


TREKKING TOWARDS THE TITLE

How often do you come across players who have crossed the required ELO Rating for a long time but still don't have the IM/GM Title, just because of a missing norm? or in some cases, have the required number of norms but needs to cross the Rating barrier, I guess you would have encountered many. I personally know more than 50 players, who are going through these situations. In fact I also belong to the same category. 2012 was the year when I entered into a relationship with the IM Title. In the beginning it was fun but I was confident that the relationship wouldn't last longer and I would soon move in with GM Title within few months. It's been 6 years now and I am still stuck with my IM title(speak of the loyalty!). However recently things changed in one tournament where I made my 2nd GM norm(I think I made the first norm before Ice Age).

Player info



Name Stany G.A.
Title IM
Starting rank 12
Rating 2502
Rating national 0
Rating international 2502
Performance rating 2658
FIDE rtg +/- 20,9
Points 8
Rank 3
Federation IND
Club/City KAR
Ident-Number 420162013
Fide-ID 5029104
Year of birth 1993

Rd.	Bo.	SNo	Name	Rtg	FED	Club/City	Pts.	Res.
1	12	137	Himanshu Ranjan	1970	IND	BIH	5,5	s 1
2	11	87	WFM Arpita Mukherjee	2147	IND	WB	4,5	w 1
3	9	56	IM Deshmukh Anup	2267	IND	LIC	6,5	s 1
4	8	30	Raghunandan Kaumandur Srihari	2394	IND	KAR	6,0	w 1
5	2	9	GM Sivuk Vitaly	2545	UKR	UKR	7,5	s 1
6	1	17	GM Babujian Levon	2456	ARM	ARM	7,0	w 1
7	1	1	GM Kravtsiv Martyn	2654	UKR	UKR	8,5	s 1
8	1	20	IM Vignesh N R	2447	IND	TN	8,0	w 0
9	1	3	GM Predke Alexandr	2615	RUS	RUS	8,0	s 0
10	4	6	GM Malakhatko Vadim	2552	BEL	BEL	7,0	s 1

ChessTournamentResults-Server © 2006-2018 Heinz Herzog CMSVersion 28.10.2018 16:11

This was my performance in the Gujarat International Open October-2018. 7/7 from the start of the tournament assured me a GM norm,2 rounds to spare. From missing the norm by half a point to not meeting enough titled players I've been going through these situations so many times that at one point I started wondering if I'll ever breakup with my title.

So what helped to get the GM Norm in this fashion? what are all the things I did which helped me get to the next norm after being stuck for a long time?

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I am going to share it here.

While writing this article I just googled the word 'success' and this is the first quote that I got "If Plan A didnt work, the alphabet has 25 more letters so keep trying"(Hey Google, How do you know what I exactly want!?). In the last few years I always kept seeing chess specially solving tactics, studies and openings of course(Not my favourite part of chess to be honest), though they were not a systematic work. However In the last 6 months I decided to look for other 'Alphabets' i.e. ways to reinvent my approach towards chess. I would like to classify them into 5 areas and also would like to show you how they impacted my chess in the recent tournament.

1.Focus on Fitness:

"These days many young kids are working with GMs. Everyone has access to chess material So if you want to have a competitive edge over them, focus on the Physical Fitness, which many chess players seem to ignore" told a 2600+ GM to me when I asked for tips about Chess Improvement. I was very convinced with his advice and started working on my fitness consistently for the last few months and immediately got the result. I think my last round game against an experienced GM Vadim Malakhatko from the aforementioned tournament is a good example. A win in this game would help me finish in top 3, but may I remind you that It was the tenth round of a hectic tournament(2 days double rounds) and this was the 5th GM I was facing in the tournament. I genuinely believe fitness played a key part in the outcome of this game.



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What is the best square for black's queen to continue the pressure?

<http://view.chessbase.com/cbreader/2018/11/2/Game729453203.html>

2. Healthy Food only! This might sound silly or not very important but I strictly followed it during the Gujarat tournament(trying for the first time actually) and it worked. If you have been to India you would know how delicious the food is(do try The Biryani once), but they are also spicy and many of them are not very healthy. So this time I paid a lot of attention to my food consumption and tried to survive mainly on Fruits, Vegetables and Salads throughout the tournament and I was doing great. I don't know if it would have the same effect on everyone but I would highly recommend you to pay attention to this area and try experimenting with it during the tournament.

3.Finding Practice Partners: I have to give credit to my trainer IM V Saravanan for constantly pushing me to find working partners, he is of the opinion that the level of your partner need not always be higher than you and also its important to approach the players yourself. In the last few years I managed to find 3 players whose rating range is between 2100-2500 to work regularly. When you work with others it becomes easy to analyse your games, get an outsiders perspective and in general working on chess becomes more fun.

4.Stop glancing and start completing the books: This is something which I told to myself. I have enough collection of books at home but whenever I buy them, out of excitement I go through them fast and once they enter the promised land(my book shelf of course), they will happily live there ever after. So in the last couple of months I started to go through the books one by one, I also used chess board most of the times while reading these books and I found it to be immensely useful. For example recently I finished reading Gelfand's " Positional Decision making in chess" and I was particularly inspired by his chapter on Space advantage and this is how it helped me in my game in the 4th round of tournament against a young Indian IM Raghunandan.

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White has a dominating position but how to further improve the position?

<http://view.chessbase.com/cbreader/2018/11/2/Game730322375.html>

Training Camp with Aagaard: Consider yourself lucky if you get a chance to attend any of his training camps, One of the best decisions I took this year was attend his Training camp in Glasgow in July. It worked as a turbo booster on my performance and within 3 months I was able to get my next norm. Not only did I get a chance to meet and interact with some super strong players, I also realised my strengths and weakness. I think there is a difference between reading/solving Aagaard's books and doing the same having him in front of you, for starters the books contain problems of similar themes and concepts, so if you solve a couple of problems you will be able to solve the rest chapter. whereas in camp he used to give various kind of problems without any clues. He used to tell one thing regularly, if anyone gets stuck with the problem "Just Open your eyes and look, the solution is right there, dont think much" this advice kept on repeating in my mind during every round and here is my game against GM Kravtsiv Martin where I just did what he told and won the game

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White is threatening to take pawn on c4 and attack the knight on e4, what should black do?

<http://view.chessbase.com/cbreader/2018/11/2/Game731707484.html>

I would like to end this article by recommending one non chess book that might help you to move forward in chess, it talks about "Tiny Changes and Remarkable Results" The book is called Atomic Habits by James Clear (highly recommended) and don't forget "The best view comes after the hardest Climb" So don't give up, keep trekking towards the Title.