

Complex Middlegames

The 4 online endgame classes are part of one package. Sign up for only \$75 for 8 hours of chess training! Below is a detailed description of the 4 classes.

Format: In all middlegame classes, there will be 1 hour of presentation (with questions), then ½ hour with puzzles, followed by the last ½ hour with feedback on the puzzles.

The puzzles for this class, together with the *Zoom* Meeting link, will be emailed out to the participants shortly before the class.

Monday, April 27 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 1: Double-Edged Bishops.

This term stems from my book *The Secret Life of Bad Bishops* where the idea is to look at all the factors that defines if the bishop has potential to become strong or is outright bad. Until a final verdict can be made, let's call the bishop double-edged (DEB). But far too often, a bishop is called bad prematurely, for instance if it is placed behind its own pawns. As a *goalkeeper*, the bishop might be doing a great defensive job, and in general, the bishop is better when teamed up with other pieces. No particular openings are covered in this class, focus is first and foremost to get an understanding of the DEB.

Monday, May 4 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 2: Dynamic piece sacrifices in the King's Indian Defence.

The King's Indian Defence often leads to a closed structure in the center where White has space in the center (d5) whereas Black can grab space on the kingside (f4). The semi-closed nature of the position and the fact that most pieces are still left on the board, make piece sacrifices a frequent occurrence. After the sacrifice, there are still many pieces left, and the space advantage remains! I briefly touched upon this in *Opening Simulator: King's Indian Defence* (2019), but we will go deeper with this theme in this class, with many typical examples.

Monday, May 11 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 3: Exchange sacrifices in the French Defence.

Studying exchange sacrifices in the French defense is very useful. The semi-closed nature of many French positions makes exchange sacrifices a natural occurrence, and the pawn structures here can arise from other openings as well. Throughout this class, we will keep an eye on Black's light-squared bishop (the so-called bad French bishop) and how it influences the overall strategy, drawing on the conclusions from class 1 on the Double-Edged Bishop.

Monday, May 18 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 4: Exchange sacrifices – rook for bishop.

This is by far the most typical case when exchange sacrifices do happen. The reason is the long-range abilities of the bishop, and that it is probably a better piece than the knight, *materially* speaking. I will elaborate on this slightly controversial point in the class (and will treat R vs. N exchange sacrifices in a later class too). Many exchange sacrifices happen in the early middlegame where the power of the rook doesn't show yet, and more often than not, bishop + pawn is enough compensation. But it all depends on the situation, of course, and these other factors when making such a decision will be discussed in the class.

General Information:

Dates: Mondays on April 27 and May 4-11-18, 2020.

Time: Evenings at 7-9pm (Eastern Time).

Rating level: Approximately 1600-2200. Ambitious players or players on their way up might want to join.

Price: \$75. Pay via PayPal or Venmo using the email: mulu0328@gmail.com

I use the presentation tool *Zoom* for all online classes.

Signup & questions: send an email to silas.lund@gmail.com

About me

An International Master and 7-time chess author, I settled in New York in 2017 and currently work full time with chess as a trainer, writer and blogger on silasesbenlund.com. My 4 books for Quality Chess include *Opening Simulator: King's Indian Defence* (2019, co-written with IM Andreas Hagen), *Sharp Endgames* (2017), *The Secret Life of Bad Bishops* (2014) and *Rook versus Two Minor Pieces* (2005). I use ideas from my books in the online classes, but always with new material. It is my trademark style to always have handouts for the students during class. In 2018, my wife Lu and I launched SILU Game Products LLC with a variety of products, most notably our math game *Equation Gamble* and the *2020 Chess Calendar*. Our products can be found on our Amazon Store. The chess calendar has 366 positions, one for each day of the year, with solutions the next day. We plan a Chess Calendars for 2021 too.