

Online Registration Now Underway for Sweetest Chess Tournament of the Year!

Pre-Valentine's Chocolate and Candy Blast with some Chess & Flower goodies, too!

Sunday, February 9, Greenfield Community Hall

More details on Page 3

Roving ChessNuts CHESS Teasers

NEWS, RESULTS, UPCOMING EVENTS, PHOTOS AND INTERESTING STUFF
MAINLY ABOUT SCHOLASTIC CHESS IN EDMONTON & CHESSNUTS ACTIVITIES

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Check out www.rovingchessnuts.com for updates between issues of Teasers

Chess players welcome 2020, last day of a frigid cold snap

The Roving ChessNuts' first open scholastic chess tournament of the new year attracted fewer than normal entrants, probably because players and parents were leery of going out at the end of a week-long spell of extreme cold weather which saw temperatures around minus 30 degrees C. and winds which made some days feel closer to minus 40. Even as the tournament started a brisk wind from the east was creating a minus 30 wind chill.

But the 30-plus players who braved the final cold day had many heated chess battles inside Greenfield Hall. Seven trophies were won, more than two dozen chess medals awarded and seven players in the top three sections collectively won \$200 in cash prizes.

Ten of the chess combatants won draw prizes which included a vertical chess board, chess puzzle books, a chess camp voucher, a knight cap and some manual puzzles.

Tri Tran was the top player at the end, winning Section A with a perfect score while Jarek Walker and Joshua Johnson shared the cash prizes in Section B. Walker won a blitz game to claim the sectional trophy. In the 6-player Section C, Caleb Menard had nothing but victories to claim a trophy.

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Section A



Section D



Section C

Two players, same section win Rating Recognition awards

At the January 19 scholastic tournament at Greenfield Hall, Caleb Menard won a trophy and Matteo Schlack won a chess medal for getting the highest chess rating gains at the event. Both played in Section C (where they were the tallest players in photo to left - Schlack far left and Menard with the trophy).

Menard gained 148 rating points during his five victories and was fourth ranked among the six players in his section. The big boost put him over the 1000 rating level for the first time. He has been involved in competitive chess since November 2016.

The rating medal winners were Kevin Huang, 98; Felix He, 90; Schlack, 88 and Kyle Ma, 86. A total of five players are recognized for rating gains at each open Roving ChessNuts tournament having at least 20 players.



Section F



Section G

Results of First 2020 Scholastic Chess Tournament



Section E

Section A: 1. Tri Tran, 4.0; 2 Tied. Anu Purevjants and Kevin Huang, 2.5 each; 4. Terry Li, 1.0; 5. Ryan Chen. (First three players won cash prizes)

Section B: 1. Tied Jarek Walker and Joshua Johnson, 2.2 each, Jarek wins tiebreak game for trophy; 3 Tied. Kai Riley and Manny Perla, 2.0 each; 5. Vincent Yang 1.0. (First four places won cash prizes)

Section C: 1. Caleb Menard, 4.0; 2. Matteo Schlack, 3.5; 3. Andrew Wang, 2.5; 4. Daniel Suchand, 2.0; 5. Nuno Gao, 1.0; 6. Linus Jin, 0.5. First two player won cash prizes)

Section D: 1. Felix He, 4.0; 2 Tied Dana Lee and Kyle Tang, 2.0 each; 4. Daniel Strungaru, 1.5; 5. Patrick Walker, 0.5.

Section E: 1. Kyle Ma, 3.0; 2. Raj Khanna, 2.0; 3. Aiden Lee, 1.0; 4. Shaan Ahuja.

Section F: 1. Frank Xia, 4.0; 2. Henry Jung, 3.0; 3. Andrew Semagin.

Section G: 1. Ayush Subudhiray, 2.5; 2. Peter Semagin, 2.0; 3. Torres Li, 1.5; 4. Benjamin Wai.

10-year-old in United States becomes youngest-ever International Master

At the age of 10 years, nine months and three days, Abhimanyu “Abhi” Mishra set the record for becoming the youngest International Chess Master in history.

The New Jersey boy got his third IM norm in November, competing in an event in New York. His first two norms came at another New York event last summer and the second in Los Angeles at a tournament for candidates for Grandmasters and International Masters.

Current World Under18 champion Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu had the previous distinction of being the youngest IM but was 17 days older than Mishra at the time.

Past achievements and coaching

A younger Abhi had taken second place in the 2017 Pan American Youth Championship in Costa Rica, and during the same year, was awarded silver at the

2017 World Cadet Under8 Championship in Brazil.

Coaches for Mishra have included two Grandmasters and a woman FIDE Master.

Last summer he participated in a training course conducted by 13th world champion Garry Kasparov. He is now being coached by a GM from Hungary who is head coach of the Kasparov Chess Foundation.

Following the winning of his IM title, Mishra participated in a high level chess competition where he drew all nine of his games, getting a 4.5/9 score and a performance rating for the event of 2456. He was rated just under 2300 at the time.

Next possible achievement for Mishra will be attempting to become the youngest-ever Grandmaster, set by Sergey Karjakin at age 12 years, seven months.

Continued from Page 1

Getting perfect scores in the remaining four sections of competition were Felix He and Kyle Ma. Section F with only three players had to play a double round robin and Frank Xia had to win a tiebreak game against Henry Jung to claim the first place trophy.

The January 19 tournament was organized by The Roving ChessNuts and directed by Derek Thomas and Bruce Thomas. Junior Leaders Vincent Yang and Kai Riley assisted and other players and parents helped with set-up and take-down. There were draw prizes of various chess items.



Tournament Chess Pieces with pouch & vinyl board
RC student price: \$23⁰⁰+GST = \$24.15

Available at **Roving ChessNuts**
 12015 76 Street, Edmonton
 780-474-2318
 Also available at Greenfield Hall classes & tournaments

These pieces are used in classes and tournaments; Green squares on board, red or blue pouch. Reg. price 29⁹⁵

Chess Clocks also Available

Rating Recognition Program

2019- 20 CHESS SEASON

following January 19th First Tournament of 2020

Tournament Rising Stars



Roving ChessNuts
780-474-2318
rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca
www.rovingchessnuts.com
12015 76 Street, Edmonton

This title and prizes awarded to players who make the highest rating gains during open competitions having 20 or more players involved. In order to promote more female participation, there are scholastic female title(s) and prize(s) for any open competition having three or more girls involved. Read more in Chess Teasers and see photos of tournament winners and rising rating stars in the newsletters! Awards for the December and January tournament winners will be presented at the February 9th Pre-Valentine's Day event.

Rising Chess Star Awards for 2019/20 Season

Back to School September 22, 2019

Trophy:
Andrew Wang, 70 points
Runner-Up Medals
Jothymius Kung, 62
Daniel Suchand, 62
Viktor Merritt, 46
Eric Jin, 42

Turkey Trot -Thanksgiving October 10, 2019

Trophy:
Jarek Walker, 70 points

Female Trophy:
Dana Lee, 34
Runner-Up Medals
Daniel Strungaru, 48
Joshua Kung, 46
Daniel Suchand, 40

3rd Annual Richard Roberts Memorial Tournament November 3, 2019

Trophy:
Eli Christensen, 114 points
Female Trophy:
Sophia Zhao, 94

Runner-Up Medals
Paris Dorn, 94
Matteo Schlack, 82
Jotis Kung, 66
Kyle Tang, 64

Santa Claus Tournament December 8, 2019

Trophy:
Dominik Neilson, 140 points
Runner-Up Medals
Thomas Blair, 128
Niko He, 118
Kevin Huang, 96
Brody Wallebeck, 94

The latest winners First Tournament of 2020

Overall Trophy:

Caleb Menard, 148

Top Female Trophy:

Too few female participants

Runner-Up Medals:

Kevin Huang, 98

Felix He, 90

Matteo Schlack, 88

Kyle Ma, 86



*Happy
Valentine's Day!*

Pre-Valentine's Chocolate & Candy Blast Scholastic Chess Tournament

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Greenfield Community Hall

3803 - 114 Street, Edmonton

Registered players must sign in at 12:30 p.m.

Online registration link, other details at

www.rovingchessnuts.com

**First three dozen prepaid entrants
will receive a sweet treat Valentine's bag**

[Link to online registration, updates and entrants list on home page of www.rovingchessnuts.com](http://www.rovingchessnuts.com)

Round-robin Sections of 4 to 6 players with similar ratings

Cash prizes for sections where most players are rated over 1000

All players go home with either a first-place trophy or runner-up chess medal

All players eligible to win draw prizes including a vertical chess board (complete with pieces) and chocolates!

Entry Fee: \$25.00 · Second player same family \$15.00

To avoid line-up on tournament day, consider calling RC office, 780-474-2318 to pay via Credit Card or to arrange e-transfer payment, or give cheque to Roving ChessNuts instructor

Entry Deadline will be when 50-player limit is reached or Saturday, February 8, 12 noon

Entry refunds available should player have to withdraw prior to 10 a.m. tournament day and notifies Roving ChessNuts

New players without national chess rating should be evaluated so they can be placed in appropriate level of play - phone 780-474-2318 or e-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca Use either phone or e-mail if any other questions.

CHESSEVENTS

Chess players and parents: Watch for further details and on-line registration for the monthly open scholastic chess tournaments Sunday afternoons, Greenfield Hall, 3803 114 Street, with sign-in at 12:30 p.m.:

- February 9 - Valentine's Tournament - open event with plenty of sweets to be available. (Details Page 3)
- March 15 - Watch for details.
- April 19 - Watch for details.
- May 3 - Watch for details.
- May 24 - Watch for details.
- June 21 - End of School Tournament and Barbecue Party for Chess Families

The tournament dates could change but we will try to avoid that. One of the May tournaments will be a school team championship for the Roving ChessNuts school team series. There will be some Friday night and Saturday afternoon tournaments during the winter.

- Winter Classes at Greenfield Hall have started Mondays through Wednesdays, and a Thursday class is expected to be added. All classes begin 6:30 p.m.. The Wednesday class is for higher-rated and older players, and it goes until 7:45 p.m.

- Some spaces still open at Saturday Knights Class, 10 a.m. at Roving ChessNuts facility, 12019 76 Street.

Please e-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca to apply. Brand new students should first attend a free evaluation session.

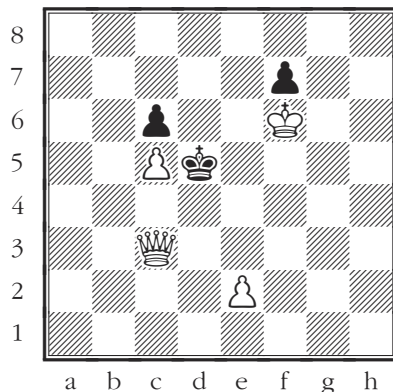
- Commando Chess Camps combining chess learning and playing with fitness competition will be held during the public schools' teachers convention on February 27 and 28 at Greenfield Community Hall. Each day session is suitable for all levels of players and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.. E-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca for details and registration form.

- We are accepting applications from players rated over 800 for small Friday evening classes and playing sessions, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.. This is for serious players wishing to play other serious players and wanting more advanced coaching. E-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca. Location: Roving ChessNuts facility

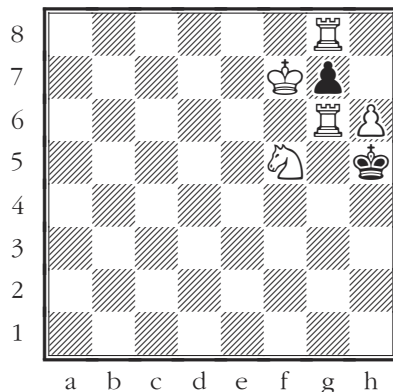
- Evaluations of beginning students are held most Saturdays and Sundays at the Roving ChessNuts, 12019 76 Street, Edmonton. You must arrange an appointment. E-mail or call 780-474-2318.

Keep updated by visiting www.rovingchessnuts.com

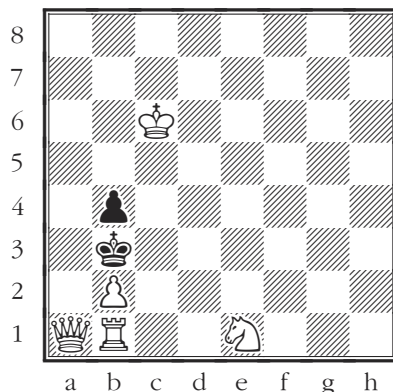
Answers to last issue's Puzzles



White Move **Kf5**
 Black Move **f5**
 White Move **e4#**

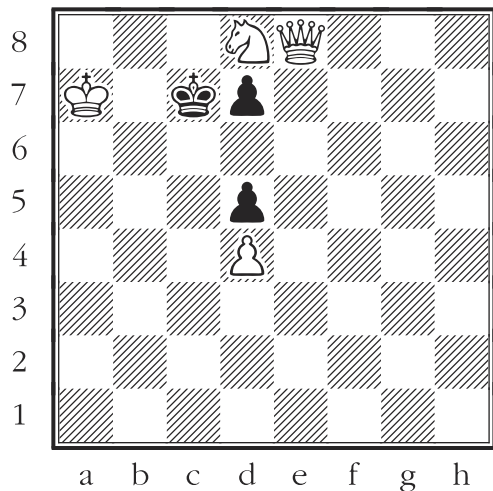


White Move **Rh8**
 Black Move **gxh6**
 White Move **Rxh6#**

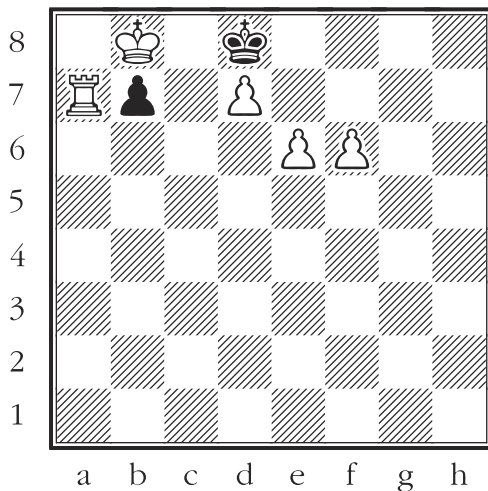


White Move **Qa5**
 Black Move **Kc4**
 White Move **Qd5#**

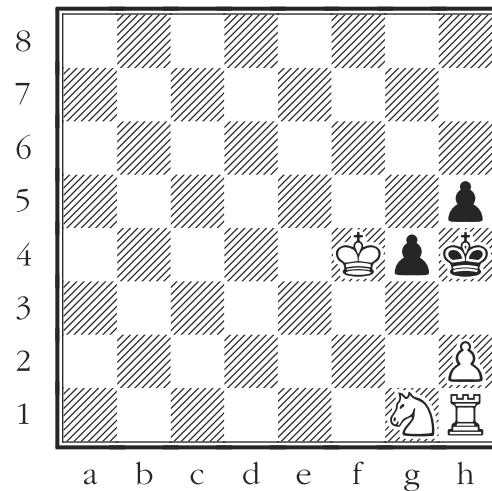
White to Move and Checkmate on Second Move



White Move _____ Black Move _____
 White Move _____



White Move _____ Black Move _____
 White Move _____



White Move _____ Black Move _____
 White Move _____