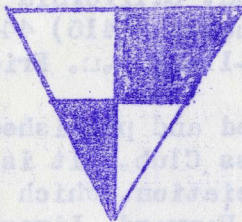


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EN PASSANT
The Voice of Chess
for the
East Bay



August 1937
Volume III
Number 12

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

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

By MARTIN MORRISON and ELWIN MEYERS
En Passant Editors

- August 18-20 Santa Monica Bay Chess Club's
Southern California Open
- August 26-27 Second Annual Contra Costa
County Chess Championships
- September 2-3 Sonoma State College Open
- September 30-
October 1 LERA Chess Club's Tournament
- October 29-30 Chess Friends of Northern
California Semi-Annual
Tournament
- November 25-26 Berkeley YMCA Chess Club's USCF
Tournament*
- December 16-17 Oakland Chess Club's Second
Annual Bay Area Amateur Open
Championship*

*Tentative.

NEWS

Second Annual Contra Costa County Chess Championships
By JEROME LONG
CFNC Tournament Director

On August 26 and 27, Saturday and Sunday, the Second Annual Contra Costa County Chess Championships will be held at the Walnut Creek Recreation Center, Civic Drive. The tournament is open to all chess players who are or will become members of Chess Friends of Northern California.

The tournament will be conducted in three divisions. The Expert/A Division winner will receive \$40, plus trophy and title. Second A and Third A will receive \$25 and \$10 respectively. The B Division winner will receive \$25 and a trophy. Runners-up will win prizes of \$20, \$15, \$10, and \$5 in that order. The C Division winner will receive \$25 and a trophy. Runners-up will net the same prizes as those awarded in the B Division. Cash prizes will be subject to a 100% increase if there are more than 100 entries.

The entry fee for the tournament is \$5.00 for CFNC members, \$8.00 for nonmembers (includes year's membership).

The tournament will be in the form of a five round Swiss

PUBLICATION DATA

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 Martin Morrison Oakland, California 94604
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Submission of material by readers is encouraged and becomes the property of the editors. To be assured of consideration for publication, material should be received at the above address by the first of the month preceding the month of issuance. Material should be typewritten following the style used in this newspaper.

Comments from readers on any feature of this paper will be appreciated. Correspondence to the editors should be sent to the above address; that to any other member of the staff, to that member, in care of the above address.

The editors maintain a file of information about chess clubs, activities, etc. Inquiries may be addressed to them.

SUBSCRIBERS SHOULD NOTIFY THE EDITORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER.

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EDITORIAL: QUO VADIS, CFNC?

By MARTIN MORRISON and ELVIN MEYERS

En Passant Editors

The Board of Directors of the Chess Friends of Northern California is currently undergoing a critical adjustment period. There is now dissension among the Directors on the question of whether to continue certain practices which have hitherto gone almost unchallenged. We feel it is time the issue be brought out into the open and considered by those who have the right to be heard and the duty to speak out--the members of CFNC themselves.

The pernicious practices which we feel must be remedied are these: (1) the Directors of CFNC hold their Board meetings in secret and all other members of CFNC are barred from attending them; (2) information concerning the topics discussed and the decisions reached at these meetings is withheld from the members; (3) members are not permitted to know how their money is being spent; (4) there are no bylaws for the Board, so the absolute power of the Directors is not restrained in any way; (5) CFNC members have no voice in selecting the Directors who take their money and run their organization. Although we have tried, unsuccessfully, for quite some time to attack these defects, only now has there been any disagreement among the Directors themselves on these matters; therefore, now for the first time is there a possibility of correcting them.

At this point we should like to make it quite clear that it is out of a sincere desire for improving CFNC that we propose remedies to and expose this deplorable state of affairs. We are not attempting to malign particular personalities. It is entirely incorrect to assume that any part of this editorial is written because the editors do not like some person or persons. We are discussing only facts. It is considered proper to respect a person's office even if one cannot respect the person. We apply the reverse. We criticize persons for not being good officials, even though we like them personally.

We are not ones to criticize without recommending constructive steps for improvement which have been thought out, we believe, logically and soundly. Thus we are here proposing six concrete suggestions which we heartily recommend to the CFNC Board to act upon as soon as possible.

1. Announce the dates of Board meetings at least two weeks in advance and allow any interested persons to attend the session. Do not continue the practice of closing the meeting to all but Directors.

2. Publish a financial report at least annually so that members who join CFNC in good faith may know how their money is being spent. They have the right to know and the duty to be informed.

3. Hold at least four meetings per annum and hold them at a different CFNC-affiliated club each time on the night when that club meets. This measure will provide for more interest on the part of members in CFNC activities and in actively promoting them. Also this procedure will make it more possible for a greater number of members to attend the meetings.

4. Publish minutes of each meeting in an official

publication, so that members who were not able to attend a meeting can nevertheless be informed of the organization's deliberations and decisions.

5. Draw up a set of bylaws and publish it. In this way the CFNC Board will be a mature body with express responsibilities to the membership.

6. Make the organization more democratic. It is perhaps good to have certain officials who do special work (e.g., Rating Administrator, Editor, Secretary, Tournament Director) appointed, but some Directors at least should be elected by the entire membership or certain sections of the entire membership (as the Regional Directors).

Some responsible Directors have disagreed with some or all of these proposals. We shall now relate some of these objections and attempt to counter them in a thoughtful, reasoned manner.

Objection 1. If the meetings were open to the membership, argumentative individuals who have no desire to help CFNC would obstruct the proceedings.

Answer. It is true that this situation might occur. However, a good presiding officer can keep the situation under control. On the other hand, think of all the responsible chess players who can contribute many original and productive ideas, if given the opportunity. Surely it would be worse for CFNC to lose the wise counsel of these than to endure a few malcontents.

Objection 2. The CFNC Board of Directors meeting is primarily a social event. The Directors are all good friends, and the Board meetings are the only time when they can all get together. Opening the meetings to the general membership would ruin the effect. The business aspect is purely secondary to the social.

Answer. Assuming the truth of this statement (although we hear that there is a great deal of hostility among various of the Directors), why does the meeting and the social event have to clash so? Let the Directors have a nice meal together before the meeting. Then they can all go as a group to the meeting site for the conduct of the business. Surely an organization that has over 500 members and collects over \$150,000 in dues annually should be more business-like and show more concern for the trust which the members have placed with them.

Objection 3. The bickering which goes on at the meetings should not be intruded upon by outsiders.

Answer. First of all, do the Directors consider the members "outsiders"? Perhaps the infusion of some "outsiders" at the meetings would tend to eliminate a great deal of the unpleasantness which transpires there now and bring about more productive action.

Objection 4. If CFNC were made more democratic, the members might elect persons who were incompetent and uninterested in conducting their office well.

Answer. This is a problem inherent in all democracies. However, since each member provides finances for the conduct of CFNC, he should have the opportunity to control the organization in some respect. As we have said above, perhaps many officers should be appointed. Yet certainly,

at least those officers who are supposed to represent certain areas of the membership, such as the Regional Directors, should be elected by the persons whom they are representing, not appointed by other Directors who have no contact with the area.

Objection 5. Let the situation alone; it will rectify itself in another year or so.

Answer. We are glad that someone can be so sure. The situation has been left alone for many years already and has not perceptibly improved. The Board's most recent move, claimed by some to be a step in the right direction, has been to appoint Regional Directors, who are supposed to represent the members in their respective regions. Yet is this not simply another example of the present unresponsive and unrepresentative Board's forcing its own representative onto the rank-and-file member, who thus has no voice in the selection of one who is supposed to represent him? If we let the situation alone, it may worsen instead of improving, as this example shows.

We have given above a quite thorough exegesis of our position and thoughts in this matter of great importance, as we believe the situation warrants. Yet it is also up to you, the members of CFNC, to make your feelings clear. Talk to us about this matter; talk to your fellow CFNC members; talk to the CFNC Board members, if you can (some are actually working hard to improve the situation). Best of all, write down your opinion and send it in to us—it doesn't have to be long or elaborate. We will publish as many letters as we can—anonymously, if you like. CFNC is your chess organization. Assume your rightful part in it.

(The opinions expressed in the editorials and by columnists are those of En Passant's editors or those of individual columnists. They do not necessarily constitute an official policy of the East Bay Chess Association. Comments by En Passant readers are welcomed for use in the Letters to the Editors column. The letters should be addressed to the editors, as described on page two of this issue. Letters will be published anonymously if the writer so requests.)

*
EDITORS' NOTE: Because of the inclusion of the Tournament Book in this issue, the newspaper has been expanded two additional pages. However, many of the regular features eliminated from this issue. Next month's issue, because of postal regulations, will have to be shortened two pages to compensate, but many of the regular features will return. By the October issue, we hope to have the paper back in its regular format.

We are also sorry for the comparative lateness of this issue's publication. Our faithful publisher, Mr. Theodore Anderson, decided to accept a scholarship to an Eastern college and has therefore been away for most of the summer. Again, the October issue will be issued according to the former publication schedule.

(Continued from page 1.)

System. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 26. Rounds will be held at 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. on that Saturday, and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Jerome Long, CFNC Tournament Director will direct.

Advance registration may be made by mail. Registrants should mail their name, address, telephone number, class in which they wish to play, and entry fee to Robert Jacob, Treasurer, Walnut Creek Chess Club; Post Office Box 391, Walnut Creek, California 94597.

*

Alameda Chess Club Enters EBCA
By MARTIN MORRISON and ELWIN MEYERS
En Passant Editors

The East Bay Chess Association is pleased to enter among its ranks the Alameda Chess Club. This club will be the eighth to join the association, which also includes the Berkeley YMCA, Concord, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Richmond, and Walnut Creek Chess Clubs. At long last a chess club has been founded in Oakland's sister city through the efforts of Raymond Love and Darrell Freeman. As yet, the club has not found a permanent base, but expects to do so in the near future. Those interested in joining the new club should contact either Mr. Love, 475 Buena Vista Avenue, Apartment 111, 523-5397, or Mr. Freeman, 465 Buena Vista Avenue, 523-3584; both reside in Alameda.

The club thus far has got off to a fine start and currently meets in certain of the members' homes. Mr. Love has entered the club in the East Bay Chess Association and will serve as club reporter to this newspaper.

*

Southern California Open
By A. KEMPNER

Tournament Director

The Southern California Open, sponsored by the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club, will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 18-20. First prize consists of \$200 and a trophy, second prize, \$125. Top expert, A, B, and C will win \$50, \$50, \$40, and \$30 respectively. First prize in the D and Unrated Division is \$30. All first places in each division also carry the award of a trophy. The winner of the Women's Division will receive only a trophy.

The event will be USCF-rated. The entry fee is \$10.50 regular and \$5.00 junior. Registration will take place from 6:30-7:45 p.m., Friday, August 18, in Joslyn Hall, Lincoln Park, Santa Monica.

Inquiries should be addressed to A. Kempner, Tournament Director, 1025 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, California 90400.

*

Sonoma State College Open

By C. E. FALBO

Sonoma State College Chess Club

The Sonoma State College Open will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 2-3, in the Darwin Hall of Science, First Floor, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park, California. The tournament will be held in five Swiss rounds and in three levels: A, B, and C. The entry fee is \$3 for adults and \$1 for juniors (under 17). A trophy will be awarded for first place in each of the three levels, as well as for the top-finishing junior. Registration will take place on Saturday, September 2, from 9-12 m. at the tournament site.

***TOURNAMENT BOOK OF THE OAKLAND CHESS CLUB'S
FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER TOURNAMENT***
By MARTIN MORRISON and ELVIN MEYERS
En Passant Editors

The Oakland Chess Club's Fourth Annual Summer Tournament was held at the club's quarters, Lincoln Elementary School, 225 Eleventh Street, Oakland, on the weekend of July 22-23. A total of 46 players participated. Raymond Ng, club tournament director, directed the event. The tournament was held under the auspices of the Chess Friends of Northern California and was partially subsidized through the kind assistance of Rhodes Department Store, Copwell's Department Store, the Oakland Bank of Commerce, and Chicken Delight.

Results in the "A" Division were: First (trophy), Thomas Heldt, Junior; Second (trophy), Gary Pickler; Third (book), David Forthoffer; and Fourth (book), Randall Hough. Results in the "B" Division were: First (trophy), Elvin Meyers; Second (trophy), Michael Weber; Third (book), Jerome Long; and Fourth (book), James Evans. Results in the "C" Division were: First (trophy), Leonard Trottier; Second (trophy), Jack Dennis; Third (book), Jay Spingarn; and Fourth (book), William Clipson. Winning door prizes were: Ake Gullmes, Gary Wilson, and Raymond Grehewick. Leonard Trottier won the Return and Progress Trophy.

"A" Division

RANK	NAME	START	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	ROUND 5	SCORE	TIE-B
1.	Thomas Heldt, Jr.	2113 W5	2117 W9	2121 W2	2123 W6	2135 L3	2113 4	-1	8½
2.	Gary Pickler	1873 BYE	1873 W11	1891 L1	1384 W5	1890 WC	1915 4	-1	6
3.	David Forthoffer	1907 D7	1930 W5	1957 E8	1961 W10	1974 W1	1996 3½	-1½	
4.	Randall Hough	1889 L11	1863 BYE	1863 D9	1861 W7	1875 D3	1873 3	-2	
5.	Gary Weber	1813 L1	1809 W3	1832 W7	1848 L2	1833 D4	1835 2½	-2½	10
6.	Jahis Salna	1907 D9	1933 W8	1909 W11	1915 L1	1908 L2	1892 2½	-2½	8
7.	Van Fong	1312 D3	1319 W10	1838 L5	1822 L4	1808 W9	1824 2½	-2½	7
8.	Jack Ulrich	1650 D10	1661 L6	1655 L3	1651 BYE	1651 W11	1667 2½	-2½	5
9.	David Betanco	1805 D6	1809 L1	1805 D4	1807 W11	1817 L7	1801 2	-3	
10.	Gary Wilson	1913 D8	1902 L7	1883 BYE	1883 L3	1870 W11	1870 1½	-3½	
11.	Juergen Kaspruk	1650 W4	1676 L2	1608 L6	1662 L9	1652 L8	1636 1	-4	

"B" Division

1.	Elvin Meyers	1745 D15	1740 W5	1755 W8	1768 W11	1783 W4	1800 4½	-3	
2.	Michael Weber	1734 W14	1746 W6	1759 L3	1744 W7	1755 W10	1765 4	-1	
3.	Jerome Long	1767 W12	1778 W9	1790 W2	1805 L4	1788 D5	1785 3½	-1½	29
4.	James Evans	1774 W13	1785 D8	1781 W15	1792 W3	1809 L1	1792 3½	-1½	7½
5.	Bruce Beardsley	1695 W7	1708 L1	1693 D12	1691 W15	1705 D3	1708 3	-2	8
6.	Robert Chinn	1663 W16	1668 L2	1655 L11	1642 W17	1656 W12	1672 3	-2	5½
7.	Ake Gullmes	1614 L5	1601 W16	1608 W9	1626 L2	1615 D11	1619 2½	-2½	8
8.	James Fosaaen	1683 W17	1686 D4	1690 L1	1677 L10	1658 W15	1673 2½	-2½	7½
9.	Robert Clipson	1669 W10	1682 L3	1670 L7	1652 D12	1652 W16	1657 2½	-2½	7
10.	David Glanville	1590 L9	1577 D14	1578 W13	1590 W8	1615 L2	1605 2½	-2½	6½
11.	Richard Lee	1726 DEF	1726 BYE	1726 W6	1739 L1	1724 D7	1720 2½	-2½	5½
12.	Jerry Friedman	1644 L3	1633 W17	1647 D5	1649 D9	1649 L6	1633 2	-3	3½
13.	Donald Harris	1651 L4	1639 L15	1623 L10	1605 BYE	1605 W17	1620 2	-3	5
14.	J. Perrion Danton	1628 L2	1611 D10	1610 L17	1593 D16	1504 BYE	1584 2	-3	4½

15.	Donald Meixsell	1627 D1	1632 W13	1648 L4	1637 L5	1603 L8	1608 1 ¹ -3 ¹	9
16.	Martin Morrison	1381 L6	1376 L7	1369 BYE	1309 D14	1378 L9	1373 1 ¹ -3 ¹	6 ¹
17.	Maurice Crossland	1607 L8	1594 L12	1580 W14	1587 W6	1583 W13	1568 1 -4	

"C" Division

1.	Leonard Trottier	1582 W7	1597 W5	1610 W6	1625 W9	1640 W3	1655 5 -0	
2.	Jack Dennis	1539 W11	1556 W14	1573 D9	1574 W4	1589 W5	1603 4 ¹ - 3 ¹	
3.	Jay Spingarn	1531 D4	1560 W7	1575 W11	1591 W16	1606 L1	1591 3 ¹ -1 ¹	9 ¹
4.	William Clipson	1519 D3	1521 W10	1538 W15	1554 L2	1539 W9	1557 3 ¹ -1 ¹	8 ¹
5.	Edward Lilva	1505 W13	1523 L1	1510 W14	1528 W12	1544 L2	1530 3 -2	8 ¹ , 15
6.	Kevin Olwell	1550 W16	1560 W3	1574 L1	1559 L3	1544 W12	1558 3 -2	8 ¹ , 14 ¹
7.	William Earl	1550 W1	1535 W3	1520 W17	1532 W18	1547 W10	1558 3 -2	8
8.	Randall Lanouette	1486 W17	1500 L3	1486 L10	1471 W14	1490 W13	1508 3 -2	6
9.	Duncan Campbell	1566 W13	1581 W17	1574 D2	1593 L1	1578 L4	1560 2 ¹ -2 ¹	10
10.	Jerry Miki	1539 D14	1540 L4	1523 W3	1538 W15	1555 L7	1538 2 ¹ -2 ¹	7 ¹
11.	Walter Zimmerman	1571 L2	1554 W13	1569 L3	1553 L13	1536 W16	1546 2 -3	7 ¹ , 13
12.	James Tilden	1499 W15	1517 L9	1504 W13	1522 L5	1506 L6	1492 2 -3	7 ¹ , 11 ¹
13.	Raymond Grehawick	1550 L5	1532 W16	1542 L12	1525 W11	1541 L8	1523 2 -3	7
14.	R. Douglas Turney	1572 D10	1571 L2	1557 L5	1539 L8	1520 W15	1536 1 ¹ -3 ¹	
15.	Nancy Zimmerman	1550 L12	1532 W17	1544 L4	1528 L10	1512 L14	1496 1 -4	6, 10 ¹
16.	Lawrence Lane	1404 L6	1394 L13	1384 L13	1373 W17	1390 L11	1380 1 -4	6, 10
17.	Carol La Bonte	1443 L8	1434 L15	1422 DEF	1410 L16	1393 BYE	1393 1 -4	5
18.	Ralph Segura	1532 L9	1517 L11	1502 W16	1513 DEF	1498 W17	1493 1 -4	3

*

Mechanics of the Swiss System Tournament

Considering the great number of tournaments now held in the form of a Swiss System, these editors are always surprised to see at every tournament they attend that the great majority of players, most noticeably "A" players, do not have the vaguest idea how the system operates. In order to remedy this situation to some extent, we have prepared the following resume of the basic mechanics of the system. The authority for the resume is the standardization of the system made by the United States Chess Federation. Its prescriptions are followed in all official USCF tournaments and in the majority of other tournaments conducted in the Swiss System style.

Players in each tournament group are given a number according to their latest rating. The highest-rated player is therefore number one; the second-highest, number two; etc. Unrated players are arranged alphabetically at the bottom of the list and numbered accordingly. If there are an odd number of players, the player with the lowest rating is taken out and awarded a "bye," which is scored as a win (because it would not be fair to penalize the player for a game he might have won; anyway, since he is the lowest-rated player, the awarding to him of a win will not seriously affect the outcome of the tournament. Unrated players may not receive a bye in the first round, because they may be stronger than the highest-rated player.) The tournament group is then divided in two, the top half of the field and the bottom half. A coin is tossed to determine whether player number one receives White or Black. All odd-numbered players then receive the same color as number one; even-numbered players, the opposite color; but this procedure is used only for the top half of the field. The first player in the top half of the field (#1) is then paired with the first player in the bottom half of the field, who is naturally given the color opposite to that of his opponent from the top half of

the field. The same procedure is followed until all the players have been paired. After the first round has been played off, the players are divided into three groups: those who have won, those who have drawn, and those who have lost.

Let us now turn to the group who have won their first-round games. If there is an odd number of players in this group, one is transferred to the next lower group (the group who have drawn their first-round games, in this case). There are definite rules regarding who is to be thus transferred, but they are too complicated to go into here. The one-point group (those who have won their first-round games) is then subdivided into two groups: the top half of the field and the bottom half (still determined by rating, which, however, has changed since the first round, since ratings are adjusted after each round). The players are then paired as in the first round; generally, though, slight rearrangements must be made to conform to the pairing rule that each player should as nearly as possible receive White and Black an equal number of times.

The group of players who have lost their first-round games are now paired. Again if a bye has to be awarded, the player having the lowest rating is awarded it, with the proviso that no player can receive more than one bye in each tournament. The zero-point group (the one which contains those who have lost their first-round games) is then paired in the same manner as the one-point group. If there was an odd number in the group, one player had to be transferred to the half-point group. Finally, the half-point group (with transferred cards, if any) are paired.

The third and following rounds are paired similarly, according to the following rules:

1. No player may play any other player more than once. (This is the fundamental rule of the Swiss System and can never be violated at any time);

2. Groups are paired from the top group down to but not including the group with a fifty per centum score, then from the lowest-score group up.

3. When making transfers of players who cannot be paired in their own groups, a transferred player has priority when pairing the group to which he is moved. He must not be transferred again unless it is impossible to pair him in the new group because he has played them all.

4. If two or more players are transferred to the same group, when pairing from the top down, and it is found to be impossible to pair both or all of the transferred players, priority is decided by the rank of these players, i.e., a player who has won two games takes priority over one who has won one. When pairing from the bottom up, it is the player with the lower rank who has priority.

5. In the second and third rounds, byes, if necessary, are awarded to the player with the lowest score and the lowest rating. After the third round, the player with the lowest score is awarded the bye (by lot, if there is more than one).

Since this resume is only that, a resume, technical points of the system are not gone into, and even some of the above points may be vague or unclear. Worse yet, a player who does know the rules well often finds tournament directors making deviations from the accepted rules. However, if some standard is not accepted as governing the tournament, there will naturally be no recourse for the player.

who justifiably feels he has been mispaired. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL TOURNAMENT-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS DEMAND THEIR DIRECTORS FOLLOW THE PAIRING RULES SET DOWN IN "THE OFFICIAL BLUE BOOK AND ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CHESS," BY KENNETH HARKNESS. THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE OFFICIAL RULES OF THE USCF AND PRESENTS THEIR APPLICATION IN THE clearest form. One of the greatest banes in the chess-tournament world is the sloppy tournament director; his presence destroys the value of the tournament and creates disgruntled participants.

*

Breaking Ties

By now the player has plowed through five or more rounds of the Swiss tournament. The scores are all in, but can the players now leave for home and write off another tournament as past history? No. As the last round is drawing to a close, more and more players begin to huddle around the wall chart to try to compute the crucial tie-breaking points which will determine the winner. However, only a select few have any idea how to go about doing the computations, and the tournament director is certainly too busy to explain the relatively complex procedure. So, in order that more players may be initiated into these "mysteries," we shall explain the procedure here, as well as some of the theory which stands behind it. Once again, the source for the procedures is the official statement of Swiss System tournament rules promulgated by the United States Chess Federation.

The first thing with which we have to work is each player's final score in the tournament. Let us assume we are dealing with a five-round tournament. Scores can range from 5 points (five wins) to 0 points (five losses). Now, as you know, when a game is played off over the board, a player can win (1 point), draw ($\frac{1}{2}$ point), or lose (0 points). However, a player can win a point without playing a game over the board (by being awarded a bye) or "lose" a game without losing it over the board (by forfeiting the game in any of a number of ways). Now, all tie-breaking systems operate by somehow crediting a player with the scores of the opponents whom he met in the tournament, thereby indicating the level of opposition he met throughout it.

Let us suppose, however, that a player entered the tournament, played one game, and had to forfeit the rest of the tournament because of sudden sickness in his family. His score for a five-round tournament would be 1 point. If he had played out the tournament, he might have got as many as five points (we are assuming that he won his first-round game). It would be unfair to measure this player's performance, for tie-breaking purposes among his opponent and the other players, by just this one game. For this and similar situations, the rule has been set up that EVERY UNPLAYED GAME IS COUNTED, FOR TIE-BREAKING PURPOSES ONLY, TO BE $\frac{1}{2}$ POINT. By assigning this average score to each unplayed game, we make the closest estimation possible to what might have happened if the game were actually played off over the board. In the case of our player with sudden sickness in the family, his score would be considered to be, for tie-breaking purposes only, 1 (for the first game, which he won) $+ 4 \times \frac{1}{2}$ (for the four games he did not play) $= 3$. Don't forget that for tie-breaking purposes only, a bye is also equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ point.

After all players' scores are "adjusted" according to this system (generally about ten per centum have to be so adjusted), the tie-breaking procedure proper is put into operation. There are three commonly used systems: the Median, the Solkoff, and the Sonnenborn-Berger.

The Median System operates thus. Each player is credited with the "adjusted" score each of his opponents earned, the highest and the lowest scores are eliminated, and the rest are added. Look at Michael Weber's score in the B Division of this tournament, for example. Mr. Weber's opponents made the following scores respectively: $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $3\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ (notice that the first opponent's score has to be adjusted to $1\frac{1}{2}$ because he received a bye in the last round). The $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ scores are eliminated, since they are the lowest and highest, and the remaining 3, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ are added to make eight Median points (notice that there was no tie for second place, therefore Mr. Weber's points are not entered).

The Solkoff System is almost identical to the Median, except the the highest and lowest scores are not dropped. Mr. Weber earned 13 Solkoff points.

The Sonnenborn-Berger System is somewhat different from the other two. All the opponent's scores are used except the ones to whom the player lost, and the player is credited with only half the scores of those opponents with whom he drew. Under this system Mr. Weber would have earned respectively: $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 0, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ = $9\frac{1}{2}$.

Now that you understand how the three systems work, we can begin to evaluate which is the best. First of all, the Solkoff is better than the Sonnenborn-Berger because the latter system makes no discrimination between the strength of the contestants to whom the players lost. However, the Median is better than the Solkoff System because the former system eliminates the extremes at the upper and lower end of the scale, which tend to distort the evaluation; consequently, a more representative measurement of the strength of a player's opponents is afforded. For these reasons, the United States Chess Federation uses the Median System to break ties. If any remain after the Median System is applied, the Solkoff System is applied. If ties still remain, the Sonnenborn-Berger System is used. If ties still remain (and this sometimes happens in large tournaments), the flip of a coin breaks the tie.

ONCE AGAIN, TO AVOID COMPLAINTS AND HARD FEELINGS, THE ORDER OF USING EACH OF THE TIE-BREAKING SYSTEMS SHOULD BE SPECIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE TOURNAMENT. THE ORDER: MEDIAN, SOLKOFF, SONNENBORN BERGER IS MUCH TO BE PREFERRED.

We hope that these explanations will make your understanding of Swiss System tournaments greatly improve. If any questions remain in your mind after rereading these explanations, these editors will be happy to answer them. To contact us, use the information given on page two of this issue.

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Games

Game No. 1: was played in the Expert/A Division, round four. White: David Forthoffer, Berkeley; Black: Gary Wilson, San Leandro; Opening: Queen's Gambit Declined. 1 P-Q4, P-Q4; 2 P-QB4, P-QB3; 3 N-KB3, N-B3; 4 N-B3, P-K3; 5 B-N5, B-K2; 6 P-K3, O-O; 7 B-Q3, P-KR3; 8 B-R4, QN-Q2; 9 Q-B2, PxP; 10 BxP, R-K1; 11 P-KR3, N-Q4; 12 B-KN3; N/2-N3; 13 B-N3, NxN; 14 PxN, B-Q2; 15 O-O, Q-B1; 16 N-K5, P-QB4; 17 Q-K4, B-QB3; 18 Q-B4,

R-B1; 19 P-K4, B-QR5; 20 QR-N1, BxB; 21 RxB, N-Q2; 22 N-B3, Q-B3; 23 R-Q1, P-QN3; 24 P-Q5, PxP; 25 PxP, Q-N2; 26 P-B4, KR-K1; 27 Q-Q2, B-B3; 28 P-QR4, Q-R3; 29 Q-Q3, QR-Q1; 30 R-R3, N-B1; 31 P-R5, PxP; 32 B-B7, R-Q2; 33 RxB, Q-N2; 34 B-N3, Q-N3; 35 R-N5, Q-R3; 36 RxB, N-K3; 37 R-N5, N-B2; 38 R-N3, Q-B1; 39 R-R3, P-R3; 40 R-QN1, lost on time.

Game No. 2: was played in the Expert/A Division, round three.

White: Gary Weber, Alameda; Black: Van Fong, Hayward; Opening: Sicilian Defense. 1 P-K4, P-QB4; 2 N-KB3, P-Q3; 3 P-Q4, PxP; 4 NxP, N-KB3; 5 N-QB3, P-KN3; 6 P-B2, B-N2; 7 P-K5, PxP; 8 PxP, KN-Q2; 9 P-K3, N-K4; 10 B-N5ch, N/1-B3; 11 PxPch, KxB; 12 O-Och, K-N1; 13 NxB, NxN; 14 QxQch, NxQ; 15 N-Q5, B-Q5ch; 16 K-R1, N-K3; 17 B-R6, resigns.

The Solkoff System is somewhat different from the... the highest and lowest scores are not dropped. Mr. Weber earned 18 Solkoff points.

IN THIS ISSUE: TOURNAMENT BOOK OF THE OAKLAND CHESS CLUB'S FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER TOURNAMENT.

ONCE AGAIN, TO AVOID COMPLAINTS AND HARD FEELINGS, THE ONE OF USING EACH OF THE TIE-BREAKING SYSTEMS SHOULD BE SPECIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE TOURNAMENT. THE ORDER: MEDIAN, SOLKOFF, SOMMER-BORN BE 62. IS USED TO BE EMPLOYED.

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