

# 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.