



MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the MetroWest Boston chess community since 1983

April 2005 Newsletter

Highlights

Club Championship

Congratulations to IM Igor Foygel for winning the MCC Club Championship for 2005. FM John Curdo and John Chamberlain finished 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Igor posted a win in the final round over Ilya Krasik to secure the victory by a half-point.

New Chess Course – Opening Repertoire

See the article at the end of this newsletter for a new class being developed around “*The Chess Advantage in Black and White*”, by IM Larry Kaufman. Noted chess authority John Watson in reviewing this best seller... “It is simply the best comprehensive repertoire book that I have ever read.” (See his review, #67 In the Beginning There Was Theory, at <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/jwatsonbkrev67.html>).

Class (U2000) Championship

Congratulations to Nikita Konovalchuk, the new MCC Class Champion. Matthew Phelps and Calvin Hori finished 2nd and 3rd, respectively. There was plenty of drama as Nikita and Matt entered the final round tied for first. Nikita and Walter Champion drew their contest, leaving the door open for Matt who battled George Goulding late into the evening. However, George won the endgame, resulting in a clear first place finish for Nikita.

Stateline Chess (bookseller Partner)

I will have 2 just released Gambit books Foundation of Chess Strategy and Beat The Grandmaster so check them out! See You on Round 1 → April 5! – Randi Malcuit

Harvard Open is back!

See the calendar below, flyers on our home page.

Family Teams

Family teams can now "avoid pairings" in all sections except the Open section!

From the Editor:



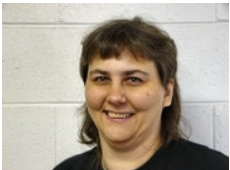
I still have extensive business travel commitments. James Krycka is helping, but we still need a volunteer that knows how to operate MS Word, and can help put it together each month, from templates. Please contact me if you can volunteer 2-3 hours per month.

Harvey Reed
Editor

COMMUNITY :: Club and Partner Calendar

Tuesday April 5	<p>Round 1 -- Stateline Chess book & equipment vendor</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">What</td> <td>Spring Swiss</td> </tr> <tr> <td>When</td> <td>April 5-12-19-26, 2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Format</td> <td>4-SS, 40/90, SD/30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prizes</td> <td>\$ 840, 100% G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sections</td> <td>Open: \$ 200-120-80 U1850: \$ 110-70-40 U1600: \$ 60-40-30 U1300: \$ 40-30-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Entry Fee (all sections)</td> <td>Masters (2200 and over): Free MCC Members: \$ 15 Others: \$ 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Championship Points Available</td> <td>Open (64-32-16), U1850 (24-12), U1600 (8) plus 50% bonus for perfect score of all wins</td> </tr> </table>	What	Spring Swiss	When	April 5-12-19-26, 2005	Format	4-SS, 40/90, SD/30	Prizes	\$ 840, 100% G	Sections	Open: \$ 200-120-80 U1850: \$ 110-70-40 U1600: \$ 60-40-30 U1300: \$ 40-30-20	Entry Fee (all sections)	Masters (2200 and over): Free MCC Members: \$ 15 Others: \$ 20	Championship Points Available	Open (64-32-16), U1850 (24-12), U1600 (8) plus 50% bonus for perfect score of all wins
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Sunday April 10	<p>NorthEast Chess – ONE DAY – G/5 and G/55 and G/90 Marlboro Radisson Hotel</p>														
Tuesday April 12	<p>Round 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly group lesson 														
Tuesday April 19	<p>Round 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly group lesson 														
Tuesday April 26	<p>Round 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly group lesson 														
Saturday April 30	<p>Harvard K-6 Scholastic See flyer on our home page or go to http://www.harvardchess.com/</p>														
Saturday-Sunday May 7-8	<p>Harvard Open (and Reserve) See flyer on our home page or go to http://www.harvardchess.com/</p>														
Sunday June 12	<p>NorthEast Chess – ONE DAY – G/5 and G/55 and G/90 Marlboro Radisson Hotel</p>														
Sunday July 17	<p>NorthEast Chess – ONE DAY – G/5 and G/55 and G/90 Marlboro Radisson Hotel</p>														

COMMUNITY :: Club and Partner Activities and Info

Club	Partner
<p>Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn more about our governance, visit the Governance page (home→ About→ Governance) <p>Contact Mark (Kappy) Kaprielian, President MKaprielian AT MetroWestChess.org</p> 	<p>NorthEast Chess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizer Severine Wamala swamala AT hotmail.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email and PayPal™ 219 Central St Lowell, MA 01852 978-453-4342 (night) 
<p>Seeking Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library (see Matt Phelps) Chess School (see Harvey Reed) Mentoring (see Harvey Reed) Newsletter (see Harvey Reed) 	<p>Stateline Chess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proprietor Randi Malcuit statelinechess AT hotmail.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email and PayPal™
<p>Please Remember!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew your USCF membership with Mark Kaprielian. He will donate "USCF Member Appreciation" prize money to the Club. Register early, by 7:15pm, there will be shorter lines and better parking Additional parking in rear of building, first left as you turn into the Senior Center 	<p>Greater Worcester Chess Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizer Donna Alarie Donnachesspals AT aol.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email 508-847-8574 (night) www.chesspals.com 
<p>Official Merchandise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a number of items in stock for sale, T-shirts, Polo shirts, and caps that can be purchased every Tuesday. Visit (home page → Official Merchandise). Everything can be securely ordered online via Pay Pal, or with a paper form available at the Club. 	

Club Programs

COMPETE :: Scholastic

The Scholastic Tournament tournaments for summer 2005 are coming. Details next month

For more info, contact John Bottini
[JBottini AT MetroWestChess.org](mailto:JBottini@MetroWestChess.org)



LEARN and IMPROVE :: Weekly Group Lesson

Informal instruction will be provided before rounds 2-5 (round 1 is the book vendor).

Contact John Chamberlain for more info.



COMPETE :: Team Email Matches

The match is winding down. **The IECC currently leads us 7.5 – 0.5** with two games in play. You can view the games (minus the last three moves for those in progress) home → Team Email Match → MCC-03 v IECC-84.

For more info, contact Eric Berkey, Team Captain

[BESENJI57 AT aol.com](mailto:BESENJI57@aol.com)



LEARN and IMPROVE :: Chess School

We are considering a class on repertoire, see article below in this newsletter.



Howard Goldowsky
Program Director



Mark La Rocca
Instructor

LEARN and IMPROVE :: Game Advice

We need a mentoring volunteer to help new members to get acquainted, and to coordinate getting their first games run thru "Game Advice".

Contact Harvey Reed
[HReed AT MetroWestChess.org](mailto:HReed@MetroWestChess.org)



LEARN and IMPROVE :: Library

We need a library volunteer. The Library is in good shape, and taking care of it is light duty. However, this is a key position, since it gets quite a bit of use from the lower sections.

Contact Matt Phelps
[Library AT MetroWestChess.org](mailto:Library@MetroWestChess.org)



COMPETE :: Monthly and Championship Tournaments

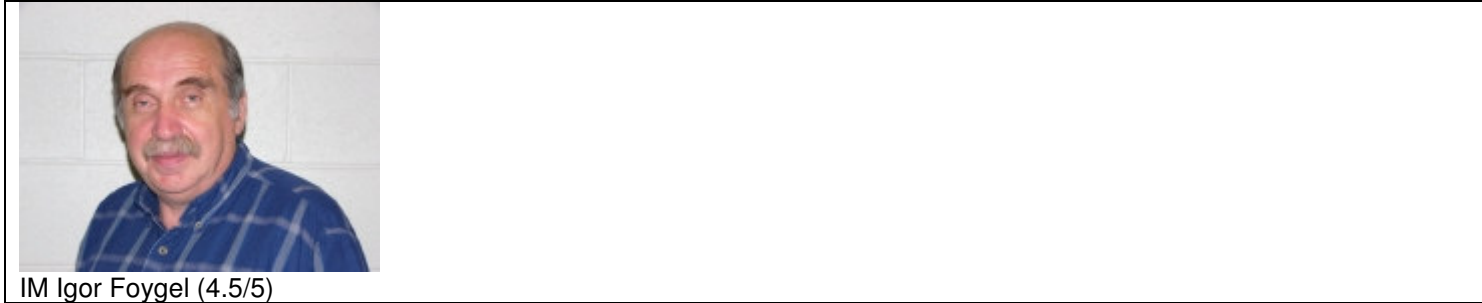
Section results below – Print them and show your friends ☺



Winners of the

**2005 MCC Club
Championship**

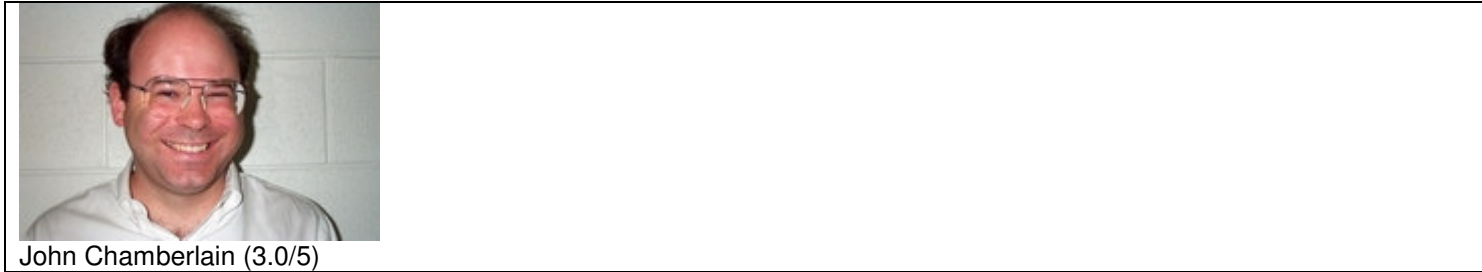
1st Prize



2nd Prize



3rd Prize



Upsets over 200 points

None



Winners of the

**2005 MCC Class
Championship**

1st Prize



Nikita Konovalchuk (3.0/4)

2nd Prize



Matthew Phelps (2.5/4)

3rd Prize



Calvin Hori (2.0/4)

Upsets over 200 points

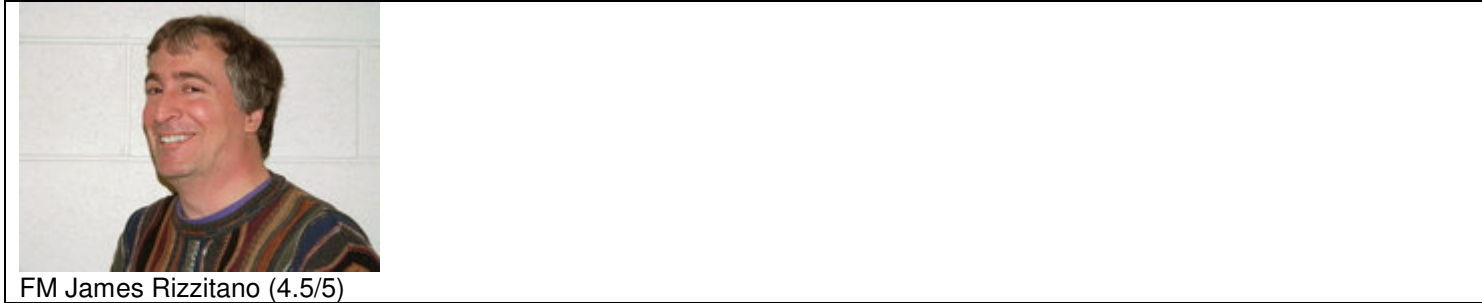
None



**March 2005
Event Winners**

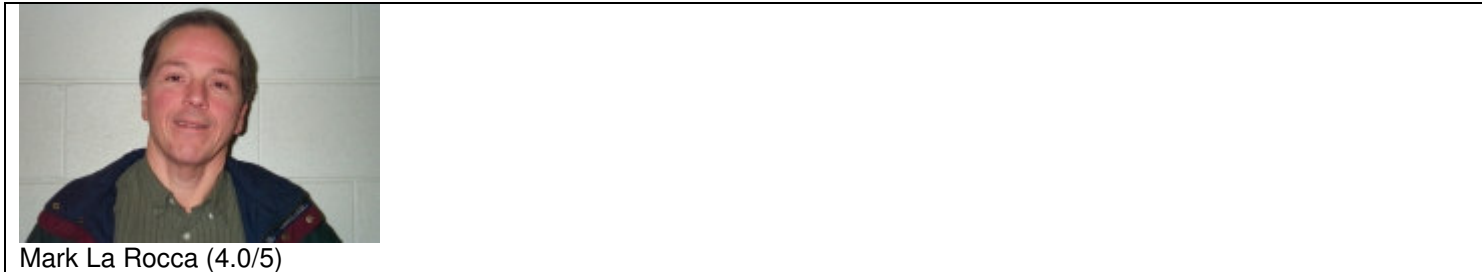
OPEN

1st Prize



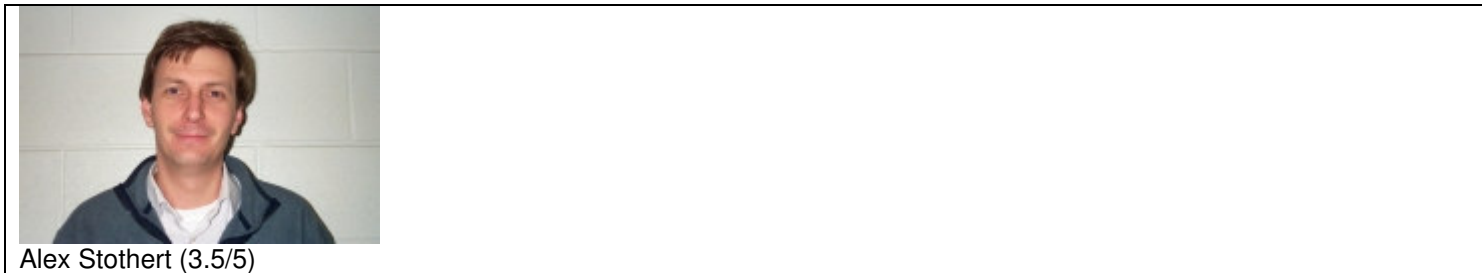
FM James Rizzitano (4.5/5)

2nd Prize



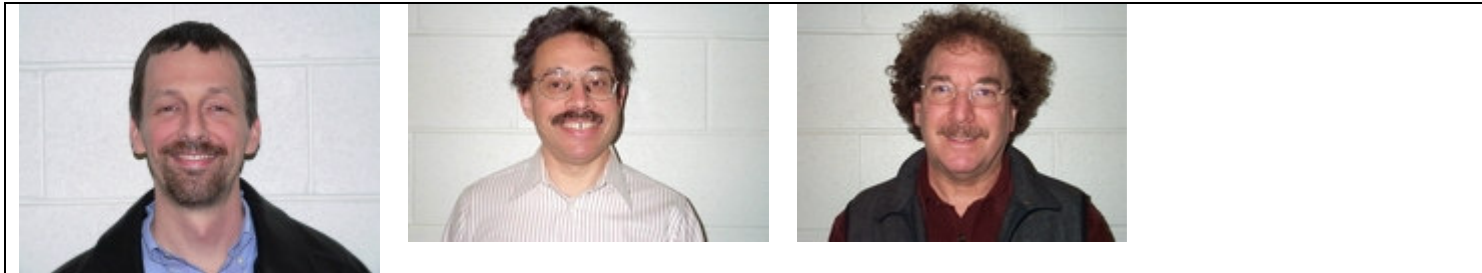
Mark La Rocca (4.0/5)

3rd Prize



Alex Stothert (3.5/5)

U2000 Class Contenders



Derek Slater (3.0/5)

Edward Astrachan (3.0/5)

Paul Mishkin (3.0/5)

Upsets over 200 points



Alex Stothert



**March 2005
Event Winners**

U1700

1st Prize (2-way tie)



3rd Prize (3-way tie)



Upsets over 200 points





**March 2005
Event Winners**

U1400

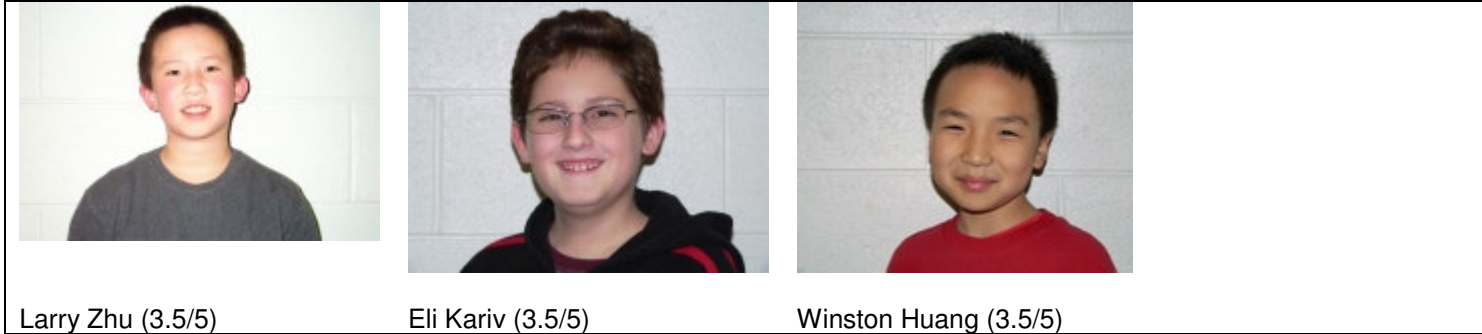
1st Prize (2-way tie)



Fred Harvey (4.0/5)

Gregory Cermak (4.0/5)

3rd Prize (3-way tie)



Larry Zhu (3.5/5)

Eli Kariv (3.5/5)

Winston Huang (3.5/5)

Upsets over 200 points



Ofer Grossman

Winston Huang





Gregory Cermak

Eli Kariv

COMPETE :: Club Championship





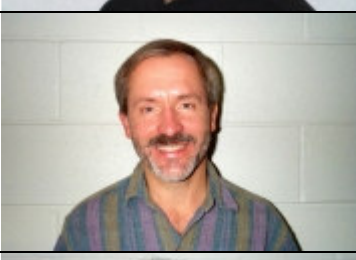

After three events, the leaders of the 2006 Club championship qualification point standings are as follows:







1.	IM Igor Foygel		171
2.	FM John Curdo		131
3.	James Rizzitano		60
4.	Ilya Krasik		53
5.	Nikita Konovalchuk		50
6.	Matthew Phelps		42

7.	John Chamberlain		40
8.	Mark La Rocca		38
9.	Tarmo Saar		35
10.	Navan Ruthramoorthy		28

COMPETE :: Class Championship

After three months of play, the leaders of the 2006 Class (U2000) championship qualification point standings are as follows:

1.	Nikita Konovalchuk		50
2.	Matthew Phelps		42
3.	Tarmo Saar		35
4.	Farzad Abdi		23
5.	John Stengrevics		23
6.	Calvin Hori		20

7.	Vishwa Krishnamurthy		18 (by tie break)
8.	Neil Cousin		18 (by tie break)
9.	Alex Stothert		15
10.	Reilly Nathans		12 (by tie break)
11.	Ethan Thompson		12 (by tie break)
12.	Nikolay Popov		12 (by tie break)

LEARN and IMPROVE :: Chess School

NEW! Developing an Opening Repertoire

(details about dates, etc. still being developed by Howard Goldowsky and Mark La Rocca)

Please send email to Mark La Rocca if you want to signup for the class. We need to estimate the attendance. [Mark_LaRocca AT cca-int.com](mailto:Mark_LaRocca@cca-int.com)

Of course, it is impossible to offer a concise repertoire that offers the advantage to White against every response, or, conversely, offers Black certain equality. But, striving towards that goal is, in itself, exceptionally challenging and useful in developing our chess understanding and knowledge. In this first series of six classes, we will begin the journey to solidify our opening play and perhaps, in the process, discover a suitable chess style that can serve us well throughout our amateur careers.

The basic text we will investigate is “***The Chess Advantage in Black and White***”, by **IM Larry Kaufman**. Noted chess authority John Watson in reviewing this best seller... “It is simply the best comprehensive repertoire book that I have ever read.” (See his review, #67 In the Beginning There Was Theory, at <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/jwatsonbkrev67.html>) Watson considers this book suitable for players rated 1400 to 2100 and “even Grandmasters” could learn something from reading it. I will try to accommodate players rated a little lower and provide material of interest to those who aspire to Master level. Mr. Watson goes on to give legitimate criticism on specific variations. His analysis should prove useful in expanding our own study since in class we will delve more deeply into Mr. Kaufman’s ideas. The interested student should read this review carefully.

We cannot cover Mr. Kaufman’s entire 500 pages of analysis in just six classes; thus, my reference to this as the “First series”. Therefore, I have chosen to begin our study as outlined below. The first two classes will investigate a popular “anti-Sicilian”, 3.Bb5... system for White against most Black Sicilian defenses, and an alternate recommendation when 3.Bb5... is not appropriate. In the next four classes we will concentrate on Black’s response to 1.d4... 1.Nf3... 1.c4... or any non-e4 first move by White. The basis of Mr. Kaufman’s recommendation is the Semi-Slav defense; but, in reality, it goes well beyond just the scope of this defense.

In his book Mr. Kaufman advocates 1.e4 for white and 1...e5 against e4 with a Semi-Slav against 1.d4, more specifically, White: Spanish Exchange, Bb5 against the Sicilian, French Tarrasch and Caro Kann advance. For black, Berlin against the Spanish and a Semi Slav set up against 1.d4....

Whether or not you intend to play Mr. Kaufman’s system, a serious student of chess must understand the openings he recommends. If you play the English as white, you must understand the Semi-Slav setup. If you play the Sicilian, you must know how to combat 3.Bb5... systems. If you ever hope to accomplish anything in chess, you must grasp the basics of the Ruy Lopez. And, in general, you must understand the principles of classic chess Mr. Kaufman uses to help the student understand who has the advantage... two Bishops, pawn structure, and space. In this class we will offer expanded theory and instruction to be used as a starting point for further study. A detailed course outline is provided below.

Class One:

Introduction
Researching Openings on the Web
What are "Anti-Sicilians"
White's 3.Bb5... System.
 The Sicilian Moscow (1.e4,c5 2.Nf3,d6 3.Bb5+,...)
Home assignments

Class Two:

1. Review of assignments
2. The Sicilian Rossolimo (1.e4,c5 2.Nf3,Nc6 3.Bb5,...)
3. Black avoids 3.Bb5...
 - a. Sicilian with 2. ...,e6
 - b. Others (2. ...,Nf6, or 2. ...,g6, others)
4. Home assignments

Class Three: A complete System against 1.d4,... or 1.Nf3,... or 1.c4,... and others
(Where White doesn't play 1.e4,...)

1. Review of assignments
2. Introduction to the Semi-Slav
3. The Meran Defense (White keeps his/her queen's bishop behind the pawns)
4. Home assignments

Class four:

1. Review of assignments
2. The Anti-Meran systems
 - a. White employs early queen moves
 - b. The Botvinnik System (usually 5. Bg5,dc)
3. The Moscow variation (Black avoids the Botvinnik)
4. Home assignments

Class five:

1. Review of assignments
2. The Anti-Moscow Variation
3. The Marshal Gambit
4. The Exchange and Symmetric Variations
5. Home assignments

Class six:

1. Review of assignments
2. The Catalan
3. Queen Pawn games
4. Others (The English, The Reti, etc...)