

## Festivus Chess Packet

Written by Raymond Wang

1. A player with this surname swindled a draw while playing as White by sacrificing his queen on g8 and following up with Rxc7+ (“check”), forcing perpetual check or stalemate in a game against Samuel Reshevsky. Along with writing the introductions to Bobby Fischer’s *My 60 Memorable Games*, a player with this surname finished second at the 1963 U.S. Championship that Fischer won with a perfect 11/11 score, prompting Hans Kmoch to congratulate this player for “winning the tournament” and Fischer for “winning the exhibition.” Another player with this surname popularized his best known creation by using it to win in twenty moves against Alexander McDonnell. That opening was revitalized in the (\*) 1990s by Garry Kasparov, who played it in a game at the 1995 Tal Memorial against Viswanathan Anand. Adolf Anderssen’s “Evergreen Game” begins with an opening that bears this surname. YouTuber agadmator occasionally jokes in his videos that the games he analyzes do not begin with an opening of this name invented by a Irish seafaring captain. For 10 points, give this surname that names a gambit in the Italian Game involving the sacrifice of a pawn on b4.

ANSWER: Evans [accept Larry Melvyn Evans; accept Captain William Davies Evans; accept Evans Gambit]

2. Note: either the White move or its Black analogue is acceptable. This was the third move played in a game where White sacrificed his queen on e1 on the tenth move before eventually trapping Black’s own queen on c1 in a brilliancy played by Vasily Ivanchuk against Baadur Jobava at the 2010 Olympiad. The fifth move of the Prins Variation in the Open Sicilian is characterized by playing this move on White’s turn, the same as the Saemisch Variation of the King’s Indian Defense. In the Caro-Kann Defense, playing this on the third move for White leads into the so-called Fantasy Variation. This move’s often catastrophic weakening of the squares around the (\*) king gives rise to the Ben Finegold maxim to “never play this move.” The so-called Fried Fox Attack involves playing this on the first move, usually in preparation for a tamer version of the Bongcloud. Moving a pawn to g4 and then playing this move results in the fastest possible checkmate for Black, called Fool’s Mate. For 10 points, name this move that involves pushing the king’s bishop’s pawn ahead by one square.

ANSWER: f3 [or f6; accept pawn to f3 or pawn to f6; accept f4 on the Fool’s Mate clue]

3. A player at this tournament recalled being told by an agent to make a quick draw against a member of a so-called “triumvirate” to avoid an American winning it in his memoir *Secret Notes*. The winning brilliancy at this tournament involved a queen sacrifice for the h3 pawn protected by the king on h2, forcing the white king up to h4 where it would later face checkmate with two rooks, in a game later featured in the Black player’s book *Think Like a Grandmaster*. In a game played at this tournament with White’s queen positioned on h7, Black sacrificed his rook for nothing with Rh8 and delivered a decisive counterattack against the White king after White took on h8 with the queen. Swedish grandmaster Gideon Stahlberg finished in last place at this tournament, the subject of a book by Miguel Najdorf. The runner-ups to this tournament were Samuel Reshevsky and the challenger for the (\*) 1951 World Championship, who drew the match but failed to claim the title against Mikhail Botvinnik. The winner of this tournament, Vasily Smyslov, would go on to face Botvinnik in the 1954 Championship match. For 10 points, name this tournament held in Switzerland, the subject of a widely celebrated tournament book by David Bronstein.

ANSWER: Zurich 1953 [or the 1953 Candidates Tournament]

4. This sacrifice is sometimes named for a seventeenth-century Calabrese chess player who may have actually composed most of the games he notated against anonymous players. The game Kottnauer vs. Kotov is given as an illustration of this sacrifice in Vladimir Vuković’s classic book *The Art of the Attack*. This sacrifice was famously followed up by a similar counterpart by Emanuel Lasker in a game against Johann Bauer. This sacrifice is often strengthened by the presence of a pawn on (\*) h4. This sacrifice tends to be very common in French Defense structures due to the pawn structure d4-e5 providing an open light-squared diagonal. Generally, this sacrifice is best when the opponent is unable to successfully defend by advancing his king to the third rank rather

than retreating to the first rank. The White version of this sacrifice is usually followed up with a knight check on g5 and subsequently moving the queen to h5. For 10 points, name this sacrifice that involves capturing the opponent's h-pawn with a minor piece.

ANSWER: **Greek gift** sacrifice [accept **Bxh7+** or **Bxh2+**] (The player in the first line is Gioachino Greco.)

5. **This player was the first to propose a system for the world championship where the champion was obliged to defend his title one year after receiving a challenge unless the total prize money fell below \$10,000, in the so-called "London Rules." This player developed a variant played on a 10x8 board that included two new pieces called an "archbishop" and "chancellor." Sergei Prokofiev's most well-known chess-related feat was his win over this player at a 1914 simul held in St. Petersburg. Anecdotally, this player demonstrated his prodigious skill at the age of (\*) four by pointing out an illegal move made by his father and then subsequently beating him in a game of chess. This player became the first to face Frank Marshall's dangerous Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez, but won the game in spite of Marshall's preparation. At the age of thirteen, this player challenged and beat his fellow countryman Juan Corzo in a thirteen-game match. After winning the 1927 New York tournament, this player lost his title in the same year to Alexander Alekhine six years after winning the 1921 championship against Emanuel Lasker. For 10 points, name this third World Chess Champion, a prodigy from Cuba.**

ANSWER: José Raúl **Capablanca**

6. *Note: the year of the event is not required.* **In a game played at this tournament, White played the pseudo queen sacrifice Qd4! in order to deflect the black rook on d8 from protecting the f8 square, allowing his pawn on f7 to promote. A blitz exhibition game played after this tournament features all the participants, the commentators, and this event's sponsor and his son, and is called "Ultimate Moves." The 2019 iteration of this tournament was the only one to require rapid and blitz tiebreaks, and was won by Ding Liren after taking both blitz games off Magnus Carlsen. French grandmaster (\*) Maxime Vachier-Lagrave is the only player to have placed clear first at two iterations of this tournament. In 2014, the highest performance rating in chess history at the super-grandmaster level was achieved at this tournament by Fabiano Caruana, who won his first seven games before drawing the remainder to finish with a score of 8.5/10. This tournament is played in the same venue as the US Championship. For 10 points, name this tournament on the Grand Chess Tour held in Saint Louis.**

ANSWER: **Sinquefield Cup**

7. **In a game in the Accelerated Dragon as White, this player sacrificed his queen for two pieces by taking Black's bishop on f6 defended by the e7 pawn with Qxf6, following up by taking Black's knight and launching a devastating attack on the dark squares. Unusually, this player was also an excellent checkers player, as demonstrated with his second place finish in the Soviet Championship despite having not played for fifteen years. This player won perhaps his most acclaimed game after his opponent attacked his queen on h2 with Rh1, which was ignored by this player after he sacrificed it with Rxf4. This player was noted for his positive 3-1 record against (\*) Mikhail Tal, who declared that "the works of great artists are left behind them to live on forever" after this player stayed at his house before winning the brilliancy prize in his last tournament. Despite making it to the finals of five USSR Championships, this player never achieved the title of grandmaster. Lev Polugaevsky stated that he would trade all of his dozen wins for this player's brilliancy against him at the 1958 Russian Championships in Sochi. For 10 points, name this Soviet chess player from Kazan, well-known for being an ingenious tactician.**

ANSWER: Rashid **Nezhmetdinov**

8. **A position in this specific endgame is a misnomer as it was in fact never developed or analyzed by its namesake, but instead by Alessandro Salvio in his book *Il puttino*. A crucial position in this endgame that involves putting a piece on f3 or f6 to provide enough space to deliver checks to the enemy king was first proposed by Josef Vančura. If the best defense for the disadvantaged side in this endgame is impossible, moving the king over to the closest corner of the board in a method known as the "short-side defense" may**

**still be a viable drawing strategy. The so-called “Rule of Five” helps determine whether a position in this sort of endgame is winning depending on the number of (\*) files that the enemy king is cut off by. The technique of “building a bridge” can be used to shield the White king from checks after reaching the Lucena position in this endgame. Positioning a piece on the defender’s third rank and then checking from behind if the pawn advances is a common strategy for drawing these endgames from the Philidor position. For 10 points, name this endgame with a one-point advantage for one side that features the most common major pieces.**

ANSWER: **rook** and **pawn** vs. **rook** [prompt on **rook** endgame]

**9. The first game in this match featured the Breyer Variation of the Ruy Lopez and involved White setting up an Alekhine’s Gun on the a-file while unusually maneuvering his knight to b1. One player in this match was convinced to participate by his girlfriend Zita Rajcsanyi, who helped arrange the contracts that would result in Jezdimir Vasiljevic’s winning bid to host this event. This match used a new digital clock developed by one of its players in 1988, the first of its kind to incorporate increment. The winner of this match’s attempt to declare himself the true world champion in its aftermath was met with ridicule because his opponent’s rating at the time only placed him at 96th in the FIDE rankings. This match took place in (\*) two separate locations in Sveti Stefan and Belgrade in Yugoslavia, which due to sanctions led to the U.S. government issuing an arrest warrant for one of its players. Before developing Chess960 and going into exile in Hungary and the Philippines, the winner of this match played the last official games of his career at this event. For 10 points, name this match that took place in 1992 between the two players that contested the world championship in 1972.**

ANSWER: the **1992 Fischer vs. Spassky** match [or the **Fischer vs. Spassky Rematch**]

**10. A player from this country was on the receiving end of a brilliancy that ended with White’s king taking a walk from g1 all the way to g5 to help deliver checkmate on the dark squares. At the age of thirteen, Magnus Carlsen played one of his best games against Spike Ernst en route to winning the C Group at a tournament hosted in this country by the Corus Group. The Staunton Gambit is a highly aggressive way for White to play against an opening named for this country that includes lines like the Leningrad Variation and the (\*) Stonewall Defense. A player from this country served as the president of FIDE from 1970 to 1978, but is perhaps better known for becoming the fifth world champion after defeating Alexander Alekhine in 1935. After moving to here in 2009, Russian-Nepalese grandmaster Anish Giri has won four of this country’s championships, but lost in the playoffs to his compatriot at a tournament held in this country, the Tata Steel Chess Tournament. The Black defense 1...f5 is named for this country. For 10 points, name this country home to Max Euwe and Jorden van Foreest.**

ANSWER: the **Netherlands** [or **Holland**; accept **Dutch** Defense]

**11. A common attacking motif in this opening for White involves the queen moving from d1 to f3 and then h3, followed up with the pawn thrust g4-g5. Gata Kamsky, a well-known practitioner of this opening, used it to defeat Sam Shankland by playing a famous trap involving exchanges on d6 and c5, the sacrifice Bxh7, and following up with Qh5+ and the move Ne4, which happens to be untakeable because of the placement of the black queen on c5. Playing a variant of this opening with the move Nc3 leads into its Jobava variation. It’s not the Colle or the Torre, but this opening often features White forming a (\*) c3-d4-e3 pawn structure, which differs from the Colle because the dark-squared bishop is outside of the pawn chain. Because of lines involving Black playing Qb6, the move Nf3 is often delayed in this opening, with many players recommending Bf4 on the second move instead. Though occasionally deployed by grandmasters like Magnus Carlsen, this opening has a reputation for being very solid and easy to learn for White, leading to its great popularity among amateur chess players. For 10 points, name this opening system named for an English city.**

ANSWER: **London** System

**12. At the 2019 Sharjah Masters, this player uncorked a stunning exchange sacrifice in the Sicilian with Rxb7 and followed it up with the knight sacrifice Nxd5 in a game against Mila Zarkovic. At the 2019 Grenke Chess Classic, this player lost in the fourth round to the sub-2000 rated Antonia Ziegenfuss after being forced to**

forfeit his third round game against FM Or Bronstein. In 2016, this player lost a short three game match he played with his compatriot Parham Maghsoodloo before eventually defeating Maghsoodloo in that year's national championship. In a highly publicized incident, this player (rightfully) became irritated after arbiter Pavel Votruba asked him and his opponent (\*) Radoslaw Wojtaszek to move to a different table at the 2021 Tata Steel Masters. This player won the 2021 Bullet Chess Championship by defeating frequent rival Hikaru Nakamura in the semifinals and Andrew Tang in the finals. Magnus Carlsen has recently stated that he will not defend his title unless this player wins the next Candidates Tournament. This player left his country's chess organization due to their ban against Israeli players before recently becoming a French citizen. For 10 points, name this current number two-ranked chess player, a prodigy from Iran.

ANSWER: Alireza Firouzja [accept either name]

13. *Note: only the Black version of the moves are acceptable.* These two moves for Black were the first two played by Kramnik in Game 2 of his match against Veselin Topalov, a game that famously featured Topalov playing the blunder Qg6+ instead of the easily winning Rxc4+ later on. The placement of these two pawn moves off of Black's second rank characterize the Carlsbad pawn structure. These two moves begin an opening for Black that features ideas like the Chebanenko Variation with ...a6 or a quick development of the light-squared bishop to f5 in the Czech Variation. A closely related defense to that opening beginning with these two moves also includes (\*) ...e6 and is known as that opening's "Semi" form. It's *not* related to the French Defense, but another opening that begins with these two moves for Black can be met with advancing the pawn to e5 on the third move, with two ideas being Bf5 and c5 for Black. Other than that, the most common way for White to meet that opening is with either with 3. Nc3 or Nd2, after which Black might take with dxe4 and play Bf5. For 10 points, name these first two moves that are common to both the Slav and Caro-Kann Defenses.

ANSWER: 1...c6 and 2...d5 [accept in either order]

14. Due to his use of a hearing aid, a player with this surname once completely ignored a draw offer from his opponent Svetozar Gligorić because his device was turned off before going on to win the game. A player with this surname's penchant for closed, maneuverable positions led him to develop his namesake system against the King's Indian Defense involving an early d5 in response to Black's ...e5. That player with this surname is widely credited with popularizing chess in his home country, which has the highest number of grandmasters per capita in the world. At the end of a game, that player with this surname played the move Qh8+, sacrificing his queen temporarily so that his knight on (\*) d6 could play Nxf7 with check and pick up the Black queen on g5. A player with this surname known for his extensive use of the positional exchange sacrifice was given the nickname "Iron" for his extremely conservative and defensive style. A more recent player with this surname defended against Wesley So's claim that he had cheated in the PRO Chess League by calling him a "biggest loser" who was "doing PIPi in [his] pampers." For 10 points, give this surname of two Armenian grandmasters, the elder of whom served as the World Champion between the reigns of Mikhail Botvinnik and Boris Spassky.

ANSWER: Petrosian [accept Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian; accept Tigran Levoni Petrosian]

15. A very aggressive way of playing against this opening with White initially popularized by Alexander Morozevich and Alexander Grischuk consists of sacrificing a pawn on c4 with h4 on the fifth move. It's not the Najdorf, but Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Russian grandmaster Peter Svidler are widely regarded as two of the pre-eminent experts on this opening. One of the more popular ways with White to meet this opening is by moving the queen out to b3 in a setup known as the Russian System. This opening is named for an (\*) Austrian chess player who popularized this hypermodern opening in the 1920s against Alexander Alekhine. It's not related to the Pirc or Modern, but the break ...c5 is critical for Black in this opening to open up the dark-squared diagonal and to put pressure on White's central pawn on d4. This opening contrasts with the closely related King's Indian Defense because Black delays fianchettoing his bishop on g7 in favor of striking in the center on the third move. For 10 points, name this 1. d4 defense for Black characterized by the move 3...d5.

ANSWER: Grünfeld Defense

16. In an amusing anecdote, this player once stood on top of a chess table after losing a game and yelled “why must I lose to this idiot?” to his opponent. At the 1926 Dresden Tournament, this player began a kingside attack with the highly inventive maneuver h5 followed by Qd7-Qf5-Qh7 in his game against Paul Johner. Some of this player’s lesser known theoretical achievements include inspiring Bent Larsen to popularize the move 1. b3 and being the namesake of the Black defense 1. e4 Nc6. The move 25...h6 concluded a game this player won against (\*) Friedrich Sämisch known as the “Immortal Zugzwang Game.” The practice of providing more support than necessary to an important pawn or square, known as “overprotection,” was illustrated by this man in his book *Chess Praxis*. This theoretician is the namesake of an opening that begins with the moves 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4. Along with Richard Réti and Savielly Tartakower, this player was one of the primary proponents of the hypermodern school of chess. For 10 points, name this player and theoretician who wrote the highly influential treatise *My System*.

ANSWER: Aron Nimzowitsch

17. In a hilarious video taken at this tournament, Hikaru Nakamura can be seen looking over and visibly raising his eyebrows at Levon Aronian’s board after an extremely dubious piece sacrifice played by Aronian. The 2019 iteration of this tournament was won by Vladislav Artemiev after both the aforementioned Aronian and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave lost their games in a major upset. Grandmaster Stuart Conquest directs this tournament, which featured GM David Howell and WIM Fiona Steil-Antoni on commentary in its most recent iteration. As a protest against being paired against an inordinate amount of female players, (\*) Hou Yifan played a fool’s mate-like opening before resigning her game against Lalith Babu at this event. In 2019, Tradewise stopped sponsoring this tournament, which is played at the Caleta Hotel near Catalan Bay. For 10 points, name this prominent open event held in a British Overseas Territory.

ANSWER: Gibraltar Chess Festival [or the Gibraltar Masters]