

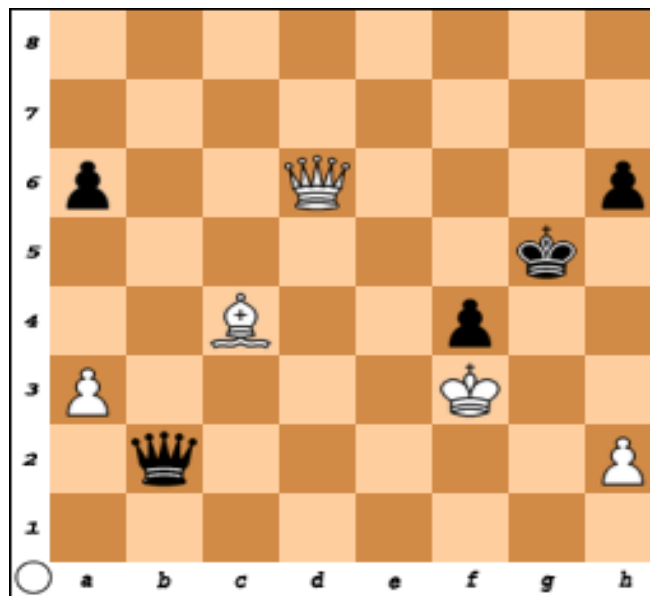
NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB

"THE HEART OF CONNECTICUT CHESS"

IN CARE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION
1910 STANLEY STREET NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT 06053
WWW.NEWBRITAINCHESSCLUB.COM

2021 NEWSLETTER

by Robert Cyr



White mates in 3.

Magnus Carlsen vs. Kristian Trygstad: Fredrikstad 2003

This chess puzzle was posted on www.wtharvey.com by Bill Harvey.

The solution is on page 37.

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INTRODUCTION

Season's Greetings, New Britain Chess Club family and friends:

It is difficult to imagine that another year has come and gone. It just seemed like yesterday when we were saying goodbye to 2019 and ringing in 2020. As mentioned in last year's newsletter, 2020 was a very challenging year for the NBCC, having to deal with two closings of our indoor operations due to COVID-19. Nonetheless, we made it through 2020. This year, we started our operations online due to safety precautions because of this insidious virus. Despite holding its meetings online for the first three months of 2021, our club's history continued to flourish. Membership did reach a low point in the earlier stages of the virus, with some members hesitant to return to the club once our doors opened in April. Membership levels did, however, return to somewhat normal levels once the virus waned.

Every year since 2005, I have, through these annual newsletters, strived to capture the heart and soul of our chess organization. Included in these reports have been highlights of the year, focusing on membership achievements, new events, and exciting social activities. Also included in these reports for most of these years has been an annual best game of the year contest, photos, trivia, and my year-end commentary, along with some special sections on Connecticut chess stories and history. Currently, my reading audience has reached to over 300 people, and it is constantly growing.

So, without further ado, take a break from this hectic world that we live in and spend some time reading about the awesome happenings at the NBCC in 2021. I am certain that you will enjoy all of the fun times.

If you have not been to the club in a while, I hope that you will rejoin in 2022.

**I SPEND HOURS PLAYING CHESS BECAUSE I FIND IT SO MUCH
FUN. THE DAY IT STOPS BEING FUN IS THE DAY I GIVE UP.**

Magnus Carlsen

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

JANUARY

The club began the New Year the same as it left 2020, with its operations being held online due to the coronavirus pandemic. The club continued to hold Tuesday lectures at 6:30 p.m. on WebEx and tournaments on lichess.org at 7:30 p.m. NBCC lecturer Joe Bihlmeyer started the year with the presentations, focusing on endgame tactics and puzzles. Joe is such an energetic teacher, and he always does a phenomenal job in engaging his students. He is an excellent role model to emulate. Even though he is an expert chess player, Joe always plays like a master.

On Tuesday, January 26, the club celebrated its 120th anniversary of its founding on January 26, 1901. To commemorate this special day, another one of our club's lecturers, FIDE Master Richard Bauer, reviewed a game from the Arkadijs Strazdins archives (Latvian Gambit) and a game from the late Gildardo Garcia, who passed away on January 15. A eulogy about Mr. Garcia is presented later in this newsletter. In honor of Mr. Strazdins, the club held a special Latvian Gambit thematic tournament after Bauer's lectures. Bauer won the thematic tournament. Our organization is blessed to have steadfast leaders and a strong membership base to support our club operations. We are also blessed to have a great venue at the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, where we hold our indoor operations.

FEBRUARY

For two Tuesday evenings in February, our club's newly minted expert, Jithu Sajeevan, gave lectures on WebEx. His lessons focused on various openings. After the opening portion of the lectures, Jithu provided his audience with some chess puzzles, where his students had to find the best move in each position. Jithu is a very bright young man and is a very engaging chess instructor. We welcome him as the newest NBCC coach. Congratulations, Jithu! And best of luck in your future chess and academic endeavors.

The club also continued its Saturday sessions on WebEx. FM Richard Bauer and FM Nelson Castaneda reviewed some opening theories and some games on lichess.org. These sessions have been both instructive and insightful and have attracted different audiences each week. We thank the masters for their contributions to these interesting sessions.

MARCH

On the evening of March 5, the NBCC fielded five scholastic chess players in a two-game team match against DIG, a chess organization created by Dan Pelletier. The time control was G/15. Despite our club members doing well in their games, ultimately, the DIG players managed their time better and pulled ahead at critical moments, winning with a score of 6.5 – 3.5. We thank our esteemed club instructor and full-time DIG coach, Jithu Sajeevan, for arranging this exciting match.

With the coronavirus subsiding, the club reopened its indoor operations on March 30. Masks were still required to be worn, and sneeze guards were still required to be placed between players during competition. The club did not resume its schedule with the final rounds of the Judge John Kirkham Double Swiss event but instead held a ladder tournament. In this new and exciting tournament, players were paired with their closest opponent by rating. It was a nice way to get our crew back in action at the club.

APRIL

After the ladder tournament, the club held a multi-week double quads tournament. This event drew sixteen players. Thanks to NBCC Vice President Michael Smith for organizing this tournament.

MAY

For most of the month of May and on the first meeting in June, the NBCC hosted one of its major tournaments of the year - the annual Arkadijs Strazdins Cup / Andris Strazdins Stein - in honor of two of the most devoted and loyal members in the history of our club. These gentlemen devoted nearly a century to the benefit of our amazing organization. This tournament is held in their memory. This year, Bob Cyr had the pleasure of directing this event, which he was proud to do so. Speaking now in the first person, it was definitely nice to get out of retirement from directing tournaments at the club. I enjoyed running this tournament. It was fun! There were many notable games, which were reviewed by FM Richard Bauer, and there were a number of upsets, the makings for a great and successful tournament. The turnout for the event was wonderful, with twenty-five players competing. In the end, after four rounds of intense competition, Bauer took home first place with a score of 3.5-.5 and won the Strazdins Cup. This was his first Strazdins Cup win since earning it a decade ago! Winning the Strazdins Stein was a new member, Mack Elder, making this his first major win in a club event. Congratulations!

JUNE

Per the club by-laws, the club holds an annual business meeting in the second week of June to review the operations of the club, including the finances, and to elect officers for the upcoming fiscal year in September. Last year's meeting was held in August due to the club being closed due to COVID-19. Twenty-four members attended the approximately one hour and fifteen-minute meeting held on June 8 at the church.

Some of the highlights from the meeting were as follows:

- ✓ President and USCF NM Suhas Kodali reviewed the minutes from the last club business meeting.
- ✓ Suhas reviewed the activities that the club has held in the last year.
- ✓ Suhas thanked his fellow club officers, directors, and lecturers for the work that they have done for the benefit our organization and for the welfare of our members.
- ✓ Vice President Michael Smith discussed the club's response to COVID-19, noting that our club went online for about four months starting in November of last year. He also thanked those responsible for conducting the online training courses and lectures.
- ✓ Treasurer David Herscovici reviewed the financial health and current state of the banking and finances of the club. He noted that even though membership declined, thus reducing our net asset balance from the prior year, the club is still financially sound. He attributes this to the generosity of the church not charging us rent for the weeks we did not use and to the cushion in funds we have built up over the years.
- ✓ The election of officers went as follows (to start term in September):
 - USCF NM Suhas Kodali – president (unanimously elected)
 - Elizabeth Smith – vice president (unanimously elected)
 - First woman officer in club history!
 - Mario Guevara-Rodriguez – secretary (unanimously elected)
 - David Herscovici – treasurer (unanimously elected)
- ✓ The club was incredibly grateful to have outgoing Vice President Michael Smith serve the club for one year, especially for helping setup the club for its weekly meetings and for giving lectures.
- ✓ NBCC Historian Bob Cyr gave a brief overview of the highlights of the year and mentioned that he will be publishing the 17th annual newsletter in December.

- ✓ FM Richard Bauer spoke about the best game of the year contest, saying that he has already received many games earlier this year than in prior years. The club thanks the master for his judging of the games and for issuing the prizes with his own funds.
- ✓ The mask requirement for future tournaments point was raised. After some exchange among the membership and the club officers, it was decided to follow the CDC guidelines.
- ✓ The club purchased new Tap N Set digital clocks. The clocks timers can be programmed using a person's phone.
- ✓ There was some discussion about promoting the club through Facebook and getting more scholastic involvement in tournaments, specifically hosting weekend tournaments or scholastic sections within our club's major tournaments.
- ✓ Suhas mentioned that this year's Summer Open will be held on August 22 at Wickham Park. We hope for a good turnout from the chess community. Local TD Norman Burtness will be directing the event.

It is always mutually beneficial when chess organizations in our state get together for a collaborative joint project. That is what happened on June 12 at the Weston Public Library, when the NBCC and DIG members participated in a glorious day of chess. It all began at 11:00 a.m. outside of the library, despite cloudy skies, with lectures from three of the NBCC's resident masters (USCF NM Derek Meredith, USCF NM Suhas Kodali, and FM Richard Bauer). Derek focused on opening theory. Suhas focused on middle game strategy. And Richard focused on the endgame with key positions. Their lessons were very instructive and motivational. After the lectures, lunch was provided by DIG. There were ham and turkey sandwiches, along with sodas, water, and chips. After lunch, the masters gave simultaneous chess exhibitions. All three players walked around and made a move on each board. There were about twenty-five participants in the simul. Everyone had a wonderful time. The kids really enjoyed themselves. Overall, it was a wonderful day for both chess institutions and a fantastic day for Connecticut chess. The NBCC looks forward to working with DIG on more projects in the near future.

At the last three meetings in June, the club held a warm-up, or qualifying, tournament to its annual championship tournament to be held in July. The turnout for this event was very good, with almost thirty-five players of all levels competing. This was a nice preparatory tournament to get ready for the main championship tournament. Thanks to USCF Local TD and NM Suhas Kodali for directing this event.

JULY

The next NBCC member in line for his honorary tournament was Norman Burtness. Norman was introduced to chess by his father at the age of five and played the game regularly through high school. It would not be until thirty years later, however, when Norman began playing chess seriously again. Norman got introduced to the club by Daniel Rozovsky, a former member and one of his students at Hall High School. One day, Norman challenged Daniel to a game when he came to the High School Chess Club. After squeezing out of a jam in Norman's game, Daniel destroyed him. It was then, in 2011, that Daniel introduced Norman to our family. Since 2011, Norman has been one of the club's most steadfast supporters and contributors. He got involved in club management only a few years after joining the club. He served three years as vice president under USCF NM Derek Meredith and got his tournament directing certification during that time. He has directed numerous local and state tournaments at the club and at his school. In 2016, he was elected NBCC president. During his presidency, he was instrumental in making many changes to the club website, was instrumental in creating the club's first online payment system using PayPal for dues and tournament fee collections, was instrumental in enriching the club's weekly e-mails, and was instrumental in developing the training classes and recruiting students to the club. Norman currently serves on the Connecticut State Chess Association's Board of Directors and is a strong advocate for state chess. Norman also runs a chess club at Hall High. For those of you who know Norman well, like me, know that he is a man of integrity and character. He is a soft-spoken and kind man who has made significant contributions to the enrichment and promotion of the NBCC and Connecticut chess. He is a good friend who cares deeply about the welfare of our members. Norman retired from the NBCC presidency in 2020, which was a long-needed break from club management. Thanks to Norman for all that he has done for the club and for Connecticut chess. Winning the Norman Burtness Quick Chess Tournament was FM Nelson Castaneda. He was awarded a club chess set as his prize.

AUGUST

During the months of July and August, the club hosted its most prestigious tournament of the year – the 2021 NBCC Championship. Directed by members Mark Bourque and Ryan Wantroba (his first time as a TD), this tournament attracted thirty-five players from the community. The games were very intense, with a number of upsets.

According to the rules for this tournament, in the event of a tie for first place, there would be a playoff match. And would not you know it, there were ties for first place in the open and reserve sections. In the open section, FM Nelson Castaneda and Joe Bihlmeyer faced off at Nelson's house. Winning the game, after an epic battle, was FM Nelson Castaneda. In the reserve section, members Eric Hilhorst and Bob Wooster were vying for the top position, which was taken by the young and talented Hilhorst. Congratulations to Nelson and Eric!

As tradition goes in our club, the club champion has to give a simultaneous chess exhibition the week after winning the title. It was FM Nelson Castaneda giving the simul this year. Twenty players competed in his simul, which lasted about three hours. Clocks were used this time, which added extra pressure on the master to move even faster! There were many players, as such, who won their games on time. And they were: Shritan Vijay, Carter Clayton, Arnav Kamani, Nikhil Nair, Jeraldin Sundar, and Bob Feder. A draw was earned by member Dennis Himes. Thanks to Professor Castaneda for hosting this fun event. He is a great sport!

The 56th annual New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship is now officially in the history books. Originally planned for Sunday, August 22, at Wickham Park in Manchester, this event had to be postponed due to Tropical Storm Henri. Thankfully, the club was able to quickly reschedule the tournament to Saturday, August 28, at the NBCC. Forty-nine players from Connecticut and Massachusetts participated in the annual grandest social chess event in Connecticut. It takes a tremendous amount of work by many people to make this tournament a success. And I want to thank those who made this event possible. First, kudos to Norman Burtness, chief tournament director, for his excellent work planning, promoting, and directing the event. He also was in charge of awarding the prizes for this event and rating it. He was wonderful! Next, kudos to Chef Mario Guevara-Rodriguez for his awesome job as the food manager, server, and coordinator. He was literally the master of the grill. On the menu, we had hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, chocolate chip cookies, and various beverages. The food was totally delicious. Next, thanks to USCF NM Suhas Kodali for helping out in everyway possible by answering players questions, introducing himself to new members, helping Norman and Mario, and doing one awesome job as club president. As said by Norman, it was very nice to see many new faces at the tournament, many of whom helped with the setup and cleanup. A few of the players (and apologizes if I forgot someone's name) for volunteering were George Himes, William Cronkhite, Carter Clayton, Jack Clayton, Dan Golda, and Bob Cyr. We finally want to thank DIG and Jithu Sajeevan for renting the tents to us.

There were a few historic results at this year's Summer Open. Of particular note, FM Richard Bauer won first place, making this his tenth time either winning or tying for first place in a New Britain Summer Open, tying the legendary Arkadijs Strazdins record of ten! Rick tied with USCF NM Derek Meredith in the tournament (they actually drew in the final game). It was nice to see Derek at the club again after a long hiatus. Also, we had one of the biggest upsets of the tournament with scholastic player Sumaanyu Jagtiani (401P8) winning his game against scholastic player Arnav Kamineni (1193), a 792-point spread. This tournament was one for the history books, one of the top ten highest-attending Summer Open's in club history. The weather did cooperate, thankfully, and everyone had a wonderful, glorious time. Thanks again to our esteemed volunteers and contributors who helped make this tournament one for the history books. We hope to see you next year at the 2022 New Britain Summer Open.

On August 31, the last meeting of the club's 2020-2021 fiscal year, the club held its 20th "What Are the Odds Blitz Chess Tournament," which drew an impressive thirty-two players. According to the rules of the tournament, the higher-rated players had to give time odds to their lower-rated opponents, thus equalizing the playing field. Many of the higher-rated players had to play with one minute, giving their opponents nine minutes. The games were wild to say the least! After eight rounds of spirited competition, one of the club's brightest scholastic superstars, Clayton Carter, earned first place with FM Nelson Castaneda, who still holds the record for the most wins or ties for first place in this unique tournament. For the historical club records, both players will be listed as co-champions, with Carter's name appearing first since he won on tie-breaks.

SEPTEMBER

Every year since 2011, the NBCC has held an annual tournament to memorialize a prominent figure in Connecticut chess history. This year, we honored Jan Cendrowski. Jan was the club's president in the 1960s and was a commander of the General Haller Post, where our club held its meetings in the 1960s and 1970s. It was Jan who was instrumental in securing this venue for our club for nearly two decades. Of historical note, Jan was the only member to have held all four officer positions at different times throughout his membership in the club. He was a steadfast leader and a strong advocate for chess in our club and in Connecticut. Tragically, he passed away in 1969 at the young age of sixty-two. He passed away while serving as club president.

This was a complete shock to the NBCC community. He was such an important person and role model in our club, and it was sad to see him leave this world so soon. He made an indelible mark on our club, and his legacy will never be forgotten.

In September, USCF NM Suhas Kodali gave Joe Bihlmeyer a much-needed break from lecturing. Suhas gave lectures on various openings and the theory behind the openings. They were very insightful lectures, and we thank Suhas for giving the lectures.

OCTOBER

One of my favorite tournaments of the year is the Oktoberfest Open Chess Championship. This year's tournament, which was directed by Bob Cyr, with assistance from George Himes (his first time as a TD in the club) and USCF NM Suhas Kodali (a floor TD), drew forty players, including a record ten unrated participants. It was very nice to see many scholastic chess players competing as well.

As part of the tradition for this tournament, the club holds its annual Oktoberfest dinner party at a local restaurant. This year, USCF NM Suhas Kodali decided to have the big party back at the famous German restaurant, the East Side in New Britain. Unfortunately, due to many last-minute cancellations, only six members were able to attend. Despite the smaller turnout, everyone had a wonderful time. The club paid for its volunteers' dinner, thanking them for their steadfast service to the club.

The next member who the club honored based on longevity was George Himes III, who recently rejoined our organization. George's history with chess started at a very young age with his father, Dennis, who is also a member of the club. Some of George's earliest memories of his father are over a chess board. George still remembers the first time when he beat his father with queen odds and the experience of accomplishment and pride that it gave him. George's father also used to take him to scholastic tournaments when he was very young and would hover over his games, having to repeatedly be warned for sharp intakes of breath when George was about to blunder, which was to say that George's love of chess can be traced entirely to his father's.

While he has not always had the desire or the wherewithal to study the game in any serious fashion (it should be noted that George has taken several long hiatuses from chess when his interest or time was spent elsewhere), the raw beauty, logic, and complexity of the game forever drew him back to the chess board. And every time George re-entered the dance, the venue was always the NBCC – almost as much of a fixture in his chess memories as his fathers, from playing at the New Britain Quartette Club with the muted sounds of bar music and the clink of glasses in the background, to filing in with his chess equipment past the exiting Zumba class on South Street at the Assyrian Community Center, to our current location at the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, the NBCC family has always been his home for chess, and he eagerly looks forward to many more years and many more memories made here. George joined our family in 2002 and, since then, has moved up the rating ladder, current residing in class A, nearing a rating of 1900. One of his most memorable club tournament victories was when he went undefeated in the Under 1600 section of the 2009 Oktoberfest Open Chess Championship. George, like his father, is a very personable and amiable person. And, also like his father, he is always willing to engage in post-mortem analysis with his opponents after his games. We are so thrilled and delighted that George has become a member of our thriving chess community once again. And we look forward to many more years of his presence at the club. Incidentally, George has expressed his desire to become a USCF tournament director in the near future. We hope that he can make this commitment to join the NBCC executive team. Thanks, George, for your willingness to volunteer and for your membership in our club. The George Himes Quick Chess Tournament was a four-round Swiss system event divided into two sections. Winning the open section was USCF NM Suhas Kodali. The U1600 section was won by Quinn Cotton, one of our new members.

NOVEMBER

After Oktoberfest, the club took a break from the serious competition and held two blitz chess tournaments and its annual quick chess championship. This was a nice change of pace from the longer time-controlled tournaments. The turnout for these events was good, with many experienced and non-experienced players competing.

On November 23, FM Nelson Castaneda gave a nice presentation of games played between World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi from years past. These lessons were a prelude to the 2021 World Chess Championship match to be played between these two grandmasters starting this month. Nelson's lecture was very informative.

DECEMBER

One of the wonderful things that I enjoy most about the club is the variety of activities that are held throughout the year for the membership. In early December, one of these fun activities was a two-week thematic tournament. In this tournament, players were required to start their positions with some of the key positions in the recent 2021 World Chess Championship match between Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi. Throughout the tournament, FM Nelson Castaneda and USCF NM Suhas Kodali gave insight and analysis on these positions. Overall, it was a fun and exciting event, and we hope that the club holds more of these thematic tournaments in 2022.

The final club highlight of the year occurred on December 21. On this biggest social meeting of 2021, the club held its annual Christmas party and bullet chess tournament. This year, our party was catered by Fitzgerald's Foods in Simsbury. And what an excellent choice this was! On the grand menu, we had eggplant parmigiana, chicken picatta, grilled veggie lasagna, sausage and green peppers, oven-roasted seasonal vegetables, green bean almandine, chocolate fudge cake, carrot cake, and beverages. Adding to the big feast were home-made brownies and deviled eggs prepared by Bob Cyr. This was such a nice gesture by Bob, who also enlivened the atmosphere that evening by playing Christmas carols on his keyboard and on his CD player. One of our newest members, Aiden Paradis, also brought food (a nice platter of Christmas cookies). We had members travel very far to this event, especially Mike Smith, who drove all the way from Rhode Island. USCF NM Ted McHugh was the winner of the bullet tournament. It was nice to see him and his son. It was truly one glorious evening, with friends and family, young and old, beginners to masters, celebrating together in the spirit of the holiday season to reflect on another spectacular year at the historic NBCC.



NBCC MEMBERS' MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS


Our members earned the following major achievements in the USCF in 2021.

NBCC MEMBERS RANKING IN THE TOP 100 LISTS IN THE USCF AS OF THE DECEMBER (ANNUAL) RATING SUPPLEMENT

Please note that only ratings of USCF members who have been active within the last year were used in compiling the Top 100 listings.

NBCC MEMBER	USCF TOP PLAYER LIST	USCF RATING	USCF RANKING
FM Nelson Castaneda	Age 50 or Older	2339	52 nd
	Quick Age 50 or Older	2222	31 st tie
	Blitz Age 50 or Older	2313	17 th
USCF NM Edward McHugh	Age 50 or Older	2297	61 st
USCF NM Derek Meredith	Blitz Age 50 or Older	2047	67 th
FM Richard Bauer	Age 65 or Older	2251	22 nd
	Quick Age 65 or Older	2084	37 th
	Blitz Age 65 or Older	2186	10 th
	Age 50 or Older	2251	77 th
	Quick Age 50 or Older	2084	100 th
	Blitz Age 50 or Older	2186	36 th
Mark Bourque	Blitz Age 65 or Older	1916	49 th
Elizabeth Smith	Women Age 65 or Older	1470	15 th
	Women Quick Age 65 or Older	1477	7 th
	Women Blitz Age 65 or Older	1247	4 th
	Women Age 50 or Older	1470	30 th
	Women Quick Age 50 or Older	1477	14 th
	Women Blitz Age 50 or Older	1247	9 th

NBCC MEMBER EARNING USCF EXPERT TITLE

 As previously mentioned, Jithu Sajeevan earned the expert title in the USCF in 2021.

CHES TRIVIA

With the 2021 World Chess Championship match being held this year between World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen and challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi, I decided to devote this year's trivia section to questions about the history of the world chess championship matches and the players who participated in them.

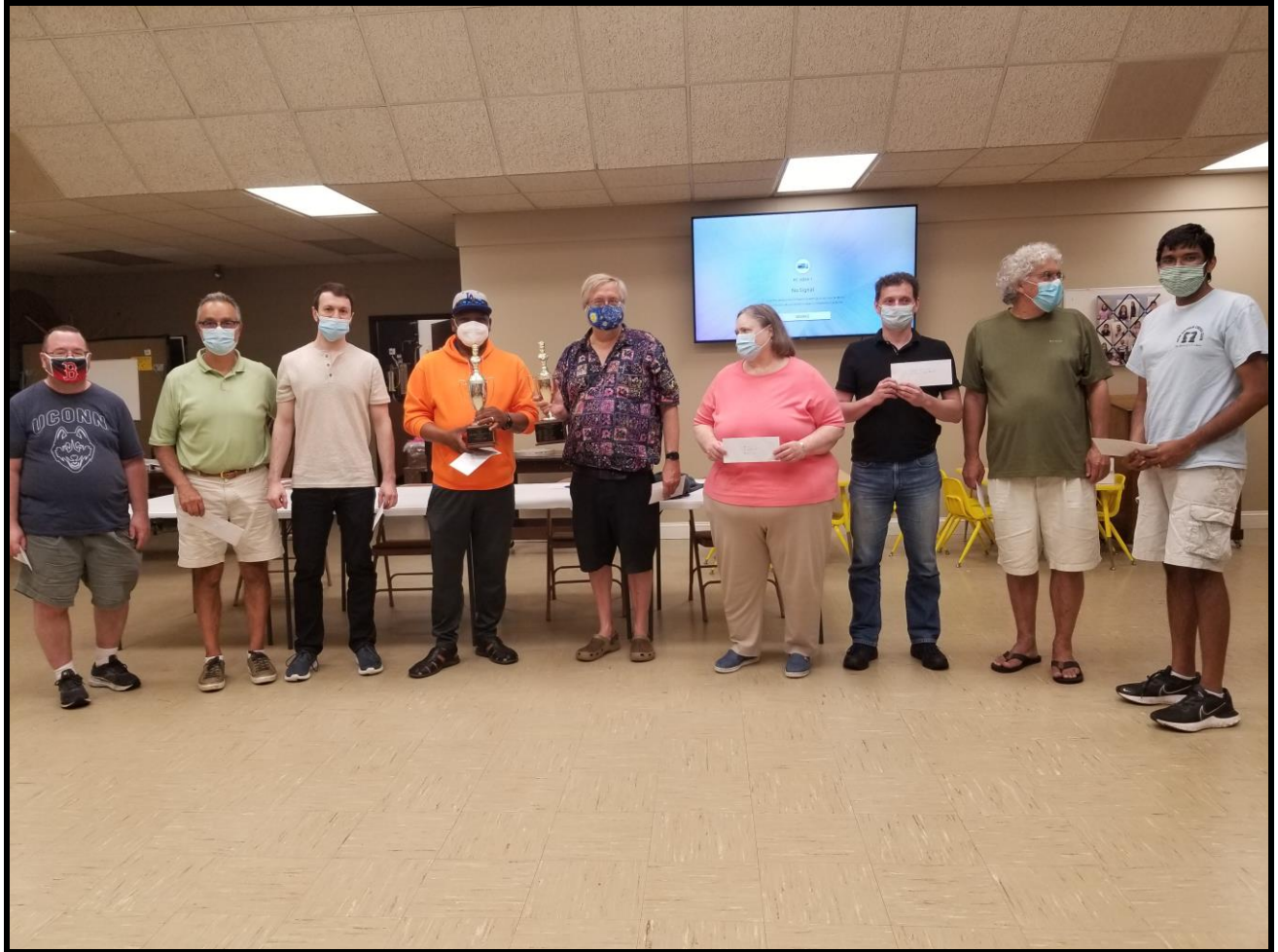
Over the last few months, I perused the web on the subject of world chess champions and championships in order to create four questions for this year's club trivia challenge. I hope that you are up for the test! You can find the answers on page 37.

1. In what year was the first official world chess championship match held?
 - a) 1840
 - b) 1855
 - c) 1886
 - d) 1901
2. Following the death of what reigning world champion did FIDE (the International Chess Federation) take over the administration of the World Chess Championship?
 - a) Max Euwe
 - b) Alexander Alekhine
 - c) Mikhail Tal
 - d) Tigran Petrosian
3. How many games were played between GM Garry Kasparov and GM Anatoly Karpov in their five world chess championship matches?
 - a) 98
 - b) 111
 - c) 125
 - d) 144
4. Who won the World Chess Championship reunification match of 2006?
 - a) Vladimir Kramnik
 - b) Viswanathan Anand
 - c) Veselin Topalov
 - d) Rustam Kasimdzhanov

NBCC PICTURE GALLERY

The following photos were taken by Suhas Kodali, Nancy Castaneda, Richard Bauer. and Bob Cyr.

STRAZDINS CUP/STEIN WINNERS OF 2021



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

John Twombly, Mario Guevara-Rodriguez, Michael Smith, Mack Elder (Andris Stein winner),
Richard Bauer (Arkadijs Cup winner), Elizabeth Smith, Joseph Bihlmeyer,
Nelson Castaneda, and Suhas Kodali

2021 NBCC CHAMPIONSHIP AND RESERVE PLAYOFF MATCHES



Joseph Bihlmeyer vs. Nelson Castaneda



Bob Wooster vs. Eric Hilhorst

NELSON CASTANEDA SIMULTANEOUS CHESS EXHIBITION OF 2021



THE KIDS ARE TAKING ON THE MASTER!

2021 NEW BRITAIN SUMMER OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



Chef Mario Guevara-Rodriguez – Master of the Grill!



George Himes and David Hall



Shanmugam Vangili and Lisa Smith

Scholastic Section Winners (with TD Norman Burtness)



Zachary Lacava, Jithya Sajeevan, Ryan Gentes, and Michael Fomin

Under 1621 Section Winners (with TD Norman Burtness)



Lisa Smith, Carter Clayton, Arnav Kamineni, and Sumaanyu Jagtiani (upset prize)

2021 NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB OKTOBERFEST DINNER PARTY



2021 NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB QUICK CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



Nelson Castaneda and Dmitriy Leykekhman

THE PASSING OF GRANDMASTER GILDARDO GARCIA

It is with profound sadness that I pass along a message from FM Nelson Castaneda about the passing of former honorary New Britain Chess Club member Gildardo Garcia. Mr. Garcia left this world on the morning of January 15 in the city of Medellin, Colombia, after a long battle with the coronavirus. He is survived by his wife, Marta Rendon, and his daughters, Vanessa and Melissa. He died at the young age of 66.



Gildardo was one of the most pleasant chess players to grace our community during the early 2000s. According to Professor Castaneda, the GM “shared many good moments of chess with some members of our community.”

The GM had quite an impressive chess resume. First and foremost, he was one of the highest-ranked chess players in Colombia, becoming, in 2008, the country’s second grandmaster. His highest chess rating was 2540, which he achieved in July 1994, and he was ranked fourteenth in Colombia at the time of his death. Early in his chess career, in 1974, he won the inaugural Pan American Junior Chess Championship. Next, he won the 1989 World Open Chess Championship. Mr. Garcia also won the Colombian Chess Championship ten times and played for the Olympiads for Colombia in 2006.

While in Connecticut, Gildardo gave a few simultaneous chess exhibitions at the University of Connecticut Chess Club and at the NBCC. He also played in a few NBCC team matches with the Springfield, MA, Chess Club. According to the Connecticut State Chess Association records, Mr. Garcia took home first place in the 2009 Connecticut State Open Chess Championship.



I, like those who knew the GM well, had very fond memories of him. He was a caring man who exhibited kindness to all of his chess friends. His last days on this earth were a struggle, but his fighting spirit was strong until the end.

On behalf of the entire NBCC and Connecticut chess community, let us take this time to reflect on the wonderful legacy and life of one of the greatest chess legends in our state’s history. Let us pray for peace for Mr. Garcia’s family as they deal with their loss, and may GM Gildardo Garcia rest in peace for all eternity.

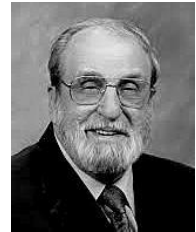
TRIBUTES TO THREE CLUB MEMBERS **WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

There are three former club members who were greatly involved in our organization who have passed away in the last five years. These gentlemen were also very close to me personally, having been very instrumental in the development of my life's philosophies and values. I take this moment to reflect on their time in our thriving organization and to reflect on their legacies.



The first person who I am remembering is Peter Galazan. Peter joined the club around 1970. During his nearly forty years as a member, he competed in countless tournaments and events. Peter was a class C chess player for most of his life. At the age of eighty-eight, he decided to retire from the club and the game. Peter was a man of integrity and compassion. He deeply cared about all of his chess friends and was a steadfast supporter of the club. He particularly enjoyed competing in the club's sectioned tournaments. Let us take this moment to reflect on the life of this legendary man. May Peter rest in peace for all eternity.

The second person who I am remembering is Edmund Valauskas. Known fondly as Eddie by his chess friends, he joined our club in the late 1960s. He, like Peter, relished participating in the club's tournaments, particularly the annual New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship. He was an amateur player who greatly took pride in the club, having served as a tournament director alongside Arkadijs Strazdins. He retired from chess around the same time as Peter. Eddie also had a wonderful time with his chess buddies at their homes on the weekends. Eddie was a pleasant gentleman. Let us take this moment to reflect on the life of this legendary man. May Edmund rest in peace for all eternity.



The final person who I am remembering is William "Bill" Dworski. Bill was one of the longest-standing members in club history, having joined the organization in the late 1940s. Bill, like Eddie, was involved in club management. He was our club president for one year in the 1950s. Bill, like Eddie and Peter, was an active chess player for over six decades, retiring from the game when Peter and Eddie did. Bill was a very strong class chess player, nearly competing in class A for decades. He was a soft spoken and kind man. Let us take this moment to reflect on the life of this legendary man. May William rest in peace for all eternity.

NBCC BEST GAME OF 2021

From FM Richard Bauer, NBCC games judge:

Last year was the tenth year that I selected one or more special game(s) from the hundreds that have been played at the club or by club players over the years to award a special prize. It is time to preserve the history of this award with a list of past winners:

YEAR	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	EVENT	WHITE	BLACK	OPENING	FEATURE
2011	Gert Hillhorst	Nelson Castaneda	Oktoberfest	Gert Hillhorst	Nelson Castaneda	Reti Opening	A Knight on the Rim Wins!
2011	Dennis Himes (tie)	Tom Hartmayer (tie)	NBCC x UConn	Dennis Himes	Tom Hartmayer	Slav Defense	QR x QR
2012	Nelson Castaneda	Mark Bourque	Strazdins Cup	Mark Bourque	Nelson Castaneda	Sicilian Defense	RBB x RBB
2013	Alan Mo	Dennis Prawira	Oktoberfest	Dennis Prawira	Alan Mo	Bogo-Indian Defense	Well Played Upset
2014	James Nitz	Nelson Castaneda	NBCC Championship	James Nitz	Nelson Castaneda	English Opening	Positional Domination
2014	Suhas Kodali	Mark Bourque	Oktoberfest	Suhas Kodali	Mark Bourque	Ruy Lopez	Best Opening Combination
2014	Dennis Prawira	Danny Pascetta	Paul Glidewell Quads	Danny Pascetta	Dennis Prawira	Sicilian Defense	Best Endgame
2015	Doug Fiske	Nelson Castaneda	Oktoberfest	Doug Fiske	Nelson Castaneda	Queens Gambit Declined	Three on Three
2016	Derek Meredith	Nelson Castaneda	NBCC Championship	Derek Meredith	Nelson Castaneda	Double King Pawn	Stunning Rook Sacrifice
2017	Aaron Britt	Vijay Yammanuru	Julius Fuster Memorial	Aaron Britt	Vijay Yammanuru	Nimzovitch Defense	Mating Attack
2018	Doug Fiske	none	USATE	Roshan Idnani	Doug Fiske	Pirc Defense	Opposite Side Castling
2019	Lisa Smith	Punvayrat Upadhyay	David Lees Memorial	Punvayrat Upadhyay	Lisa Smith	Marshall Attack	Sacrificial Mating Attack
2020	Derek Meredith	none	NBCC v FCCC	Derek Meredith	Ryan Young	French Two Knights	Double Rook Sacrifice

This year's selection featured the two masters who also top the list of most active club members, FM Nelson Castaneda and USCF NM Suhas Kodali. Their frequent games at the top of the wallchart feature a true clash of styles. Suhas stays close to well-worn theory, trying to keep a tight grip on the position to make sure that it is only his opponent who can get in trouble. Nelson encourages sharp, double-edged tactics, where his ability will prevail. Nelson has had a decided advantage in the results, but Suhas has gained the most. With practical experience from this elevated competition, he has earned the USCF NM Master title.

Their latest clash came in the Oktoberfest Tournament. By selecting the Najdorf Sicilian, Nelson ensured a sharp game, but Suhas had prepared a solid structure to take him into the middle game. The game broke open and wound up as a contest between Suhas's rook, bishop, and knight vs. Nelson's two rooks and extra pawns. Material imbalance leads to intense play.

Following the theme of rook play, I am adding a bonus endgame from my struggle with USCF NM David Herscovici. I normally do not highlight my own games in this spot, but this particular endgame is worth sharing.

Oktoberfest: Round 3, Board 1, 2021.10.5
Suhas Kodali - Nelson Castaneda
Sicilian Defense: Najdorf Variation
RBNxRR RAMPAGING ROOKS
"<https://lichess.org/study/HBfzG5Yv/6xBK6pto>"
Annotated by FM Rick Bauer "ConnMan"

Two masters with contrasting styles square off in the critical game of this tournament.

1. e4

Suhas always plays the same opening move, which claims to be "best by test" despite contrary statistical evidence!

1... c5

Nelson will play most anything vs 1. e4, but the Sicilian is a favorite.

2. Nf3 d6 3. d4

Only the bold and well prepared enter the Open Sicilian these days! 3. Bb5+ is safer.

3... cxd4

Almost always played but worth considering is 3... Nf6 which usually transposes after 4. Nc3 cxd4.

4. Nxd4

4. Qxd4 allows Black to gain time or the two bishops after 4... Nc6 5. Bb5 Bd7.

4... Nf6 5. Nc3 a6

The Najdorf is Nelson's favorite Sicilian. He is hardly alone.

6. Be2

The Classical or Karpov Attack. Suhas is highly influenced by Anatoly Karpov, the ultimate classicist!

6... e5!?

Black creates a pawn structure weakness on d5, but the time gained on the awkward Nd4 justifies it! 6... e6!? is the Scheveningen approach favored by Kasparov.

7. Nb3

The knight is not great on this square, but others are worse. 7. Nf5 allows 7... d5!

7... Be7 8. O-O

8. Qd3 could also be tried here, preserving the option of queenside castling. 8... Be6 9. O-O Nbd7 10. Nd5 O-O 11. Bd2

8... O-O 9. Qd3!?

This Stockfish recommendation has become Suhas's main weapon against the Najdorf. It bypasses reams of opening theory. (300/5,000 master games) The main idea is to protect e4 in anticipation of an early Nc3-d5. It scores as well as other lines (+24% -16%) 9. a4 b6?! was Castaneda - Bauer a round later in the same tournament.

9... Be6

Keeping with the Najdorf piece placement. 9... Nc6 was tried in Kodali - Bauer 2021, which preceded this game. Surprisingly, all three games between Kodali, Castaneda, and Bauer yielded a significant advantage to Black out of the opening.

10. Bd2!?

The bishop eyes the a5 square, supporting Nb3-a5 after Nc3-d5. Be3 is more popular in the database, but it might have been moved there earlier.

10... Nbd7

10... Nc6 11. Nd5 when the coverage of the b4 square by the Bd2 saves the d pawn.

11. Nd5!!

The point of White's setup. Black now eliminates the backward pawn, but White gains a bind on the queenside.

11... Bxd5

11... Nxd5?! 12. exd5 shows another feature of the Q on d3: It covers f5, the only retreat square for the Be6. 12... e4 13. Qxe4 Nf6 saves the piece but leaves White better. On 11... Nb6 12. Ba5 is annoying.

12. exd5



The position is surprisingly balanced, given that White has the two bishops and a secure advanced pawn on d5. Black's position has hidden resources.

12... Ne8

Most popular, but is it best? 12... Rc8!? is Stockfish's choice but has only been tested once. 13. c4 (13. Na5 Nc5) 13... b6 14. Rac1 a5 15. a4 Nc5 16. Nxc5 Kushagra, Mohan - Ter Sahakyan, S., 0-1, 1st Gujarat Open 2018 16... Rxc5! preserves the c5 square for the knight.

12... Nc5 has been tried by numerous super-GMs. This exchange pioneered by Najdorf specialist Walter Browne has not been particularly effective here: 13. Nxc5 dxc5 14. c4 Bd6 (14... Qc7 15. Rae1 Bd6 16. Qh3 Rfe8 17. Bc3 g6 18. Bd3 +/- Nepomniachtchi, I. - Gelfand, B., 1-0, Zurich Korchnoi CC 2017) (14... Ne8 15. Bc3) 15. Qh3 e4 16. f4 exf3 17. Rxf3 +/- Nepomniachtchi, I. - Karjakin, Sergey, 1/2-1/2, Saint Louis Rapid 2017.

13. f4?! N

This aggressive move backfires as the e5 square becomes available to Black's pieces. 13. Na5! White's key strategic idea in this line works well now despite dismal results in the master database. 13... Nc5 (13... Qc8 14. b4 Bd8 15. Nb3 e4! 16. Qxe4 Nef6 17. Qc4 Qxc4 18. Bxc4 Ne5 19. Bd3? (19. Be2 Rc8 20. Rac1 Nc4 still gives White hopes of a slight edge.) 19... Nxd3 20. cxd3 Nxd5 Parligras - Xiong 2019, where Black's slight edge was converted to a win.) 14. Qe3 (14. Qh3) 14... f5 15. b4 Ne4 16. Be1 (16. Nxb7 Qc7 17. Na5 Bg5) 16... Ng5 17. Nxb7 (13. Bg4 g6) (13. c4 Bg5 14. Bxg5 Qxg5 15. Na5 b6 16. Nc6 a5 17. b3 f5 18. f4 exf4 19. Qd4 = Li Chao - Giri 2016)

13... Bf6!

This move gives White a great opportunity to go wrong. 13... exf4! was the other effective choice.

14. f5?



It is only natural to try to keep the f6-b2 diagonal closed, but White should blunt it with 14. fxe5 Bxe5 15. c3! =.

14... e4!?

This move gives a great insight into Nelson's sharp style. It maximizes chances for both sides! 14... Bg5! is much simpler since the exchange of bishops greatly favors Black.

15. Qxe4 Bxb2 16. Rab1 Be5

16... Nef6 is better sooner, but the establishment of Black's "bad" bishop on e5 is a major accomplishment.

17. c4?!

17. g4! is White's only chance at a level game, though Nelson would be happy with the dynamic positions that result: 17... Bf6 18. Na5 Nc5. If 17. Na5 Nef6 18. Qf3 Qc7 19. Bd3 Nc5

17... Nef6 18. Qh4 Re8

Black is now better due to his active coordinated pieces.

19. Bd3 b5!

The sharpest! The pawn is held by ...Qb6+, but now c6 beckons the Nb3.

20. Na5! Qb6+ 21. Kh1 Nc5! 22. Bc2 Rac8?

Since White's knight is coming to c6, the rook is not well placed here. 22... Nce4! 23. Bxe4 Qd4! -/+

23. Rf3?



Returning the favor. Now, Black finds a very deep and effective combination. 23. Nc6! was white's one and only chance in the game for a slight edge.

23... Nce4!

This piece looks unsupported, but Black has some tricks up his sleeve!

24. Bxe4

24 Be1? Is even worse after 24...Bc3!! i.e. 25 Bxc3 Nxc3 26 Rxc3 Qxa5, and Black has a winning bind (-7).

24...Qd4!

The double attack wins back the piece since the bishops can never defend each other. The major lines are under Black's control.

25. Bc3?

25. Be3! Qxe4 26. Qxe4 Nxe4 27.Nc6 is better.

25...Qxe4 26. Qxe4 Nxe4 27. Bxe5 (27. Be1 bxc4) **Nd2!**

The "Stinger at the End" wins the exchange since the Rb1 is undefended.

28. Bxd6 Nxb1 29. Bb4

Preventing mate on e1 and hoping to trap the Nb1.

29... bxc4

29... Re2! saves the Nb1: 30. Rd3 (30. Rb3 Nd2 31. Rb2 Re1#) 30... bxc4 31. Rd1 c3 32. Rxb1 Rb2, and Black wins without endgame heroics.

30. Rf1 c3 31. Rxb1 c2 32. Rc1 Re3?

Black will play eight moves in a row with this rook! 32... Re4! would have gained a key tempo... 33. Nc6 (33. a3 Rd4) 33... Rxc6! 34. dxc6 Rxb4 35. c7 Rc4

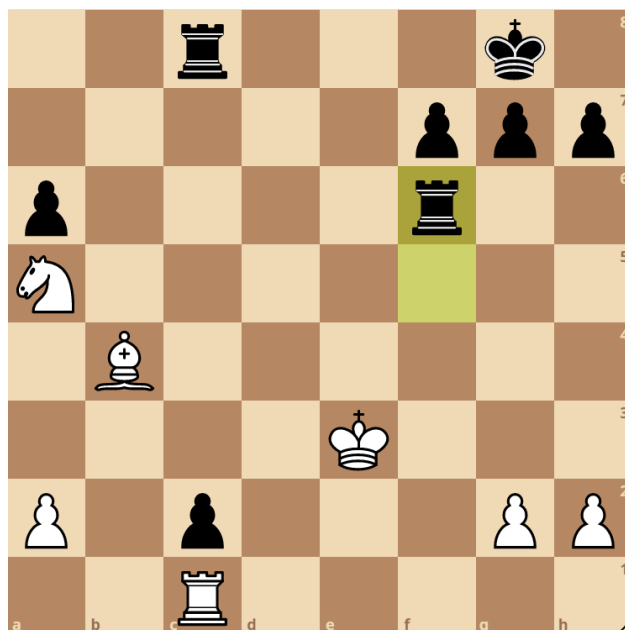
33. Kg1 Rd3 34. Kf2?

White wants to activate his king, but this exposes it to a key check. Better is 34. Nb3 Rxd5 35. f6.

34... Rxd5 35. f6 (35. g4 Rd4) **Rf5+!**

Avoiding the doubled f pawns.

36. Ke3 Rxf6



Black has gained two pawns and a rook for two minor pieces. Material is close to even, but Black's pieces are much better placed than White's. The active white king struggles against the two rooks. Stockfish rates the position at -3. Still, this is a rich 3 on 2-piece pre-endgame. If White could win the c2 pawn and coordinate his pieces, he would be better.

37. Nb3! Rb6?

37... Re8+! 38. Kd3 Rf2! -+

38. Ba3?

Logically protecting c1 and c5 but defective. 38. Be1! holds the kingside, but not the attractive 38. Bc5?? since Rxb3+ 39. axb3 Rxc5 wins.

38... Rh6!

White will win the c2 pawn, so Black finds greener pastures.

39. Nc5

Gaining the monster on c2 for h2 would seem beneficial, but now the kingside pawns fall.

39. h3 Rg6 40. Kf2 Rc3 maintains c2.

39. Bc5 Rxh2 40. Rxc2 may be a tad better.

39... Rxh2 40. Rxc2 h5!

Just in time, the h pawn targets g2, freeing the Rh2.

41. Kf3 h4

41... Rh4 is OK, but why retreat when you can attack?

42. Rc4 (42. Re2 h3) **Rc6 43. Rg4 Rf6+ 44. Ke4**

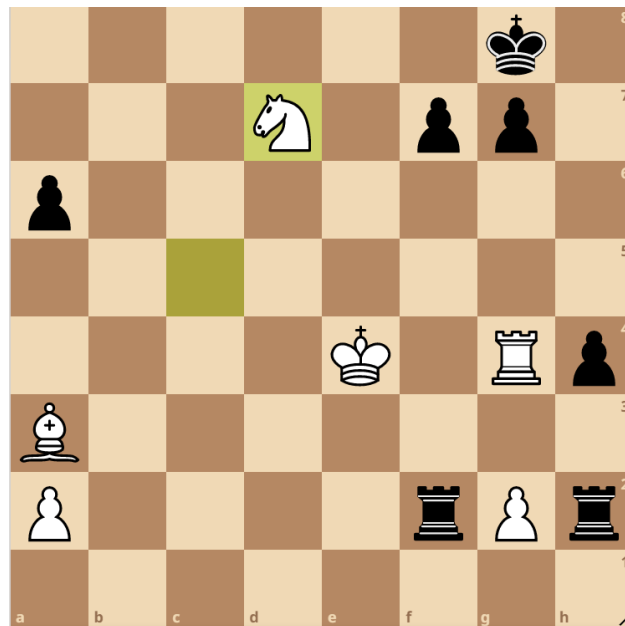
44. Ke3 h3 45. Ne4 Re6

44... Rf2!

Effectively doubling on the 7th since g2 cannot be held.

45. Nd7

Black's plan was to capture g2 and advance the h pawn, but now he finds even better. The next moves by White are completely forced.



45... f5+! 46. Ke3 Rxa2 47. Ra4 h3!

The tactical blows come one after another.

48. Rxa6

48. Bd6 Rhxg2

48... hxg2!

White finally gets to force a few moves, but when the black king escapes, it's time to resign.

49. Ra8+ Kh7 50. Nf8+ Kh6 51. Ra6+ Kh5

0-1.

White resigned.

White's rook must abandon the Ba3 to stop the g2 pawn from queening.



NBCC BEST ENDGAME OF 2021

Bauer - Herscovici

“ROOKED”

"<https://lichess.org/study/HBfzG5Yv/y2N6sF02>" Chapter 2

Annotated by FM Rick Bauer “Connman”

English Opening: “Anglo-Grünfeld Variation”

White maintains the slightest of edges from the opening all the way to a rook ending. "All rook endings are draws," except maybe this one!

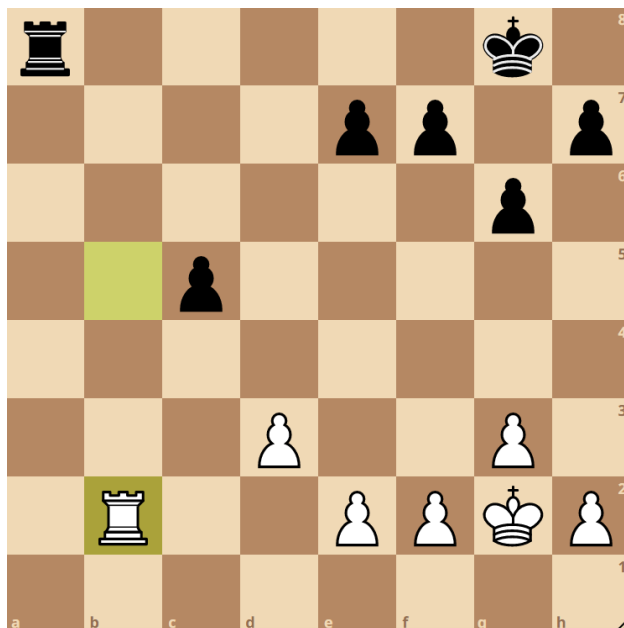
1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. cxd5 Nxd5 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Rb1 c6 8. Nf3 O-O 9. O-O Nd7 10. c4 Qa5 11. Qc2 Rb8 12. d3 c5 13. Bd2 Qc7 14. Bc3 Ne5 15. Nxe5 Bxe5 16. Rb2 b6 17. Rfb1 Bb7 18. Bxb7 Rxb7 19. a4 Bxc3 20. Qxc3 Rfb8 21. Rb5 Qc6 22. Qb2 a6 23. Rb3 Qxa4 24. Ra1 Qd7 25. Rxa6 b5 26. cxb5 Rxb5 27. Ra8 Rxa8 28. Rxb5 Qd4!

With this powerful centralization of the queen, Black offered a draw. I was not thrilled with my winning chances but figured it to be worth playing out, that being a great way to learn endgames.

As it turned out, we were less than halfway through the moves of the game. David is a worthy opponent in all phases, but we are all prone to error in the ending.

29. Kg2!? Qxb2 30. Rxb2

Black did not have to trade queens, but rook endings are notoriously hard to win!



White has only the slightest of advantages in this rook ending.

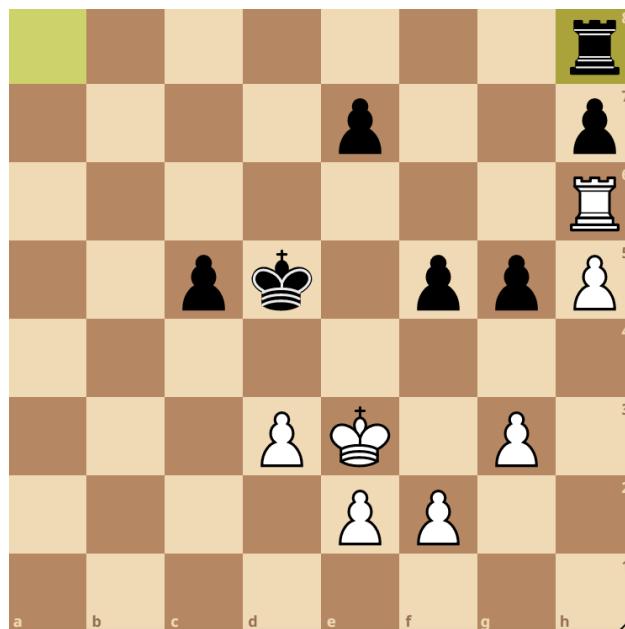
30... f5 31. Kf3 Kf7 32. h4 Kf6 33. Ke3 Ke5 34. Rb7 Kd6 35. h5!?

The h pawn creates a second weakness.

35...g5?

I also thought this was best, but White's h-pawn becomes a monster, even with Black's h-pawn still on the board. Better are 1) 35... gxh5 36. Rb6+ Ke5 37. Rh6, 2) 35... Ra3 36. hxg6 hxg6 37. Rb6+ Kd7 38. Rxc6 c4, and 3) 35... Ra6 36. Kf4 Ke6 37. Rb5 Rc6 38. Kg5 Kf7 39. Kh6 gxh5+

36. Rb6+ Kd5 37. Rh6 Rh8



Now the white rook dominates its counterpart, but Black did not want to contend with a strong passed h pawn.

38. Kd2 c4?!

Exchanging the weak c pawn, but the diversion of black's king proves to be permanent!

39. dxc4+ Kxc4 40. Re6! Re8

The rook standoff has been replicated on the e file, for restricting black's king. It is time to consider sacrificing a pawn to break out of the bind with 40... Ra8 or 40... Rd8+ 41. Ke3 Rd7 42. Re5.

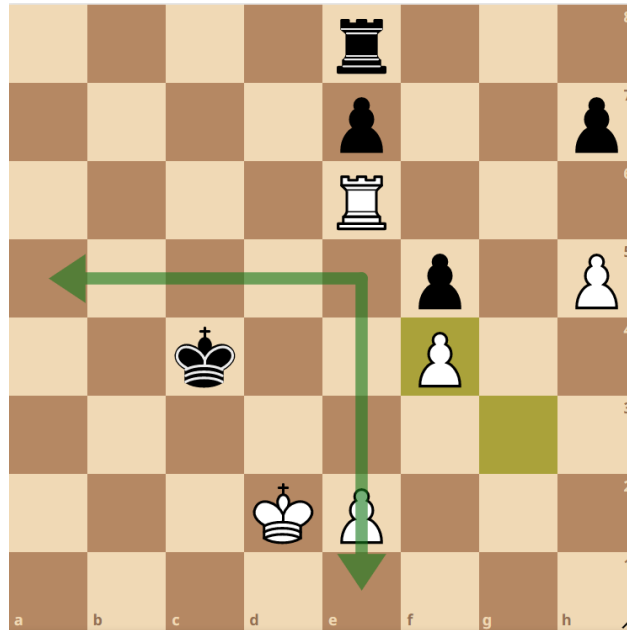
41. f4!

Fixing the pawns and preventing the black king from coming back home.

41... gxf4

41... g4 42. Ke3 zugzwang!

42. gxf4



The monster Re6 not only traps the Re8 e7, but it keeps black's king in a box due to the threat of winning the f pawn. That leaves the white king plenty of time to saunter over to the kingside.

42...Kd4 43. e3+ Kc4

43... Kd5 drops f5 to 44. Re5+ Kd6 45. Rxf5, but actually gives Black a better chance to hold by getting the king back onside.

44. Ke2

White is now winning. His king will break through on the kingside. Black's rook is frozen, and his king cannot breach the fourth rank without losing the f5 pawn to check.

44... Kc3 45. h6!

Preventing ...Rg8+-g7 when the king gets to the g file.

45... Kc4 46. Kf3 Kd3 47. Kg3

Consistent and winning. 47. e4! Is quicker but less thematic.

47... Ke2 48. Kh4 Rg8 49. Rxe7 Kf3 50. Kh5 Rg4 51. Re5

In mutual time pressure, we both missed 51. Rg7! trapping black's rook and forcing the won pawn ending.

51... Rg1 52. Rxf5 Rh1+ 53. Kg5 Rg1+ 54. Kf6 Kxe3

54... Rg6+ 55. Ke7 Rxh6 56. Re5 and the f pawn will push through.

55. Ke7 Rh1 56. Rf6 Rh4 57. Kf7 Rh5?

The pawn ending is clearly lost after 57... Rxf4 58. Rxf4 Kxf4 59. Kg7 Kf5 60. Kxh7, but one last try at cutting off the white king with 57...Rg4 makes things a bit more difficult: 58. f4 Kf4 59. Ra6! Rxf4 (Kxf4 60. Ra4+) 60. Kg7

58. Kg7!

1-0.

Black resigned since the h6 pawn will cost his rook: 58... Ke4 59. Kxh7 Rh2 60. Kg7 Rg2+ 61. Rg6 Ra2 62. h7 Ra7+ 63. Kh6



BOB CYR'S COMMENTARY

My friends, we have made it through another very successful year at the historic NBCC, “The Heart of Connecticut Chess.” Two-thousand-and-twenty-one was quite an incredible and memorable year for our family. And despite dealing with another year of the coronavirus pandemic, we endured. It was not easy, but we made it! Our drive and determination never failed. Here is a recap of some of the highlights of the year.

Club meetings for the first quarter of the year were held virtually due to COVID-19. Once restrictions on the virus subsided, we resumed in-person meetings starting in April. Initially, because of low membership turnouts, the club officers decided to hold many informal tournaments until its first major tournament of the year – the annual Arkadijs Strazdins Cup/Andris Strazdins Stein in May. After this tournament, the club officers decided to transition right into the annual club championship warmup tournament cycle and then to the main event, which was won by FM Nelson Castaneda. After the NBCC Championship, the club held its most social event of the year – the annual New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship, an outdoor tournament that had to be rescheduled because of a tropical storm. The club was quite blessed to have two people who were very instrumental in making this tournament a success: Chief TD Norman Burtness and Master Chef Mario Guevara-Rodriguez. Incidentally, this tournament won the Connecticut State Chess Association Best Tournament of the Year! The club’s final major tournament of the year was Oktoberfest. After this event, the club held a small party at the famous East Side Restaurant, where six of its volunteers were treated to an authentic German dinner. In December, the club held its annual Christmas party, where we gathered in the spirit of the holiday to reflect and remember on another fantastic and phenomenal year at the club.

One of my most memorable meetings at the club in 2021 was when I had the chance to reconnect with former member Mike Sheroff. Mike just happened to be in town traveling from Florida when he stopped by and paid our club a visit. I recognized him instantly despite the fact that he was wearing a mask! I was so elated to see him. Mike was a member of our family during the 1980s and 1990s and was club secretary for a few years during the 1990s. As NBCC historian, I spent about ten minutes getting Mike caught up with all of the news about the club during the last twenty years. That was not an easy task! Unfortunately, Mike was just in town for a short while, so our visit could not last longer than one week. We still communicate via e-mail, and he was so impressed with the massive documentation and preservation of our club’s history through the decades. These are the memories that bind.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am so thrilled to continue the work as your humble historian. I honestly and truly love this amazing job and this exciting opportunity that has been bestowed upon me. I am even more proud to be your friend. We are one tight-knit family that has proven that nothing can deter us from being one of the greatest chess institutions in America.

I love you all. Again, thank you for the privilege of your time. May God watch over you and your family. I wish you all the joy that this season brings and the blessings for peace, health, and happiness in the coming year. Cheers!

President:
Vice President:
Treasurer:
Secretary:
Webmaster:
Historian:

Suhas Kodali
Elizabeth Smith
David Herscovici
Mario Guevara-Rodriguez
Gert Hilhorst
Bob Cyr



SOLUTION AND ANSWERS TO CHESS PUZZLE AND TRIVIA

CHESS PUZZLE (from cover page)

1. h4+ Kh5
2. Bf7+ Kxh4
3. Qxh6#

CHESS TRIVIA (from page 13)

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a

