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Game Reviews from the MVL Simul at Bridgeport Open



By FM Rick Bauer (left)

The star attraction of the Bridgeport Open was Super GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (MVL) the World Blitz Champion, whose ability to play fast and strong served him well in a series of Simuls (Simultaneous Exhibitions) played over the weekend. His lecture stressed the importance of playing with confidence, both for the impact it can have on your opponent and to save vital clock time. This is one vital edge that the top young players have.

MVL won all but two of his simul games, defeating his strongest opposition. He showed a wide range of opening knowledge, gaining an edge quickly in most games. The surprising upset winner was Chloe Gaw, an eleven year old prodigy from New York. She is ranked seventh nationally for girls her age. I was able to get copies of both her game and that of the event's top challenger to MVL, International Master Maximillian Lu, whose game was broadcast to the auditorium. Both participants played the Sicilian Defense, with the GM gaining a significant edge out of the opening. But the real action came late in both games, when the moves became most critical.

Here is a link to the two games: <https://lichess.org/study/kON9fiPj>

It was reported that Anabel Guerreiro, playing in the U1250 section and rated 795, drew MVL in the simul.