



ISSUE NO. 3 JULY 2017



CCCC Officers/Directors:

President: James Asaro

James.Asaro@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Bill McGrath

lulapoluzi4@aol.com

Secretary: David Carter

carterd253@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Ted Fink

jantedfink@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: David Carter

carterd253@hotmail.com

Member at Large: Parker Montgomery

vermonty64@earthlink.net

CCCC MEETINGS

WHERE: Lake Champlain Waldorf [High] School
122 Bostwick Road
Shelburne, VT 05482

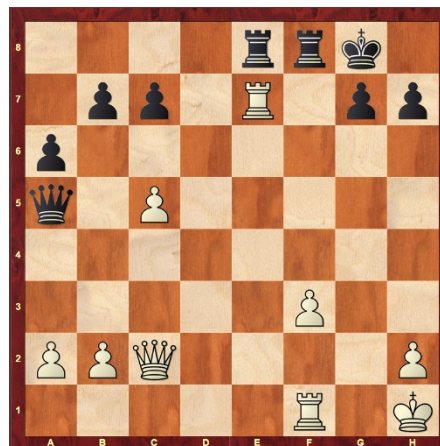
WHEN: 7:00 PM, Every Thursday; Games Start at 7:30
(except Thanksgiving)

RUNNING LATE? BE SURE YOU GET PAIRED!

CALL OR TEXT DAVE CARTER AT (802) 324-1143

CCCC PUZZLERS:
White to move and win.
(Answers on page 3)

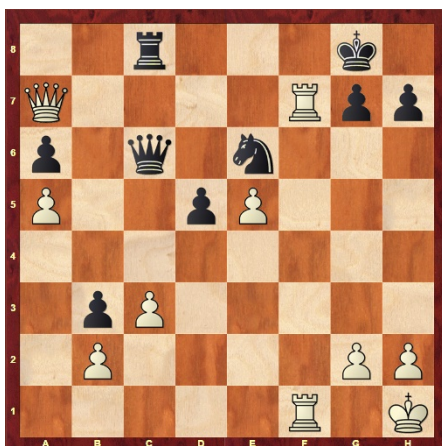
A



B



C



D

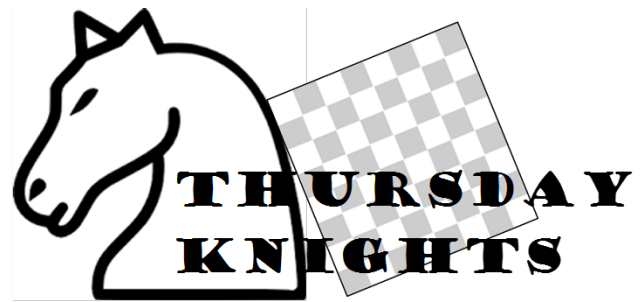


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WHO'S BEEN PLAYING?

#	Member	# Games
1	WALTER CHESTNUT	11
2	JAMES ASARO	11
3	BOB NICHOLS	10
4	JIM BRANNEN	9
5	DOUG RYAN	9
6	CARLETON PLOURDE	9
7	SLIM PICKENS	8
8	GARY BERGERON	8
9	CATHY RYAN	8
10	MASON ASARO	7
11	CAMERON BUCHHOLZ	7
12	MIKE WINSLOW	6
13	DAVE JOHNSON	6
14	DAN LEE	6
15	CHRISTOPHER LEE	6
16	RACHEL ZIMET	5
17	JON KUEHNE	5
18	EVERETT MARSHALL	4
19	TED FINK	3
20	LARRY PARKER	3
21	IAN DUDLEY	3
22	DAVE CARTER	3
23	BILL MCGRATH	3
24	BEN PARKER	3
25	NINE PEOPLE TIED	2

A whopping forty-six (46) players competed in the eleven weekly Club meetings between April 20 and June 29. The top 24 attendees are listed on the following page.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

CALMAN BEGUN
EDWARD PLOURDE
ALI HASSAN
ANDREW BARBAN
LARRY PARKER
VINCENT CATALONI
MALACHY SNOW
BEN PARKER
LUCA DERUZZA
KEELEY SCHELL
ROLAND EKSTROM
ELIZABETH TUPAI

WELCOME BACK TO:
CHICO MARTIN & AIDEN BREEN



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Treasurer's Report July 2017

Balance Forward \$ 266.01

Income:

Dues \$278.00

Misc. 16.00 \$ 294.00

Expenses:

Rent (3 mos.) (\$150.00)

Balance Forward \$410.01

Ted Fink, Treasurer

The Board of Directors of the Chittenden County Chess Club gratefully acknowledges payment of 2017 dues by the following members:

Jim Brannon, Aidan Breen, Cam Buchholz, Dave Carter, Ted Fink, Christopher Lee, Dan Lee, Ben Parker, Larry Parker, Slim Pickens, & Mike Winslow

Thursday Knights - Official Newsletter of the Chittenden County Chess Club

Thursday Knights is intended to be the Member's newsletter. It will be popular, useful and fun if we all participate by providing input. Many thanks to Jack Hanson for his article and games this issue.

Games, chess news, chess related items for sale, questions, puzzles, articles about chess or chess history, reviews...AND PICTURES!! Please send them all to Dave Carter at carterd253@hotmail.com.

Puzzle answers:
A) 1.Qc4+ [or Qb3+] Kh8 2.Qf7!! and Black cannot avoid mate.
B) 1.Qxf6+ Rxf6.Re8+ with mate to follow.
C) 1.Rxg7+ Nxg7 2.Qf7+ Kh8 3.Qf8+ Rxf8 4.Rxf8#
D) 1.Qc7!! Black will either lose his queen or be checkmated.
E) 1.Qxd6 cxd6 2.Nf7+ Kg8 [not 2...Rxf7 because of 3.Re8+ 3.Nxg5+ and White wins back the queen.

CLUB NOTES

Club Swiss April 20 – May 11

Doug Ryan won a clear first with a perfect +4-0=0 score. Doug beat Mike Winslow, Ted Fink, James Asaro and Everett Marshall; Doug picked-up 58 rating points. James and Everett tied for 2nd-3rd with three points. The top under 1400 was newcomer Rachel Zimet +2-1 in three games scoring a big upset over Cathy Ryan.

Club Swiss May 18 – June 8

This event ended in a three-way tie for first between Jon Kuehne, Ian Dudley and Cathy Ryan. Cathy had a phenomenal scoring wins over Slim Pickens, "Jonny K" and Gary Bergeron, only losing the last round to Ian. The top under 1400 was UVM student Camereon Buchholz who recently placed clear 2nd in the U1500 section at the Mass Open over the Memorial Day Weekend.

Club Swiss June 15 – July 6

James Asaro won the most recent Club Swiss with a score of +3-0=1. His only draw was with Bob Nichols who finished second with 2.5. Cam Buchholz once again was the top player under 1400.



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WEEKEND



WARRIORS

2017 Philadelphia Open

By Jack Hanson

In April, I went down to Pennsylvania for the Philadelphia Open, one of the biggest chess tournaments of the year. My sights had been set on this tournament since the 2016 Vermont Open, where my rating came out to 1976. It was time for a big U2000 section.

By the time the Open came around, I was more than ready to get back into a big tournament. My last major tournament had been the Chicago Open, almost a year prior. I had tied for first in the U1900 section there and walked away with \$2,375 - the most I've ever won by far. A hobby where you make money? Not bad.

My goal in Philly was to maybe get my entry fee back and, if possible, to finally make Expert (over 2000).

I requested the day off on Friday and my girlfriend and I hit the road on Thursday after work. We crashed at her mom's place about an hour outside of the city and we headed into Philly on Friday morning. In my first round, I was black and my opponent opened with d4.

After getting whooped by Dave Carter in my favorite line of the King's Indian, Dave convinced me (through the games and through conversation) that I should try something new. If even my favorite line wasn't going well, then the KID probably wasn't right for me. Vermont's lone

Master loaned me his book on the Benoni Defense; Dave tried to push me a step further and try playing the Benko Gambit, but the Benoni was adventurous enough for me.

I've had some very interesting games with the Benoni -- mostly online, but also some over the board against Layton Miller, a CCCC club member and UVM's strongest player. I hadn't yet played it with a long time control; so, the following game is uncharted territory.

Knizhnik, Yuri (1711) - Hanson, Jack (1976) [A68]

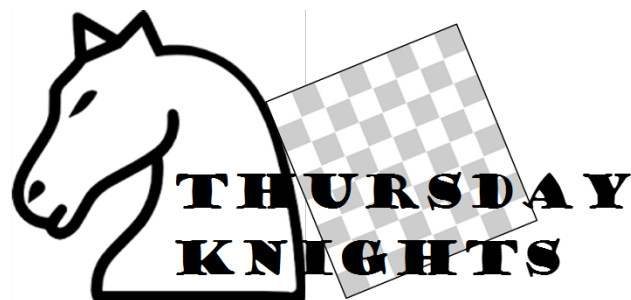
Philadelphia U2000 Philadelphia, PA,04/14/2017

1.d4 c5 I like the immediate c5 rather than the traditional 1...Nf6 followed by 2...c5. As a Sicilian player, I am more than happy to transpose should White decide to play 2.e4. Taking the c5 pawn can also lead to Sicilian type positions. Most d4-players simply push by with d5.





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The 8.Bd3 line is called the “Modern” variation and was popular with Karpov and other conservative players [including your editor]. The bishop can also go to e2, known as the “Classical” line or the super aggressive 8.Bb5+ forcing one of my pieces to block the check, clogging up my defense of the d6 and e5 squares. **8...Bg7 8.f4 0-0 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.0-0 Na6 11.a3 Nd7** (diagram)



White is playing for e5 and black is playing for b5. Black’s last move is aimed at slowing down White’s e5. **12. Qb3 Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Nb6** Working towards a c5 push. **14.Bd2 Rc8 15.Bc4 Nxc4 16. Qxc4 Nc7 17. Re1 a6 18.a4 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20. Nxb5 Nxb5 21. Qxb5 Rb8 22. Qc4+ Rxb2 23.Bc3** (diagram above right) Here I played **23...Bxc3** but another interesting idea for Black would have been Qh4, because white can’t move the bishop away from the e1 rook, and also can’t counter with g3 since my Q would then take on h2.



24.Qc3 Qb6 25. e5 Re8 26. fRe3 dxe5 27. Fxe5 c4 (diagram)



Pinning the rook. If 28. Qxc4 then Rxe5 leaves Black in a better position with even material.

Unfortunately, I was too low on time at this point to continue notating. I did go on to win the game, mainly by having better king safety than White in a blitz situation.



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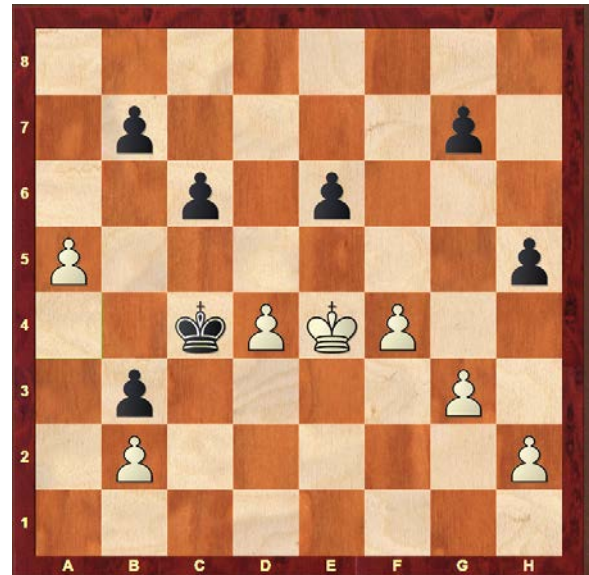
In round two I was in control most of the game as white, but in a somewhat complicated endgame, I faltered under time pressure (the first two rounds were game SD/60 d10). So, in round three I needed to bounce back. Fortunately, I took away another win with 1. d4 c5, ending day one with a 2-1 record.

On Saturday, I was able to win both games, leading to a high-pressure game in Round 6 on Sunday morning. I opened the game, as always, with c4.

**Hanson, Jack (1976) - Prentice, Joseph (1944) [A29]
Philadelphia U2000 Philadelphia, PA, 04/14/2017**

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Be6

This is a Reverse Sicilian, but normally Black will play 5...Nb6 here, rather than defend the Knight. **6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Nb6 8.d3 Be7 9.Be3** Normally it's not good to play a bishop in front of a pawn like this, but here it supports the d4 break. **9...0-0 10.a4 a5 11.d4 exd4 12. Nxd4 Nxd4** I was unsure which way to recapture is best here; my computer software recommended 13.Qxd4 which has the advantage of not allowing Black to defend with ...c6. **13. Qxd4 Qxd4 14. Bxd4 15.Nb5** the idea is to force the trade of Black's knight with Bishop on e6 and gain the two-bishops advantage. **15...c6 16.Nc7 Nd2 17.Nxa8 Nxf1 18.Nc7 Nd2 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bc3 Bb4 21.Bxb4 axb4 22.Rd1 Rd8 23.Kh1 Rd6 24.e3 Kf7 25.Bf3 Ke7 26.Be2 Ne4 27.Kg2 b3 28.Rd4 Rxd4 29.exd4 Nd2 30.f4 Kd6 31.Kf2 Kd5 32.Ke3 Nc4+ 33. Bxc4 Kxc4 34. Ke4** (diagram, above right) A textbook example of the "opposition" where kings face each other and whoever is "on move" must move to the side. **34...Kb4 35.Ke5 Kc4 36.Ke4** and we're back to the same position. Capturing the pawn on e6 would have led to a dangerous queen and pawn ending after 34.Kxe6 Kxd4 35.Kf7 Kd3 36.Kxg7 Kc2 37.f5 Kxb2 38.f6 Ka2 39.f7 b2 and both sides queen.



36...h5?! 37. h3?! White returns the favor. 37.a5! costs Black a potential ...b6 **37...Kb4 38.Kd4 Kxa4 39.Kc4** regaining the opposition **39...b6 40.g4 hxg5 41.hxg5 g6 42.g5 Ka5 43.Kxb3 Kb5??** Strangely, this move loses. Black's only hope was the surprising 43...Ka6-b7-c7-d7 and the Black King circles back to defend the e-pawn. **44.Kc3 Ka5 45.Kd3 Kb4 46.Ke4 Kb3 47.Ke5 Kx2 48.Kxe6** threatening f5 with a quick road to a queen. **48...c5 49.dxc5 bxc5 50.Kd5 1-0**

After pulling out that exhausting and stressful win, I was pretty cashed out. For round 7, I had black on Board 1 against an opponent who had impressively gone a perfect 6-0 – so all he needed was a draw to secure first place alone. After twelve moves White offered a draw and I accepted. Fortunately, Boards 2 and 3 drew as well, so I ended up tied for 2nd with a score of 5.5.

I came out of the tournament with a rating of 2005, achieving a lifelong goal of Expert. It's been slow and steady wins the race for me. If you are willing to stick with chess over the years, and stay competitive and focused – and have fun -- you will improve. I'm excited to keep at it.

-- Jack Hanson, Burlington, VT