

Arimaa at Super Nationals V

The USCF Super Nationals is a scholastic Chess tournament that occurs once every four years. This year it was held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, TN.



This is one of several halls where tournament games were being played. There were 5335 participants (not including parents and coaches) this year and a new record was set.



This is the hall where parents anxiously waited.



Omar at the Arimaa booth signing a set. We sold about 40 sets and about 10 of each of the two books at a very good discounted price. We gave about 20 sets along with books as gifts and prizes.



Meeting with Jeff Knight the inventor of Plunder Chess.



Meeting with Andy Hortillosa; he has developed an app to interactively read chess books on tablets and smartphones.
www.playsmartchess.com.



Ruhina and I meeting with Alexey Root. She was the 1989 US Women's Chess Champion and holds the title of Woman International Master. She was the one who suggested we should present Arimaa at the Supernationals when I had given a talk about Arimaa at the University of Texas Dallas.



Meeting with Jerry Nash. He is the USCF Director of Titles, Certifications & International Youth Events.



Meeting with Francisco Guadalupe. He was the head tournament director for the whole event.



Gregory Clark (username 'rabbits' in the Arimaa gameroom) stopped by our booth and spent some time with us. Greg drove 2.5 hours just to visit us. We even went for dinner together and had a fun time discussing Arimaa. He told me the story of how his cat got the name 'hanzack' (the username of the 2012 Arimaa world champion).



Matthew Noble (username 'qauz' in the Arimaa gameroom) and some of his students stopped by our booth. He is a chess coach and said he plays Arimaa mostly OTB with his friends. He said there is a group of about 10 people who play Arimaa OTB in Tucson AZ.



Greg and Matthew playing some Arimaa. Matthew's students picked up the rules very quickly.



This is Joshua Benham. He visited our booth several times and mentioned he received an Arimaa set as a gift. He was very happy to see Arimaa at SNV and bought some autographed books. He placed 29th in the K12U1200 section.



Meeting Alexandra Kosteniuk. She holds the title of Woman Grandmaster and 2008 Women's World Chess Champion. I had seen pictures of her in Chess Life and videos on YouTube, but getting to meet her in person was just mind blowing :-)



She even stopped by our booth and met Ruhina. We gave her an Arimaa set and both books.



I had the opportunity to meet Jennifer Shahade. She is a Woman Grandmaster and two time US Women's Chess Champion. I read her blog once in awhile so it was really awesome getting to meet her in person.



She later stopped by our booth and met Ruhina. We gave her an Arimaa set and both books. Jennifer mentioned that she gave a talk at MIT recently about poker and some of the students there had already told her about Arimaa. Later that evening Ruhina and I were coming out of a restaurant and we ran into Jennifer and her brother Greg. They had the Arimaa set with them and we chatted about Arimaa.



The next day Greg Shahade stopped by our booth and we also gave him an Arimaa set and both books. Greg is an International Master, former Executive Board member of USCF and founder of the US Chess League. I enjoy reading his articles on the USCF website. It was really awesome getting to meet Greg in person.



Meeting with Sunil Weeramantry. He is a FIDE Master, chess author and coach, Chairman of the USCF Scholastic Council, Executive Director of the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, and step father and coach of Hikaru Nakamura, one of the top 10 players in the world. As a chess fan I have followed Hikaru since he was a little boy and had often seen pictures of Sunil with him in Chess Life magazine. So this was really special getting to meet Sunil in person. I didn't have anymore Arimaa sets or books with me, but I did give him a card with information about Arimaa.



Chatting with Sunil and Ruth Haring; she is the president of the USCF and Woman International Master.



Arimaa sets and books were awarded to the top 16 finishers in the K-12 championship section. Here I'm congratulating and presenting the Arimaa set and books to the 1st place finisher, Atulya Shetty.



Thanks to Karl, Jean, Zev, Thomas, Martti and David for making the various Arimaa products like books, apps and sets. Without their support, I would not have anything to show for Arimaa and would not have gone to this amazing event. Also thanks to Gregory, Matthew, Joshua, Alexey, Alexandra, Jennifer and Greg for visiting us at the event. Also a big thanks to the USCF administrators Pat, Ruth, Francisco, Sunil, Jerry and Robert who were all so friendly, courteous and welcoming of our presence at the Supernationals event. In my wildest dreams I never would have thought it would turn out this great.