



MONTANA

CHESS NEWS

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— *by William H. McBroom*

This was a terrific tournament! It was well attended, with more than 50 players showing up from four states. Montana players reciprocated the excellent participation those from Washington and Idaho have given to some tournaments in the Treasure State. Greg Nowak, Mike Jensen, Sherwood Moore, Dan McCourt, Bob Leader, Bill McBroom, Karl Schmitz, and Scott Young all played in the weekend event. Romie Carpenter's work schedule precluded his participation, but he came along to cheer us on for a round and a half.

Nowak, Montana's strongest player, had to settle to start the tournament on board 5. Yes, the competition was that strong. In addition to an IM and two USCF masters, there was another expert who edged Greg out to start on board 4. However, by the end of the tournament Nowak was playing on board one.

The IM was John Donaldson. He gave a simul on Friday evening preceding the tournament. The single game he lost was to a strong Spokane player. He drew five and won 28 of the 34. Missoula's Dan McCourt and Greg Nowak were two who nicked him for a half point each. Bill McBroom drew black against Donaldson for round 1 on Saturday and had the pleasure of playing an opponent rather more than a thousand rating points higher (at least for most of the first half of the score sheet). Nowak ended

up drawing with the tournament winner in the last round. The only other Montana to get to play the IM was Mike Jensen, who was paired with him on board 3 in the last round.

As this suggests, even an IM can drop the full point.

The Montana players came away convinced of the message Romie and Bill have been carrying for several years. Washington players are strong. In sitting down across from a 1300 player it is comforting to imagine an easy game with the full point. Forget it. These guys are tough. There is a lad, not more than nine years old, who only narrowly missed a win in the last round. It would have given him four points. Look for this kid to be an expert, if not a master, by the time he is a teenager.

As this suggests, even an IM can drop the full point.

It's looking like the Spokane Chess Club will have Donaldson back next year. But whether he comes or not, the Collyer is sure to be well-attended as usual. Gary Younker is known for his well-run tournaments and friendly manner. That is a good combination. If one is so inclined, a round three bye gives a player a chance to sample some of the good restaurants Spokane has to offer. Mark it down for 2001. Chess is super in Spokane in February during the Collyer open. (It ain't bad other times either.)



Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

The MCA's Annual Business Meeting will be held on the campus of the University of Great Falls, (the site of the State Open), on Sunday morning, June 4th beginning at 8:30. As usual, there will be several topics to debate and vote on that will set the MCA's course for the following year, including the election of the Executive Board.

If you have a little time to devote to furthering chess in Montana, or some ideas of how to accomplish that aim, please consider standing for election. But whether or not you think you have what it takes to get your face added to Mount Rushmore, please plan on coming to the meeting and making your voice heard.

In addition to the election of the Executive Board, the following topics have been presented for inclusion on the Annual Business Meeting agenda:

Grand Prix System: Sherwood Moore and Dan McCourt propose granting any tournament with a minimum number of participants Grand Prix status. The minimum number proposed by Moore is ten, while McCourt favors the lower threshold of

six. They believe this will encourage a greater level of participation in MCA tournaments.

State Closed (I): There is a proposal from Dan McCourt to return to the six-player, 5-round, round robin format for the State Closed Championship. He believes this will make scheduling it easier.

State Closed (II): Les Brennan proposes changing the path to the State Closed by permitting anyone to play in a 5 round Swiss who meets the following requirements: To have played in the State Open that year and to have played in at least one other tournament 100 miles or more away from home. He believes this will encourage more players to travel out of town to play in tournaments.

City League: Brian Bailey proposes starting up a City League as an addition to the current tournament setup. His idea is to make each player in a rated tournament a representative of his home town, and keep track of his scores against players from other cities. At the end of the tournament season the

city with the most wins would be declared League Champion.

Scholastic Chess: Brian Bailey proposes reactivating the moribund scholastic chess scene in Montana by sponsoring a High School Chess Championship tournament. He believes this is important for the future of chess in Montana.

Internet Tournament: Doug Hansen proposes organizing an Internet tournament for Montana's chess clubs or cities.

P.R. Officers: Thad Suits proposes appointing a public relations officer for each city in which tournaments are held. The job of the P.R. Officer would be to get the word out about chess events in the officer's own city. He believes that making one person responsible for tournament and club publicity in each city will increase awareness of chess activities on the part of MCA members and their communities.

Be sure to attend the Annual Business Meeting and help decide the fate of these issues and any others that may arise.

MCA Board Members (1999-2000)

Doug Hansen - President (761-4517)

Dan McCourt - Vice President (721-0254)

Ron Erickson - Western V.P. (549-4671)

Les Brennan - Eastern V.P. (748-2154)

Thad Suits - Secretary/Treasurer (453-6160)

Let them know about your ideas, complaints, suggestions, and praise.

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All submissions are welcome, including photos. Articles by E-mail or on a PC-formatted diskette are especially appreciated. Among the formats supported are ASCII text, Swis-Sys, WordPad, Microsoft Works, Publisher, Lotus and .PGN.

Publishing Schedule:

Issue 1 - Mar. 1, Issue 2 (Special for the Open) - May 10, Issue 3 - July 31, Issue 4 - Sept. 25, Issue 5 - Dec. 8. Deadline for most submissions is ten days before the publication date.

Grand Prix	
Race Leaders	
NOWAK, G	21.06
SKOVRON, J	20.88
JOHANSSON, J	12.60
MOORE, S	11.40
LONG, M	11.34
SUITS, T	9.81
BAILEY, B	9.22
MCBROOM, W	9.22
WARNER, N	9.14
HANSEN, D	8.83

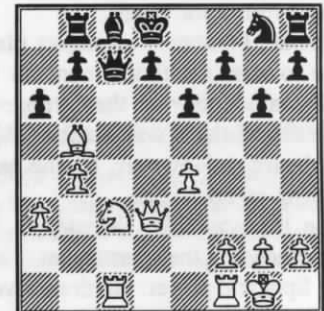
Biggest Upset to Date	
SHERWOOD MOORE — 430 points	

The Grand Prix circuit and the upset derby end each year with the Montana Open. Above are the standings going into this final event of the season. Could be a photo-finish.

Did you find (or miss) a subtly sharp move in one of your games? If so, send it to the editor and ask

What's the Cruncher?

Black has just "put the question" to White's bishop. What is White's forceful answer to the question? The answer is on the back page.



White to move and crunch.

Collyer wins big in Missoula's Crocus Open

—Tournament report by William McBroom

A total of 23 players participated in the UCCC Crocus Open, held on the UM campus April 15 and 16. This was the best turnout in five years, stimulated in part by the generous donation of \$100 to the prize fund by Gary Younker and his colleagues of the Spokane Chess Club. Thanks, guys! The challenge those folks issued to Montana players probably helped, too. We also enjoyed the company of David Fletcher from Arizona. He came specifically to play and all found him good competition and a personable chap.

As a combined result of the donation and the increased participation, the prize fund was considerably enhanced. First and second place were increased to \$100 and \$75, respectively. Each of the advertised class prizes was increased by \$10. A third place prize of \$50 was created, along with a U1800 prize of \$40 and a U1200/unrated prize of \$30.

Curt Collyer beat Romie Carpenter in the last round, following his win over Greg Nowak in the previous round, to gain a clear first place. His win over

Greg (a difference of 323 rating points) gave him the biggest upset prize as well. Curt and Romie were the only ones with perfect scores going into the last round.

Four Montana players split the second and third prizes. Romie Carpenter, Jan Johansson, Jim ("the cat," for his purposeful pacing away from the board) McClure, and Greg Nowak each had three points. This was Jan's return to over-the-board play after a sabbatical of several years. We were all glad to see his return.

In the class prizes, Hans Anderson of Missoula and Gary Younker of Spokane split the U1800 award. Dave Griffin and Phillip Weyland, both of Idaho, split the U1600 prize. Ronald Weyland (also from Idaho) had a lock on U1400 money, and Sean Cruz of Washington and Scott Young of Missoula shared the \$30 for U1200/unrated.

To tally the Washington/Idaho *versus* Montana results, it was a split decision. They clearly lived up to the boast of taking first place. Yet, the four strong 2nd-5th place finishes of Montana play-

ers speak loudly of their skill. It must be admitted, however, that the rating-point raiders swamped Montana players for the class prizes—at a margin of 5:2.

As is often the case, there was a rules lesson gained from this tournament. In his game against Skovron, Griffin had a two minor piece advantage in an endgame. However, he was short on time. He claimed insufficient losing chances, in part, perhaps to have a clock with a delay feature entered into the game. Since the claim is a draw offer and since Jim was substantially down in material, he immediately extended his hand to accept the draw. Yes, it is possible for the stronger side with less time to profit from claiming insufficient losing chances by gaining the use of a clock with a delay feature, but the claim is in fact a draw offer. We all (especially the T.D.) learned from this instance. The best approach is likely to purchase and use your own clock with a delay feature.

For more tournament reports, turn to page 13.

No Wooden Stakes, Please

—by Jim Joy

For one issue of *Chess Life*, many years ago, my rating was 2002. Now it is 1765! That is the lowest that it has ever been. My first rating was in the high 1700's. And I was never provisionally rated, as my first two rated tournaments were back to back 12-round events (1971 North American open and U.S. Open). My previous tournaments were not rated. Recently, I was wondering just how low my rating could go. I am beginning to realize that there is no limit.

There used to be a floor (as it is called) below which your rating could never drop. This was done to artificially inflate the ratings. Otherwise the average rating of all chess players gradually drops. Apparently some people entered a few tournaments, took away a

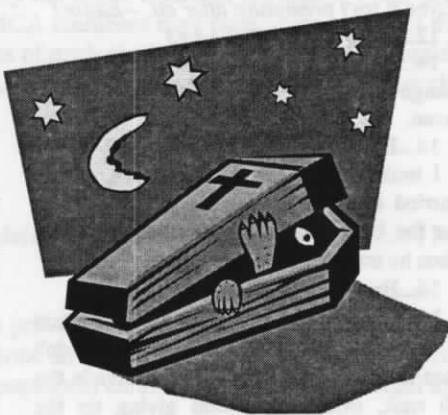
few rating points (raised their initial ratings) and dropped out forever. As my lack of practice dropped my rating, I wondered what my rating floor was. I

was performing an unintentional experiment. Sometimes I found myself experiencing a kind of perverse amusement when I lost a game. Would my rating now bottom out?

This is all a little depressing. I'm not sure what they did with my floor (as the old cliché goes?). But I should be a killer 1765 player. Rating prizes, here I come. I should be a ratings vampire, sucking rating points from

every neck in sight. I wondered why I didn't like garlic, yuck!

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Recent Games

We begin this issue's *Games* section with two selections from the Collyer Memorial and the simultaneous exhibition given the night before by IM John Donaldson.

IM Donaldson, J. (2535) - Nowak, G. (2158)
 French [C17]
 Spokane Simul
 Notes by Greg Nowak

John Donaldson played 34 games in a simultaneous exhibition in Spokane, the night before the Collyer Memorial. He lost only one, and drew five, including this one against me and one against another MCA player, Dan McCourt. I decided to play a line of the French which Botvinnik used against Smyslov. It has the reputation of being complex.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5 6.b4 cxd4 7.Nb5 Bc7 8.Nf3 Ne7 9.Bd3 Ng6 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.Bf4 f6 13.Nxc7+ Qxc7 14.Re1 Rh5 15.Qe2 Bd7 16.Bg3 f5 17.b5 Na5 18.Nxd4 Nc4 19.a4 Qa5 20.f4 Kf7 21.Bf2 Rg8 22.h3 g5



23.fxg5

Editor's Note: Sharper, and maybe better is 23.Nxf5 gxf4 (23...exf5? 24.e6+) 24.Nd6+ Nxd6 25.exd6 Qb4 26.Bxa7.

23...Rxc7 24.Nf3 Rgh5 25.Bd4 g5



This move was meant to intimidate him into a draw, but it's risky. Leaving the pawn at g6 was more sound. It was about 10:30

pm by this time, and there were at least 20 games still going on. It could have gone to midnight or beyond, which I didn't want with an early game the next day. 1/2-1/2

Schmitz, K. (1551) - Wood, R. (2317)
 French [C00]
 Collyer Memorial
 Notes by Schmitz, with Wood.

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 dxe4 7.dxe4 e5

This prevents the white pawn from advancing and gives Black freer play.

8.h3 Be6 9.0-0 h6 10.Re1

This move does nothing. It's not like the e-pawn can advance! Perhaps 10.c3 was better.

10...Qd7

Lining up on the diagonal for the attack and preparing to stack on the d-file too.

11.Kh2 g5 12.Ng1



This may have been premature, but having never faced a player of this calibre I admit I was worried about an aggressive attack. [My computer plays the same move, so maybe it isn't premature after all. --Editor]

12...0-0-0 13.Nf1 Qe7 14.c3

14...Bb4 was threatened, winning the exchange due to the discovered attack on the queen.

14...Bc5 15.Qe2 Qd7 16.Be3

I took 20 minutes for this move, overly worried about Black getting to open the h-file for both Black's rooks. I was relieved when he traded bishops.

16...Bxe3 17.Nxe3 Qd2 18.Nd5?

Mr. Wood informed me afterwards that 18.Qf3 was probably better here, but I didn't want to allow the black rooks to invade the 7th rank, even if it meant giving up the pawn.

18...Qxe2 19.Rxe2 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Nf3 Rhd8 23.Rae1 f6 24.Kg2 a5 25.Nh2 h5 26.Nf3 Rd3 27.Rc1

Some friends questioned this move after

the game, but I think it is best because 28. Rcc2 lines up the rooks.

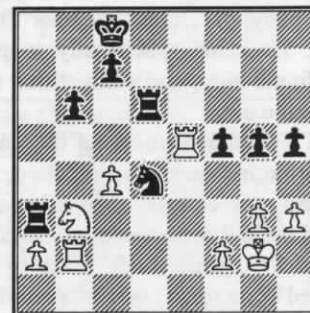
27...a4 28.Rcc2 a3?! 29.bxa3 R8d5 30.Nd2 f5 31.e4 Ra5 32.Nb3 Rxa3 33.Nc5

This at least allowed good play by threatening the rook and pressuring b7.

33...Rd6 34.Rb2 b6 35.Nb3 Nd4?

I played the next move immediately and offered a draw.

36.Rxe5



Editor's note: Two impossible moves follow in the scoresheet, but no matter. Black blew his best chance when he dropped the pawn. 1/2-1/2

McBroom, W. (1568) - McCourt, D. (1629)
 Ruy Lopez - Schliemann [C63]
 3rd Winter Open

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Ng3 Bd6?

6...Bg4 is the book line. The text move should lose a pawn.



7.d3?

White had 7.Nxe5! Bxe5 8.Bxc6+ with Qh5+ looming if Black retakes.

7...Nf6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Bg4 11.Bg5 Qd7 12.Bxf6

This usually accelerates Black's attack.

12...Rxf6 13.h3? Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qxh3 15.Qd2 Rxf3 16.Qg5 e4 17.Nh5? Qh2+ 18.Kf1 Qxf2#?

Much stronger was 18...Rxf2#. 0-1

Schmitz,K (1551) - McCourt,D (1629)
Caro-Kann [B11]
3rd Winter Open

When you're hot, your hot, and when you're not.... Karl Schmitz, whose upset draw against a master in the Collyer Open is featured in these pages, bows quickly to Dan McCourt here.

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 5.exd5 Nf6?!

5...cd5 maintains equality.

6.g4 Nxc4?

Sometimes this sac works, and sometimes it doesn't. If Black had more pieces developed already, it might be in order, but as it stands White should be able to mop up with his extra piece.

7.hxg4 Bxg4 8.Bh3 Bh5 9.Qe2 cxd5 10.Qb5+ Nc6 11.Qxb7 Na5 12.Qb5+

And mate in 2 follows. 1-0.

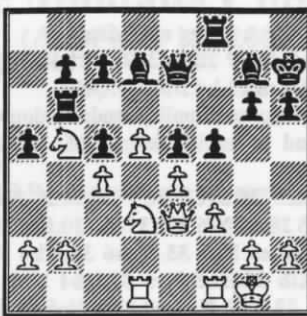


Romie Carpenter

Moore,S (1795) - Carpenter,R (1800)
King's Indian Defense [E94]
3rd Winter Open

Sherwood broke back into class A with this win over Romie. It was Romie's first tournament game after several months off the circuit. Apparently this game was all that Romie needed to clean off the rust from his game; in the Crocus Open he went on to come within a deuce of taking first place.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qc2 a5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nh5 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.Bxe5 dxc5 14.Rad1 Nf4 15.Ne1 Ra6 16.Nd3 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Qe7 18.Nb5 f5 19.f3 Rb6?! 20.Qe3 Bd7



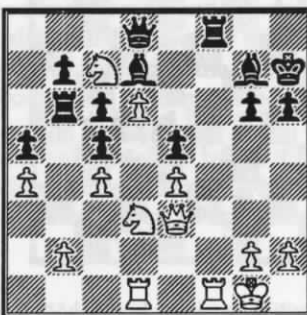
21.a4

White could have won a pawn with 21. exf5! Bxf5 22.Nxc5.

21...c6 22.d6

Not bad, but faster would have been 22. Nxc5 cxb5 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.Qxb6

22...Qd8 23.Nc7 fxe4 24.fxe4



24...Rxf1+

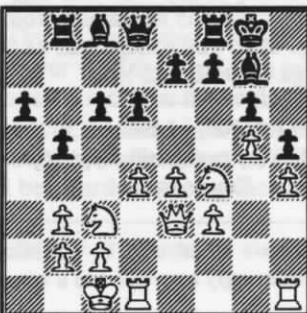
24...Bg4, attacking the rook, gains some time. E.g., 24...Bg4 25.Qxc5 Rb3 26.Rxf8 Qxf8 27.Rf1 Qg8 and Black looks OK.

25.Rxf1 Rb3 26.Qd2 b6 27.Qc2 Rxd3 28.Qxd3 Bg4 29.h3 Be8 30.Rd1 Bd7 31.Qf3 Qf6 32.Qxf6 Bxf6 33.Na6 Be8 34.Nb8 Bb7 35.d7 Bd8 36.Rd6 Kg7 37.Re6 1-0

Katzl,R (1937) - McClure,J (1805)
King's Indian [B07]
No. Rockies Championship

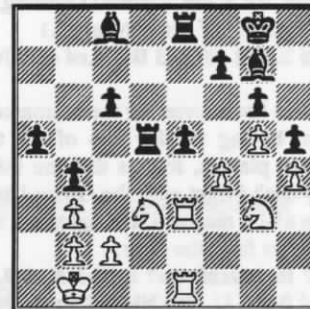
This was the critical game of the event.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 Nc6 6.f3 a6 7.h4 Rb8 8.g4 h5 9.g5 Nd7 10.Bc4 b5 11.Bb3 Nb6 12.0-0-0 Na5 13.Nge2 0-0 14.Nf4 Nbc4 15.Qe2 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 c6



Black, with the better pawn structure and the bishop pair, has the advantage here. After a judicious clearing of the center to give his bishops scope, he should win.

18.e5 Qa5 19.Kb1 b4 20.Na4 dxe5 21.dxe5 Qxe5 22.Rhe1 Qxe3 23.Rxe3 Re8 24.Nc5 Rb5 25.Ne4 Re5 26.Nd3 Rd5 27.Rde1 a5 28.Nf4 Rdd8 29.Ng3 e5 30.Nd3 Rd5 31.f4



31...Ba6

31...f6 appears to keep the edge for Black.

32.Nxe5 Bxe5 33.Rxe5 Rdx5 34.fxe5 c5 35.Ne4 Kf8 36.Nxc5 Bb5 37.Nb7 Ra8

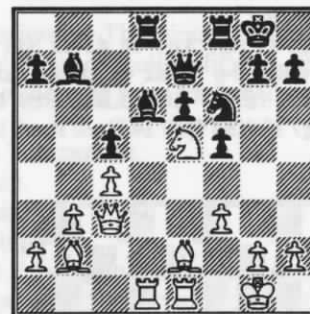
And White went on to win in time pressure. 1-0

Hall,R (1558) - Gross,D (1400)
Sicilian [B44]
No. Rockies Championship

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Be2 Be7 6.0-0 Nf6

Now 7.Nc3 d6 would transpose into the Scheveningen Variation, but Rich has other plans.

7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Nd5 9.c4 Nc7 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 d6 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Nd2 f5 14.Nf3 Ne8 15.Ne5 Qc7 16.Qd4 c5 17.Qc3 Bb7 18.Rfe1 Nf6 19.f3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Qe7



21.Rd2? Nd7?

Black had 21...BxN 22.QxB RxR, winning the piece.

22.Nxd7 Rxd7 23.Bd3? e5?

Black overlooks another tactical blow: 23...Bxb2!+ 24.KxB? Qh4+, snagging the rook.

24.Rde2 Qg5 25.Be2 Qh5 26.Qd3? [26.Rd2] 26...e4 27.g4 exd3 28.gxh5 dxe2 29.Rxe2 Bxf3 0-1

Johansson,J (2014) - Julian,J (1684)
Orang-Utan [A00]
Crocus Open

Jan Johansson used the Crocus to make his return to tournament chess after an absence of two years. He wins the battle of the J's here with the Orang-Utan (a.k.a. the Polish Opening, a.k.a. the Sokolski Opening, a.k.a. "The Opening of Many Names".)

1.b4 c6 2.Bb2 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.e4 e6 5.Nf3 Bxb4?

John, who broke even for the tournament in spite of having to play two of the top three seeded players, forgets the one thing you really can't forget with the Orang-Utan: Watch the a1-h8 diagonal. He fights on, but never recovers from the error.

6.Bxg7 f6 7.Bxh8 Qe7 8.Qb3 Na6 9.a3 Bd6 10.d4 0-0-0 11.Nc3 Nh6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Rc1 dxc4 14.Bxc4 Nc7 15.e4 Bf4 16.Rb1 b5 17.Bxb5 cxb5 18.exf5 Nxf5 19.Nxb5 Nxb5 20.Qxb5 Nd6 21.Qc6# 1-0

Fletcher,D (2070) - Hansen,D (1699)
The Mouse [A00]
Crocus Open

Fletcher came all the way from Arizona to play in the Crocus. MCA President Doug Hansen teaches him not to underestimate Montana players.

1.a3?!

There's a story behind this first move. Doug, as a joke, asked permission to write down his opponent's first move before he made it. Instead of smiling and refusing the offer like most of us, Fletcher accepted the challenge. Doug chose 1.a3, but that is merely a time-waster. If I ever am allowed to dictate my opponent's first move, I think I'll go with 1.f3. It is more destructive of White's position.

1...g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Nh5 6.Be3 0-0 7.Qd2 c5 8.0-0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nc6 10.Nf3 Bf5 11.Bh6 Rc8 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Nd4 Qa5 14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.g4?



This is based on a miscalculation. White assumes that after 15...Bxg4 16.Qd4+, the bishop will fall. But it ain't necessarily so.

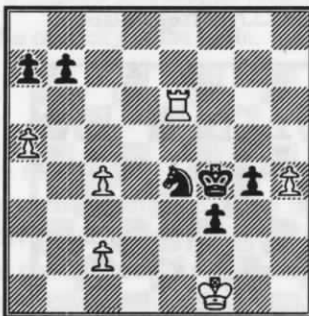
15...Bxg4 16.Qd4+ Nf6 17.Bg2 Rc7 18.Nd5 Be6?

18...e5 was a strong candidate.

19.Nxc7 Qxc7 20.Rd3 Rc8 21.Rc3 Qd7 22.Rxc8 Qxc8 23.h4 Bb3 24.Qc3?

This attempt to simplify leads to doubled pawns and a rapid fading of winning chances.

24...Qxc3 25.bxc3 Bd5 26.Bxd5 Nxd5 27.Kd2 f5 28.c4 Nf6 29.f3 Nd7 30.Kc3 Kf6 31.a4 e5 32.a5 Nc5 33.e3 h6 34.Kb4 Ke6 35.Rg1 Kf6 36.Kb5 Ne6 37.Kb4 Ne5 38.Kc3 Ne6 39.Kd2 Nc5 40.Ke2 Ne6 41.Kf2 Nc5 42.Kg3 e4 43.Rd1 Ke6 44.Kf4 Ke7 45.fxe4 Nxe4 46.Rb1 Nc5 47.Rb5 Kf6 48.Rb1 g5+ 49.Kf3 g4+ 50.Kf4 Ne6+ 51.Kg3 Nc5 52.Rd1 Ke5 53.Rd5+ Ke4 54.Rxd6 Kxe3 55.Rxh6 Ne4+ 56.Kg2 f4 57.Re6 f3+ 58.Kf1 Kf4



The position is tricky, but 59.h5!?, inviting Black to fork the King and pawn, may be best because it misplaces the knight. E.g. 59.h5 Ng3+ (complicated, but winning for White is 59...g3.) 60.Ke1 Nxf5 61.Re7 and now the aggressive 61...g3 would actually lose: 61...g3 62.Rxb7 f2+ 63.Kf1 Kf3 64.Rb3+ Kg4 65.c5 Kh3 66.Rb8 Nf6 67.Rh8+ Kg4 68.Rd8 Kh3 69.c6 Ne4 70.Rh8+ Kg4 71.Kg2 Nd2 72.Rg8+ Kh5 73.Rf8. And White gets to queen the pawn. Backing up a bit, 61...Kg3 holds the draw: 61...Kg3 62.Kf1 Nf4 63.Rf7 Ng2 64.Re7 Kf4 65.Rf7+.

59.Rxe4+?

This looks like a hasty overreaction to the threat posed by Black's advanced pawns.

59...Kxe4 60.h5 Ke3?

Doug was worried about a breakthrough on the queenside if he chased after the h-pawn. (The threat is c5 followed by a6, and one of the pawns could get through.) He didn't see that a timely ...a6 will stop all breakthroughs. 60...Kf5 would have won.

61.h6 g3 62.h7 g2+ 63.Kg1 Ke2 64.h8Q f2+ 65.Kxg2 f1Q+ 66.Kh2 1/2-1/2

Carpenter,R (1800) - Johansson,J (2014)
English (by transposition) [A26]
Crocus Open

Romie gets a slight edge in the middle game and unerringly converts it to a win.

1.Nf3 d6 2.g3 e5 3.d3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.c4 Nf6 7.Nc3 h6 8.Rb1 a5 9.Bd2 0-0 10.a3 Kh7 11.b4 axb4 12.axb4 Nd7 13.Nd5 f5 14.b5 Ne7 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.Bc3 Rb8 17.Nd2 h6 18.Ra1 Bb7 19.Ra7 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nc5 21.Qa1 Rf7 22.Qa3 Re8 23.Ra1



23...Ne6 24.Nb3 Qf8 25.Ra8 Rxa8 26.Qxa8 Qxa8+ 27.Rxa8 Re7 28.Ra7 Re8 29.Kf1 Kg8 30.Nc1 Kf8 31.Na2 e4



This turns out to be an overextension.

32.Bxg7+ Kxg7 33.dxe4 fxe4 34.Nc3 e3 35.f3 Rf8 36.Nd5 Rf7 37.Nxe3 h5 38.Nd5 g5 39.Kf2 Kg6 40.e4 Kg7 41.Ke3 Kg6 42.f4 gxf4+ 43.gxf4 Kg7 44.f5 1-0

Cruz,S (unr.)—Anderson,H (1694)
Giuoco Piano [C55]
Crocus Open

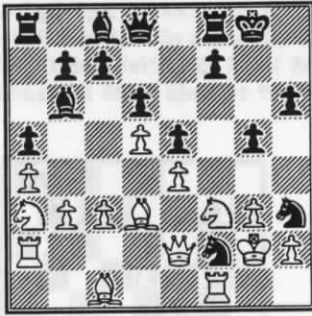
Hans Anderson throws this first round game away to newcomer Sean Cruz. It was his only loss of the tournament.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.0-0 Bc5 5.a3 a5 6.d3 h6 7.c3 d6 8.b3 0-0 9.a4 g5 10.d4 Bb6 11.d5 Ne7 12.Bd3 Ng6



Black's knights are well-poised for a storming of the castle.

13.Na3 Nf4 14.g3 Nh3+ 15.Kg2 Ng4 16. Ra2 Ngxf2 17.Qe2



17...Nxd3

Black could clean house with 17...Nf4+! 18.Bxf4 Bh3+ 19.Kg1 Nxe4+ 20.Be3 Nxc3 21.Qd2 Bxe3+ 22.Qxe3 Nxa2.

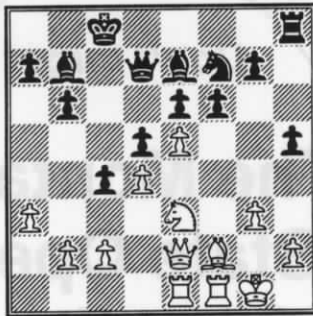
18.Qxd3 f5 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 f4 21. Qe2 g4 22.Nh4 Qxh4! 23.Qc4 f3+ 24.Kh1 f2?? 25.gxh4 1-0.

Julian,J (1684) - Nowak,G (2147)
French Defense [C16]
Crocus Open

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.a3 Bf8 6.f4 c5 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.Bd3 c4 9.Be2 Qd7 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Be3 Nge7 12.Nh4

Perhaps to prevent ...Nf5, but Greg has other plans for his knight anyway.

12...Ng6 13.Nf3 Nce7 14.Qd2 f6 15. Rael h5 16.Bf2 Nf5 17.Nd1 Be7 18.Ne3 Nh6 19.Nh4 Nxf4 20.g3 Nxe2+ 21.Qxe2 0-0 22.Ng6 Nf7!? 23.Nxh8 Rxh8



24.exf6

Strong is 24.Nf5 exf5 25.e6.

24...gxf6 25.Ng2 Ng5 26.Nf4 Ne4 27. Nxb5 Qe8 28.g4 Qg8 29.Kh1 Bc6 30.Bh4 Qg6 31.c3 Bd7 32.Rf4 Bd6? 33.Rxe4?! [33.Bxf6!] 33...dxe4 34.Bxf6 Rxh5!

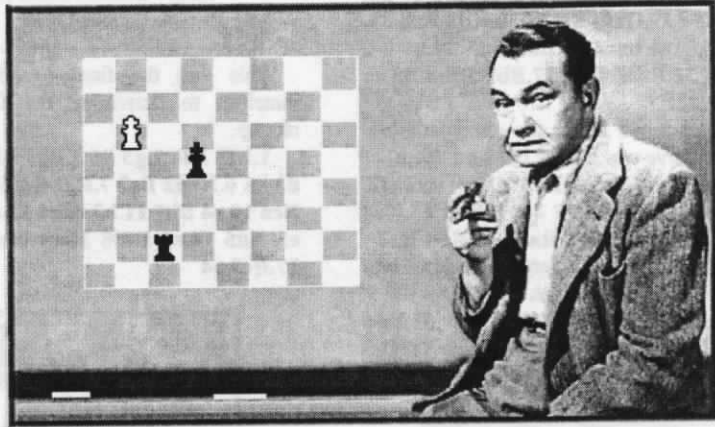
Greg aims for two bishops against rook. With open lines for his bishops (and a little help from John), Greg quickly mounts a mating attack.

35.gxh5 Qxf6 36.Qxe4?

The queen is needed for defense, although grabbing the c-pawn with check was

Celebrity Chess

Submitted by Alex Dawson



"Yeah, see. This mug's been giving it to you the whole game. But you took my advice and now you got him on the ropes, see. Now go back in there and MOIDA da bum".

probably safe enough.

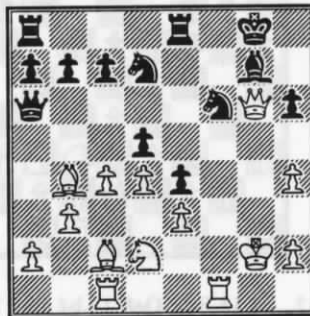
36...Kc7?

Time is getting short, and Greg misses the cruncher: 36...Qf2 37.Qa8+ Bb8.

37.Qg4? e5? [37...Qf2] 38.dxe5 Bc6+ 39.Re4 Qf1+ 40.Qg1 Bxe4# 0-1

Younger,G (1669) - Jensen,M (1911)
Bird's [A02]
Crocus Open

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5. Bd3 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.c3 Qe8 8.f5 e5 9.Ng5 e4 10.Bc2 Nb6 11.fxg6 fxg6 12.Nd2 d5 13. b3 h6 14.Nh3 Bxh3 15.gxh3 Qe6 16.Kg2 Nh7 17.Qg4 Qc6 18.Bb2 Nd7 19.c4 Ng5 20.h4 Nh7 21.Ba3 Rfe8 22.Rac1 Nhf6? 23. Qxg6 Qa6 24.Bb4



24...c6

Mike doesn't grab the pawn at a2 on the general principle that misplacing the queen so badly at this stage couldn't be worth it.

25.a4 Qb6 26.Bd6 Qd8 27.Be5 Kh8?

Mike had the equalizing line 27...Nxe5 28.dxe5 Rxe5. Both players appear oblivious to this, however.

28.Kf2 Rg8 29.Rg1 Qe7 30.Rg3 Rf8 31.Ke2 Qf7 32.Qxf7 Rxf7 33.cxd5 exd5 34.Rf1 Rff8 35.b4 Nh7 36.Bxg7+ Rxg7 37. Rxf8+ Nxf8 38.a5 Nf6 39.Bb3 Ng6 40.h5 Ne7 ½-½

Hansen,D(1699) - Katzl,R (1937)
Irregular King Pawn Opening [B00]
Crocus Open

Here Doug gets the second of his two interesting Crocus Open draws.

1.e4 Nc6 2.f4 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bg4 5. Nf3 Nd4 6.Be3 Nxf3+ 7.gxf3 Bd7 8.e5 Nh5 9.Qd2 e6 10.Qf2 Be7 11.h4 c6 12.Nd2 b5 13.Bb3 g6 14.Ne4 d5 15.Nc3 Ng7 16.Bxa7 h5 17.Bc5 Nf5 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Kd2? Qb4! 20.a3 Qxf4+ 21.Kd1 Ne3+ 22.Ke2 d4 23.Nd1 Nxd1 24.Kxd1 Qxe5



Black is a pawn up, with no longterm

weaknesses. But keep going; it gets interesting later on.

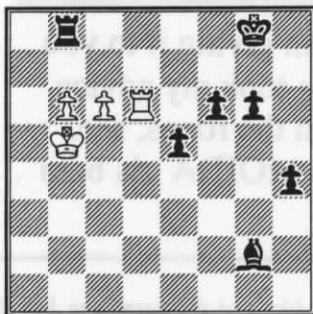
25.Re1 Qf6 26.Re4 e5 27.Qg3 Bc6 28.Re5 Qxf3+ 29.Qxf3 Bxf3+ 30.Kd2 Rc8 31.a4 c4 32.dxc4 bxc4 33.Ba2 Bd5 34.b4 0-0 35.b5 f6 36.Ree1 Ra8 37.Bb1 Rfb8 38.c3 d3 39.Bxd3!?

A smart move under the circumstances. The alternative was a slow but sure death.

39...exd3 40.Kxd3 Bb3 41.c4 Rc8 42.Rec1 Bxa4 43.Rab1 e5 44.c5 Ra5 45.Kc4 Rb8 46.b6 Bc6 47.Rd1 Ra4+ 48.Rb4 Ra2

Trading rooks, then getting the king into play, looks better for Black here.

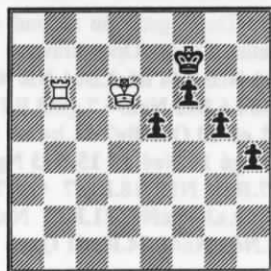
49.Kc3 Ra3+ 50.Kc4 Rh3 51.Rd6 Rxb4+ 52.Kc3 Rxb4 53.Kxb4 Bg2 54.Kb5 h4 55.c6



55...Bxc6+?!

As in Doug's other draw (see Fletcher-Hansen in this issue), his opponent may have overreacted to aggressive pawn pushing. Bringing the king into play should win: 55...Kf7 56.c7 Rc8 57.Rc8 Bb7. After trading, both players get queens, but Black's pawns will enable him to grind out a win.

56.Kxc6 Kf7 57.Kc7 Rxb6 58.Rxb6 g5 59.Kd6



59...g4?

This drops a pawn. 59...h3! instead should still win for Black. Fortunately for Rudi, Doug can't find the win.

60.Rb4 f5 61.Kxe5 Kg6 62.Kf4 h3 63.Rb5

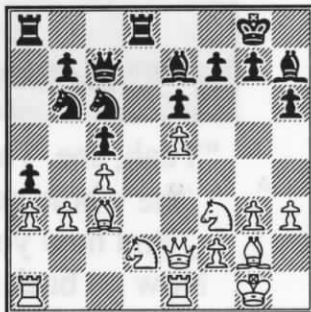
The winner was 63.Rb6+!. Then there are two possibilities: A) 63...Kh7 And the king is cut off from the pawns. 64.Kg5! preventing ...h2. 64...Kg7 65.Rg6+ Kf7 66.Rh6 Kg7 67.Rh5 Kf7 68.Kxf5. B) 63...Kh5 64.Rd6! h2 65.Rd8

63...Kh6 64.Kg3 Kg5 65.Ra5 Kg6 66.Kf4 Kh6 67.Kg3 Kg6 68.Rb5 ½-½

Carpenter,R (1800) - Collyer,C (1824)
King's Indian Attack [A07]
Crocus Open

This was the final round, board one matchup to determine the Crocus Open champ.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 h6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.b3 c5 9.Bb2 Nc6 10.e4 Bh7 11.h3 dxe4 12.dxe4 Qc7 13.e5 Nd5 14.a3 Rfd8 15.c4 Nb6 16.Qe2 a5 17.Bc3 a4



Romie resigned here for reasons that are not altogether clear. Although Black stands better after 18.Qd1 ab3 19.Qxb3 Na4, White is by no means out of the game. 0-1

Skovron,J (1920) - McCourt,D (1655)
Four Knights [C50]
Crocus Open

Jim Skovron did just well enough in the Crocus to qualify for Grand Prix points. After his travel bonus he ended the tournament a mere .18 points behind the current race leader, Greg Nowak, with only the State Open remaining.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.d3 a6 7.a3 d6 8.h3 Bd7 9.Ne2 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Ng3 d5 12.Qe2

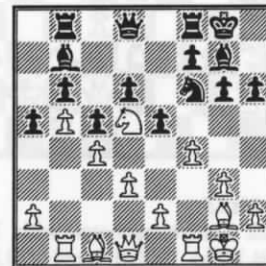


12...d4 13.Bd2 Qe8 14.b4 Ba7 15.Rfb1 Nd7 16.b5 Ne7 17.Bb4 Rf6 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.bxa6 bxa6 20.Qd2 a5? 21.Qxa5

To judge from the handwriting on the scoresheet, Dan was in considerable time pressure already. The conclusion of the game is not recorded.1-0

McClure,J (1782) - Jensen,M (1898)
English [A24]
First Spring Open

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 e5 7.d3 c6 8.Rb1 Nbd7 9.b4 a5 10.b5 c5 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.Nc2 b6 13.Ne3 Bb7 14.Ned5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 h6 16.f4 Nf6



17.e4

White might have made a little headway by trading instead: 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Bxb7 Rxb7 19.fxe5 Qxe5 20.Bf4.

17...Nxd5 18.exd5 f5 19.Be3 Qf6 20.Qd2 Kh7 21.Rbe1 Rbe8 22.fxe5.

This creates a passed pawn at d5, but gives Black an imposing center that more than compensates for it.

22...dxe5 23.Kh1 Qd6 24.Qf2 Bc8 25.Bc1 Re7 26.Bb2 Rfe8 27.Re2 Bf6 28.g4 f4 29.h3 Kg7 30.Be4 Rh8 31.Rg1 g5 32.Bf3 Bd7 33.Kg2 Kf7

Hard to see how anyone can break through now. ½-½

Don't forget

The Montana State Open, Great Falls, June 3-4

*Win, lose, or draw,
it's a blast!*

Bylaws of the Montana Chess Association

(As of May 1st, 2000)

I. Terms of MCA Tournaments

1. Any tournament "sponsored" by the MCA is:
 - a) organized and directed by officers of the MCA or persons appointed by the MCA.
 - b) financially supported by the MCA.
 - c) advertised in the MCA Newsletter.
2. Any tournament "sanctioned" by the MCA must:
 - a) be advertised in the MCA Newsletter.
 - b) require MCA membership.
3. All players in MCA sponsored or sanctioned events shall be required to join the MCA. A common exception to this is optionally accepting another state's affiliate in place of MCA membership.
4. In any tournament sponsored or sanctioned by the MCA, the following conditions shall apply:
 - a) The entry fee for all players shall be the same, except in the case of Junior players, who shall receive a 50% discount. In all MCA sponsored events, the current State Champion(s) shall be entitled to free entry.
 - b) A uniform tie-break system for prizes shall be used. The order shall be: 1) Solkoff 2) Cumulative 3) Head-to-Head.
 - c) Prizes advertised must be available to the prize winners at the end of the event. The exception shall be the State Closed, in which the name of the State Champion would need to be engraved on the trophy. The trophy would then be delivered within 60 days to the new State Champion.
 - d) Any change in the starting time for a round, as determined by the director, shall be limited to no more than plus or minus one (1) hour from the advertised starting time, except in the case where the director may delay the last round to await the conclusion of games crucial to pairings. Any changes shall be announced before the start of the previous round.

II. Membership fees

5. Membership fees for the MCA shall be \$9/year for regular members and \$5/year for junior members (under 18).
6. First-time players who are also new to the USCF shall have their first year's MCA membership waived in order to help with their initial costs.

III. Awards

7. The MCA shall make appropriate awards for the following:
 - a) Montana State Chess Champion - to the winner(s) of the State Championship.
 - b) Montana State Grand Prix Chess Champion - to the winner(s) of the Grand Prix Championship. The winner shall receive a cash prize of either \$50.00, or 10% of the MCA treasury balance, whichever is less. This balance shall be figured after all income and payments related to the Montana Open have been accounted for. In the case of ties, the prize fund shall be divided evenly between the winners.
 - c) Montana State Postal Chess Champion - to the winner(s) of the Montana Postal Chess Tournament.
 - d) Montana State Speed Chess Champion - to the winner of the State Speed Championship.
 - e) Montana State Quick Chess Champion - to the winner of the State Quick Championship.
 - f) Montana State Action Chess Champion - to the winner of the State Action Championship.
 - g) Montana Senior Chess Champion - to the Montana player age 50 or over with the best showing in the Montana Open.
 - h) Biggest Upset - to the Montana resident (at the time of the game) who wins a game against a higher-rated opponent, where the difference in ratings is the greatest for any game played in a rated open tournament during the tournament season (after a Montana Open to the next Montana Open). The ratings of both players must be established at the time of the game.
 - i) Greatest Rating Gain of the Year - to the player with the most gain in rating points according to the annual list published by the USCF. The player must have an established rating at the beginning of the year, and must be a Montana resident for at least six months, including either the beginning or the end of the year.
 - j) Grand Slam Award - to any player who takes a clear first place in four Grand Prix tournaments during the course of the tournament season. A trophy or plaque shall be awarded bearing the name of the player and the three tournaments in which the winner took first place.
 - k) Contributions to Montana chess by an individual or group that merit special recognition.

IV. Postal Championship

8. The Montana Postal championship shall be an official MCA annual event. The MCA Postal Championship shall be rated by the USCF. Only members who are legal residents of Montana may participate.

V. State Open

9. The Montana State Open tournament shall be sponsored by the MCA and shall be an open tournament. Players from any state are welcome.

10. The entry fee for the Montana Open shall be \$20 per player in advance, \$25 at the playing site. Junior members shall pay half price.

11. The Montana State Open shall be held during a weekend to be determined by the Board of Directors. In choosing a date the Board shall limit itself to the months of May and June, and shall avoid Mothers Day, Graduation Day, and Memorial Day. The site of the State Open shall be rotated between the five principal chess cities of the State: Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula, beginning in 1999 with Bozeman, and cycling through alphabetically. If a city is unable to take its turn as host, it loses its turn, and the rotation skips to the next city in the cycle.

VI. State Closed

12. There shall be a State Closed Championship following the Montana State Open to determine the State Champion. The Montana Closed shall be held each year on a weekend determined by the Board of Directors, but not later than Oct. 31st. The site of the Closed shall be rotated between the five principal chess cities of the state: Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula, beginning with Missoula in 1999 and cycling through alphabetically. If a city is unable to take its turn as host, it loses its turn, and the rotation skips to the next city in the cycle. There shall be no entry fee. The Board shall designate a tournament director and time controls for the Closed. The Closed shall have a satellite tournament called the Barto Memorial. Entry fee, director, and other details shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Arrangements for both the State Closed and the Barto Memorial shall be announced in the MCA Newsletter in advance.

13. The ten players to compete in the State Closed shall be:

- a) The previous year's State Champion.
- b) The top four (4) finishers in the Grand Prix.
- c) The top five (5) finishers in the Montana State Open.

14. Non-residents are not eligible for the State Closed. Residents shall be defined as those members who live within the borders of Montana 188 days each year.

15. After the Montana Open, the Grand-Prix finishers shall first be determined for seeding into the State Closed playoff. Then, excluding the top four Grand Prix finishers and the previous State Champion, the top five finishers (Montana residents) in the Montana Open shall be determined and seeded into the State Closed playoff.

16. The procedure for determining alternate players for the "Closed" is as follows: Grand Prix seeds shall be replaced by those next in line in the Grand Prix standing; State Open seeds shall be replaced by players next in line in the State Open Standings: A sole State Champion shall be replaced by the sixth place finisher in the Montana Open. A co-champion shall be replaced by the other co-champion with the best tie-breaks in the previous State Closed playoff.

17. When there is a tie in the State Closed, the following method of tie-break will be used to determine who is seeded into the next year's "Closed" playoff: a) If the current champion is one of the tied players and he is the sole champion from the previous year, or the only one of the previous year's Co-Champions, then he shall be the seeded player. b) In all other cases the standard tiebreaks for any MCA sanctioned event shall be used.

18. After the State Closed, all players tied for first place shall be listed as co-champions for that year.

VII. Grand Prix

19. The Grand Prix shall begin after the Montana Open each year, and conclude with the following year's Montana Open. Only a Swiss system, open tournament shall be eligible to be a Grand Prix event. In any Grand Prix tournament, all Grand Prix points shall be issued to the first ten Montana finishers with a plus score, regardless of finish. No tie-breaks shall be in effect for Grand Prix Points, so any tied players split their combined Grand Prix points evenly. Grand Prix points shall not be issued to non-resident members. The Secretary/Treasurer shall compute the Grand Prix points awarded and track the standings, arranging for those standings to be published in the MCA Newsletter throughout the year.

20. Grand Prix points shall be awarded according to the following formula: $(N/5) \times (100) \times C \times M$, where

N = Number of players in the event.

P = Place in order of finish among Montana resident players (the average place in the event of ties)

C = Average rating of all players in the event / 1500

M = Travel Bonus Multiplier. This value rewards players for miles traveled (one way) according to the following scale:

0-49 miles : M = 1.0

50-150 miles: M = 1.33

151-250 miles: M = 1.66

Over 250 miles: M = 2.0

For the purpose of determining the average rating of all players in an event, the ratings used by the director for pairings shall be used, except that players without ratings shall be assigned a provisional rating equal to their performance rating for that tournament. The performance rating is calculated by

$$A + 400 \times (W-L) / N$$

where

A=Average rating of the unrated player's rated opponents.

W=Wins and L=Losses of the unrated player against rated opponents.

N=Number of games played against rated opponents (if greater than zero)

21. MCA Grand Prix events shall be limited to one (1) per sponsoring USCF affiliate organization per year. All MCA Grand Prix events must be announced as such in advance in the MCA Newsletter. A minimum of six players shall be required to participate in a Grand Prix event to qualify for the awarding of Montana Grand Prix points. The time control for any MCA Grand Prix game shall not be faster than G/90.

22. The winner of the Grand Prix title shall receive a cash prize as described in the Awards section of the bylaws.

VIII. Triple Header Championship

23. The MCA shall sponsor an open "three-in-one" tournament called the Triple Header Championship in order to determine the State Champion at faster time controls. The three championship sub-tournaments covered by the Triple Header shall be: The State Action Championship (Game/30), the State Quick Championship (Game/15), and the State Speed Championship (Game/5). The Triple Header Championship shall be an MCA sponsored events. The site, date and other details for a given year's Triple Header shall be established by the MCA Board of Directors. These arrangements shall be announced in the MCA Newsletter ahead of time. Non-resident MCA members may participate in any of the three categories of the Triple Header Championship, but the championship titles of each shall be awarded to the top resident finisher. Tied players in any of the categories shall play in an immediate blitz playoff in order to determine a unique champion for that category. Colors for such a playoff shall be determined by lot.

IX. Miscellaneous

24. The President shall act as the official delegate for Montana to the U. S. Chess Federation. He shall also appoint the any alternate voting members.

25. The State Champion at the time of the previous Montana Open shall be designated as Montana's candidate at the following Governor's Cup tournament in South Dakota. In the case of tied champions, the invitations shall be extended in tiebreak order until one of the players accepts. If the champion(s) cannot attend, the Board shall appoint a replacement.

26. The annual MCA business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the Montana State Open. The agenda for the business meeting shall be decided by the members throughout the year and announced in advance of the Montana State Open in the MCA Newsletter.

Tournament Tables

Crocus Open (4/15,16/2000)							
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	Collyer, Curt	1824	W21	W20	W2	W5	4.0
2	Nowak, Greg	2147	W12	W4	L1	W6	3.0
3	Johansson, Jan	2014	W16	W23	L5	W12	3.0
4	McClure, James	1803	W17	L2	W18	W11	3.0
5	Carpenter, Romie	1800	W19	W15	W3	L1	3.0
6	Katzl, Rudolf	1937	W18	D11	W10	L2	2.5
7	Skovron, James	1920	D13	L12	W21	W16	2.5
8	Anderson, Hans	1694	L20	W13	D16	W18	2.5
9	Yunker, Gary	1669	L15	W21	W20	D10	2.5
10	Jensen, J. Michael	1911	W14	H--	L6	D9	2.0
11	Hansen, Doug	1699	W22	D6	D15	L4	2.0
12	Julian, John	1684	L2	W7	W14	L3	2.0
13	Griffin, David	1433	D7	L8	D17	W19	2.0
14	Weyland, Philip	1414	L10	W22	L12	W20	2.0
15	Fletcher, David	2070	W9	L5	D11	U--	1.5
16	McCourt, Daniel	1655	L3	W17	D8	L7	1.5
17	Weyland, Ronald	1364	L4	L16	D13	W21	1.5
18	Yunker, Jeremy	1590	L6	W19	L4	L8	1.0
19	Young, Scott K.	1164	L5	L18	X22	L13	1.0
20	Cruz, Sean	unr.	W8	L1	L9	L14	1.0
21	Chester, James	1400	L1	L9	L7	L17	0.0
22	Marcus, Alan	unr.	L11	L14	F19	U--	0.0
23	Erickson, Ron	1701	---	L3	---	---	0.0

Bookworm (3/00)											
#	Name	Rtng	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Tot
1	Nowak	2156	---	W	D	W	W	W	B	W	6.5
2	Schmitz	unr.	L	---	W	D	W	W	B	W	5.5
3	Lowney	unr.	D	L	---	W	W	W	L	W	4.5
4	Leader	1520	L	D	L	---	W	L	B	W	3.5
5	Flynn	unr.	L	L	L	L	---	W	B	W	3.0
6	McCourt, D.	1656	L	L	L	W	L	---	B	W	3.0
7	McBroom	1650	U	U	W	U	U	---	U	---	1.0
8	Gunthier	unr.	L	L	L	L	L	L	B	---	1.0

Northern Rockies Championship (3/4/00)						
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	Rudolf Katzl	1937	W8	W2	W3	3.0
2	Jim McClure	1803	W9	L1	W6	2.0
3	Karl Schmitz	1551	W11	W7	L1	2.0
4	Dale Gross	1400	U--	W6	W8	2.0
5	Greg Nowak	2161	W7	U--	U--	1.0
6	Rich Hall	1558	W10	L4	L2	1.0
7	Bob Leader	1520	L5	L3	W9	1.0
8	Gilbertsen	1470	L1	W11	L4	1.0
9	Tim Sweeney	1256	L2	W10	L7	1.0
10	Andrew Romas	950	L6	L9	W11	1.0
11	Stevie Foster	906	L3	L8	L10	0.0

Third Winter Open (2/00)							
#	Name	Rtng	1	2	3	4	Tot
1	McBroom	1568	---	L	W	L	1
2	Jensen	1898	W	---	U	L*	1
3	Schmitz	unr.	L	U	---	L	0
4	McCourt, D	1639	W	L*	W	---	2

*Played by Moore and Carpenter as housemen. Moore won.

First Spring Open (4/00)							
#	Name	Rtng	1	2	3	4	Tot
1	Jensen	1898	---	D	W*	W	2.5
2	McClure	1782	D	---	W	W	2.5
3	McBroom	1568	L*	L	---	D	0.5
4	McCourt, D	1634	L	L	D	---	0.5

*Played with Moore as houseman for McBroom.

Pizza Open Quick Chess (4/29/00)												
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	Thad Suits	1928	W5	W8	W9	W4	W7	W6	W3	L2	B---	8.0
2	Jim Skovron	1919	W8	W9	W4	W7	W6	L3	B---	W1	W5	8.0
3	Dennis Petrak	1643	W9	W4	W7	W6	B---	W2	L1	W5	W8	8.0
4	Richard Stuckey	1201	L6	L3	L2	L1	W5	W8	W9	B---	D7	4.5
5	Walter L. Shields	unr.	L1	B---	W8	W9	L4	D7	X---	L3	L2	4.5
6	Freddie Jay	1274	W4	W7	B---	L3	L2	L1	F---	L8	W9	4.0
7	William Furdell	1269	B---	L6	L3	L2	L1	D5	W8	W9	D4	4.0
8	Kirk Lundby	unr.	L2	L1	L5	B---	W9	L4	L7	W6	L3	3.0
9	Seth Stuckey	1058	L3	L2	L1	L5	L8	B---	L4	L7	L6	1.0

The Polgar Corner

The following position is taken from the encyclopaedia *Chess* by László Polgár. How quickly can you find this mate in two?

The answer is on the back page.



White to move and mate in 2

Upcoming Events

Don't miss it!

♁ June 3-4 — The 1999 Montana State Open in Great Falls

Format: 5 round Swiss, G/2. **Site:** University of Great Falls, Classroom Bldg (Sullivan Hall), room 203. (Park in the large lot off of 23rd St., a block and a half south of 10th Ave. S.) If coming from Interstate 15, take either the Central Ave or 10th Ave. S. exits, then go east until you get to 23rd St. Turn right (south). If coming from Central Ave continue south past 10th Ave. S. The University will be on your right. **EF:** \$20 by May 20, \$25 at site. Juniors half price. **Prizes:** Trophies galore. **Registration:** 8:00-8:45. **Rnds:** 9, 2, 7 / 9:30, 2:30. **Annual Business Meeting:** Sunday at 8:30 am. All resident MCA members urged to attend. **Entries to:** Thad Suits, 2015 4th Ave. N. Great Falls, MT 59401. Tel. 406-453-6160. Special thanks to the UGF for sponsoring the tournament space.

Hotel accommodations: Here are some options for lodging. The tournament is near the 2300 block of 10th Ave. South, which is Great Falls' busiest street. (Malls, fast food, and other businesses.) It is undergoing reconstruction, but the detours are plainly marked. Most of the places listed below are on or near this street. The downtown hotels (marked *) are only slightly farther away. Prices listed are for 2 people, 2 beds, with no discounts. AAA, Senior, or other discounts can take 10% off. Tax not included. Some may include breakfast, a pool and hot tub, etc. You should probably call ahead to reserve a room and get an exact quote. Phones are area code 406.

Motel 6—2620 10th Ave. S., 761-1300—\$45

Plaza Inn—1224 10th Ave. S, 452-9594—\$45-\$50

Holiday Inn—400 10th Ave. S., 727-7200—\$64

Townhouse Inn—1411 10th Ave. S, 761-4600—\$66

Comfort Inn—1120 9th St. S., 454-2727—\$75

*Midtown Motel/Perkins—526 2nd Ave N, 453-2411—\$47

Great Falls Inn—1400 28th St. S, 453-6000—\$55

Super 8—1214 13th St. S—727-7600—\$65

*Ponderosa Inn, 220 Central Ave, 761-3410—\$69-\$79

Heritage Inn—1700 Fox Farm Rd, 761-1900—\$80

July 22-23 — The 2000 Triple Header Championship in Helena - Three Championships in One

Format: 3 State Championships in one: *Action* (G/30), *Blitz* (G/5) and *Quick* (G/15). *Action* and *Quick* will be 5 round Swiss, quick-rated; *Blitz* will be unrated, format depends on number of entries. **EF:** \$15 by July 19, \$20 at site. **Site:** Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena. **Prizes:** Trophy and title to top resident finisher in each category. **Registration:** 9:00-9:45. **Rnds:** Sat. - *Action* 10, 11:30, 1:30, 3, 4:30. *Blitz* begins at 7:30 p.m Saturday night. Sun. - *Quick* 9, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15, 12. If necessary, a blitz game acts as tiebreak for all categories. **Entries to:** Mel Drake, 5950 Canyon Ferry Rd., Helena, MT 59602. Tel. 406-475-3481. **Other:** Non-resident members welcome, but titles go to residents only.

Other tournaments around the state

Reports on recent events in Great Falls, Kalispel, and Missoula

The Pizza Open

The Great Falls Chess Club sponsored another successful quick chess tournament aimed at increasing public awareness of the club. This time it was a three-way tie between Thad Suits, Jim Skovron, and Dennis Petrak. Thad lost to Jim, Jim lost to Dennis, and Dennis lost to Thad, but otherwise all three were perfect.

This tournament welcomed Walter Shields to the MCA fold. He did well, breaking even for the day and tying Richard Stuckey with a score of 4.5. Eleven-year-old Kirk Lundby also played well, winning two games, including a first round upset of Freddie Jay. For his part, Freddie got three wins despite having to withdraw from the last round.

At the lunch break pizza was served, courtesy of Pizza Hut, which sold it to the club at a discount as an in-kind donation. Next time how about finding a sponsor for the "Escargot Open"?

Octopus 56½-Kalispel 2½

Greg "the Octopus" Nowak ran a simul at Kalispel's Central Mall on Satur-

day, April 22nd. In spite of it being Easter weekend, 59 players came to try their luck against the repeat state champ. Three players got draws against Nowak (Wallace, Stubbenfeld, and Gilbertsen), but only Scott Young was able to beat him.

The Bookworm

—report by Dan McCourt

What was supposed to be Missoula's "Change of Pace Bookworm" reverted to its old format and was played in exile at the Clandestine Chess Club. The unexpected success of the University of Montana Grizz hoopsters brought two Big Sky basketball tournaments to town, so Finnegan's had to weigh profit vs. charity. Charity finished second. Which was OK; the Octopus's garden has more chess ambience anyway.

We ate pizza, drank sodas and NA brew and let the Big Squid come in first just 'cause we're nice people and know how to respect our host. Nowak cruised, dropping only a half-point when tricked by Pete Lowney into a stalemate. Karl Schmitz continued his uppity ways, scoring a solid second with 5.5 points.

The Top 10 list of excuses for losing

10. Dead batteries in hidden transmitter.

9. I was distracted by my opponent's time pressure.

8. My opponent foolishly declined a draw.

7. My position deteriorated while I was in the bathroom.

6. I had a clear advantage, and then my opponent found this lucky checkmate.

5. I was warned that a week earlier my opponent had beaten a GM — with an iron bar.

4. The position was dead level apart from the fact that he could win a piece by force.

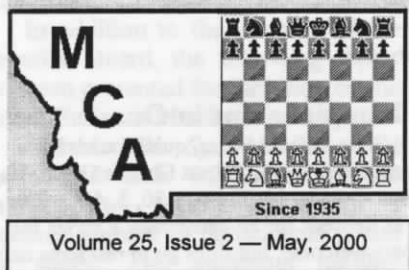
3. I forgot to bring my endgame encyclopedia with me.

2. He refused to use my "lucky" clock.

1. I studied the book *How to Beat Bobby Fischer*, but was unprepared for other opponents.

Submitted by Alex Dawson

Thad Suits
2015 4th Ave N.
Great Falls, MT 59401



20 and 10 years ago in MCN

May, 1980

At the annual business meeting of the MCA, members approved a plan to change to a closed format to determine the State Champion. Previously the high finisher at the State Open (among resident members) had been awarded the championship title.

May, 1990

“Sixteen hardy players (foolhardy?) congregated in Billings to contest a 15 round, round-robin tournament at sudden death speed. **Steve Smith** emerged victorious in the invitational event put together by **Les Brennan**. Smith relinquished only half a point—to **Chad Robinson** of Billings.”

Answer to “What’s the Cruncher?”

From Skovron-Hansen, 2000 January Thaw. Jim Skovron missed 1.Ne2! After that Black must either trade the queen for the rook or move the queen away. But if the queen moves, then 2.RxB! wins quickly. Jim played 1.Ba4 but won anyway.

Answer to “The Polgar Corner”

1.g5+ Kxg5 2.Be7#