

Berkeley International Returns in 2011

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by IM David Pruess



From January 2 to January 8, a strong international tournament will be held in Berkeley, California. The ten round swiss follows in the tradition of the 2005, 2006, and 2008 events organized by IM David Pruess, who will assist the principal organizer of this edition, NM Arun Sharma. The tournament is open to any player with a FIDE rating over 2100 (or juniors with a FIDE rating over 2000), though the number of players allowed in the lower rating categories is limited to ensure the tournament is reasonably balanced and that GM and IM norms are possible. This edition promises to be quite strong, with six grandmasters already signed up, including GM Timur Gareev, pictured to the left and area GM Josh Friedel.

Now is the best time to sign up, if interested. A special discounted entry fee is being offered until the middle of August, and signing up early is the best way to ensure a spot in the event. This is one of the few opportunities for American players to play a quality tournament with norm opportunities without having to travel abroad. In addition to seeking more players for the event, the organizers are also looking for sponsors, fans, and volunteers! If you'd like to participate in making this one of the best events on the American calendar, please get in touch with them: asharma at math dot berkeley dot edu and dpruess at chess dot com.

The previous edition of this event was won by GM Giorgi Kacheishvili half a point ahead of GM Zviad Izoria. It also produced IM norms for Daniel Rensch, Marc Esserman (both of whom have since completed their IM titles), and WIM Iryna Zenyuk. Earlier events saw GM norms for some of America's most recent GMs: Jesse Kraai, Josh Friedel, and Lev Milman. Here are some entertaining games from the last one:

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *IM_Pruess

Black: *GM_Kraai

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 a6 8.Nf3 c5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.O-O-O b5 12.Bd3 b4 13.Ne2 a5 14.Rhe1 O-O 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Ng5+ Kg8 17.Qd3 Re8 18.Qh7+ Kf8 19.Qh5 g6 20.Qh6+ Ke7 21.Qh4 Kf8 22.Rd3 b3 23.Rxb3 Nb4 24.Nd4 Qxd4 25.Nh7+ Kg8 26.Rh3 Nxe5 27.Nf6+ Kf8 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Qxe8+ Kxf6 30.fxe5+ Kg5 31.Rg3+ 1-0

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *GM_Friedel

Black: *IM_Milman

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.e3 g6 6.Nge2 Bg7 7.O-O O-O 8.Rb1 a5 9.a3 d6 10.d3 Be6 11.Nd5 Rb8 12.Bd2 Kh8 13.Qa4 Bd7 14.Qc2 e4 15.Nef4 exd3 16.Nxd3 Ne4 17.Be1 b6 18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.f3 Nf6 22.f4 Nxd5 23.fxe5 Nxe3 24.Qd3 Nxe2 25.Bc3 Qg5 26.exd6+ Kg8 27.Qd5+ Rf7 28.Kxg2 cxd6 29.Qd4 Bc6+ 30.Kg1 Re7 31.Rbe1 Rf8 32.Re6 Kf7 33.Bd2 1-0

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *WIM_Zenyuk

Black: *FM_Naroditsky

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 O-O 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 Na6 7.O-O e5 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5 Qe8 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.h3 Nf6 12.Be3 b6 13.Qc2 c6 14.a3 Qe7 15.b4 Bb7 16.c5 b5 17.Rfd1 Nc7 18.Rd6 Rfd8 19.Rad1 Nfe8 20.Bg5 f6 21.Qa2+ Kf8 22.Be3 Na6 23.Nxb5 cxb5 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rxd8 Qxd8 26.Bxb5 Nac7 27.c6 Ba8 28.a4 a6 29.Bc5+ Nd6 30.Bc4 Bxc6 31.Bg8 Be8 32.Nh4 f5 33.Bxh7 Bf7 34.Qd2 Ke7 35.Bxg6 Be6 36.Bxf5 Bf7 37.Bh7 Nee8 38.Nf5+ Ke6 39.Bxd6 Bf8 40.Qd5+ 1-0

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *IM_Pruess

Black: *FM_Haessel

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be7 6.d4 c5 7.Bc4+ Kf8 8.d5 a6 9.a4 Nbd7 10.f4 Ne8 11.O-O Bf6 12.Be3 Qe7 13.Qd3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nef6 15.e5 dxe5 16.d6 Qe8 17.fxe5 Qxe5 18.Rae1 Nb6 19.Bf4 Qf5 20.d7 Qxd3 21.Re8+ Nxe8 22.Bd6# 1-0

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *GM_Kacheishvil

Black: *GM_Sharavdorj

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 O-O 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Nf2 Ng6 16.Qc2 Rf7 17.Rfc1 h5 18.Nb5 Ne8 19.a4 Bd7 20.Qd1 Bf8 21.Rc3 a6 22.Na3 Nf6 23.h3 Nh4 24.Nc4 b6 25.Rb3 g4 26.fxg4 hxg4 27.hxg4 Rb8 28.Raa3 b5 29.axb5 Bxb5 30.Ba5 Qe7 31.Nd2 Rg7 32.Bxb5 axb5 33.Rh3 Nh7 34.Bb4 Qd8 35.Ra6 Ng6 36.Nf3 Ra8 37.Rxa8 Qxa8 38.g5 Ra7 39.Kh2 Ra1 40.Qe2 Qa7 41.Be1 Qe3 42.Qxb5 Nxe5 43.Qe8 Nxe3 44.Qxg6+ Kh8 45.Nxe3 Qa7 46.Bh4 Qh7 47.Qe8 Kg8 48.Nhg5 Qh6 49.Qf7+ Kh8 50.b4 Ra2 51.Ne6 Ra8 52.b5 Bg7 53.b6 1-0

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *FM_Rensch

Black: *GM_Bhat

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Be5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2 dxc6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Qf4 Be6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.Na4 Bb4+ 11.c3 Bd6 12.Be3 b6 13.f4 O-O-O 14.Be2 f5 15.e5 Nd5 16.Bd2 Be7 17.b3 c5 18.O-O-O c6 19.Nb2 Kb7 20.Bf3 a6 21.c4 Nc7 22.Be3 b5 23.Kc2 Kb6 24.a4 a5 25.axb5 cxb5 26.cxb5 Kxb5 27.Nc4 Na6 28.Be2 Nb4+ 29.Kb2 f6 30.Ra1 Nd3+ 31.Kc3 Nb4 32.Nxa5+ Kb6 33.Nc4+ Kb7 34.Bf3+ Bd5 35.Bxd5+ Nxd5+ 36.Kb2 fxe5 37.fxe5 f4 38.Bd2 Rhg8 39.g3 fxg3 40.hxg3 Rxg3 41.Rxh7 Rg2 42.Rah1 Rf8 43.Kc1 Ra8 44.Rxe7+ Nxe7 45.Rh7 Ra2 46.Rxe7+ Kc6 47.Re6+ Kd5 48.Rd6+ Ke4 49.Kb1 Ra7 50.Rd8 Rgg7 51.Kb2 Rge7 52.Kc3 Rg7 53.Rc8 Rac7 54.Rxc7 Rxc7 55.Bg5 Rc6 56.Be7 Kd5 57.Bd6 Ra6 58.Nb2 Rc6 59.Nd3 1-0

Berkeley International, 2008

White: *IM_Pruess

Black: *FM_Esserman

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 O-O 6.Nf3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 8.e4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.f4 Nbd7 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.O-O Nf8 14.e5 Ng4 15.Qf3 Kg8 16.Be4 Qe7 17.Bd5+ Kh8 18.h3 Nh6 19.g4 Nf7 20.Be3 Rb8 21.Bf2 b5 22.cxb5 Rxb5 23.c4 Rb6 24.Qa3 Ne6 25.f5 Ra6 26.Qg3 Nd4 27.Bxd4 cxd4 28.e6 Ng5 29.Rab1 h6 30.h4 Ra3 31.Rb3 Rxb3 32.axb3 Nh7 33.Rd1 Qf6 34.Qf2 h5 35.g5 Nxe5 36.hxg5 Qxg5+ 37.Kh2 Rf8 38.Rg1 Qf6 39.Rg3 Bxe6 40.Rh3 Qe5+ 41.Qg3 Qxf5 42.Bxe6 Qxe6 43.Rxh5+ Kg8 44.Qe5 Qxe5+ 45.Rxe5 Rd8 46.Kg3 d3 47.Re1 Rb8 48.Kf3 d2 49.Ra1 Rxb3+ 50.Ke2 Rc3 51.Kxd2 Rxc4 52.Rxa7 Re4 53.Kd3 Re1 54.Ra2 Re7 55.Rg2 Kf7 56.Rf2+ Kg6 57.Rf1 Kg5 58.Rg1+ Kf4 59.Rf1+ Kg3 60.Rg1+ Kf2 61.Rg6 Kf3 62.Kd2 Kf4 63.Rg1 g5 64.Rf1+ Kg4 65.Rg1+ Kf5 66.Rf1+ Kg6 67.Rg1 Re5 68.Kd3 Kf5 69.Kd4 Re4+ 70.Kd3 g4 71.Rf1+ Rf4 72.Rg1 Kg5 73.Ke2 Kh4 74.Rh1+ Kg3 75.Rh8 Kg2 76.Re8 g3 77.Re7 Kg1 78.Rg7 g2 79.Rg8 Rf7 80.Rh8 Re7+ 81.Kd2 Re5 82.Rf8 Kh2 83.Rh8+ Kg3 84.Rg8+ Kf3 85.Rg7 Re4 0-1