

Blindfold Chess World Record Challenge

GM Timur Gareyev



www.blindfoldking.com



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BLINFOLD CHESS WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

Dear Potential Sponsors and Partners:

Thank you for your interest in GM Timur Gareyev's World Record Challenge for Blindfold Chess.

We have created this guide to help answer any questions you may have.

We are excited to work with you to create a once in a lifetime chess experience that is both educational and entertaining for participants and spectators alike.

Feel free to contact me at jennifer@blindfoldking.com with any further questions or feedback.

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ABOUT GM TIMUR GAREYEV

www.timurgareyev.com



Timur Gareyev is a chess grandmaster originally from Uzbekistan. He has held the rank of 3rd highest rated chess player in the US and top 100 players in the world with a peak USCF rating of 2780. He is best known for his exceptional ability to play Blindfold chess. Blindfold Chess is a form of chess play where a player has no sight of the chess board or the positions of the pieces on the board.

Timur has participated in thousands of blindfold chess games in classic simul, online events and practice games. On July 31, 2015, Timur made history by setting a new world record for playing Tandem Blindfold Chess with the current Blindfold Chess Champion, Marc Lang. In March 2016, Timur set a personal record when he won 32 out of 33 blindfold chess games (losing 1 and drawing 2). This event took 12 hours and was completed while on an exercise bike.

His current goal is to break the world record by playing 47 simultaneous games of chess blindfolded. His training will consist of thousands of hours of preparation. Timur is currently on a World Blindfold Chess tour in preparation for this event.

Timur has an adventurous spirit and is a licensed sky diver and BASE jumper. He enjoys traveling and meeting new people. He stays fit by hiking and practicing yoga. Timur is active in schools and serves as a consultant for the Karpov International School. Timur's brain is currently under study by a team of researchers at UCLA. Timur has authored a Chess Tactics workbook called **C.A.T. Tactics** and is working on a new book titled **Get Off the Couch and Play Chess**.



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NEUROSCIENCE:

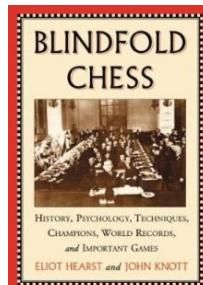
Much research is being conducted today regarding memory. Studies have been done on the chess player to help understand brain processing as it relates to complex problem solving and visual processing. With regard to Blindfold Chess, the only extensive research found was conducted by Alfred Binet. He studied Blindfold Chess playing as it relates to imagery and mental representation. This event presents an excellent opportunity for University and Brain Center research on the topics of Memory, Visualization and Mnemonics.

We would like to welcome the Neuroscience community to get involved in this event. Gareyev has enthusiastically agreed to participate as a subject in this type of research. He will undergo brain scans (PET and MRI) before, during and after the event.

Eliot Hearst and John Knott wrote the book *BLINDFOLD CHESS: History, Psychology, Techniques, Champions, World Records and Important Games*. Some notable findings that are documented in this book are:

- The general memory of chess masters, including those able to play many blindfold games simultaneously, is no better than that of the average person.
- Highly skilled players can form long-term memories of full-board chess positions within seconds of viewing them.
- High level chess skill (not just blindfold chess) requires a recognition-action repertoire of some 50,000 to 100,000 features of chess positions and associated responses.
- Some of the strongest masters find the actual sight of a chess position to be more distracting than helpful when thinking ahead during a game.
- Practicing blindfold chess improves sighted chess skill.
- Some of the strongest blindfold chess masters claim that the strength of their blindfold play is similar to that of their sighted play.

But the bombshell, which prompts the present reexamination of “visualization,” is this: *blindfold chess masters consistently report that what they visualize are not images of pieces or chessboards, but abstractions of these with minimal or no physical features*. A typical report is, “I do not visualize real pieces but I know where they are.”





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NEW WORLD RECORD:

Gareyev's challenge of playing 47 simultaneous chess games blindfolded is expected to take place over 24 hours. The event will be a 3 day festival to encourage spectator involvement in the event with an Opening Ceremony, Simul Day and various side events.

THE EVENT:

Considerations for location must include indoor facilities to accommodate 100 people (participants, spectators and media). The location must have restrooms available and access to Food/Drink and resting accommodations. Ideally, the event will take place at a hotel or location adjacent to a hotel to allow for nap breaks and rooms available for multiple side events.

The event will take place with an Opening Ceremony on a Friday evening. The Simul would begin the following day and run until Sunday afternoon.

Opening Ceremony: A documentary on Gareyev and his life leading up to the World Record Attempt will show on a large screen. In addition to his Blindfold Chess Journey, the film will highlight Gareyev's adventurous lifestyle including Sky Diving and BASE Jumping, hobbies and travels. Gareyev will give an introduction and there will be a Q&A session. Boards will be set out for casual play. Food and drinks will be served.

Simul Day: The event will begin on Saturday at 8:00am and conclude on Sunday roughly around 11:00am. This will include breaks.

Side Events: The list below is a partial list of possible side events that will run concurrent with the main Blindfold Chess simul:

- A room set up for casual chess play (Skittles Room) equipped with DGT boards showing the simul games playing live
- Massage therapy room for the players
- Gaming rooms (Play Station, pool table, Sports on large screen)
- A room set up with brain challenges for spectators to test their memory
- Movie viewing room
- Exercise room with space for Yoga and stretching
- There would be a vendor area set up with tables
- Speakers talking about a variety of subjects including memory and the aging brain, nutrition, meditation, other health and lifestyle related topics



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RECORD BREAKING GUIDELINES:

Gareyev plans to beat every parameter of records set up today including most wins and point %. He will follow the guidelines for the World Record established by Guinness World Records. According to Guinness, the attempt will require at least 80% wins to qualify for setting a new record under their standards. See RULES on Page 12. However, according to Edward Winter, the world's leading chess historian and Eliot Hearst, author of *Blindfold Chess: History, Psychology, Techniques, Champions, World Records, and Important Games*, the percentage of wins is not essential to "break" the world record for Blindfold Chess.

The current Guinness Record Holder is identified as Miguel Najdorf who set the Guinness Record in 1947. Najdorf played 45 games. He won 39 games, drew 4 and lost 2. In the chess community, the consensus is that Marc Lang holds the world record for Blindfold Chess. He played 46 games in 2011 and won 75%. If Gareyev plays and scores at least 75% of his 47 games, he will be declared the Record Holder in the eyes of the chess community.

IDEAL CONDITIONS:

Participant tables will be set up in a U-Shape or Elliptical Arc with Gareyev sitting at the Head opening. He will have a comfortable chair, a stationary bike and an exercise ball as optional seating for the duration of the Simul. He will have a side table to hold food and drinks. He will be wearing a comfortable blindfold. He will wear a wireless microphone used to announce his moves.

THE AMBIENCE:

The ideal environment would be one that is inviting and inspiring for both participants and spectators. The idea is to promote a sense of wow, magic and illusion. We want to also incorporate the educational component by having a Neuroscientist present that can discuss Memory, Pattern Recognition and Visualization. We will have hands-on activities for spectators that will allow them to participate in brain puzzles and challenges.

MOVER/FACILLITATOR:

There will be a "mover" assigned. This will be an experienced player whose responsibility it is to maintain the integrity of the games. This person will serve as quality control ensuring that the position is correct, the move is legal and correct notation is utilized to announce the move to Gareyev.



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BLINFOLD CHESS WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

TRAINING:

To prepare for the ultimate Blindfold Chess Challenge, Gareyev has been on a US/World Tour for the past year visiting chess clubs and conducting smaller scale matches. Here are a few photos from recent Blindfold Chess simuls.



Nashville Chess Center



Conejo Valley Chess Club



Chess Things



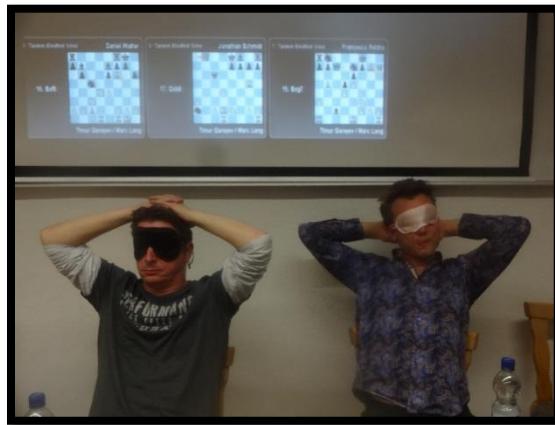
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TANDEM BLINDFOLD CHESS:

A tandem Chess exhibition is when two players partner up to play multiple chess games with a number of other opponents, making successive moves without consulting one another.

On July 31, 2015 in Germany, Timur Gareyev and Marc Lang (current Blindfold Chess Champion) partnered in tandem and played 7 opponents blindfolded achieving a score of 6 points with 5 wins and two draws setting a new record for Tandem Blindfold Chess.

The former world record was held since more than 80 years, which was achieved in 1934 in Antwerp by Alexander Alekhine from Russia and George Koltanowski from Poland when they played in tandem against 6 opponents blindfolded simultaneously. They scored 3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss for a total of 4 points.





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BLINDFOLD CHESS WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

We are open to exploring all sponsorship and partnership opportunities.

Ideal partners would include: an educational partner (University and/or brain center) whose focus is on brain function and memory, a health related partner to support Gareyev's organic lifestyle and because Gareyev is somewhat of a thrill seeker and active, a sports and adventure partner would be a great fit.

SPORTS - ADVENTURE



Gareyev is a free spirit and creative person. Here he has combined his love of fitness with Chess as he played a Blindfold Blitz event playing 40 ten minute games over 5 hours while on an exercise bike.



Gareyev is an avid skydiver and just completed a course in BASE Jumping. He likes to ride motorcycles and has trained for a triathalon. He enjoys challenging body and mind.



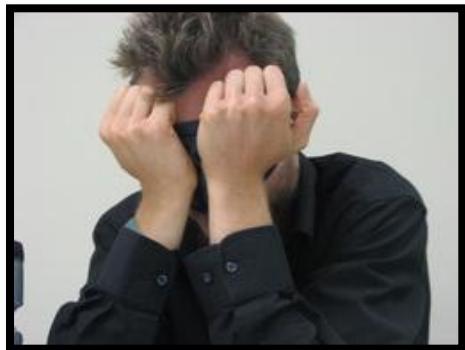
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BLINFOLD CHESS WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

EDUCTATION – RESEARCH - MEMORY



Gareyev authored chess tactics workbook called CAT (Chess Academy of Timur) Tactics. Gareyev has chess academies in Austin, Kansas and Las Vegas.

Gareyev enjoys working with children and finds it important to teach how to live a balanced life.



Gareyev takes chess study seriously. He has participated in 3 US Chess Championships. He continues to teach chess at his chess academies, offers private lessons and lectures . He creates video lessons for ICC and develops curriculum for the Karpov International School of Chess Virtual School program.





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BLINFOLD CHESS WORLD RECORD CHALLENGE

ORGANIC LIFESTYLE – MEDITATION – YOGA - TRAVEL



Travel is a way of life for Gareyev. He has been living on the road for the past year as he travels on his Blindfold Chess tour.



Gareyev practices daily meditation and yoga. He equates Blindfold Chess to deep meditation. Gareyev also is a Vegetarian and eats only organic.



Gareyev is known for his spontaneous and adventurous spirit. He loves sharing his unique ideas with others. He is writing a book titled “Get off the couch and play chess” promoting a healthy and balanced lifestyle.



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GUINNESS REQUIREMENTS: *Most simultaneous blindfolded chess wins*

1. Regardless of the level of their natural sightedness, the challenger must be completely blindfolded such that he or she cannot perceive light or movement. This should be confirmed by the witnesses in their statements.
2. The attempt should be held under the auspices of the chess federation of the territory in which the event is to take place and should be played according to the standard rules of chess according to FIDE (www.fide.com)
3. The opponents of the challenger should be chess players of a suitable standard – they should each possess a published Elo rating of at least 1,200 or have a suitable conversion if belonging to a national chess federation which does not use the Elo rating system (i.e. 70 for a rating from the English Chess Federation or a Class D player in the United States Chess Federation). The most recent published rating of the opponents' chess federation (or Elo) shall be used. The Elo rating or equivalent national chess federation rating of each opponent must be an established rating, and not merely a provisional rating.
4. Documentation must be provided showing that the ratings requirements above are met by all opponents.
5. Each opponent should be played in only one game. No opponent may compete or be counted twice.
6. Only an opponent who is present at the attempt location from the beginning of the attempt may compete in the event.
7. The opening move should be played on every board in order. After the opening move, the challenger must visit each board in turn for one move to be made. Boards may not be missed or visited out of order. More than one consecutive move may not be made on any board.
8. After the challenger makes a move, the opponent must not make a move until the challenger returns to the chess board.
9. The game must be played in silence and neither challenger nor opponent may receive strategic assistance. The chess pieces may only be touched when making a move. The only assistance permitted is for an intermediary to relay to the record-attempting participant what the opponent's previous move was on the board in chess notation.
10. To qualify for the record, the challenger must win at least 80% of all the games.
11. Rest breaks may be taken at any time but these should be recorded in the log book, which should be maintained throughout the attempt. Rest breaks should not disrupt the order of play.
12. The blindfold may only be removed during rest breaks, but must be done so away from the playing area so that the participant cannot be in visual contact with any of the playing boards.