



West Chester Chess Club - West Chester, PA

Established in 1974

Over 50 Years of Great Chess!

The West Chester Chess Club plays USCF-rated [OTB chess on Thursday evenings](#) for players 16 years of age or older. Details and contacts are [here](#). For newsletter-related questions, please reach out to wcccnewsletter1974@gmail.com

Newsletter – June 2026

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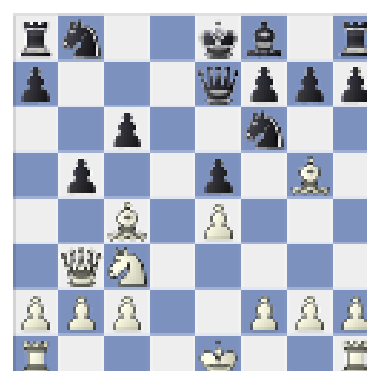
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Why is 34.b4 a mistake? Check out the game between Nate and Jim for the solution.



White next move was 15.Nxc6: Should Black take back with the rook or the pawn? And why? (see Jim's game with Dirk)



Which game is this position from? What were the next 8 moves? (see "What every serious chess player must know")

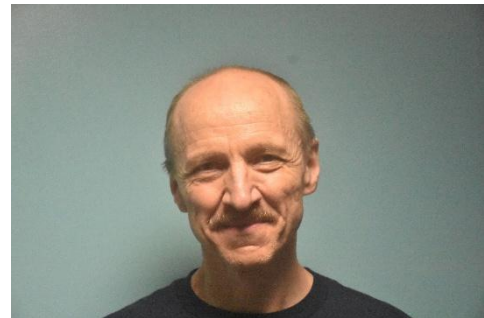
West Chester Chess Club Member Profile: Dirk Troltenier

By Ed Snyder

Dirk Troltenier is the West Chester Chess Club's (WCCC) current Champion having won the title with an impressive six wins, one draw, and no losses. I don't know what the winning scores were in past years, but this has to be one of the best if not the best. He joins a long line of Champions going back for more than fifty years, and his name will be forever counted among our members that have achieved that honor.

Although a relatively recent member of the club he has assumed the responsibility of rekindling the club's Newsletter with help from Denis Markov and John Helmbrecht. These gentlemen have also made the newsletter a great way to spread our club's story with interesting articles and games from members.

Dirk was born in Frankfurt, West Germany, in 1962. He was raised in the Frankfurt suburbs and attended school there, obtaining a degree from Frankfurt University.



His first attempt at playing chess was in elementary school where he played in a chess club and things were going well for him. He remembers an adult chess club member trying to teach checkmating techniques, like using two rooks, to the younger players. On one occasion after continually making fun of another player, the other player hit Dirk, which of course he didn't like. He gave up chess for soccer, which he found more exciting. His second attempt at chess was when he was about fifteen years old, together with a couple of his friends. At that time, he found chess more exciting than soccer and it became an important part of his life. It's interesting how our interests and values change throughout our lives.

A year or two later, around 1978 or 1979, after much pestering, Dirk's mother bought him his first chess computer. It was after Christmas when prices had gone down, and it was one of the first pretty good ones. He practiced on this a lot while doing homework which he admits was not an ideal scenario.

Dirk started going to a chess club every week in the Frankfurt area. These clubs were a little different than he has found them to be in the U.S. Basically, there were no girls or women in chess at that time and very few folks under the age of twenty. Computers were still too weak to beat stronger players. Many players were middle aged men who smoked a lot, not only cigarettes but also cigars. That seems like a very difficult atmosphere in which to concentrate, let alone breathe. His mother would comment about how awful his sweater smelled of smoke when he came home from these chess evenings.

By the late 1970s or early 1980s the main source of information regarding current master games including opening innovations were "Chess Informators." These were books published twice a year in Yugoslavia and because they were produced for an international market, there were no words, only symbols. Many of these symbols are still used today.

After playing in a few clubs in the Frankfurt area, he joined the Schachverein Hofheim (SH), or chess club Hofheim, when he was about twenty. This is the club he has been with the longest. Chess was like many other sports in Germany and was organized into team events in hierarchically organized leagues. There were ten teams/leagues in chess with eight players per team and nine games per season. These events ran from September to May. The teams that finished first or second moved to a higher league, and the lower teams were demoted to local regional leagues.

The SH had approximately one hundred members and about nine teams. The highest ranked team played in the first or second “Bundesliga” or National League. This is the highest league in Germany in many sports. Being in this league was great for an ambitious player like Dirk, giving him the opportunity to play better players.

The SH also had a special club tournament for some of its players called the “ELO-Turnier.” This permitted players that did well to obtain an ELO rating. This was not easy at that time because you had to play in a number of events with other ELO-rated players, and there were not many of them. The players that had ELO ratings were at least 2200, so getting into one was difficult. All players had national ratings much like the USCF. Dirk played for several seasons in the first and second Bundesliga, which was a great experience for him. The team traveled all over West Germany, and he enjoyed spending weekends with friends and playing lots of chess. He also liked the camaraderie of the teams. A year or two after Germany’s reunification in 1990, the East German teams joined the league. Around this time Dirk obtained the FIDE Master (FM) title, a lucky event for him because he only had a few points cushion and matched the criteria almost exactly. He rarely played in individual tournaments during this period of his life.

In 1992 Dirk left Germany for the United States and worked at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge teaching and doing research in the physics department. After a few years in Louisiana, he realized that academia was not the right place for him. When he got married in 1995, he and his wife moved to a suburb of Munich, Germany. He started working for Allianz, a German insurance company, as a software developer. A few more years passed and he and his American wife decided to move back to the U.S. He began working for Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing (SAP) in Chicago, Illinois, again in software development. This company moved the development section Dirk was in to Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, and the family moved to West Chester. He remained with SAP for twenty-five years until retiring in 2024.

He didn’t play any tournament chess during this time until his retirement when he began playing again and joining the WCCC in late 2024. Having more free time now, he is trying to play in more tournaments and finding that it continues to be a lot of fun.

Dirk’s other hobbies include gardening and working in the backyard.

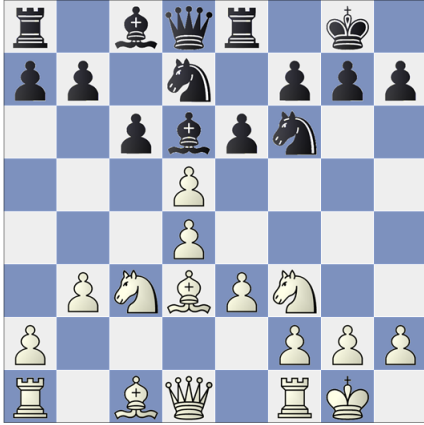
West Chester Chess Club: Independence Swiss 2025

Patrick McRee – Ed Snyder

By Ed Snyder

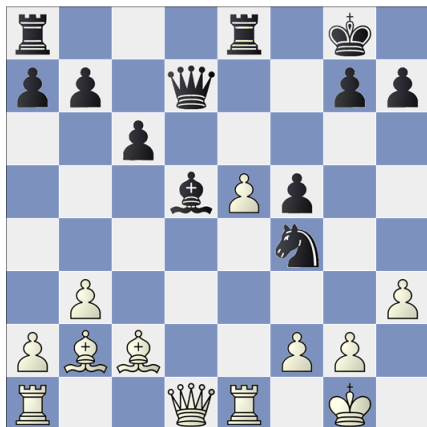
McRee, Patrick - Snyder, Ed [D45]
Independence Swiss WCCC, 17.07.2025

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.b3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.cxd5



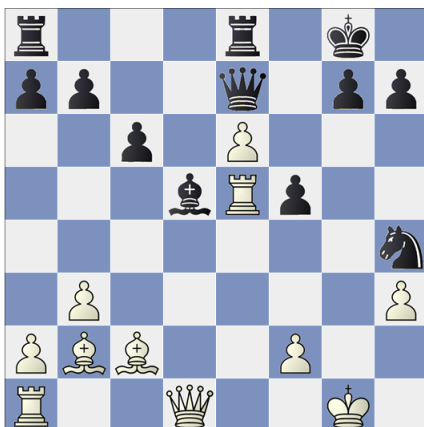
In this position I would normally play 9...cxd5. I don't remember why I took with the e pawn.

9...exd5 10.Qc2 Nf8 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 f6 14.h3 Be6 15.Re1 Qd7 16.Qe2 f5 17.Bc2 Bd5 18.Ne5 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Ng6 20.Bb2 Nf4 21.Qd1



I guess he had no other option because he can't protect the g pawn. I see he is attacking my king's position.

21...Nxf2 22.e6 Qe7 23.Re5 Nh4



31.Re1 Qg5

I believe at this point I have this game won.

32.Rxe5 Qg2+ 33.Ke1 Rxe5+ 34.Bxe5 Re8 35.Be6+ Rxe6 36.Qf5+ Ke7

0-1

West Chester Chess Club: Club Championship 2026

Nate Bryans – Jim Larsen

By John Helmbrecht

Nate Bryans - Jim Larsen [B56]

Club Championship WCCC (7), 26.02.2026

This was a "must win" final round game for Jim Larsen who needed a victory and a Dirk Troltenier loss to keep his club championship hopes alive.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6



Jim chooses a Classical Variation setup. Black has several popular choices here: 5...a6 (Najdorf Variation), 5...g6 (Dragon), 5...e6 (Scheveningen). Former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik frequently played this variation; however, he played ...Nc6 on move #2 and ...d6 on move #5.

6.Be3 6. Bg5 is the most popular move here.

6...Ng4= 7.Qd2 Opting for quick development and (probably) castling queenside

7...Nxe3 8.Qxe3 g6 9.Nxc6 [9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.e5=]

9...bxc6 10.Qd4



10...e5 The engine is giving a slight advantage for Black.

11.Qc4 [11.Qa4 Bd7 =/+]

11...Qb6 12.0-0-0 Castling queenside looks like a very natural move to me but the engine ranks several alternative moves higher:

- 12.Na4 Qa5+ 13.Nc3 Bd7 14.a3 -/+
- 12.Be2 Be7 13.0-0 Be6 14.Qa4 -/+

12...Be6 13.Qa6 White's best move.

13...Be7 14.Bc4 0-0 Better is: 14...Qxa6 15.Bxa6 Rb8 16.b3 0-0 -/+

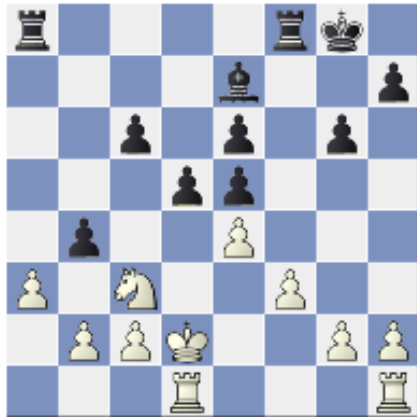
15.Qxb6 axb6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.f3



17...d5! 18.a3 [18.exd5 exd5 19.Kb1 b5 20.Rhe1 -/+]

18...b5 Much stronger is: 18...d4 19.Ne2 -/+

19.Kd2 b4?



Loses the advantage. Much stronger is: 19...d4+

20.axb4 Bxb4 21.Kd3= Nate has defended well and we have an equal game again.

21...Ra7 22.Ra1 Rfa8 23.Rxa7 Rxa7



24.Ne2 Kf7 Another possibility would be 24...Be7 with the intention of placing the bishop on g5.

25.f4 exf4 26.Nxf4 The game is still equal.

26...e5



27.Ne2 Ke6 28.Rf1 Bc5 29.c3?! [29.exd5+ cxd5 30.c4 dxc4+ 31.Kxc4=]

29...Ra2 30.Rb1 Be7 The bishop is headed to g5!

31.exd5+ cxd5



The engine still has the game equal!

32.b4? Admittedly, this is a tough position to find a plan for white. The engine suggests pushing the c pawn to keep the game balanced but to my eyes, that looks super hard to find! [32.c4 Ra5 33.cxd5+ Rxd5+ 34.Kc3=]

32...Bg5! With the huge threat of Rd2 mate. Suddenly, there is no escape.

33.Nc1 [33.Rd1 e4+ 34.Kd4 Rxe2 – +]

33...Rd2#

0–1

West Chester Chess Club - Kickoff Swiss West Chester

Aaron Biscoe – John Kula

By John Scott Kula

Biscoe, Aaron (2078) - Kula, John (1667) [D06]

Kickoff Swiss West Chester (2), 12.03.2026

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Qb3 Nc6 6.c5

[6.Qxb7 Nb4 7.Ne5 Rb8 8.Qxa7 Nc2+ -/+]

6...Rb8 7.Qa4 Be7



Tempting white with a pawn, in exchange black becomes very active
 I rejected 7...Nd7 as it seemed cramped: 8.Bb5 Ne7 9.Be2 c6 10.Nbd2 h6 +/-

8.Ne5

Very happy to see this developed piece moved again as white's plan is to trade off one of only two developed pieces, while black is very active.

8...0-0 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Qxc6?!

This is a bit greedy, White needs to be prepared for black's activity.

10...e5



11.Qa4??

White is now much worse.

[11.Nc3 exd4 12.exd4 Rb4 13.Bf4 (13.Be3?! Rxb2 14.Be2 Ne4 -/+) 13...Rxb2 =+]

11...exd4 12.exd4

[12.Qxd4 Ne4 13.Nc3 Bf6 14.Qd3 --]

12...Re8

Some example variations:

- 12...Ne4 13.Be2 Bh4 14.g3 Bg5 15.Bxg5 Qxg5 16.0-0 Rxb2 17.Bf3 Bh3+--

- 12...Ng4? 13.Be2 Bg5 14.Nc3 Bxc1 15.Rxc1=

- This variation I did not see: 12...Bxc5 13.dxc5 Re8+ 14.Be2 d4 15.0-0 (15.Nd2?? Rxe2+ 16.Kxe2 Qe7+ 17.Kd1 Re8--; 15.h3 Qe7 16.Qa6 Nd5 17.0-0 Nb4 18.Qc4 Qxe2 19.Qxe2 Rxe2 20.Nd2 Rbe8--) 15...Rxe2 -/+

13.Bb5



13... Rxb5

Not on my radar because I saw this and then stopped looking down the line: 13...c6 14.Bxc6 Rb4! 15.Bxe8 (15.Qxb4?? Bxc5+ 16.Bxe8 Qxe8+ 17.Be3 Bxb4+) 15...Rxa4 16.Bxa4 Bxb1 17.Rxb1 Qa5+ 18.b4 Qxa4 --

14.Qxb5 Bxc5+

I didn't see this and I should have played: 14...c6 15.Qb3 (15.Qxc6 Bxc5+ 16.Be3 Bxd4 17.0-0 Bxb2-/+)
 15...Bxc5+ 16.Be3 Bd6 17.0-0 Bxh2+?! (17...Ng4 18.h3 Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qg5 20.Nd2 Bxh3 21.Rf2 Bg3 =+)
 18.Kxh2 Ng4+ 19.Kg1 Qd6 20.Bf4 Qxf4 21.Qg3 Qxd4 22.Nc3 Qd2

15.Be3 Bxd4

I did not see the plan after 15...Bd6: 16.0-0 Ng4 17.g3 Nxh2 18.Kxh2 Rxe3 19.fxe3?? (19.Kg1 Re6-+)
 19...Qh4+ 20.Kg2 Qxg3+ 21.Kh1 Qh2#

16.0-0 Bd7

[16...c6 17.Qb4 c5 18.Qd2 Ne4 19.Qc1 Bf6 20.Nc3 d4 21.Nxe4 Bxe4 22.Bf4 Qd5; 16...Rxe3 17.fxe3 Bxe3+
 18.Kh1 g6 19.Qe2 =+]



17.Qe2 Bxe3??

I saw 17...Ng4 and discarded it but I don't recall why: 18.Qd2 Nxe3 19.Qxd4 c5 (19...Nxg2 20.Kxg2 Qg5+
 21.Kh1 Bh3 22.Qxd5 Qxd5+ 23.f3 Qg5 24.Rg1 Re1-+; 19...Nxf1 20.Nc3 Nxh2 21.Kxh2 c6-+)
 20.Qxe3 Rxe3 21.fxe3-+

18.fxe3 Ng4 19.Rf3 d4 20.e4

[20.Nd2 Nxe3 21.Rc1 Bg4 22.Qd3 Bxf3 23.Nxf3 Qb8 24.Qxd4 Nf5-/+]



20...Ne3

Sample variations:

- 20...c5 21.h3 Ne5 -/+
- 20...Qg5 21.Qd2 Qg6-/+;
- 20...f5 21.Nd2 fxe4 22.Nxe4 Bc6 23.Rf4 Ne3 24.Qd3 Qd5 -/+

21.Rxe3 dxe3 22.Qxe3 Qb8 23.b3 f5 24.Nc3 24.Bc6

[24...fxe4 25.Re1 Qb4=+]



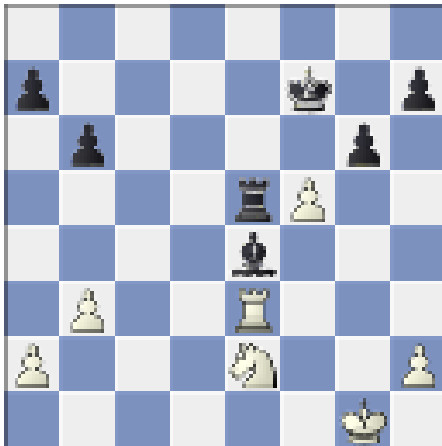
25.e5 Qb6 26.Qxb6 cxb6 27.Re1 Kf7 28.g3 g6 29.Re3?! Re7

[29...Ke6 30.Ne2 Be4 31.Rc3 Re7 32.a4 Kxe5-/+]

30.Ne2 Be4 31.g4 Rxe5

[31...Ke6 32.gxf5+ gxf5-/+]

32.gxf5



32 ...Kf6

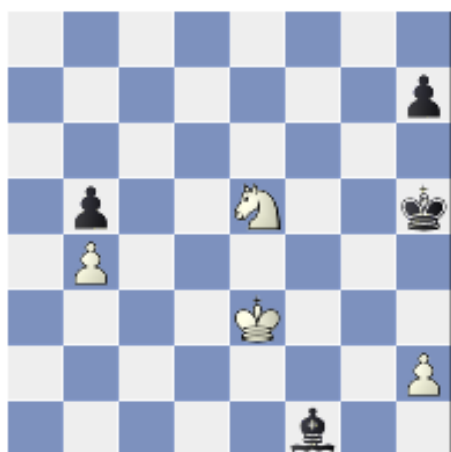
I didn't go for the following variation because I thought the h pawn would be a pain and the rook would come in: 32...gxf5 33.Rh3 Kg6 34.Nf4+ (34.Rg3+ Kf6 35.Rh3 Bg2 36.Kxg2 Rxe2+ 37.Kf3 Rxa2 38.Rxh7 Kg6 39.Rh3 a5 -/+) 34...Kg5 35.Nd3 Re7 36.Kf2 f4→

33.fxg6 Bxg6 34.Kf2



34...Rxe3

I thought about 34...Ra5 and rejected it: The position seemed drawish but was riskier 35.Nc3 Rh5 36.Kg3=] 35.Kxe3 a5 36.a3 b5 37.b4 axb4 38.axb4 Bf7 39.Kf4 Bc4 40.Nd4 Kg6 41.Nf3 Be2 42.Nd4 Bc4 43.Nc6 Kh5 44.Ke3 Bf1 45.Ne5



45...Bh3

The game continued for about 10 more moves. Just shuffling bishop and knight

½-½

West Chester Chess Club: Quads on June 4, 2026

Jim Larsen – Dirk Troltenier

By Dirk Troltenier

Jim Larsen - Dirk Troltenier [D32]

I will skip annotating the first moves and want to focus on the position after move 14:

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.e3 Nf6 7.Be2 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb5 Be7 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nbd4 Ne4 12.a3 Re8 13.Qc2 Bg4 14.Rd1→ Rc8



15.Nxc6 bxc6??

This is a mistake, taking with the rook was much stronger. I was afraid of losing the exchange and did not see how weak the white squares will become for White. Here are two variations to illustrate this point:

15...Rxc6! 16.Bb5 Bxe3 17.Bxc6 Bxf2+ 18.Kf1 bxc6 19.Qxc6? (19.Bg5 Qc8 20.Rac1 Bb6 21.Qxc6 Qa6+ 22.Ke1 Bf2#) 19...Bd7 20.Qxd5 Bb5+ 21.Qxb5 Qxd1+ 22.Ne1 Qxe1#

16.b4 Bb6 17.Bb2 Qe7 18.Rac1?



18...Nxf2! 19.Qc3

Not better is 19.Kxf2: 19...Qxe3+ 20.Kg3 Qf2+ 21.Kxg4 Qxg2+ 22.Kh4 Re4+ 23.Kh5 Qg4#

19...f6 20.Kxf2 Bxe3+ 21.Kg3



21...Bxc1?

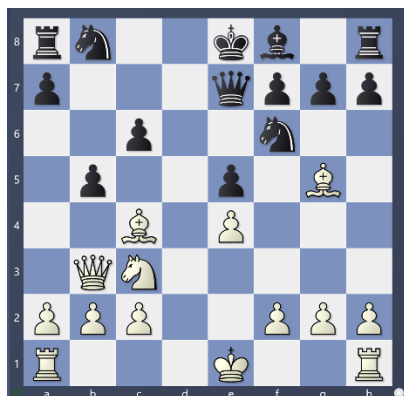
I should have followed Emanuel Lasker's advice: "What do you do if you see a good move? - Look for a better one!". While 21...Bc1: is winning, there is a better continuation: 21...Qd6+! 22.Kxg4 Re4+ 23.Kh3 Qe6+ 24.g4 Qxg4#

22.Qxc1 Qxe2 23.Re1 Qc4 24.Qxc4 dxc4 25.Rxe8+ Rxe8 26.Kxg4 Re2 27.Bd4 Rxc2+ 28.Kf4 Ra2 29.Bxa7 c3 30.Ke3 Rxa3 31.Bd4 c2+

0-1

What every serious chess player must know!

By Dirk Troltenier



Paul Morphy - Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard de Vauvenargues

This position is from the game Paul Morphy - Duke Karl II of Brunswick and Count Isouard de

Vauvenargues, played on Feb 11, 1858, in the Opera House in Paris, France.

Just in case you did not know, here is a [picture of the opera house](#) which was destroyed in a fire in 1873:



The game continued:

10.Nxb5 cxb5 11.Bxb5+ Nbd7

11...Kd8 12.Bxf6 and Qd5+ and Qxa8

12.0-0-0 Rd8

Why can't Black castle?

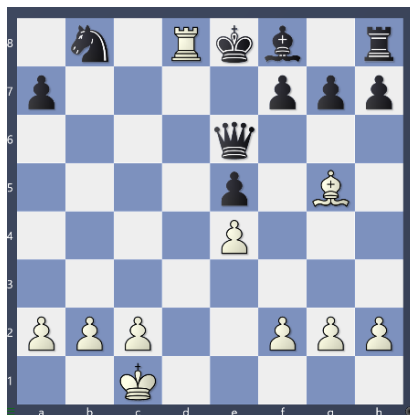
13.Rxd7 Rxd7

14.Rd1 Qe6

15.Bxd7+ Nxd7

16.Qb8+ Nxb8

17.Rd8#



1-0