

# Florida CHESS

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**FCA Membership Dues**

*Send to the FCA (c/o Treasurer) or online (Memberships/Join FCA)*

Regular	—	\$20 (for two years)
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*Florida Chess Association (FCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Florida. FCA is the official USCF affiliate for the state of Florida. FCA web site — <http://www.floridachess.org>*

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## Editor Speaks



Our new officers have been elected and installed on the FCA Board. Thank you to everyone that voted in this year's election. Your participation is valued and appreciated. The Board welcomes Nicholas Lewis, NM Andrew Rea, NM Derek Zhang, and Matthew Kolcz. While Kevin Pryor set the bar for Presidential activity in the FCA, New President Bryan Tillis, Aka "the hardest working man in chess" is well equipped to guide our organization to further success and accomplishment. Learn some of his plans in this month's "from the President's desk."

Brian also guides us through this quarter's **Harvey Lerman State Championship** on page 4 (an amazing event that he also organized) and gives us sense of the rarified air at the

**FTX Crypto Cup**. This event brought Magnus Carlsen, Praggnanandhaa, Liem Le and many more to Florida to compete and included chess celebrities like Maurice Ashley and László Polgár.



Two of our NE Florida scholastic players (Aanya and Agrim Kumar) also got to attend the FTX event and literally rub elbows with some of the world's greatest chess players. What an amazing opportunity!

We have many, many annotated games for you this issue from a spectrum of events in our state. A big thank you to all that contributed. We also have our regional reports, chess book reviews, and Tony Sullivan's final chess cartoon of the year in "Light on the Right."

Most importantly, we are honoring Florida's Women and Girls in chess in conjunction with FIDE's "**The Year of Women in Chess**." Our cover displays a cross section of this very import demographic of Florida Chess. Thank you



Kevin Pryor for bringing this to my attention. In the same spirit, NE Regional VP. Ray Ratliff pays tribute to "**Chess Moms**" on page 17. I hope you enjoy the issue. Have a safe and happy

Holiday Season and we'll see you in 2023!

*George Foote*

Editor, floridaCHESS Magazine

## from the President's desk

Dear FCA members and the Florida Chess Community,

First, I want to thank the Board of Directors for putting their trust in me by electing me. It is my sincere desire to continue the work that Kevin began to expand the organization and improve its structural stability. I look forward to building new relationships and working to serve you as president of the FCA.



A leader is only as good as their team. I am very happy to have our returning board members and would like to introduce the new blood. **Treasurer:** Nicholas Lewis brings his experience running the Manasota Chess Center a 501(c)3 to the board. **Northwest VP:** Derek Zhang is a welcome young voice as he is President of the Gator Chess Club at the University of Florida. **Central VP:** Andrew Rea brings the highest level of experience to our organization as Past President, Colorado Chess Association and Virginia Chess Federation, past Vice President Pennsylvania Chess Federation. **South VP:** Matthew Kolcz brings the passion and vision of a full-time chess professional to the board. I hope you welcome all of our new board members and don't be shy, come talk to us!

What can currently be said about chess activity around the state? We have more affiliates, clubs, and tournaments than ever before. We are even seeing high level events cropping up. For those ambitious players seeking IM and GM norms need to check out the 'Bobby Fischer' Chess Club in Miami. They will be hosting a norm tournament from 12/9-12/15. This is the first norm event in some time in our state but I can personally assure you it is the first of many.

I would really like to stress that as a board we have an open door policy. If you need assistance or would like to collaborate, contact me [bryan@floridachess.org](mailto:bryan@floridachess.org) and you will find support. We all have the same goal, to promote and grow chess in Florida. I would love to hear from you and I look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming events!

Bryan Tillis  
President  
Florida Chess Association

# 2022 Harvey Lerman Florida State Chess Championship

NM Bryan Tillis and Matthew Kolcz



The 2022 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship took place September 3-5, 2022 in Palm Beach Gardens at the Double Tree where the site was spacious and the cookies arrived upon request.

We had 21 players in the Quick Championship, 47 in the Blitz Championship, and 216 in the Overall Championship for a turnout that paid out 100% of the prizes. First, a special thank you goes to the hard working TD staff that ran a smooth event. Second, we at the FCA sincerely appreciate the support of the Florida Chess community in making this tournament a success and look forward to seeing everyone back in Jacksonville for the 2023 Harvey Lerman Florida State Chess Championship!

### 2022 Champions

2022 Quick Champions: **Vikram Rajmohan, Advait Nair, Ayush Maddikonda, Aakash Jani** 4/5

2022 Blitz Champions: **GM Julio Becerra** and **FM Corey Acor** 7/8

2022 Florida State Chess Champion: **FM Bach Ngo** 5/6

\*Note\* We had a few ties in the Quick and Blitz Championships and players are considered co-champions.

## Accomplishment



### Oscar Williams versus Marvin Gao in Round 1

It is a major milestone for a chess player to ascend to the next class in rating. We would like to issue a special congratulations to Marvin Gao for breaking the 2200 rating barrier and earning the title of National Master. Let us be the first in print to congratulate NM Marvin Gao!

## Games

### (1) Williams, Oscar (1893) - Harrison, Josh (2080) [C70]

22 FL State Championship lichess.org (5), 11.09.2022 [Matt Kolcz]

[This is a very exciting game between a Palm Beach local up-and-coming star and his veteran higher rated opponent.]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5** [This move avoids many of the theoretical lines and dashes straight to a playable position.]

**5.c3** [Prepares the d2–d4 pawn break.]

**5...b5 6.Bb3 d6 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4** [White grabs a large center.]

**8...Bb6 9.0–0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3** [White has a big threat on f7.]

**11...Qf6** [Best defense forcing matters as White's center is weak.]

[11...Nf6 12.Qg3 This would create interesting complications.]

**12.Bd5 Nge7 13.Qxf6 gxf6** [This is a key moment for White. How should he best handle the issue in the center?]

**14.Be3?** [14.Bxc6+ Nxc6 15.d5 White needed to part with the bishop pair to maintain the pawn and better chances in the ending.]

**14...Nxd5 15.exd5 Nxd4** [15...Ne7 Black could add pressure to White's d5–pawn, the stronger of the two knight moves.]

**16.Nc3 Nc2 17.Bxb6** [This is a strong idea changing the character of the position which is now dynamically balanced.]

**17...Nxa1 18.Bxc7** [It is difficult not to snatch this pawn but White could have trapped the a1–knight.]

[18.Ba5 Nc2 19.Ne2 d4 and b4 are now covered and the knight will be lost.]

**18...Nc2 19.Bxd6 Nd4??** [A game losing mistake!]



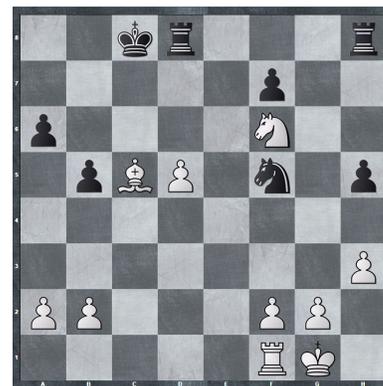
[19...Kd7 20.Bc5 Rhe8 21.Rc1 Rac8 Black is much better with all pieces activated and ready to invade.]

**20.Bc5 Nf5** [Black regroups but it is too little too late as White has a decisive advantage though it requires good technique to convert.]

**21.Ne4 0–0–0 22.Nxf6?** [This allows Black a little recoordination.]

[22.g4! White should maintain the attacking pressure and lock Black's Knight out.]

**22...h5!** [Only move! Black secures the kingside and stops the move that would kick the knight to oblivion.]

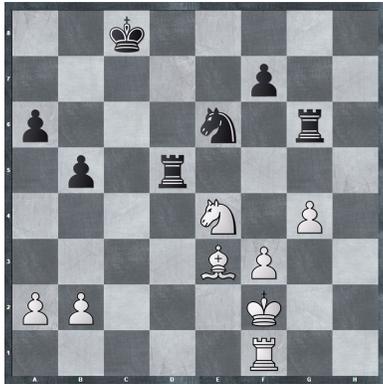


**23.g4** [White finds the wrong timing and the

position is equalized.]

**23...hgx4 24.hgx4 Rh6** [Excellent move eyeing the potential of utilizing the h-file for both rooks.]

**25.Ne4 Rg6 26.f3 Rxd5 27.Kf2 Ng7 28.Be3 Ne6** [28...Rc6 Best! Looking to invade on the second rank.]



**29.f4** [29.Rc1+ The game is roughly balanced.]

**29...Nc7** [Both players are near time-pressure, playing sensible moves. There will be missed wins which I'll give a quick variation on, but we cannot fault either player for missing them.]

[29...Rgx4 30.Nf6 Rxf4+ 31.Bxf4 Rf5 Josh, "I saw it in game but decided not to."]

**30.Rc1 Rh6 31.Kg2** [31.f5 Would have turned the tables again! 31...Rh2+ 32.Kg3 Rxb2 33.Bb6 Rd7 34.Nf6 Black can't maintain all of his material.]

**31...Rd3 32.Bf2 Kb8 33.Bg3 Re6 34.Nf2 Re2 35.f5 Rd7 36.g5 Kb7 37.Kf3 Rxb2 38.Ne4 Rd3+ 39.Kg4 Rxb2** [Black gives back the Exchange to simplify the position as he is in time pressure.]

**40.Nxg3?** [40.Kxg3! Last winning idea, keeping the Knight centralized.]

**40...Nd5 41.g6 fxxg6 42.fxxg6 Rxa2 43.g7 Ra4+ 44.Kg5** [44.Kh5! Allows for Rg1 and no need to waste a turn moving the King out of the way.]

**44...Ne3 45.Kf6** [45.Rc5 A beautiful idea to win. 45...Rg4+ 46.Kf6 Rxxg7 47.Kxxg7 Kb6 48.Ne4 The engine gives White the win but in a practical game it does not look easy.]

**45...Rf4+ 46.Ke6 Rg4 47.Nh5 b4 48.Re1 Nc2 49.Rc1 Ne3 50.Re1 Nc2 51.Rc1 b3 52.Kf5 Rg2 53.Rb1 Nd4+ 54.Ke5** [Sadly the game is incomplete but Black won with a fork roughly 10 moves later. A very interesting game that we appreciate Josh submitting.]

0-1

**(2) Nair, Advait (2005) -**

**Robovic, Saudin (2449) [B43]**

22 FL State Championship, 09.09.2022

[Tillis Kolcz]

[This was one of the biggest upsets in the Open section, we have the humble IM Robovic sharing this game with us.]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6** [The solid Sicilian Kan a favorite of GM Gregory Serper.]

**3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6** [Typical Sicilian idea to keep out White's pieces from the b5-square, looking to play b7-b5 and Bb7.]

**5.Nc3 Qc7** [A flexible move with a close eye on the e5-square for the eventual development of Black's Knight.]

**6.a3** [6.Bd3 White usually plays for a quick O-O, f4, and Kh1 for a Kingside attack.]

**6...b5 7.Bd3 Bb7** [The bishop maintains pressure on the a8-h1 diagonal.]



**8.0-0 Nf6 9.h3?** [This is a bit passive, White definitely should use the time better.]

[9.Kh1 This move is much stronger as it removes the king from the a7-g1 diagonal and prepares f4, the natural plan in the position.]

**9...d6** [Black has a solid position, focused on the completion of development and control of the d5-square.]

**10.Nf3?** [This is another move that White should get back, it is a bit too passive.]

**10...Nbd7 11.Bf4 Be7 12.Re1** [White shows a willingness to play e5. The important question to ask here: is it good?]

**12...e5?** [This is the first mistake by Black in the game but a costly one as it favorably alters the pawn structure for White.]

[12...0-0 13.e5! Bxf3 Black is much better.]

**13.Be3 0-0 14.Nh4 g6!** [An excellent defensive move keeping the knight on h4 out of the action.]

**15.Nf3 Rfe8 16.Nh2 d5** [A natural Sicilian break which is hard to ignore.]

[16...h5 Keeps with the theme seen so far in the game to stifle counterplay.]

**17.exd5 e4 18.Be2** [White correctly identifies the threat and avoids capturing the center pawn.]

**18...Nb6 19.Ng4 Nxxg4 20.Bxxg4 f5** [Black now has a strong space advantage.]

**21.Be2 Rad8** [21...Bc5 It is a good moment to

weaken the dark squares.]

**22.Qb1??** [This was due to not finding a constructive plan.]

[22.a4 The best move forcing a concession. 22...b4 23.Qd4 Not the easiest idea to spot.]

**22...Nxd5 23.Qa2 Bf6?** [23...Kg7 Gets out of the pins and leaves Black with a clearly better position.]

**24.Rad1 Qf7 25.Nxd5 Bxd5 26.b3?** [This heavily weakens the c3-square.]

**26...Bc3 27.Bd2 Be5?** [Black missed a big opportunity to win. Credit goes to his young opponent for struggling valiantly and not losing hope.]

[27...Bxd2 28.Rxd2 e3 A nice strategic shot which increases the edge.]

**28.a4 f4 29.axb5** [29.Ba5 It is critical to seek counterplay to maintain the balance.]

**29...e3** [Black is back with a winning advantage.]



**30.fxe3 fxe3** [There it goes again, back to zeros...chess is a difficult game.]

[30...f3 This is the needed breakthrough. 31.Bxf3 Bxf3 32.gxf3 Qxf3 The machine gives mate in seven.]

**31.Rf1 Qc7 32.Be1 Bh2+??** [32...axb5 Is the best way to go as the simple capture on b5 is met by e2!]

**33.Kh1 Bxxg2+** [Black must have missed something as the attack is not working.]

**34.Kxxg2 Rxd1 35.Bc4+??** [From +6 to -6 in a single move!]

[35.b4+! Kh8 36.b6! Deflection of the Queen from either the c3-square or the Bishop on h2.]

**35...Kg7?** [This jumps the evaluation back to 0.00 a crazy game!]

[35...Kh8 It was critical to place the king in the corner to remove checks. 36.Bc3+ Be5 Black is completely winning.]

**36.Rf7+ Qxf7 37.Bxf7 Kxf7** [Black has two Rooks and passed pawn vs a Queen.]

**38.b4+ Kg7 39.Qc4 Be5** [39...axb5 Will slow

the progress of the queen. 40.Qxb5 Rf8 41.Qe2 Rxe1 42.Qxe1 Rf2+ 43.Kh1 Bf4 The machine gives this 0.00 but a human would find extreme difficulty landing on this line especially in time trouble.]

**40.Qe2 Ra1??** [The last blunder of the game.]

[40...Rxe1 Black needed to give back to maintain chances and keep the queen locked on a square. 41.Qxe1 Bd4 42.bxa6 e2 This is somehow 0.00 according to the engine.]

**41.Qxe3** [Black loses their only advantage.]

**41...axb5 42.Bc3** [The simple tactic finishes the back and forth interesting game.]

1-0

### (3) Ngo,Bach (2398) - Zhang,Derek (2257) [A41]

22 FL State Championship (6), 09.09.2022  
[Tillis Kolcz]

With everything on the line in the final game we see FM Bach Ngo taking on NM Derek Zhang for the title.]

**1.d4 d6** [Respect needs to be given to Black who is playing for an early imbalance. As early as move one we see Black wanting to fight!]

**2.Nc3 e5 3.dxe5 dxe5 4.Qxd8+ Kxd8** [We reach a queenless middlegame but this position does not lack ambition.]

**5.f4** [Best by engine estimation, not allowing Black to get to the ideal structure.]

[5.e4 f6 6.Bc4 c6 This is the ideal pawn structure for Black.]

**5...Nd7 6.fxe5 Nxe5** [Though White's pawn structure is compromised the activity will keep a stable edge.]

**7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Nb5** [White takes the first opportunity to try to snatch off a bishop in the open position.]

**8...Bd7 9.Nxd6 cxd6** [Both players have similar structural weaknesses, but the bishop pair will be telling.]



**10.Bf4 f6 11.0-0-0 Kc7 12.e4 Ne7 13.Nd4 Rad8** [It is difficult to find an aggressive plan for Black.]

**14.h3** [Preventing Bg4, not allowing trades. White is slowly squeezing his opponent.]

**14...a6 15.Be2 N7c6 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5** [The final imbalance in the game. Black is dreaming of a potential good knight versus bad bishop ending but it is just a dream.]

**17...d5 18.g4 h6 19.Rd2 Rd7 20.Bf3 d4 21.Rhd1** [White has perfect harmony as the tension reaches the breaking point.]  
**21...Kc8 22.Bxc6** [22.Bg2 With this move Black struggles, better to keep tension.]

**22...Nxc6 23.c3 Rhd8 24.cxd4 Nxd4?** [24...Rxd4 25.Rxd4 Nxd4 This is a balanced ending, it was important to trade a set of rooks.]

**25.Kb1** [25.Be3 This forcing move will liquidate to a won ending. 25...Nc6 26.Rxd7 Rxd7 27.Rxd7 Kxd7 28.Bc5 Due to the fixed king-side pawns White has a winning advantage.]

**25...b5 26.Be3 Nf3 27.Rc2+** [A good move, White can no longer trade everything as the knight's activity maintains the balance.]

**27...Kb7 28.Rdc1 Ng5??** [The only blunder of the game, Black missed that the b6-square was critical.]

[28...Ne5 Keeping the Knight centralized and protecting the c6-square was necessary.]

**29.Rc6!** [White takes immediate advantage, the rest is a matter of technique.]

**29...Rd3 30.Rb6+ Ka7 31.Rc7+ Ka8 32.Rxa6+ Kb8 33.Re7 Nxb3 34.Ba7+** [With this win FM Bach Ngo became the 2023 Florida State Chess Champion!]

1-0

### (4) Becerra,Julio (2539) - Venkat,Raghav (2330) [C65]

22 FL State Championship (6), 05.09.2022  
[Tillis Kolcz]

As with many final rounds in high-level play, we have a draw between 1st place contenders GM Julio Becerra versus NM Raghav Venkat.]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6** [The dreaded Berlin Defense, since Kramnik's use of this opening in his 2000 match with Kasparov this has been a main stay in high level games. The line has a reputation for being extremely solid, a good choice when trying to force an opponent to prove something.]

**4.d4** [The sixth choice move in practice looking to avoid the extremely solid mainline.]

[4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 This was seen in two games at the recent US Championship, both ending in peace: ½-½ (93) Dominguez Perez,L (2747)-Robson, R (2690) Saint Louis 2022, and ½-½

(36) Dominguez Perez,L (2747)-Niemann,H (2699) Saint Louis 2022.]

**4...exd4 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 0-0 7.e5 Ne8** [Both sides have been following the database so far.]  
**8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Nc3 dxe5** [The only blemish so far.]

[10...c6 Maintains the balance and was seen in the high level encounter: ½-½ (58) Fressinet,L (2638) -Zhang,Z (2633) Playchess.com INT 2004]

**11.Qxe5 Be6 12.Bd3 c6 13.Ne4 Qd5 14.Qxd5** [White is content with trading queens as it creates a concession in the pawn structure.]

**14...cxd5 15.Ng5 Bxg5 16.Bxg5** [White gets the Bishop-pair advantage. The next 20 or so moves are both sides slowly improving their positions while White maintains a nagging edge. This is a position which can be played forever without risk by White.]

**16...Nc7 17.Be3 Rfe8 18.c3 Bd7 19.Rad1 Bc6 20.Bc2 h6 21.f3 b6 22.Kf2 Rad8 23.a4 Ne6 24.Rd2 Re7 25.Ra1 Red7 26.Bd4** [White gives back the Bishop pair, this likely gave away the winning chances, it is better to keep the complications with the minor pieces on the board.]

**26...Nxd4 27.Rxd4 Kf8 28.a5 b5 29.h4 a6 30.h5 Rd6 31.Re1 Re6 32.Bf5** [32.Rxe6! A strong move that weakens the pawn structure and gives White the ability to invade. Had Julio found this move he very well would have added another championship to his resume. 32...fxe6 33.Rf4+ Ke7 34.Rg4 Kf6 35.Rg6+ Kf7 36.Ke3 The White king will walk the path of the dark squares and there is nothing Black can do about it.]

**32...Rxe1 33.Kxe1 Ke7 34.Kf2 Kf6 35.Bd3 Re8** [Though Raghav has the worse minor piece as long as he keeps White's King away from the base pawns he should draw. The rest is good technique.]

**36.Rf4+ Ke6 37.Ke3 Kd6+ 38.Kd2 f6 39.Rd4 Re5 40.g4 Re7 41.b4 Kc7 42.Be2 Re6 43.Bd1 Re7 44.Rd3 Kd6 45.Bb3 Re5 46.Bd1 Ke6 47.Rd4 Kd6 48.Be2 Ke7 49.Rd3 Kd6 50.Ke1 Ke7 51.Kf2 Kd6 52.Rd4 Kc7 53.Bd3 Kd6 54.Bf5** [54.c4 One of the last attempt to make something. 54...bxc4 55.Bxc4 Bb7 56.Bf1 At least in this variation White has the potential of creating an outside passer though still probably equal.]

**54...Re7 55.Rd2 Rc7 56.Rd3 Be8 57.Ke3 Ke5 58.f4+ Kd6 59.Kd2 Rc4 60.Rd4 Rxd4+ 61.cxd4 Bd7 62.Bxd7 Kxd7** [With nothing left to push in the equal endgame the players agree to peace.]

½-½

# FTX Crypto Cup

By NM Bryan Tillis

There was a once in a lifetime experience for Florida Chess players at the FTX Crypto Cup in Miami. It is not often that typical weekend chess players can rub elbows with the best in chess.

Let's have a bit of highlight reel:



Simultaneous Exhibitions: GM Ron Henley



IM Tania Sachdev



Casual conversations: GM Maurice Ashley & László Polgár



GM Liem Le playing guests.

### Crypto Blitz Tournament

These days I don't compete much so it was a highlight of the weekend to finish near the top.



The top finishers in the Crypto Cup Blitz

Rk.	Name	Rtg	FED	1.Rd	2.Rd	3.Rd	4.Rd	5.Rd	6.Rd	7.Rd	Pts.
1	Torres Mata Javier Antonio	0		65b1	21w1	18b½	33w1	15b1	20w1	2w1	6,5
2	Benito Colmenares Jose Fabian	0		6b1	40w1	8b1	5w1	20b1	3w1	1b0	6
3	Martinez Lennis	0		37w1	35b1	22w1	4b1	7w1	2b0	8w1	6
4	Ramirez Alejandro	0		69b+	24w1	9b1	3w0	19b1	21w1	6b½	5,5
5	Tillis Bryan	0		62w1	27b1	10w1	2b0	13w1	16b½	18w1	5,5
6	Lugo Blas	0		2w0	30b1	11w1	41b1	24w1	17b1	4w½	5,5
7	Alvarez Robert	0		59w1	54b1	34w1	15w½	3b0	32b1	16w1	5,5
8	Miellier Yan	0		64w1	11b1	2w0	55b1	10w1	9w1	3b0	5
9	Ferragut Arnaldo	0		50b1	31w1	4w0	12b1	26w1	8b0	23w1	5
10	Hernandez Amelia	0		82b+	36w1	5b0	25w1	8b0	31w1	20b1	5
11	Casares Santiago	0		39b1	8w0	6b0	59w1	42b1	34w1	21b1	5
12	Silva Benjamin	0		21b0	28w1	45b1	9w0	35w1	44b1	24w1	5
13	Dima Razvan	0		52w1	32b0	56w1	34b+	5b0	39b1	22w1	5
14	Maharaj Shiva	0		20b0	47w1	38b1	23w0	45b1	29w1	33b1	5
15	Medina Rodenley	0		38b1	29w1	17w1	7b½	1w0	18b0	32w1	4,5
16	Leyva Rivera Yunier	0		66w+	17b0	35w1	22b1	23w1	5w½	7b0	4,5
17	Arencibia Antonio	0		74w+	16w1	15b0	42w1	18b1	6w0	19b½	4,5
18	Hernández Pérez Pedro	0		51w1	46b1	1w½	32b1	17w0	15w1	5b0	4,5
19	Fernandez Kenneth	0		63w1	56b1	26w0	39b1	4w0	36b1	17w½	4,5

There were 80 players in the event with 1 GM and many IMs and FMs

There were even photo opportunities with legends and chess celebrities:



NM Bryan Tillis versus GM Levon Aronian



With the boss GM Magnus Carlsen

Ohh yes, there was also a super tournament going on:

FTX CRYPTO CUP MELTWATER CHAMPIONS CHESS TOUR		FINAL STANDINGS	
			PTS
1	<b>MAGNUS CARLSEN</b>		16
2	<b>PRAGGNANANDHAA</b>		15
3	<b>ALIREZA FIROUZJA</b>		15
4	<b>LIEM LE</b>		12
5	<b>JAN-KRZYSZTOF DUDA</b>		11
6	<b>LEVON ARONIAN</b>		8
7	<b>ANISH GIRI</b>		7
8	<b>HANS NIEMANN</b>		0

We don't think that GM Hans Niemann will soon live down his comments during his round one commentary after defeating Carlsen in one of their four match games: "The chess speaks for itself."  
It does, and it did.

### Crypto Cup Main Tournament Rules

Players go head-to-head in one four-game match a day for seven days, with the winner the player who accrues the most points. A won match is worth 3 points or 2 points if the match was won after a tiebreak. A lost match after a tiebreak is worth one point but, if you lose a match outright, you do not get any points.

For each game, the players have 15 minutes for all their moves, with a 10-second increment after each move. For tie-break blitz games, it's 5 minutes and a 3-second increment, while for the Armageddon game White has 5 minutes to Black's 4, but a draw counts as a win for Black.

The following game was the key game in the final match for the champ to secure the tournament victory.

**Carlsen, Magnus (2864) - Pragganandhaa R (2648)**

FTX Crypto Cup Miami (7.3), 8/11/2022

With this win Carlsen secures the tournament victory in the FTX Crypto Cup. Though the match was tied up by Pragg who reeled off three wins versus the World Champion. The next generation of chess players are emerging!

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3** The Catalan is a modern staple of professionals. Carlsen shows some of his preparation from his last World Championship match.



**4...dxc4 5.Bg2 Bd7** The fifth choice move in practice looking to solve the problem of the bad bishop as quickly as possible. **5...a6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.e3 Bd7 8.Qe2 b5 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3** This is the hotly contested mainline.

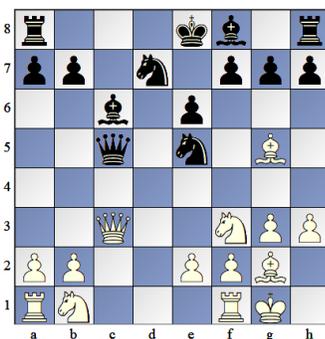
**6.Qc2 c5 7.Qxc4 Bc6 7...b5** This is an interesting and dynamic alternative.

**8.dxc5 Nbd7 9.Be3 Bd5 10.Qc1!?** Magnus with this move decides to explore less charted theoretical territory.

**10...Ng4 11.Bg5N Qa5+ 11...f6** The engine's top choice but it is definitely a long-term concession in the structure.

**12.Qc3 Qxc5** Black has equalized, now we see the champ make something out of nothing.

**13.0-0 Bc6 14.h3 Nge5**



**14...h6** This maintains the balance. **15.Bd2 Ngf6**

**15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Rd1** By trading the knight on e5 Black has lost a bit of time and aggression. White has some slight pull.

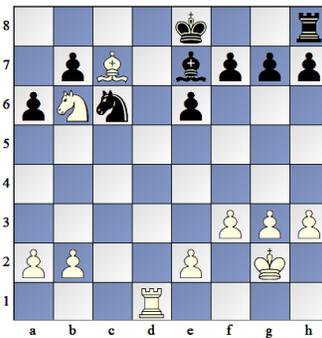
**16...Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Qc6+ 18.f3 Qxc3 19.Nxc3** White has the far more active position for the ending.

**19...a6** Against Nb5

**20.Na4** Black must now prevent Nb6.

**20...Be7 21.Bf4** Black is lagging behind in development and it is starting to show.

**21...Nc6 22.Nb6 Rd8 23.Bc7 Rxd1 24.Rxd1**



**Bc5 24...0-0** This is another option but it is hard to sit passively. **25.Rd7 Bf6 26.b3 Re8 27.Bd6 Rd8** Black is still holding on.

**25.Nc8 f6 26.Bb6 0-0 27.Bxc5 Rxc8=** Excellent play by the seventeen year old to reach a balanced ending.

**28.Rd6 Rd8 29.Rxe6 Rd2 30.Ba3 Kf7 31.Re4 b5 32.Kf2 f5** This is the last error of the game. **32...Rd1=** keeps the balance with the idea to go after the a-pawn.

**33.Rf4± Ke6 ...g5** is the strong threat.

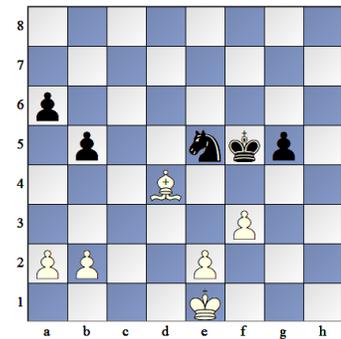
**34.Ke1 Rd8 35.g4 g5 36.gxf5+** Don't do **36.Rxf5 b4±**

**36...Kf6 37.Re4** The idea being **Re6+**.

**37...Kxf5 38.Bc5** Controls the forward key square of the knight.

**38...Rd5 39.Be3 Ne5 40.h4+- h6**

**41.hxg5 hxg5 42.Rd4 Rxd4 43.Bxd4**



The ending is lost, the bishop dominates the knight here.

**43...Nc6 44.Bc3 g4 45.Kf2 gxf3 46.Kxf3 Ke6? 47.Ke4!** The opposition!

**47...Nb8? 48.Kd4 Nd7 49.Bb4 Nb6 50.b3 Nd5 51.Bd2 Nf6 52.e4** White now needs to find the right moment to go after the queenside pawns.

**52...Nd7 53.Bb4 Nf6 54.e5 Nd5 55.Bd6** Typically in these endings it is a mistake to place the bishop and pawn on the same color complex as it limits mobility. In this case we need to tie the opposing king down to defend the passer.

**55...b4 56.Kc4 a5 57.Kb5 Nc3+ 58.Kxa5 Nxa2 59.Ka4 Kd5 60.Kb5** White spoils nothing by triangulating to gain time. **60.Bxb4 Kxe5 61.Bd2** Wins on the spot.

**60...Ke6 61.Kc4 Kf5 62.Kd5 Nc3+ 63.Kc6 Ke6 64.Kc5 Na2 65.Kb5 Kd5 66.Ka4 Ke6 67.Bxb4** Reaching the position that could have been explored on move 60.

**67...Nc1 68.Bd6 Kd5 69.b4** Passed pawns must be pushed!

**69...Nd3 70.b5 Nb2+ 71.Ka5 Nc4+ 72.Ka6** An excellent game by Carlsen and fuel for the up and coming teenage monster.

**1-0**

**FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS**  
 ("Top 100" Current Player Lists)

Players 18 & Under		Age	Rating	GIRLS		OVERALL ACTIVE (11/2022)		
Nikhil Kumar	18	2442	Shama Yisrael	18	2073	GM FABIANO CARUANA	2835	
Bach Ngo	14	2408	Alice Wu	14	1807	GM JULIO BECERRA	2527	
Raghav Venkat	17	2349	Sisira S Yerrajennu	15	1761	IM DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2500	
Brejesh Chakrabarti	12	2292	Zoe Zelner	18	1746	FM JORGE LEON OQUENDO	2482	
Nicolas Alejandro De La Colina	17	2252	Priya Anna Gutta	18	1726	FM MARCEL MARTINEZ	2474	
Marvin Gao	14	2214	Jolie Huang	13	1724	GM RENIER GONZALEZ	2472	
Naman Kumar	16	2205	Aarna Nitin Warekar	12	1718	ROBERT M PEREZ	2463	
Ronald Hernandez	15	2169	Sophie Li	9	1702	IM AUGUSTO CESAR CAMPOS	2454	
Marvin Hernandez	14	2169	Chloe Min	16	1602	MARTYN JOHN CORDEN	2452	
Benjamin Chen	18	2164	Sofia Ferrer	18	1589	IM NIKHIL KUMAR	2442	
Vincent William Stone	16	2164	Maya Behura	15	1566	IM JOHN GABRIEL LUDWIG	2439	
Antony Gospodinov	16	2126	Elena Anastasia	12	1557	IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA	2425	
Aniket Shukla	14	2111	Hannah Ciupe	17	1469	IM SAUDIN ROBOVIC	2412	
Advait Nair	13	2099	Amelie Phung	14	1447	FM EIGEN WANG	2409	
Abhiram Sai Pothuri	13	2089	Alison Francis Solik	17	1427	FM MAXIMO CABRERA	2397	
Vikram Rajmohan	14	2085	Shalam Yisrael	17	1417	ADITHYA BALA	2396	
William Wu	14	2085	Jennifer Hoyos	16	1400	FM BACH NGO	2393	
Shama Yisrael	18	2073	Varshini Venkat	14	1323	FM ERIC O RODRIGUEZ	2386	
Andy Yang Jr.	16	2064	Grace Siqi Yang	9	1311	FM COREY BRYAN ACOR	2365	
John Joseph Ligotti	16	2043	<b>SENIORS (60+)</b>		ALEXANDER ZELNER	61	2344	
Cannon Farragut	12	2035	DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	68	2288	FM DALTON PERRINE	2345	
Robert David Drum	17	2031	PAUL H FIELDS	65	2264	FM ALEXANDER ZELNER	2344	
Keshav Singh	17	2030	RASHID ZIATDINOV	63	2231	FM ALEX BARNETT	2331	
Sritej Sai Sattaru	13	2012	STEVEN ANDREWS	64	2221	ALBERTO HERNANDEZ	2314	
Jason (Haohan) Shen	16	2008	STEPHEN STOYKO	74	2215	SCOTT RAMER	2314	
Jayden Lang	14	2008	<b>WOMEN (CURRENT MEMBERS ACTIVE)</b>		JESSICA SHOR REGAM	2122	BREJESH CHAKRABARTI	2312
Akeras Overlingas	9	2006	WFM AMELIA HERNANDEZ	2101	WFM VLADLENA CIUBARA	2089	WGM YANIET MARRERO LOPEZ	2304
Nate Ziegler	12	1994	SHAMA YISRAEL	2049	SHAMA YISRAEL	2049	IM NELSON PINAL BORGES	2293
Satvik Reddy	17	1991	ALICE WU	1827	SISIRA S YERRAJENNU	1803	FM DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	2288
Abror Kurbanov	17	1987	ZOE ZELNER	1746	ZOE ZELNER	1746	LEE J PHELPS	2286
Arav Patel	13	1980	DR. VARINIA CABRERA	1743	DR. VARINIA CABRERA	1743	FM FABIO LA ROTA	2279
Aleks Fetlyeav	15	1976	<b>TOP BLITZ</b>		GM Fabiano Caruana	2881	FM CESAR JOSE VALIDO BOUZA	2279
Michael Xukun Guan	14	1975	GM Julio Becerra	2646	GM Julio Becerra	2646	FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT	2275
Rion Okuno	13	1963	Alex Barnett	2510	Alex Barnett	2510	YAN MIELLIER	2273
Jose Gabriel Casares	15	1959	<b>TOP QC</b>		GM Fabiano Caruana	2655	IM PEDRO RODRIGUEZ RIVERA	2272
Jacorey Bynum	14	1947	Renier Gonzalez	2513	Renier Gonzalez	2513	TROY E DALY	2264
Maxwell Z Yang	10	1935	Robert M Perez	2381	Robert M Perez	2381	NAT KELLEHER	2258
Akshat Suresh	14	1915	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>		KEITH RODRIQUEZ	2368	GM RASHID ZIATDINOV	2257
Oscar Izzy Williams	11	1893	KEITH RODRIQUEZ	2368	BORIS RATNER	2282	NICOLAS ALEJANDRO DE LA COLINA	2257
Santiago De Jesus Casares	12	1843	BORIS RATNER	2282	PAUL B OTT	2166	MARTIN HANSEN	2255
Jerry Yao	13	1835	PAUL B OTT	2166	ALLEN WOOLLEN	2016	FM EDISON RUGE	2250
Aaron Marian	12	1806	ALLEN WOOLLEN	2016			NM BRYAN TILLIS	2250
Ayush Roy	11	1778					PEDRO HERNANDEZ-PEREZ	2246
Om Mishra	11	1772					JACOB CHEN	2245
Aakash Jani	7	1764					BRITT RYERSON	2241
Prajit Manivannan	12	1764					FM ROBERTO ALVAREZ FERREIRO	2240
Jolie Huang	13	1724					CM MARVIN GAO	2238
Aarna Nitin Warekar	12	1718						
Riyaan Datta	10	1702						
Sophi Li	9	1702						
Analaya Muneeppeerakul	10	1629						
Tristan Elvers	11	1604						
Chloe Min	16	1602						
Maya Behura	15	1566						
Elena Anastasia	12	1557						

## Games from recent events by Miguel Ararat



**(1) KAI, TABOR (1992) - ANTHONY, COLEMAN (1866) [B21]**  
OCALA SUMMER CLASSIC 2022 (5)  
[Ararat, Miguel]

[This game features the top board in the U-2000 section of the Ocala Classic 2022.]

**1.e4 c5 2.d4** [White needs a win to secure first play and decided to use the Smith Morra Gambit to unbalance the games as early as move two.]

**2...cxd4 3.c3 d3** [Black returns the pawn and avoids all the complications that maintaining the pawn will cause. However this does not guarantee the game will end peacefully. For example, GM Becerra and Lenderman could win this position in must win matches against competent opposition (see below)]

**4.Bxd3 Nc6 5.Nf3** [5.f4 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be3 d5 8.e5 Nh6 9.h3 f6 10.exf6 exf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Na3 Re8 13.Bf2 Nf5 14.Re1 Rxe1+ 15.Qxe1 Qe7 16.g4 Qxe1+ 17.Rxe1 Nf7 18.Nb5 1-0 (46) Becerra Rivero, J (2555)-Finegold, B (2493) ICC INT 2012]

**5...g6 6.c4 Bg7 7.Nc3 d6 8.h3 Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Bd7** [10...b6 11.Rc1 Bb7 12.Qe2 Nd7 13.Rfd1 Rc8 14.Bb1 Re8 15.b3 Nc5 1-0 (49) Lenderman, A (2562) -Rietveld, R (2291) Hoogeveen 2011]

**11.Qe2 Qa5 12.Nd4** [12.a3 Perhaps White can play this useful waiting move to exchange knights on e5 and make his pawn structure more dynamic as in the Becerra game cited before. 12...Ne5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.f4 Qa5 [#]]



**12...Ne5 13.Nd5** [13.a3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Rac8 White can also encourage black to trade a knight for his light square bishop and play a favorable Maroczy bind. White's light square bishop has a hard time finding a good post in Maroczy structures.]

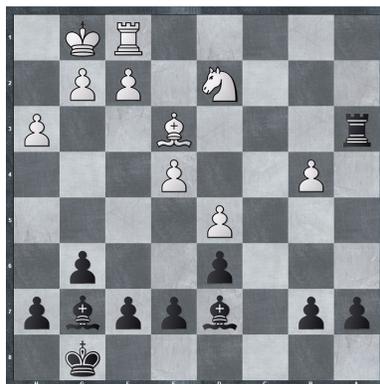
**13...Nxd5?!** [This exchange changes the pawn structure in black's favor because the second player no longer has a space disadvantage.]

**14.cxd5 Nxd3** [Black gets the bishop pair at not cost and white will have a difficult time outplaying his opponent from this position despite the one hundred rating points difference.]

**15.Qxd3 Rac8=** [Simple chess. Black fights for the control of the only open file on the board. If white is careless and allows black to control the open file his position may endure lasting pressure.]

**16.a3 Rc7 17.Rac1 Rfc8 18.b4 Qa4 19.Rxc7 Rxc7 20.Qb3** [White makes a serious mistake and allows black to penetrate his position with Rc3 and attack the weak pawn on a3. It is instructive how the open c file becomes the decisive factor in this "quiet middlegame"]

**20...Qxb3 21.Nxb3 b6** [21...Rc3 22.Nd2 (22.Rb1 b6 23.Bd2 Rd3) 22...Rxa3 [#] (22...b6 23.Ra1?? Rxe3 24.fxe3 Bxa1-+)]



**22.Rc1 Rxc1+** [At this point the players decided to called it a day and the game ended in a draw. I was following the game on the tournament site and I recall both players saw Bxc1 to prevent Bb2 winning the a3 pawn if white captures on c1 with the knight. I asked the players for a copy of the notation since I wanted to annotated the game and explore this knight and bishop versus bishop pair. Turns out that the rule of thumb, "open the position when you have the bishop pair" works in this endgame! For example if white plays Bxc1, then after 23...f5 24.exf5 Bxf5 blacks bishops control the board.]

**23.Bxc1 f5 24.exf5 Bxf5 25.f3** [25.Nd2 Bh6 26.g4 Bd3 27.Kg2 Be2]

**25...Bd3**

1/2-1/2

**(2) JORGE, OQUENDO (2474) - ANTHONY, COLEMAN (1823) [B20]**  
NORTH FLORIDA CLASS 2022 (5)  
[Ararat, Miguel]

**1.e4 c5 2.Bc4** [A popular choice at scholastic level and may be the start of The High School variation against the Sicilian. White aims to develop his pieces to good squares and refrain from the advance d4.]

**2...g6** [Black refrains from Nc6 and a kingside fianchetto. Despite white's slow approach in the opening the game may become really sharp as both players want a fight. For instance, the game Fedoseev - Antipov, Moscow 2017 escalates quickly from a quiet opening to a sharp and complex middlegame.]

[2...Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 Be7 6.Bb3 0-0 7.c3 b5 8.e5 Nd5 9.c4 bxc4 10.dxc4 Nb6 11.Bf4 f5 12.Qd2 h6 13.h3 g5]



14.Bh2 Bb7 15.a4 a5 16.Nc3 h5 17.Nb5 g4 1-0 (35) Fedoseev, V (2718)-Antipov, M (2588) Moscow 2017]

**3.Qf3** [This move takes the game to uncharted territory. A common plan for white is to advance f2-f4, Nf3 and keep the queen back until a black knight takes on f3 as in the following game.]

[3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d3 Nc6 5.a3 a6 6.Be3 d6 7.a4 Nf6 8.h3 0-0 9.f4 e6 10.Bb3 Nd4 11.Ba2 b5 12.Nf3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 1/2-1/2 (41) Kula, R (2382)-Okon, D (2198) Police 2009]

**3...e6 4.Ne2** [4.c3 It is difficult for white to push d2-d4 because the lack of a white knight controlling the d4 square, however white can do it by losing a tempo with Bc4- b5 as in the variation below. 4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Nge7 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 The point is that black can not capture the pawn on d4 because 7...Nxd4 8.Qf6 Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Nxb5 10.Qxh8 The computer gives white the advantage here, but the position is complex and white needs to play a string of accurate moves.]

**4...Nc6 5.d3** [If white plays on autopilot he can lose his light square bishop. For example,]

[5.0-0 Bg7 6.Nbc3?? Ne5]

**5...Bg7 6.Nbc3 Nge7** [6...Nf6 7.h4 a6 8.Bb3 d6]

9.Qg3= The white queen prevents the black king from 0-0 9...0-0?! 10.h5]

7.Be3 d6 8.h3 0-0 9.a3 Bd7 10.g4 f5

1/2-1/2

(3) JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER, LAU (2084) - JORGE, OQUENDO (2482) [B30] JAX CITY CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 (4) [Ararat, Miguel]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 [The Rossolimo is a regular response to the Sicilian at all levels, because the move is logical and allows white to play to win without challenging black in the mainlines of the open Sicilian.]

3...e6 [3...d6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.h3 e6 7.c3 d5 0-1 (40) Bologan,V (2732)-Carlsen,M (2837) Biel 2012 CBM 150 [Kritz,Leonid]; 3...g6 g6 is a popular alternative at this point. This year Carlsen played a nice game as black against Caruana in this line with an early d7-d5 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 0-1 (49) Caruana,F (2792)-Carlsen,M (2865) Wijk aan Zee 2022 7...d5]

4.0-0 Nge7 5.c3 [5.Re1 5.Re1 was Carlsen choice at the Candidates 2013 in his critical game against Gelfand. Carlsen won this game and challenge Anand for the world chess title. The idea behind Re1 is to allow the bishop on b5 to return to f1. As we can see in this game white tried to give his light square bishop a home on c2 in the spirit of the Kopec system. However this approach is slow and black grabs the initiative out of the opening. 5...a6 6.Bf1 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.d4 1-0 (48) Carlsen,M (2872)-Gelfand,B (2740) London 2013 CBM 154 [Nielsen,Peter Heine]]

5...a6 6.Bd3 b5 7.Bc2 Bb7 8.Qe2 [8.d3!?!#]



I like this move better because white gives black the chance to go wrong with g6. Perhaps one of my reader will give this novel idea a try. The point to remember is that after 9...g6 10.Nb3 attacking the pawn on c5 gives white a large advantage. 8...d5 9.Nbd2 g6? 10.Nb3!?! dxe4 11.dxe4 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Ng8 13.Be3 c4 14.Nbd4 Analysis (Miguel Ararat)]

8...d5 9.d3 d4 10.Bg5 [10.a4 [#]



appears to be the more solid choice for white here. The pawn break 10.a4 allows white to take advantage of the black pawn on b5 in the same spirit of some line of the Ruy Lopez to exchange the passive rook on a1 for its black counterpart. At the same time white get active square for his knight on b1.]

10...h6 11.Bh4?! [11.Bd2 Ng6 12.a4 Be7 13.Na3=]

11...g5 [The turning point in the game. Black expand on the kingside with tempo, grabs more space and will leave his king in the middle. It is important to notice that white's castle king is more vulnerable than black's king in the middle because the center is close and white lags in development.]

12.Bg3 Ng6 13.Nbd2 g4 14.Ne1 h5 [14...Bg7 puts pressure on c3 and white has to find f3 to stay in the game. 15.h3? (15.f3 dxc3 16.bxc3 Bxc3 17.Rc1) 15...dxc3 16.bxc3 Bxc3-+]

15.h3 gxh3 16.gxh3 h4 17.Bh2 dxc3 18.bxc3 Qf6 [This was Oquendo's idea to put the queen on the long diagonal instead of the bishop. This idea works as well as Bg7.]

19.d4 [Lau plays a practical move to open the center and expose the black king, but blacks attack lead by the black queen is just to strong.]

19...cxd4 20.f4 dxc3 [beside the attack black has a material advantage. This means black can convert his advantage by a direct attack on the white king or just promoting one of his extra pawns.]

21.Nb3 Rg8 22.Ng2 Nd4 23.Qf2 [23.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 24.Kh1 Qd2 25.Rf2 Qxe2 26.Rxe2 0-0-0]

23...Nxc2 24.Qxc2 Ne7 25.Na5 Qd4+ 26.Qf2 Qxf2+ [Black "breaks the rule" do not trade queens when you are attacking the king (a coach mantra in scholastic chess) Why?]

27.Kxf2 Bxe4 28.Nxh4 Nf5 29.Nxf5 Rg2+ 30.Ke3 exf5 31.Bg1 Bc5# [Turns out that black does not need his queen to play for mate. A nice performance by Oquendo and his third first place in a tournament this season. I watched Oquendo play at the Ocala Classic this year and his style, active and practical approach to chess suits the swiss tournament format like a charm.]

0-1

(4) ANDREW, PENTON (1008) - WILLIAM L, WIEST (1021) [C30] JAX CITY CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 (4) [Ararat, Miguel]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d6 [3...d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Nxd5 Qxd5 with a good position for black.]

4.d3 [This move prevent white to develop his light square bishop to b5 with active play.]

[4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bb5 exf4 6.d4 White has an active position and has enough compensation for the pawn.]

4...Nc6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Be2 h6 7.0-0 0-0 [so far a quiet game, but white next move activates black's dark square bishop for no reason.]

8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Be3?! [9.Kh1 Be6 10.Qe1 Nd4 11.Bd1 White keeps control of his dark squares and is fine.]

9...Ng4 10.Qd2 Nd4 [10...Nxe3 11.Qxe3 Nd4 12.Qd2 Be6 Black has the bishop pair and stands better.]

11.Bxd4 exd4 [#] White lacks his dark square bishop and a weak e3 square as a consequence of a bad piece exchange.]



12.Nd5 Bc5 13.b4 Bb6 [13...Bd6 aiming the bishop to the white king retains the advantage.]

14.Nxb6 axb6= 15.Bd1 Be6 [15...Ne3 16.Re1 c5 The black knight on e3 breaks white's position in two and allows play on both flanks.]

16.a3 c5 17.c3 [white blunders a pawn, but is not a catastrophic mistake.]

17...dxc3 18.Qxc3 cxb4 [Notice how the white bishop on d1 prevents the coordination of the white rooks.]

19.Qxb4 Qxd3 20.Re1 Ra6 21.Be2 [#] White breaks the contact of the white queen with the e3 square and black delivers a smoother mate in 5 moves.]



## Florida Women in Chess



The International Chess Federation declared 2022 the “Year of the Woman in Chess” and to honor that declaration we have featured a wide range of Florida’s women and girls chess players, organizers, and teachers, on our cover this quarter. (Left to right, top to bottom)

- 1 - GM Yaniet Marrero Lopez
- 2 - Sonam Jani
- 3 - Zoe Zelner
- 4 - Aarna Warekar
- 5 - WFM Vladlena Ciubara
- 6 - WFM Amelia Hernandez
- 7 - Sophie Li
- 8 - Shama Yisrael
- 9 - Krista Alton
- 10- Elizabeth Tejada
- 11- Cindy Tsai
- 12- Alexandra Phung
- 13- Priya Anna Gutta
- 14- Sam Sharf
- 15- Grace Yang
- 16- Edna Bowman
- 17- Shalam Yisrael
- 18- Estelle Thibodeau
- 19- Myra Ratliff
- 20- FM Laura Zayas
- 21- Pam Heberer
- 22- Antonella Villa
- 23- Sisira Yerrajennu
- 24- Chloe Min
- 25- Jolie Huang
- 26- Evangeline Jones
- 27- Amy Xing
- 28- Gilila Biruk
- 29- Lisa Chapman
- 30- Tanisha Saha

Women & Girls Only 2022 Queen’s Cup Tournament participants and organizers featured below.



# Northeast Regional Report

By Ray Ratliff, NE RVP

## Chess Moms



On the chess board the queen is, without a doubt, the most powerful piece. The queen is able to defend her pawns and minor pieces, move all over the board with ease, and is often the defining piece to save the day. These attributes combined with her calming and supportive presence, also makes her the most valuable piece on the board. As chess dad and as a tournament director, I have found that there are many valuable queens off the chessboard as well. They walk among us every day and can be found outside of the tournament halls waiting patiently on the floor or in their foldout chair for their minor pieces to finish their games. These superheroes of the chess world are the amazing CHESS MOMS!!!

Behind every chess player is a mom. She stands ready with a cooler in one hand, a chess bag over her shoulder, and her other hand being pulled in the direction of the playing hall. She is a Grandmaster of planning and coordination. Her opening is the hotel reservations, her middle game the tournament registration and her endgame is ensuring her chess player is on time and ready to go for each round.



Moms are always there. Between rounds they make sure their kids eat, listen to the ups and downs of their games, and provide encouragement for the next game.

We owe our strong and growing chess community to our incredible chess moms. Thank you so very much for all your hard work. It is appreciated and deserves our recognition and gratitude.

# West Regional Report

## By Timotey Gospodinov, W RVP

In West Florida we have chess tournaments every weekend, and sometimes even two tournaments on the same day. Most tournaments are in Tampa, Sarasota, and Saint Petersburg. The Saint Petersburg Chess Club continues to be Open for four days per week. Tuesdays and Fridays we have regular meetings beginning at 6 pm for casual games. Almost every Saturday we organize different kinds of chess tournaments - Swiss, Quad and Blitz tournaments. Weekends when we don't have a tournament, we organize other chess events- Simul, free workshop, etc. Every Sunday we have group chess lessons with three Coaches and different groups depending on the level of the students. The most exciting event we held was a Simul with International Master Corey Acor! We had about 40 participants and spectators, and everyone had a great time.



During the month of September we completed a Saint Petersburg Chess Club project consisting of handmaking a chess board with club members. For the last two months the board has been displayed at different museums and art centers in Saint Petersburg. Before the end of the year, the board will return to the Saint Petersburg Chess Club.



On 11/13 and 11/20 we will organize two Free two hours group chess lessons at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club for everyone. That will be our appreciation to everyone who is connected with the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. During December we will host the Saint Petersburg Chess Club Championship, the biggest tournament of the year. The names of the winners will stay on the club wall forever!

## North West Regional Report

By Derek Zhang, NW RVP



Hello! My name is Derek Zhang, and I am the new Regional Vice President for the Northwest Region. I'm originally from Seattle, WA, but have lived in Gainesville since 2020 while attending the University of Florida. I'm honored to serve on the FCA Board, and hope to bring with me a special focus on youth and collegiate chess.

I'm pleased to report that chess in Gainesville is as strong as it's been since I moved here a couple years ago. This includes talented young juniors like K-1 National Champion Aakash Jani and Under-10 National Girls Runner-Up Sophie Li, longtime scholastic coaches like Miguel Ararat and NM Britt Ryerson, and both old and new local clubs like the Friday night Perkins Restaurant chess meetup and Kevin Sevilla's Endgame Chess Academy. I can also say from my own experience that the University of Florida's Gator

Chess Club has grown enormously over the past year, with regular attendance of 40 players and club members traveling across the state to compete.

On that note, college chess is also growing in the state of Florida. Five Florida colleges are competing in this year's Collegiate Chess League, an online collegiate tournament with over 1,200 players from over 100 schools around the world: the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of South Florida, the Florida Institute of Technology, and Florida Gulf Coast University. Good luck to the following Florida players competing in the currently underway Collegiate Chess League playoffs: Conner Weaver, Mathew Romano, Tim Wainscott, and Tyler Son of the Florida Institute of Technology; Roshan Jayaraman of the University of South Florida; Nathaniel Weber, Uri Ngwa, and Mason Derwitsch of the University of Florida; and Matthew Civale of Florida Gulf Coast University! I'll be looking to revive the Florida Collegiate Chess Championship next spring, and I hope to have many schools competing.

I've included a list of Northwest Florida chess clubs below. Please reach out to me at [derek@koono.com](mailto:derek@koono.com) if your club is missing or if you'd like to discuss future chess opportunities in the region!

### Northwest Florida Chess Clubs:

Endgame Chess Academy (Gainesville) - <https://www.endgamechessacademy.com>

FSU Chess Club (Tallahassee) - [ChessClubFSU@gmail.com](mailto:ChessClubFSU@gmail.com)

Gator Chess Club (Gainesville) - <https://gatorchessclub.com>

Panama City Chess Club - [pcbchess@yahoo.com](mailto:pcbchess@yahoo.com)

Pensacola Chess Club - [lifemasteraj@yahoo.com](mailto:lifemasteraj@yahoo.com)

Perkins Restaurant Chess Meetup (Gainesville) - Friday nights from 7-11

Tallahassee Chess Club - <http://www.tallahasseechess.com>



Gator Chess Club at the 2022 Florida Chess Championship

# Central Regional Report

Andrew Rea CRVP

2022 AUTUMN OPEN CONCLUDES WITH VINCENT STONE WINNING CLEAR 1ST PLACE!

Recap by Steven Vigil, CFCC Chief TD

□	Harrison, Joshua Alan	2045
■	Stone, Vincent W	2130
CFCC Autumn Open (5)		18.09.2022

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5  
5.Bc4 e6 6.Nf3 d6 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0  
Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3  
dxe5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Qc7  
14.Qd3 Bd6 15.Rh5 g6 16.Rh6 Bf4  
17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.Rh3 Bd7 19.Rf3 Qc7  
20.Re1 Rac8 21.Bb3 Bc6 22.Rg3 Bd5  
23.h4 Bxb3 24.axb3 Rcd8

25.h5 Qe7 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Re5 Kg7  
28.Reg5 Qf6 29.Qe4 Rd7 30.Qe5  
Qxe5 31.Rxe5  
½-½

The Central Florida Chess Club held its 2022 Autumn Open Tournament from September 16-18. The tournament was held at the Holiday Inn Resort in Lake Buena Vista. This was the third CFCC event at this venue, and CFCC's final weekend tournament of 2022. Over 130 players in 6 sections participated in the tournament, choosing between a 2 and 3-day schedule.

The 3-day schedule began their first round on Friday night at 7:30pm with 35 players. They competed with a time control of 2hrs. per side + 5 second time delay. Play continued Saturday morning at 11 am. at which time the 3-day schedules began their second round and the 2-day schedule began their first game with a time control of 1 hour with a 5 second delay. The 2-day schedule then began their second-round games at 2pm. Round 3 started at 5pm on Saturday evening with the 2&3-day sections now merged into one section for the duration of the tournament with the full 2-hour time control. After a delay due to a computer glitch, the fourth round started on Sunday morning at round 10:30am. The fifth and final round began at 2:45pm. Here is a recap of the winners and prizes

EXPERT/MASTER SECTION—Fifteen players competed in the Master/Expert section, the tournaments' top section. Congratulations to USCF expert Vincent Stone (2151) who won clear first in Master/Expert Section. Vincent scored an impressive 4.5 points winning the first-place prize of \$700. Vincent defeated the highest rated player in the tournament Nick Moore (2238) in the fourth round and then drew his final game against Joshua Harrison (2095) to secure his first-place finish. Nick Moore won the rest of his games to finish with 4 points and win clear second place and a prize payout of \$350. Joshua would finish the tournament with 3.5 points tying him for third place (and the U2200 prize ) with Aaron Bias (1960). Joshua and Aaron took home \$254 each.

CLASS A SECTION—In the A Section, Agrim Kumar (1761) and Kai Tabor (1995) who shared first place in the Class A section. Despite never meeting over the board, and taking byes, both players topped the field with 4 points and won \$367.50 each. Despite "playing up" a section Srijan Ganta (1747) and Sophie Li (1673) put forth solid performances. Their only loss each came at the hands of Kai Tabor and their only draw was to Peter Bias (1919). Srijan and Sophie also never faced off, but their score of 3.5 points was good enough to earn them each a \$122.50 share of 3rd place.

CLASS B SECTION—Congratulations to Jayashree Sekar (1600) who was one of only two players in the entire tournament to finish with a perfect score of 5 points! Jayashree took home a prize check of \$490. Tristan Elvers (1520), a talented youngster, won the \$228.00 second place prize with his score of 4 points. There was a four-way tie for third place between Akash Athi Kesevan (1429), Carliteau Leger (1549), Analaya Muneeppeerakul (1566) and Patrick Stots (1622). Each player finished with 3.5 points and won \$61.25 each.

CLASS C SECTION—Meanwhile in Class C, Jesse Deng (1322) and Aarna Warekar (1396) drew their final round game to finish with 4 points each to share first place and \$350 each. Luca Alon Donayre (1538) won clear third place and a prize of \$140. Stuart Elvers (1424), Joshua Simring (1366), Kaan Damriel (1286), and Darsheel Panchal all shared the U1500 prize winning them each \$26.25.

CLASS D SECTION—Historically always one of the largest sections in the tournament, 26 players competed in the Class D. Congratulations to Alison Solik (1267), the only other player to run the table and score a perfect 5 points! Alison was happy to take home her well deserved prize check of \$455. Daniel Yang (1019) also went undefeated in the section with 3 wins and 2 draws. His 4 point finish put him in a tie with Brian Blanchard (1391) who only lost one game to Alison. This netted the players \$149 each for 2nd/3rd place. Yi Sha (1283) and David Bonilla (1116). With 3.5 points each Yi Sha (1283) and David Bonilla (1116) Shared the U1300 prize and took home \$52.50 each.

SATURDAY NIGHT BLITZ—A blitz tournament was held on Saturday night at 9:30pm. A group of 18 players competed in the four double-round event where each player plays one game with white and one game with black. Congratulations to Blitz tournament winners, Vincent Stone(2060) and Kyle Knapp(1597) who tied for first place with a score of four points and each won \$85 each. Carlos Hoyos (1898) and Talha Olsoy (1529) won third place with 6 points each.

SIDE EVENTS—A small crowd gathered at 9am on Sunday morning to catch the master lecture given by FM Alexander Zelner. As always Alex gave an entertaining lecture, this time showing famous games and themes in the Pirc Defense. The lesson offered something for chess players at every level. Alex and Dr. Catherine Zelner also ran the chess shop throughout the weekend. They had an impressive collection of books as well as a variety of chess equipment for sale.

The Central Florida Chess club would like to thank all who participated in the 2022 Autumn Open to help make it a successful event. The experienced team of Steven Vigil (STD) and Charles Hatherill (ANTD) served as tournament directors for this event. They worked diligently to have the tournament submitted for rating and most of the prizes paid out shortly after its completion on Sunday evening.

\*\*\*



Board 1, final round, foreground players **Joshua Harrison (2085)** (L) vs **Vincent Stone (2130)** (R) where their game ended in a draw, giving Vincent 4.5/5 points and a clear 1st place win!

# South Regional Report

By Matthew Kolcz

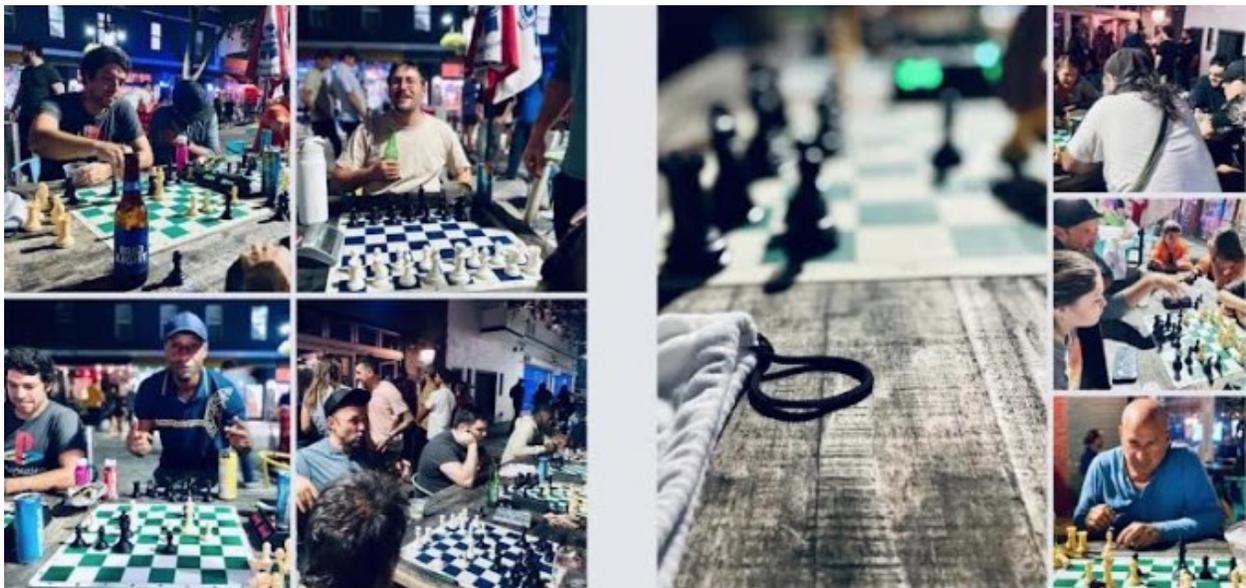
## Fern Street Chess Park

Many new venues for chess have been popping up this year with more casual players getting involved than ever before. If you are familiar with Washington Square park with the chess hustlers, downtown West Palm has set up a similar but more inclusive social atmosphere at Fern Street Chess Park! Check them out during your vacation days, formal meetups on Sundays 9:30am - 12:30pm.

More information at: <https://downtownwpb.com/chesspark/>



"The Fern Street Chess Park contributes to the goals of Downtown West Palm Beach in a number of ways: it provides a comfortable street space that creates opportunities for casual, spontaneous social interaction through chess; it promotes synergy and interaction between nearby uses, connecting new development in the south end of Downtown with Clematis Street, the traditional heart of West Palm Beach; and it encourages people to engage with the street and the Downtown because the chess park is visually interesting on a human scale and can be appreciated by everyone, chess players and non-chess players alike."  
- Joshua Koehler



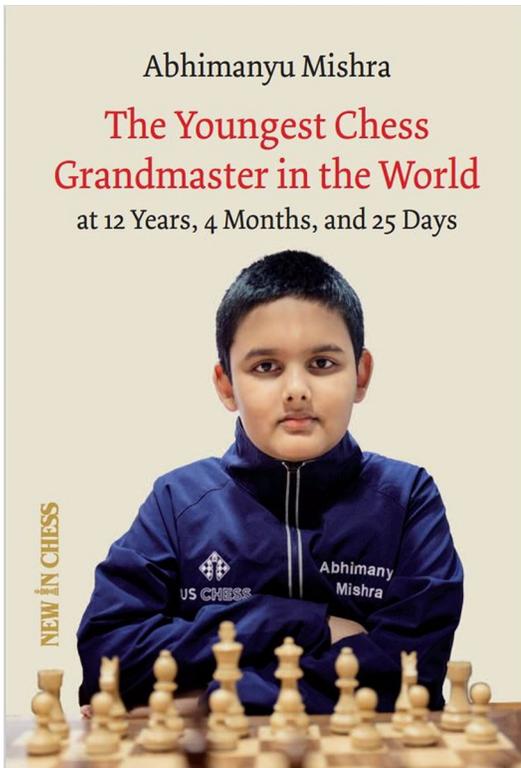
## Sunrise Civic Center for Excellent in Chess

I had the pleasure a few months back to be invited to the Sunrise Community Chess event. Mayor Ryan, FM Sunil Weeramantry, and WFM Amelia Hernandez were among the big names to attend. Their mission to open opportunities and allow for easy access to resources makes for quite the spectacle at their free events. They have both open play and chess classes throughout the week. Please support them in your travels! More information at: <https://sunrisechesscenter.org/index.php/our-programs>



# Book Reviews

by Miguel Ararat



## Book Review: **The Youngest Grandmaster in the World**

In a fast-paced world, chess players of all ages and abilities want to improve as quickly as possible. Very young chess players looking to improve fast required supportive families to help with all the logistics of chess lessons, traveling and tournament play. A small group of families set themselves the ambitious goal of helping one of the young members reach the Grand Master level in chess as quickly as possible. The book *The Youngest Grandmaster in the World* is the story of Abhimanyu Mishra's quest to break Karjakin's nineteen-year record as the youngest GM in the world. The achievement of this ambitious goal is an extraordinary story that deserves to be shared not only with chess players, but also with the public at large.

**The Youngest Grandmaster in the World** is written in a manner that is accessible to readers outside chess circles. As a result, the book becomes a powerful, entertaining and inspiring way to popularize chess among young players and parents. **The Youngest Grandmaster in the World**, provides parents with a valuable resource to familiarize with chess and the logistics behind having a very young member training and playing chess competitively.

Aside from an inspiring story, Abhimanyu Mishra offers chess players a number of well-annotated games and a list of chess resources to improve at chess. The author annotates his games in a

clear and accessible manner for amateur players. I like how the author highlights the critical moments of the game, evaluates the position and suggests one or two possible plans. Mishra reveals his thought process at these critical moments of the game and does not hesitate to criticize his mistakes. At the end of some chapters, the reader will find tangible resources to learn the skill required to make progress in the chess rating scale. Mishra's tips are suitable for players of various skill levels and can serve as a template for self-training.

## **Master Class Tactics and Chess Classics the Games you Must Know**

Amateur chess players are usually well prepared in the opening and can hold their ground against experts and chess masters. However, as the game proceeds, the class player is tactically and/or strategically overtaken. The question is, how can amateur chess players catch up with experts and masters in tactical and strategical skill?

I believe that amateur players can increase their tactical and strategic play by looking at tactics beyond tactical patterns and working on classical games respectively. Two recent ChessBase DVD's on tactics and classical games are **Master Class Tactics** and **Chess Classics the Games you Must Know** by Dorian Rogozenco. Let's examine both resources.



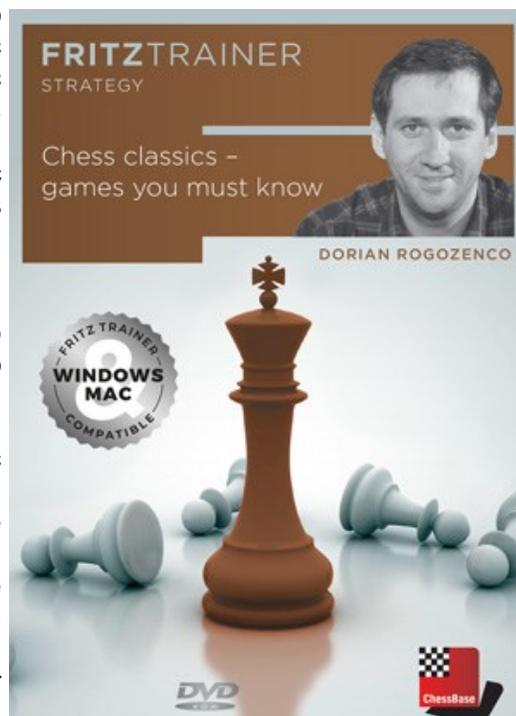
**Master Class Tactics** by Oliver Reeh Volumes 1 and 2 is a collection of challenging positions to help the audience to improve their tactical play. We all grow at the edge of our comfort zones and **Master Class Tactics** will help the improving player to move beyond the study of tactical patterns. The author has selected a group of instructive positions which are not solved immediately by applying a tactical model. Instead, the user must find the best idea(s) for turning the position into a position that can be solved with the application of a well-known pattern. In other words, the user needs to think creatively and delve deeply into the hidden resources of the position. The author has a passion for tactics and his enthusiasm for the subject makes the videos

interesting. Reeh's presentation skills helps the audience to connect and embrace the work required to make the most out of the material in both DVD's.

**Chess Classics the Games you Must Know** by Dorian Rogozenco is a ChessBase DVD that aims to improve the audience strategic competence in chess. The author uses thirty three complete classic games and fragments to illustrate key strategic themes and methods to exploit positional advantage. The author has succeeded in enhancing previously annotated games. For example, the classic game Bogoljubow – Capablanca, nine round, New York, 1924 is expertly annotated by Alekhine in the tournament book (Russell, 2016, pages 135-36). However Rogozenco improves on Alekhine annotations by explaining the method(s) for converting the position reached after movement 17.f3. Rogozenco's commentary is easy to follow and the audience can incorporate the author's explanations into their strategic arsenal.

Above all, the author takes full advantage of the video and graphic annotations on the screen to make it easier for the user to follow a multiple-step plan visually. I like the way Rogozenco explains why the plan connected to white's 22. Ne5 in the game cited above has good ideas but fall short at the end. This kind of comment is where the class player gets the most from the extensive experience of the presenter as a trainer. The audience is not let hanging or guessing with an informant type annotation like 22 Ne5?!. Instead, the author explains clearly why the knight move does not answer the demands of the position.

Lastly, Rogozenco provides the audience with practical tips on how to respond when you are winning and your opponent complicates the game. This point is important because most class players only use simplification as a method to convert winning position, yet this method fails against more experience opponents. **Chess Classics the Games you Must Know** is a valuable resource to transfer study of classic games into over the board success. As my former chess Coach Lars Bo Hansen says about the study of classic games. "You don't win games at the elite level by just following the classics, but you will definitely lose if you don't".



## CHESS COACHES

### Professional - Level V

Mark Ritter

### National - Level IV

Tania Kranich-Ritter

Tim Tusing

Miguel Ararat

Thomas Mikolyzk

Lawrence Goodall

### FIDE Instructor License

Miguel Ararat

NM Bryan Tillis

### Floridians with USCF Roles:

#### Executive Board:

Kevin Pryor, Vice President

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- Audit: Jon Haskel, Chair
- Barber K-8: Jon Haskel, Co-chair
- By-laws: Andrew Rea
- College Chess: Jon Haskel, Matt Kolcz, Members
- College Chess:
- Endowment Fund Investment: Peter Dyson, Member
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- Reserve Fund & PPHB Investment: Peter Dyson, Member
- US Open: NM Andrew Rea

#### Other Organizations

ACP : American Chess Promotions	(478)973-9389
BRCC: Boca Raton Chess Club	(561)302-4377
CACC: Castle Chess Camp	(404)314-3142
CCA : Continental Chess Association	(914)496-9658
CFCC : Central Florida Chess Club	(407)312-6237
CFCJ : Chess for Charity Jax	(904)677-1445
FSCL : Florida Scholastic Chess League	(786)444-2467
HCA : Hanley Chess Academy	(714)925-3195
JAXCC: The Jacksonville Chess Club	(904)607-9111
VILLC: The Villages Chess	(407)497-2261
KCF : Kasparov Chess Foundation	(773)844-0701
MCC : Manasota Chess Center	(941)313-5589
OCC : Orlando Chess Club	(407)721-4262
OCG : Orlando Chess & Game Center	(407)248-0818
PBC : Palm Beach Chess	nmbtillis@gmail.com
SCO : ScholasticChess.Org	(904)304-1639
SCF : Space Coast Chess Foundation	(321)431-3060
TCC : Tallahassee Chess Club	(850)345-7838
USCF : US Chess Federation	(800)903-8723
VCCC : Volusia County Chess Club	(386)316-3700
SOCC: South Ocala Chess Club	(404)242-6728

## Light on the Right

# CHESS PEACE

by Tony  
Sullivan



## TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

### National TDs

Jon Haskel  
Harvey Lerman  
Anthony Coddell  
Ervin Sedlock

### Associate National TDs

Stephen Lampkin  
Charles Hatherill

### Senior TDs

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Kevin Pryor  
NM Andrew Rea  
NM Bryan Tillis  
Paul Tomaino  
Steven Vigil

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### International Organizer & Arbiter

Jon Haskel

### International Coordinator

Elizabeth Tejada

### National Arbiter

Harvey Lerman  
Stephen Lampkin  
NM Andrew Rea  
NM Bryan Tillis

### National Instructor

Miguel Ararat

\* Active and USCF certified

# CHESS CALENDAR

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House  
clearinghouse@FloridaChess.org

Date	Event	Location	Contact
<b>2022</b>			
Dec 3	South Florida Grand Prix	Cooper City, Florida	BRCC
Dec 10	Terwilliger CC Benefit Tournament	Gainesville, Florida	JAXCC
Dec 18	Monthly Super Swiss	Sarasota, Florida	MCC
Jan 6-8	8th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open	Fort Meyers-Estero, Florida	BRCC
Jan 15	Palm Beach Quads	North Palm Beach, Florida	PBC
Jan 27-29	CFCC 2023 Winter Open	Holiday Inn Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, FL	CFCC
Feb 11	25 <sup>th</sup> Jacksonville Scholastic Championship	Jacksonville, Florida	SCO
Feb 26-27	The Villages Open	The Villages, Florida	VILC

\*Additional Tournament info at FloridaChess.org and ChessRegister.com

## FCA Florida 2022 Affiliates

Academy Prep Center of Lakeland
Alton Academy 4 Chess
B & B Chess Club
Boca Raton Chess Club
Bortnik's School of Chess LLC
Capablanca Chess Academy
Chess Club Bobby Fischer
Chess Club Joy
CHESS 4 US Club
CHESS4LESS
Chess For Charity Jax
Chessregister.com
Chess with Cochez
Christian Chess Fellowship
Code Ninjas of Ponte Vedra
Florida Scholastic Chess League
Jacksonville Chess Club
Hanley Chess Academy
Manasota Chess Center of Sarasota
Miramar Chess Club
Oak Hall School Chess Club
Ocala Chess Club

Palm Beach Chess
Paradise Chess Club
ScholasticChess.Org
Space Coast Chess Foundation, Inc.
South Shore Chess Club
Statz Chess Academy of Tampa
South Ocala Chess Club
The Stormont Kings Chess Program
The Villages Chess Club
Strong Chess of Tampa
SW Florida Chess Club
Venetian Bay Chess Academy
Volusia County Chess Club
Varina Cabrera
Scott Campbell
Richard Francis
Richard Illsley
Shang Shu Jiang
Aaron Marian
Maggie O'Hara
Zahina Porto (affiliate)
Rodolfo Rodriguez
Michael Sheroff

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