

2019 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:

John Bartholomew

John Bartholomew is an International Master, a 4-time Minnesota State Champion, and is the most successful chess entrepreneur in Minnesota history with his pioneering work developing on-line chess training videos. John descends from Ed Zelkind's training tree, having worked with Ed during his rise to National Master at the age of 15. John also worked with other national trainers as he accumulated several Minnesota scholastic championships, culminating with his back-to-back National K-9 and High School championships in 2001 & 2002.

Chess has created many opportunities for John. He attended the University of Texas in Dallas and played for their powerhouse chess team that won 2 collegiate championships. During his time at UT Dallas, John earned his final norm to become an IM. After college John moved to New York City where he took up residence as a chess player/trainer.

In 2012, John returned to his roots in Minnesota and once again became a strong presence on the Minnesota Chess scene. Notable students of John's at this time included Andrew Tang, who would go on to become Minnesota's first GM. In one of those classic "student vs teacher" matches, Tang defeated John in an Armageddon style play-off at the 2017 Minnesota Closed Championship.

Striving to keep his game sharp while fulfilling his many training commitments, John began to work with chess training videos in 2014. The on-line medium plays perfectly to John's strengths as a thoughtful and balanced player/presenter with excellent linguistic skills, a kind spirit, and deep chess knowledge. John's reputation has soared and he now has 68,000 subscribers and 10,000-20,000 people on average watching his chess videos.

John Bartholomew is an amazing chess player who often derives success on the chessboard by executing long-term strategic plans that "squeeze" his opponents. He is also an ambitious entrepreneur who has embraced the opportunity to make the game he loves his life's work.

The Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame is very excited to welcome John Bartholomew!