

# CalChess REPORT

• March 1991 •

## WHAT IS "CalChess" REPORT?

Some of you have wondered what this little newsletter is, and why it finds its way into your mailbox. Basically, it is a channel of communication to keep important members of the Northern California chess community informed about current chess-related events. It appears irregularly every month or two, whenever there is enough information to fill a few pages. The hope is that more information and improved communication are two of the ways the state organization can benefit local organizers and chessplayers.

The mailing list grows incrementally, and currently has a circulation of about fifty chess organizers, voting members, columnists, club and tournament directors, **CalChess** officers, and interested parties.

## 27TH ANNUAL LERA PENINSULA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by the LERA Club, Sunnyvale, March 2-3, 1991, this traditional event attracted an impressive 176 players to compete in six sections. The tournament was directed by Jim Hurt and Ted Yudacufski.

The Open Section was won by the top-rated entrant, John Donaldson (2519) of Seattle, and Renard Anderson (2370) of Aptos, with 3.5. Tied for 3-5 place with 3 points were Vladimir Strugatsky (2498) of Mountain View, Greg Kotlyar (2480) of Santa Clara, and Filipp Frenkel (2284) of Marina.

The Expert winner was Matvey Temkin (2156) of San Francisco, 4 points, followed by Donald Lieberman (1960) of Santa Clara, with 3.5, and Mike Janniro (2177), Tracy; Edward Syrett (2139), Menlo Park; Edmund Jimenez (2103), Berkeley; and Rex De Asis (1914), San Bruno.

The "A" Section fell to Roderic McCaulley (1946) of Palo Alto, 4-0. Gustavo Martius (1990) and Adnan Bicaksiz (1812), both of Monterey, had 3.5.

The "B" Section was topped by a gang of five, all with 3.5: Roberto Calonia (1799), Milpitas; William Hepner (1684), Atherton; Patrick Howlett (1683), San Jose; John D. Mini (1654), Redding; and Robert Levinson (1499), Santa Cruz.

Laurels in the "C" Section were awarded to Clark Sakai (1534), of Morgan Hill, 4-0, followed by Bruce G. Bell, 1597, of Oakland, and Manuel E. Mangrobang (1540) of San Jose with 3.5.

The "D-UNR" winner was Henry C. Robles (UNR) of Daly City, 4-0, followed by Micah Fisher-

Kirshner (1322) of Fremont; James Castillo (1157) of San Jose; Ernesto Bagamaspad (UNR) of Santa Clara; and Mario Guitierrez (UNR) of Union City, with 3.

One of the most popular features of the LERA tournaments is the "Brilliancy" competition, awarding prizes in each section for the most interesting game, judged and selected by Richard Shorman. Winners this time were Vladimir Strugatsky (Open); Rahim Gran of Hayward (Expert); Owen Overton of Sunnyvale (A); Alfred Hansen of Hillsborough (B); and John Connell of Livermore (C).

The tournament produced thirty-six new members for **CalChess**.

## TORRE WINS PAN-PACIFIC

The second PanPacific International Grandmaster Tournament has ended in San Francisco with the stunning victory of GM Eugenio Torre, champion of the Philippines, with 8/11. Clear second went to new American GM Patrick Wolfe, 7.

Tied for 3-6 with six points were GM Mikhail Tal, Australian GM Ian Rodgers, GM Joel Benjamin, and GM Larry Christiansen. GM John Fedorowicz finished with 5.5. Tied with five were GM Utut Adianto, GM Lubomir Ftacnik, and GM Zsuzsa Polgar. IM John Grefe finished with 3.5, and GM Walter Browne had 3.

The tournament was ably directed by GM George Koltanowski, assisted by Max Wilkerson and Alan Benson. Area players owe their gratitude to Neil Falconer, Bob Burger, and the Mechanics' Institute for bringing the strongest grandmaster tournament held in the United States this year to San Francisco.

The tournament produced many fine games, and bulletin sets containing all the games are available from the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room, 4th floor, 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA, 94104 (or call 415-421-2258).

One of the highlights of the festivities was a five-minute tournament on Friday, March 15, that included GM Mikhail Tal, GM Walter Browne, GMs Adianto and Balinas, and more than thirty others, including many local masters. The finalists included Tal, Browne, and local masters Paul Whitehead and Richard Lobo, both of whom performed extremely well in such a strong field. The ultimate winner was Walter Browne. The event was sponsored by the World Blitz Chess Association and was directed by Max Wilkerson.

## 1991 USCF ELECTIONS

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If you are listed as a voting member in the Yearbook (4/91) issue of Chess Life, you have already received your first campaign mailing from member-at-large candidate Jerry Hanken—or have you? According to Hanken, the recent mailing, with three of his old campaign flyers, was actually mailed by an unauthorized party, in an apparent attempt to embarrass him with old positions on old issues. The mailing contained actual Hanken campaign letters with the dates deleted, two from his 1987 campaign for vice-president (he lost to Harry Sabine) and "He's baaack!," distributed by Jerry at the 1990 U.S. Open in Jacksonville, FL.

The author of this "dirty trick," who at this point remains anonymous, sent the bogus mailing to all voting members in the country, using a Los Angeles postmark and no return address, in an obvious attempt to mislead recipients.

Hanken plans to get his own message out with his first mailing in a few days. In addition to running for the Policy Board again—he has already served three terms, 1979-1987—Jerry is organizing the U.S. Open in Los Angeles this year and hosting the USCF annual meeting. The hottest rumor of 1991? According to Jerry, USCF President Max Dlugy called to ask that he set aside "a few rooms" for World Champion Garry Kasparov.

Hanken's only declared opponent this year so far—the filing deadline of April 1 is still a couple of weeks away, so additional filings are still possible—is Washington, D.C., lawyer/organizer David Mahler, who disavows any knowledge of the prank. The member-at-large seat of San Diego's David Saponara is the only USCF Policy Board seat up for election this year.

### WALNUT CREEK QUADS MOVE TO BERKELEY

The popular Walnut Creek Quads, hosted by Pascal Baudry at the Walnut Creek Jewish Community Center for the past two years, have moved to Berkeley, where they should increase their popularity. Dr. Baudry has teamed with Peter Yu to rename them the "Berkeley Quads," and move them to the MLK Student Union building, a familiar site to local tournament players.

Yu and Baudry are aiming at Bill Wall's local record (set February 23 in Palo Alto) of drawing sixty players for a quad.

The first event will be on Saturday, April 20, and the next on Saturday, May 18. Registration is on-site only, 10:30-10:50 a.m. Time control is 30/30, SD 30, EF: \$12 (CalChess members: \$10; U14: \$5).

For more information, contact Peter Yu (415-843-1632) or Dr. Baudry (415-238-3000).

### SCHOLASTIC UPDATE

Scholastic chess is alive and well in Northern California! Over the March 9-10 weekend, the Northern California Scholastic Tournament, hosted by Ray Orwig at St. Marks School in San Rafael, drew over 200 up-and-coming secondary students from around the Northern California area. Fighting off challenges from a couple of recent arrivals from Russia, Alan Stein of Los Altos came out on top and earned the right to represent Northern California in the Denker Tournament of Champions.

On the same weekend, in Redwood City, the indefatigable Wilfred Goodwin (assisted by Scott Wilson and Alfred Hansen) held the San Mateo Scholastic Championship, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of youngsters to compete in a variety of chess events, including a simultaneous exhibition by USCF RVP and Top-50 Woman Carolyn Withgitt, a speed tournament, and various other chess entertainments that were thoroughly enjoyed by the kids.

Although both events were successful, the organizers have vowed to hold their tourneys on different weekends next year, so all the kids can play in both!

### FIVE-MINUTE CIRCUIT

One of the organizational goals this year is to provide five-minute players with opportunities to play in regular organized events. Every club player knows how popular five-minute chess has become, and regular tournaments should feed on this popularity.

Eventually, four (or more) different clubs will hold one tournament a month, each on a different week, so that there would be one tournament every week somewhere in the Bay Area. The Walnut Creek club, with Larry Lehman (415-946-1545), has already established a regular event on the last Tuesday of each month. The next one will be March 26 at the Walnut Creek Civic Center, Civic at Broadway.

The first Palo Alto Five-Minute Championship will be held on Tuesday, April 16, at Mitchell Park Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, in Palo Alto. Director Bill Wall (415-964-3667) will hold registration at 7 p.m. and start the clocks at 7:30.

The Mechanics' Institute regularly holds speed events, and their open-daily format gives them great flexibility in scheduling a variety of events.

Several other clubs have already expressed an interest in holding blitz tournaments.

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They are a snap to direct, because they are round-robins (no pairings hassles), they attract new players to the club, they are a popular change-of-pace from regular tournaments, and they raise a few bucks for overhead. If you would like to hold a blitz tournament at your club, call me (Tom Dorsch, 481-8580) and I will help you set it up. We can do a flyer, generate publicity, provide a director, and get your first event off the ground. Chessplayers love five-minute chess!

All Five-Minute Tournaments are rated by the World Blitz Chess Association, under an agreement with the USCF that the USCF rating system will only be used for tournament games at longer time controls.

### "NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIPS" MOVE TO NEW SITE

John Barnard has recently announced that a scheduling conflict with a bridge tournament has made it impossible to hold his Labor Day tournament at the Koly Club in Cupertino, as originally planned. Arrangements are now being worked out to hold the event at Tressider Student Union at Stanford University in Palo Alto.

### ZEN and THE ART OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Arguably the most valuable tool available to tournament directors is the USCF Clearinghouse system. A separate roster of all scheduled tournaments for succeeding months is maintained in each region, allowing directors to schedule events with a minimum of overlap and disruption, thereby maximizing everyone's success and providing a method for avoiding conflicts that rob organizers of money and players of opportunities to play.

The individual who undertakes this invaluable but thankless task in our area is Alan Glasscoe, Director of the Berkeley Chess Club (415-652-5324). (Robert Raingruber runs the Central Valley Clearinghouse, 209-527-4465.)

Before scheduling a tournament, reserving a site, printing flyers, hiring a director, or contemplating profits, the first step should be to contact Mr. Glasscoe to ascertain the availability of the date—someone in our area may already be planning a major event for that weekend, and you will not only hurt yourself but a fellow organizer and chessplayers. (And the last step, right after you final-form the rating report to the USCF, is to send it to Peter Yu, Editor, for reporting in the *California Chess Journal*.)

It is impossible to eliminate conflicts entirely, because it is impossible to make sure that everyone in the state is fully informed and fully coordi-

nated with everyone else. But in the seven months since I have been President of the state federation, I have been very impressed with the spirit of cooperation displayed by Northern California directors and organizers (all of whom, by the way, are now offering **CalChess** discounts at tournaments scheduled after our start-up on February 1). The conflicts that have occurred have invariably been isolated incidents, and there have been a number of occasions when potential conflicts have been resolved amicably, through the good offices of Alan Glasscoe and the mutual respect of the organizers involved. With the decline in two-day tournaments and the proliferation of one-day quads, synchronized scheduling and director-to-director cooperation become even more important.

The most current USCF Northern California Clearinghouse tournament calendar, showing all tournament activity scheduled through 1/92, courtesy of Mr. Glasscoe, is reproduced on the last page of this newsletter.

### NEXT CalChess MEETING

The next **CalChess** meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10, at the U.C. Berkeley Club, at 7:30. The club meets in the MLK Student Union building on Bancroft at Telegraph, the building in which the People's Tournament. Watch for posted signs to find the right floor and room number—the club usually meets on the 4th floor, but sometimes moves to another room or floor in case of scheduling conflicts.

We will be discussing ways to increase **CalChess** membership, and the recent USCF proposal to modify the State Affiliate Support Program.

**TOM DORSCH**  
President, **CalChess**  
P.O. Box 3294  
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MARCH 1991

23 Sa SF/Lowell HS (Sectional) PD  
 26 Tu Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz) CL

APRIL 1991

9 W CalChess meeting:  
 UC Berkeley, 7:30 PM  
 13 Sa San Rafael (Scholastic Quads) RO  
 20 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 27-28 SaSu Santa Clara (U.1800) PH  
 28 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 30 Tu Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz) CL

MAY 1991

4- 5 SaSu Santa Clara (O.1800) PH  
 12 Su Palo Alto (Quads) BW  
 18 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 19 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 25-27 Sa-M Sunnyvale/LERA (Class) JH  
 28 Tu Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz) CL

JUNE 1991

1- 2 SaSu San Rafael: Calif. Women's RO  
 Open Champ.  
 8- 9 SaSu San Jose (Scholastic) FS  
 16 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 22-23 SaSu UC Berkeley (Class) PY  
 25 Tu Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz) CL  
 28-30 F-Su SF/Mechanics: Stamer (Open) MW  
 29 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY

JULY 1991

20 Sa Palo Alto (Quads) BW  
 21 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 27 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 28-(9) LA: U.S. Open  
 30 Tu Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz) CL  
 (and last Tu of each month)

AUGUST 1991

TBC Sunnyvale/LERA (Class) JH  
 18 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 24 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 31-(2) Sa-M Palo Alto: No. Cal. State JB  
 Champ. & Open (TBC)

SEPTEMBER 1991

14 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 15 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 27-29 F-Su SF: U.S. Class Champ. BG

OCTOBER 1991

12 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 17 Th Reno (WBCA Blitz) JW  
 18-20 F-Su Reno: Western States Open JW  
 (Class)  
 20 Su Richmond (Quads) JE

CALENDAR NOTES:

Action Chess = Rapid Chess = Game/30  
 Blitz Chess = 5 Minute Chess

NOVEMBER 1991

2- 3 SaSu Livermore CP  
 9 Sa Palo Alto (Quads) BW  
 16 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 17 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 23 Sa SF/Lowell HS (Sectional) PD  
 29-(1) F-Su Sunnyvale/LERA (Class) JH

DECEMBER 1991

7- 8 SaSu San Jose City College FS  
 14 Sa UC Berkeley (Quads) PY  
 15 Su Richmond (Quads) JE  
 21 Sa SF/Lowell HS (Sectional) PD

JANUARY 1992

25 Sa SF/Lowell HS (Sectional) PD

TOURNAMENT ORGANIZERS

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Organizers: please check with me before  
 you schedule and advertise tournaments  
 to minimize conflicts.

TBC = to be confirmed