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Jouni Tolonen Wins Record Holiday Quiz

by Taylor Kingston & Hanon Russell

Four weeks. A record 104 entries from 33 countries. And when the smoke had cleared, Jouni Tolonen from Oulu, Finland, emerged as the convincing winner of **The Chess Café Holiday Quiz**. Scoring an impressive 86%, he finished a full 8 points ahead of Sweden's Calle Erlandsson. This is the second year in a row that Erlandsson has been the runner-up. He also won the very first **Chess Café Holiday Quiz**.

While Tolonen and Erlandsson were clear first- and second-place winners with 86 and 78 points respectively, there was a seven-way (!) tie for places 2-9. All these contestants scored 76. The rules call for ties to be broken with preference going to the earliest entry. In tiebreak order, here are the rest of the winners: (3) Peter Verschueren (The Netherlands); (4) Miquel Artigas Isart (Spain); (5) Michael McDowell (England); (6) Thomas Heine Bech (Denmark); (7) Anne Mette Pedersen (Denmark); (8) Gert Villumsen (Denmark); (9) Torben Hjorth (Denmark); (10) Daniele Ruggieri (Italy); (11) Dmitry Gorodin (Germany); (12) Jesper Momme (Denmark); (13) Bjarne Soderstrup (Denmark); (14) Peter Holmgren (Sweden); (15) Jan Stage (Denmark); (16) Pierre Bourget (Canada); (17) Rafael Frisch (USA); (18) Lars Venø Jakobsen (Denmark); (19) Jonas Mejlgaard Fjordside (Denmark); (20) Arne Dan Fjordside (Denmark); (21) Steve Wrinn (USA); (22) Claes Løfgren (Denmark); (23) Sylvain Barbeau (Canada); (24) John Roycroft (England); and (25) Richard Reich (USA).

We were struck by the unusually high number of entrants from Denmark. In all, there were 16. In addition, about half of these Danish entries were received within a four-hour period on the last day of the quiz.

Third-place finisher Peter Verschueren from Holland led the pack for most of the four-week entry period. His score of 76 stood up from the day his answers were submitted, December 25, until the last day. Alas, 'twas not to be. First Erlandsson and then Tolonen weighed in with higher scores. Maybe next year, Peter...

We were able to contact Jouni Tolonen and asked him to tell us a little about himself and his good result in the quiz. Here is what he said:

*I'm 38, a computer systems analyst by profession. I'm proud to be a member of the Mind Sports Zine team - managing Oriental games - at <http://www.msoworld.com>. I have a broad interest in chess games - and games in general. I started composing contests similar to **The Chess Café Holiday Quiz** ("Chess Ironman Competitions") for my chess club in the 1980s. In the previous **Chess Café Holiday Quiz** I thought I was doing well until the results were announced - my score was around 50%.*

In this year's quiz the film and TV-related questions were the most difficult ones for me, and that's where I did most of my (educated) guessing as well as lost most of the points. The photo identification part was also quite challenging but I was probably lucky in there to find the source that was used for the quiz.

Most of the answers, probably over half of them, I found in my chess literature. But in quite many of the questions the right answer was found only after combining data from many types of sources. Directly from the internet I found maybe one third of the answers. The rest was pure knowledge, deduction and guessing.

Thank you Jouni! And congratulations again! We are sure you will love your House of Staunton Rosewood Zagreb59 wooden chess set; (2) the GameTime Chess and Game Timer; and (3) *Secret Matches: The Unpublished Games of Mikhail Botvinnik* (electronic edition).

In the next couple of weeks, we will be contacting all winners (the first 25 finishers) and distributing the hard-won prizes.

Here are the countries (alphabetically) from which entries were received: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Wales and Yugoslavia.

Here are some contestants' comments that you may find interesting:

Reinhard Grünwald (Germany): *Great puzzle though I had to guess most of the time.*

Alwin A. Sopungco (Philippines): *For me the most difficult questions were the movie quotes and the pictures.*

Michael McDowell (England): *Thank you for a very enjoyable and intriguing quiz! Hope the guesses aren't too silly!*

Jim Johnston (USA): *This was tough!*

Nagesh Havanur (India): *I relished the challenge.*

Steve Wrinn (USA): *Thanks for lots of enjoyment - I've got to start seeing more movies!*

John Roycroft (England): *Congratulations to the setters. Oh, the*

question about an English language magazine in Soviet times did not specifically say it was chess, so you could have trouble here there was The British Ally published in both Russian and English in Moscow from 1942 (or thereabouts), but it was produced by the Brits (the late Sir John Lawrence did all the work).

Daniele Ruggieri (Italy): *I think it's getting harder each year!!*

Robert Schmidt von Happe (Germany): *There is a Columbo show where the chess world champion is the murderer. At the end of this film, when Columbo, as usual, hits his opponent with his final question, the killer-champion is giving a simul. He is so shocked by the inspector's demonstration that he loses against some kind of child or so by fool's mate. I think this little anecdote should be rewarded with a 4-point bonus.*

Mark Rubery (South Africa): *Bloody difficult! Keep up the good work!*

Pete Ortolani (USA): *Your little test was frustratingly fun for chess lovers like me!*

Alfred Acaling (Philippines): *Please let me win please...*

Erik S. Hansen (Denmark): *Oh boy, this is hard!*

Shane Gaschler (USA): *Too many movie/TV questions. This is murder enough without all that!*

Rudy Bloemhard (The Netherlands): *Like every year I enjoyed very much searching for the answers.*

Ed Yetman, III (USA): *Loved the quiz! Can't wait 'til next year! Hope to be a question one day!*

Jens Kristiansen (Denmark): *Very interesting quiz! During my attempts to solve the riddles I almost re-read my whole chess library and looked at all the chess sites on the web. Even though I know I have not managed, I believe I have become somewhat wiser in some way! Looking forward to next year's quiz! Thanks!*

Now it's time to see how you did. The answers. But first, a couple of observations: Many entrants simply did not read questions carefully. A case in point, question 22. And, several times, in a True/False question, an entrant would give one answer, but then say something to the effect that of course, if the question means something else, then another answer was correct. Sorry, we could only consider one answer. If we couldn't figure out what answer was intended, it was marked wrong.

Enjoy...

The Fourth Annual Chess Café Holiday Quiz

The Answers

(1) True or False: Earlier in the day before the first game of his 1971 match with Mark Taimanov, Bobby Fischer played tennis. [2]

Answer: True. Robert Byrne was his tennis opponent. GM Byrne later became the chess columnist for the *New York Times*.

(2) True or False: The Lucena position is so named because it first appeared in Lucena's 1497 work on chess. [2]

Answer: False. The 1497 book by Lucena does not include the position that bears his name. The position first appears in Salvio's *Il puttino* (1634).

(3) True or False: Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman is a respected chess problem composer. [2]

Answer: False. Timman is an *endgame* study composer, not a problem composer. A collection of his studies, *Ausgewählte Endspielstudien*, was released in 1995.

(4) Multiple choice: The "king's field" – a term used by study and problem composers – may consist of: [2]

- (a)** 3, 5, or 8 squares
- (b)** 3, 4, 5 or 8 squares
- (c)** 2, 3 or 4 squares
- (d)** 5, 8 or 9 squares

Answer: (a) 3, 5 or 8 squares. The term describes the squares surrounding the square upon which the king stands, but not that square itself.

(5) Name the films with the following dialogue:

(a) "Chess – now there's a games of kings. Civilized, strategic."
[2]

Answer: *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994), starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. This first part of question 5 was answered correctly most often.

(b) "Wasn't Ray the sweetest man you ever met?" — "Ray was a prince." — "Ever play chess with him?" — "As a matter of fact I did." — "Who won?" — "I did." — "So did I." [2]

Answer: *The Russia House* (1990), starring Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer. Part (b) of question 5 proved the most difficult to get right. Not: *Casablanca*, *The Chess Players*, *Rain Man*, *Sweet and Lowdown*

(c) "Oh, that's a beauty." — "Yeah, but he didn't see it. He played something else and he lost. He must have regretted it every day of his life. I know I would have. As a matter of fact I do regret it, and I wasn't even born yet." — "That's no excuse."
[2]

Answer: *Night Moves* (1975), starring Gene Hackman as a private detective. The conversation refers to a winning chess combination that was not played in a 1922 game. This well-done low-budget suspense film should not be confused with *Knight Moves* (1993), a less good film with the implausible premise of a grandmaster using opening theory to help solve a crime. Not: *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, *The Omega Man*, *Innocent Moves*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*

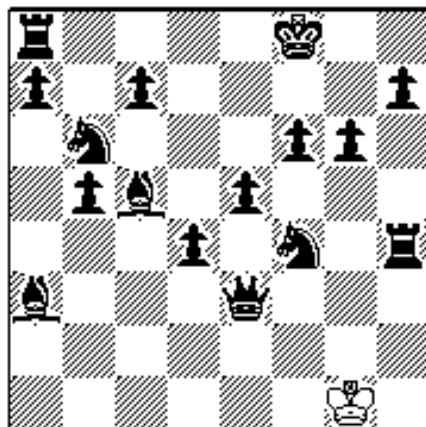
(6) Most chessplayers know that Harry Pillsbury won the great 1895 tournament at Hastings, England. However, in this question you are required to match each of these four players with the year he finished *last* at a Hastings tournament. [4]

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. J. J. O'Hanlon | A. 1927-28 |
| 2. E. G. Sergeant | B. 1921-22 |
| 3. Edgar Colle | C. 1925-26 |
| 4. G. M. Norman | D. 1930-31 |

Note: Hastings tournaments traditionally run from late December to early January, hence the double-year designation.

Answer: **1-B** (O'Hanlon, 1921-22); **2-C** (Sergeant, 1925-26); **3-D** (Colle, 1930-31); **4-A** (Norman, 1927-28) (Source: *The Encyclopedia of Chess*, by Anne Sunnucks). It was surprising how many contestants could not get the order of this straightforward question correct.

(7) A riddle: "The eight of us go forth, not back, to protect our king from a foe's attack." The answer: chess pawns. The question: what movie used the riddle? [2]



Though White is in check, Black moves and delivers mate by **1...Qe1**. The game was played for an unusual stake.

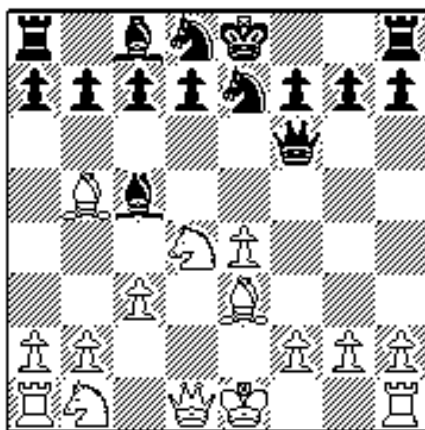
(a) What is the name of the film? [2]

Answer: *Geri's Game*, a delightful computer-animated short found on the video version of *A Bug's Life* (1998). Though the game is not to be taken seriously, the chess pieces are beautifully rendered.

(b) What was the stake? [2]

Answer: The stake: a set of dentures.

(11) A line of the Scotch Game begins **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Be3 Qf6 6 c3 Nge7 7 Bb5 Nd8**. (See Diagram)



What is the name of this line? [4]

Answer: It is called the *Gunsberg Defense*, named after Isidor Gunsberg, who first used it in his 1881 match against Joseph Blackburne. The match was won by Blackburne (+7 -6 =3) who had given his opponent "the odds of two games out of the seven required to win the match." (1881 *British Chess Magazine*, p. 208)

(12) Two Polish brothers, Leonard and Philip Cxyz, emigrated to America and founded a business that had a connection to chess. Among their employees were men named McKinley Morganfield, Ellis McDaniel, Chester Burnett and Charles Edward Anderson.

(a) What was the name of the company? [2]

Answer: **Chess Records**, a Chicago-based recording company that was a seminal force in the development of blues, jazz, and rock'n'roll in the 1950s. The Cxyz brothers legally changed their name to Chess. The employees mentioned were better known, respectively, as Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, Howlin' Wolf and Chuck Berry.

(b) What was the company's logo? [2]

Answer: A chess Knight [Source: *Great Record Labels* by Al Cimino, Chartwell Books, 1992]

(13) Dutch grandmaster Hans Ree is a four-time champion of The

Netherlands. In what year did he first win the Dutch Championship? [2]

Answer: Hans Ree won his first Dutch championship in **1967**, and followed that up with national titles in 1969, 1971 and 1982.

(14) He translated works by Lasker, Euwe and Capablanca into Georgian and he was also Tigran Petrosyan's first trainer. Who was he? [2]

Answer: Archil Ebralidze

We thought this might pose problems for a lot of contestants. It didn't.

(15) Many people were surprised when the Dutch-based magazine *New In Chess* decided to publish only in English. There was a magazine that was published in the Soviet Union that appeared in English also.

(a) What was the English name of the magazine? [2]

(b) When was it published? [2]

Answer: This question had two acceptable answers: **(a)** *Soviet Chess Chronicles*; and **(b)** 1943-46. The second possibility was: **(a)** *Chess in the USSR*; and **(b)** 1988-1990.

The most common incorrect answer was the *Chess Herald*, published in the mid-1990s. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union had ceased to exist by then, so it was never published "in the Soviet Union". And several people thought it was *Shakhmaty-In-English*, published 1965-68. No, that was published in the United States. We are sure of that. Russell published it.

(16) "However, he had a funny habit: while his opponent was pondering a move, [he] would now and then brush off specks of dust, real or imaginary, from the opponent's side of the chessboard. Eventually, Petrosyan broke [him] of the habit by giving him a rap on the fingers."

(a) Who made this statement? [2]

Answer: Alexander Koblents.

(b) About whom was he talking? [2]

Answer: Bobby Fischer at the 1958 Portoroz Interzonal Tournament, as reported in *Russians vs. Fischer* by Plisetsky and Voronkov (eds., 1994).

(17) This French-language chess magazine was founded in 1867 and continued publication until 1940.

(a) What was the name of the magazine? [2]

Answer: *La Stratégie*

(b) Who was its first editor? [2]

Answer: Jean-Louis Preti (1798-1881)

(18) True or False: When Garry Kasparov lost his title to Vladimir Kramnik, he was the first world champion not to win a single game in a title match. [2]

Answer: False. Emanuel Lasker failed to win a game in his 1921 title match against Capablanca. Almost a "gimme", although there were some comments indicating that people thought this was a trick question because Lasker had resigned the match. Not at all. Just read the question.

(19) True or False: The Hunt Opening is also known as the Sokolsky Opening. [2]

Answer: True. It is also referred to as the Englisch or Orang Utan – **1 b4**.

(20) True or False: The Lasker Gambit was first played by Emanuel Lasker in his game against Pillsbury (Paris 1900). [2]

Answer: False: Although the gambit takes its name from that game, it was actually played for the first time in Martinez-Mason, Philadelphia 1876. It is an offshoot of the Staunton Gambit: **1 d4 f5 2 e4 fxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 c6** (or 4...g6) **5 f3**.

(21) Multiple Choice: Two or more problem compositions consisting of almost identical positions but with very different solutions are called: [2]

- (a) Duals
- (b) Cooks
- (c) Twins
- (d) Seconds

Answer: (c) Twins

(22) True or False: The six short matches played by MacDonnell against LaBourdonnais during June-October 1834 are generally regarded by chess historians as comprising one 85-game match, won by LaBourdonnais. [2]

Answer: False. It was **Alexander McDonnell**, not George *Mac*Donnell who played LaBourdonnais. Many entrants apparently did not read this question carefully enough. It was not difficult, provided you were attentive.

(23) Multiple choice: "Each relevant square in the suffering king's field must be guarded or blocked once only." This is a definition of a: [2]

- (a) Simple mate
- (b) Clear mate
- (c) Fresh mate
- (d) Pure mate

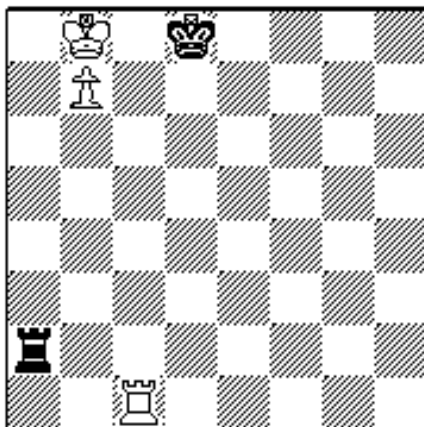
Answer: (d) Pure mate. The definition is in A. J. Roycroft's excellent 1972 book *Test Tube Chess*.

(24) Multiple choice: Who wrote: "Were it not for the monotony which has arisen from many players clinging so persistently to certain book variations of dull and safe openings, the necessity for any [new chess] variations would be less urgent." [4]

- (a) Capablanca
- (b) Bird
- (c) Fischer
- (d) Paulsen

Answer: (b) The statement was made by Henry Bird in the *City of London Chess Magazine* (1874), when proposing a chess variant he had devised.

(25) Multiple choice: The following position (*See Diagram*) is called: [2]:



- (a) the Lucena position
- (b) the Saavedra position
- (c) the Stamma position
- (d) the Leonardo position

Answer: (a) Lucena position

(26) Multiple choice: A solution to an endgame study or problem that is based on interference on a square covered by a Rook and a Bishop is said to be based on what theme: [2]

- (a) Grimshaw
- (b) Plachutta
- (c) Novotny
- (d) Mansuba

Answer: (c) Novotny

(27) Multiple choice: In the late 1830s and early 1840s, some Berlin chessplayers formed a group called: [4]

- (a) Das Zodiak
- (b) Der Berlinschachklub
- (c) Das Königsgambit
- (d) Pleiades

Answer: (d) Pleiades. Von der Lasa and Bledow were the best known members of this group. Probably the easiest four-pointer in the quiz.

(28) True or False: Alekhine won the finals section at the Kecskemét 1927 tournament, ahead of Nimzovich and Lajos Steiner, who tied for second place. [2]

Answer: False. Kecskemét 1927 was divided into 4 sections, Preliminary A and B, and Final A and B. Alekhine won Preliminary A, but in Final A he finished second, one point behind Nimzovich and one-half point ahead

of Steiner. However, in the overall standings, for which preliminary and final scores were added together, Alekhine did finish first, one-half point ahead of Nimzovich and Steiner. (Source: *Chess Tournament Crosstables*, volume IV, by Jeremy Gaige)

This was another case where you needed to read the question carefully. It specifically refers to "the finals section".

In **Questions 29-33**, identify the person shown in the photograph. Each [4]



(29) Answer: Henri Rinck (1870-1952) French endgame study composer. Not: Rosenthal, Marco, Jaenisch, Lancel, Mieses, Schlechter, Charousek, Lipschutz, Carls, Tarrasch



(30) Answer: Vasja Pirc (1907-1980) Yugoslav player and theoretician. Not: Botvinnik, Nimzovich, Chernev, Kingston (!)



(31) Answer: Alexander Rueb (1882-1959) First president of FIDE. Not: Lundin, Thomas, Purdy, Rogard, Gruenfeld, Maroczy, Nezhmetdinov, Hanauer, Stoltz, Helms. A couple of comedians guessed Boris Karloff. We hope they sleep well at night...



(32) Answer: Simon Winawer (1838-1920) Polish player. Not Kotov, Paulsen, von Bardeleben, Tarrasch, Gunsberg, Russell (!)



(33) Answer: Vladimir Alatortsev (1909-1987) Soviet player. Not: Lilienthal, Kholmov, Keres, Tolush, Krogius, Richter, Baturinsky, Minev, Elo, Kotov, Bronstein



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