



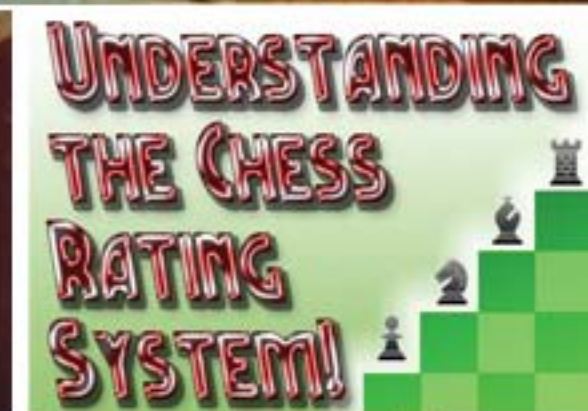
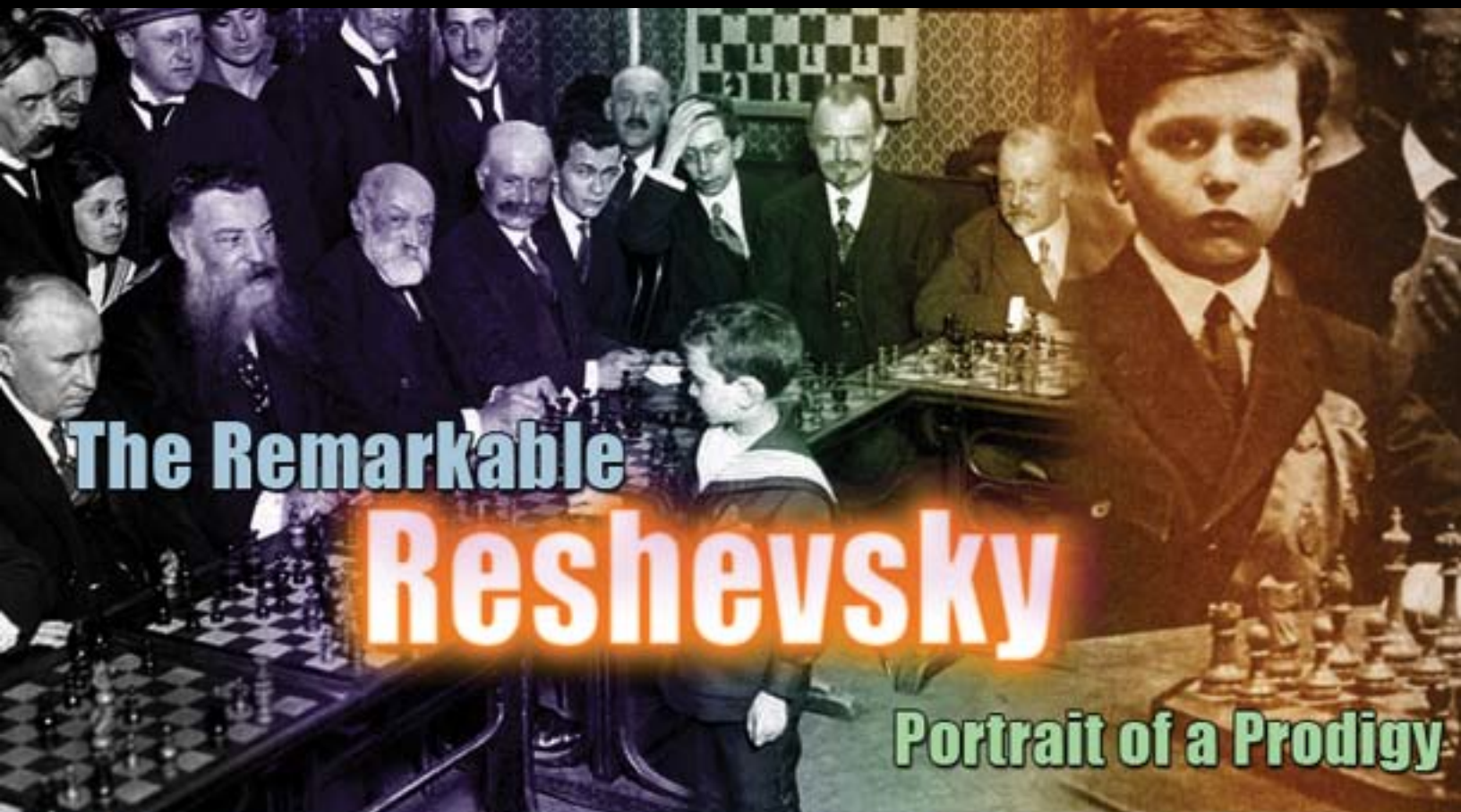
White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

Interactive E-Magazine

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INTERACTIVE
CONTENT





My Move

Editorial - Jerry Wall

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This publication has been somewhat of an experiment. When we started this e-magazine over a year ago we had no idea whether it would have any interest or not. It would be hard to gauge any success apart from offering a free

subscription and gathering an email list and seeing if that would grow to any great length. I must say I was pleasantly surprised to see how much that email list has grown in a year. Checking stats on our website has also helped to measure hits and visits and again we were delighted to see a slow but steady growth each month.

Printing this magazine at this time would certainly be cost prohibited but by making it an e-magazine we could offer it as a free download costing us only the labor and website cost. The surge of electronic devices such as iPhones, iPads, tablet PC's and e-book readers have also helped to make this a viable media for today's market. Also the advantages of adding interactivity to the magazine such as hyperlinks in the Table of Contents, page scrolling, email links and even video inserts are helping to drive this digital format.

Still unfortunately, the time and effort that Bill and I put into this pub have not been offset by the support of advertising as we had hoped. We want to continue to try to offer this as a free publication and continue to put out what I think is one of the best Chess pubs out there. So we are asking you to help by either advertising or donating what ever you can to help us out. Thanks for all your support.

Jerry Wall
Editor

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Let us know what you think of the magazine. Perhaps you have some suggestions for future articles or have other comments. Let us know and drop me a line at: editor@offthewallchess.com

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Review

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UNDERSTANDING THE CHESS RATING SYSTEM!

By Bill
Wall

Feature

Chess rating systems have been used for pairing purposes in chess tournaments as well as estimating playing strength. A tournament director wants to avoid pairing the strongest players against each other in the early rounds of a tournament. Ratings are also used for tournament sectioning and prize eligibility. Sections or Classes in tournaments are popular and many players play other players with close to the same rating.

The introduction of chess rating systems may have done more to popularize tournament chess than any other single factor.

In 1928, the first work to give serious attention to modeling chess ability was a paper by Ernest Zermelo. He addressed the problem of estimating the strengths of chess players in chess tournaments.

In 1939, the first modern numerical chess rating system was used

by the Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA). The CCLA was founded in 1909. In 1940, it was using a point system designed by Kenneth Williams.

The introduction of chess rating systems may have done more to popularize tournament chess than any other single factor.

In 1942, Chess Review magazine began using the **Harkness rating system**, designed by Kenneth Harkness (1896-1972). The ratings were first used for correspondence chess players. At the time, there were only three classes: Class A – above 1050; Class B – 950 to 1050, and Class C – below 950.

In 1946, a rating system was proposed in the USSR by Andrey Khachaturuv (1917-) and was published in Shakmaty v SSSR in 1946. The USSR Chess Federation used a non-numerical

system to classify players.

In 1948, the **Ingo rating system** was created. It was designed by Anton Hoesslinger (1875-1959) and named after his hometown, Ingolstadt in Bavaria. It was used by the West German Chess Federation from 1948 until 1992. It was then replaced by the **Elo system**, named after its creator Dr. Arpad Elo (1903-1992), a Hungarian-born American physics teacher and chess master. This was a system where a player's new rating was the average rating of his competition minus one point for each percentage point above 50 obtained in the tournament.

In 1949, Kenneth Harkness submitted his rating system to the United States Chess Federation (USCF) for use as a numerical rating system. When a chess player completes a tournament, the average rating of his competition is first calculated. Then, if a player scores 50%, he receives the average competition rating as his performance rating. If he

Continue



scores more than 50%, his new rating is his competition rating plus 10 points for each percentage point above 50. If he scores less than 50%, his new rating is his competition rating minus 10 points for each percentage point below 50.

In January 1950, the USCF announce that a national rating system was being planned to cover local and national events.

In July 1950, the USCF adopted the Harkness system and invented by Kenneth Harkness. It was used by the USCF from 1950 to 1960. The first published rating list appeared in the November 20, 1950 issue of Chess Life magazine, which rated 2,306 USCF members from chess events from 1921 to July 31, 1950. The highest rated players on the first USCF rating list were Reuben Fine (2817), Samuel Reshevsky (2770), A. Kevitz (2610), Arthur Dake (2598), Arnold Denker (2575), Isaac Kashdan (2574), I.A. Horowitz (2558), and Larry Evans (2484).

1950 USCF Classifications:

Grandmaster	2700 or higher.
Senior Master	2500 to 2699.
Master	2300 to 2499.
Expert	2100 to 2299.
Class A	1900 to 2099.
Class B	1700 to 1899.
Class C	1500 to 1699.
Class D	below 1500.

In 1954, the first British Grading List was published, which listed 49 players.

In 1955, Irving J. Good (1916-2009) developed a system to rank chess players and published “On the Marking of Chess Players” in the Mathematical Gazette.

In 1958, the British Chess Federation (now the English Chess Federation or ECF) started using a rating system devised by Richard W.B. Clarke (1910-1975). A players rating or grade is calculated by taking the opponent’s grade and adding 50 points for a win, subtracting 50 points for a loss, and taking the opponent’s current grade for a draw. To convert the ECF rating to the USCF rating, $USCF = ECF * 8 + 600$. To convert the ECF rating to the FIDE rating, $FIDE = ECF * 8 + 650$.

In 1959, the USCF named Dr. Arpad Elo to head a committee (which also included Dr. Eric Marchand, Guthrie McClain and James Warren) to examine and review all rating system and make recommendations. He devised a new system with a more statistical basis. The flaw with the old Harkness sytem was that a player could lose every game in a tournament and still gain rating points. He could also win every game against lower-rated players and end up with a very high, but unrealistic rating. Elo was the Chairman of the Rating Committee of the USCF from 1959 to 1976.

In 1961, the USCF switched to the Elo rating system, invented by professor Arpad Elo of Milwaukee, Michigan. The new Elo rating system was published in the 1961 June issue of Chess Life. The Elo rating system assigned

to every player a numerical rating based on performances in competitive chess. Elo assumed that the chess player’s strength distribution was a normal distribution (bell curve).

The USCF has rating categories. A senior master is rated 2400 and up. A national master is rated between 2200 and 2399. An expert (or candidate master) is rated from 2000 to 2199. Every 200 point range below expert is a class. For example, a rating of 1900-1999 is Class A. A rating of 1600 to 1799 is Class B, A rating of 1400 to 1599 is Class C, etc.

The average rating for established USCF chess players is 1500. About 96% of all USCF players have ratings less than 2200 (master). For FIDE, about 23% of established FIDE players are less than 2200.

In 1970, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) adopted the Elo rating system. The rating system was also the basis for the award of international titles.

FIDE also classified tournaments into categories according to the average rating of the players. Each category is 25 points wide. Category 1 is the lowest category, rated from 2251 to 2275, category 2 is 2276 to 2300, etc. A category 22 tournament, the highest so far, would be in the 2776-2800 range.

The first FIDE list was headed by Bobby Fischer (2720), followed by Boris Spassky (2690) and Viktor Korchnoi (2680).

On July 1, 1971, the first official FIDE rating list was published. There were 83 grandmasters on the first official FIDE rating list.

When FIDE started using Elo rat-

The flaw with the old Harkness sytem was that a player could lose every game in a tournament and still gain rating points.



ings, the FIDE rating was rounded out to the nearest multiple of 5. FIDE also only computed ratings for players over 2000. A player only acquires a rating if it is calculated to be over 2000. On average, initial FIDE ratings overestimate players’ abilities because players only receive ratings if their initial performances are strong. Thus, the FIDE rating pool gets inflated over time.

In 1978, Elo published The Rating of Chessplayers Past & Present. A second edition appeared in 1986.

In the 1990s, the USCF rating system added a rating for quick chess (USCF Quick). Quick chess refers to games where the time control for a game is quicker than 30 minutes per person for the entire game. A second rating system that parallels the USCF rating system for slower games was created for quick chess.

In the mid-1970s, the average rating of USCF players was declining. There

was a bigger discrepancy in USCF and FIDE ratings. So the USCF introduced bonus points and feedback points. When a player did very well in a tournament, his rating was increased by the addition of bonus points. The justification for awarding bonus points was that the player was improving fast and the ordinary updating rating formulas did not track the player’s improvements quickly enough. By

the mid-1980s, these features were eliminated from the rating system.

In the late 1980s, the concept of a rating floor was established in the USCF system. This prevented a player’s rating from decreasing below the 100-point multiple 200 points less than one’s highest rating. More recently, the rating floor has been re-implemented so that the system now uses a 100 point margin. Rating floors were to discourage players from purposely losing games to artificially lower their ratings so that they could play in lower-rated sections.

In July 1999, Garry Kasparov had the highest FIDE rating ever, 2851.

In 2001, the Glicko rating system was invented by Professor Mark Glickman, a mathematician at Boston University. It is similar to the Elo rating system, but adds

a “ratings reliability,” called RD, for ratings deviation. A higher Glicko rating implies moiré skill playing chess. This rating system is used on many chess game servers such as the Free Internet Server (FICS), chess.com, and others. It has also been used by the Australian Chess Federation.

In 2004, another rating system, the Edo Historical Chess Ratings system, was created by Rod Edwards. This was an attempt to retroactively rate chess players over time. It uses an iterative

Rating floors were to discourage players from purposely losing games to artificially lower their ratings so that they could play in lower-rated sections.

method (Bradley-Terry). It top peak Edo ratings were: Steinitz (2803), Morphy (2796), Lasker (2752), Kolisch (2710), Tarrasch (2699), Zukertort (2678), von der Lasa (2676), Anderssen (2673), Neumann (2671), and maroczy (2665).

In 2005, the Chessmetrics rating system was created by statistician Jeff Sonas. It is based on computer analysis of chess games that uses a weighted average of past performance and is intended to be more accurate than the Elo system. The score considers a player’s win percentage against other players weighted by the ratings of the other players and the time elapsed since the match.

For one-year peaks, the top rated players were:

Bobby Fischer	2881
Garry Kasparov	2879
Mikhail Botvinnik	2871
Jose Capablanca	2863
Alexander Alekhine	2851
Anatoly Karpov	2842
Vishy Anand	2828
Vladimir Kramnik	2822
Siegbert Tarrasch	2818

Since July 2009, FIDE has issued a rating list every two months. Prior to that, a rating list appeared every 6 months. There is also an unofficial “live ratings” which calculate the change in players’ ratings after every game. These Live ratings are based on the previously published FIDE ratings, so a player’s Live rating corresponds to what FIDE would rate a person if they



were to issues a new rating list that day.

The latest live rating list for December, 2011 includes:

- Carlsen (2834.8)
- Aronian (2808.8)
- Kramnik (2800.6)
- Anand (2798.6)
- Radjabov (2773.2)
- Topalov (2769.7)
- Karjakin (2768.7)
- Ivanchuk (2765.6)
- Morozevich (2762.9)
- Grischuk (2760.9).

Performance rating is a hypothetical rating that would result from the games of a single event only. A performance rating for an event is calculated by taking the rating of each player that you defeated and adding 400 points, then taking the rating of each player that you lost to and subtract 400 points. If you draw, you take your opponents rating. You then sum these figures and divide by the number of games played.

Performance rating = $[(\text{Total of opponents' ratings} + 400 * (\text{Wins} - \text{Losses})) / \text{Games}]$.

At present, the top 10 highest rated active players are

- Magnus Carlsen 2835
- Levon Aronian 2820
- Vladimir Kramnik 2801
- Vishy Anand 2799
- Teimour Radjabov 2784
- Hikaru Nakamura 2771
- Fabiano Caruana 2767
- Sergey Karjakin 2766
- Alexander Morozevich 2765
- Vassily Ivanchuk 2764

Computer are rated by the Swedish Chess Computer Association (SSDF). The top computers are:

- Deep Rybka (3216), Naum (3155),
- Deep Shredder (3115), Hiarcs 13.1 (3113)
- Deep Fritz (3105)
- Deep Junior (3078).

To convert ratings from other systems to the USCF rating, the following adjustments are believed to be roughly appropriate.

For FIDE rated players, $USCF = FIDE + 50$

For English ratings, $USCF = ECF * 8 + 700$

For Germany (Ingo), $USCF = 2940 - (\text{Ingo} * 8)$

For Russia, $USCF = \text{Russian rating} + 250$

The USCF has a Player/Rating Lookup list located at

http://main.uschess.org/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,181/

FIDE ratings can be found at <http://ratings.fide.com/>



Top Players and Ratings

The Top 20 Grandmasters are:

Magnus Carlsen	Norway	2835
Levon Aronian	Armenia	2805
Vladimir Kramnik	Russia	2801
Vishy Anand	India	2799
Teimor Radjabov	Azerbaijan	2773
Veselin Topalov	Bulgaria	2770
Sergey Karjakin	Russia	2769
Vassily Ivanchuk	Ukraine	2766
Alexander Morozevich	Russia	2763
Vugar Gashimov	Azerbaijan	2761
Alexander Grischuk	Russia	2761
Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2759
Peter Svidler	Russia	2749
S. Mamedyarov	Azerbaijan	2747
E. Tomashevsky	Russia	2740
Boris Gelfand	Israel	2739
Fabiano Caruana	Italy	2736
Ian Nepomniachtchi	Russia	2735
Hao Wang	China	2732
Gata Kamsky	USA	2732

Top Women Players are:

Judit Polgar	Hungary	2710
Yifan Hou	China	2605
Humpy Koneru	India	2589
Anna Muzychuk	Slovenia	2580
Kateryna Lahno	Ukraine	2557

Top US Players are:

Hikaru Nakamura	2848
Gata Kamsky	2804
Alexander Onischuk	2747
Yasser Seirawan	2723
Robert Hess	2717



Bill Wall's Top 20 Chess Books

Bill Wall has one of the largest Chess libraries in the World, with thousands of books, periodicals and magazines that he has collected over the past 40 years. His resources are essential to his prolific writing. Here is a short list of his Favorite Chess Books

1. Benko and Fine, Basic Chess Endings (2003). The bible of chess endings. 584 pages. In algebraic.
2. Brady, Endgame (2011). The rise and fall of Bobby Fischer by the man who knew him best.
3. Bronstein, Zurich International Tournament (1979). 210 well-annotated games from one of the best tournaments ever.
4. Bronstein, The Sorcerer's Apprentice (1995). An instructive and entertaining book on Bronstein's career with 222 games played over 57 years.
5. Burgess: The Mammoth Book of Chess (1997). Hundreds of illustrated games with over 1,000 diagrams.
6. Burgess, Nunn, and Emms, The Mammoth Book of the World's Greatest Games (1998). Over 120 of the greatest games of all time analyzed in great detail.
7. Chernev, 1000 Best Short Games of Chess (1955). A thousand game won in the openings. The best book on opening traps.
8. Chernev, Logical chess: Move by Move (2003). Get the algebraic edition. Every move annotated from 33 master games.
9. De Firmian, Modern Chess Openings, 15th edition (2008). The bible of chess openings. 768 pages.
10. Edmonds, Bobby Fischer Goes to War (2004). A reexamination of the 1972 world championship match between Fischer and Spassky.
11. Fischer, My 60 Memorable Games (2009). Algebraic edition of Bobby Fischer's annotated best games.
12. Hooper & Whyld, The Oxford Companion to Chess, 2nd edition (1996). An encyclopedia of chess with over 2,600 entries.
13. Kasparov, My Great Predecessors (2003 to 2006). Five volumes that cover all the world chess champions written by a former world chess champion considered the greatest of all chess players.
14. Kotov, Think Like a Grandmaster (1995). Algebraic edition that describes how a grandmaster thinks.
15. Lawson, Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess, New Edition (2010). The definitive biography of Paul Morphy, one of the world's greatest chess players.
16. Nimzowitsch, My System (1991). The all-time chess classic in algebraic notation. One of the best books on positional chess.
17. Nunn, Understanding Chess Move by Move (2001). 30 modern games annotated move by move by one of the strongest GMs in the world.
18. Polgar, Chess: 5334 Problems, Combinations and Games (1995). One of the biggest chess books ever, 1,120 pages of over 5,000 problems and hundreds of games (including one of mine).
19. Shenk, The Immortal Game: A History of Chess (2006). A survey of the game's history along with the moves played by Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky in London in 1851, known as the Immortal Game. I assisted and reviewed the book before publication.
20. Tartakower & Du Mont, 500 Master Games of Chess (1975). A vast collection of great chess games from 1798 through 1938.



By Bill Wall

Samuel "Sammy" Herman Reshevsky was born Szmul (Schmul) Rzeszewski on November 26, 1911 in Ozorkow, Russian Empire (now near Lodz, Poland). His father, Jacob, was a well-to-do linen merchant. His mother was Shaindel (Eibeschitz). Samuel was the 6th child in a Jewish family.

In 1917, at the age of 5, Reshevsky, known as Schmulke, learned how to play chess from his father, a good amateur player.

In 1918, at the age of 6, Reshevsky made his first appearance in Vienna giving simultaneous exhibitions.



In 1919, he traveled throughout Poland giving simultaneous exhibitions against 20 or more players. He seldom lost in these displays. Later, in 1920, he staged his first grand tour of several European capitals., including London, Paris, the Hague, Warsaw, Berlin, and Brussels. He was known as the "boy wonder of chess."

On November 3, 1920, his parents sailed into New York Harbor on the White Star liner R.M.S. Olympic and made their home in New York. On the last night of the crossing, Reshevsky played 12 passengers, winning all the games, including one game that he played blindfolded.

To make a living, they allowed Sammy to give simultaneous exhibitions in chess all over the country.

On November 9, 1920, his first American simultaneous exhibition was with 20 officers and cadets at the Military



Academy at West Point. Reshevsky was dressed in a sailor suit. He won 19 games and drew one. There were over 500 spectators at the event. Overnight, he became the most famous chess player in the United States. He remained the most famous until Bobby Fischer came along.

Reshevsky was unable to speak English when he first arrived (his only words of English that he knew were "check" and "checkmate"). His parents never did learn English. However, Reshevsky was speaking fluent English within a year of arrival to the United States. He also mastered

Continue



difficult texts and math problems on sight.

On November 19, 1920, Reshevsky met Frank Marshall, the reigning American champion, at the Marshall Chess Club in New York. Marshall showed Reshevsky three tough chess problems. Reshevsky solved them all in 3 minutes and 25 seconds, a record according to Marshall, who gave him a gold medal.

On December 7, 1920, Reshevsky played Morris Schapiro, a strong player from Columbia University, in a timed clock game and won. Schapiro went on to win the 1921 Manhattan Chess Club championship with 9 wins, 2 draws, and 0 losses.

In 1921, Reshevsky lost only 8 games out of some 1,500 games he played in other simultaneous exhibitions throughout the country arranged by his American manager, Max Rosenthal. In some exhibitions, Reshevsky played up to 75 people at the same time. On April 5, 1921, over 2,000 spectators greeted him in Philadelphia during his exhibition in that city.

In June 1921, Reshevsky gave a 20-board simul at the Los Angeles Athletic Club and met several Hollywood stars such as Charlie Chaplin (1899-1977) and 5-year-old Jackie Coogan (1914-1984) at the simul. Coogan and Reshevsky were wearing boxing gloves for a publicity photo when Coogan punched Reshevsky in the face, giving him a black eye. The only person to beat Reshevsky in the 20-board simul was Dr. Robert B. Griffith (1876-1937), a physician for the film industry in Hollywood. Reshevsky later gave a 12-board simul at the Hamburger Department Store in Los Angeles, where he lost one game and burst out

crying (because it was a boy who won rather than an adult).

Charlie Chaplin devoted two pages in his My Autobiography (1964) on chess and meeting Reshevsky in 1921 at his Hollywood studio while he was editing The Kid. A picture of Reshevsky playing Charlie Chaplin on a Drueke chess set appeared in the January 1922 issue of the American Chess Bulletin. Another picture was taken of Charlie Chaplin playing Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. (1833-1939) in a game of chess while Reshevsky watched. Charlie

Chaplin offered Reshevsky a movie job, but Reshevsky's advisors turned it down for religious reasons.



Charlie Chaplin vs Samuel Reshevsky , New York 1923

Click on the above photo to view video of game moves.

(2 page spread version only)

Rehsevsky wrote of his youth, "Wherever I went, great crowds turned out to see me play. For four years, I was on public view. People stared at me, poked at me, tried to hug me, asked me questions. Professors measured my cranium and psycho-analyzed me. Reporters interviewed me and wrote fanciful stories about my future. Photographers were forever aiming their cameras at me. It was, of course, an unnatural life for a child, but it had its compensations and I cannot truthfully say that I did not enjoy it. There was the thrill of travelling from city to city with my family, the excitement of playing hundreds of games of chess and winning most of them, the knowledge that there was something "special" about the way I played chess, although I didn't know why."

In October 1922, at the age of 10, he played in the New York Master tournament.

Continue



He was perhaps the youngest chess player to have completed in a strong master tournament. He finished in a tie for 3rd-6th (1 win, 2 draws, 2 losses), and he defeated Dawid Janowski, a strong master and former French champion. Reshevsky won the brilliancy prize of the tournament for his victory. During the tournament, Reshevsky met with Eugene Morphy, Paul Morphy's cousin.

In his youth, Reshevsky did not attend school. A late-night simultaneous exhibition in 1922 got him in trouble with child welfare officials. His parents were charged with improper guardianship in the District Court in Manhattan. However, it was demonstrated that Reshevsky was receiving religious education in a rabbinical school on East Broadway in New York, and the case was dismissed on November 15, 1922. Following a court recommendation, a sponsor outside the Reshevsky family was designated to report to the court periodically on his behalf.

Soon after, Julius Rosenwald, co-owner of Sears, Roebuck and Company, became Reshevsky's benefactor. Rosenwald offered to finance Reshevsky's education, provided that he would curtail his chess exhibitions.

In August-September 1924, the 25th Western Chess Association (US Open) was held in Detroit. Reshevsky, age 12, participated in the event, won by Carlos Torre. In the final round, a win would have given him clear 2nd place. A draw would have tied for 2nd with three other players. However, he lost and he took 5th place.

Reshevsky mostly gave up chess from 1925 to 1931 to complete his secondary education in Detroit, Michigan, where his family settled. He changed his name from Szmul Rzeszewski to Samuel Reshevsky because it was more easily pronounced. Reshevsky attended Northern High School in Detroit after being tutored for six months in private. He was a pitcher on the high school baseball team.

In 1925, Reshevsky became a naturalized American citizen.

In August-September 1927, Reshevsky played in the first National Chess Federation Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He tied for 3rd place, behind Norman Whitaker and Abraham Kupchik.

After graduating from high school in 1929, he first enrolled at the University of Detroit to study accounting. After two years, he transferred to the University of Chicago School of Business, graduating in 1933 with a degree in accounting. He later became an accountant for a Manhattan engineering and construction firm.

In October 1931, Reshevsky, age 19, won the 32nd U.S. Open (then known as the Western Chess Association Open) Chess Championship, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In February through April, 1932, Reshevsky tied for 3rd in a small round robin tournament in Chicago, behind Samuel Factor and Herman Hahlbohm.

In July-August 1932, Reshevsky took 2nd place, behind Reuben Fine, at the 33rd Western Chess Association championship (US Open), held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He then traveled to Pasadena where he tied for

3rd place, behind Alekhine and Kashdan at the Pasadena International.

In September 1933, Reshevsky took 2nd, behind Reuben Fine, at the 34th Western Chess Association (US Open) championship, held in Detroit.

In July-August 1934, Reshevsky tied with Reuben Fine in the 35th Western Chess Association (U.S. Open) championship, held in Chicago. He then traveled to Syracuse, New York and won the 56th New York State Chess Championship.

From 1935 to 1953, Reshevsky played in 14 tournaments, winning half of them. Only once did he place lower than 3rd place.

In March 1935, Reshevsky played for the Marshall Chess Club, defeating I.A. Horowitz in their annual match with the Manhattan Chess Club.

In April-May, 1935, Reshevsky took 1st place at Margate, England, where he beat the former world champion, Jose Capablanca. In July, he won at Yarmouth, England, with 10 out of 11. His only loss was to world woman champion, Vera Menchik.

In April 1936, Reshevsky won the U.S. Chess Championship, held in New York. He also won it in



Continue



1938, 1940, 1941 (defeating Israel Horowitz in a playoff match), 1942, 1946, and 1969. He also tied for 1st in the 1972 US Championship, but lost the playoff in 1973 to Robert Byrne, ahead of Kavalek.

In 1936, he shared 3rd place at Nottingham. He tied with Euwe and Fine, behind Botvinnik and Capablanca. He defeated Lasker and Alekhine in the event.

Between 1936 and 1942, he had a streak of 75 games without a loss in a U.S. chess championship competition.

In 1937, he shared 1st place at Kemer, Latvia with Flohr and Petrov, ahead of Alekhine and Keres. Also in 1937, he tied for 3rd with Capablanca, behind Keres and Fine at Semmering-Baden.

In August 1937, he represented the USA at the Chess Olympiad in Stockholm, which won the gold medal. He competed 8 times for the USA - Stockholm 1937, Dubrovnik 1950, Helsinki 1952, Munich 1958, Tel Aviv 1964, Lugano 1968, Siegen 1970, and Nice 1974.

In 1937-38, he was the winner in the traditional Hastings Christmas Tournament.

In 1938, he shared 4th place at the AVRO tournament in the Netherlands.

In January 1939, Reshevsky took 2nd place at Leningrad-Moscow, behind Flohr.

On June 24, 1941, he married the former Norma Mindick. They had three children, Joel, Sylvia, and Malke.

In 1942, during the U.S. championship, Arnold Denker beat Reshevsky on time in the U.S. Championship. While spectators

watched, the tournament director (Walter Stephens) mistakenly declared that Denker's time had expired. He was looking at the clock backwards and refused to change is decision, which ultimately gave Reshevsky the title.

In 1944, he won his 3rd U.S. Open, held at Boston. He did not compete in the U.S. chess championship that year because he was studying for his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) degree.

In 1945, he won the Pan-American Championship in Los Angeles.



Reshevsky Vs Botvinnik

In 1948, he tied for 3rd place with Paul Keres, behind Botvinnik and Smyslov in the World Championship match tournament in The Hague/Moscow.

Reshevsky was a devout

Orthodox Jew and did not play on the Jewish sabbath. **After 1948,** he would not play chess between sunset of Friday and sunset on Saturday. He believed that his previously having played on the Jewish sabbath was a sin and that his father's recent death was his punishment.

In 1950, he was invited to the Candidates' Tournament in



Budapest, but decided not to play. The U.S. State Department decreed that American citizens should not travel to Hungary. Reshevsky then conducted a national exhibition tour.

In 1950, Reshevsky was awarded the Grandmaster title by FIDE, the World Chess Federation, on its inaugural list.

In 1950, Reshevsky moved to 9 Hadassah Lane, Spring Valley, New York, where he lived the rest of his life. He had a winter home in Sunrise, Florida.

In November 1950, the United States Chess Federation (USCF) published its first rating list. Number one was Reuben Fine at 2817, followed by Reshevsky at 2770. He remained the highest rated player for the next 10 years.

In 1951, Reshevsky became the highest rated player in the United States, with a rating of 2747.

In 1952, he defeated Miguel Najdorf 11-7, in an informal match for "The Championship of the Free World." The games were played in New York, Mexico City, and San Salvador.

In 1953, he tied for 2nd with David Bronstein and Paul Keres, behind Vasily Smyslov, in the Candidates tournament at Zurich.

In July 1955, Reshevsky played board 1 for the USA in their match with the USSR, held in Moscow. He



defeated world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in one game and drew his three other games. After his victory against Botvinnik, he was mobbed by autograph seekers in Moscow and was presented to Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader. Khrushchev and Premier Nikolai Bulganin wanted to have their picture taken with Reshevsky. Reshevsky was quite uncomfortable with the entire encounter. Khrushchev, upon meeting Reshevsky, who was only five feet in height, said, "Such a little man, but so big in chess."

In 1956, Reshevsky gave a 30-board simul in the Crown Room at Mike Romanoff's Restaurant in Hollywood. One of his opponents was Humphrey Bogart. After two hours of play, the game was a draw. Mike Romanoff also played Reshevsky in the same simul and won his game.

In 1957, Reshevsky played Donald Byrne in a match in New York. In the first game of the match, Byrne's flag had fallen, and Reshevsky offered a draw. Byrne

accepted, and the draw stood, because Reshevsky did not claim a loss on time after the flag fell before the game ended. In the 2nd game, Byrne's flag fell again, and again

Reshevsky did not notice it. Then Reshevsky's flag fell. Neither player noticed that both flags had fallen. However, Mrs. Reshevsky, sitting in the audience, remembering that it was important to claim a flag-fall, claimed it herself. Byrne pointed out that only the player on the move could claim a

time forfeit. Since it was his move, he claimed the game himself. An appeals committee was organized to settle the dispute, which Byrne objected to. The committee declared that the game was drawn. Byrne then walked out of the match, but returned later. He lost the match 7-3.

In 1960, he came in equal first with Viktor Korchnoi at Buenos Aires.

In 1961, Reshevsky began a 16-game match with Bobby Fischer. After 11 games and a tie score, the match ended due to a scheduling dispute between Fischer and the match organizer, Jacqueline Piatigorsky. Reshevsky received the winner's share of the prize fund.

In 1963, Reshevsky again



defeated Najdorf 9.5-8.5 in a match held in Buenos Aires.

In 1964, he lost to Portisch in the Interzonal play-off.

In 1965, Reshevsky tied with Robert Byrne in the first National Open.

In 1967, Reshevsky qualified for the Candidates (tying for 6th place), but lost the subsequent quarterfinal match to Viktor Korchnoi in 1968.

In 1969, he won in Netanya, Israel.

In 1981, at the age of 70, he tied for 3rd place in the U.S. Championship.

In 1984, at the age of 72, he took 1st place at the Reykjavik International Tournament.

In 1989, a poll in the British Chess Magazine showed that Karpov and Reshevsky were the world's most boring chess players.

Reshevsky died of a heart attack on April 4, 1992 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, New York. He was 80 years old and lived in Spring Valley, New York. His funeral was held at Congregation Kehilath Israel in Spring Valley.



Reshevsky played in a record 21 U.S. Championships. He took one of the top 3 places in 15 of them. He played 269 games in US championships, a record.

He won 127 games in US championships, a record. Reshevsky played 11 of the first 13 World Champions.

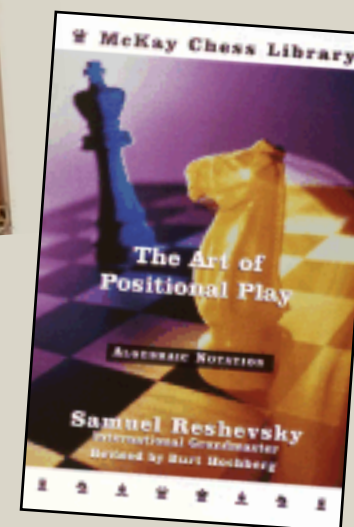
He played Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe, Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer, and Karpov. He never played Garry Kasparov, the 13th world champion. He defeated 7 world champions (Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe, Botvinnik, Smyslov, and Fischer).

Reshevsky played more simultaneous exhibitions than any other player in the history of chess.

Besides chess, Reshevsky enjoyed reading, ice skating, classical music, and singing.

Reshevsky's books include:

- Reshevsky on Chess (1948, with Fred Reinfeld)
- How Chess Games Are Won (1962)
- Reshevsky on the Fischer-Spassky Games for the World Championship (1972)
- Great Chess Upsets (1976)
- The Art of Positional Chess (1978)



Reshevsky – Salgado, Long Beach 1988

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 O-O 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 c5 7.O-O cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nc6 9.Be3 Bd7 10.Qd2 a6 11.f3 Qa5 12.Nb3 Qb4 13.Qd1 Na5 14.e5 1-0

Reshevsky - Denker, Syracuse 1934

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 Nxe5 6.f4 Ng4 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.O-O Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.h3 Nf6 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Ng8 13.Be3 f6 14.Bd3 fxe5 15.Ng5 Nf6 16.Rxf6 Bxf6 17.Qh5+ g6 18.Bxg6+ hxg6 19.Qxg6+ (19...Ke7 20.Bc5 mate) 1-0



CHess PUZZLES

WHITE TO MOVE
AND CHECKMATE

FIND CHECKMATE IN A FEW
MOVES STARTING WITH WHITE



Answers on page 24 ([Click Here](#))



Feature



Perhaps the first chess club ever organized occurred in Italy in 1550. Alessandro Salvio (1575-1640) founded a chess club in Naples. The early chess clubs evolved from the early coffee houses, cafes, and restaurants. People met to play chess, but there was no club constitution and membership fee. Early chess clubs possibly arose from people finding they had the game of chess in common when they met in other sociable contexts, such as coffee houses. Soon, clubs competed against each other over-the-board or through correspondence games. No one knows how many chess clubs existed or when. The first person to compile a chess club directory was W.R. Bland of Derby, England in 1880. He compiled a second edition in 1882. Here is a list of some chess clubs around the world, past and present, and when they were founded.

Aberdeen Chess Club, Scotland. (Bon Accord Chess Club). Founded on January 3, 1853 by 46 founder members.

Adelaide Chess Club. Founded in 1864.

All Services Postal Chess Club. Founded in 1957 for military members who play correspondence chess.

Arlington Chess Club, Virginia. Founded in 1954 and is currently the longest continuously meeting chess club in the D.C. area.

Amsterdam Chess Club. A chess club, the Vereenigd Amsterdamsch Schaakgenootschap (VAS) was founded on September 19, 1822. It is the oldest existing chess club in the Netherlands. In 1824, the VAS played a correspondence chess game with the chess club in Rotterdam. Amsterdam won the match after winning two games. In 1840s and 1850s, the Amsterdam Chess Club played correspondence matches with the London Chess Club.

Athenaeum Chess Club of London. The Athenaeum Chess Club of London was founded in 1873. It is London's oldest surviving chess club.

Athenaeum Chess Club of Philadelphia. In 1814, chess was being played at the Athanaeum at 6th Street and Walnut, in Philadelphia. In 1847, a new Athenaeum Chess Club was founded at 6th and Adelphi.

Augsburg Chess Club. Founded in 1873.

Ballarat Chess Club. Founded in 1856 at Brun's Cigar Divan in Victoria, Australia. It was re-formed in 1865 at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute in Victoria, Australia.



Baltimore Chess Club. Founded in 1886.

Bamberg Chess Club, Germany. Founded in 1868.

Bath Chess Club. Founded in 1869.

Battersea Chess Club, London. Founded on February 5, 1885.

Belfast Chess Club. Founded in 1847.

Belsize Chess Club, London. Founded in 1888.

Berlin Chess Club. Founded in 1803. One of its rules was that military men could not join the club. It was later called The Great Club. A new club was formed in 1828. A new Berlin Chess Club (Berliner Schachgesellschaft) was founded in 1833.

Beverly Chess Club, England. Founded in 1960.

Beverly Hills Chess Club. Founded in 1921.

Birmingham Chess Club. Founded in 1844 in Birmingham, England.



Bishops Chess Club. Founded in Brooklyn in 1897.

Blackpool Chess Club, England. Founded in 1896.

Boston Chess Club. Founded in 1845. It disbanded in 1848. It re-organized in 1857 and was incorporated in 1888.

Bournemouth Chess Club. Founded on October 11, 1880.

Boylston Chess Club. This is the oldest and largest chess club in Boston. It is the third oldest chess organization in the United States. The club started in the 1850s at the Boston Men's Christian Union (YMCU). The club was formally recognized on August 27, 1919.

Bradford Chess Club, England. Founded on November 8, 1853, by 15 professionals and businessmen. In 1884 it merged with the Bradford Exchange Chess Club

Brazen Nose Chess Club in Oxford. Founded in 1810 by an Oxford surgeon, William Tuckwell. It had 8 members. The club was dissolved in 1812.

Breslau Chess Club. Founded in 1836.

Bridanorth Institute Chess Club, England. Founded in 1884.

Brighton Chess Club. Founded in 1841 by Hugh Kennedy. In 1873, the Brighton Public Chess Rook was founded. It disbanded in 1921.

Bristol Athenaeum Chess Club. Founded in 1859. In 1871, they had to leave the Athenaeum and became the Bristol & Clifton Chess Association.

Bristol Chess Club. Founded by Elijah Williams in 1829 which continued into the 1840s. In 1846, the Bristol Chess Club transferred to the Athenaeum Chess Club. The club was disbanded in 1871.

British Chess Club. Founded on December 1, 1885 by Leopold Hoffer. In 1895, the first moves transmitted by telegraph over cable was between the British Chess Club and the Manhattan Chess Club.

Brixton Chess Club. Founded in 1884. In 1887, it was one of the founders of the London Chess League.

Brooklyn Chess Club. Founded in 1852. Its first president was Walter

Paye. It was re-formed on October 8, 1855. Its president was Thomas Nichols. The Brooklyn CC soon becoming the largest chess club in the United States. Its Constitution and by-laws were made on December 4, 1869.

Brooklyn Institute Chess Club. Founded in 1911.

Budapest Chess Club (Pesti Sakkor). Founded in 1839 by Jozsef Szen.

Buffalo Chess Club. Founded in 1873. A new club was formed in February, 1893.

Buenos Aires Chess Club. Founded in 1860.

Burnely Chess Club, Lancaster. Founded in 1850.

Burton-on-Trent Chess Club, England. Founded in 1854 by Herny Turton(1832-1881).

Bury and West Suffolk Chess Club. Founded in 1867.

Café Cosmopolitan Chess Club. Founded in 1872 in New York.

Café de la Regence. Founded in 1670, famous chess-playing visitors included Philidor, Legall, Deschapeles, La Bourdonnai, Saint-Amant, Kieseritzky, Voltaire, Rousseau, Robespierre, Diderot, Franklin, Napoleon, and Paul Morphy.



Café de Procope in Paris. Founded in 1686, it was a meeting place for the intellectual establishment of the 19th century. Famous chess-playing visitors included Voltaire, Franklin, Jefferson, and Napoleon.

Café Europa. Founded in 1870 in New York. It disbanded in 1872.

Caissa Correspondence Chess Club. Founded in 1870. It was the first chess club devoted to correspondence chess.

Calcutta Chess Club. Founded in 1849.

Cambridge University Chess Club. Founded in 1832 and reorganized in

1856. In 1873, the first Cambridge University CC vs. the Oxford University CC match was held. Wilhelm Steinitz helped establish the match.

Camden Athenaeum Chess Club. Founded in 1871.

Cape Town Chess Club. Founded in 1885. It is the oldest chess club in Africa.

Cardiff Chess Club. In 1884, the first telephone chess match occurred between the Cardiff CC and the Swansea CC.

Charleston Chess Club. Founded in 1859.

Chicago Chess Club. Founded in 1870.

City Chess and Draughts Club of London. Founded in 1887. It played a postal match with the Bath Chess Club.

City of London Chess Club. Founded in 1852. In 1872, the City of London Chess Club defeated the Vienna Chess Club in a telegraph match that lasted until 1874 (1½- ½). In 1939 it merged with the National Chess Centre. There were 450 members.

Clerkenwell Working Man's Chess Club. Founded in 1866 in Clerkenwell, England.

Copenhagen Chess Club. Founded in 1865.

Cornell University Chess Club. Founded in 1868, but with very little interest. The club disbanded after one year.

Crofton Chess Club, England. Founded in 1857.

Dallas Chess Club. Founded in 1885 with 7 members. A year later, it had 75 members.

Davton Chess Club. Founded in June, 1957 and one of the most active chess clubs in Ohio.

Denver Chess Club. Founded in 1859 by Fred Salomon.

Doncaster Chess Club. Founded in 1838. In 1838 the Doncaster CC played the Wakefield CC in the first inter-club chess club match in England. The match was held in Kemp-sall.

Dresden Chess Club. Founded in 1877.

Dublin Chess Club. Founded in July 1819. It was called the Dublin Philodorean Society. It was Ireland's first



formal chess club. It met at Harp Coffee House. A new chess club was formed in the Dublin Library in the 1833. The two clubs merged in the 1840s. In 1867, the City and County of Dublin Chess Club was founded. It was later renamed the Dublin Chess Club. An informal chess club may have existed in Dublin in 1749.

Dublin University Chess Club. Founded in 1876.

Dubuque Chess Club, Iowa. Founded inn 1858 by Louis Paulsen.

Dudley Chess Club, England. Founded in 1861.

Dundee Chess Club. Founded in 1829.

Dusseldorf Chess Club. Founded in 1812.

Edinburgh Chess Club. Founded in 1822. It reorganized in 1852 after merging with another chess club in the city. The Edinburg CC has been at the same location since the 1890s.



Ellesmere Chess Club, England. Founded in 1888.

Folkestone Chess Club. Founded in 1855.

Franklin Chess Club. Founded in October, 1885, in Philadelphia. In 1955, it merged and became the Franklin-Mercantile Chess Club.

Georgetown Chess Club, British Guinea. Founded in 1864.

Glasgow Chess Club. Founded in 1840. The Glasgow Central Chess Club was founded in 1860.

Gliddon's Divan. Founded in 1820. It was frequented by Howard Staunton.

Golden Gate Chess Club, San Francisco. Founded in 1884.

Great Northern Railway Chess Club, England. Founded in 1855.

Halifax Chess Club, Nova Scotia.

Founded in 1840. It lasted until 1959.

Hambura Chess Club (Hamburger Schachklub). Founded in 1830. It is the oldest chess club in Germany.

Hamstead Chess Club, England. Founded in 1885 and disbanded in 1955.

Harvard Chess Club. Founded in 1874.

Hastings and St. Leonards Chess Club, England. Founded in 1882 at the Albert Temperance Hotel.

Havana Chess Club. Founded in 1885.

Hereford Chess Club. Founded on November 29, 1812. It was re-formed in 1888.

Herman Steiner Chess Club. Founded in 1932 by Herman Steiner in Hollywood, California.

Huddersfield Chess Club. Founded in 1841.

Huttman's Coffee House Chess Club. Founded in 1830 after a suggestion from George Walker. Soon, every cigar sold there was wrapped in a printed chess problem. La Bourdonnai and McDonnell played their chess matches at Huttman's. The club was renamed the Westminster Chess Club in 1835.

Huttman's Garrick Chess Divan. Founded in 1840.

Hyderabad Chess Club. Founded in 1828.

Insurance Chess Club. Founded in 1893.

International Chess Club. Founded in London in 1875. It met at Veglio's Restaurant.

Internet Chess Club. Launched on January 15, 1992. It was the first Internet chess server and is the first and largest pay to play chess server.

Ipswich Chess Club. Founded in 1813.

Ironbridae Chess Club, England. Founded in 1888.

Johannesbura Chess Club. Founded in 1891. Lord Randolph Churchill was its first president.


Kinastown Chess Club. Founded in 1886.

Kinton Chess Club, England. Founded in 1888.

Kolty Chess Club. Formed in 1979

from the San Jose Chess Club. In the late 1980's, it moved to the Campbell, California Community Center. It is named after George Koltanowski.

Ladies' Chess Club of London. Founded in 1895 on Tottenham Court Road.



Ladies College Club. First women's chess club in England.

Leamington Chess Club, England. Founded in 1851.


Leeds Chess Club. Founded in 1837.

Leicester Chess Club, England. Founded in 1860.

Liverpool Chess Club. Founded in 1837. Amos Burn was a long-time member and former President. In 1861, the Liverpool CC played a chess game with the Dublin Library Club, by means of submarine cable. It was the earliest cable chess match. In 1880, the Liverpool Chess Club played the Calcutta Chess Club. It was the first intercontinental telegraph match.

Loa Cabin Chess Club. Founded in January, 1934, by E. Forry Laucks in West Orange, New Jersey.

London Chess Club. Founded in 1807 at Tom's Coffee House in Cornwall. The club was supported by city merchants and members of the Stock Exchange, who played chess there in the middle of the day. In 1824, this club played a correspondence match with the Edinburgh Chess Club. The Edinburgh CC won the match. The club dissolved in 1827 after William Lewis, the owner, went bankrupt from bad investments in the piano business. Later, it was re-formed. In 1836, the London CC lost a correspondence match with the Paris CC.





Louisville Chess Club. Founded in 1865.

Macclesfield Chess Club, England. Founded in 1886 by Dr. George Beach.

Madras Chess Club, India. Founded in 1828. The Madras CC defeated the Hyderabad CC that year.

Manhattan Chess Club. Founded on December 1, 1877 with 37 members. It closed its doors in January, 2002. From 1877 to 2002, it was the oldest chess club in America in continuous existence.



Manchester Chess Club. Founded on September 3, 1817 and met at the Albion Hotel. In 1825, the Manchester CC defeated the Liverpool CC in a correspondence match. Henry Blackburne was the Manchester CC champion in the 1860s. It went out of existence in 1876 and was re-established in 1889.

Manchester Athenaeum Chess Club. Founded in 1839. In 1853, it merged with the Manchester Chess Club.

Marshall Chess Club, New York. Founded by Frank Marshall in 1915. It is currently New York's oldest chess club.



Max Pavev Chess Club. Founded in 1954.

Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. Founded on December 11, 1854 and incorporated on April 24, 1855. The Mechanics' Institute building in San Francisco housed the oldest chess club in the United States. Its original building was destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and rebuilt

in 1909.



Melbourne Chess Club, Australia. Founded in 1851 and re-formed in 1866.

Memphis Chess Club. Founded in 1896.

Milwaukee Chess Club. Founded in 1857. It disbanded in 1883.

Montreal Chess Club. Founded in 1881. It is the oldest chess club in Canada.

Munich Chess Club. Founded in 1836.

Napier Chess Club. Founded in 1863 in Dunedin, New Zealand. It was disbanded in 1870.

New Orleans Chess Club. Founded in 1838. It was re-founded in 1841, and again in 1857. Paul Morphy was its President in 1857.

New Orleans Chess, Checkers, and Whist Club. Founded in 1880. At one time it had 700 members. In 1890 it burned down, destroying all of its Morphy memorabilia. It was disbanded in 1935.



New York Chess Club. Founded in 1802, but did not last very long. It was re-formed in 1839 by James Thompson.

Newcastle Upon-Tyne Chess Club. Founded in 1850.

Norfolk Chess Club. Founded in 1865.

Norwich Chess Club. Founded in 1835. It was revived in 1850.

Norwich and Norfolk Chess Club. Founded in 1856 from the merger of the two clubs.

Nottingham Chess Club. The first Nottingham CC was founded on October 16, 1829 and held at Bromley House. Another Nottingham CC was founded in 1842.

Oswestry Chess Club, England. Founded in 1889.

Oxford Chess Club. An informal chess club was founded in 1845.

Oxford University Chess Club. Founded in 1868 by Reverend Charles E. Ranken (1828-1905). Lord Randolph Churchill was a member.

Palo Alto Chess Club. Founded in the 1950s. It was very active in the late 1980s and early 1990s when I was its President. It had over 200 members, including Jordy Mont-Re-naud and Vinay Bhat, America's two youngest chess masters at the time.

Paris Chess Club (Le Cercle de Philidor). Founded in 1823. It disbanded in 1839.

Parsloe's Chess Club in St. James's, London was established in 1774 to cater for F.A.D. Philidor's visits to England. It was the first organized chess club in Britain. It was limited to 100 players. It lasted until 1825.

Penzance Chess Club, Enaland. Founded in 1848.

Percey Coffee House Chess Club. Founded in 1823. It disbanded in 1825.

Philadelphia Chess Club. Founded in 1827. The chess club formed after a visit by Maelzel and the automaton The Turk. Over 100 members enrolled themselves in the chess club in the first week. The club soon disbanded. It was re-formed in 1859 after a visit by Paul Morphy. It disbanded in 1867.

Philidor Chess Club, Brooklyn. Founded in 1875. It was Brooklyn's oldest chess organization.

Press Chess Club. Founded in 1867 in Philadelphia. It disbanded in 1874.

Pursell's Chess Club. Founded in 1845 in a restaurant in Cornhill, London. The place closed down in 1891 and was demolished in 1894.



Reykjavik Chess Club. Founded in 1900 by Daniel Willard Fiske.

Riga Chess Club. Founded in 1898. It evolved from the Riga Chess Society, which was established in 1890.

Rome Chess Club (Academia Scacchistica Roman). Founded in 1880.

Rotherham Chess Club, England. Founded in 1865.

Rotterdam Chess Club. Founded in 1823.

Royal Dutch Chess Society (Discendo Discimus). Founded in 1822 at The Hague.

Saint George's Chess Club. Founded in 1843 and first located at Beatties Hotel on George Street, Cavendish Square. In 1851, it sponsored the first International Chess Tournament. Lord Randolph Churchill was a member of the club till the day he died.



Saint James's Chess Club of Bristol. Founded in the 1860s.

Saint Louis Chess Club. Home of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Saint Martin's Chess Club, London. Founded in 1825. It disbanded in 1827.

Saint Petersburg Chess Club. Founded in 1853. It was re-formed in 1862 but was disbanded a few months later by the Russian police. It was formed again in 1898.

Salopian coffee house. Founded in 1770. Chess players gathered there until 1804.

San Antonio Chess Club. Founded in 1888 at the historic Menger Hotel, near the Alamo



San Jose Chess Club. Founded in the early 1900's. In 1979 it reformed as the Koltz Chess Club.

Seattle Chess Club. Founded in 1879.

Sheffield Chess Club. Founded in 1847.

Shrewsbury Chess Club, England. Founded in November, 1852, under the presidency of Dr. Benjamin Hall Kennedy (1804-1880). It started out with 20 members. It soon dissolved. It re-formed in 1890.

Simpson's Cigar Divan. Founded in 1828. It was frequented regularly by all the greatest chess players of the time. In 1840, Henry Buckle won the first organized chess tournament at Simpson's. In 1980, the English National Chess Club Championship was held at Simpson's.



Slaughter's Coffee House, London. Founded in 1692, it housed London's only chess club for many years.

Social Chess Club. Founded in 1859 in Aberdeen, Scotland by teachers from Aberdeen Grammar School.

Staten Island Chess Club. Founded in 1890 by Albert Hodges.

Steinitz Chess Club, Hawaii. Founded in 1890. It disbanded in 1891.

Stockholm Chess Club. Founded in 1866. It is the oldest chess club in Sweden.



Stourbridge Chess Club. Founded in 1852.

Streatham Chess Club. Founded in 1918. It met at the White Lion Restaurant on Streatham High Road in London.

Streatham & Brixton Chess Club. Formed in 1946 after the Streatham CC merged with the Brixton CC.

Swansea Chess Club. Founded in 1886.

Tacoma Chess Club, Washington. Founded in 1894. It was my first chess club in 1969.

Tasmanian Chess Club. Founded in 1854.

Vienna Chess Club. Founded in 1857.

Wakefield Chess Club. Founded in 1838.

Washington, D.C. Chess Club. Founded in 1839.

Wellington Chess Club, England. Founded in 1891.

West Point Chess Club. Founded in 1845 by Hyacinth Agnel.

Westminster Chess Club. Founded in 1835 from Huttman's Coffee House chess club. It had about 300 members. Howard Staunton served as Secretary of the chess club. The club dissolved in 1843. It was re-formed in June 1866 and disbanded in 1875.

Wolverhampton Chess Club, England. Founded in 1862.

Women's Chess Club. Founded in 1894 in New York. It disbanded in 1949.

Worcester City Chess Club. Re-founded in 1837.

Worcestershire Chess Club.

Yale Chess Club, New Haven, Connecticut. Founded in 1857. It was the first American college chess club.

Yorkshire Chess Association. Founded in 1841. It was the first chess association formed.

Zurich Chess Club. This is the oldest still-existing chess club, founded in 1809.

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Themed Chess Pieces

Just as there are all kinds of people, so are there all kinds of Chess sets. Many themed chess pieces are out there for the collector or enthusiast. From war fanatics to Sc-Fi nerds to history buffs its all out there. Here are but a few we have found for sale on the web:



FIGURE 1: BATMAN SERIES



FIGURE 12: FIREMEN VS POLICE



FIGURE 2: FOOTBALL



FIGURE 13: NAPOLEON



FIGURE 14: CRUSADES



FIGURE 15: GOLF



FIGURE 3: JAPANESE SUMO



FIGURE 6: EGYPT VS ROME



FIGURE 9: ARMY VS NAVY



FIGURE 16: TRANSFORMERS



FIGURE 17: ALICE IN WODERLAND



FIGURE 18: STAR TREK



FIGURE 4: FANTASY



FIGURE 7: ARCHANGELS



FIGURE 10: OLDWEST



FIGURE 19: AMERICAN HUNTERS



FIGURE 20: BUFFALO SOLDIERS



FIGURE 21: PIRATES VS NAVY



FIGURE 5: WORLD WAR 2



FIGURE 8: STAR WARS



FIGURE 11: CIVIL WAR



FIGURE 22: CHEROKEE VS NAVAJO



FIGURE 23: LORD OF THE RINGS



FIGURE 24: AMERICAN REVOLUTION



In Retrospect *by Bill Wall*

Studying annotated (games with comments) is a great way to see why certain moves are good or bad.

Boris Spassky (USSR) – Pedro Lorinci (Monaco)

Siegen Chess Olympiad 1970

- 1.e4 c5 [the Sicilian Defense]
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.d4 cxd4
- 4.Nxd4 Nf6
- 5.Nc3 a6?! [better would have been 5...e5, then 6...Bc5 for quicker development]
- 6.Nxc6 bxc6
- 7.e5 Ng8 [The only real good move. White now has control of the center]
- 8.Bd3 g6 [perhaps 8...e6 or 8...d5]
- 9.O-O Bg7 [a Dragon type position for Black and threatening the e-pawn]
- 10.Re1 e6?! [This leaves too many holes for Black and White can penetrate with his pieces. Perhaps best is 10...f6]
- 11.Qf3 Ne7?! [perhaps 11...f5]
- 12.Ne4 O-O [not 12...Bxe5]
- 13.Ng5 (threatening 14.Qxf7 mate) 13... f6 14.Rxe5!]
- 13.Bg5! h6 [if 13...Bxe5, then 14.Nf6+ Bxf6 15.Qxf6 with a

- strong game]
- 14.Nf6+ Kh8 [14...Bxf6 15.Bxf6 Re8 16.Re4 and 17.Rh4 will penetrate Black's kingside and win]



- 15.Re4! [aiming for Rh4] 15... Ng8 [not 15...hxg5?? 16.Qh3+ Bh6 17.Qxh6 mate] 16.Rh4 Nxf6 17.exf6 [or 17.Bxf6] and Black resigned [17...Bxf6 18.Bxf6+ attacks the queen and king at the same time] 1-0

ANSWERS TO CHESS PUZZLES Page 16

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 1.Qxf7+ Rxf7 2.Re8+ Rf8
3.Rxf8+ Kxf8 4.Re8 mate | 6. 1.Qxe4+ Kxe4 2.Nc3+ Kf5 3.Rf1
mate |
| 2. 1.Qxd6+ Kxd6 2.Bf4+ Kd7 3.Be6
mate | 7. 1.Qxd7+ Kxd7 2.Rd1+ Kc8 3.Rf8+
Qe8 4.Rxe8+ Bd8 5.Rexd8 mate |
| 3. 1.Rc8+ Qxc8 2.Qxg7+ Rxg7
3.Rxg7 mate | 8. 1.Qxg7+ Kxg7 2.h8=Q+ Rxh8
3.Rg5+ Kf8 4.Rxh8+ Ng8 5.Rgxf8 mate |
| 4. 1.Qh6+ Rxh8 2.Bxh6+ Kh7 3.Bf8
mate | 9. 1.Bf8+ Bh5 2.Qxh5+ gxh5 3.Rh8
mate |
| 5. 1.Qxh7+ Kxh7 2.Rh4+ Kg8
3.Re8 mate | 10. 1.Qxd8+ Rxd8 2.gxf7+ Ke7
3.Bc5 mate |

[Click here to return to puzzle](#)

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Chess News

Chess News Around the World

Armenia

– Tigran L. Petrosian won the 2012 Armenian Chess Championship, held in Yerevan, Armenia from January 11-22.

Australia

– GM Darryl Johansen won the 2011-2012 Australian Championship, held in North Geelong from Dec 27, 2011 to Jan 8, 2012.

Bulgaria

– Top seed Ivan Cheparinov won the 34th Bulgarian Open Chess Championship, held from Jan 29 to Feb 5, 2012.

Estonia

– Alexei Shirov won the Keres Memorial, held from Jan 6-8, 2012.

Fort Lauderdale

– A team called Yo Doy Clase won the 2012 US Amateur Team South in February. There were 40 teams in the event.

France

– Former world champion (10th official world champion) Boris Spassky turned 75 on January 20, 2012. He was born in Leningrad in 1937. He is recovering from a stroke that left him paralyzed on his left side. In a recent interview, he said, “I am in the endgame now, which is the most difficult part of the game. But I am still okay.”

Fremont, California

– GM Sam Shankland won the Northern California Invitational, held in January.

Gibraltar

– Nigel Short beat Hou Yifan in a play-off to win the 2012 Tradewise Gibraltar Masters in early February.

Groningen

– Ukrainian GM Alexander Kovchan won on tiebreak of US GM Robert Hess at the 49th Groningen Chess Festival, held from Dec 21-30, 2011.

Hastings

– Wang Yue won the 2011/12 Hastings International Chess Congress, which ran from December 28, 2011 to January 5, 2012.

Ireland

– Michael Adams won the 19th Bunratty Chess Festival in Ireland, held February 17-19, 2012.

Latvia

– Alexander Morozevich of Russia won the Vladimir Petrov Memorial, held Feb 15-20 in Jurmala, Latvia.

Moscow

– Polish Grandmaster Mateusz won the 11th Aeroflot Open on tiebreak of Anton Korobov and Pavel Eljanov. The event was held in February.

New York

– GM Mikheil Kekelidze won the 2012 Marshall Chess Club Invitational. 2nd place went to GM Nick De Firmian.

Reggio Emilia

– Anish Giri of the Netherlands won at the 54th Reggio Emilia tournament in Italy, ahead of Alexander Morozevich, Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Vassily Ivanchuk, and Nikita Vitugov.

Saint Louis

– In February, the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence (SPICE) moved from Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas to Webster University in St. Louis, the home of the World Chess

Hall of Fame.

Santa Clara, California

– A team called Forfeit by Disconnection won the 2012 US Amateur Teas West in February. There were 40 teams in the event.

Stockholm

– Aleksandr Shimanov won the Rilton Cup, held in Stockholm from Dec 27, 2011 to Jan 5, 2012.

Tbilisi

– Nana Dzagnidze of Georgia won in a tie-break play-off in the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) Cup over Pa Cramling of Sweden. The event was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on February 17-22.

Wijk-aan-Zee

– Lev Aronian won the 74th Tata Steel Super Grandmaster Tournament, held in January 2012 in Wijk-aan-Zee, Netherlands. 2nd-5th place went to Magnus Carlsen, Teimour Radjabov, and Fabiano Caruana.



Book Review by Bill Wall

Grandmaster Versus Amateur

edited by Jacob Aagaard and John Shaw

Quality Chess, 2011, 200 pages

This is a very entertaining and instructive book of games played by non-grandmasters against the elite of the world, the titled grandmasters. There are eight chapters: Danes Eat Fish for Breakfast, A Tale of Three Stories, From Amateur to 2700, From 1700 to Grandmaster and Back, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, The Ulysses Effect, It's an Amateur's World, and Fish Eat Danes for Supper.

The first chapter includes five games where grandmasters prevail over amateurs. Chapter 2, written by a Ukranian grandmaster, identifies three typical ways in which a GM against an amateur game might play out. In Chapter 3, a GM shares his views on chess talent, psychology, opening preparation and choosing the right plan. Chapter 4 is written by an Israeli GM, offering insights into his successes and shortcomings. Chapter 5 includes 5 highly instructive games by a GM against amateurs. Chapter 6 reveals how a GM raised his chess level. Chapter 7 examines two amateurs and their games. The final chapter, by GM Aagaard, shows some of his least proud moments in games against amateurs.

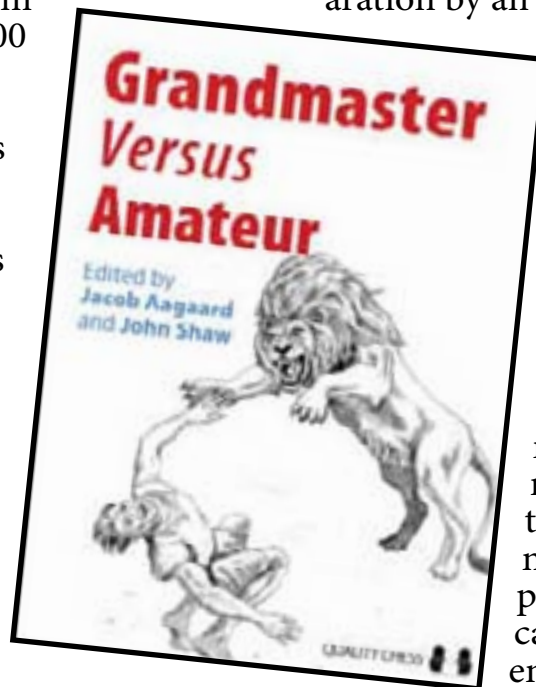
As the GM Aagaard points out in the book, there are differences between grandmasters and amateurs. Grandmasters handles the pieces better and know where to place them. Grandmasters thin in a less forcing way. Grandmaster know that a

positional advantage is better than a material advantage and have more confidences in their position. Grandmasters are hard workers and usually get an advantage in the opening that they know better. Sloppy preparation by an amateur leads to little or no

chance against a GM. Finally, a GM keeps on going and has tenacity. He fights throughout the opening, middlegame and endgame and will press until there is no hope left. Grandmasters are more stubborn and will play on, even in "dead drawn" positions where they somehow find a win. GMs are not afraid to take calculated risks and are more confident that his superior abilities will make the difference in complex positions. Superior chess education, compounded by experience in play, is what constitutes the chief advantage that GMS

have over amateurs.

There are 45 annotated games from 7 different grandmasters (Eljanov, Avrukh, Marin, Nielsen, Persson, Aagaard, and Shaw) in this book with a name index and an opening index. The book tries to tell how the amateur can bridge the gap between amateur status and grandmaster status. The most useful parts of the book are the annotations and how a GM dissects typical mistakes made by amateurs and takes advantage of these mistakes. All the games are well annotated with many chess diagrams at critical positions. I would recommend this book to anyone.



by Bill Wall

In 1485, Pedro Arbues (1441-1485), Dominican member of the Inquisition, ordered victims of persecutions to stand in as figures in a game of living chess. The game was played by two blind monks. Each time the captured piece was taken, the person representing that piece was put to death.

On March 18, 1584, Ivan the Terrible (1530-1584) died of a heart attack while setting up a chess board for a game of chess against his advisor, Boris Godunov.



Ivan the Terrible

In 1598, Paolo Boi (1528-1598), one of the leading chess players of the 16th century died in Naples. Historian H.J.R. Murray says he was poisoned in by jealous rivals. Other sources say he caught a cold when hunting and died as a result of it.

On May 18, 1853, Lionel Kieseritzky (1806-1853), died penniless at a charity hospital for the insane in Paris and was buried in a pauper's grave. Only one person came to his funeral, a waiter at the Café de la Régence. The location of his exact plot has not been

found.

On January 3, 1866, William Henry Russ (1833-1866) one of America's leading compiler of chess problems, died in a hospital after trying to commit suicide. He adopted an 11-year old girl and proposed to her when she was 21. When he rejected him, he shot her four times in the head. He left her for dead (she survived), then tried to commit suicide by jumping into the river to drown himself. However, the tide was out and the water was not deep enough. He climbed out of the river and shot himself in the head. He died 10 days later in a hospital, lacking a will to live.

On October 25, 1872, Pierre Saint-Amant (1800-1872), a leading French chess master, died after being thrown from his carriage at his chateau near Algiers, Algeria.

On June 22, 1874, Howard Staunton (1810-1874) died of a heart attack at his home in London while working on his last chess book, Chess: Theory and Practice, which was published in 1876. His grave had been unmarked and neglected until 1997. Then, a memorial stone bearing an engraving of a chess knight was raised over his grave.

On August 20, 1874, Thomas Wilson Barnes (1825-1874) died after going on a diet and losing 130 pounds in 10 months (he originally weighed 220 pounds). No one really knows the cause of death and some suspected stomach cancer. He was one of the strongest English chess players in the 1850s. He scored more wins than anyone else against Paul Morphy, defeating him 8 times. Morphy considered him the strongest player he had ever encountered.

On July 10, 1884, Paul Morphy (1837-1884) died of a stroke while taking a cold bath at his home in New Orleans. He had taken a long walk during the afternoon



Staunton

and returned for a bath. He remained so long in the bathroom that his mother grew alarmed and went up, to find him dead in the bath. The cause was congestion of the brain following the shock of cold water to an overheated body.

The funeral took place very quietly the next day. Only some relatives and a few friends were present.

On June 20, 1888, Johann Zukertort (1842-1888) died of a stroke while playing chess at Simpson's, a Lon-

don coffee-house. While playing a chess game with Sylvain Meyer, Zukertort fainted. Instead of calling for medical help, he was taken to the British Chess Club in an unconscious state. They then took him to Charing Cross Hospital where they diagnosed the problem as a cerebral attack. He never regained consciousness, and died at 10 a.m. the next day. The cause of death was cerebral hemorrhage. At the time, Zukertort was also in the middle of a tournament at the British Chess Club and was in 1st place. He was scheduled to play a match with Blackburne on June 23, 1888 and Bird on June 26, 1888.

On April 14, 1891, George Mackenzie (1837-1891) was found dead at a hotel in New York. A hotel worker called at his room and found him dead in bed. He had terminal tuberculosis before his death. The day before, he visited the Manhattan Chess Club and was arranging to challenge the winner of the forthcoming match between Blackburne and Gunsberg. William Steinitz reported that his death was from an intentional overdose of morphine. This rumor was started by a doctor who refused to sign a certificate for an insurance policy because the doctor had not been paid a fee.

On August 12, 1900, former world champion William Steinitz died in the Manhattan State Hospital on Ward's Island.

For months, he had been confined there, diagnosed as insane. He was committed by his wife.

On May 15, 1901, Johannes von Minckwitz (1843-1901) committed suicide by stepping in front of an electric car near Biebrich, Germany. He lost both arms and died May 20, 1901.

On June 17, 1906, Henry Pillsbury died of syphilis, which he caught from a prostitute in Saint Petersburg about 10 years before his death. In March, 1905, he tried to jump out a 4th story window at the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia. He was stopped by several nurses and doctors. He died at Friends Asylum in Frankford, Pennsylvania. His obituary in the New York Times stated that he died from an "illness contracted through overexertion of his memory cells."

On August 12, 1909 Rudolf Swiderski committed suicide in Leipzig. He poisoned himself, and then shot himself in the head. There were allegation of



Pillsbury



Paul Morphy



William Steinitz



perjury in connection with a love affair and he was to face legal proceedings.

On September 11, 1913, Dr. Julius Perlis (1880-1913), died in a mountain climb in the Alps. During a pleasure trip, he went astray and spent the night on a mountain. He died of extreme exposure to low temperatures during a climb in the Austrian Inntaler Alps (Hochtor-Ostgrat). He froze to death.

On December 27, 1918, Carl Schlechter (1874-1918) died from pneumonia and starvation in Budapest, Hungary, during the war-imposed famine in Central Europe. He never mentioned to any of his acquaintances that he needed food or money. He was found in a room without any money, heat or food. He was buried in Budapest on December 31, 1918.

On January 31, 1924, Curt von Bardeleben (1861-1924) threw himself out of the second floor window of his boarding home in Berlin. He was living in extreme poverty at the time.

In May, 1931, Andors Wachs of Hungary had just checkmated his opponent at a chess club in Hungary. He then dropped his head on the table and died of a heart attack.

On April 20, 1932, Edgar Colle (1897-1932) died in Gand, Belgium, after an operation for a gastric ulcer. He survived three operations for a gastric ulcer, but died after a 4th operation.

On November 11, 1932, Frederik Yates (1884-1932) died in his sleep at his home in London from a gas leak due to a faulty gas pipe connection. It was not suicide. A gas company official proved that no gas tap was turned on. It was ruled an accidental death. He was buried at Leeds on November 16, 1932.

On December 14, 1934, Paul Leonhardt (1877-1934) died of a heart attack while playing chess at a chess club.

On July 29, 1938, Nikolai Krylenko (1885-1938), who headed the Soviet chess association, was executed in Stalin's purges. His trial lasted 20 minutes, he was then found guilty and immediately shot.

On February 17, 1940, former New England chess champion Harold Morton (1906-1940), died in a car crash in Iowa when he hit a truck. His passenger, chess master I.A. Horowitz, survived. The two were giving simultaneous chess exhibitions throughout the country.

In April 1940, David Przepiorka (1880-1940) died in a mass execution outside Warsaw. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, he was present at a forbidden meeting of the Warsaw Chess Circle. The Gestapo arrested everyone there. Most of the players, including Przepiorka, were taken to Palmiry, Poland, and killed by the Germans in a mass execution. Over 2,000 men and women were executed there by the Nazis.

On September 3, 1941, Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky (1894-1941) died during the siege of Leningrad by the Germans. He was on a barge on Lake Ladoga, east of Leningrad, trying to escape the city, when a German aircraft bombed the barge. He was the only one killed on the barge, which was displaying Red Cross flags.

On October 2, 1941, Karel Treybal was charged with illegal possession of a firearm (a pistol) by the Nazis and condemned to death. He was executed the same day in Prague.

On March 7, 1942, Sergey Belavenets, former Moscow chess champion, died in combat in Novgorod, Russia.

On March 8, 1942, Jose Capablanca (1888-1942), died after watching a skittles game at the Manhattan Chess Club. The cause of death was given as "a cerebral hemorrhage provoked by hypertension." He died at Mount Sinai Hospital, the same hospital that Emanuel Lasker died a year earlier.

Capablanca's body was given a public funeral in Havana on March 15, 1942.

On April 18 1942, Karl Leonid Kubbel (1891-



Schlechter



Bardeleben



Krylenko



Capablanca



1942), a chess problemist, died during the siege of Leningrad.

In August, 1942, Alexey Troitzky (1866-1942) died of starvation during the siege of Leningrad.

In 1942 Ilya Rabinovich (1891-1942) was evacuated from Leningrad, but died of malnutrition in a hospital in Perm, Russia.

On August 26, 1943, Vladimir Petrov died in a prison camp in Russia. He was sentenced to 10 years in a corrective labor camp (Gulag) for criticizing decreased living standards in Latvia since the Soviet annexation of 1940. He died at Kotlas from an inflammation of the lungs.

In 1944, Salo Landau (1903-1944) was gassed by the Nazis in a German concentration camp in Poland. He was sent to a forced labor camp in Gratz, Poland and died sometime between October 1943 and March 1944. His wife and daughter were sent to Auschwitz, where they were gassed and died in 1944 in an Auschwitz gas chamber.

On June 26, 1944, world woman chess champion Vera Menchik-Stevenson (1906-1944) died in a German bombing of London. She died along with her sister, her sister's husband, and her mother.

She died in Kent after a German V-1 rocket hit her home (the bomb shelter in the garden remained intact).

Her sister, Olga Menchik-Rubery, was world woman chess challenger in 1935 and 1937.

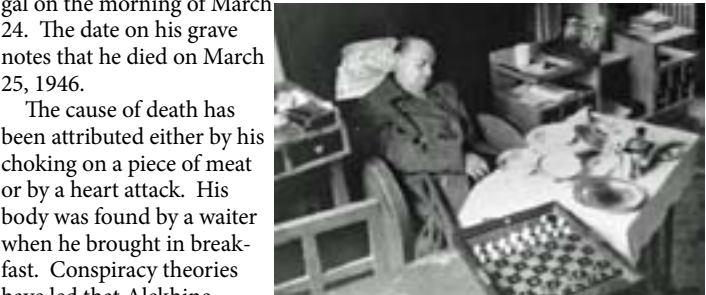
At the time of her death, Vera was serving on the editorial staff of Chess magazine as games editor.



Vera Menchik



Frank Marshall



Alexander Alekhine

On November 9, 1944, Frank Marshall (1877-1944) was returning home from Jersey City, New Jersey where he had gone for an evening of bingo. He collapsed on Van Vorst Street and died.

On December 20, 1944, George Sturgis (1891-1944), president of the US Chess Federation, died of a heart attack in Boston after returning from his honeymoon.

On April 17, 1945, Klaus Junge (1924-1945), a German officer, was killed in action at Welle, Germany. As a lieutenant, he refused to surrender and was killed by Allied troops in the battle of Welle on the Luneburg Heath, close to Hamburg, three weeks before World War II ended. (George Koltanowski claimed that Junge was stabbed to death in a chess club fight.)

On March 24, 1946, Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946) choked to death on a piece of meat. He was found dead in his hotel room in Estoril, Portugal on the morning of March 24. The date on his grave notes that he died on March 25, 1946.

The cause of death has been attributed either by his choking on a piece of meat or by a heart attack. His body was found by a waiter when he brought in breakfast. Conspiracy theories have led that Alekhine either killed himself or was murdered.

On March 11, 1952, Jan Foltys (1908-1952) died of leukemia. In 1951, he qualified for the Interzonal tournament in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, but died before it took place.

On June 18, 1952, Efim Bogoljubov (1889-1952) suffered a heart attack after concluding a simultaneous chess exhibition in Triberg, Germany.

In 1952, Juan Quesada, Cuban chess champion, died of a heart attack during an international tournament in Havana.

On November 25, 1955, Herman Steiner died of a heart attack after a California State Championship game in Los Angeles. He was defending his state championship title and finished his 5th round game (a 62-move draw against William Addison). He then said he felt unwell, so his afternoon game was postponed. About two hours later, around 9:30 pm, Steiner had a heart attack while being attended by a physician. By agreement of the players, the 1955 California State Championship tournament was cancelled.



Herman Steiner



In 1959, a Soviet scientist killed another Soviet scientist at a Soviet research station in Vostok, Antarctica after a chess game argument. The losing player got so mad that he killed his opponent with an axe. After the incident, the Soviets banned chess at their Antarctic stations.

In 1960, an American sailor got into a fight with in a Greenwich Village bar when a spectator criticized the sailor's chess game. The sailor struck the spectator with a broke beer bottle, which cut his jugular vein. The sailor was eventually acquitted of murder and charged with accidental death instead.

On October 25, 1962, Abe Turner, an American chess master, was stabbed 9 times in the back by a fellow employee, Theodore Smith, at the Chess Review office. His body was placed in a safe and found by the superintendent of the building later that afternoon.

On November 3, 1963, Boris Kostic (1887-1963) died of blood poisoning from a scratch in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

In 1964, Raymond Weinstein, a chess master, killed an 83-year old man in a nursing home. He was judged mentally ill and confined to Ward's Island for the mentally ill.

On July 31, 1965, E. Forry Laucks (1897-1965), founder of the Log Cabin Chess Club, collapsed of a heart attack and died after the 6th round of the U.S. Open in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

On May 26, 1967, Gideon Stahlberg (1908-1967) died of a heart attack during the 1967 Leningrad International chess tournament.

On September 25, 1968, Russian grandmaster Vladimir Simagin (1919-1968) died of a heart attack while playing in a chess tournament in Kislovodsk, Russia.

In 1970, Charles Khachiyan, President of the New Jersey Chess Association, died of a heart attack while playing chess at the Montclair Chess Club in New Jersey.

On October 31, 1971, Alexander Zaitsev died of thrombosis (blood clot) as a consequence of a leg operation to have one of his legs lengthened.

On October 4, 1972, USCF business manager Kenneth Harkness (1898-1972) died of a heart attack on a train in Yugoslavia on his way to a FIDE meeting in Skopje, Yugoslavia, where the chess Olympiad was to take place.

On June 5, 1975, Paul Keres (1916-1975) died of a heart attack in Helsinki, Finland, while returning home to Estonia from the World Class Championship in Vancouver, B.C.

He had just won the event.

On July 24, 1975, Nicholas Rossolimo (1910-1975) fell from a flight of stairs in Greenwich Village, New York and died of his head injuries. He had been giving chess lessons late at night.

In 1979, Patrick McKenna, a prisoner in Nevada, strangled his Las Vegas cellmate, Jack J. Robles, after an argument over a chess game. At age 63, he has been on death row for over 30 years. He was denied the latest in a long line of appeals.

On November 6, 1979, Cecil Purdy (1906-1979) died of a heart attack while playing chess in the Sydney, Australia chess championship. His opponent was Ian Parsonage. His last words were, "I have a win, but it will take some time."

On October 21, 1982, Ed Edmondson (1920-1982) died of a heart attack while playing chess on a beach in Honolulu, Hawaii.

On December 9, 1983, Janos Flesch (1933-1983) died in a car wreck in Whitstable, England. He was returning from the Kasparov-Korchnoi match in London to a tournament in Ramsgate when he became involved in a car accident. He and his wife died in the crash.

In 1986, Grandmaster Georgy Agzamov (1954-1986) fell between some rocks at a beach and died. He had just finished a chess tournament in Sevastopol and was taking a shortcut to go swimming. He fell off a cliff and got stuck between two rocks. Several people heard him yell for help, but he was too deep down in the rocks and died before a rescue team could get to him. At one time he was ranked number 8 in the world, with a 2728 rating.

In 1989, Karen Grigorian (1947-1989) committed suicide by jumping.

In 1992, Gyorgy Negysey (1893-1992) died just short of his 99th birth-



Gideon Stahlberg



Paul Keres



Agzamov

day. He was one of the longest-lived chess masters.

In 1993, a person was shot and killed while playing chess with a friend outdoors in Bosnia. It was the first recorded killing of a chess player by sniper fire. In 1996, a chess tournament was held to raise funds to assist in clearing Bosnia of leftover mines.

In 1997, Alvis Vitolins (1938-1997) committed suicide by jumping.

In 2000, GM Vladimir Bagirov (1936-2000) died of a heart attack when in a winning position in a tournament game in Finland. He had just finished a move while in time pressure and his flag fell. As both players moved to a separate board to reconstruct the game, he collapsed and died.

In 2000, Latvian grandmaster Aivars Gipslis (1937-2000) died of a stroke while playing chess in Berlin. He was playing for a local Berlin chess club when he collapsed from a stroke during the chess game. He died in a German hospital after being in a coma for several weeks.

In 2000, Laurence Douglas stabbed Craig Williams to death over a chess game in Poughkeepsie, New York. Williams beat Douglas in a chess game that had a \$5 wager. Williams took a \$5 bill from Douglas after the game and Douglas then stabbed Williams 16 times.

In 2001, Alexei Suetin (1926-2001) died of a heart attack after returning home from the Russian Seniors Chess Championship.

In 2001, Claude Bloodgood (1924-2001) died of lung cancer while serving a life sentence in a Virginia prison.

On October 27, 2003, Essam Ahmed Ali (1964-2003), an International Master and Egypt's top chess player, died of malaria after returning home from the All Africa Games chess tournament in Nigeria. The 60-year old head of the Egyptian chess delegation, Mohammed Labib, died of the same disease the next day. Both were incorrectly diagnosed in Egypt after becoming ill. Both were bitten by an infected mosquito that gave them malaria.

In 2004, at the Canadian Open, Donal Hervieux collapsed and died over the chess board while playing a FIDE master during round 8.

On July 26, 2006, Jessie Gilbert, a rising British female chess star, fell through a window in her room at the Hotel Labe in Pardubice in the Czech Republic. She won the Women's World Amateur Championship when she was 11. Police believe she may have been sleepwalking.

In July 2007, Bernard Papet, age 73, died right after completing his 10th round game in the Veteran's French championship.

In 2007, GM Maxim Sorokin (1968-2007) died in a car wreck on his way from Elista, Kalmykia to Volgograd.

In October 2008, David Christian killed Michael Steward over a chess game. The two got into a fight while playing chess at Christian's home in Iowa.

On May 8, 2010, Andor Lilienthal (1911-2010) died three days after he turned 99.

On September 9, 2010, Bent Larsen, considered Denmark's greatest chess player, died at Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he had lived with his wife since 1980. Larsen was, at his peak, rated #3 in the world, with an Elo of 2755. He was a 6-time champion of his native Denmark, and the winner of the 1976 Biel Interzonal, among other tournaments. Larsen is also remembered as one of Bobby Fischer's victims en route to his World Championship, besting the Dane by a 6-0 score. Bent Larsen was 75.



Claude Bloodgood



Jessie Gilbert



Causes of Death

- Alzheimer's** disease – Jack Battell (76)
- Appendicitis** – Nikolai Grigoriev (43)
- Automobile** wreck – Janos Flesch (50), Guillermo Garcia (36), Harold Morton (34), GM Maxim Sorokin (39)
- Bood** poisoning – Boris Kostic (76)
- Bright's** disease – Alexander McDonnell (37)
- Cancer** – Rosendo Balinas (liver cancer – 47), Gerardo Barbero (eye cancer - 40), Johan Barendregt (lung cancer - 57), Claude Bloodgood (lung cancer – 77), Humphrey Bogart (esophagus cancer - 57) Botvinnik (pancreatic cancer - 83), Ricardo Calvo (esophagus cancer – 59), Campomanes (83), Denker (brain cancer – 90), Geller (prostate cancer - 73), Nikolai Grigoriev (lung cancer – 43), Igor Ivanov (esophagus cancer – 58), Lipschuetz (lung cancer – 42), Harry Lyman (84), William Martz (37), Nimzowitsch (49), Petrosian (stomach cancer - 55), Robatsch (stomach and throat cancer – 71), Alexander Roshal (pancreatic



Causes of Death - Continued

cancer - 71), Feodor Skripchenko (74), Daniel Yanovsky (74)
Choking – Alekhine (53)
Cholera – Elijah Williams (44)
Diabetes – Mikhail Chigorin (58), Jerry Hanken (74), Bent Larsen (75), Tony Miles (46), Louis Paulsen (58)
Died in prison camp – Vladimir Petrov (35)
Died While Playing Chess – Bagirov (64), Bogoljubow (63), Ed Edmondson (62), Forry Laucks, Gipslis (63), Leonhardt (57), Cecil Purdy (73), Juan Quesada, Simagin (48), Stahlberg (59), Herman Steiner (50), Suetin (75), Zukertort (45)
Died While Watching Chess – Capablanca (54)
Diet – Thomas Barnes (49) – lost 130 pounds in 10 months
Dropsy – Johann Allgaier (60)
Dysentery – James Leonard (20) – dies as a POW in the Civil War
Executed – Arvid Kubbel (49) – shot by the KNVD
Explosion – Ilyin-Genevsky (47), Vera Menchik (38)
Fall – Agzamov (32), von Bardeleben (63), Rossolimo (65), Saint-Amant (72)
Froze to death – Julius Perlis (33)
Gall Bladder operation – Larry Evans (78)
Gas – Yates (48), Arpad Vajda
Gassed – Salo Landau (41)
Heart Attack/Heart Failure – Anderssen (60), Bagirov (64), Blackburne (82), Bogoljubow (63), Gyula Breyer (28), Ed Edmondson (62), Arpad Elo (89), Euwe (80), Kenneth Harkness (74), Albert Hodges (83), Bill Hook (84), Keres (59), Koltanowski (93), Emanuel Lasker (72), E. Forry Laucks (69), Paul Leonhardt (57), Frank Marshall (67), Edmar Mednis (64), Tony Miles (46), Najdorf (87), Cecil Purdy (73), Quesada, Reshevsky (81), Simagin (49), Smyslov (89), Stahlberg (59), Staunton (64), Leonid Stein (38), Herman Steiner (50), Steinitz (64), George Sturgis (53), Suetin (74), Wolfgang Unzicker (80), Alexey Vyzmanavin (39)
High Blood Pressure – David Bronstein (82)
Hydropsy – A. Deschapelles (67)
Influenza – Jules Riviere (75), Israel Schiffman (26)
Intestinal problems – Alexander Woitkiewicz
Kidney failure – Fischer (64), Avrid Kubbel (49), Emanuel Lasker (72), Alexander McDonnell (37), Tal (56)
Leukemia – Jan Foltys (43), Max Pavey (39)
Liver failure – Gideon Stahlberg (59)

Lupus – Donald Byrne (45)
Malaria – Essam Ahmed (39), Mohammad Labib (60)
Malnutrition – Ilya Rabinovich (50), Schlechter (44)
Natural causes – Arthur Dake (90), Harlow Daly (95), Hermann Helms (93), Walter Ivans (98), Edward Lasker (95), Andor Lilienthal (99), Jared Moore (101), Walter Muir (94), Gyorgy Negysey (98), Harols Phillips (92)
Obesity – Ernst Gruenfeld (68)
Perforated intestine – Alexander Woitkiewicz (43)
Pneumonia – Edmar Mednis (65), James Mortimer (77), Nimzowitsch (49), Daniel Noteboom (21), Vladimir Petrov (35), Schlechter (44)
Poisoned – Paolo Boi (70), Swidirski (31)
Malaria – IM Essam Ahmed Al i(39)
Murdered – Paolo Boi (poisoned - 70)
Radiation poisoning – Max Pavey (39)
Scarlet fever – Reti (40)
Shot – Klaus Junge , Nikolai Krylenko, Leonid Kubbel (51), David Przepiorka (60), Rudolf Swidirski (31)
Stabbed – Abe Turner (38)
Starvation – Evgeny and Leonid Kubbel, Rabinovich (65), Schlechter (44), Troitzky (76)
Stroke – Bourdonnais (45), Amos Burn (77), Capablanca (53), Gipslis (63), Gufeld (66), Larsen (75), Morphy (47), Zukertort (45)
Suicide – von Bardeleben (fall – 63), Jessie Gilbert (fall - 19), Carl Goering (37), Karen Grigorian (fall – 42), George Mackenzie (overdose -54), Johannes Minckwitz (hit by train – 58), Lembit Oll (fall - 35), William russ (jumped and shot himself – 32), Rudolf Swiderski (poisoned and shot himself – 31), Alvis Vitolins (fall - 59), Stefan Zweig (61)
Syphilis – Harry Pillsbury (34)
Thrombosis – Alexander Zaitsev
Tuberculosis (Consumption) – Adolf Albin (71), Fritzis Apscheneek (47), Johann Bauer (30), Rudolf Charousek (27), Cecil de Vere (30), Janowski (59), Mackenzie (54), Mir Sultan Khan (61), Karl Walbrodt (31), Henri Weenink (39)
Tumor – Fan Adams (75), David Ilundain (31)
Typhoid fever – Samuel Boden (56), Henry Buckle (41)
Ulcer – Colle (34)
Weight loss – Thomas Barnes (49)
Yellow fever – William Schlumberger (37)



Ask Bill Wall



bill_wall@bellsouth.net

Tom S – What is FICS and how can I get a rating?

Tom, FICS is the Free Internet Chess

Server where you can play chess for free over the Internet against other players. You can play unrated games or rated games, at different time controls. You need to get a graphical interface, which can be downloaded on your system depending on your operating system. FICS is organized as a free alternative to the Internet Chess Club (ICC). I play mostly unrated games for the fun of it, but sometimes play rated 5-minute games. My rating on there is around 2180.

Allan K – How many books did Fred Reinfeld write?

Allan, I don't think anyone knows. Fred Reinfeld (1910-1964) probably wrote over 260 books, not all of them chess books (he also wrote about coins, stamps, geology, checkers, astronomy, history, etc). He wrote under several aliases and ghosted several books. His books were all donated to New York University by his widow in 1965. I would think he wrote at least 200 chess books. I have about 75 of his chess books, some are good and some not-so-good. Many books were taken from his earlier books, but with a different title. There have been at least 50 chess books with his name attached to it after he died.

Larry C – What is the most important attribute of a strong chess player?

Larry, the most important attribute of a strong player is probably his ability to calculate variations quickly and accurately without overlook-

ing threats and hanging pieces. A strong player has a strategy planned and knows what a strong or weak pawn structure is. He does not want to give up any material without a reason and has a strong will to win at any cost. A stronger player will see something that the weaker player does not, and if it looks like a good move or a winning move, he will play it after careful consideration not to fall for some trap in get in a drawish position if he can help it. Strong players calculate faster because they have played thousands of games and know thousands of positions. This helps them in their pattern recognition as to what works and what doesn't work. To play well, you have to study and calculate well, envisioning the board at least two or three moves ahead of the game.

Dave S – what is a good way to study an annotated chess game from a book?

Dave, the method that I use is to set up the board, make a move from the game, hide the rest of the moves and annotated notes, then write down everything that I saw and compare it to the notes in the book about the game. I now play over the game using a strong computer chess engine, and compare my notes and the notes about the game from the annotator to see what the best move might be. When I have diagrams, I study it, look at the notes about the diagram, then put it on the computer to analyze it even deeper. A lot of times I will find moves that the annotator or myself missed that turn out to be very strong or perhaps a moves that equalizes the position. The most important thing is to find the losing move and an alternative move. A lot of times I will annotate famous games without notes, and if they are new ideas, I will publish them, such as annotating critical positions

from games at chessgames.com and writing up some alternative moves that may have been better than what was played in the actual game. I also like to go over my own games played 30 or 40 years ago and see what I missed then and if I can find better moves now.

Thomas J – Should I study openings first, or endgames?

Thomas, this is still pretty controversial. I can find just as many grandmasters say to study the openings first as I can find that say study the endgame first. Ideally you should study both. When I first started playing chess, I studied openings from opening books. I tried to study Basic Chess Endings by Reuben Fine, but found it boring and rare that I needed to know some ending as most of my games ended before the endgame, or it was an obvious endgame win or draw when that phase was reached. Top GMs will say to study the endgame first as that doesn't change but openings do. Yet most chess players do not follow that advice. Endgame study, however, may be the most effective improvement method for players trying to become masters. Endgame study is very useful at all strengths of chess players, the goal being to play the endgame better. For most amateur players, the endgame is their weakest part of their games, so strong players try to get into the endgame as soon as possible with confidence they will win the endgame every time. But if you cannot survive out of the opening, no endgame knowledge is going to help you win any games.

Do you have a chess related question for Bill? email him at billwall@bellsouth.net and we'll post it here.



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