

CalChess Report

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CalChess: YEAR TWO

CalChess plans to sponsor and promote two new chess festivals per year, one in September on Labor Day, another in January on MLK birthday. These two chess festivals will become the premier chess events in Northern California, enlisting the support of the area's leading organizers, directors, and players. The "festival" format allows for far more than just a weekend tournament; it permits collateral events that appeal to all segments of the chess community. **CalChess** will sanction state championships at both events. Because **CalChess** is non-profit, it provides maximum value—lower entry fees, better prizes—to our players. Profits from the main event are recycled to the chess community, and the prize fund for collateral attractions, like the Junior Invitational State Championship and Games of Berkeley Invitational State Championship, is completely funded by private and corporate donations.

The Labor Day Chess Festival

On Labor Day, in addition to a three-day six-round Open State Championship, we will offer our Open and Closed Five-Minute Championships, under the auspices of World Blitz Chess, "Beat-the-Master" simul, and **CalChess'** Junior Invitational Championship, an eight-player round-robin event among the area's best eight juniors. GM George Koltanowski, the Dean of American Chess, has consented to appear to perform his famous lecture and show.

Beginning in 1993, Labor Day will also host the Tournament of Champions, a round-robin among the winners of a series of qualifying tournaments, the first of which is the Silicon Valley Championship, in Santa Clara, October 17-18, 1992. The winners of the qualifiers will compete for over \$1000 in prizes.

MLK Birthday Chess Festival and

Games of Berkeley State Championship

On MLK Birthday, January 15-18, 1993, a three-day six-round main tournament will be combined with a blitz event, an action tournament, a scholastic tournament, and other events that will be announced in coming weeks.

The 1993 Games of Berkeley State Championship will be held concurrently with the MLK Chess Festival. Northern California's leading purveyor of chess books and equipment, Games of Berkeley, has agreed to sponsor an eight-player invitational that should be the strongest state championship ever held in this state, and the first one held since 1986. The event will be a renewal of the state championship series, on a higher level, with better prizes, and with more participation by Northern California's chess elite.

CalChess BUSINESS MEETINGS

Regular meetings of **CalChess** were held in Fremont in April and in Palo Alto in June. Major business transacted was to award \$100 to Peter Dahl to subsidize Lowell High School at the Nationals in Kentucky (where they finished a respectable fourth in the country), \$200 to defray the expenses of Adrian Keatinge-Clay at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in Detroit in August, and \$15 per month was allocated to pay the cost of preparing and mailing out meeting invitations. There was discussion of several issues related to chess in Northern California.

CLEARINGHOUSE CONSOLIDATION

For years, Northern California has had two Clearinghouse Coordinators, one for three metro areas in the Central Valley (Visalia, Fresno, Stockton), and one for the rest of Northern California (in chess parlance, everything north of Bakersfield in the Valley and San Luis Obispo on the Coast).

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The original reason for the split Clearinghouse is lost in the mists of time. Recently, Central California's long-time Clearinghouse Coordinator, Robert Raingruber, President of the Modesto Club, agreed to an experiment in which Jim Eade, who succeeded Alan Glasscoe as Clearinghouse Coordinator for the rest of the state, will assume responsibility for the entire range of Northern California.

This consolidation should serve the best interests of everyone. Cooperation will make it possible for Jim Eade to take care of everyone. We have a large state, both in distances and in members, but one CC, with the drive and resources to coordinate between all those working to improve chess, can fulfill the function in a way that will improve chess in Northern California for everyone, including players in the Central Valley, in Sacramento, and in the large urban centers around SF Bay.

NEXT MEETING

The **CalChess** Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Labor Day Chess Festival, at the Villa Quality Hotel in San Mateo, 4000 El Camino Real. Take the Hillsdale Blvd exit west from the Bayshore (Hwy 101) to El Camino Real, turn left and go four blocks. The Villa Quality Hotel is on your right. The meeting will be Sunday, September 6, at 3:30 p.m., between rounds.

DEATH OF TAL

Former World Champion Mikhail Tal of Latvia, World Champion 1960-1, died in Moscow in June. Tal, 55, was on his way to the airport to play first board for the Latvian team in the Olympics, in Manila, the Philippines, when he was stricken. He died a few days later of kidney failure.

One of the great attacking geniuses of chess, Tal captured the imagination of the world with his upset of the great Russian champion Botvinnik in their 1960 match.

CLUB DIRECTORS: PLEASE POST THE ENCLOSED FLYERS AT YOUR CLUB !

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Unfortunately, injuries suffered in a car crash led to a series of illnesses that often sapped his strength.

SHORT SHOTS

Bill Goichberg, in partnership with **CalChess**, has submitted a bid for a US Open at the Concord Hilton in Concord, CA for 1995. The principal competition is a bid from Tucson AZ. A decision will be made by the USCF Executive Director Al Lawrence in early August and announced at the US Open in Dearborn, Michigan.....Software designed by Julio Kaplan's Heuristic Software of Berkeley, California (one of the sponsors of our Labor Day Chess Festival, Sept 4-7), just scored 3 points in 5 rounds of action chess (G/30), defeating GMs Dlugy, Fedorowicz, and Wolfe at the New York Chess Festival. A great coup for their powerful new "Socrates" program! Late word from Executive Director Al Lawrence is that 1000 (!) new USCF members were signed up at the NY Chess Festival. **CalChess** and USCF plan to sponsor and promote a San Francisco Chess Festival in 1993 or 1994.....Adrian Keatinge-Clay of Vallejo will represent Northern California in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in Detroit in August.....A New York Times report July 25 states that a banker from Belgrade has pledged a \$5 million purse for a match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky to be held in Yugoslavia in September of this year. A man retired for twenty years arranges a match with a second-echelon GM, calls it a "world championship." and receives a purse twice as large as the one Kasparov will receive if he wins the real world championship against a real challenger in 1993. Fischer-Spassky II is to be played to ten wins—it could overlap the Kasparov match! Kasparov was eight-years-old when Fischer last played a serious game of chess.