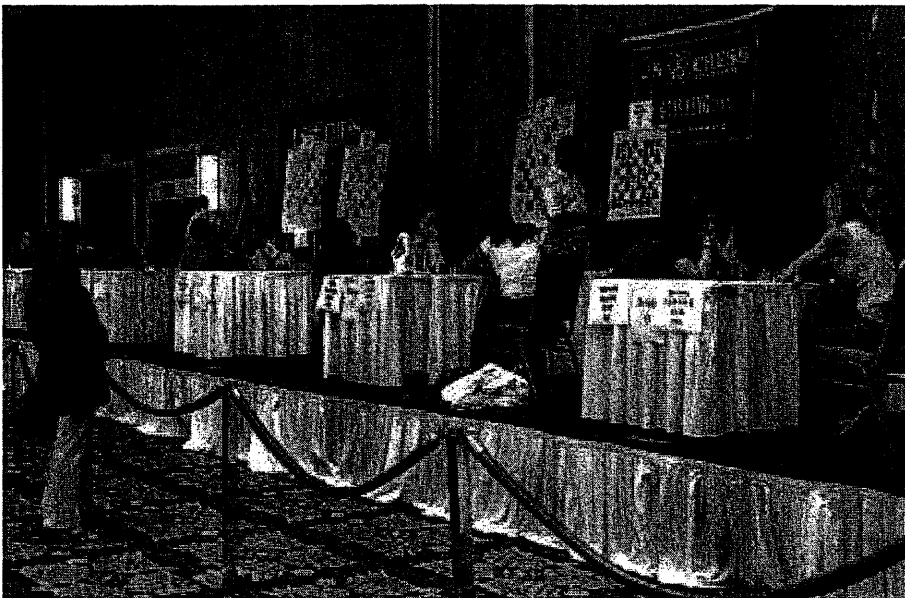


Chess for fun and (a college) education

28.08.2005 Imagine a chess tournament where the first three players win full tuition to the University of Texas in Dallas, and a total of \$155,000 is available in prizes, stipends and scholarships. Sound fair? Well, eat your hearts out, men, this one was only for girls under 19. Welcome to the Susan Polgar National Invitational. *

The Susan Polgar National Invitational

The second annual Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls (under 19) was held on August 7–12 alongside with the 2005 US Open in Phoenix, Arizona this year. This is the most prestigious girl's event in the United States. In order to participate in the championship, a player must be nominated by her own state. Each state creates its own criteria to select its best player.



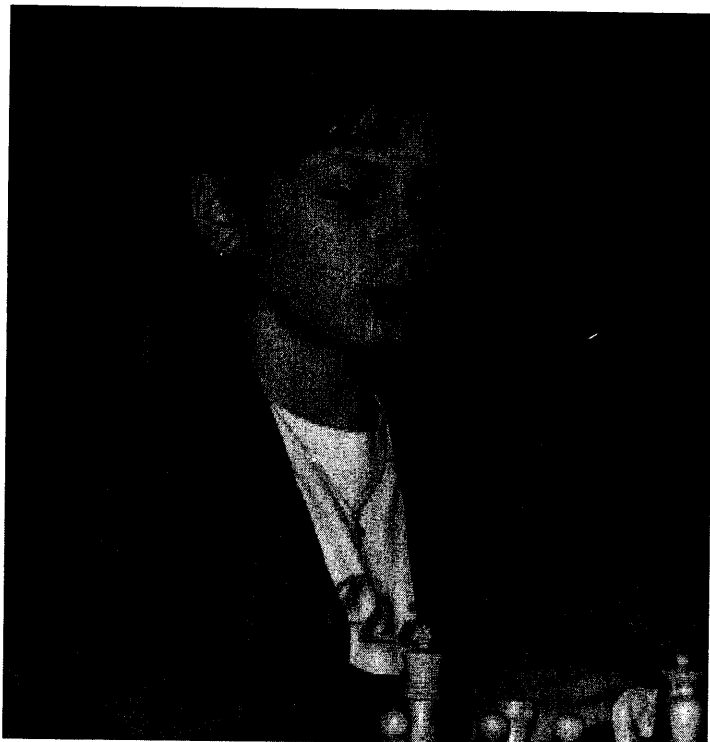
Approximately 3,000 girls participated in regional and state qualifying events in the last 12 months to earn the right to represent their states. A record 48 girls (four of them as young as 11 years old) represented their respective states in this championship.

8/29/2005



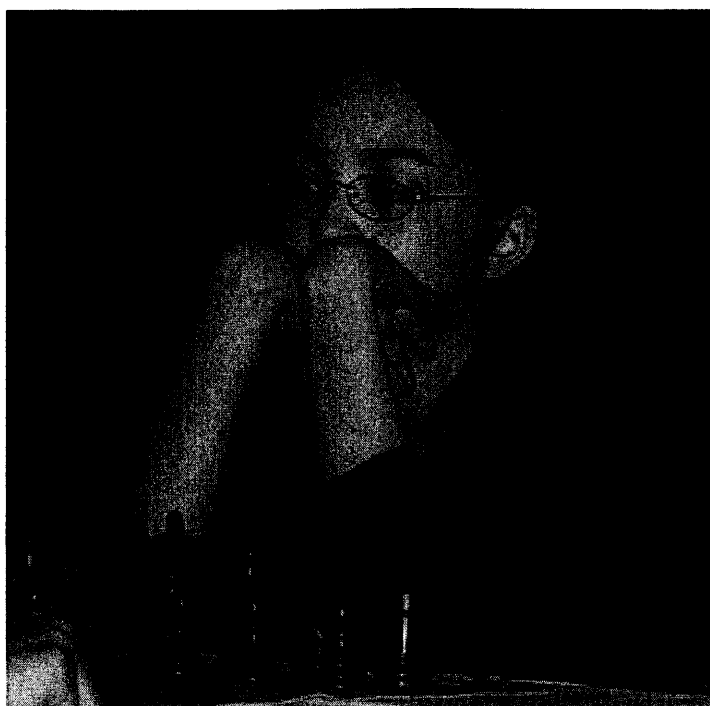
Abby Marshall of Ohio

At the conclusion of the tournament, three players tied for first with the score of 5-1 (4 wins and 2 draws). WGM Anya Cork (CA), WFM Alisa Melekhina (PA) and Abby Marshall (OH) were declared co-champions. They were also the top three seeds of the tournament.



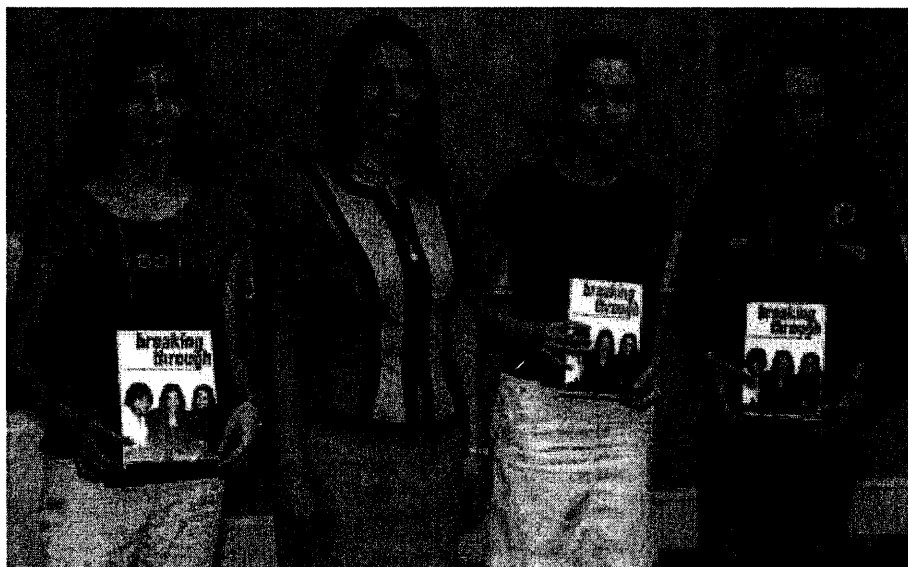
Alisa Melekhina of Pennsylvania

Anya Cork was born in California and currently residing in Hong Kong. She won the Hong Kong National Championship a few years ago, and earned her WGM title with an incredible performance in the 2004 Olympiad in Calvia, playing for the Hong Kong men's team. Even though she is a very experience international player, she made a personal request to play in the tournament and she received a special invitation from Susan Polgar herself.



Anya Corke of California, resident in Hong Kong

Each co-champion was awarded a full tuition and fees scholarship (value more than \$40,000 each) to the University of Texas in Dallas, presented by Dr. Tim Redman (UTD).



Susan Polgar (2nd from left) with the winners Alisa Melekhina, Anya Cork and Abby Marshall

Regards,

Jim

8/29/2005