

CALIFORNIA CHESS NEWS

NO. 1

NOV. 1947

GREETINGS!

At long last a Bulletin devoted to the happenings of chess clubs and its members in California is herewith coming to life!

Many years ago a fine California Chess Bulletin appeared for some years which filled the need of the then advancing chess movement in California. We do not know why it disappeared. We do know that Chess is growing by leaps and bounds in every nook and corner of the State and we feel that the time has come that a bulletin giving more light and thoughts to the chess affairs of California appears on the scene.

It is our intention to publish all the news sent us by every club in the State; annotating games sent in by our readers and club players. This, in addition to articles of general interest in connection with Chess.

Issue No. 1 is being sent out gratis to all chess players in the State. If you have any chess friends, send us their names and addresses and we shall be happy to send them a copy too. It is our further intention to have this bulletin printed but to this end we shall need your support. Issue No. 2 will appear at a much later date - when we see the reaction to our effort; in all probability, by January, 1948. Your subscription will be very welcome. It is one dollar a year for all issues published until the end of 1948. Donations to further our cause will be appreciated and a list of all subscribers and donations will be published in the Bulletin.

ALL CLUBS ARE INVITED TO SEND IN NEWS, GAMES, STORIES, and local CHESS GOSSIP. THIS IS YOUR PERIODICAL! LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

Send subscriptions and material to:

GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI

P. O. BOX 682

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

GAME IN AN EIGHT BOARD SIMULTANEOUS BLINDFOLD EXHIBIT
AT PALO ALTO, Sept. 10, 1947

WHITE: George Koltanowski Black: E. T. Dana

Notes by E. T. Dana

Opening: Q.P.Game Colle System

1. P-Q4 P-Q4
2. N-KB3 N-KB3
2. P-K3 P-B4
4. P-QN5

White plays this unusual line to mix Black up, which it did. The continuation in M.C. 0. is 4...P-K3; 5.B-N2, N-B3; 6.B-Q3, B-Q3; 7.O-O, O-O;

- 4... N-Q2
5.B-N2 Q-B2
6.QN-Q2 P-KN3
7.P-B4 B-N2
8.PxBP QxP
Not 8...NxB; 9.PxP

9. PxP QxP
10.B-B4 Q-QR4 (a)

All these Queen moves leaves Black's development backward.

- 11.O-O O-O
12.P-K4 P-K3 ?

Here either 12...P-K4 or simplifying by N-K1 would have been better.

- 13.Q-K2 R-Q1
14.P-QR3 Q-QB4
15.P-K5

Black foolishly permitted this thrust, thinking it an advantage to Block off White's QB, not seeing what was coming.

- 15... N-Q4
16.N-K4 Q-K2
17.KR-K1 N (2)-N5 ?

Here Black starts floundering around like a novice, unable to find a good plan for swapping off the White Knight coming to Q6. I thought P-B3 would leave the KP weak, and that P-B1 with a view to

BxN later would leave White's Bishop too powerful on the long diagonal, Black is all tied up in knots, and I felt here I had a lost game.

- 18.N-Q6 N-Q2
19.QR-Q1 N (4)-N5
Two valuable tempi wasted!
20.B-Q4 NxB
21.NxN P-QN5
22.N-Q6 R-N1
23.R-QB1 B-N2
24.NxB (b)

A great relief to Black as this Knight had been a thorn in my flesh. I had expected 24.R-B7 and had planned 24...BxN; 25.QxB, NxB; 26.RxQ, Nxxch; 27.PxN, BxB. Or if 25.PxB, Q-N4ch with a complicated position and the possibility of simplifying exchanges.

- 24... RxN
25.Q-K4

Expecting R(2)-N1; 26.R-B7 or R(1)-N1; 26.R-B8ch

- 25... N-B4
26.BxN PxB
27.Q-QB4 B-B1
28.KR-Q1 R (1)-N1
29.R-Q3 Q-B2
30.P-QN4 R-B1
31.P-N5 Q-R4
32.P-QR4 P-QR3
33.R-QN1

If 33.PxP, R-N5 regains P with advantage.

- 33... PxP
34.PxP R (1)-N1
35.R (3)-N5 R-Q2

36.P-N3	R(1)-Q1	45.Q-KB4	Q-N2ch
37.P-N6	R-N2	46.Q-K4	Q-D2
38.R-N5	Q-R3	47.N-B3	B-N2
39.K-N2 ? (c)		48.Q-R8ch	B-B1
Why not simply Q-N3		49.Q-K4	P-B5
defending the pawn?.		50.N-Q4	B-K2
			Pointless.

39... RXP
 40.N-N5 RxR
 41.RxR R-N1

Here Black had illusion of winning a piece, but

51.K-B1 B-R6 ? ?
 A blunder losing the passed pawn and all hope of winning.

42.Q-B4 !
 If Q-KR4 instead, Q-R1ch is the only way for Black to save his Rook.

52.N-N5 (e)
 Here White graciously offered a draw without waiting to see if Black might go from bad to worse with

42... R-N2
 43.RxR QxR ch
 44.Q-K4 Q-N6 (d)

52...Q-B4 ??; 53.Q-R8c h wins.
 DRAWN

Added notes are by George Koltanowski.

a) 10...Q-QR4.

I would prefer here Q-KR4

b) 24.NxB

I had planned on R-B7 and after BxN;25.QxB;NXP;26.BxN,QxR;27.N-K8 and it all looked good until I spied 27.N-K,QxB ! ;28.RxQ,BxR and I lose my Knight too as I cannot play 29.N-B6ch,BxN;30.QxB, R-Q8 mate. And three pieces (two Rooks and a Bishop) would have been just a bit too much. That's why I simplified matters.

c) 39.K-N2 ?

True Q-N3 would have been better so would 39.Q-B4 or Q-K4. White had hoped for 39.RxBP, but then follows Q-R6 attacking both the Rook and the Knight. The more I "looked" into the position the less I found something forceful. Better was 39.N-N5,RXP; 40.Q-KB4 wins or 39...R-Q5;(best) 40.Q-B2,P-R3;41.N-K4 gives White a good game.

d) 44...Q-N6

44...Q-Q4 gives Black good winning chances. If thereagainst 44...QxQch;45.NxQ,P-B5;46.K-B1,B-N5;47.K-K2,P-B6;48.K-Q3 with a easy draw. If 47...K-B1;48.K-K3,B-K8;49.P-B4 is also a draw. If 47...B-R4;48.N-Q6,P-B6;49.K-Q3,B-N3; (if 49...B-B2;50.N-B4 draws) 50.N-K4,P-B7;51.KxP,B-Q5;52.P-B4,B-N8;53.P-R3 draws.

e). Drawn. I should have waited with the draw. Black's best move is 52...Q-R4;53.QxBP after which the game should be drawn.

FROM MY MAIL BAG.

".....I have never seen Simultaneous cross the board. All the blind playing I have seen was when I fall into a Trap a blind man could see!"

Lee Barry, Briscoe, Texas.

SANTA ROSA GOSSIP.

The Santa Rosa Chess Club drove over with ten men to play the San Rafael Chess Club. The match was to be held at the library of the Episcopalian Church. Vanderkwast was driving the first car and when he drove into the city he took them to the first church he encountered. They all trooped out and Vanderkwast led the way to the library. They couldn't find it so they followed Van as he started knocking on the door leading to the home of the resident preacher who opened the door. They asked "Is this the place where they play Chess?" The Preacher cocked his head "Did you say Chess?" he asked in astonishment. "Why isn't this the Episcopalian Church?" asked Van, whereupon the Preacher started to laugh and said "This is a Catholic Church" and he pointed out the directions to the other church and finished by saying "...and tell the Reverend that I can't play chess but am always ready for a good game of poker!"

Vanderkwast looked a bit down in the mouth to-day.

"What's the matter, Van?" I asked him
"Oh, the wife is kicking again, She says when it was golf I stayed out all day. Now that it's chess I stay out all night. It's really hard to please wives!"

Vanderkwast told his wife that from now on he was going to the chess lessons each Sunday afternoon.

"Gee whiz," was her reply "that means I will only see you on Saturday nights!"

The Santa Rosa Chess Club meets Friday at 8 p.m. at the Central Fire House.

Sec: John Boschen, 404 Brown St. S.R. Telephone: 1749-R.

Petaluma Chess Club meets Friday nights.

Sec: Harold T. Jaroski, Palm Ave. Petaluma. Tel: Pet. 95F22.

SANTA ROSA CHESS FESTIVAL

By Tom Shoemaker

President Santa Rosa Chess Club.

The Redwood Empire Chess League was officially introduced to the citizens and visitors of the north bay counties on Friday night, September 26, when George Koltanowski gave an outstanding exhibition of eight simultaneous blindfold games. The event took place in the Native Sons' Hall at Santa Rosa and was hailed by players and spectators alike as the greatest event in chess to be held in this area.

Mr. Koltanowski performed in his usual brilliant manner, interspersed with light banter while playing, to the delight of players and onlookers. His uncanny ability to play master chess without sight of the board is a constant source of amazement. Playing conditions were probably as difficult as any experienced by a master in the most gruelling tournament play. Teams were formed on each board and allowed to consult. Several boards had as many as eight players in consultation.

The evening was opened with a fine address by Dr. Harold Tower of Petaluma, President of the Redwood Empire Chess League who also performed the duty of teller for the evening. Ukiah was represented by a father and son team, Lloyd and Bill Bittenbender. San Rafael was captained by Bob Allison; Vallejo Gunnar Rasmusson and Petaluma by Harold Jaroske. The remaining four boards were played by members of the Santa Rosa Chess Club, who were hosts for the event. Koltanowski wound up without a single loss, five wins and three draws. Total playing time 4 hours and 20 minutes. Vallejo; San Rafael and Petaluma were the teams that played to a draw.

This exhibition was one of the outstanding events of Santa Rosa's Open House Week sponsored by the citizens and merchants of the community to publicize the merchandise, products and talents of the community. Special events, commercial displays, art exhibits, national broadcasts, movie preview, fashion show, symphony and choral concerts were a part of the week's program. The blindfold chess exhibition was a feature event on Friday. Newspapers, radio and Chamber of Commerce all contributed to the publicity and success of the program, which, incidentally, brought eight new members into the Santa Rosa Chess Club.

A dinner meeting was held prior to the exhibition and final plans were made for League play. Those attending the dinner were John Boschen, Alan Kelly, Walter Sherman, Gunnar Rasmusson, Tom Shoemaker, Dr. Harold Tower, George Koltanowski, Frank Schneider, Bill Bittenbender, Lloyd Bittenbender and John Vanderkwaast. Credit was also given wives of some of the members for assisting in the details that made the evening go smoothly.

REDWOOD EMPIRE CHESS LEAGUE.

By Alan Kelly

Tournament Director Santa Rosa Chess Club.

For years clubs in the Redwood Empire off and on have played each other but never on a competitive basis. Usually when a club lost badly it hid its head in shame and was not heard of again for many a year.

(I feel sure the same trouble existed in many other parts of our State).

Since 1946 the Santa Rosa Chess Club has come into existence and its main strength has been its desire to play other clubs. We seldom won but we were always ready to take on other clubs regardless of the result. We learned to know many other chess players and thus made many new friends. We thrived on those inter-club matches!

In April the Redwood Empire Chess league was officially formed. The following are its officers:

President: Dr. Harold W. Tower--Petaluma.

Vice-President: Alan Atkins--San Rafael.

Secretary-Treasurer: Tom Shoemaker--Santa Rosa.

This coming season the Redwood Empire Chess League is starting on its first official Inter-Club Championship. A beautiful cup has been donated for the champions by Caspar Wood, of Caspar, California

So far five clubs have entered. As we progress we hope to have ten to twelve clubs competing in this championship.

Here is the tentative schedule for the first championship: (If changes occur the club secretaries will be notified immediately)

OCTOBER 10, 1947 : JANUARY 9th, 1948. :

At Vallejo: Santa Rosa At Santa Rosa: San Rafael

At Petaluma: San Rafael At Petaluma: Ukiah

Ukiah Open. Vallejo Open.

NOVEMBER 14, 1947 : February 10, 1948. :

At Santa Rosa: Petaluma At San Rafael: Ukiah

At Ukiah: Vallejo February 13, 1948. :

San Rafael Open. At Vallejo: Petaluma

DECEMBER 9, 1947 : 12th. Santa Rosa Open.

At Ukiah: Santa Rosa

DECEMBER 9th, 1947.

At San Rafael: Vallejo

Petaluma Open.

The home team secretary must send full results to the secretary of the League within forty-eight hours and, if possible, enclose scores of games.

Here are important facts to know:

Secretary Redwood Empire Chess League:

Tom Shoemaker, 512 Macklyn Ave, Santa Rosa. Tel. 3705 M.

San Rafael C.C. meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Episcopal Church, Sec: Alan Atkins, Bayside Acres, S.R.

Ukiah C.C. meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. State Hospital.

Sec: Lloyd Bittenbender, 901 South Highway. Phone: Ukiah 261M

Vallejo Chess Club meets Friday at 8 p.m. Sec: Gunnar Rasmussen, 66 Van Buren Ave. Vallejo.

SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB NEWS

By: Harry G. Shaw

After a somewhat dormant period, interest in chess in San Jose has been enlivened. The San Jose Club meets every Tuesday in the Y.M.C.A. and now has underway, a sort of round robin tournament, wherein every player plays two games with every other player, alternating white and black and scoring a point for each game won. This is being done to determine the individual abilities and a more or less official local champion.

The officers of the San Jose Club are William T. Adams, President, and Harry G. Shaw, Secretary, 1227 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose 10, California.

The San Jose Club and the Palo Alto Club have held two interclub matches and by an odd circumstance, the number of players representing their respective clubs has been 13 boards and in both matches, the San Jose Club scored 15½ points to Palo Alto's 10½ - the San Jose Club winning most of their points through the playing of their first 5 boards.

Coming events are the anticipated visits of Newell Banks, former Checker Champion, in a simultaneous exhibition of Checkers and Chess and the definite engagement of Weaver W. Adams on October 25th, Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock, in a combination of match play against the four best local players and a lecture explaining the reasons for his moves.

Arrangements are being made for interclub matches with the Salinas Club and the Modesto Club. We have heard a lot of nice things about the "weedpushers" in these two clubs and we are looking forward to a better acquaintance.

The Los Feliz Chess Club meets at the Griffith Park Playground, 3401 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles.

The Fresno Chess Club meets each Monday at Hart's Cafeteria. President is Mr. C. Wesley Bird, 617 Pine Avenue, Fresno. Visitors welcome.

Information on the Salinas Chess Club can be secured through Mr. George B. Oakes, 1218 Bellehaven Street, Salinas.

Play chess daily at the Mechanics' Institute, Post Street, San Francisco.

RIVERSIDE CHESS CLUB NEWS

By: Bernard Madrid

Due to the intense heat we have had in Riverside this summer, the activities at the Riverside Chess Club have fallen off considerably, but the Koltanowski Exhibition, which we are having this winter, and a city tournament which is also in project, should prove the necessary stimulant to revive the interest among local chess fans. Last year the Koltanowski Exhibition brought in several new members and we will undoubtedly get more this year.

Considering the size of the town, our chess club has done fairly well. Our team did mighty well in matches with stronger clubs. We defeated the Orange Chess Club and South Gate Chess Club and in our last match we lost by one point to a strong Long Beach team. Our club has become quite popular in Riverside. Last winter we gave chess lessons to disabled sailors at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Corona; also at the Riverside Recreation Center.

One of our members, Mr. S. M. Phillips, is a school teacher at nearby Perris and he has organized a chess club composed entirely of young boys all under 15. It is indeed a gratifying sight to an ardent chess lover to see these youngsters play chess so earnestly, and so well!

Another reason we are proud of our club is that we have among us a player of first class caliber. He is our club president and our number one player, Mr. C. M. Fuglie. Mr. Fuglie has just completed the 1944 Postal Tournament in Chess Review with sixteen wins and no losses! He is tied with Mr. M. Palmer for first place. His total score for three years of correspondence play is 50 wins, 2 draws, and 2 losses. One of his games was published in Chess Review (April, 1946, Page 40).

We shall publish other games of his in this column in future editions.

The Riverside Chess Club is meeting temporarily on Tuesday evenings, 7:30, at the Y.M.C.A. Bldg. Club Secretary: Bernard Madrid, Telephone 2525-W.

The Y Chess Club, Central Branch Y.M.C.A., 220 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, meets every Thursday night from 7:30 on. Everyone is cordially invited to the exhibition to be given by Weaver W. Adams on Thursday, October 23, 1947.

MODESTO CHESS CLUB

By: Herb Betker

After a number of years of inactivity due to the war, the Modesto Club was reorganized in March, 1946, and is now in its second year.

The impetus for reorganizing the Club was provided late in the war when a small group of Modesto area chess players started to play chess with the Veterans in Hammond General Hospital near Modesto. When Hammond closed late in 1945, the group decided to form a club. They met early in 1946 and officers were elected and a constitution was adopted. The first officers were: President, Herb Paul; Vice President, Herb Betker; Secretary-Treasurer, Lee Kerfoot; and Special Events Chairman, Rev. D. G. Weston.

Since the Club's reorganization, we have had eight simultaneous exhibitions; three with Koltanowski; two each with Herman Steiner and Al Horowitz and one with Weaver Adams. During the winter of 1946 and 1947, the Club had a number of team matches. We played Salinas twice, Pittsburg and Fresno once each and Sacramento twice. The Club also took part in a group match against the Mechanics Institute in San Francisco. This fall and winter we hope to play matches against Fresno, Salinas, San Jose, Sacramento and Madera and will gladly consider challenges for home and home matches against other clubs within three hours' driving time of Modesto.

We have just concluded an exhibition with George Koltanowski which was well received by the members. George also spoke and gave the Knight's Tour at the local Kiwanis Club and the Exchange Club, and they are still talking about his mystifying performance of remembering names, addresses, telephone numbers and license numbers placed on the squares and calling them off in turn as he did the Knight's Tour blindfolded.

Present officers of the Club are as follows:

President	Herb Betker P. O. Box 591 Riverbank, California
Vice President	Herb Paul
Second Vice Pres.	Lawrence Davis
Secretary-Treasurer	Lee Kerfoot
Special Events Chairman	Rev. D. Weston
Tournament Director	C. J. Smith

The Palo Alto Chess Club meets every Monday at 8 P. M. at the Community Center.

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Material for the next issue should be sent in by December 15 to:
George Koltanowski, P. O. Box 682, Santa Rosa, California

Here is a recent game played by Herb Betker.

White: N.N. Black: Herb Betker Grunfeld Defense

1. P-Q4 N-KB3
2. P-QB4 P-KN3
3. N-QB3 P-Q4
4. B-B4 B-N2
5. P-K3 Castles
6. Q-N3 PXP
P-K3 can also be played
7. KBXP QN-Q2
8. N-B3 N-N3
9. B-K2 B-K3
10. Q-E2 KN-Q4
11. B-N3

Not sufficiently aggressive the book move of B-K5 is better.

- 11... R-B1
12. P-KR4

Now this is overly aggressive, Black position is sound and with the B at N3 White doesn't have sufficient control of the center.

- 12... P-QB4
13. N-KN5 ?

Better might have been PXP but Black still would have a strong edge.

- 13... PXP
14. PXP NxN
15. PxN BxP!
16. K-B1 RxP
17. Q-K4 RxB
18. PXR ExR
19. P-R5 Q-Q4
20. Q-KR4 Q-B5ch
21. Resigns

Notes by Herb Betker.

SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZES CHESS CLUB

At a meeting, Edward H unter was elected President; Edward Sullivan Vice President, and Francis McFarland, Secretary-Treasurer. Appointed to draw up a constitution were: Edward Baumgartner, Chairman, Charles Moore and Sullivan.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL CLUB!!

For one dollar a year you can become a member of the U. S. Chess Federation.

READ THE WEEKLY CHESS COLUMN IN THE PRESS DEMOCRAT OF SANTA ROSA EACH SUNDAY. A CHESS BOOK IS GIVEN AWAY EACH WEEK!