



Conejo Valley Chess News

The Prince of Chess becomes the new World Champion

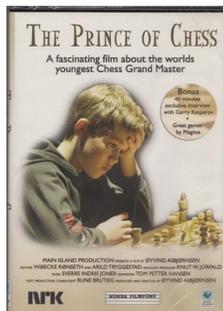
Norwegian born Magnus Carlsen has become the 16th World Chess Champion, beating longstanding Champion Viswanathan Anand with two games to spare. The match included an arduous 65 move game lasting nearly five hours.

Carlsen received the World Champion title on Friday, November 22, 2013, along with \$1.53 million in prize money.

It took Anand 20 years to move from GM title to World Champion title. It has taken Carlsen less than 11 years to do that.

Carlsen's chess style is original and based on instinct rather than computer-generated analysis. In an interview with [The Guardian](#), he says "I usually know what I am going to do after 10 seconds; the rest is double checking." He calls this process verifying his intuition. "Often I cannot explain a certain move, only know that it feels right, and it seems that my intuition is right more often than not."

He may be intuitive, but he is also brilliant. He was featured on "60 Minutes" CBS News in 2012 showing his talent with his ability to win 10 games simultaneously while blind-folded.



<http://www.princeofchess.com/>

Magnus has been coined the Mozart of Chess, Prince of Chess, as well as the Harry Potter and Justin Beiber of Chess.

He is known for being fearless and unconventional. He has not only made an impression on the chess world, but is taking the mainstream on by storm. He works as a part time model, and was picked as one of the Sexiest Men of 2013 in Cosmopolitan magazine.

In addition to earning close to \$1 million a year in endorsement deals, he has been featured in advertising campaigns of fashion brands like G-Star with Liv Tyler, and was offered a role by JJ Abrams in *Star Trek: Into Darkness* as "chess player from future".

He was also named by Time magazine as one of its 100 most influential people in the world this year.

In the documentary of Magnus Carlsen's early career [Prince of Chess](#), Magnus talked about having one ultimate dream, to outwit the chess king above all, World Champion Garry Kasparov - and to one day claim that throne for himself. He beat Kasparov's record in 2012 as the highest rated chess player and overtook the World champion title from Anand in 2013. Well... I guess now at 23 years old, he can now check both items off his bucket list!



All articles in this newsletter have been written and edited by Jennifer Vallens

If you would like to submit articles, photos or other chess information for future editions,

please contact me at:

Conejovallechessmom@gmail.com

CHESS PUZZLES (ANSWERS ON PAGE 5)

Forced Mate In Two

(WHITE TO MOVE)

Diagram 1



1. _____
2. _____

Diagram 2



1. _____
2. _____

Diagram 3



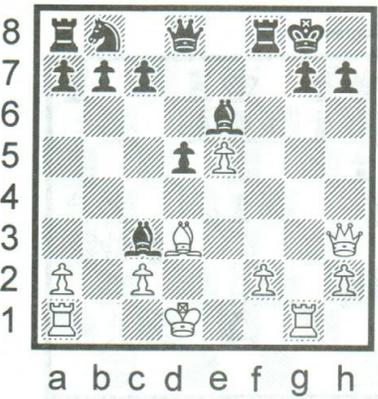
1. _____
2. _____

Diagram 4



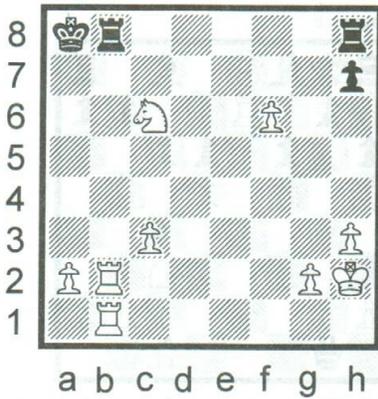
1. _____
2. _____

Diagram 5



1. _____
2. _____

Diagram 6



1. _____
2. _____

“Chess is 99% tactics” - Rudolf Teichmann

SIMUL WITH CHESS MASTER LARRY SMITH

The Thousand Oaks Chess Club held their first ever Simul Chess Event November 11, 2013. Chess Master Larry Smith played 16 chess games simultaneously against players ranging in age from 8-mid 50s and rating levels from 400-1800. Larry won all but two games, giving up two draws to Ruby Hendrickson and Rachel Burak, both age 11 and students of Jerry Yee.

Against Ruby he won a piece in the opening, but did not find the best move against her counterattack and had to give up a whole Rook to avoid a mate, thus winding up the exchange down. When she offered him a draw a few moves later while her king was in check (neither player noticed), he gratefully accepted. Against Rachel, he also won a piece in the opening, but she hung on tenaciously while he frittered away much of his advantage. He agreed to her draw offer.

Larry barely finished on time, and around moves 18-24 he was feeling the pressure of finishing on time. The games began at 6:25pm, and two hours in, there were still a half dozen games going. Luckily, most of them cleared up in the next ten minutes and he was left with just one final game, which he won.

When asked about his experience, he said there were a couple of reasonable games, but his gut feeling is that he missed a lot of good moves. He was impressed with the playing of several participants. He found it interesting that some of the easier games to play, were against the stronger opponents because the games unfolded more predictably and he could play good-looking moves. A few of the games against the junior players were in some ways more difficult to play because the opposing moves were unconventional.

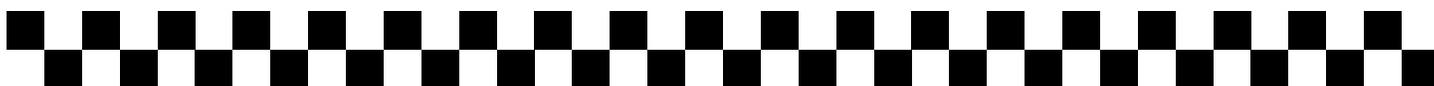
After speaking to several participants, the consensus was that they were honored to play against a Master and be able to go over their games with him afterward.

From my point of view as a spectator, I found it very interesting to see how each player opened as black. It was exciting to see how Larry made his moves from one game to the next without much contemplation.

A great experience for all. Thank you Larry!



Ruby Hendrickson, Larry Smith and Rachel Burak



ONGOING LOCAL CHESS ACTIVITIES

American Chess Academy

ACA offers group classes at Calabasas and Simi Valley locations Monday-Friday for kids 5-16 years. Visit <http://www.achessacademy.org/> for more information. Contact: Jerry Yee (818) 915-5572.

Thousand Oaks Chess Club

Meets Mondays 6:00-8:45pm. Goebel Senior Center at 1385 E. Janss Road. Casual play and rated tournament play. All ages welcome. Contact: Cindy Garcia (805) 990-0136 or at thousandoakschess@att.net

Ventura County Chess Club

Meets Mondays at 7pm. Grace Lutheran Church, 6190 Telephone Road, Ventura. Contact: Norman Coats. Contact Phone: 805-701-0010. email: picture-this6@verizon.net. <http://www.vcchess.com/>

Ventura Group

A group meets noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays in Bank of Books bookstore, 748 E. Main St. Casual play, free instruction. Contact: Rob Radford at 805.204.7154.

Westlake Village Library

Wednesdays 4-5pm, the Westlake Village library will offer beginning chess with Larry Scott consisting of half hour of instruction, followed by a half hour of play for 6-12 year olds. For more info. contact the library at 818-865-9230.

West Valley Chess Club

Meets Thursdays 6:30-10:30. 7353 Valley Circle Blvd., West Hills. Continuous rated tournaments, blitz, casual play. Contact Jerry Yee (818) 915-5572 or at jy-ee6@socal.rr.com.

Conejo Valley Parks and Recreation

The Conejo Parks and Rec offer Chess instruction at various park locations. Classes taught by Norman Coats, Jack Cashman and Larry Scott. See <http://www.crpdpd.org/> for more details and registration.

I am happy to announce that Jerry Yee and I have started a Chess Club at Westlake Elementary. We currently have 23 players aged 6-10. We meet afterschool and have open play and a structured chess lesson each week. If you are interested in starting a chess club at your school, please contact me at conejovalleychessmom@gmail.com



**WEST VALLEY CHESS CLUB
WEEKLY RATED
TOURNAMENTS
THURSDAYS
6:30PM-10:30PM**

<http://westvalleychessclub.com/>



The American Chess Academy (ACA) has two locations (Simi Valley and Calabasas) and offers group chess classes Monday thru Friday to kids ages 5 to 16. For schedules and tuition information, please contact Jerry Yee at (818) 915-5572, email him at jy-ee6@socal.rr.com or visit www.achessacademy.org

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Monday, Nov 23, Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16, Dec 23

5-SS G/60 d5 (5 round Swiss-system with 60 minutes per player plus a 5 sec delay)

One round every Monday night for 5 consecutive weeks, beginning

Nov. 25th and running until Dec 23rd.

In 3 Sections: Open, U1400, and U700

Registration: Nov 25th 6:00 pm, and any time prior. Send us an email to sign up!

Round 1: Nov 25th, 6:30 pm.

Round 2: Dec 2nd, 6:30 pm.

Round 3: Dec 9th, 6:30 pm.

Round 4: Dec 16th, 6:30 pm.

Round 5: Dec 23rd, 6:30 pm.

Please bring your own chess sets, clocks and scoresheets!

2 half point byes are available for rounds 1-4. If you aren't going to make it for a round, please notify us by 3:30 pm that Monday night so you don't have to forfeit your game!

The Thousand Oaks Chess Club is located at the Goebel Adult Community Center, 1385 E. Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA.

For more information or to register, contact Cindy Garcia at ThousandOaksChess@att.net



Sunday, December 8 ACA SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT

Location: Maple Park Community Center

820 East Maple Street in Glendale

5 Sections (unrated, K-4 U600, K-6 U900, K-8 U1200 and K-12 open)

Trophies for top 10 in all sections, Best Buy gift cards for top 10 open section

5SS: G/30 Schedule: 10am, 11:15am, 12:230pm, 1:45pm and 3pm

Entry fee: \$25 (\$35 for K-12 open)

Contact: American Chess Academy <http://www.achessacademy.org/> or Artmik@charter.net, (818) 640-5974

Thursday, December 26-30

23rd Annual North American Open

The 23rd Annual North American Open will be held at Bally's Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The event has a \$120,000 prize fund, based on 600 entries, with \$90,000 minimum guaranteed!

The event has 7 sections: Open, Under 2300, Under 2100, Under 1900, Under 1700, Under 1500 and Under 1250.

The Open Section will be a 9-round event held over 5-days (December 26-30). GM and IM norms possible!

The Under 2300-Under 1250 sections are 7-round events with 4-day (December 26-29) or 3-day (December 27-29) schedules to play in.

Please use the following links for to obtain more information regarding the 2013 North American Open:

<http://www.chesstour.com/nao13.htm>

ANSWERS TO FORCED MATE IN TWO (from page 2)

Diagram 1:

1. Nxa7+ Kd7
2. Bb5++

Diagram 2:

1. Qxc7+ Kxc7
2. Rc5++

Diagram 3:

1. Nxe6+ fxe6 (the Queen can't be saved!)
2. Qxe6++

Diagram 4:

1. Re8+ Rxe8
2. Rxe8++

Diagram 5:

1. Rxg7+ Kxg7
2. Qxh7++

Diagram 6:

1. Rxb8+ Rxb8
2. Rxb8++

Q & A WITH CHESS MASTER LARRY SMITH

How did you get interested in chess and how old were you when you got started?

My dad taught me how to play in elementary school. He stopped playing me when I beat him blindfolded! But I was by no means a prodigy. I joined the USCF at the age of 14, and didn't become an expert until my late teens, and didn't become a master until I was 30. My point is that right now at the club are several young players who are as strong or stronger than I was at the same age.

What is your highest rating?

About 2310

Do you still compete in tournaments?

Not so much; these past three tournaments have been my most active burst for a long time. The previous tournament I played in was a one-day affair up in Palmdale in March, and before that at the US Amateur nearly three years ago.

Besides your love of chess, do you have any other hobbies or interests?

I am married with two daughters in their 20s, so that keeps me busy. I enjoy a wide array of music, and I enjoy reading and following science, particularly evolutionary biology and neuroscience. I also enjoy basketball and my favorite animal is the Wombat.

What was/is your profession?

I was a liberal arts major, with an interest in English, and got into computers as a way of putting myself through school. It became my work, and now I'm a manager at the local newspaper software division of a Belgian company.

Other than chess, do you play any other games?

Not really. I typically don't like imperfect knowledge games, those in which information is either hidden (e.g., cards) or where chance plays a big role (e.g., backgammon). That's why chess as a perfect knowledge game is such a great game: both players have access to exactly the same information (the configuration of the pieces on the board), and

you only have yourself to blame if you lose.

What do you think it takes to make someone a better chess player?

I like to say there are three good ways to improve:

Play slow time-control tournament games. If there are no consequences to losing, even if it's just pain and regret, then you will not try as hard. Playing for four or more hours only to lose a game is horrible, but it helps to teach you that a single moment's inattention can ruin everything. You have to risk something that matters in order to get better.

Second, play over grandmaster games, such as those from books of collected games or tournaments. I would also advise one to do this with a real board and pieces, not on the computer. The reason is that if you follow analysis with a board and pieces, you have to backtrack to the actual game position from memory, which is a great mind exercise. Playing games over only on the computer is too easy, and I don't think the material gets absorbed quite as well.

Analyze your tournament games afterwards (called a post-mortem) with your opponent, especially if your opponent is stronger. I have learned a lot from just a few words/thoughts after a game vs. stronger players. Also, you can learn a lot by what the strong player *does not* say. What they leave out can be understood either to be trivial, or irrelevant. Conversely, amateurs often comment on irrelevant variations, which shows that they are not focused on the essential elements of a position or game.

The kids are playing variations of classic chess (bughouse and blitz), in your opinion, does playing these types of rapid fire games, help or hurt your game of chess?

For the most part, I don't think they do any harm, and blitz may be helpful to develop a certain tactical awareness and ability to move quickly and well in time pressure. But I also think that playing too much blitz (especially on-line) reinforces one's tendency to play the optically good move,

which in the long run is harmful to one's slow chess. Conversely, I played in one correspondence tournament (18 games in all), and I learned a lot from playing at a very slow rate, often spending hours on a single move.

How often do you study chess (analyze games, read books, or solve chess puzzles)? Also, what part of the game do you think is most important to study (opening, middle or endgame)?

Nearly every day I do something with chess! However, at this point in my career/life, I rarely "study" chess with a view to improving, but play over current games or solve puzzles for the fun of it. That being said, I am always trying to learn more about chess!

When I am preparing for a game or a tournament, I will review my openings and make sure I feel prepared. I take every contest seriously.

Which part of the game is best to study depends upon many factors, and what you are hoping to achieve. First of all, study what you like – the most important thing about chess is to enjoy it, and different people enjoy different aspects of the game. Unless you want to become world champion (in which case I can't help you), I think you will get the most benefit from learning a few opening lines in order to give yourself a good chance of getting a playable middle game. It's no fun to have a lousy game after 6-10 moves. The second thing to focus on is tactics: more games are won and lost at the amateur level by simple oversights, one to two move sequences that ruin one's game.



Larry Smith

Q & A WITH CHESS MASTER LARRY SMITH

Do you prefer bishops or knights?

As someone once quipped, “my favorite piece is the one that makes the winning move!” While I don’t think I have ever preferred one to the other (except of course when the position clearly dictated a preference), I do think that as my game has matured I have grown to appreciate the long-term (and long-range) value of bishops over knights. When you are younger/weaker, it can be difficult to see how exchanging that bishop for a knight on move 7 to gain a tempo turns out to be something that you regret way on down the road on move 27.

What’s the WORST mistake that you recently made?

Agreeing to this interview? Oh, you mean chess-wise? Two come to mind: overlooking a queen sac in my previous game vs. Bucaria, and overlooking the whole win of a rook vs Katagi. Horrible oversights that still haunt me.



What are the key “bad” behaviors do you think keep chess players stuck at their level?

Well, most of the time players get stuck at their level because... that is their level!

For example, take a sprinter: at some point you will just reach your top performance level. There must be a corresponding level as well for things like chess.

However, for “bad” behaviors that can be overcome, I think that an underappreciated shortcoming is overconfidence. We all know players who have never had a lost game... meaning, when analyzing the game afterwards, it seems like they were winning the whole time and it was only a blunder of some kind that did them in. This does a terrific injustice to one’s opponent. If you think your opponent is weak and not at all clever, then you run the great risk of oversights creeping into your play.

Another common weakness is a willingness to settle for a so-so move when the position dictates that the best move must be found. While one has to be practical, and in many positions several candidate moves are roughly equal, one also needs to develop a sense for a critical juncture in the game and quite often at that point only the best move will suffice. Settling for second-best, or not analyzing such moves with accuracy, will result in disappointing results.

Do you think with proper training and ambition, anyone can become a chess master? Or in your opinion, are there specific born traits necessary in order to become a master.

For most juniors who are interested in chess and willing to work hard, I see no reason why they shouldn’t strive to become an A level player, Expert or higher.

Do you have any additional tips or advice for someone new to chess?

Have fun and enjoy the beauty of the game! I have consistently found that nearly every game has hidden secrets and lessons that you can uncover if only you spend enough time. Think of the famous Saavedra ending, with only four pieces in its starting position, or of the famous Reti study (WKh8, WPc6; Bph7, BKa6: Black to play, but White to draw!). If such stripped down positions contain such lovely ideas, imagine what amazing discoveries there exist starting from the opening position!



Chess Online

www.chess.com

www.chesscube.com

www.chessknot.com

www.chessbase.com

www.chesgames.com

www.uschess.org

www.fide.com

www.sccchess.com

www.chessimo.com

Q & A WITH CHESS MASTER LARRY SMITH

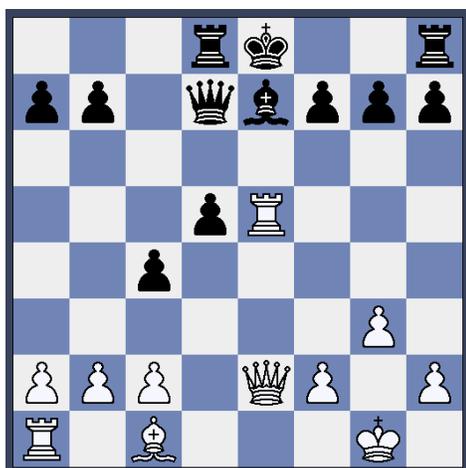
What is your best tournament result?

Two come to mind: Finishing 3rd-4th in the California Junior in 1972 (ahead of Jeremy Silman, with whom I drew), and tying for first in the Ventura County Chess Open in 1999 (ahead of Jack Peters, another draw).

What is the best game/move you have ever played?

Like Bent Larsen, the great Danish grandmaster, used to say, my best game is my next one! Other than that, I find that I have played surprisingly few top quality games from start to finish. I've played many that are interesting and exciting, but there are always flaws that keep me from being satisfied that a game was top-notch.

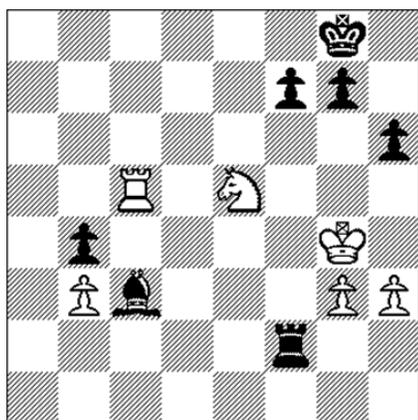
Probably the best single move was in a correspondence game:



In this position as White, I have sacrificed a pawn to keep the Black king in the center, as ... 0-0? allows Rxe7. However, if I play 18 Bd2 or Bg5, Black unravels with 18... f6 and 19 ... Kf7. The best move here (which I had to see two moves earlier when I sacked the pawn) is 18 Bh6!! If Black plays 18 ... f6, then 19 Bxg7! Threatens 20 Qh5 mate, and thus saves the Re5. Black played 18 ... gxh6 and after 19 Re1 0-0 and 20.. Rxe7. I was able to regain the pawn and won the ending.

What is the best move you didn't play?

Glad you asked! Here is the position in question:

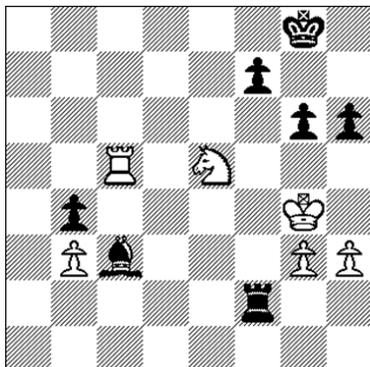


Tan - Smith, Masters-Juniors Simul,
June 2003, after xx Kg4

Here, as Black I played ... f5+? and got nervous after White replied Kh5! Fearing I would get mated, I played ... Bxe5 and won only after a long, theoretically drawn ending.

Q & A WITH CHESS MASTER LARRY SMITH

A few days later I realized that in the previous diagram a much better move would've been ... g6. Not only does this innocent move give my king some room, it also keeps the White king at bay and contains an insidious threat:



Tan - Smith (variation), after ... g6!

In this position, Black is threatening checkmate in three moves (do not read on if you wish to find the mate!):

1. ... f5+
2. Kh4 Rf4+!!

And now any of White's three legal responses all result in mate:

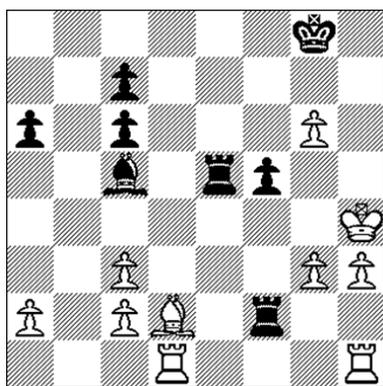
3. gf Be1#
- or g4 Be1#
- or Ng4 Bf6#

This last variation is particularly pretty, as the Bishop finds a different diagonal on which to administer the mate; the pinned N is helpless here. (Note that White can avoid this finish by a move in the initial diagram such as x h4, but that Black solidifies his advantage with ... h5+; Kh3 (not Kg5 Bd2+!!) Rb2.)

As I wrote, this beautiful possibility didn't occur to me until a few days afterwards. I wasn't playing over the game at the time, either; the ... Rf4+ idea just occurred to me out of the blue, or so it seemed at first.

But something seemed too familiar about this position, and I quickly realized who my true inspiration was: the great American player Frank Marshall. I couldn't name the opponent or recall the exact position, but I remembered some game of Marshall's where he played a similar ... Rf4+ idea.

Two months later, I found the position I was looking for in Andy Soltis's book, "Frank Marshall, United States Chess Champion":



Black to move

E.M. Jackson – Frank Marshall, London 1899

In Marshall's game, the continuation was:

28. ... Kg7!
29. Bf4 Kxg6
30. Bg5 Rf4+!! and mates after
31. gf Bf2# or 31. Bxf4 Be7+
32. Bg5 Bxg5#

The similarity between the two positions is inescapable: not only does the decisive diversionary sacrifice occur on the same square, but both of the possible bishop mates are also preserved, albeit on different squares.

The practical lesson here is that every chess position is worth close examination. Perhaps the worst chess sin is to assume that a position holds nothing of interest, and that nothing valuable could possibly be gleaned from an apparently simple position. To do so runs the risk, the certainty, of missing out on a wealth of beauty and satisfaction.

ANNOTATION WITH LARRY SMITH

Game provided by
TOCC club member,
Scott Haskell (rated
1515)

Scott plays black

1. d4 d5
2. c4 c6
3. Nf3 Nf6
4. Bg5 Nbd7
5. e3 e6
6. a3 Be7
7. Nc3 h6
8. Bxf6 Nxf6
9. Bd3 dxc4
10. Bxc4 b5
11. Be2 Bb7
12. O-O a6
13. b4 O-O
14. Ne5 Qc7
15. f4 Rfd8
16. Bf3 c5
17. bxc5 Bxc5
18. Qb3 Ba7
19. Rac1 Bxf3
20. Rxf3 Ne4
21. Nxe4 Qxc1+
22. Rf1 Qc7
23. f5 exf5
24. Rxf5 Rf8
25. d5 Rac8
26. Nc6 Rce8
27. Nxa7 Rxe4
28. Nc6 Qb6
29. Kf2 Rfe8
30. Rf3 Qc5
31. Qd3 Ra4
32. Qf5 Rf8
33. Qd7 Re4
34. d6 f6
35. Ne7+ Kh7
36. Nf5 Rg4
37. Nxh6 Qc2+
38. Ke1 Qc1+
39. Kf2 Qd2+



1.d4 d5 2. c4

The Queen's Gambit. White seeks to loosen up Black's center (the d-pawn) with a sub-center pawn (the c-pawn).

2... c6

The Slav Defense, supporting the d5 pawn. Also reliable is 2 ... e6, the Orthodox Defense, as is 2 ... dxc4, the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Bg5

Unusual. White usually continues with 4 Nc3, when 4 ... dxc4 5 a4 (to prevent ... b5) is the standard Slav Defense and 4 ... e6 is the Semi-Slav.

4... Nbd7

A good, solid move, developing a piece and preventing doubled f-pawns. Interesting and different would be 4 ... Ne4!?

5. e3 e6 6. a3

Although a3 is sometimes useful in such positions, here I think it is a bit of a waste of time. Normal would be 6 Nc3; the move 6 ... Bb4 is playable but not something to fear.

6... Be7 7. Nc3 h6 8. Bxf6

Or 8 Bh4 or 8 Bf4.

8... Nxf6 9. Bd3 dxc4 10. Bxc4 b5 11. Be2

Also possible are 11 Ba2 and 11 Bd3

11... Bb7 12. O-O a6

Black guards his b-pawn in preparation for ... c5. In chess, you must ask yourself on every move, "Why did my opponent play that move?"

13. b4

And so White, knowing Black's idea, stops ... c5. Good chess!

13... O-O 14. Ne5 Qc7 15. f4

Not bad, but I would consider 15 Rc1 here first.

15... Rfd8

Here's another point where White should ask himself why Black played that move. Note the BR and the WQ are on the same file: Black threatens to free his game with ... c5!

16. Bf3?

White overlooks Black's idea this time. Better is moving the WQ off of the d-file with 16 Qb3 or 16 Qe1.

16... c5!

Black grabs his chance to revive his locked-in QB.

17. bxc5 Bxc5 18. Qb3

Of course 18 dxc5? Rxd1 is much better for Black.

18... Ba7 19. Rac1 Bxf3 20. Rxf3 Ne4

Black piles on the pinned Nc3, but perhaps better was 20 ... Nd5. If 21 e4? (with the idea of letting the Rf3 guard the Nc3) then 21... Bxd4+ 22 Kh1 Nxc3 wins for Black. Note that White can't try to regain material with 23 Rfxc3 Bxc3 24 Rxc3 Qxc3! 25 Qxc3 Rd1+ and mate.

21. Nxe4!?

An interesting exchange sacrifice. Safer appears 21 Ne2.

21... Qxc1+ 22. Rf1 Qc7 23. f5!

As often happens in a sacrifice, after one side has gobbled up material, the other gets a quick counterattack.

23... exf5 24. Rxf5 Rf8 25. d5

I think that 25 Ng6! may draw after ... Rfc8 (or Rfe8) 26 Ne5 Rf8 with a repetition of moves. The text is more aggressive but is also loosening, as the d-pawn no longer guards the Ne5.

25... Rac8

I like this move, as it threatens 26... Qc1+ 27 Kf2 Qc2+ trading queens (if 27 ... Rc2+ doesn't work). Note that 26 ... Qc1+ 27 Rf1 allows Qxe3+ trading queens (if 27... Bxe3+ isn't better).

26. Nc6 Rce8!

Now the Ne4 is vulnerable.

27. Nxa7

I think 27 Qd3 was the last try.

27... Rxe4 28. Nc6 Qb6

Now Black is up the exchange with the initiative, though White fights gamely on.

29. Kf2 Rfe8 30. Rf3 Qc5 31. Qd3 Ra4

This move lets the WQ into Black's position, so better appears to be 31... Qc4. If White trades queens via 32 Qxc4 Rxc4 it is hard for White to mobilize his center pawns (33 d6? Rxc6). Also interesting is 31... f5!? with the idea of ... f4. If 32 Rxf5 Rxe3 33 Qd4! and it is still a fight.

32. Qf5 Rf8 33. Qd7 Re4

If 33 ... Rxa3 24 Ne7+ Kh8 seems safe for Black (25 Ng6+? fxc6! as the BQ covers the Rf8).

34. d6

34 Qf5 would invite Black to repeat the position; perhaps Black would then try 34... Rc4.

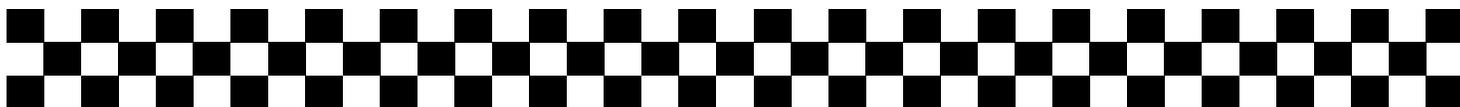
34...f6 35. Ne7+ Kh7 36. Nf5 Rg4!

Defends and attacks!

37. Nxh6 Qc2+ 38. Ke1 Qc1+ 39. Kf2 Qd2+

40. White Resigns

An exciting game, well-played by both players.



BECOMING A MASTER

The **United States Chess Federation** (frequently abbreviated as **USCF**) is a non profit organization devoted to promoting chess in America. The USCF organizes chess tournaments, publishes *Chess Life* magazine and manages the ratings of over 85,000 members (35,000 adults and 50,000 youth or scholastic members). The USCF is a member of the FIDE.

The USCF awards the Title of National Master to anyone who achieves a USCF rating of 2200, and the title of Senior Master to anyone who achieves a USCF rating of 2400. The USCF also awards the Life Master title to anyone who holds a 2200 rating for a total of 300 or more games in his or her lifetime.

The **Fédération internationale des échecs** or **World Chess Federation** is an international organization that connects the various national chess federations around the world and acts as the governing body of international chess competition. It is usually referred to as **FIDE**. Once you are granted a Master title with the FIDE, you maintain that title for life.

According to chessmaniac.com (<http://www.chessmaniac.com>) , there are 1,389 grandmasters (1,362 men and 27 women) and over 3,200 International Masters active in the world.

Russia has 215 GMs, 495 IMs, and 2,156 titled players, followed by the Ukraine with 78 GMs, 199 IMs, and 492 titled players. The US has 75 GMs, 121 IMs, and 571 title players.

Iceland has the most grandmasters per capita. They have 11 GMs and 13 IMs among the population of 310,000.

The question is often asked of Grandmasters and Masters: "Can anyone become a Chess Master?" Although opinions vary, the common thread seems to be that a person must have discipline and perseverance and an organized method of study above ability. However, both are necessary. According to Kevin Spraggett, Canadian Chess Grandmaster, being able to work hard at chess is much more important than having lots of talent. Additionally, you must have passion for the game and the confidence that you can reach Master status.

USCF Categories	FIDE Categories	Rating range
	Grandmaster	Over 2500
Senior Master	International Master	Over 2400
	FIDE Master	Over 2300
National Master	Candidate Master	Over 2200
Expert		2000–2199
Class A		1800–1999
Class B		1600–1799
Class C		1400–1599
Class D		1200–1399
Class E		1000–1199

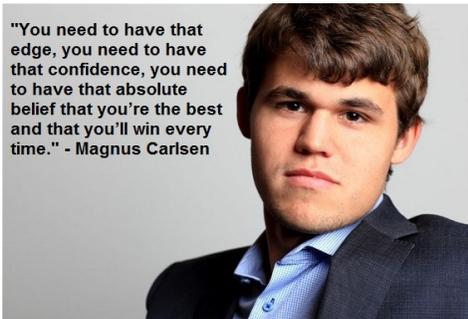
*<http://canchess.tripod.com/reflecti.htm> for full article.

Of the same argument, in a web article written by Kenneth A. Kiewra, Ph.D. & Thomas O'Connor, Ph.D. University of Nebraska entitled Developing Young Chess Masters: What are the Best Moves?, the ability for a young person to become a chess master is rare and requires some natural ability, coupled with passion and parent commitment.

*<http://www.lincolinchessfoundation.org/DvlpYngChssMstrs.html> for full article.

"Parents' conclusion that chess talent is born is tempered - perhaps negated - by evidence that chess mastery occurred only after considerable practice over a long period of time. These youngsters, on average, practiced chess about 20 hours per week for eight years before attaining master status. Even if they were born with incredible gifts, it still required about 8,000 practice hours to realize those gifts."

"Committed players practice chess religiously - often with top coaches and computers - for many years, often sacrificing other even routine interests. Committed families arrange and finance the torrent of chess activities while providing unwavering support and guidance. The child's commitment is fueled by a love for the game; the parents' by a love for the child."



"You need to have that edge, you need to have that confidence, you need to have that absolute belief that you're the best and that you'll win every time." - Magnus Carlsen

Whether your goal is to become a chess master or not, many hours of practice is the only way in which you will become a better player.