

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave



CURRENT ELO: 2728

DATE OF BIRTH: October 21, 1990

PLACE OF BIRTH: Nogent-sur-Marne, France

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Le Plessis-Trévisé, France

What is your favourite colour?

Blue.

What kind of food makes you happy?

Mostly junk, also snails and frogs.

And what drink?

Banana milkshake.

What is the most interesting book you have ever read?

Proofs from THE BOOK by Martin Aigner and Günter M. Ziegler.

What is your all-time favourite movie?

Cloverfield wins by lack of cinematic culture.

What is your favourite TV series?

Big Bang Theory and *Malcolm* – hard to find a tie-breaker here.

Do you have a favourite actor?

Jim Parsons is just PERFECT.

And a favourite actress?

Let's just say that many women chess players could be successfully redeployed on the big screen.

What music do you like to listen to?

There are two kinds: rock and crap. I'd go mainly, though not exclusively, with the first.

Do you have a favourite artist?

Myself, even though teachers wouldn't agree. But even the best artists were misunderstood in their time.

What was your best result ever?

Winning the Essent tournament in

Hoogeveen in a fine and smooth manner and reporting about it (New In Chess 2010/8 – ed.) was nice, but I hope there's more to come.

What was the best game you have ever played?

Fontaine-Vachier-Lagrave, French Championship, Aix-les-Bains 2007.

Who is your favourite chess player of all time and why?

Fischer, because, to quote Vlad Tkachiev: 'All pieces play from every corner.' Genius of geometry, so it seems.

Is there a chess book that had a profound influence on you?

The Sorcerer's Apprentice by David Bronstein and Tom Fürstenberg. Even though nowadays it's more like 'The Computer's Apprentice.'

What are chess players particularly good at?

Tennis, and for some, dancing.

Do chess players have typical shortcomings?

A huge tendency for irony. But I think of it as a quality.

What is it that you appreciate most in a person?

Irony and honesty.

What is it that you dislike in a person?

Lack of intelligence.

Who or what would you like to be if you weren't yourself?

Paris Hilton's brain. Definitely would like some peace of mind.

Do you have any superstitions?

Chess is a scientific game. No superstition should even be allowed.

Which three people would you like to invite for dinner?

This is too difficult a question. It should be either two, or so many more than three.

Is there anything you'd love to learn?

How to chat up girls.

What is your greatest fear?

That someone reads my mind and sees all the shameful stuff that is located there.

What would you save from your house if it went on fire?

I would hope I would be awake, so that I can save at least myself.

If you could change one thing in the chess world, what would it be?

No more tournaments exclusively for women.

What will be the nationality of the 2050 chess world champion?

Statistically speaking, the Chinese are the favourites. But maybe some 'living robot', who knows.

Is a knowledge of chess useful in everyday life?

Definitely not.

What is the best thing that was ever said about chess?

'Chess is for crazy people.' Makes sense.