

EN PASSANT  
The Voice of Chess  
for the  
East Bay

April, 1967  
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Number 8



.....Elwin Meyers  
Editors  
(Publicity Directors,  
Oakland Chess Club)  
Martin Morrison....

\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*

Walnut Creek Fourth Annual Spring Open

By ROBERT JACOB  
Treasurer, Walnut Creek Chess Club

The Walnut Creek Fourth Annual Spring Open Chess Tournament will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, at the Walnut Creek Recreation Center, Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Cash prizes as well as trophies and medallions will be offered to the winners in each of the divisions: Expert/A, B, and C. The amounts of the cash prizes are: \$15 for first place in the Expert/A division, \$10 for first place in the B division, and \$5 for first place in the C division. Trophies will be awarded to those finishing first, second, or third in each of the three divisions; medallions will be awarded to those finishing fourth and fifth. If entry receipts warrant, cash prizes will be increased.

The tournament is open to all who are or will become members of the Chess Friends of Northern California. The entry fee is \$4. (Those who are not already members of the Chess Friends must pay in addition the membership fee of \$3.) Registration will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 m. on Saturday, April 22nd. Advance entries by mail may be sent to Robert Jacob, Treasurer, Walnut Creek Chess Club; Post Office Box 391; Walnut Creek, California 90000. The following information should be sent with the entry fee when one is entering by mail: name, address, telephone number, division you will enter.

LERA "B" Clinches Peninsula League

By DAVID LYNN  
En Passant Peninsula Reporter

In the past year and a half the Lockheed Employees Recreation Association (LERA) Chess Club has been one of the most active chess clubs in Northern California, sponsoring chess tournaments, exhibitions, and matches left and right. On Thursday, March 9th, the LERA "B" team wrapped up the Peninsula League championship by defeating Burlingame  $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ , scoring seven match points out of a possible eight. Top board regulars during the season were: first board, Rodney Thompson, second board, Len Schwartz, third board, George Teslawski. The organizational task was taken on by David Betanco, team captain. The LERA "B" team now has the right to play other Chess Friends of Northern California League winners for the CFNC championship.

Congratulations, and good luck to the LERA "B" team.

Livermore Chess Club Joins East Bay Chess Association

By ELWIN MEYERS and MARTIN MORRISON  
En Passant Editors



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By an anonymous minister and DESMOND MAC CARTHY  
From The Art of Chess Playing, edited by E. Valentine Mitchell

(The following letter was written by a minister to his friend. The letter was published in a pamphlet printed at London, in 1680.)

\*

Sir,

I here send you my reasons for my disusing and declining the Game of Chess. This I premise, that I think recreation to be in itself lawful; yea, that like physick, it is to some persons, and in some cases, very needfull. Also that this Game of Chess is not only lawful, but it may be the most ingenious and delightful that ever was invented. Others seem to be calculated for children, this for men; in most others there is much of contingency, in this there is nothing but art. But though it be never so lawful and eligible in itself, yet to me it is inexpedient. And there are some particular reasons why I am fallen out with this exercise, and, I believe, shall never be reconciled to it again; and they are such as follow:

I. It is a great time-waster. How many precious hours (which can never be recalled) have I profusely spent in this game! O Chess, I will be avenged of thee for the loss of my time! It is a true saying, "that it is more necessary thriftiness to be sparing and saving of time than of money." One offered on his death-bed a world of wealth, for an inch of time; and another, with great earnestness cried out, when she lay a-dying, "Call time again! Call time again!" This I heard, says a worthy minister, and I think the sound of it will be in my ears so long as I live.

II. It hath had with me a fascinating property; I have been bewithed by it: when I have begun, I have not had the power to give over. Though a thing be never so lawful, yet I ought not to suffer myself to be brought under the power of it. I will not use it, till I find I can refuse it. Reason and religion shall order my recreation.

III. It hath not done with me, when I have done with it. It hath followed me into my study, into my pulpit; when I have been praying or preaching, I have (in my thoughts) been playing at chess; then I have had, as it were, a chess-board before my eyes; then I have been thinking how I might have obtained the stratagems of my antagonist, or make such and such motions to his disadvantage; no, I have heard of one who was playing at chess in his thoughts (as appeared by his words) when he lay a-dying.

IV. It hath caused me to break many solemn resolutions; nay, vows and promises. Sometimes I have obliged myself, in the most solemn manner, to play but so many mates at a time, or with any one person; and anon I have broken these obligations and promises, and after vows of that kind, I have made enquiry how I might evade them; and have sinfully prevaricated in that matter; and that not onep only, but often.

V. It hath wounded my conscience, and broken my peace. I have had sad reflections upon it, when I have been most serious. I find, if I were now to die, the remembrance of this game would greatly trouble me, and stare me in the face. I have read in the life of the famous John Juss, how he was greatly troubled, for his using of this game, a little before his death.

VI. My using of it hath been scandalous and offensive to others. Some godly friends (as I have understood) have been



grieved by it; and others (as I have reason to fear) have been hardened by it. Great inconveniences have arisen from the places where, and the persons with whom, I have used this game.

VII. My using of it hath occasioned much sin, as passion, strife, idle (if not lying) words, in myself and my antagonist, or both. I hath caused the neglect of many duties both to God and man.

VIII. My using of it doth evence, I have little self-denial in me. If I cannot deny myself in a foolish game, how can I think in either do or shall deny myself in greater matters? How shall I forsake all for Christ, when I cannot forsake a recreation for him?

IX. My using it is altogether needless and unnecessary to me. As it hinders my soul's health, so it doth not further my bodily health. Such is my constitution (being corpulent and phlegmatick), that, if I need any exercise, it is that which is stirring and labouring. I cannot propound any end to myself in the use of it, but the pleasing of my flesh.

X. My using of it hath occasioned (at times) some little expence of money. This is the least, and therefore I mention it last. I should think much to give that to relieve others' wants, that I have wasted this way at several times upon my own wantonness.

I conclude with the passage of Mr. Baxter, in his *Christian Direction*, p. 464. Thus he writes: "I know not one person of an hundred, or of many hundreds, that needeth any game at all, there are such variety of better exercises at hand to recreate them: and it is a sin to idle away any time, which we can better improve. I confess, my own nature was as much addicted to playfulness as most, and my judgment alloweth so much recreation as is needful to my health and labour, and no more; but for all that, I find no need of any game to recreate me. When my mind wants recreation, I have a variety of recreating books and friends, and business to do; that, when my body needeth not it, the hardest labour, that I can bear, is my best recreation: walking is, instead of games and sports, as profitable to my body, and more to my mind. If I am alone, I may improve that time in meditation; if with others, I may improve it in profitable cheerful conference. I condemn not all sports and games in others, but I find none of them all to be best for myself. And when I observe how far the temper and life of Christ, and his best servants, was from such recreations, I avoid them with the more suspicion. And I see but few but distaste it in ministers, (even shooting, bowling, and such more healthful games, to say nothing of these and such others as fit not the end of recreation), therefore, there is somewhat in it that nature itself hath some suspicion of. That student that needeth chess or cards to please his mind, I doubt hath a carnal empty mind; if God, and all his books, and all his friends, &c. cannot suffice for this; there is some disease in it that should rather be cured than pleased: and for the body, it is another kind of exercise that profits it."

\*

(Desmond MacCarthy, in his book *Experience*, provides a rebuttal to the minister's remarks.)

\*

...I recently read, with some interest, in the *Harleian Miscellany*, a small pamphlet on the Evils of Chess, this game which I prefer before all others. I did not think that the writer of this broadsheet, which appeared in London in 1680, made out a very strong case against the game. He shares the opinion of the Reverend Mr. Baxter, "that the student that needeth chess



or cards to please his mind I doubt hath a carnal empty mind." His first argument against chess is that it is a great timewaster, which does not seem to me a reason for dondemning any occupation when all day long we do many worse things with time than wasting it. The breadsheet writer was evidently a natural chessplayer, for he confesses that the game "hath had with me a fascinating property; I have been bewitched by it; when I have begun I have not had the power to give over." He appears to have been a clergyman. "It has followed me," he adds, "into my study, into my pulpit; when I have been praying or preaching I have in my thoughts been playing at chess; then I have had, as it were, a chess-board before my eyes; then I have been thinking how I might have obtained the stratagem of my antagonist, or made such and such motions to his disadvantage; nay, I have heard of one who was playing at chess in his thoughts as appeared by his words when he lay dying." (This last argument seems to me to cut both ways.) And when he goes on to add that it has caused him to break many solemn resoltuions and vows, bdcause he has scme-times promised to play with people and not kept his word, surely it is rather far-fetched to lay the blame upon the game? He reports that John Huss was an enthusiastic chess-player, but "that he was greatly troubled with the using of this game a little before his death."

Chess is the best sedentary game in the world. It is a complete distraction. Why take to drink in a world full of potent but harmless alleviations? You cannot remember your sorrows while bathing, or worry over you worries while playing chess. I has appealed to Chinamen, Persians, Indians, Icelanders (who, like the Chinese, have a chess of their own) and to Eurppeans of all times. Men as different as Tamerland, Charlemagne, Haroun al-Raschid, Canute, William the Conqueror, Rossua, Voltaire, Napeleon, Mr. Bonar Law, have all enjoyed it, and even Ferdinand and Miranda soon sat down to a game upon their enchanted island, though it was full of voices and sweet sounds.

\*\*\*PROBLEMS COLUMN: MATING MAZE\*\*\*

By RICHARD LEE

En Passant Problems Columnist

NO. 16  
 n Q . . . . .  
 . . . R . . . . p  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 P . k . . . . .  
 . . . r B K . . .  
 . P . . . . . P  
 . . . . . B . . .  
 . . . r . b . . .  
 W mates in 2

NO. 17  
 . N r . . . . .  
 . k P . . . . Q . . .  
 R . . . . B . . . . .  
 . . . . . B N . . . . .  
 . . . . . n P . . . . .  
 . . . . . m . . . . .  
 . . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . K . . . . .  
 W mates in 2

NO. 18  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . . . . . p  
 . . . . . . . . . B  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . p N . N p .  
 . . . . . P . n . P .  
 . . . . . K . k . B . . .  
 W mates in 2

Study  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . K . . . k  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . p . . . . .  
 . . . . . p . . . . .  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 . . . . . B . P  
 . . . . . . . . .  
 Whoever moves  
 wins

\*  
 White wins with: 1 K-B6, P-B5; 2 K-B5, P-KB6; 3 K-B4, P-B6; 4 KxP, P-B7; 5 B-K3.  
 Black wins with: 1...P-B5; 2 B-Q4 (2 K any, P-B6; 3 K any, P-B7), P-KB6; 3 K-B6, P-B6; 4 K-K5, P-B7; 5 B-K3, P-B7, and one pawn murt queen.  
 This example illustrates the potential that pawns separated by two files have against a lone bishop. The bishop cannot prevent the queening of a pawn, as the



pawns are too far apart and evenly spaced.

But, on the other hand, it shows that White must play to win the pawns immediately.

\*\*\*ARTICLE: AN ACCOUNT OF AN EARLY CHESS MATCH IN AMERICA\*\*\*

By D. E. KEELER  
Berkeley

Around the year 1835 a Mr. Thomas Bassford established a large and comfortable room on Ann Street, fitted up and furnished with club-men and boards. Here the foremost amateurs of New York\* assembled and played their favority game for several years. It was here that a correspondence match was arranged, shortly after the club opened, between New York and Washington, D. C. The "Federal City" was represented by John L. O'Sullivan and others; New York delegated Saroni and Logan.

Mr. Bassford, supposing that a game played across such an extent of country as intervened between Washington and New York, should be contested upon a field of proportionate size, caused to be constructed an enormous chessboard, upon whose acre-like squares two armies of huge pieces and pawns stood in fearful array. This Brobdigan chess furniture was the source of infinite merriment for some time among the frequenters of the rooms. Fiske gives another anecdote of the same person, whose knowledge of the game never reached a very high point. In addition to the chess department of his establishment, he had apartments devoted to billiards, in which he was proficient. One afternoon a distinguished chess player happened to come in, and while conversing with him, the proprietor asked, with an air of earnestness which indicated his own belief in the practicability of the scheme, "Don't you think that a plan might be discovered by which the games of chess and billiards could be combined in one?" "I have no doubt of it," was the equally grave reply, "but you see the difficulty consists in finding a cue to it."

The contested game between New York and Washington continued for some time and wasn't finished until Mr. O'Sullivan played it out--over the board--at Manhattan in 1839. Here is the game

	White	Black
	Washington	New York
	1 P-K4	P-K4
	2 N-KB3	N-QB3
	3 P-Q4	PxP
	4 B-QB4	Q-KB3 (McDonnal Defense)
	5 O-O	P-Q3
	6 P-QB3	P-Q6
	7 N-KN5	N-K4
	8 B-QN5ch	P-QB3
	9 P-KB4	N-N5
	10 B-QB4	N/5-R3
	11 P-K5	Q-Q1

\*Among whom were Charles D. Mead, James Thompson Saroni, Charles Collier, Fowler, E. Wilcox (who played blindfold), J. B Auld, Adam D. Logan, and McDonnell.



- 12 BxP/Q3 QPxP
- 13 PxB B-K2
- 14 N-K4 N-N5
- 15 B-KB4 P-KR4
- 16 Q-KB3 Q-N3ch
- 17 K-R1 B-K3
- 18 N-Q2 O-O-O
- 19 N-QB4 BxN
- 20 BxB N/1-R3
- 21 BxN NxB
- 22 B-KBP P-KR5
- 23 P-QN4 P-KN4
- 24 B-K6ch K-N1
- 25 N-B6 K-R1
- 26 P-QR4 R-Q7
- 27 P-QR5 Q-N4
- 28 Q-K3 R-K7
- 29 QxNP QxKP
- 30 Q-N7 R-KN1
- 31 QxB mates in four

Thus was chess played 132 years ago.\*

\* References: D. W. Fiske's Book of the First American Congress 1859, pp. 402-403; K. R. Agnel's Book of Chess, 1848, pp. 271. Most of this material is from the pen of D. W. Fiske-- which I have just paraphrases--however, he does not give the game itself, which was first published by Agnel.

\*\*\*EAST BAY CHESS ASSOCIATION RATINGS\*\*\*  
Coordinated by MARTIN MORRISON and ELWIN MEYERS  
En Passant Editors

EBCA ratings are computed by and supplied through each player's own chess club on the basis of games played between EBCA members and thus subsume club ratings. The ratings are computed on the USCF and CFNC standard of sixteen points, plus or minus four per centum of the difference in rating points between the players. If your rating does not seem correct or is not listed, see your club rater. The club raters are: John Smail, Berkeley YMCA Chess Club (B); ..... Concord Chess Club (C); Jerry Friedman, Hayward Chess Club (H); Raymond Ng, Oakland Chess Club (O); Livermore Chess Club (L), Partiak Barry; Peter Brown, Jr., Richmond Chess Club (R); and Saleh Mujahed, Walnut Creek Chess Club (W).

\*

The following is the monthly listing of members' EBCA ratings; each member's name is followed by his club affiliations and then his EBCA rating.

- Grandmaster ... 2600 and above
- Senior Master . 2400 to 2599
- Master ..... 2200 to 2399
- Expert ..... 2000 to 2199
- Class A ..... 1800 to 1999
- Class B ..... 1600 to 1799
- Class C ..... 1400 to 1599
- Class D ..... 1200 to 1399
- Class E ..... 1199 and below



Alexander, Charles	O	UNR	McCollough, Roy	O	1881
Amberstone, W.	R	1757	McGinley, Charles	B	1824
Anderson, Theodore	O	1661	Mecorney, John	B	1860
Armstein, P.	H	1408	Meyers, Elwin	O	1796
Ausmus, Raymond	H	1661	Miao, Ronald	B	1795
Baer, H.	B	1664	Mitchell, Robert	O	1829
Bartholemew, Ernest	H	1652	Morrison, Martin	O	1571
Beaus, J.	R	1640	Mujahed, Saleh	W	1796
Beltran, D.	B	1643	Ng, Raymond	O	1797
Boles, Robert	O	1827	Nordell, Larry	O	1724
Britton, Edward	O	1587	Notor, John	O	1560
Brown, Jr., Peter	R	1780	Ortega, David	H	1685
Burlingham, K.	R	1437	Osternig, Louis	H	1673
Campbell, D.	O	1609	Parker, William	O	1792
Bastellano, William	H	1653	Pelletier, Richard	O	1653
Conroy, Arthur	O	UNR	Quinlivan, Michael	O	2039
Cook, Fred	BO	1767	Rackett, R.	B	1437
Cook, L.	B	1541	Ramirez, Albert	O	1572
Crossland, Maurice	O	1645	Roy, G.	B	1670
Cuneo, Raymond	BO	1918	Salna, Janis	O	1970
Dennis, J.	BOR	1566	Salo, Eric	H	1653
Debin, Louis	O	UNR	Shahshahani	B	1653
Dorfman, James	O	UNR	Shepperson, A. P.	H	1825
Dos Santos, Anthony	O	1585	Shore, C.	R	1138
Drinkwater, David	H	1630	Sims	B	1827
Ehmann, Carl	H	1688	Sletner, Anton	O	1628
Eiche, Anatole	B	1686	Sloane, Margret	O	1573
Fouch, Roy	H	1525	Small, John	B	2006
Frneck, George	O	1804	Smiriga, N.	B	1511
Friedman, Jerry	HO	1575	Smith, D.	B	1709
Gaede, Allan	B	1560	Smith, Norman	C	1650
Galindez, M.	B	1640	Tesar, Bruce	O	1800
Gerrard, John	O	UNR	Thompson, J.	R	1458
Glanville, David	O	1593	Thompson, Lawrence	H	1714
Gorse, M.	R	1724	Travers, K.	R	1359
Grivanix, Kon	B	1997	Travers, R.	R	1379
Hansen, Richard	O	1860	Trenberth, Robert	BO	1906
Hayes, Gilbert	O	UNR	Tresz, Sandor	O	UNR
Hibbler, Fred	O	UNR	Trottier, Leonard	R	1630
Hough, Randall	O	1829	Tucker, Rodger	O	1599
Jacob, Robert	W	1552	Ulrich	B	1979
Lane, Lawrence	O	1540	Vadnais, L.	H	1716
Lasich, John	O	1776	Wallan, John	O	1924
Lasso, Pablo	O	1670	Weber, Gary	O	1863
Lee, Richard	O	1715	Weber, Michael	O	1809
Long, A.	R	1336	Wheeler, John	H	1503
Long, Jerome	BC	1724	Williams, Lloyd	O	1592
Louie, David	O	1685	Young, A.	R	1578
Ludwig, Lora	O	UNR			

\*\*\*GAMES COLUMN\*\*\*

By MICHAEL QUINLIVAN  
En Passant Games Columnist

Michael Quinlivan, aside from being En Passant's games columnist, Oakland Chess Club member, highest-rated East Bay Chess Association player, et alia, is a hard-working student at the University of San Francisco. Now all students know that March marks the end of the Spring quarter and--final examinations. These editors, since wacy



also are members of the academic community (of the University of California, Berkeley, that is), are well aware of the incubus of final examinations; thus, they have decided to spare Mike the burden of both final examinations and writing this month's column for En Passant. Mr. Quinlivan will resume his piercing analyses and titillating games in the April issue of this papers

\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*

(Continued from page 1.)

It is with great pleasure that these editors announce that the Livermore Chess Club has joined the East Bay Chess Association. This club, under the able and energetic leadership of Patrick A. Barry, was originally composed solely of employees of the University of California Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Livermore. During its previous years of existence the club was an active member of the Bay Area Industrial League. Just this year it resigned its membership from that league and joined the Chess Friends of Northern California East Bay League.

Membership in the club is now open to anyone interested in joining. Meetings are held on Fridays from 8:00 p.m. on, at the University of California Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Building 142, East Street, Livermore.

We congratulate Mr. Barry and the Livermore Chess Club and wish them continued success in the future.

\*

Vadnais Wins Two Prizes

By JERRY FRIEDMAN

En Passant Hayward Chess Club Reporter

L. Vadnais, a former member of the Hayward Chess Club who recently rejoined, celebrated his return by winning two club prizes for February. He picked up 66 EBCA rating points for the largest club gain and, in addition, played seven rated games in February, more than any other member. Congratulations, and continued good luck!

Adkins Wins LERA Annual "C" Tourney

By MARTIN MORRISON and ELWIN MEYERS

En Passant Editors

The LERA Chess Club's Annual "C" tourney was won by Lawrence Adkins from a field of twenty-two players. Adkins had a perfect score of 5-0. Following at 4-1 was Thomas Stewart. Charles Black, Richard Thompson, Theodore Kopczynski, and Joseph Zichwic each had 3½-1½.

\*

Fred Schoene Wins at Presidio Tourney

By MARTIN MORRISON and ELWIN MEYERS

En Passant Editors

The Fourth Open Chess Tournament was held at the Presidio Service Club on March 11 and 12. The A division was won by Fred Schoene, San Francisco, who scored 4½-½. Van Foy of Hayward, took second with 4-1, ahead of Rodney Thompson, of Moffitt Field, and Nancy Thompson, of Klamath Falls, who scored 3½.

Tim Malter, of San Leandro, won the B's with a perfect 5-0 tally. Berkeley's Julian Horn took second place with 4½. Edison Fong, of San Francisco, and G. DeLaCruz, of Stockton, tied for third and fourth at 4-1.



