



# MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the Metrowest Boston chess community since 1983

## Monthly Event:

This month's event is a four week tournament.

Please arrive early to register, relax and socialize.

Registration closes at 7:20 and if you arrive after that you may not be paired.

[Event Details](#)

## Book Vendor on site:

Emanuel Rasin ( Books from Europe ) is planning to be **at the club for round 1**. He will have a number of new titles with him

Publisher: Everyman Chess

- Test Your Chess. By Zenón Franco
- Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov, Part III: 1993-2005
- Chess Progress: from beginner to winner. By Erik Czerwin

Publisher: Batsford

- The Art of Defence in Chess
- The Batsford Book of Chess: From Beginner to Winner
- The Most Instructive Games of Chess Ever Played

Publisher: Russell Enterprises

- Mastering Mates 2 Volume Set. By Jon Edwards

- Volume 1 1,111 One-move Mates
- Volume 2 1,111 Two-move, Three-move & Four-move Mates

For more information:

<http://www.chessbooksfromeurope.com>

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Fax / Toll Free 1-866-328-1523

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### **Does Chess Still Matter?**

Tom Ashbrook of National Public Radio recently did a podcast discussing the state of chess and the makes note of the recent results of Fabiano Caruana, of Italy, who was the winner of the 2014 Sinquefield Cup in St. Louis, MO. "His seven straight wins in the tournament are virtually unprecedented in the history of the game."

<http://onpoint.wbur.org/2014/09/23/chess-sinquefield-cup-st-louis>

Click the red play button at the top of that page to hear the podcast

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### **Millionaire Chess tournament**

October 9-13, 2014

Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada

The tournament has a record \$1,000,000 guarantee with only a \$1,000 entry fee.

There's a YouTube video with GM Maurice Ashley, the organizer of the event, where he discusses his goal for the event and chess in America.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-JXHjBa6AI>

Best wishes to the two players from our club that we've spotted so far on the pre-registration list:

<http://millionairechess.com/news/registration-list/>

- David Bird - U1800
  - Calvin Hori - U2000
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## **How we ensure you can play a rated game each week and how you could help us to keep doing that.**

From Mark Kaprielian, President

In 1996 our club pioneered a unique approach to solving one of the most common problems that a chess club has; how to ensure you have a TD (Tournament Director) present every week from the start of the first game to the end of the last game. Without a TD present we cannot play rated games.

When I returned to the club after a ten year absence and shortly after was elected President, the responsibility of having a TD present each week fell to me. I researched who had been TDing for the previous 10 years at the club and noticed a disturbing pattern. With just one exception, every person I found who had been a TD was no longer playing at the club or even playing rated chess! This didn't bode well for me or the club as at the start of my first term I soon found that I was the only TD playing at the club. I soon learned from first hand experience why TDs seem to retire completely from chess; getting a round started on time and making sure that the experience for all the players is a good one can lead one to feel a great deal of pressure, stress and thoughts of "why am I doing this". Since I was just returning to active play I wanted to make sure that I wasn't going to be retiring as the many TD predecessors before me had.

Over the next three years I managed to induce a few people to become TDs. Trying the traditional route of having someone be the primary TD for the event and at least one person as backup didn't solve the problem of reliability as unfortunately as we all know, life often gets in the way of chess and the single person or both people who were to cover the TD duties for the night couldn't make it or would have to arrive late or have to leave early. No TD, No play. For those who would occasionally help out by filling in as a TD, it often become even more stressful for them as they would not be as well practiced at taking care of every thing that needed taking care of, e.g. Securing the building, clearing the phone messages, dealing with personalities, etc.

To try and overcome the traditional problems we went another way. Here's what we did and what we do to this day:

- The club works to keep a pool of certified TDs present at the club
- By default all TDs present are on duty each week
- The TD pool knows who can cover:
  - The start of the night - Registration, pairings
  - The middle of the night
  - The end of the night - securing the club and paper work

- Standardize all procedures so that any TD who shows up can know exactly what needs to be done and how to get it done even if they haven't been present for weeks, all without mistakes.
- Have a training programs which allows new TDs to learn the MCC process and gain experience working along side more experienced TDs.
- Always seek to improve our process to have as many safeguards against data loss and mistakes as possible.

This approach has served us well. While we average over 80 players each month we typically have between 65 and 75 enter the night of the first round. About fifty of those players arrive in the 20 minutes just prior to the close of Registration. Each week we also have phone messages for people entering, bye requests, new member introduction and USCF renewals. I'm proud to say that our team of TDs does a fantastic job in managing all the information and keeping our errors to a minimum. Most months we go without a single error. While its pretty unusual for us to start a round late we do still struggle sometimes for round 1 and have been known to start the round about 10 minutes late.

By having "all TD hands on deck" each week the stress and pressure is tremendously reduced.

The one problem we always face though is that our TDs, just like the rest of our players, drift away for chess for some period (life getting in the way of chess again). This means we must always be looking to add to our pool of TDs. The larger the pool the easier for all of the TDs and the better our ability to have the full complement of TDs available for the start, middle and end of each night.

Without enough TDs we can't run the club they way we and you been accustomed to. If you are interested in giving back to the club, one of the most valuable ways to contribute is to become a TD. As I mentioned before we have a training program to ease you into the role and help you gain experience. We've even trained people so they could start or help their own club. As a side benefit, if you actively participate as a TD in the TD pool you will have free entry into the event.

If you can't see yourself becoming a TD but are available to help at registration before the round, especially for rounds 1 and 2, we can use your help. We need people to help at the desk, greet new people to the club, help beginners understand clocks and notation, help set up the DGT boards, etc.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss how you may be able to help the club by volunteering.

Mark

[Volunteer Overview](#)

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### **Live Broadcast / Game Archive:**

The top boards of the Open section are broadcast live to our website as they are being played.

A link to the broadcast games is located on the home page.

Games from the live broadcast are added to the Game Archive files after the last round of each months event. The games are available in ChessBase and PGN format for download.

[Live Broadcast Page](#)

[Game Archive](#)

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