

MINNESOTA CHESS JOURNAL

Educate | Encourage | Participate

Minnesota State Chess Association

The Minnesota State Chess Association (MSCA) is the designated state affiliate of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and as such, awards the official Minnesota State Champion Titles as recognized by the USCF.

Current Minnesota State Champions

Open: Sean Nagle
 Senior: Tim Radermacher
 Blitz: Jackson Wahl
 K-12: Samrug Narayanan
 K-8: Alice Lee
 K-5: Ahmed Ilyasov
 GK-12: Nastassja Matus

MSCA Board of Directors

Dane Zagar - President (2022)
 Chris Kalina - Vice Pres. (2023)
 Dana Litman - Treasurer (2023)
 R. Weber - Secretary (2022)
 Nels Truelson - At Large (2023)
 G. Strack - At Large (2022)
 David McNeil - At Large (2023)

Narayanan Wins November Master Class Tournament to Qualify for 2022 State Championship Playoffs

Samrug Narayanan returned to Minnesota over-the-board chess with a key victory at the Minnesota Class Tournament in November. This represented Sammy's first over-the-board chess event in Minnesota since the state scholastic tournament in March 2020. Over the intervening months Team Narayanan completed a rigorous out of state chess schedule that accelerated Sammy's development and resulted in him becoming Minnesota's newest FIDE master. The travels will no doubt continue for Team Narayanan and Sammy is on the road to becoming Minnesota's 5th player to reach the IM level (joining GM Tang, IM Bartholomew, IM Nagle, and WIM Alice Lee).

Sammy scored 4.5/5.0 points to outpace Ashton Jin who finished second with 4.0 points. Sammy and Ashton had a round 3 draw. Sammy claimed sole 1st prize with a win against Jackson Wahl in Round 5 while Jin drew with 3rd place finisher John Talghader. With this title, Sammy qualifies for the 2022 State Championship Playoffs and will



Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Members

Original Inductees:

Curt Brasket
George Tiers
David Kuhns
Dan Voje
E.P. Elliot
Louis Uedemann

Class of 2018:

George Barnes
Eduard Zelkind
Larry Lampert

Class of 2019:

Sean Nagle
John Bartholomew
Victor Adler
Brian Ribnick

Class of 2020:

Nels Truelson
Ted Haugan
Alex Balandin
Ed Conway

Class of 2021:

Roger Rudolph
Milt Otteson
Russ Erickson
Jacob Harris

Class of 2022:

To be inducted
at the MN OPEN
on February 26.

have the chance to test his elite chess game against 10-time State Champ IM Sean Nagle.

There were several noteworthy performances in the top section. Bill Murray had a “Super Saturday” with victories against two National Masters (Ethan Hunt & Okey Iwu)! Bill’s only loss on Saturday was a tough round 2 battle with Sammy. Cub Noble had his own version of the “Super Saturday” with wins against NMs Radermacher & Hunt. Finally, Joel Nathe, the lowest rated player in the top section at 1879, parlayed his first round bye into an outstanding 3-point tournament by drawing with Talghader, beating Wahl, losing to Narayanan, and drawing with Alice Lee. Joel gained 58 rating points and served notice that his chess game has a high ceiling.

In the Class B/C section, Stephen Lockhart and Alan Xu tied for 1st place with 4.0/5.0 points. Lockhart was the top seed, however Xu came from the middle of the pack and increased his rating by 146 points during the process! In the Class D/Unrated Section it was UNR Maximilian Risdall sweeping the field with a perfect 5-0 score. Risdall now carries a provisional rating of 1724 after an impressive first 5 rated games.

The tournament was held at the Hamel Community Building in the west metro area. This is a new concept site for the MSCA that was just large enough to hold the 60 players competing in 3 sections. With the surrounding park and outdoor green space this site is particularly well suited for hosting summer events of medium size (i.e bigger than the castle chess club in Bloomington...smaller and more cost effective than the standard MSCA sites). A special thanks to Sarah Emmons and Jenny Bourne for directing this event.

MN Class Tournament; Master/Expert Section: Nov 20-21, 2021 @ Hamel Community Building

| <u>Place</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Total Pts</u> | <u>Round 1</u> | <u>Round 2</u> | <u>Round 3</u> | <u>Round 4</u> | <u>Round 5</u> |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | S. Narayanan | 2359 | 4.5 | W5 | W13 | D2 | W7 | W4 |
| 2 | Ashton Jin | 2262 | 4.0 | W14 | W15 | D1 | W8 | D3 |
| 3 | J. Talghader | 2143 | 3.5 | W16 | D7 | H | W6 | D2 |
| 4-7 | Jackson Wahl | 2231 | 3.0 | W10 | W6 | L7 | W13 | L1 |
| | Dane Zagar | 2094 | 3.0 | L1 | W16 | L8 | W12 | W13 |
| | Cub Noble | 1905 | 3.0 | W12 | L4 | W9 | L3 | W15 |
| | Joel Nathe | 1879 | 3.0 | Bye | D3 | W4 | L1 | D8 |
| 8-10 | Alice Lee | 2248 | 2.5 | H | D11 | W5 | L2 | D7 |
| | Ethan Hunt | 2188 | 2.5 | L13 | W14 | L6 | W15 | D10 |
| | Jordan Timm | 1993 | 2.5 | L4 | L12 | Bye | W14 | D9 |
| 11-13 | Okey Iwu | 2200 | 2.0 | L15 | D8 | L13 | Bye | D12 |
| | T. Radermacher | 2137 | 2.0 | L6 | W10 | D15 | L5 | D11 |
| | W. Murray | 1932 | 2.0 | W9 | L1 | W11 | L4 | L5 |
| 14-15 | David McNeil | 2124 | 1.5 | L2 | L9 | H | L10 | Bye |
| | E. Wasserman | 1949 | 1.5 | W11 | L2 | D12 | L9 | L6 |
| 16 | A. Thiagarajan | 1993 | 0.5 | L3 | L5 | H | U | U |

Linden Lee Wins 2021 Chess Castle Championship!!

Article by Linden Lee

The 2021 Chess Castle Championship, held on October 2-3, 2021, was the first time the annual event took place in the new, smaller Bloomington site. Usually, the championship is held in January, but this year, it was delayed by nine months because of COVID disruptions. The event attracted 30 participants, spread between the main playing room and a smaller side room. It followed the traditional 7-round format, with 4 games played on Saturday and 3 games on Sunday. The time control was 60 minutes with a 15-second delay.

This was my fourth time playing in the Castle Championship. Each of my first three championships was a rollercoaster — the most recent championship included several lead changes, a TV brought to the Castle so players could watch the NFL playoffs between games, and last-round drama resulting in a 5-way tie for first to cap it all off. Mr. Dan Voje, our beloved former Castle manager, has a large trophy with the names of previous Chess Castle Champions. Last year's 5-way tie put that system to the test, since there was no space to engrave all five names. I heard someone joke that we should just put the five names on the bottom of the trophy!

I was one of six National Masters to play the tournament, along with Jackson Wahl, Alice Lee, Dr. Okey Iwu, Ethan Hunt, and Troy Cavanah. Most of my games took place in the side room, giving me fewer opportunities to observe other games. In game 1 against dedicated Castle blogger Bill Murray, I took advantage of a few tempi to launch a kingside attack that secured me a win. In game 2 against new Castle manager Dane Zagar, I was able to create a protected passed pawn, forcing Dane to play passive defense. After the second round, I was tied with five others with a perfect score — Alice, Ethan, Okey, and experts Jordan Timm and David McNeil. I was paired against Dr. Okey (whom I had drawn in last year's championship) in round 3 with the white pieces. I won that key round 3 match-up and the game with my annotations is included at the end of this article.

In the fourth round, I was paired with the only other player at 3/3: Jordan Timm, who had just scored an upset over Jackson Wahl. Our game in the evening round was wild — Jordan went for a piece sacrifice that I refuted, and then I blew a six-point advantage, but ultimately I was able to prevail. So after the first day, I went home with a perfect 4/4. My sister Alice was in sole second place with 3.5/4, having defeated David McNeil in an endgame late in the evening.

After a draw with Alice to start the second day, I was paired against Jackson with the black pieces. This game was my most dramatic of the tournament — I spent half of the game with my time under 5 minutes, but was eventually able to win in a time scramble.

Before the final round, I was in first place with 5.5/6. Alice was in clear second with 5/6, and there was a 4-way tie for third place with 4/6: Troy, John Talghader, Ethan, and Jordan. My final game against Troy ended with a quick draw. Alice wasn't able to take advantage of my result, as she pressed against John and lost, allowing John to tie her for 2nd place.

Special shoutouts go to Vihaan Pendse, a fast-rising 9-year-old who held Dr. Okey to a draw in the sixth round; Matthew Lyng, who gained 163 rating points; and Alexander Demir Augustine, who had three upset wins against players a combined 2857 rating points higher than him! Thanks to Jackson Wahl and Sarah Emmons for directing the tournament, and for all the players for participating in the event. The 2022 Castle Championship will return to its usual early January schedule, giving me just three-months to enjoy the title.

**** UPDATE ****

Just before we went to press with this edition of the Minnesota Chess Journal, Troy Cavanah won the 2022 Chess Castle Championship played on the first weekend of the new year with 6/7 points. Linden's family ran into some travel logistics returning from an out-of-state chess tournament and so Linden was not able to defend his title. Troy's championship and excellent play will be covered in the spring edition of the Minnesota Chess Journal.

2021 Chess Castle Championship: Oct 2-3, 2021 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

| Place | Name | Rating | Total Pts | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 | Round 4 | Round 5 | Round 6 | Round 7 |
|-------|----------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Linden Lee | 2238 | 6.0 | W18 | W13 | W4 | W11 | D2 | W12 | D5 |
| 2-3 | Alice Lee | 2241 | 5.0 | W20 | W10 | D6 | W9 | D1 | W11 | L3 |
| | John Talghader | 2146 | 5.0 | L21 | W22 | D5 | H | W10 | W7 | W2 |
| 4-8 | Okey Iwu | 2200 | 4.5 | W19 | W7 | L1 | D6 | D15 | D13 | W11 |
| | Troy Cavanah | 2185 | 4.5 | D14 | W8 | D3 | H | D7 | W18 | D1 |
| | Ethan Hunt | 2190 | 4.5 | W22 | W17 | D2 | D4 | L11 | W15 | D9 |
| | Tony Schläger | 2046 | 4.5 | W28 | L4 | W26 | W10 | D5 | L3 | W13 |
| | E. Wasserman | 1946 | 4.5 | D12 | L5 | D23 | D21 | W19 | W16 | W18 |
| 9-11 | David McNeil | 2083 | 4.0 | W24 | W21 | H | L2 | L12 | W23 | D6 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Daniel Deutsch | 2026 | 4.0 | W27 | L2 | W21 | L7 | L3 | W20 | W17 |
| | Jordan Timm | 1976 | 4.0 | W15 | W16 | W12 | L1 | W6 | L2 | L4 |
| 12-16 | Jackson Wahl | 2253 | 3.5 | D8 | W14 | L11 | W19 | W9 | L1 | -- |
| | Dane Zagar | 2108 | 3.5 | W26 | L1 | L19 | W16 | W20 | D4 | L7 |
| | Eric Gahlon | 1770 | 3.5 | D5 | L12 | D18 | L25 | H | W27 | W23 |
| | Vihaan Pendse | 1690 | 3.5 | L11 | W28 | W17 | H | D4 | L6 | H |
| | A. Augustine | 815P | 3.5 | W25 | L11 | D20 | L13 | W22 | L8 | W24 |
| 17-21 | Dan Voje | 1921 | 3.0 | W23 | L6 | L15 | W22 | L18 | W26 | L10 |
| | Bill Murray | 1900 | 3.0 | L1 | D23 | D14 | W24 | W17 | L5 | L8 |
| | B. Vanorny | 1892 | 3.0 | L4 | W27 | W13 | L12 | L8 | H | H |
| | Elijah Tramm | 1911 | 3.0 | L2 | W24 | D16 | H | L13 | L10 | W26 |
| | P. Zentner | 1764 | 3.0 | W3 | L9 | L10 | D8 | L23 | D22 | W27 |
| 22-24 | S. Lockhart | 1770 | 2.5 | L6 | L3 | W28 | L17 | L16 | D21 | W30 |
| | Matthew Lyng | 1449P | 2.5 | L17 | D18 | D8 | H | W21 | L9 | L14 |
| | V. Wiśniewski | 1614 | 2.5 | L9 | L20 | W29 | L18 | H | W28 | L16 |
| 25-27 | A. Hortillosa | 1918 | 2.0 | L16 | L26 | W27 | W14 | -- | -- | -- |
| | Ryan Shiroma | 1596 | 2.0 | L13 | W25 | L7 | L27 | W28 | L17 | L20 |
| | N. Pesklo | 1426 | 2.0 | L10 | L19 | L25 | W26 | W29 | L14 | L21 |
| 28 | John Blomer | 963 | 1.5 | L7 | L15 | L22 | W30 | L26 | L24 | H |
| 29-30 | David Deutsch | 645 | 0.0 | -- | -- | L24 | -- | L27 | -- | -- |
| | Jenny Bourne | 380P | 0.0 | -- | -- | -- | L28 | -- | -- | L22 |

Lee, Linden 2238 - Iwu, Okey 2200 1-0

2021 Chess Castle Championship, Chess Castle of Minnesota (3), 2021.10.02

D10: QGD, Slav

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 g6 5.♘f3 ♙g7 6.♙e2 O-O 7.O-O e6 8.♗c2
♘bd7 9.b3 ♖e8 10.♘e5 ♘xe5 11.dxe5 ♘d7 12.f4 f6 13.exf6 ♘xf6 14.♙b2 ♗b6
15.♗d2?!

15.♘d1! ♘e4 16.♙xg7 ♙xg7 17.♙f3±

15...♙d7 16.♖ae1 ♖ad8 17.♘a4 ♘e4 18.♗d3 ♗a5 19.♙xg7 ♙xg7 20.♖d1 Black
has outplayed White up to this point, but now: 20...b5?!

20...c5! Hitting the a4 knight with the d7 bishop. 21.♘b2 ♗c3 22.♗xc3+ ♘xc3

23.♖de1 ♙c6 And Black's pieces dominate White's.

21.cxb5 cxb5 22.♘c5 ♘xc5 23.♗d4+ ♙g8 24.b4 ♗a3?! Black should have just
grabbed the pawn with

24...♗xa2 25.♖d2 ♗a4 26.♗xc5=+

25.bxc5 ♖c8 26.♖c1 ♗xa2 27.♙d3 ♗a3 28.h4 ♖e7 29.♖c2 Ra1 followed by Rb2
is the threat, so: 29...♗a4 30.♗e5 ♙e8? Black has to realize his queen is under
some heat, so a better move would be:

30...b4

31.♖a1?!

31.f5! ♗xh4

31...gxf5? 32.♙xf5!

32.fxe6+-

31...♗b3?? Black's best option was to go for the queen sacrifice

31...♗b4 32.♖b2 ♗xc5 33.♖c2 ♗xc2 34.♙xc2 ♖xc2 Where he has just enough
material to survive. Instead, he just loses to:

32.♗d4! b4 The only way to prevent Rb2. 33.♖cc1! Suddenly, Black loses his
queen by force.

33.♖b2?? ♗c3!±

33...♖ec7 34.♙e2!! Here, my opponent resigned as Bd1 trapping the queen is
unstoppable. 1-0

Tim Radermacher Wins 2021 Minnesota Senior Championship

Tim's name is no stranger to this Journal. Ever since he was attending Lincoln Elem. School, he has been collecting national and state scholastic titles. To those of us who know Tim, there was never any doubt but that some day we would open the MCJ and read that he was [Senior] State Champion. It was merely a question of when.

OK, this is an awkward opening to this article. Apologies but we thought this would be fun to do a “cut and paste” of this paragraph Roy Truelson wrote in the spring 1987 MCJ when Tim won his overall State Championship at the age of 19. Only one word was changed for this new version of the article...and that was the insertion of the bracketed [Senior] to reflect the 34 years that have elapsed between these two articles.

In all seriousness, Tim was finally able to win this elusive title in his 4th attempt and complete what is believed to be the first “Minnesota Chess Slam” (i.e. winning state championships at the elementary, middle school, high school, overall, and senior levels).

Tim scored 3.5/4.0 points and was able to overcome runner-up Dan Voje in a climactic Round 3 battle. Mr. Voje has absolutely dominated the Senior State Championship for the last dozen years...collecting an all-time record 6 titles along the way!!

3-time Senior Champion Bill Murray had an excellent tournament and was within a converted endgame win against Voje in Round 4 from tying for 1st with Radermacher. Voje was able to create just enough chaos on the board to entice Murray to hang a rook - and that was that.

Radermacher will now represent Minnesota at the Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions in California in late July 2022. He is excited to join the great Minnesota scholastic players to hopefully help Minnesota move up from its 37th place finish last year among the 50 states. Chess time flies as Radermacher also represented Minnesota in the 2nd ever Denker High School Event in New Jersey in 1986.

Many thanks to Dane Zagar for directing the Senior State Championship.

Results from Side Event held during the 2021 Minnesota Senior Championship

This 7-person tournament was held at the Castle Chess Club at the same time as the Minnesota Senior Championship. It featured several of Minnesota's top young talents. Alice Lee was the top-rated player and took 1st place with 3.5/4.0 points. Alice played very solid (as always) throughout the event and only Troy Cavanah was able to split the point with her in their 3rd round game. 7th-seeded Arvind Thiagarajan finished a surprising 2nd after he upset Troy Cavanah in the last round. Arvind raised his USCF rating to 1993 and is knocking on the door to become an expert.

Okey Iwu is the Champ at Castle's December FIDE Event

Okey Iwu went undefeated, scoring 2 draws, 3 wins, and 4 points to take clear 1st at the Castle's December FIDE Event. Iwu won a key match-up against his TCCL teammate Dane Zagar in Round 5 to secure clear 1st prize. The tournament was yet another opportunity for some of Minnesota's top improving Class A players to demonstrate their skills. Mike Schecter claimed 2nd prize and a 41-point rating gain to 1962 with 3.5/5.0 points. Ben Vanorny tied for 3rd with Megan Chen (Illinois) at 3 points and pocketed 13 rating points (now 1965). Finally, Bill Murray's excellent play continued and he went undefeated by scoring 2.5/4.0 points, including a 4th round draw with Iwu and an overall rating gain of 21 points to now reside at 1970.

In the lower section there was a tie for 1st prize at 4.0/5.0 points between Caleb Blodgett and Irene Fei (Iowa). Fei defeated the previously unbeaten Blodgett in the 5th round to overcome a first round loss and capture a share of the title. Many thanks to Dane Zagar for directing these events.

2021 FIDE Event Premier Section: Held December 4-5, 2021 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

| Place | Name | Rating | Total Pts | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 | Round 4 | Round 5 |
|-------|------------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Okey Iwu | 2200 | 4.0 | D2 | W4 | W9 | D6 | W5 |
| 2 | Mike Schecter | 1921 | 3.5 | D1 | H | H | W10 | W4 |
| 3-4 | Ben Vanorny | 1952 | 3.0 | D5 | W10 | D8 | L4 | W9 |
| | Megan Chen (IL) | 1847 | 3.0 | W8 | L1 | W7 | W3 | L2 |
| 5-8 | Dane Zagar | 2126 | 2.5 | D3 | W7 | D6 | H | L1 |
| | Bill Murray | 1949 | 2.5 | W12 | D9 | D5 | D1 | U |
| | Jordan Timm | 1939 | 2.5 | D10 | L5 | L4 | W11 | W8 |
| | E. Wasserman | 1933 | 2.5 | L4 | W11 | D3 | W9 | L7 |
| 9-11 | Dan Voje | 1979 | 1.5 | W11 | D6 | L1 | L8 | L3 |
| | Barry Lazarus | 1900 | 1.5 | D7 | L3 | H | L2 | D11 |
| | Elijah Tramm | 1893 | 1.5 | L9 | L8 | Bye | L7 | D10 |
| 12 | Stephen Lockhart | 1779 | 0.0 | L6 | U | U | U | U |

Hall of Fame Classic

This was a small but strong tournament featuring 4 masters and an average USCF Rating of 2056 among the 12 participants in the top section. Jackson Wahl and Okey Iwu drew in round 3 and went on to share top prize by scoring 4.0/5.0 points. The tournament was held at the spacious Minnetonka Marriott and was expertly directed by Sarah Emmons.

2021 Hall of Fame Classic: Held December 18-19, 2021 @ Minnetonka Marriott

| Place | Name | Rating | Total Pts | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 | Round 4 | Round 5 |
|-------|----------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1-2 | Jackson Wahl | 2216 | 4.0 | W6 | W5 | D2 | H | W8 |
| | Okey Iwu | 2206 | 4.0 | W12 | W9 | D1 | W5 | D4 |
| 3-4 | T. Radermacher | 2111 | 3.5 | D11 | W8 | H | W10 | H |
| | Dane Zagar | 2114 | 3.5 | L9 | W12 | W11 | W7 | D2 |
| 5 | Nels Truelson | 2200 | 3.0 | W7 | L1 | W9 | L2 | W12 |
| 6-9 | Tony Schlaeger | 2037 | 2.0 | L1 | L7 | W12 | H | H |
| | E. Wasserman | 1959 | 2.0 | L5 | W6 | L10 | L4 | B |
| | Barry Lazarus | 1900 | 2.0 | D10 | L3 | H | W11 | L1 |
| | Adriel Agan | 1864 | 2.0 | W4 | L2 | L5 | H | H |
| 10-11 | David McNeil | 2154 | 1.5 | D8 | L11 | W7 | L3 | U |
| | Bill Murray | 1970 | 1.5 | D3 | W10 | L4 | L8 | U |
| 12 | Jordan Timm | 1941 | 1.0 | L2 | L4 | L6 | B | L5 |

In the U1900 section Daniel Henneman & Alan Xu split 1st prize with 4.0/5.0 points. This was a hard fought 13-player section and it is amazing that in such a small group Henneman and Xu did not have a head-to-head match-up. In the 16-player U1600 section it was the emerging talent of Alexander Augustine that prevailed with 4.5/5.0 points. 2nd prize was Aarav Salil who scored 4.0/5.0 points, drew with Augustine in round 5, and pocketed 167 rating points to land at 1266.

2022 MN Chess Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

Roger Hale, Marv Mattson, Tim Radermacher and Mike Valvo have been inducted into the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame and will be recognized at a ceremony held at 3:15 PM on Saturday February 26, 2022 between rounds 2 and 3 of the Minnesota Open. They will join the existing 21 members of the Hall of Fame and you can read their full nominations [here](#).

Rochester Masters Invitational Event

Article by Joe Longen

The Rochester Masters Chess Tourney held on Dec. 4th featured eight strong players with an average rating of 2197. The tourney was run by Dennis Mays who did an outstanding job of organizing and directing. Another super feature was Tim Radermacher bringing much history to the event with the George Tiers chess collection.

Just to warn the reader. I will give a short description of each game as best as I can since I was playing in the event some “depth of writing” will be lost.

Round 1:

JENSEN vs. RADERMACHER

Matt Jensen played super solid against Tim’s favorite Philidor defense, added a new attacking idea, and converted the queenside attack into a won ending.

JIN vs. TRUELSON

This game seemed destined to go to an endgame. Aston Jin’s bishop and knight could not come out ahead of Nels Truelson’s rook. A truce was then called.

LONGEN vs. ALICE LEE

After 1.d4, the game went slowly with standard development. Once Alice deployed her queen, knight, and bishop on the queenside, Longen pushed on the kingside. At the time of crises, Longen made the “wrong” exchange sacrifice. Still some problems existed. Alice showed amazing calm by returning the exchange to force a won endgame. Very professional battle! Point to Alice.

MCNEIL vs. WAHL.

David McNeil launched a kingside attack against Jackson Wahl. Jackson was able to reach a Queen and opposite colored bishop ending with some attacking chances. McNeil handles the defense well and Wahl must be content with a fighting draw.

Round 2:

ALICE LEE vs. JENSEN

The only two players to win face off. Alice plays solid and Matt Jensen transposes to a Dutch Defense. Alice combines a long pawn chain reaching to b6 and has her rook on a7 causing worry. Jensen then tries to break through on the kingside. But again, Alice remains calm and reduces the attack to equality. Well earned half points are awarded to Matt and Alice.

WAHL vs. JIN

Immediately I noticed Ashton Jin getting his queen to the kingside and pressure remained. His attacked paid off with the gain of a few pawns. Wahl had no way to get counterplay. Jin wins!

TRUELSON vs. MCNEIL

Two experts on the Two Knights Defense get their wish. A tough, wild middle game leads to a double rook endgame in which McNeil was low on time but had just enough to hold off Trueslson and force a draw.

RADERMACHER vs. LONGEN

1.g3. Later on Tim gained a space edge by playing his queen pawn to d5. Sensing a lack of breathing space, Joe Longen sacked a pawn with...b5 trying to get into a form of the Benko. Tim took the pawn and advanced it to b6. After its capture the game was drifting...into a draw!

Round 3:

JENSEN vs. TRUELSON

Matt Jensen won a shorter game giving him 2.5 points and at least a tie for first place.

JIN vs. ALICE LEE

Alice's early attack gained intensity for the piece invested at f3. Jin carefully reduced the pressure. Alice added a pawn sac (d5) to bring the rook to the kingside via a6. In the end a draw is agreed giving these players a share of 2nd place.

MCNEIL vs. LONGEN

David McNeil started with calm: 1. Nf3, 2. g3 and he kept the calm going. Soon the game revolved around white enforcing a future e4, which Longen tried hard to stop. Just when the game seemed to be opening up, both players agreed to take a draw. This draw would give McNeil 4th place.

RADERMACHER vs. WAHL.

Amazingly, this was the 2nd game today in which Jackson Wahl had a queen and bishop vs. queen and bishop ending. Jackson tried to push the ending, but Tim is way too tough in endings. Draw.

2021 Rochester Masters Event: Held December 4, 2021 @ Harwick Cafeteria near Mayo Clinic

| <u>Place</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Total Pts</u> | <u>Round 1</u> | <u>Round 2</u> | <u>Round 3</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Matt Jensen | 2235 | 2.5 | W8 | D3 | W6 |
| 2-3 | Ashton Jin | 2277 | 2.0 | D6 | W5 | D3 |
| | Alice Lee | 2264 | 2.0 | W7 | D1 | D2 |
| 4 | David McNeil | 2131 | 1.5 | D5 | D6 | D7 |
| 5-8 | Jackson Wahl | 2224 | 1.0 | D4 | L2 | D8 |
| | Nels Truelson | 2200 | 1.0 | D2 | D4 | L1 |
| | Joe Longen | 2143 | 1.0 | L3 | D8 | D4 |
| | Tim Radermacher | 2114 | 1.0 | L1 | D7 | D5 |

Castle Chess Club Report - October thru December 2021

The Castle Chess Club has a new location in Bloomington. Thanks to Jackson Wahl, Sarah Emmons, Jenny Bourne, Dane Zagar, Elijah Tramm, Nathan Hoover, and Norman Myrin for directing at the Castle. Below is a summary of results during October - December.

Monday Night Action Quad Win Leaders

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| David McNeil | 5 |
| Ahmed Ilyasov | 3 3/4 |
| Jordan Timm | 3 |
| Samuel Brancazio | 2 |
| Jackson Carter | 2 |
| Troy Cavanah | 2 |
| Andrew Sheehan | 1 1/2 |

* *Partial points awarded for ties*

Wednesday Knighter Open Winners

October - Jordan Timm, Eddie Wasserman,
Kevin Landman, Judson Girton
November - Eddie Wasserman
December - Steven Rozaitis

Thursday Knighter Premier Winners

October - Ethan Hunt
November - Ethan Hunt
December - David McNeil & Nathan Hoover

Saturday Exerciser Quad Win Leaders

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Nathaniel Pesklo | 1 |
| Samuel Brancazio | 1 |
| Perry Zentner | 1 |
| Matthew Morgan | 1 |
| Aidan Sneller | 1 |
| G. Kaliappan | 1 |

Other Noteworthy Events @ Castle Chess Club:

October 2021 Club Championship - Linden Lee 1st prize
October MN Senior Championship - Tim Radermacher 1st prize
October Leaves are Falling Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize
October Halloween Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize
November Speedy Rapid - Andrew Sheehan 1st prize
December FIDE - Okey Iwu 1st prize
December Holiday Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize
January 2022 Club Championship - Troy Cavanah 1st prize

Rochester Chess Report

The Rochester Chess Club has been hosting monthly “slow” USCF-rated tournaments. Below are the results from the September & November Events. Note that for September the top 8 players were grouped into two separate quad competitions and are not presented in the results below. Matt Jensen & Dexter Thompson tied for 1st with 2.5/3.0 points in the top quad. Soren Wiedmann went a perfect 3.0/3.0 to take the second quad. Overall there were 24 chess players who competed in the September events which were all directed by Dennis Mays.

Rochester Swiss Event: Tuesdays in September 2021 @ Mayo Clinic Building

| <u>Place</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Total Pts</u> | <u>Round 1</u> | <u>Round 2</u> | <u>Round 3</u> | <u>Round 4</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Isaac Sellon | 1243P | 4.0 | W7 | W12 | W2 | W3 |
| 2-3 | Jesse Buss | 1360P | 3.0 | W14 | W8 | L1 | W6 |
| | Steve Lange | 1301 | 3.0 | W6 | W4 | W10 | L1 |
| 4-5 | Drew Wilfahrt | 1072P | 2.5 | D5 | L3 | W9 | W10 |
| | David Atwell | UNR | 2.5 | D4 | L10 | W12 | W8 |
| 6-7 | Hamid Norasi | UNR | 2.0 | L3 | W13 | W7 | L2 |
| | V. Bellamkonda | UNR | 2.0 | L1 | W14 | L6 | X |
| 8-10 | Matthew Shumiloff | UNR | 1.5 | W11 | L2 | H | L5 |
| | Alex Zoghby | UNR | 1.5 | D10 | L11 | L4 | W13 |
| | Robert Richardson | 568 | 1.5 | D9 | W5 | L3 | L4 |
| 11-14 | Erik Deetz | 1221P | 1.0 | L8 | W9 | U | U |
| | Samuel Golden | UNR | 1.0 | W13 | L1 | L5 | F |
| | Ethan Hahn | UNR | 1.0 | L12 | L6 | W14 | L9 |
| | Mark Tompkin | UNR | 1.0 | L2 | L7 | L13 | B |

In November, there were a total of 20 chess players in the two sections. Jesse Buss won the swiss with a perfect 4.0/4.0 score. In the top swiss Matt Jensen took 1st prize with 2.5/3.0 points. The top swiss crosstable immediately follows.

Rochester Top Swiss Event: Tuesdays in November 2021 @ Mayo Clinic Building

| <u>Place</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Total Pts</u> | <u>Round 1</u> | <u>Round 2</u> | <u>Round 3</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Matthew Jensen | 2232 | 2.5 | H | W4 | W3 |
| 2-4 | Dexter Thompson | 2200 | 1.5 | W5 | D3 | U |
| | Kevin Gaustad | 1801 | 1.5 | W6 | D2 | L1 |
| | Michael Kern | 1776 | 1.5 | H | L1 | W5 |
| 5-6 | George Paulik | 1687 | 1.0 | L2 | W6 | L4 |
| | Soren Wiedmann | 1544 | 1.0 | L3 | L5 | B |

**** UPDATE****

Dennis Mays has begun planning the revival of the Rochester Open for the Summer of 2022. This is an exciting development and the MCJ will include information about the event as it comes available.

Twin Ports Chess Club Report

The Duluth MN / Superior WI area has a long history of good chess!! Going all the way back to Marv Mattson and his dedication to keep the Monday night club up and running for 30+ years...and then the tradition carried on by “the Danes” as Dane Zagar and Dane Mattson took over chess organizing and launched the successful summer Twin Ports Open. This club has done good work to bring chess to the far North and to extend a warm welcome to Twin Cities chess players who visit for the annual January MLK Event or the summer Twin Ports Open.

The Danes have since taken their chess organizing skills south and now reside in the South Metro and Missouri respectively. But the tradition continues as Brent Gudowski is now organizing events for the Twin Ports Chess Club. Most of the events this past fall have been fast time controls, on Monday nights, featuring about a dozen chess players, and are generally won by Dr. Okey Iwu...Duluth’s premier chessmaster.

If you get the chance you can check out this year’s MLK Tournament on January 15/16 and hopefully the Twin Ports Open will return to the Minnesota chess calendar next summer.

STAT CORNER

This recurring feature in the MCJ is brought to you by MN Chess Hall of Fame Committee Member Joe Longen, who is the keeper of an impressive array of Minnesota chess history and statistics.

MN Senior State Championships (Only Players with Multiple Championships Listed)

| Player | # | Most Recent Year |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Dan Voje | 6 | 2020 |
| Glen Proechel | 5 | 2008 |
| Bill Murray | 3 | 2015 |
| Wilson Gibbons | 3 | 2018 |
| Dr. Ekrem Gozum | 3 | 2002 |
| Victor Adler* | 2 | 2010 |
| Roger Rudolph* | 2 | 2001 |
| Dale Gustafson | 2 | 1999 |
| Ed Terwilliger | 2 | 1996 |

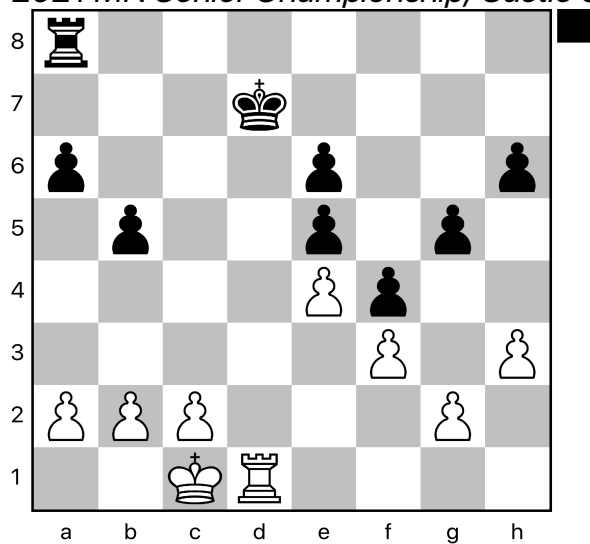
* *Only Adler & Rudolph from this list also won overall MN State Championships*

BILL'S ENDGAME CORNER

This editor originally met Bill Murray at Thursday Night Chess in the North Suburban Chess League back in 1981 when it used to meet at North Hennepin Community College. Over the last 40 years that I have known Bill, it has been my observation that he has been a constant on the Minnesota chess scene and one of the most solid chess players I have encountered. In the last few years I have noticed Bill's unique talent for both getting into and succeeding with interesting endgames. This new column is introduced to feature some of the interesting endgames Bill has encountered in recent chess events. Enjoy!

Nels Truelson - Bill Murray 0-1

2021 MN Senior Championship, Castle Chess Club (3), 2021.10.24



Nels and I both very much wanted to win the title. I had offered a draw earlier in an equal position. Nels declined and said he was "having too much fun". We both thought this position was winning for white and that black would be suffering for a long time to try and achieve a draw. I decided on active play as Nels was a little short of time, though increment was being used. **27... ♖e7 28.c3 h5 29. ♖c2 g4 30.hxg4 hxg4** My silicon friend says this is equal at depth 48. **31.fxg4** I was surprised at this move as it allows for counterplay. **31... ♖g8 32. ♖b3 ♖xg4 33. ♖d2 ♖g3 34. ♖b4 ♖e3 35. ♖a5 ♖xe4 36. ♖xa6 b4** I really liked this move and I think it was overlooked by Nels. **37.cxb4 37. ♖b5 bxc3 38.bxc3 ♖e3 39. ♖c2** I would call this unclear though the engine says equal.

37... ♖xb4 38. ♖a5 ♖b8 39.b4 e4 40.b5 e3 41. ♖c2 ♖d8

41... e5 42. ♖b4 ♖d6 43. ♖c4 ♖c8+ 44. ♖b3 ♖a8 45.a4 e4 46. ♖b4 f3 47.gxf3 exf3

41... ♖d6 42.b6 e5 43. ♖a6 e4 44. ♖a7 ♖e8 45.b7 f3 46.gxf3 exf3 47.b8=♗+ ♖xb8

48. ♖xb8 e2 49. ♖c3 e1=♗ With king and rook separated this is an easy win for black.

42.b6 ♖d2 43. ♖c7+

43. ♖xd2 exd2 44.b7 d1=♗ 45.b8=♗ ♗d5+ 46. ♖b4 ♗d4+ 47. ♖b3 ♗d3+ 48. ♖b2

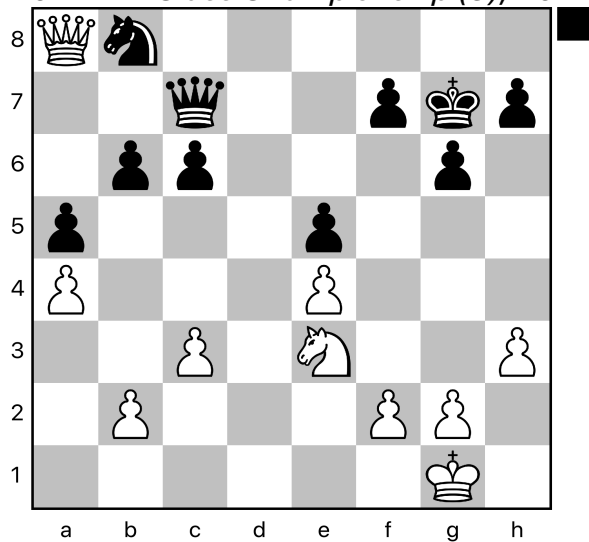
♗d2+ 49. ♖b3 ♗xg2 50. ♗c7+ ♖f6 51. ♗xf4+ and white draws.

43... ♖d6 44. ♖c1 ♖xa2+ 45. ♖b5 ♖xg2 46. ♖d1+ ♖e7 47. ♖b1 f3 Two pawns on the

6th rank beat a rook! **48.b7 ♖g8 49. ♖c4 ♖d8 50.b8=♗ ♖xb8 51. ♖xb8 f2 52. ♖b7+**

♖f6 0-1

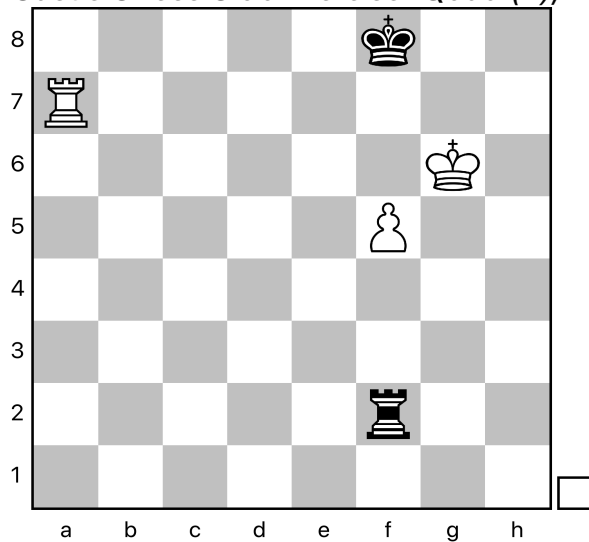
Okey Iwu 2200 - Bill Murray 1932 0-1
 2021 MN Class Championship (3), 2021.11.20



Notes by Bill Murray. I have had 0 wins, 11 losses, and 7 draws against Dr. Iwu over the years. He usually plays solid and waits for me to blunder. We pick up this endgame at move 32 where the engine says it is equal. His queen is out of play (temporarily) and I was trying to find a way to capitalize on it. **32... ♖d7 33.b4 axb4 34.cxb4 ♚d6** 34...Nf6, 35. f3 Qd6 is equal but active. White's a-pawn is troubling. **35.a5 bxa5 36.bxa5 ♜c5 37.a6** White is now +1 according to the engine and I could think of no good way to stop the pawn. The status of the white queen has improved from "out of play" to "lethal" and it never moved! **37... ♜xe4** Here I had almost resigned. I'm now looking for some sort of miracle to perhaps save the draw. **38.a7** White plays an inaccuracy and the game is once again equal. Better was 38. Qe8 to activate the queen while clearing the promotional path for the pawn. **38... ♚d2 39. ♜g4 ♚e1+ 40. ♜h2 ♜d2** Setting up a well know repetition pattern. If 40...Nf2, 41 Qc6 Ng4+, 42. hg and black has perpetual check. **41.g3** This move loses...at this point it was time for white to settle for the draw. **41... ♜f3+ 42. ♜g2 e4 43.h4 ♚g1+ 44. ♜h3 ♚f1# 0-1**

Bill Murray - Jordan Timm ½-½

Castle Chess Club Exerciser Quad (2), 2021.10.09



Notes by Bill Murray. We arrive here after my rook has gained me some time and the castle crowd watching the game has grown (no pressure Bill). Jordan has patiently been keeping his rook on the f-file. He now makes a mistake. The black king should go to the "short side" and the rook will check later from the "long side". **1. ♖f6 ♔e8**

1... ♔g8 2. ♖a8+ ♔h7 3. ♖e8 ♖f1 4. ♖e6 ♔g7 5. ♖e7+ ♔f8 ...with Kg8 the king went to the short side and black holds on for the draw.

2. ♖a8+ ♔d7 Here I was unable to find the winning move. Instead I sent my rook on a fruitless tour of the board and eventually the game was drawn. A good quiz for coaches and players is to find the winning move in this position. **3. ♖f8** Seems so simple once you find it! **3... ♖f1 4. ♖g7 ♖g1+ 5. ♖f7 ♖g2 6. f6 ♖f2 7. ♖a8 ♖f1 8. ♖a2 ♖f3 9. ♖d2+ ♔c7** Even my dog could now win this position...and his name is Lucena! ½-½

Top 20 Active MN Players by Over-the-Board USCF Rating as of January 1, 2022

| Rank | Player | Rating |
|------|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Andrew Tang - GM | 2581 |
| 2 | John Bartholomew - IM | 2534 |
| 3 | Sean Nagle - IM | 2520 |
| 4 | Samrug Narayanan - FM | 2360 |
| 5 | Frank Johnson - NM | 2357 |
| 6 | Kevin Wasiluk - FM | 2353 |
| 7 | Andrew Titus - NM | 2341 |
| 8 | Ashton Jin - NM | 2281 |
| 9 | Alice Lee - WIM | 2270 |
| 10 | Matthew Jensen - NM | 2250 |
| 11 | Linden Lee - NM | 2228 |
| 12 | Jackson Wahl - NM | 2216 |
| 13 | Dr. Okey Iwu - NM | 2206 |
| 14 | Joseph Truelson - NM | 2203 |
| 15 | Dexter Thompson - NM | 2200 |
| 16 | Nels Truelson - NM | 2200 |
| 17 | Ethan Hunt - NM | 2186 |
| 18 | Troy Cavanah - NM | 2185 |
| 19 | David McNeil | 2154 |
| 20 | John Talghader | 2150 |

**** Update ****

Minnesota chess phenom Alice Lee (WIM) continued her climb towards chess super stardom by winning her 4th straight world youth title and becoming the U12 girls world champion! With a FIDE rating of 2178 Alice is now the #72 rated U20 girl in the world! Keep in mind Alice is only 12 years old. This writer wonders if Alice will eventually become the most decorated Minnesota-grown chessplayer in our history.

Official Ballot for 2022 Election of MSCA Board of Directors

Incumbents who will continue on the Board to serve the 2nd year of their 2-year term. Do not vote for these individuals as they are automatically on the Board for 2022.

Chris Kalina
Dana Litman
Nels Truelson
David McNeil

Nominees for the 3 open Board positions. Vote for one of these individuals or a write-in candidate. These individuals are running for one of the 3 open Board positions.

Dane Zagar
Tim Radermacher

All members in good standing can vote for up to 3 candidates for the open board positions. "Members in good standing" are determined as at least 18 years of age as of February 25, 2022 and have played in a Minnesota chess tournament within the last year. Votes must be submitted by 7 PM on February 25, 2022. Members can vote by:

1. In Person: votes can be cast in person at the MN OPEN before the 1st Round which commences at 7 PM on February 25, 2022.

2. E-Mail: Votes can be e-mailed to the election judge Joe Longen at longenfamily@comcast.net. Be sure to include your name on the e-mail.

2022 MSCA Event Calendar

| Date | Event | Site | Status |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| January 7 | TCCL Round #3 | Roseville Skating Center | Confirmed |
| January 22-23 | Winter Open | Roseville Skating Center | Confirmed |
| February 11 | TCCL Round #4 | Roseville Skating Center | Confirmed |
| February 25-27 | Minnesota Open | Plymouth Crowne Plaza | Confirmed |
| March 11 | TCCL Round #5 | Roseville Skating Center | Confirmed |
| March 12-13 | State Scholastic Championships | TBD | Planning In process |
| March 26-27 | State Scholastic Play-Off | TBD | Planning In process |
| April 8 | TCCL Round #6 | Roseville Skating Center | Confirmed |
| April 23-24* | State Championship Play-Offs | TBD | Planning not Started |
| May 6 | TCCL Round #7 | Roseville Skating Center | Confirmed |
| July 16-17* | Summer Tournament | TBD | Planning not Started |
| August 21* | State Blitz Championship | Castle Chess Club | Planning not Started |
| September 3-4* | Northern Open | TBD | Planning not Started |
| October 7* | TCCL Round #1 | TBD | Planning not Started |
| October 22* | Senior State Championship | Castle Chess Club | Planning not Started |
| November 11* | TCCL Round #2 | TBD | Planning not Started |
| November 19-20* | Class Championships | TBD | Planning not Started |
| December 9* | TCCL Round #3 | TBD | Planning not Started |
| December 10-11* | Hall of Fame Classic | TBD | Planning not Started |

* Indicates preliminary event date