ke6 31.Bxg5 Rg8 32.Be3 Rxg2
 33.Kd2 Be4 34.Rc1 f5 35.Rc6 f4
 36.Rbb6 fxe3+ 37.Kxe3 Rxh2 38.Rxd6+
 Kf5 39.Rh6 Rxh6 40.Rxh6 Kg5 41.Rd6
 Kg4 42.a4 h5 43.a5 1-0



(Final Standings can be found here:
<https://tinyurl.com/y8hkws28>)



(www.DenverChess.com)

Sulleiman Omar's Superb Commentary & Analysis

I came to the Denver Open this year for the second consecutive year with considerably more over-the-board experience and hoping to expand on my good performance in 2017, when I shared 2nd place in the U1400 section. This year, however, I faced a considerably greater challenge playing in the U1800 instead, so theoretically I needed to improve my play by at least 400 rating points. Thankfully the tournament was held much closer to where I live this year, so the stress of traveling back and forth for two days was practically non-existent and I could focus on my chess instead. This year the formidable Daniel Ruvins held top seed with a rating of 1777. Whereas last year I was near the bottom of the pack going into a U1400 rated 937, this year I was in the top half coming in at 1704. I expected to have better games and an easier first half of the tournament, and my expectation pretty accurate. This year I was quite determined to contend for first-place in my section. So for two weeks prior to the tournament, I got to work essaying openings, penning through hundreds of games in Chessbase, and answering the major questions in my opening repertoire. For almost two months I completely abandoned playing online blitz chess (and even weekly over-the-board long games) and instead focused on improving my understanding of the game.

I'll quickly chronicle the five games which helped me finish undefeated and win clear first in my section, 5-0.

My first test was against Dean Brown, a player from the Colorado Springs area who was a strong opponent:

Dean Brown (1540)
Sulleiman Omar (1698)
Round 1 / April 14, 2018

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 (As I like to do, I challenged Dean immediately with the Scandinavian Defense, Portuguese Variation. Although it is an unsound defense for Black, I am of the belief that if theory does not exist on a line which appeals to you, it is up to you to go research the lines and make your own theory. We have such powerful tools in this day and age that we can basically play any line, prepare for the variations, and use our minds to understand the resulting positions and plans. Thankfully, Australian Grandmaster David Smerdon has done the bulk of the work in exploring the murky waters of the Scandinavian with 2...Nf6, but admittedly I have not had ample time to dedicate to his book while I was studying other openings. So I've played the openings with Black imperfectly but ended up with good results simply because I understood the general ideas.) **4.f3 Bf5** (The most critical response. I had a sudden urge to smile when I finally had an opponent willing to play what is a sort of direct refutation of this defense but requires a high degree of precision from the refuter. This is where I planned to notch my wins in this tournament.) **5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.c4** (Is a variation which I unfortunately did not get to study over the last two weeks. It's another critical variation rather than 5.c4 which would have given me exactly the kind of game I want where

White pushes pawns for 6 moves while I develop rapidly. Dean opted against this sort of continuation.) **6...a6 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Ne2 e6 9.dxe6 Bxe6** (The main line here goes 6...e6 but thankfully, after reading up on the line, I saw that my choice a6 was also quite playable.) **10.b3 0-0-0 11.0-0 h6** (I found this to be the first inaccuracy. Dean did not want to push d5 right away and permanently give up the c5 square, as that would play right into my hands. However, in this variation, I do know that you cannot weaken your dark squares so terminally and expect to castle hassle-free. In this game, Dean paid for this extra securing of his center in the form of rampant dark-squared weaknesses and crippling development lag.) **12.Ba3 g5 13.Bxf8 Rhxf8** (I saw this as a weak move. Another key idea in these variations for Black is to pick off White's dark-squared bishop, and it usually involves an exchange sacrifice. Here, Dean gets my dark squared attacker for his own defender, but it does not solve the problems of his exploitable weaknesses. Additionally, Dean isn't ready to play d5 yet and his center needs to be supported with something like Be3, after which I would have had problems developing my bishop. Dean solved my problems and still remains unable to play d5 due to his development issues.)



14.g4 h5 15.h3 hxg4 (So Dean wants to play d5, but this move is wrong for a couple reasons. First of all, d5 is not threatened because the pawn is pinned to the pieces behind it, since Dean still hasn't connected his rooks on move 14. Secondly, g4 is an obscene weakening of the king's position, magnifying Dean's dark squared weaknesses and giving me a hook on the fourth rank to immediately begin my kingside attack. He must have believed he was trapping my bishop but when I calmly responded with the attacking move ...h5, Dean began to see that d5 was not viable and his king was in trouble. In a way, I got what I wanted out of the opening, which is to get White to push pawns instead of developing pieces. These complications are a direct result.) **16.fxg4** (Is an interesting way to capture, but I had already calculated all of this before I pushed h5. I continued with the fun bishop sacrifice: ...Bxg4. Dean saw that his king would be totally compromised if he recaptured with his h-pawn and tried to complicate matters with the intermezzo 17.Rxf6, but I had already calculated this line and in the end he loses an exchange to a triple fork with both rooks and the king. And of course all of this action happens on (you guessed it) the dark squares. After the dust settled, Dean realized his position was on the verge of total collapse and gracefully resigned on move 21.)

16...Bxg4 17.Rxf6 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Qxd4+ 19.Qf2 Qxa1
20.Qf5+ Kb8 21.Kg2 Qxa2+ 0-1

My next opponent was the interesting character William Wolf, who I'd played at last year's Denver Open. At the time, he outranked me by several hundred points and decided to take a nap in his hotel room after hitting the clock on the first move. After a hyper-aggressive Reti gambit against my quiet French, he found himself in a very losing position, but I blundered a complicated position and settled for a draw by perpetual. No doubt this year he sat at the board eager for revenge, but his chance was short-lived.

Sulleiman Omar (1698)

William Wolf (1405)

Round 2 / April 14, 2018

(William sat across the board from me this year in a totally different position. This time I outranked him by a few hundred points. I sat next to him in the first round and saw him play a very solid Sicilian Defense and notch a hard-earned victory in a pretty long game. I thought to myself - perhaps he's playing more solid chess now and scrapped all the sharp, blitzey stuff. So my plan right away was to lure him into an extremely sharp, tactically poisonous game. For the first time in tournament play, I played the Trompowsky Attack, and just as I thought, he played the most aggressive line which I had studied in great detail just the night before the tournament.) 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 c5 4.f3 Qa5+ 5.c3 g5 (The correct response here is 5...Nf6. This idea with g5, although common in many lines against the Trompowsky, is absolutely wrong here and drops a piece. Critical is that Black's 3rd move c5 gives White a target on b8 with which to liquidate his bishop in the case of g5, so the counterattack against the bishop doesn't work. William didn't see this and in an astounding 2 minutes of play slammed his king against the board and extended his hand, exclaiming aloud in the silent room that he doesn't want to play a piece down. I shook his hand, chuckled, and put away my set.) 6.Bxb8 Nxc3 7.Nxc3 Rxb8 1-0

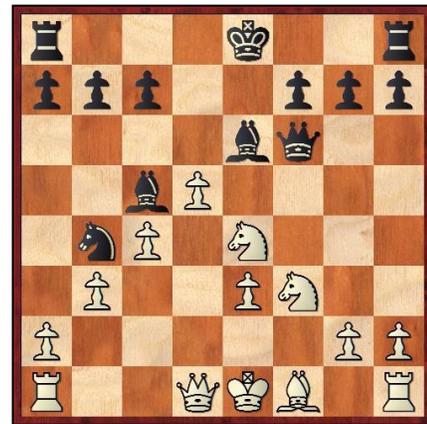
Perhaps the most controversial of my 5-0 performance this tournament. Bill and I have played before and remain friendly regulars of the *Denver Chess Club*. In the 3rd round, time control should have been changed to increment instead of delay. For whatever reason it slipped my mind and I set the clock to delay, clueless about the different requirements for round 3. Regardless, Bill did not verify anything wrong with the clock until he flagged on move 41 in a worse position. After speaking with the Tournament Director, it was determined that I could offer a draw by agreement but that the result would stand since both players consented to play by not bringing up a complaint in the early stages of the game. Bill felt penalized by my ignorance of the time control change and asked if I wanted a draw. After some consideration, I declined in light of the fact that Bill shared the blame for not verifying the clock setting at the beginning of the game. We both had the same amount of time and played what was a pretty good game of chess where I came out with a better position and a 33-minute time advantage. It's probably one of my more interesting games in this tournament.

William O'Neil (1623)

Sulleiman Omar (1698)

Round 3 / April 14, 2018

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.dxe6 Bxe6 5.b3 (Although this line is not detailed in Smerdon's book, I have faced it enough to have done some research. My analysis prior to this tournament showed that the best response is the multipurpose 5...Bc5, piling up on f2 and preventing d4.) 5...Bc5 6.Nf3 Ng4 (An inaccuracy. Here I should have played Ne4 and not Ng4. It's important in the coming complications to have the knight influencing White's queenside dark squares since they have been weakened by b3. The open e-file is not an immediately exploitable asset.) 7.d4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.d5 (Although this looks like it's dropping a piece, it's in fact normal in these lines to allow this piece fork. The crucial difference was that my knight should have been on the stronger square e4, so at this point my opening choices are put into question.) 9...Bc5 10.Be3 Nxe3 11.fxe3 Qf6 12.Nbd2 Nb4 13.Ne4 (A strong move, and the strong square where my knight should have been. I had assumed that Bill's knight on d2 was obligated to stay in the defense of his king, but this is a strong piece fork that leaves me with three attacked pieces.)



13...Qxa1 (Thankfully I had this resource. The knight fork on c2 regains the queen.) 14.Nxc5 Nc2+ (In this sequence I am able to liquidate the pieces and win a rook and two pawns for the two pieces, a common imbalance.) 15.Kd2 Qxd1+ 16.Kxd1 Nxe3+ 17.Ke2 Nxd5 18.cxd5 Bxd5 19.Kf2 b6 20.Na4 0-0-0 21.Ba6+ Kb8 22.Ne5 (I felt like this was an inaccuracy. Bill lost a tempo and had to move his knight back to f3, giving me extra time to mobilize my kingside pawns.) 22...f6 23.Nf3 Bc6 24.Nc3 g5 25.h3 h5 26.Rc1 (Although this looks like an aggressive move, I felt very relieved that Bill gave me g4 here. I think this is where he started to lose the game.) 26...g4 27.Nh4 gxh3 28.gxh3 Rd2+ 29.Ke3 (The king is too bold against the two rooks.) 29...Rh2 30.Bf1 Re8+ 31.Kd4 (At this point I started to look for a mating net. I was happy to see after engine analysis that I had played an almost perfect middle game.) 31...Rd2+ 32.Kc4 a5 33.Ng6 Rd8 (Threatening mate on d4. b4 looks forced.) 34.b4 R8d4+ 35.Kb3 Be8 36.Ne7 Bf7+ 37.Ka4 axb4 (An unfortunate blunder. Foolishly, I had tunnel vision here and didn't even consider that Bill had a knight fork on c6. Much better was the devastating 37...Rxb4+. Although this slowed me down, even down a piece I was still in a winning position since Bill's pieces were all passive and he was stuck in a sort of Zugzwang. His

knight is stuck guarding the d4 square, his rook is stuck guarding the knight, his bishop is confined to staying on the a6-g1 diagonal, and his king is practically stalemated. I think I can just push my other passed pawn and Bill hasn't got any play. He flagged on move 43.) **38.Nc6+ Kb7 39.Nxd4 bxc3 40.Nc2 c5 41.a3 Kc6 42.Bb5+ Kb7 0-1**

Going into round 4, I looked at the standings and saw that the underrated Timothy Mendoza was crushing it, upending much higher-rated players to cruise to a 3-0 start. So naturally, we had to play in round 4. I had the White pieces and was expecting 1.d4 Nf6, because it's all anyone is playing these days. Who can blame them? It's the most flexible reply. My game with Tim started exactly the way I expected. My strategy this time, however, was to face off against my opponent in a classical defense where I could flex my knowledge of opening theory and draw on my positional experience. And so instead of falling back on the Trompowsky with 2.Bg5, I opted instead for the more classical approach 2.c4. Tim played a Nimzo-Indian defense.

Sulleiman Omar (1698)
Timothy Mendoza (1378)
 Round 4 / April 15, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nf6 (It is my understanding that in these positions Black normally exchanges knights instead, opting to regroup and attack the center with c5. After the game, Tim told me he spent the remainder of the game paranoid of the e5 push with tempo. On the contrary: not only was I not interested in giving up the d5 square, but if Tim had simply exchanged knights, retreated his bishop, and played for c5, the game would have been much more challenging for me.) **7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Ne7 11.Bc4 Bc6** (An odd maneuver. I had hoped to provoke something like this with my last move.)



12.Bd3 b6 (Here Tim is definitely playing with fire. Immediately I can threaten to trap the Bishop with Nd2 and start putting uncomfortable pressure down the c-file. I thought the correct response after I played a3 was b5, getting some breathing room for the Bishop. But instead...) **13.Ne2 Ng6** (And Tim's opening blunder gave me an easy win. Although to be completely honest, I almost did not notice the bishop on c6 hanging. Thankfully I had played an active move with a3 so I was winning a piece in either case. Tim retreated his dark-squared bishop and I instead

won the bishop on c6 clean, and more importantly put an annoying blockade on c6 with my queen. Tim resigned and I had 4 out of 4.) **14.a3 Be7 15.Qxc6 1-0**

This was perhaps the most critical game of the tournament for me. With 4 points in the 5th round I was pretty much guaranteed to take home some prize money, but in order to win clear first I had to at least draw this game. However, it was super tempting to go for the 5th win and so I played for a win. Besides, my brother had finished tied for 2nd place with a few other players at 4 points, so stopping Davin from reaching 4 points meant a little more money in my brother's pocket. It's always good to keep it in the family. Davin is a formidable opponent who is regularly seen winning first place in his group at the bigger tournaments in Denver. So I knew I had my work cut out for me and I'd have to work hard to beat him. Some quick research had shown that Davin likes to play the King's Indian Defense as Black, and I'd spent the bulk of the last month putting together an extensive study on the King's Indian for White with Bg5 and e3 (known commonly as the Smyslov variation). So I opened with a Trompowsky with the explicit intention of transposing to a Smyslov KID, and Davin cooperated.

Sulleiman Omar (1698)
Davin Yin (1727)
 Round 5 / April 15, 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d6 (Here I was happy to see that I'd get what I wanted - a system Davin was probably unfamiliar with and a tactically dry game with more emphasis on theory, position, and strategy. I knew Davin was extremely tactically sharp and this type of game makes it highly difficult for the King's Indian player to get such complications. However, I played it safe and played 3.Nf3 to avoid any early e5 ideas. I was confident that Davin wouldn't switch gears and suddenly respond with Ne4 after already committing to a solid setup with d6, and I was correct.) **3.Nf3 Nbd7 4.c4 g6 5.Nc3** (And the e4 square is under my control, staying that way for most of the game.) **5...Bg7 6.e3 0-0 7.Be2 h6 8.Bh4 e5 9.Qc2 exd4** (This was the correct move to fight for advantage for Davin. If he doesn't at some point pull the trigger, then I might soon take on e5 myself and cause complications for him. I was sure to respond exd4 myself in order to keep the e5 square under my control with a pawn while I instead covered e4 with pieces.) **10.exd4 Nb6** (To me, a questionable decision. The knight isn't very useful on b6 and should instead keep aspirations of hopping to the strong square e5, prepared by playing for the c5 break. But it's certainly playable, and logically Davin wanted to develop his light-squared bishop, always a problem bishop for Black in these positions. But Davin had a coherent plan, developing with tempo with 11...Bf5.) **11.0-0 Bf5 12.Bd3** (I was happy to exchange these pieces since one day I want a strong knight on e6 and this is one of the pieces which could challenge that outpost. I also knew Davin might be opposed to exchanging pieces since a win would have got him clear first place whereas a draw means he has to share 2nd with other players. I think it's for this reason that Davin responded indecisively with 12...Bg4. I was happy to play Nd2 and ask Davin's pieces how they were going to pressure my loose pawn on d4.) **12...Bg4 13.Nd2 Qd7** (Another sharp move. Davin most likely saw that his bishop was trapped

but I was positive he intended to sacrifice it on h3 to play for a win, which is in the spirit of the mainline King's Indian. After much thought, I decided I was not interested in giving him two very important pawns in front of my king for his bishop and to allow his queen to infiltrate with an aggressive posture. At the very least if I had to give the piece back, it would not be wise to give Davin such a majority on the kingside. I played 14.f3 instead and decided that if I don't want to win the bishop with complications, I can at least make it look stupid on h5 and continue to stay solid.) 14.f3 Bh5 15.Rad1 (In hindsight, a silly move. I should have recognized that there was too much traffic on the d-file to make this an effective square for the rook and that Davin would not be able to quickly generate overwhelming pressure against d4 anyway. This rook definitely belonged on the e-file.) 15...Nh7 (A telegraphed move, but a strong one. Davin wants to mobilize his f-pawn and since I have to defend d4 now he would be able to get it in.) 16.Bf2 f5 17.b4 (To me, a small victory. I give my pieces more space on the queenside and shut down any ideas of c5, which I found to be the critical break for Black in these positions. Davin is somewhat obliged to play the prophylactic 17...Kh8, which he did, and so I regain the time I lost having to defend d4.) 17...Kh8 18.Nb3 (Preparing ideas of c5 and freeing up my bishop from its responsibility to d4.)



18...Qd8 19.Ne2 (Eyeing the f4 square, but Davin found the strong move 19...Qg5, and now I had to reroute my pieces to the kingside.) 19...Qg5 20.Nd2 Rfe8 21.Ng3 Rad8 (I felt this was too little too late for the c5 break. If I had wasted a move playing Rad1, then Davin certainly wasted a move playing Rad8.) 22.Nb3 Nf8 23.Nxh5 Qxh5 24.d5 (Looking back at the game I felt like this was a definite mistake on my part. I had been playing the last several moves for c5 and instead played d5, giving aggressive life to Davin's pieces. I felt that I had sufficient control of the e5 square and then just gave it away. Also, it seems looking at the game that my control of the center had a close correlation with the state of the open e-file, which Davin was in control of. Davin continued with the aggressive plan I handed him.) 24...Be5 25.h3 Qg5 26.Bd4 Bxd4+ 27.Nxd4 Qe3+ (Davin played this sequence of moves very quickly, no doubt dying of thirst for tactical opportunities. Luckily, despite my concessions I had a very solid position and his other pieces were quite awkward. There was nothing major to be gained from the sequence, and somehow my misplaced rook on d1 ended up saving the day.) 28.Qf2 a6 29.Rfe1 Qxf2+

30.Kxf2 Na4 (An annoying move. It seems Davin's knight on b6 did get a unique opportunity to create problems after all. I had to play cautiously since I'd given away most of my advantage by this point.) 31.a3 Nb2 32.Rd2 Nxd3+ 33.Rxd3 Rxe1 34.Kxe1 Re8+ 35.Kd2 Kg7 36.Re3 Rxe3 37.Kxe3 Kf6 38.f4 (It was around this point that Davin got up and left the board, no doubt to check the standings and ask his counsel if he should offer a draw. (I would still win clear first with a draw and Davin would be guaranteed second place prize money) However, I knew that I had two small advantages in this endgame. My knight and king were both more aggressively placed. When he came back and continued playing, it was obvious that he wanted to somehow scratch a win out of this and take my first-place spot, but I just didn't see how. White is definitely the choice color here and I was sure he'd misplay the ending, simply because it's much harder to play for Black. I was correct.)



38...g5 39.g3 gxf4+ 40.gxf4 h5 41.a4 h4 42.a5 Kg6 43.c5 Kf6 44.c6 bxc6 45.Nxc6 Nd7 46.Kd4 Kf7 47.Kc4 Kf6 48.b5 axb5+ 49.Kxb5 Nc5 50.a6 Nd3 51.a7 Nxf4 52.a8Q Nxd5 53.Qh8+ Kg5 54.Qg8+ Kf4 55.Qxd5 Kg3 56.Qxf5 Kg2 57.Nd4 c6+ 58.Kxc6 d5 59.Qf3+ Kh2 60.Nc2 d4 61.Ne1 Kg1 62.Qg2# 1-0 (After carefully calculating everything up to mate and making sure to give Davin extra moves by freeing up his d-pawn (a trick to avoiding stupid stalemates), I was able to use my queened pawn to deliver mate.

Davin was my toughest opponent all tournament and it was great to get to play him in the last round. I was glad to have the White pieces and use my preparation to dictate the flow of the game, which certainly took him out of his comfort zone and into more positional chess where the moves aren't so straightforward.)

Going 5-0 in this tournament was exhilarating, and next year I hope to be sharp enough to contend for money in the open section. You'll see me at the next Denver Open!



Growing Up With Chess in Colorado

by Rod Schlater
(As told in the 3rd person)

Rod Schlater was born in 1947 and is almost a native of Colorado. His family moved to Colorado Springs when he was one. The mountains and the mild climate convinced his parents to settle in the Springs. The city's population was about 45,000 then.

He lived near Colorado College and Monument Valley Park. In the 2nd grade he walked to the park to attend a Colorado Springs Park and Recreation summer program. The program was run by two young adult directors out of a small building. There, kids could check out games and sports equipment. Rod became fascinated with the knights, castles, kings and queens of chess, and asked one of the directors to teach him how to play. In a few games, Rod was beating his teacher, although that was likely his teacher's intention. That summer he fell in love with chess.

Rod then taught his brother, who was two years younger, how to play chess. However, the games didn't always end on a positive note. Whenever his brother started to lose, he would flip the board and pieces in the air. Luckily, the chess men were plastic and able to survive their constant upheavals.

While he was growing up, he attended Corpus Christi, Divine Redeemer and St. Mary's schools. Rod found that chess was a good way to meet people. He made new friends by asking them if they knew how to play chess or if they would like to learn. When he was in the 7th grade at Divine Redeemer, he met someone who loved chess as much as he did. Every day after school they played chess until it was time to go home for dinner.

In 1963 Rod started high school at Wasson which was a short distance from his house on Prairie Road. Wasson gave students an hour and a half to eat lunch in the cafeteria. The cafeteria was arranged in rows of two tables each 12 feet long. One day Rod brought his chess set with

him to lunch. Soon other students at his table brought their chess sets, and within a few weeks the whole row was filled with students playing chess, which continued all of Rod's time in high school.

One of his friends was Keith who lived near his house. After school they walked home together and played chess. Keith was on Wasson's chess team and asked Rod if he would like to play in a tournament at the Fountain Valley School. That was a very memorable experience because it was an all day event and Fountain Valley was (and still is) a very prestigious boarding school located on a beautiful campus about 12 miles south of Colorado Springs. It was then that Rod became really hooked on chess and playing in the tournaments. In all his high school tournaments against other schools he only lost two games.

During high school Rod would often visit the *Colorado Springs Chess Club*. There he met Juan Reid and Marshall Sprague. Juan Reid was the Dean of Men at Colorado College and a leader of the *Colorado Springs Chess Club*. He not only provided a home for the chess club at the college, but was a top level chess player. Marshall Sprague was a journalist at the *Gazette*, a Colorado Springs newspaper. He also was a famous author who wrote many popular books on Colorado's history, such as *Money Mountain* about Cripple Creek and *Newport in the Rockies*, an excellent book on Colorado Springs early history.

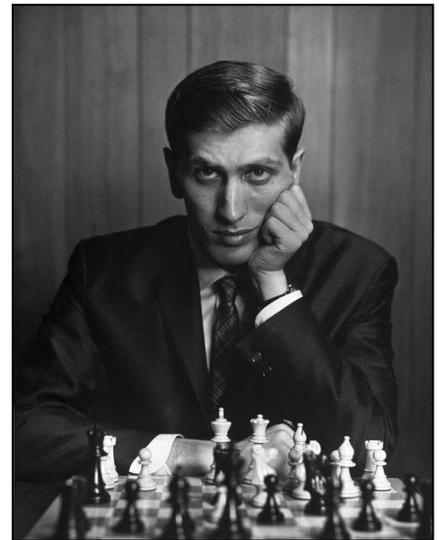
One of Rod's fondest high school memories was playing Bobby Fischer in a simultaneous chess tournament. In 1964 the *Colorado Springs Chess Club* invited the then 21 year old Bobby Fischer to come to Colorado Springs to play in a simultaneous match. At that time he was already one of the top chess players in the world. In 1957, at age 14, Bobby won the United States Chess Championship, and by 15 he became the world's youngest grandmaster.

According to a former *Colorado Springs Chess Club* member, Bobby Fischer stayed at Marshall Sprague's house during his visit to Colorado Springs. Marshall took him on a tour of interesting

sites in the area. Bobby was very impressed with the Air Force Command Center built inside Cheyenne Mountain, but he also worried that the USSR might try to bomb it. Our ongoing Cold War with the Soviets was something that worried most Americans at that time.

The day before the match an article appeared in the *Gazette*. The match was scheduled to take place at 7:30 on April 28, 1964 at the Broadmoor Hotel. Admission fees were \$4 for challengers and \$1 for spectators. Bobby told the *Gazette*, "*All I wanted to do, ever, is to play chess.*"

On Tuesday, April 28th, Rod paid the \$4 fee to play Bobby Fischer and was joined by two friends who came as spectators. Bobby began the occasion with a lecture using his standup 3x3 foot felt chess board. He then started the simultaneous play against nearly 50 challengers.



Robert "Bobby" James Fischer
March 9, 1943 - January 17, 2008

During Rod's game, his two friends couldn't help kibitzing. Fischer noticed, and told Rod that he couldn't receive outside help. Rod was grateful. He played White and thinks that Fischer might have used a Sicilian defense. He remembers that Fischer didn't challenge him for about 12 moves. Instead Bobby continued to develop his pieces behind his pawns. On about the 13th move, he began an attack that Rod was able to rebuff. On the 14th move he added to the attack with a move that was more difficult to respond

to, and by the 15th move Rod knew the game was over.

However, Rod was not alone. Fischer defeated all of his challengers but one. Juan Reid was able to draw Fischer. According to a March 19, 1981 Gazette article, during his lifetime Juan Reid was able to tie five international grandmasters and four U.S. Open champions. He also served as Vice President of the U.S. Chess Federation for two years. Juan Reid was not just a great chess player; he was a great athlete and coach as well. In 1979 he was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in sports and coaching at Colorado College.

Every year, the *Colorado Springs Chess Club* sponsored high school chess tournaments at Colorado College. In the 1964 tournament six high schools participated. Wasson won the city high school team championship, and Rod won the individual championship.

Back then Rod felt that the championship would be his top achievement. However, what he didn't fully appreciate at the time was how much the skills he had learned in chess would help throughout his life. Chess taught him how to think, concentrate, plan, and create. He also learned the importance of good sportsmanship - being able to graciously accept the defeats as well as the wins.

In 1965 Rod started at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He was in the first class at UCCS, which began in the former Cragmor Tuberculosis Sanitarium. Rod remembers exploring the upper two floors, which had changed little since the sanitarium was closed in the 1960s.

In 1967, Rod went into the Navy. His goal was to see the world. He had been a member of the local Naval Reserve since high school and advanced to the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer (E4). Rod was assigned to an aircraft squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea. During his two years of active duty in the Navy he advanced to 2nd Class Petty Officer and was put in charge of the squadron office. In January 1969, he was named the squadron Sailor of the Month. He was

also only one of six members of his squadron to be awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. In addition, he got to see the world, or at least part of it, visiting Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippine Islands, and Hawaii.

After the Navy he returned to college at UCCS and then CU Boulder. In 1971 he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society and graduated with a BA in Physics degree from CU Boulder. In 1973 he earned a BS in Electrical Engineering at UCCS. There are many similarities between engineers and chess players. It is often said that "engineers solve problems", which is exactly what chess players do. That is one of the things that makes the game so much fun!

“Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy.”

Siebert Tarrasch

After college, Rod joined the Westinghouse Aerospace Division in Baltimore, Maryland. During his five years with Westinghouse, he designed digital circuit boards for radar systems and even worked on a special project for the National Security Agency. The beacon processor he designed is still used on Air Route Surveillance Radar systems which monitor the progress of planes flying across the United States. However, the highlight of his time in Baltimore was meeting and marrying the love of his life, Carol.

In 1973 Rod returned to Colorado Springs with his new wife to work at Hewlett-Packard on Garden of the Gods Road. The Colorado Springs HP Division has played an important role in the progress of electronics over the last 50 years. It manufactures a key electronic instrument that engineers use to develop and debug their products, the oscilloscope. Oscilloscopes are used to capture and display electronic waveforms that can occur in a billionth of a second.

Rod's first design project at Hewlett-Packard illustrates how exciting it can be to work in a field that is in the forefront of the modern age. At the time, there were only two companies that were leaders in the oscilloscope industry. The industry was led by a very formidable competitor who employed tens of thousands of workers. The Colorado Springs Division was number two, but only had a little over three thousand employees.

When Rod started work in the oscilloscope division, things were looking gloomy. The competitor had many more products, and totally dominated the industry with about 90% of the sales, whereas the Colorado Springs Division had just 10% of the sales. Unfortunately, the Springs Division share of the market was decreasing. Hewlett-Packard's competitor was king in analog oscilloscopes, but the technology was changing.

In 1980, Rod joined a team that was about to lead a revolution in oscilloscopes. He worked on the first digital oscilloscope that used a high speed ADC (Analog to Digital Converter). On that oscilloscope he came up with an idea that tripled the display area, dramatically reduced the product cost, and led to oscilloscopes with color displays. He also patented one of the key ideas in the oscilloscope industry, infinite persistence, which means that waveforms persist on the display as long as users need. Prior to that time, viewing fast and infrequent waveforms was a big problem with oscilloscopes because the waveforms would persist on the display for only a fraction of a second. Infinite persistence also allows users to see all the variations of a waveform, if the waveform is changing in time or is jittering.

Other members of the team were also making significant contributions. Rod's boss was developing a feature called "Autoscale". Another problem that engineers and technicians had with oscilloscopes was trying to get a picture on the screen. Oscilloscopes were difficult to use and took a long time to master. New engineers and technicians were faced with an overwhelming number of knobs and buttons, and the

first question they always asked themselves was “Which one these #@\$\$% knobs and buttons do I have to adjust or press to get a picture on the screen?” Once the picture was on the screen, it was easy to adjust to get the desired picture. Autoscale solved the problem. It allowed customers to get a picture on screen by just pushing the autoscale button.

Another engineer made significant improvements in triggering. Triggering refers to setting the conditions that are needed to capture the waveform of interest. Finally, the project leader and the lead analog engineer developed a new technique that doubled the “bandwidth” of Hewlett-Packard’s oscilloscopes. Bandwidth is the key specification for oscilloscopes that refers to the frequency of the waveform that can be captured.

Once Rod’s product started development, other engineers in the Oscilloscope Division started work on a lower cost version of the digital oscilloscope. When the team released the product Rod had worked on, it was an instant success.

At one of the first trade shows where the product was shown off, a top-level management team from the competing company came to see the new oscilloscope. The lead engineer from that team played with the product for a long time, and afterwards offered the opinion that it was “the best oscilloscope ever developed!” Hewlett-Packard followed up on their new lead with a family of digital oscilloscopes based upon the new design. Within a short period of time, the Colorado Springs Division was a strong competitor and was hustling to keep up with new orders.

Rod continued to design and develop products and occasionally came up with other good ideas. He also published numerous articles which appeared in

seven different electronic magazines. Some of his articles were translated and appeared in German, Italian, Cuban and Japanese electronic magazines.



**Paul Covington & Rod Schlater
at Club Chess!!**

During his career at Hewlett-Packard, Rod was an active member of Toast Masters and served as president of his club. Toast Masters awakened another interest in Rod - that of giving presentations on interesting subjects. He won awards for best speaker and best humorous speaker for his club, and he participated in the Colorado Springs humorous speech contest twice.

Another highlight of Rod’s time at HP was meeting a great friend. His friend enjoyed playing chess as much as Rod, and even more important, the two were evenly matched. They played chess during lunch for a number of years.

A few years after they both had retired, they got together again. Every Thursday

they met for lunch at Marigold’s, and then played chess for three hours at Rod’s house. Over the years they played each other thousands of times, and to this day, Rod cannot say who won more games. Unfortunately, life events took over and they were unable to continue their games.

Rod next began work on improving his chess game. His biggest problem was not thoroughly checking out each move before moving. He practiced doing it right on his Amazon Fire Tablet using the AIFactory Chess App. On level 6 he was almost perfectly matched against the chess program, and if he did not thoroughly check out his moves, the program would beat him.

But Rod still missed going to lunch with his great friend and playing chess. He searched the internet for local chess clubs and found *Club Chess!!*, a business and meeting place for chess players in Colorado Springs that is decorated in a chess motif. The business was started by a family of great chess players who are totally devoted to the game. There Rod became acquainted with some new friends and started to play against some very good chess players. He also started taking lessons from one of the top teachers in Colorado. He plans to play in the classical chess tournaments held every Wednesday. The club devotes three evenings each week to classical, quick, and blitz chess tournaments.

Rod continues to enjoy life and to learn new things. He is an avid non-fiction reader, and listens to CD books in his car. He finds that the library has CD books on almost any subject. In addition to playing chess, he enjoys traveling to far away places, mountain biking, and being with his family and friends.



Amazing Interview

by Paul Covington

This story started during the 2018 Colorado Closed when a spectator came into *Club Chess!!* to see what was going on. He was amazed with what he witnessed; I was soon amazed by him. Since I didn't know him, I introduced myself and he to me. Then Fran Mason shared that he had won the Colorado Springs city championship in the 70's. I was hooked. I had to know more and started asking questions. When he mentioned several of the players who were inductees into the *Colorado Chess Hall of Fame*, I showed him the placards that I had prepared for display on a wall which *Club Chess!!* dedicated to the *Colorado Chess Hall of Fame* display. He began to talk about those guys and relate chess stories and events long ago. One of these included Bobby Fischer playing a simul at the Broadmoor Hotel. I arranged to do a video interview with him.

Another gentleman, Rod Schlater, who sought a place to play chess visited *Club Chess!!* and shared with me that he had played Bobby Fischer in 1964. I was stunned that not just one but two players had declared this within a couple of weeks. Wow, my lucky day strikes again! I scheduled both to share their experiences.

The interview was hosted by *Club Chess!!* on Friday, May 18. As both men shared their memories of this event and other chess experiences from those days long past, my wife (Nell) operated two video cameras to catch the entire interview. She also took photos to share with *Colorado Chess Informant* readers.

I was so honored to have had this experience. My gratitude and thanks to Rod and Fran for sharing their memories and also to *Club Chess!!* for facilitating this meeting. The videos, once edited, will be posted on the *Colorado State Chess Association* website sometime this fall.



Paul Covington, Rod Schlater & Fran Mason.



Rod Schlater & Fran Mason.



The Williams family offered and helped arrange the Club Chess!! library for the interview. Thank you for helping make this happen.

More Memories of Robert Wendling

by Curtis Carlson

“Intentions are not results, and results are not determined exclusively – or in many cases even remotely – by intentions.”

Claude-Frédéric Bastiat

“The American dream is about opportunity - the opportunity to pursue a better life, where one's success depends on nothing more (and nothing less) on one's own ability and effort, and where, as a result, innovators can come from nowhere to spearhead limitless human progress.”

Don Watkins & Aaron Brook

“I do not choose to admit weakness. I accept the challenge of responsibility.”

Zora Neale Hurston

“You can play anything as long as you are determined to fight for the ideas you put in your moves.”

Levon Aronian

(This is a sequel to my first article about Robert Wendling, the first is at www.coloradochess.com/informant/January_2018.pdf - page 12).

“Most local woodpushers know by now that 23-year old Denver University student Bob Wendling, who hails from Casper, became the only master in the Colorado-Wyoming area when he attained a 2206 rating in the June 1971 issue of Chess Life and Review. Bob's gain of 116 points in just one year supports our belief that he's not yet begun to reach the peak of his abilities. We are very pleased to present here his annotation of the vigorous, incisive, brilliancy-prize winning victory he enjoyed over his old rival Jude Acers, who at this writing is rated the 28th best player in the country.”

1970 Denver Champion, Vance Aandahl

This quote and the first three games are from Vance's July 1971 Colorado Chessletter that he kindly sent last year. Notes in *green italics* are Bob's, those in *red* are mine with help from Houdini Chess Engine (HCE), Komodo Chess Engine (KCE), and ChessBase.

Robert Wendling (2090, age 23)

Jude Acers (2136, age 27)

1970 Utah Open

Bob beats the man in the red beret a year after losing to him in the 1969 Denver Open. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 (*An old continuation resembling the Accelerated Fianchetto Line.*) 6.Nxc6 (*Most common here is 6.Be3, but the text has been played by Shirov, Spassky, and Timman.*) 6...bxc6 (*6...dxc6, which Botvinnik used successfully against Smslov, would hardly be in Acers's style.*) 7.Qxd8 Kxd8 8.Bc4 += HCE, KCE) 7.e5 Ng8 (*On h5 the knight would hamper the development of the dark squared bishop, because of*

g4, winning the knight. 7...Nd5?! 8.Nxd5 cxd5 9.Qxd5 Rb8 10.e6! is thought to be good for White, since 10...dxe6 11.Qe5 wins. 7...Nh5 (HCE and KCE's first choice) 8.Bc4 Ng7 was played by Argentinian GM Panno in 2004. 7...Ng8 has been played by Korchnoi and Pomariov.) 8.Bd3 (*Played more to avoid any prepared variation than because of any belief in its superiority over the normal* 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.Qf3. Bob always avoided heavily analyzed lines, especially against the Sicilian! 9.Qf3 +/-, is Marshall-Robinson 1899, and Suetin-Korchnoi 1954. 8.Bf4 Bh6 9.Bxh6 Nxh6 10.Qd2 Nf5 11.Ne4 = HCE) 8...Bg7 9.Qe2 f6 (*Acers later claimed that* 9...Qa5 (=HCE, KCE) 10.f4 (*If 10.Bf4 d6 is very strong.* 11.Qf3 Bd7 12.exd6 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qxc3+ 14.Ke2 Nf6 15.h3 += HCE; 11.O-O dxe5 12.Bg3 = KCE) 10...d6 *refutes White's opening; however, after 11.O-O, White's better development and the weakness of f7 and c6 seem to give White a very promising game.* 11.O-O Nh6 12.exd6 O-O 13.dxe7 Re8 = HCE, 14.Bd2 += KCE. 9...Rb8 and 9...f6 are all += HCE. 9...Nh6 10.O-O O-O 11.Bf4 = KCE) 10.h4 (*If now 10.f4 Qa5 would be difficult to meet without Black allowing an imposing center after 11...fxe5. The move played initiates a very bold but also very speculative attack.* 10.f4 Qa5 11.Bd2 fxe5 12.O-O +/- KCE; 10...Qc7 11.O-O fxe5 12.Kh1 += KCE; 10.Bf4 Qa5 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.O-O += HCE.) 10...fxe5 11.h5 d5! 12.hxg6 (*Hopeless would be 12.f3 in view of Black's central superiority.* 12.f3?! Qd6 -/+ HCE, += KCE. 12.hxg6 is best.) 12...e4 (? Too optimistic. 12...h6 13.Bd2 Qd6 = HCE) 13.Bxe4! (*Acers had been expecting only 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bxe4, which clearly would have been insufficient.* 14...hxg6 15.Rxh8 Bxh8 16.Qf3 Nf6 17.Bxc6+ Kf7 18.Bxa8 Bg4 19.Qb3+ Be6 20.Qf3 Bg4 = HCE.) 13...dxe4 14.Qc4 (*Threatening 15.Qf7+ winning the bishop and, in some variations, Qxc6+. If Black tries 14...hxg6, then 15.Rxh8 Bxh8 16.Qxg8+ wins. If 14...Bxc3 15.bxc3 (15.Qxc3? Nf6) 15...Nf6 16.Qf7+ Kd7 17.Bf4 Qa5! 18.O-O-O+ Nd5, and in this very complicated position best seems to be 19.g7! with a probably win for White: e.g., 19...Ba6 20.gxh8Q Qa3+ 21.Kb1 Rxh8 22.Rxd5+! cxd5 23.Qxd5+, followed by 24.Qa8+ and 25.Qxh8, winning.) 14...e6 15.Bg5! (15.Rxh7 Rxh7 16.gxh7 Nf6 17.Bg5 +/- HCE, 17...Kf7 += KCE).*



Black to play

15...Nf6? (Black never recovers from this error. 15...Ne7 allows White a pleasant choice between either 16.Rd1 or 16.Bxe7,

forcing 16...Kxe7 as 16...Qxe7 would lose the rook after 17.Qxc6+. (15...Ne7 16.Qc5! Rb8 17.Rxh7 Rxh7 18.gxh7 Qc7 19.Rd1 Rxb2 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Qh5+ +-; 16...hxg6 17.Rxh8 Bxh8 18.Rd1 Bd7 19.Nxe4 +- KCE.) However, 15...Nf6 throws away Black's last chance of surviving the attack. Acers had to play 15...Qxg5 16.Qxc6+ Ke7 (16...Kf8 17.Qxa8 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qc5 += HCE, 19.O-O-O Nf6 20.Qb8 +/- KCE) 17.Qxa8 Bd7 (If 17...Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qc5 19.Rxh7! Rxh7 20.hxg7 Qxc3+ 21.Kd1! Qxa1+ 22.Kd2 and Black must take the perpetual as 22...Qg7 23.Qxc8 Qxh7 24.Qc7+ would win. It's curious the tactically gifted Bob missed 19.Qxa7+! Qxa7 20.g7 +- KCE) 18.Rxh7 Qxg6 19.Rxh8 Bxh8 in a very unclear position in which White will probably have to fight for the draw. 20.O-O-O +/- HCE, += KCE. 20.g7 Nf6 21.O-O-O +- KCE) 16.Rd1 (+- HCE, KCE) 16...Bd7 (If 16...Qc7 (Both 16...Qe7 and 16...Qa5 lose to 17.Qxc6+) 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Rxh7!! (Unconvincing is 18.Nxe4 O-O 19.Rxh7 Qe5) 18...Rxh7 19.gxh7 Bd7 (What else?) 20.Nxe4 Bg7 (20...Qe5 21.Kf1 +- KCE) 21.Nd6+ with a winning attack.) 17.Nxe4 Qa5+ (If 17...O-O Simply 18.Nc5 regains the piece with a winning attack, but not the tempting 18.Nxf6+ because of 18...Rxf6! (18...Bxf6 loses to 19.Qh4! Qe7 20.Bxf6 Rxf6 21.Qxh7+ (21.Rxd7 Qxd7 22.Qxf6 +- HCE) 21...Qxh7 22.gxh7+ and 23.Rxd7, winning. 18...Rxf6 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Qf4 Qf8 21.Qc7 +- KCE.) 18.b4 Qe5 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.f4 (20.Rh5 +- HCE, KCE) 20...Qxf4 (This loses outright. 20...Qb2 would have made it much more difficult, though White should still win after 21.c3! Bg7 (or Be7) 22.O-O!! (21.Nd6+ allows a saving Qc3 in some variations). One line is 22...hxg6 23.Rd2 Qa3 24.Rfd1 Rd8 25.Rxd7! Rxd7 26.Qxe6+ Re7 27.Qc8+ Kf7 28.Ng5+ Kf6 29.Rd6+, winning. Of course there are many other possibilities, but the totally disorganized state of Black's game should guarantee White a win in all variations. 21.Nd6+ Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Ke7 23.Qc5 hxg6 24.Rxh8 Rxh8 25.Rd3 Kd8 26.Qxa7 Rh7 27.Rxd7+ (Better was 27.Qb8+ Ke7 28.Rxd7+. Bob must have been in his usual time trouble. The game continuation is winning, but without his rook Jude might actually have resigned!) 27...Rxd7 28.Qa8+ Ke7 29.Qxc6 ...and White won easily, Acers pointlessly dragging it out until I checkmated him on the 53rd move with two queens!

Robert Wendling (2192, age 24)

Eliason (Unrated, age unknown)

Denver Chess League / January 26, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qe2 O-O 9.Bb3 Qc7 10.O-O-O a6 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Rxd4 e5 (!? This forces White's rook to an awkward square but leaves a d5 hole. HCE prefers 12...Nd7 = or 12...b5 =) 13.Rc4 Qd8 14.g5 Ne8 (14...Nd7 += KCE) 15.Qh5 (15.h4 b5 16.Rxc8 Rxc8 17.Nd5 +/- HCE) 15...g6?! (Black should have avoided this weakening move. Right was 16...Be6 = KCE) 16.Qh6 b5?+- (Black had to keep the kingside closed with 16...Ng7 to answer 17.h4 with 17...Nh5, although White is better after 18.Nd5 += HCE, KCE. Also good was simply 17.Nd5 +=. Now the end comes quickly.) 17.Rxc8! Rxc8 18.h4 Ng7? (Black's only hope was to eliminate White's knight with 18...Rxc3 19.bxc3 Ng7, although he's still lost after 20.h5 Nxh5 21.Rxh5 gxh5 22.g6 as in the game.) 19.h5 Nxh5 20.Rxh5 gxh5 21.g6 hxg6 22.Qxg6+ Kh8 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Nd5 Rc4 25.Bxc4

bxc4 26.Bh6 Bf6 27.Qg4+ Kh8 28.Nxf6 1-0. This was Bob's kind of game: a quick and ruthless attack! Black could have resigned any time after White's 19th.

Robert Wendling (2192, age 24)

Robert Burley (1909, age 45)

Scottsbluff Open / May 8, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 (Bob also liked 3.c3, the Ponziani.) 3...exd4 4.Bc4 Be7 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Ne5 7.Bb3 d6 8.f4 Ng6 9.Be3 a6 10.a4 O-O 11.O-O Kh8 12.h3 c5 13.Nf3 Be6?! (HCE prefers 13...Bd7 hoping for ...b5 or ...Bc6 was better, although White is better after 14.f5 Ne5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Nd5. KCE says the 13...Be6 is equally good.) 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Ng5 Qc8 16.f5! exf5 17.exf5 Ne5? (This natural move is weaker than 17...Nh4 18.g4 Qc6 += KCE) 18.Ne6 Rg8 19.Bg5 g6? (This is suicide. 19...Qc6 was tougher).



White to play

20.Qxd6! Bxd6 21.Bxf6+ Rg7 22.Bxg7+ Kg8 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.Nd5 Kh8 25.Nb6 Qe8 26.Rae1! Bg3 27.fxg6 (Almost anything wins here, but HCE gives 27.Nxa8 Bxe1 28.Nac7 Qd7 29.f6 +-) 27...Bxe1 28.g7+ Kg8 29.Rf8+ Qf8+ 30.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 31.Nxf8 Kxf8 32.Nd7+ ...and wins on move 45. Expert strength Bob Burley (1926-2014) was from Wyoming, and won the 1969 Colorado Open with a perfect 6-0. He was one of few to have won a tournament game from Bob.



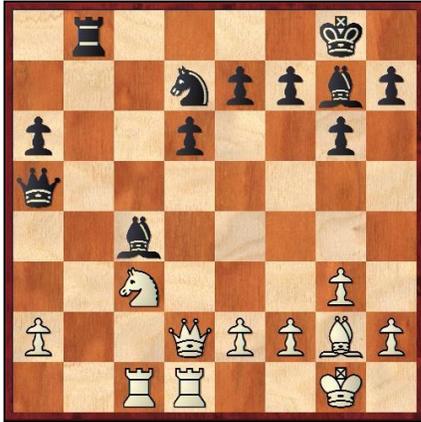
Spassky - Fischer

Black to play

In 1972, the chess world was anxiously anticipating the Bobby Fischer - Boris Spassky match. Bob predicted Bobby would win by three. We were in Salt Lake City for the "Days of '47 Open" during the fifth game (see diagram on previous page):

One of the most famous positions in chess history! Spassky resigned after 27...Bxa4, since 28.Qxa4 Qxe4 and 28.Qd2 Bxd1 29.Qxd1 Qxe4 are hopeless. Bob instantly saw why White capitulated, when it took the mere mortals much longer!

He later asked if I had seen the 8th game after 19...Nd7:



Fischer - Spassky
White to play

Bob was amazed at how easily White won: 20.Nd5 Qxd2 21.Nxe7+ Kf8 22.Rxd2 Kxe7 23.Rxc4. Against Fischer, Spassky must have felt like me playing Bob - an utter sense of hopelessness!

In 1972 Bob won a match (3.5-2.5) vs. John Watson, who had recently moved to Denver from Omaha. The only game I saw was the first, where Bob disliked John's 'infernal early 5...c5 variation' in the Pirc. John said recently he doesn't recall the games other than a quick loss against the French in the 6th. That was unexpected since said once Bob said he disliked that opening because it was hard to win against 3.ed! John must not have played for a draw. Unfortunately the game score is unavailable.

After disappointing results in 1972 Bob did better in early 1973 when he won three consecutive tournaments. Here he takes down one of Colorado's most colorful amateurs.

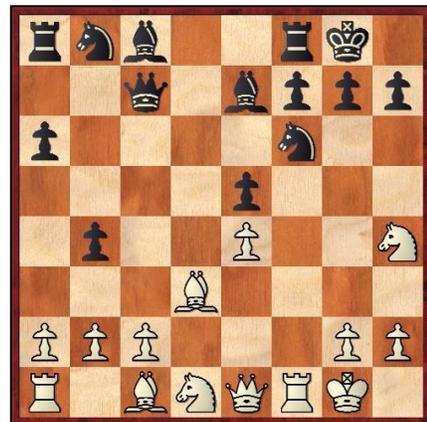
Robert Wendling (2194, age 26)

Brian Wall (1997, age 18)

Al Wallace Memorial, March 24, 1973

Bob's notes in *green italics* were made shortly after the game was played; notes by me with computer assistance in **red** 45 years later. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 (*Formerly quite popular, the Classical Attack has been coming back into favor in the past few years. But one of the major attractions of the line is simply the negative one of enabling players to sidestep the avalanche of analysis in the*

6.Bg5 lines.) 6...e5 (*A satisfactory line, but current praxis seems to favor a less committal deployment, e.g. 6...Qc7 followed by fianchettoing on either or both flanks, and reserving the option of a later ...e5. 6...e5 is most common and has been played successfully by Kasparov. HCE and KCE say 6...e5, 6...e6, 6...Qc7, and 6...g6 are equal.*) 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.Bd3 b5 (*A better plan of development would be 8...Nbd7 9.O-O g6 and ...Bg7 and ...O-O etc. The weakening of the black squares is inevitable to prevent the knight from settling in on f5 as in the game, so the fianchetto is indicated to aid in the kingside defense.*) 9.O-O Be7 (*9...b4 10.Ne2 Bb7 11.Ng3 just help White mass his pieces for the kingside assault.*) 10.Qe1 O-O 11.fxe5 (*Simultaneously preventing the possibility of any disconcerting central eruptions {11.Nh4 b4 12.Nd1 d5!}? while clearing the file for the KR and increasing the range of the QB. Chessbase has 16 games with this position but none with 11.fxe5. 11.Kh1 = KCE is Tarjan - Gilden 1973.) 11...dxe5 12.Nh4 (*After only twelve moves White has acquired a manifestly superior position, while Black is reduced to the grim prospect of a long, arduous defensive task in a position devoid of counterplay. Although this should not be taken as a criticism of Brian, who is one of the area's most talented juniors, his play in this opening is typical of a common failing - a player's criteria for selecting an opening too often tends to be more in terms of how fashionable the line is on the grandmaster level rather than in terms of an objective assessment of the variation in relation to his own temperament and ability. For example, a line as sharp and precarious as the Najdorf demands extremely alert, precise play from the earliest stages and will often backfire in the hands of a player inflexibly bound to memorized lines or one who relies too heavily on general principles without probing deeply for the specifics characteristics of a position. Bob's optimism won him many games, but here HCE and KCE say it's equal after 12...Nc6, 12...Be6, or 12...Rd8.*) 12...b4 13.Nd1*



Black to play

13...g6 (*Creating a terrible gash in the kingside defenses in what is now a futile attempt to block out the White knights. I doubt that Black has a fully satisfactory defense, but somewhat better would have been on the previous move 12...Be6 {12...b4 merely aided White in the redeployment of his QN}, and if 13.Ne2 Nh5 or 13.Nd1 Nbd7 14.Ne3 g6. 13... g6 doesn't ruin Black's game but it should have been avoided or delayed. While White aimed for f5 Black could have aimed for d4: 13...Nc6 14.Ne3 Nd4*

15.Nhf5 Nxf5 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Rxf5 = HCE. Also good was 13...Be6 14.Nf5 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 Nbd7 = KCE.) 14.Bh6 Rd8 (+= KCE. Not a mistake but preferable was 14...Re8 += HCE, KCE, since the e- pawn gets support and a later Bg5 won't pin the f6 knight. 15.Ne3 Bb7? (Realizing that White is not to be denied his knight sacrifice on f5, Black, by pressuring the KP, tries to force White to use the QN: 16.Nef5 Bc5 17.Kh1 Nbd7 and the defense holds, at least temporarily. Black is struggling after this natural move. The QB was needed on e6 to help defend the king and to cover f5. Black could simplify with 15...Ng4 16. Nxb4 Bxb4 17.Qg3 Be6 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.Bg5 += HCE. 15...Nbd7 16.Nhf5 Bf8 += KCE. Interesting is 15...Nc6 16.Nhf5 Bxf5 17.Nxf5 Nh5 18.Bc4 +/- KCE. Black should hold with proper defense.) 16.Nhf5! Nxe4 (Now on 16...Bc5 White quickly builds up decisive pressure with 17.Qh4 Nbd7 18.Kh1 and 19.Bg5. 16...Bxe4? loses at least a piece to 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Bg5, and 16...gxf5? of course fails after 17.Qg3+ Ng4 18. Nxf5.) 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Nf5 (The sacrifice of the second knight on f5 forcibly breaks down Black's defensive barricade (and spirit). Acceptance is forced, as 18...Qc5+ runs into 19.Be3 and 20.Nh6. Bob gave this a ! but it allows Black to resist. Black can almost resign after 18.Bc4 Nd6 19.Bb3 when 20.Rd1-d6 is a crushing threat.) 18...gxf5 19.Bxe4



Black to play

19...f6? (It's surprising Bob didn't mention 19...Rd6, which is why HCE and KCE preferred 18.Bc4. After 20.Bg5 f6 21.Rxf5 Bxe4 (21...fxg5? 22.Rxe5 +/-) 22.Qxe4 Nc6 += KCE is hard to win. Now the game is over.) 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Rxf5 Qe7? (It's now +/- KCE. Wall's tenacious defense is somehow holding his ragged position together. Clearly 21...Nd7 would have lost to 22.Qg3+ and 21...Rd6 to 22.Qg3+ Kh8 23.Rxe5 (or ever 23.Qxe5!), but now Black is ready to untangle his queenside, e.g. 22.Qg3+ Kh8 23.Qf3 Nd7. However, White's next creates a new series of threats which Black's uncoordinated forces are unable to resist. The only way to continue was 21...Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Ra7 but 23.Rd1! still wins. Black's king is too exposed to survive.) 22.Rf3! Kh8 23.Rg3 Qc5+ (If 23...Rg8 Black's inability to connect his rooks is neatly exploited by 24.Rxg8+ Kxg8 25.Qe4 Ra7 (or 25...Qc5+ 26.Kh1 and on 26...Ra7 27.Be3, or if 26...Qc6 27.Qg4+ wins); 26.Qc4+ forcing mate in two.) 24.Kh1 Rg8 (This is suicidal; however the alternatives would only prolong what would be a hopeless struggle: 24...Ra7 25.Be3, or if 24...Rd7 25.Rd1 is unanswerable (25...Raa7 loses

to 26.Bg7+, while 25...Rxd1 26.Qxd1 leaves unstoppable threats, and the clever 25...Qf2 fails to 26.Bg7+ Kg8 27.Bxg6+ Kf8 28.Qxb4+.) 25.Rxg8+ Kxg8 26.Qg3+ Kf7 27.Qg7+ Ke6 28.Rd1! Qe7 29.Qg8+ Qf7 30.Rd6+ Ke7 31.Qd8# A fine finish. The talented junior could have resigned any time after 22.Rf3. Bob took clear first, drawing only with Bob Shean and beating me in the last round (see my previous article).

2300 strength California master Don Sutherland played in many Denver tournaments from 1972-75 while stationed at Lowry Air Force Base. He won the 1974 Armed Forces Championship and played in Lone Pine. Bob played him four times in 1973; Don won in the Naylin Memorial in January, then Bob won in the April CUDC Open. They had quick draws in the May Air Force Academy Open, and again in the September Colorado Open, where Don took clear first after Bob drew Sal Martinez in the final round. Bob's crushing win over me wasn't enough to take clear first, but he still did very well with 5-1. It was one of his last tournaments.

After six embarrassing losses to Bob I got lucky and drew the 7th.

Robert Wendling (2205, age 28)

Curtis Carlson (2107, age 21)

Denver Chess Club Invitational / July 29, 1975

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 (No more Najdorf's! I disliked playing against this, as Bob knew well.) 2...e6 3.Nf3 d5 (Slightly impatient but after our last game I was reluctant to transpose into another non-Najdorf Sicilian.) 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Nc6 6.Ne5 (6.O-O += KCE) 6...Ne7 7.d4 Be6?! (Not a bad move in itself, but Black should have relieved the tension with 7...f6 or 7...a6 before White took on c5. This was typical of the passive play of my youth.) 8.dxc5 Rc8 (It's surprisingly hard to win back the pawn, and it's easy to see why Bob avoided main lines against me since White already has a clear advantage. The text is KCE's first choice while HCE prefers 8...a6.) 9.O-O (9.b4 +/- HCE, KCE.) 9...Ng6 10.Nd3 (10.Qd4 +/- was a little better although Bob's move is also good.) 10...Be7 11.Ne2 O-O 12.Bxc6 (Slightly impatient. White should play 12.c3 waiting for ...a6 before capturing.) 12...Rxc6? (14...bxc6 += KCE) 13.Nd4 Rc8 14.b4 (This is reasonable but best was 14.Re1! since 14...Bxc5? 15.Nxc5 Rxc5 16.Rxe6! wins.) 14...Bf6 15.c3 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.Ne2 (Bob didn't want to allow a d4 exchange that led to an opposite colored bishops middlegame that would be hard to win, but 17.Re1 +/- KCE was best.) 17...b6 += 18.Be3 Bf6 (Don't recall why I played this, but 18...Re8 or 18...Qc7 were += KCE.) 19.Bd4 Re8 20.a4 (20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.cxb6 axb6 22.Re1 +/- KCE.) 20...Bg4!? (Black hopes his bishop pair will mix things up and provokes a weakening, but 20...bxc5 21.Bxc5 a5 += was best.) 21.f3 Be6 (Right was 21...Bd7 since e6 gets threatened by White's knight.) 22.Qd2 Bg5? (This loses more time. 22...bxc5 23.Bxc5 a5 was again the best hope.) 23.f4 Bf6 24.cxb6 axb6 25.Bxf6 (25.a5 bxa5 26.Rxa5 +/- HCE) 25...Qxf6 26.Nd4 (This is OK but 26.a5 was best.) 26...Bf5 27.Nb5 (Good was simply 27.Nxf5 Qxf5 28.a5 +/-) 27...Be4 28.Qd4!? (Again, 28.a5! We were both low on time.) 28...Qxd4? (Correct was 28...Qg6 29.Rf2 h6 += KCE. With White's advancing queenside pawns Black should avoid exchanges and use his strong bishop

to make kingside threats. White's advantage increases with reduced material.) 29.cxd4 Rc2 30.Rf2 Rec8? (This obvious move is a blunder. Best was 30...Rc6 +/- KCE.) 31.Ra2? (Black could resign after 31.Rxc2 Rxc2 32.a5! bxa5 32.bxa5 Rg2+ 33.Kf1.) 31...Rc1+ 32.Rf1 Bd3 (32...Kf8 = KCE) 33.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 34.Kf2 Bxb5 (While not a mistake it's better to defer opening the a file for White's rook. 34...Rf1+ 35.Ke3 Bc4 36.Ra3 Rb1 += KCE should hold.) 35.axb5 g6?! (Too weak, too slow! Black feels safer with White's pawns doubled, but it's still not easy. Right was 35...Kf8 += KCE 36.Ra6 Rc4 37.Rxb6? (After 37.Ke3 Rxb4 38.Rxb6 +/- Black has to work hard to draw. We were nearly out of time.) 37...Rxd4 38.Rb8+ (Another time pressure slip. 38.f5 was the last try. 38...Kg7 39.Rd8 Rxf4+ 40.Ke3 Rxb4. Adjourned but drawn without resumption since 41.Rxd5 Kf6 is dead even. I never expected my rook to steal so many pawns!

This game is very memorable for me, but I never knew how bad it was before HCE and KCE. Nonetheless July 29, 1975 was one of the best days of my life, since I drew Bob! It was like winning the lottery. 43 years later it gives less satisfaction when reality set in; a healthier Bob would have eschewed 31.Ra2. He withdrew from the tournament after a draw with 1600 rated Robert April and a win over Sal Martinez. His health issues continued drag him down.

I next saw Bob in July 1976 where he was a spectator at the Denver Open. We only spoke briefly before he left. Our eighth and final game was in November 1976 in the Mile High Open. It was his last tournament game and my only win against him. It's not included here since he played far below his normal strength. He withdrew and I never saw him again. In September 1977 (almost a year later) when I lived in Berkeley, California Christine Hendrickson (1949-2005) told me he died on August 31 (or September 1, depending on the source). It was hard to believe. In any case Bob will never be forgotten. I wonder what happened to his extensive library of rare books and the little wooden chess set he kept in a cigar box. For some reason I remember one of his White knights had eyes carved out, the other didn't! They must have been hand crafted.

As I was finishing this article I was shocked and saddened to hear my longtime friend Dave Jellison died on February 5, 2018. He was one of Colorado's top players in the '80s before moving to New Hampshire in 1989, then Texas in 2002. My next article will be about him. I would appreciate memories or games of his anyone can share. As always, I can be reached by email at curt2309@comcast.net if there are any questions, comments or corrections. And as always, I appreciate the opportunity to share memories.



COLORADO CHESS CLUB DIRECTORY

Boulder Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays at the University Memorial Center (First Floor) on the CU Boulder campus, 6:30-9:30pm. 1669 Euclid Avenue, 80309. www.BoulderChess.com.

Carbondale Chess Club: Meets every Tuesday from 6:00pm until the wee hours at Kahhak Fine Arts & School, 411 Main Street, Carbondale, 81623. All levels and ages are welcome and chess coaching is available. Please contact Majid Kahhak at (970) 704-0622 or email: Mkahhak@sopris.net.

Castle Rock Chess Club: Meets every Monday from 6:00-9:00pm at the Philip S. Miller Library, 100 South Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, 80104.

Chess Knights: (Highlands Ranch) Meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Boulevard, 80129. Information is also available on the Chess Knights' Web site at HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org. Contact: Frank Atwood (720) 260-1493 or by email: FrankAtwood@HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org.

Chessmates Chess Club: (Fort Collins) 4825 South Lemay Avenue, 80525. Mondays & Thursdays 5:00-6:30pm for Advanced players, Tuesdays for Beginners from 5:15-6:15pm. Instructed by Zachary Bekkedahl. For more information contact Zachary Bekkedahl by email at info@chessmatesfc.com or go to www.chessmatesfc.com.

Colorado Springs Chess Club: Meets Tuesday evenings, 7:00-10:00pm, in the ballroom of the Acacia Apartments building, 104 East Platte Avenue. Scheduled activities every meeting at 8:00pm (must show up by 8:00pm or you might be locked out). For information see our website at www.SpringsChess.org or email Richard "Buck" Buchanan at buckpeace@pcisys.net or call (719) 685-1984.

Craig Chess Club: Call Rick or Mary Nelson, (970) 824-4780 to schedule play.

Denver Chess Club: Meets on Tuesdays, 6:00-10:00pm at the Third Christian Reformed Church, 2400 South Ash Street, Denver. (303) 733-8940. www.DenverChess.com.

Denver Chess / Meetup.com: This group is run through the social site *Meetup.com*, and our page is www.Meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess/. Players must join in order to receive information and sign up for events. Contact: David Costantino at avs1cup@yahoo.com or through the group's *Meetup.com* page.

Durango Chess Club: Meets on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00pm at Durango Joe's Coffee Shop, 732 East College Drive.

Fort Collins Chess Club: Currently meets Tuesdays, 7:00pm, in the food court of the Lory Student Center (2nd level),

Colorado State University. You can email Randy Reynolds at randy_tesyana@msn.com. On the web - groups.yahoo.com/group/fort_collins_chess.

Fort Lewis College Chess Club: Meets Thursday nights in the X-treme room which is located the College Union Building, the club is sponsored by the school and is a USCF affiliate club. For more info, contact Andrea Browne at (970) 247-6239.

Grand Junction Chess Club: Meets Mondays at 6:30pm in the Safeway at Starbucks, 2901 Patterson Road. Call Rick Lovato at (970) 243-1073.

Grand Junction Junior Chess Club: Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Building, 2853 North Avenue. Call Rand Dodd at (970) 245-4015.

Greeley Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00pm at Your Place Coffee, 2308 West 17th Street, Greeley. Contact Brad Lundstrom at ChessCoach2014@gmail.com. Or call him at (970) 415-3855.

Lafayette Chess Club: Meets Mondays, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Mojo Coffeehouse, 211 North Public Road in Lafayette. For more information send an email to aerofirewp@yahoo.com or contact Victor Creazzi at (303) 332-7039.

Longmont Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00pm. Check www.LongmontChess.com for current meeting location. Email Todd Burge at Admin@LongmontChess.com or call (720) 220-5240.

Northeast Denver Chess Club: Meets Mondays and Thursdays from 4:00-8:00pm at 2575 Vine Street, Denver. Call (303) 320-6716 for more info.

Pagosa Springs Chess Club: Meets on Tuesdays (6:00-9:00pm) and on Saturday mornings (9:00-Noon) at Nello's Restaurant, 135 Country Center Drive, #A. For more information contact Anthony Steventon by email at asteveton@centurytel.net or at (970) 731-3029.

Pueblo Chess Club: Meets at the Hanging Tree Café, 209 South Union, 81003 on Tuesdays and Thursdays after 6:30pm. For more info contact Liz Nickovich at chessliz@comcast.net or by phone at (719) 696-8389.

Rifle Chess Club: Meets Thursdays, 6:30-9:00pm, at City Hall. For information email Dane Lyons at duilen@gmail.com.

Stonebridge Games Chess Club: (Longmont) Meets Tuesdays at 5:00pm. 449 Main Street, Longmont. Call (303) 776-3796 for more info.



Recent Advances in Pawn Theory

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This article was motivated by re-evaluation of ARB (1983), now renamed TARBCS, for the Anthony R. Brown chess system.

ARB is a strategy for use exclusively against chess engines but *not* humans.

ARB adopted Stockfish (Sf9) as the gold standard for free chess engines and as superior to the commercial chess engines, such as Komodo (K12).

Brown supplied this recent transcript with Sf9 as White and his ARB moves: 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d6 3.Bd3 h6 4.Nf3 a6 5.O-O g6 6.Nbd2 b6 7.c3 Bg7 8.Re1 Bb7 9.Nc4 Ne7.



The unique feature common to ARB is this pawn pattern, with the backward pawns on the weakest squares c7 and f7.



The ARB strategy coerces pawn advance by the White engine. The goal is to: obtain passed pawns (out-flanking the engine); leave the rooks as door stops on either file; and float the elevated king onto either side.

The human antidote to ARB is to: control or contest the center; break the pawn string on either flank; then launch side attacks.

ARB is avoided by experts in tournament play, but is followed in specialty groups for online chess.

The transcript continued: 10.Bf4 g5 11.Bg3 Ng6 12.d5 e5, ending with the notation 0-1.



At this point the testing commenced.

We used an i7-4790 on 32 GB RAM with settings as: 7 CPUs; 18 GB hash table, cleared before each run; tablebases and permanent brain turned off; and 180-second control, a requirement of Brown.

Sf9 chose 13.h3 Nd7 (+1.01) with no empty, uncontested back/side square for K12, and one for Sf9 at h5.



K12 chose 13.Ne3 0-0 (+0.83) with none for K12, and one for Sf9 at h5.



The recent advance in pawn theory examines uncontested, empty board spaces *behind and sideways* in the respectively derived positions for ARB and K12 or Sf9.

One asks, “Why consider the empty space already traversed by a pawn string.”

The instant conjecture is that pawns in a string as the front line require a supply pipe line to be maintained from the flanks or behind: a greater unprotected space behind implies a greater need for potential support.

If the ARB plan is to maximize space in front of a pawn string from the engine, then the contra plan is to minimize or deny the occupation of space behind a pawn string of the engine from ARB.

One asks, “Does ARB protect *itself* against the engine controlling space behind and sideways to the ARB pawn string.”

An answer is that ARB ignores empty back and side space because it is minimized anyway in Black's pawns by its passive-aggressive moves *to* rank 6.

Thanks are due to Anthony R. Brown for helpful comments.



The Chess Detective®

Winning Opposite Color Bishop Endgames

by NM Todd Bardwick

(Reprinted with permission of the Author, the United States Chess Federation & Chess Life magazine.)

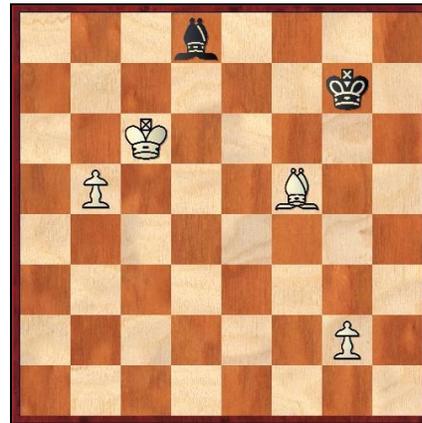
In the last couple of columns, we looked at opposite color bishops in the middlegame.

Now we will examine them in the endgame where draws are common.

Often, a one pawn advantage is not enough to win an opposite color bishop ending...sometimes a two pawn advantage is not enough.

If you are losing the game, steering toward an opposite color bishops in the endgame generally gives you the best chances to draw. The opposite is also true, if you are ahead, it is usually best to try to avoid an opposite color bishop endgame.

The defending player will try to block the advance of pawns on the color of his bishop. If successful, a pawn cannot promote, and without a queen, checkmate won't be possible.



White to move

In this position with the pawns spread out, White can simply advance his b-pawn. Black will have to sacrifice his bishop for it and White will win with his g-pawn.

Note that if the pawn on g2 was on h2 instead, the game would be drawn as Black would leave his king in front of the h-pawn, sacrifice his

bishop for the b-pawn, and draw because White's bishop is not on the color of the h8 promotion square.



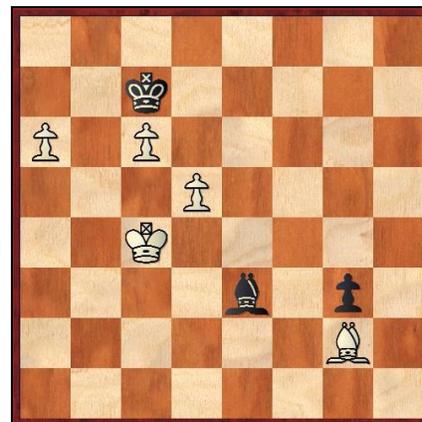
White to move

This position is drawn, despite White's two pawn lead in material. If he tries 1.f5, all Black needs to do is keep his bishop attacking e5 and not move his king so White can never safely push his e-pawn. The other pawn push, 1.e5+ Bxe5 2.fxe5+ Kxe5 results in a draw by insufficient mating material. White cannot protect e5 with his king by playing Ke3-d4

because of ...Bxf4. As long as Black keeps his king on f6 and bishop on b8, c7, or d6, White cannot make progress.

You can win opposite color bishop endings - but the exact positioning of the pieces is critical.

Winning often requires a zugzwang, blocking out the defending bishop with a pawn, or getting the king around the blockade. It is more difficult for the defending bishop if he has to defend two diagonals at the same time, not just one.



Position after 58...Be3
White to move

White's king outmaneuvered Black in this position that occurred between Borislav Kostic and Savielly Tartakower in Bled, Slovenia, 1931.

Down two pawns in material, Black attempts to blockade White's passed pawns on the dark squares. 59.Kd3 (White's king goes on a long journey as Black must defend against the advancing

pawns.) 59...Ba7 60.Ke4 Kd6 61.Kf5 Bc5 62.Kf6 Be3 63.Kf7 Bc5 64.Ke8 Kc7 (64...Bb6 65.Bf3 and 65...Kc7 loses to 66.Ke7 Bc5+ 67.Ke6 zugzwang or Black's bishop moving off the a5-d8 diagonal allows Kd8 and Kc8.) 65.Bf3 Ba7 66.Ke7 Bc5+ 67.Ke6 (Black is in zugzwang and one of White's pawns will advance.) 67...Kb6 68.d6 Kxa6 69.c7 Ka7 70.c8=Q Resigns.



Todd Bardwick is the author of "Chess Strategy Workbook: A Blueprint for Developing the Best Plan."

He can be reached at www.ColoradoMasterChess.com

Tuesday Night Chess

by Club Tournament Director
Paul Anderson

In April, 13 players came out for the *April Quick Six* event (6SS, G/24+5), and Peter Barlay won 1st place with only 1 loss. Brian Rountree, Mark McGough, Mike Smith, and I split up 2nd place. Grayson Harris and Scott Williams divided up the Under prize. In the *Cabin Fever Reliever* event (4SS, G/45;d/10), NM Richard "Buck" Buchanan went perfect over 11 players to win 1st place. Mark McGough claimed 2nd place. Gilberto Gaxiola Jr took home the Under prize.

In May and June, the club returned to four-round, monthly events (4SS, G/90+30). Mike Smith, Mark McGough, Sara Herman, and Daniel Herman carved up 1st place while Scott Williams, Larry Osborn, Joey Arispe, and Ayush Vispute divided up the Under prize in May. NM Josh Bloomer was perfect in June and earned 1st place honors. 2nd place was split between Mark McGough, Brian Rountree, Sara Herman, and Daniel Herman. The Under prize went to Joey Arispe, Joel Hicks, Grayson Harris, Dean Brown, and Ayush Vispute.

We also held the *May One Night Quick* (4SS, G/20;d/5) this quarter since we had a 5th Tuesday. Mark McGough and I tied for 1st place from 16 players. The Under prize was taken home by Joey Arispe and Clint Eads.

The attendance has jumped, on average, to 16 players per event with 565 games being played in 2018. We collected \$862.00 in entry fees and returned \$751.26 in prizes (87.15%).

The annual *July Mating Game* will be held in July on the 17th and 24th (4SS, G/45;d/10; \$10 entry fee). See our ad in *Chess Life!*



Here are the statistics from this quarter and some games from the events (name, wins, losses, draws, %):

Dual Rated Chess

Ayush Vispute			
1	2	1	37.50%
Dean Brown			
0	1	1	25.00%
Gilber Gaxiola Jr			
2	2	0	50.00%
Grayson Harris			
0	1	0	0.00%
Larry Turner			
1	1	0	50.00%
Lawrence Osborn			
0	4	0	0.00%
Mark McGough			
3	1	0	75.00%
Michael Smith II			
2	2	0	50.00%
Paul Anderson			
1	0	0	100.00%
Richard "Buck" Buchanan			
4	0	0	100.00%
Supreme King			
2	2	0	50.00%

Quick Rated Chess

Brian Rountree			
4	2	0	66.67%
Calvin DeJong			
2	2	0	50.00%
Clinton Eads			
2	8	0	20.00%
Dean Brown			
4	6	0	40.00%
Derek Eskeldson			
2	2	0	50.00%
Douglas Clark			
0	4	0	0.00%
Gerardo Cruz			
1	3	0	25.00%
Grayson Harris			
4	5	0	44.44%
Joey Arispe			
4	3	0	57.14%
Larry Turner			
2	2	0	50.00%
Lawrence Osborn			
1	5	0	16.67%
Mark McGough			
7	2	1	75.00%
Michael Smith II			
7	3	0	70.00%
Paul Anderson			
7	2	1	75.00%

Peter Barlay			
6	1	1	81.25%
Robert Lorenzen			
0	2	0	0.00%
Scott Williams			
3	3	0	50.00%
Supreme King			
3	3	0	50.00%
Tristan Cruz			
1	3	0	25.00%
William Wolf			
3	2	1	58.33%

Standard Rated Chess

Ayush Vispute			
2	4	2	37.50%
Brian Rountree			
5	2	1	68.75%
Calvin DeJong			
1	0	2	66.67%
Christopher Motley			
1	1	0	50.00%
Clinton Eads			
3	5	0	37.50%
Daniel Herman			
5	1	2	75.00%
Daniel Rupp			
1	6	0	14.29%
Dean Brown			
2	3	1	41.67%
Erasmus Eskeldson			
1	3	1	30.00%
Gerardo Cruz			
3	3	1	50.00%
Grayson Harris			
3	4	0	42.86%
Imre Barlay			
0	1	0	0.00%
Joel Hicks			
3	2	0	60.00%
Joey Arispe			
4	6	0	40.00%
Josh Bloomer			
6	0	0	100.00%
Lawrence Osborn			
1	7	0	12.50%
Mark McGough			
6	2	0	75.00%
Michael Smith II			
6	3	0	66.67%
Paul Anderson			
4	2	2	62.50%
Peter Barlay			
4	0	0	100.00%
Ross Inman			
1	1	0	50.00%
Sam Bridle			
1	0	0	100.00%

Sara Herman

5 1 2 75.00%

Scott Williams

2 4 0 33.33%

Shirley Herman

1 8 1 15.00%

Tristan Cruz

2 5 0 28.57%

William Wolf

2 1 1 62.50%

Larry Turner (1745)**Grayson Harris** (1010)*Cabin Fever Reliever**Colorado Springs / April 17, 2018*

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 e6
5.0-0 Nf6 6.c4 Bd6 7.Nc3 dxc4 8.Qa4
cxd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxc6
Bd7 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Bxd7 Nxd7 14.Nb5
Qb8 15.Nxd6 Nb6 16.Qc2 Nd5 17.Nxc4
Rc8 18.b3 Nb6 19.Bf4 e5 20.Be3 Qc7
21.Bxb6 axb6 22.Rac1 b5 23.Ne3 Qxc2
24.Rxc2 Rxc2 25.Nxc2 f6 26.Nb4 Kf7
27.Rd7+ Kg6 28.Rb7 Rc8 29.Rxb5 Kg5
30.f4+ Kg4 31.fxe5 Kf5 32.exf6+ Ke4
33.Kf2 Rf8 34.Rb6 gxf6 35.a4 Kd4
36.Nd3 1-0

Michael Smith II (1617)**Richard "Buck" Buchanan** (2010)*Cabin Fever Reliever**Colorado Springs / April 24, 2018*

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bc5
5.c3 d3 6.Qxd3 d6 7.b4 Bb6 8.b5 Nce7
9.Bb3 Nf6 10.Bb2 0-0 11.0-0 Ng6 12.c4
Nf4 13.Qd2 Ne6 14.Nc3 Nc5 15.Bc2 Be6
16.Qe2 Re8 17.Rad1 Qc8 18.Ng5 Bg4
19.Nf3 Qe6 20.Rfe1 Ncd7 21.Qd3 Bxf3
22.gxf3 Ne5 23.Qe2 Qh3 24.Rd3 Nxd3
25.Bxd3 Re5 26.Bcl Ba5 27.Qe3 Rh5
28.Bb1 Qxh2+ 29.Kf1 Qh1+ 30.Ke2 Qg2
31.c5 Rxc5 32.Bd2 Re8 33.Rf1 Bxc3
34.Bxc3 Nd5 35.Qd3 Nf4+ 0-1

Joey Arispe (1192)**Michael Smith II** (1635)*May Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / May 1, 2018*

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 b6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nbd2 Be7
5.h3 0-0 6.e3 Nd5 7.Bh2 f5 8.Bd3 Nb4
9.Be2 Bb7 10.a3 Nd5 11.c4 Nf6 12.b4
Ne4 13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Nd2 Bh4 15.0-0
Qf6 16.Bg3 d6 17.Bg4 Bg5 18.Qc2 Qg6
19.Qb3 h5 20.Bd1 Nd7 21.Bc2 Nf6 22.f3
Bxe3+ 23.Qxe3 Qxg3 24.Nxe4 Bxe4
25.Bxe4 Rae8 26.Bc6 Re7 27.a4 Nh7
28.Bd5 Ng5 29.Kh1 c6 30.Bxc6 Nxb3
31.a5 Rf4 32.axb6 axb6 33.Ra8+ Kf7

34.Be8+ Kf6 35.Bxh5 g6 36.Bg4 Ng5
37.Rf8+ Nf7 38.c5 Kg7 39.cxd6 Ra7
40.Re8 Ra2 41.Bh3 Rh4 42.Kg1 Rxb3
0-1

Larry Osborn (898)**Ayush Vispute** (1207)*May Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / May 8, 2018*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 h6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3
g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.a3 Qb6 9.b4
Ng4 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.bxc5 Bxa1 12.Qxa1
Nxe3 13.fxe3 dxc5 14.Qe5 Nc6 15.Qf4
Be6 16.Qxh6 Qd6 17.Ng5 Qxh2+
18.Kxh2 Rfd8 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.Qh8# 1-0

Ayush Vispute (1207)**Shirley Herman** (1105)*May Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / May 15, 2018*

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Bc4 Bf5
5.f3 e6 6.fxe4 Bg6 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.Qd3
Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nf6 10.Qe3 Bxe4 11.Ng5
Bxg2 12.Nxf7 Qe7 13.Rg1 Kxf7 14.Rxg2
Nbd7 15.Ba3 Qxa3 16.Qxe6+ Kf8
17.Qf7# 1-0

Brian Rountree (1822)**Mark McGough** (1779)*May Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / May 22, 2018*

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 h5 4.Bc4 h4 5.d4
g5 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 d6
9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Nxg5+ Qxg5 11.Bxf4
Qh5 12.Qd3 Kg6 13.Qc4 Nf6 14.e5 Ne8
15.exd6 Nxd6 16.Qxc7 Nf5 17.Rae1 Nc6
18.Bd2 Rh7 19.Qf4 Bd7 20.d5 Nce7
21.c4 Rc8 22.Re4 a6 23.Rb1 b5 24.d6
Ng8 25.c5 Rxc5 26.c3 Nf6 27.Re7 Nxe7
28.dxe7 Rxe7 29.Qd6 Qe5 30.Qd3+ Bf5
31.Qf1 Bxb1 32.Qxb1+ Qe4 33.Qb3 Rd5
34.Qb2 Rxd2 35.Qxd2 Qe3+ 36.Qxe3
Rxe3 0-1

Shirley Herman (1091)**Gerardo Cruz** (1214)*June Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / June 5, 2018*

1.d4 d6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 h6 4.Qb3 Nbd7
5.Bf4 c5 6.Nf3 g5 7.Bg3 cxd4 8.Nxd4
Nc5 9.Qc2 e5 10.Nf3 Bg7 11.Rd1 Be6
12.Nxe5 0-0 13.b4 Na6 14.a3 Qe7
15.Nf3 Rfd8 16.e4 Rac8 17.Nb5 d5
18.Nxa7 Nxb4 19.axb4 Qxb4+ 20.Qd2
Qxd2+ 21.Rxd2 Ra8 22.Bc7 Nxe4
23.Bxd8 Nxd2 24.Nxd2 Rxd8 25.Be2
Bc3 26.Nb5 Bb4 27.Bd3 dxc4 28.Nc7
Rxd3 29.Nxe6 fxe6 30.Ke2 Rxd2+

31.Ke3 c3 32.Ra1 Bc5+ 33.Ke4 c2
34.Rf1 Rd1 35.Ke5 Rxf1 36.h4 gxh4
37.g3 hxg3 38.f4 Rxf4 39.Kxe6 Kh7
40.Ke5 c1Q 41.Ke6 Qe3+ 42.Kd7 Rd4+
43.Kc8 Qe7 44.Kb8 Rd8# 0-1

Grayson Harris (1002)**Tristan Cruz** (745)*June Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / June 12, 2018*

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 d6 5.Nf3
Nd7 6.Bg5 Bf6 7.Qd2 h6 8.Be3 e5 9.d5
b6 10.Be2 Nc5 11.b4 Nb7 12.h3 g5
13.Nh2 Qe7 14.Bh5 Bd7 15.0-0 0-0-0
16.a4 c5 17.Qb2 Bg7 18.Ng4 f5 19.Nh2
f4 20.Bd2 Nf6 21.bxc5 Nxc5 22.a5 b5
23.cxb5 Nd3 24.Qb3 Nc5 25.Qb2 Nxb5
26.b6 a6 27.b7+ Nxb7 28.Rab1 Be8
29.Rfc1 Nc5 30.Qb8+ Kd7 31.Rb7+
Nxb7 32.Qxb7# 1-0

Scott Williams (1254)**Gerardo Cruz** (1214)*June Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / June 19, 2018*

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.Bc4
Nbd7 5.d4 c5 6.h3 cxd4 7.Ng5 e6 8.Qxd4
Bh5 9.0-0 e5 10.Qe3 h6 11.Nf3 a6
12.Be2 Nc5 13.Ne1 Bg6 14.Bf3 Ne6
15.Nd5 Rc8 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Qb3 Qe7
18.Be3 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Bxb7 Rc7
21.Bxa6 Bxh3 22.Bd3 Bg4 23.Bg6+ Kd8
24.Bb6 Be2 25.Bxc7+ Nxc7 26.Qb8+
Kd7 27.Bf5+ Ne6 28.Qb7+ Kd8 29.Qb3
Bxf1 30.Kxf1 g6 31.Bxe6 Qc7 32.Rd1
Be7 33.Nf3 Rf8 34.Qd5 Qa7 35.Qc6 Qc7
36.Qa8+ 1-0

Joey Arispe (1216)**Tristan Cruz** (745)*June Swiss 90**Colorado Springs / June 26, 2018*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 f6
6.Bb5 Qb6 7.Bxc6+ Qxc6 8.Bf4 cxd4
9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Nbd2 b6 11.Rc1 Qb5
12.Qc2 Ba6 13.Qc6+ Qxc6 14.Rxc6 Bc8
15.0-0 Bd7 16.Rc7 g5 17.Be3 g4 18.Ne1
Bb5 19.Rg7 f5 20.Nc2 Bxf1 21.Nxb4
Bb5 22.Bg5 Rc8 23.Nb1 h6 24.Be3 a5
25.a4 Be2 26.Na2 Rc2 27.Nac3 Bd3
28.Na3 Rxb2 29.Nab5 Bxb5 30.axb5 a4
31.Rc7 Rc2 32.Nxd5 Rxc7 33.Nxc7+
Ke7 34.Na6 Kd7 35.Kf1 Ne7 36.Nb4
Nd5 37.Nxd5 exd5 38.Bcl Ra8 39.Ba3
Ra5 40.Ke2 Rxb5 41.Kd2 Rb3 42.Bd6 a3
43.Kc2 a2 0-1



Tactics Time!

by Tim Brennan

One of the best ways to improve your game is to study tactics, such as the following, from games played by Colorado players. Answers are on the next page.

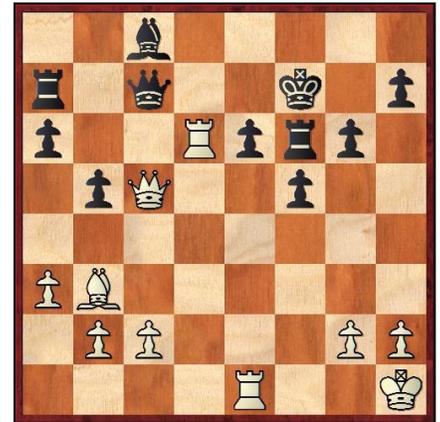
www.TacticsTime.com



1. Paul Anderson - Brian Rountree
Club Chess!!, Classical Wed. / May 2018
 White to move



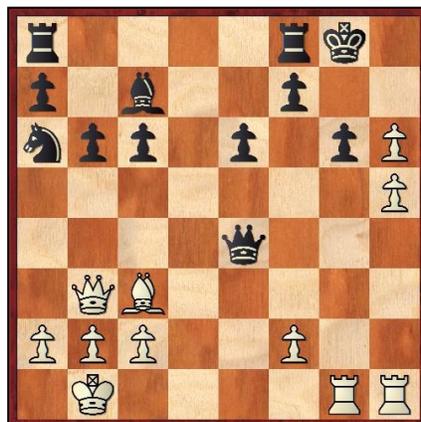
2. Brian Wall - Cory Kohler
Denver Chess Club / June 2018
 White to move



3. J.C. MacNeil - Vivek Sarinivasan
Denver Chess Club / May 2018
 White to move



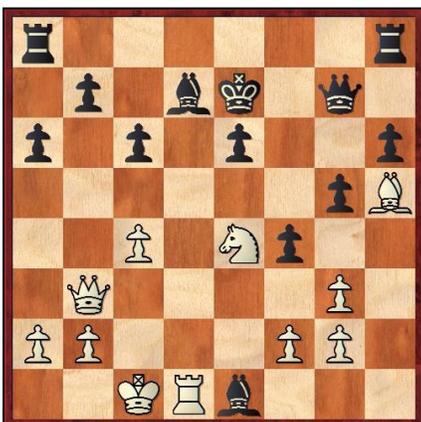
4. Sulleiman Omar - Daniel Cole
Denver Chess Club / May 2018
 White to move



5. Andrew Starr - Ben Gurka
Denver Chess Club / May 2018
 White to move



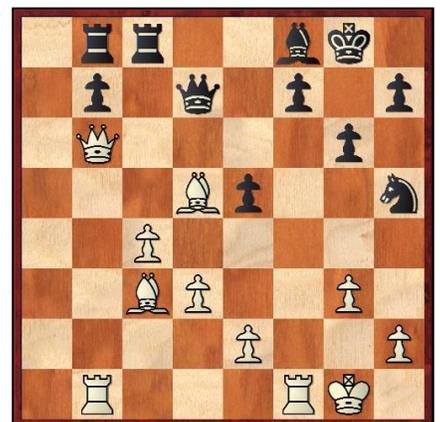
6. Davin Yin - Richard Pugh III
Colorado Class Championships / May 2018
 Black to move



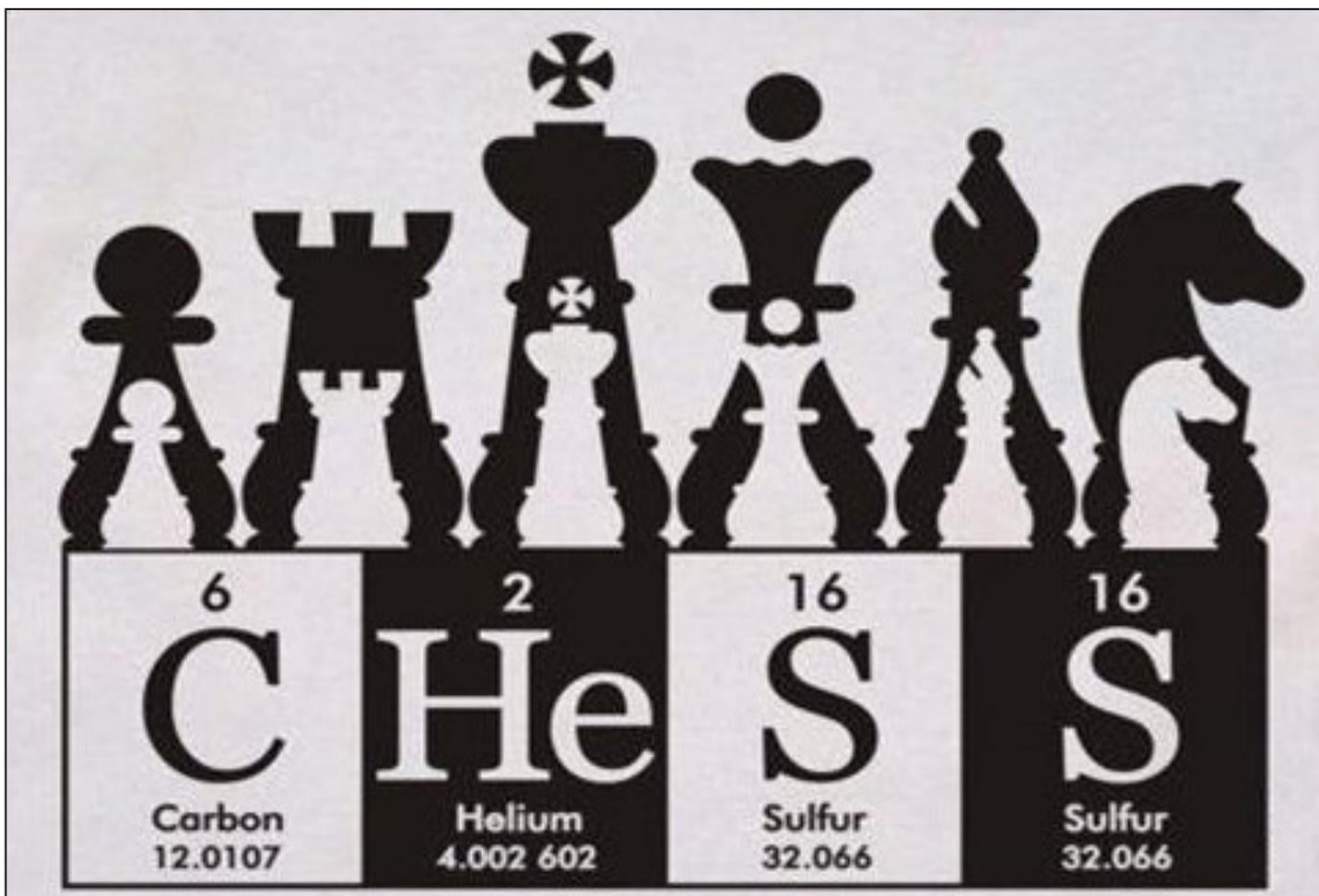
7. Eamon Montgomery - Sullivan McConnell
Colorado Class Championships / May 2018
 White to move



8. Vedanth Sampath - Akshat Jain
Denver Open / April 2018
 Black to move



9. Gunnar Andersen - Sullivan McConnell
Colorado Class Championships / May 2018
 Black to move



Tactics Time Answers:

1. Paul featured this position in his excellent email newsletter, and it is a fun one - **28.Rxh7! Kxh7 29.Rh3#**
2. **15.Qc3+** forks the king and knight.
3. **26.Rc6** skewers the queen and bishop.
4. **21.Qxe6!** Black cannot recapture because of **21...fxe6 22.Bxg6#**.
5. Give Andrew a gold star for finding the mate in 3 - **23.h7+ Kxh7 24.hxg6 Kg8 25.Rh8#**.
6. **26...Bg5** skewers the queen and rook.
7. **22.Rxd7+ Kxd7 23.Qxb7+ Kd8 24.Qxa8+**, and White mops up.
8. **30...Re3+** forks the king and bishop.
9. **31...Bc5+** forks the king and queen.

Want more original chess tactics from real games like these?

Get "Tactics Time" delivered straight to your e-mail inbox for FREE! Newsletters come out 3 times a week.

Sign up now for the Tactics Time e-mail newsletter at www.tacticstime.com.



UPCOMING COLORADO TOURNAMENTS

DCC July, 2018 July 3 - 31, 2018

5 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/70; d/5

Site: Third Christian Reform Church at 2400 S. Ash, Denver, CO 80222

Directions: One block East of S. Colorado Blvd. on Wesley. Please use rear entrance.

Sections: Open - U1900 - U1500

Entry Fee: DCC members \$6 per night or \$20 for all 5 rounds, Non DCC members \$8 or \$30 for all, \$2 per round discount for children under 12.

Prizes: Based on entries. Paid the Tuesday following event by check at club meeting or mailed.

Registration: 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Round Times: 7:30pm each Tuesday.

Entries: James Curtis MacNeil

Phone: (303) 883-2684

Email: liencam2@yahoo.com

Bye Policy (Updated):

- Byes for round 1 may be requested at the start of round 2.
- A last round bye must be requested before the start of the penultimate round. Otherwise a last round bye will be recorded as zero.
- Except for the last round, players may call in a bye request for any round. Only 2 byes will be allowed for non prepaid players. The player will be charged \$3 for each bye.
- Except for the last round, players prepaid for the month will receive a bye automatically, if not in attendance at the close of registration.
- Only one bye will count towards prize money. An unrated players prize money is restricted to \$20, unless they qualify for a place prize in the Open section.

An unrated players prize money is restricted to \$20, unless they qualify for a place prize in the Open section or there is an Unrated prize. No player can win a special prize and a place/class prize.

July Quick Six July 3 - 10, 2018

6 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/24; inc/05

Site: Ballroom in the Acacia Apartment Building, 104 East Platte, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903

Sections: Open

Entry Fee: \$10 (3 games / week); \$5 discount for CSCC Supporting Members.

Prizes: Cash prizes will be announced at event

Registration: About 6:00pm until 6:45pm each week

Round Times: 7:00pm

Entries: Paul Anderson

Phone: (719) 459-9612 SMS

Email: cschess@juno.com

Club Chess!! Classical Wednesdays July 4 - 25, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/90; inc/30

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section

Entry Fee: \$20 (1/2 off online; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 4 weekly rounds in July, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass each round for non-members, and eligibility for prizes; or \$6 per single round on site with half-price Club Pass.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; U1800; U1400).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm each week.

Round Times: 6:45pm each week.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: One 1/2 point bye available rounds 1,2, or 3, if requested before being paired; Enter anytime with a first round 1/2 point bye.

Register Online: www.ClubChess.org

Pairings: 6:35pm

Club Chess!! Summer Sizzle Blitz July 12, 2018

5 Round Double Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/5

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section

Entry Fee: \$10 on site (1/2 OFF ONLINE; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 7 rounds, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass for non-members, and eligibility for prizes.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; under-prizes determined at event).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm.

Round Times: First round 6:45pm.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: Byes not available.

Register online: www.ClubChess.org

Pairings: 6:35pm

Club Chess!! Friday Night Quick July 13, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/24; inc/05

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section

Entry Fee: \$12 on site (\$2 OFF ONLINE; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 4

rounds, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass for non-members, and eligibility for prizes; or \$4 on site per single round with half-price Club Pass.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; under-prizes determined at event).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm

Round Times: First round 6:45pm.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: One 1/2pt bye available rounds 1,2, or 3, if requested before being paired.

Register Online: www.clubchess.org

Pairings: 6:35pm

Bughouse Birthday Bash

July 14, 2018

5 Round Double Round Robin Tournament

Time Control: G/5

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Entry Fee: \$12/team (\$2 off online: Coupon Code at check-out is the birthday person's first name in caps - if you can guess it! Half-Day Club Pass included with entry for non-members.

Prizes: Generous cash prizes announced at event for 1st Place Team; 2nd Place Team; 3rd Place Team; plus special prize for best team name (winner determined by player vote).

Registration: Anytime before 6:45pm.

Pairings: 6:45pm.

Round Times: First round 7:00pm (each round consists of two games, with teams switching colors).

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: Byes not available.

Register Online: www.ClubChess.org

- Half-Day Club Pass included with entry.
- Free bughouse instruction, 5:30pm in the newly opened Great Hall.
- Birthday cake and ice cream compliments of Club Chess!!
- Wacky, funny, weird, or otherwise entertaining wrapped presents (used or new) for the birthday person are encouraged--it's a party!
- Special prize for best team name compliments of Club Chess!! (winner determined by player vote).
- Varying chess related free presentations ongoing in the Library;
- Prepackaged food and refreshments available.
- Bring friends - First-time visitors are welcomed with a Club Tour, refreshments, and a free Half-Day Club Pass to stay and watch you compete.
- Free chess lessons for absolute beginners.

July Mating Game

July 17 - 24, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/45;d/10

Site: Ballroom in the Acacia Apartment Building, 104 E. Platte, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903

Sections: Open

Entry Fee: \$10 (2 games / week); \$5 discount for CSCC Supporting Members.

Prizes: Cash prizes will be announced at event

Registration: About 6:00pm until 6:45pm each week.

Round Times: 7:00pm

Entries: Paul Anderson

Phone: (719) 459-9612 SMS

Email: cshess@juno.com

Club Chess!! Summer Sizzle Blitz

July 19, 2018

5 Round Double Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/5

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section.

Entry Fee: \$10 on site (1/2 OFF ONLINE; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 7 rounds, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass for non-members, and eligibility for prizes.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; under-prizes determined at event).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm (Byes not available).

Pairings: 6:35pm

Round Times: First round 6:45pm.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Club Chess!! Friday Night Quick

July 20, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/24; inc/05

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section

Entry Fee: \$12 on site (\$2 OFF ONLINE; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 4 rounds, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass for non-members, and eligibility for prizes; or \$4 on site per single round with half-price Club Pass.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; under-prizes determined at event).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm

Round Times: First round 6:45pm.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: One 1/2pt bye available rounds 1,2, or 3, if requested before being paired.

Register Online: www.clubchess.org

Pairings: 6:35pm

Club Chess!! Summer Sizzle Blitz July 26, 2018

5 Round Double Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/5

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section.

Entry Fee: \$10 on site (1/2 OFF ONLINE; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 7 rounds, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass for non-members, and eligibility for prizes.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; under-prizes determined at event).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm (Byes not available).

Pairings: 6:35pm

Round Times: First round 6:45pm.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Club Chess!! Friday Night Quick July 27, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/24; inc/05

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section

Entry Fee: \$12 on site (\$2 OFF ONLINE; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 4 rounds, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass for non-members, and eligibility for prizes; or \$4 on site per single round with half-price Club Pass.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; under-prizes determined at event).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm

Round Times: First round 6:45pm.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: One 1/2pt bye available rounds 1,2, or 3, if requested before being paired.

Register Online: www.clubchess.org

Pairings: 6:35pm

July One Night Quick July 31, 2018

3 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/20;d/5

Site: Ballroom in the Acacia Apartment Building, 104 E. Platte, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903

Sections: Open

Entry Fee: \$5 (3 games); \$5 discount for CSCC Supporting Members.

Prizes: Cash prizes will be announced at event

Registration: About 6:00pm until 6:45pm each week.

Round Times: 7:00pm

Entries: Paul Anderson

Phone: (719) 459-9612

Email: cschess@juno.com

Club Chess!! Classical Wednesdays August 1 - 29, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/90; inc/30

Site: Club Chess!! Main Tournament Hall, 5625 Constitution Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Sections: One USCF-rated open section

Entry Fee: \$25 (1/2 off online; combines with up to 25% regular discount for Club Chess!! Members); includes all 5 weekly rounds in August, a free Club Chess!! Half-Day Pass each round for non-members, and eligibility for prizes; or \$6 per single round on site with half-price Club Pass.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries (1st; 2nd; U1800; U1400).

Registration: Anytime before 6:30pm each week.

Round Times: 6:45pm each week.

Entries: Jesse Williams

Phone: (719) 600-9462

Email: MissionControl@ClubChess.org

Bye Policy: One 1/2 point bye available rounds 1,2, or 3, if requested before being paired.

Register Online: www.ClubChess.org

Pairings: 6:35pm

Chess Academy of Denver - August Tournament August 4, 2018

5 Round Swiss Tournament

Sections: Rated and Unrated. See website for details.

Entries: Todd Bardwick

coloradomasterchess.com/denver-chess-academy-summer-tournaments/

CSCC August Swiss 90 August 7 - 28, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/90; inc/30

Site: Ballroom in the Acacia Apartment Building, 104 E. Platte, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903

Sections: Open

Entry Fee: \$10 includes 4 rounds over 4 weeks (1 game / week); \$5 discount for CSCC Supporting Members. \$4 for one night (\$2 for CSCC Supporting Members).

Prizes: Cash prizes will be announced at event

Registration: About 6:00pm until 6:45pm each week.

Round Times: 7:00pm

Entries: Paul Anderson

Phone: (719) 459-9612

Email: cschess@juno.com

Players must check-in prior to 6:45pm on the day of the round to be paired (in person, by phone, by text, or by email).

Pikes Peak Open August 11 - 12, 2018

5 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: Rounds 1-2 G/90; d/05; Rounds 3-5 G/90; inc/30.

Site: Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs

Sections: Open

Entry Fee: \$40 if rec'd by 8/8, \$45 at site. \$5 discount for paid CSCA members (OSA). Additional \$5 discount for Supporting Members of Colorado Springs Chess Club.

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries.

Registration: 8:30am - 9:30am (Second day byes must be requested before Round 1).

Round Times: Saturday - 10:00am, 2:30pm, 7:00pm;
Sunday - 9:00am, 3:00pm.

Entries: Richard Buchanan

Address: 1 Sutherland Road, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Phone: (719) 685 1984

Email: buckpeace@pcisys.net

Colorado Open September 1 - 2, 2018

5 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: Rounds 1-2: G/90; d/5. Rounds 3-5 G/90; inc/30
Site: 7007 S Clinton St, Greenwood Village, CO 80112. Rooms available for chess players at special rate of \$89 per night. Call Sheraton and mention tournament for discount.

Sections: Championship Section, U1900, U1600, U1300

Entry Fee: Regular \$50 at site, \$45 in advance. CSCA membership required (\$15 discount Juniors/\$10 discount Seniors), other states acceptable.

Prizes: TBD

Registration: 7:45am - 9:00am

Bye Policy: 1/2 point byes available for Rounds 1-3 with 1 hour advanced notice preferred. A player may request a 0 point bye for Rounds 4 or 5.

Round Times: Saturday - 9:00am, 1:30pm. 5:00pm;
Sunday 9:00am, 4:00pm. (CSCA Membership Meeting Sunday 2:00pm).

Entries: Dean Clow (Make checks payable to CSCA).

Address: 10200 Park Meadows Dr, #1131, Littleton, CO. 80124

Phone: (312) 914-3041

Email: deanrcrow@gmail.com

Colorado Tour Event

USCF Grand Prix Event

CSCC September Swiss 90 September 4 - 25, 2018

4 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/90; inc/30

Site: Ballroom in the Acacia Apartment Building, 104 E. Platte, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903

Sections: Open

Entry Fee: \$10 includes 4 rounds over 4 weeks (1 game / week); \$5 discount for CSCC Supporting Members. \$4 for one night (\$2 for CSCC Supporting Members).

Prizes: Cash prizes will be announced at event

Registration: About 6:00pm until 6:45pm each week.

Round Times: 7:00pm

Entries: Paul Anderson

Phone: (719) 459-9612

Email: cschess@juno.com

Players must check-in prior to 6:45pm on the day of the round to be paired (in person, by phone, by text, or by email).

2018 - 2019 Summit School of Chess Tournament Series #1 September 29, 2018

5 Round Swiss Tournament

Time Control: G/30; d/0

Site: Denver Marriott West 1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd, Golden, CO 80401

Directions: 12 miles west of downtown Denver via US-6 West.

Sections:

- **(K-3)** - Kindergarten through 3rd grade
- **(4-6)** - 4th through 6th grade
- **(7-12)** - 7th through 12th grade
- **(U1000)** - Scholastic players with USCF rating under 1000
- **(U1400)** - Scholastic players with USCF rating under 1400
- **(Open)** - Open to ALL ages and skills levels.

Entry Fee: K-3, 4-6, 7-12, U1000 + U1400 - \$25 if received by 9/22/2018 - \$30 if received after 9/22/2018.

Open - \$35 if received by 9/22/2018 - \$40 if received after 9/22/2018.

Prizes: 1st through 5th place trophies offered for sections: K-3, 4-6, 7-12, U1000 + U1400 Open: 80% of entry fees - highest in the state!

Registration: 8:00am - 8:30am

Round Times:

- Round 1 - 9:00am - 10:00am
- Round 2 - 10:00am - 11:00am
- Round 3 - 11:00am - 12:00pm
- Lunch - 12:00pm - 12:30pm
- Round 4 - 12:30pm - 1:30pm
- Round 5 - 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- Awards - 2:45pm

Entries: Jesse Cohen

Address: 2430 W 82nd Pl. Unit 1F, Westminster, CO 80031

Phone: (720) 243-1450

Email: jessercohen@gmail.com

Bye Policy: A half point bye may be requested for any round prior to the start of the tournament.

Register online via PayPal:

<http://box5325.temp.domains/~summiuk7/tournaments/>

For more information & additional listings on upcoming Colorado events, please visit the CSCA website at www.ColoradoChess.com.



"Dance of a Thousand Knives"

Jason Wycoff (1956)

Brian Wall (2283)

Denver Chess Club - 2018 June Tournament

Round 4 / June 26, 2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 d6 5.h3 Bd7 6.d3 g6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.Qd2 a6
10.Ba4 b5 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Ne2 c5 13.c3 Nxb3 14.axb3 Be6 15.c4 b4 16.0-0 Nd7 17.Ng3 Nb8
18.Nh2 Qh4 19.Ne2 g5 20.Ng3 g4 21.Nxg4 Bxg4 22.hxg4 Qxg4 23.Qe2 Qg6 24.Nh5 Nd7
25.Ra5 0-0 26.Ng3 Bf6 27.Nf5 Bd8 28.Rfa1 Nb8 29.Qf3 Kh7 30.Rb5 Nc6 31.Rb7 Bg5
32.Bxg5 Qxg5 33.Rb6 Nd4 34.Nxd4 cxd4 35.Rxd6 a5 36.Rf6 Kg7 37.Rf5 Qd2 38.Qg3+ Kh7
39.Rh5 f6 40.Qh3 Rg8 41.Qf5+ Rg6 42.Rh3 Qxb2 43.Qd7+ Kh8 44.Ra4 Qxb3 45.Qf7 Rag8
46.Ra1 Rxd2+ 47.Kh1 R2g6 48.Rg3 R8g7 49.Qf8+ Rg8 50.Qf7 R8g7 51.Qf8+ Kh7 52.Rag1
Rxd2 53.Rxd2 Qd1+ 54.Kg2 Rxd2+ 55.fxd2 Qe2+ 56.Kh3 Qh5+ 57.Kg2 Qg6 58.c5 b3
59.Qb8 a4 60.c6 Qg4 61.c7 Qe2+ 62.Kh3 Qh5+ 63.Kg2 Qe2+ 64.Kh3 Qh5+ ½-½



Renew your CSCA membership today!

If your membership has or is about to expire, it is time to act!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone # _____ Email: _____



- Junior (under 20) (\$10)
- Adult (20-64) (\$15)
- Senior (over 64) (\$10)

Make checks payable to the CSCA.
Send payment & this completed form to:

Jeffrey Cohen
1600 Broadway, #1660
Denver, CO 80202