

Precita Valley

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CHESS HERALD

A MONTHLY CHESS NEWS BULLETIN

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NOEL RENAUD - JAMES COOK IN DRAW FOR P. V. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP!!

The battle for the championship of the Precita Valley Chess Club in a tourney that started on May 3rd and ended September 6th, wound up in a draw between Noel Renaud and James Cook, both with $7\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ scores. After defeating all other opposition, the two giants of chess at P. V. sat down opposite each other in a very noisy atmosphere Thursday, Sept. 6, and as the evening drew longer and quieter they both ended up with a King, Rook, and two Pawns apiece; and both disgustedly agreed it was a drawn game. So ended Precita Valley's Championship Tourney! What happens? Your club director will announce his decision on "Presentation Night", Sept. 20th.

Final Championship Tourney Standings

Tourney Notes

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	Championship:
1- Noel Renaud.....	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$	James Cook and Noel Renaud
2- James Cook.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	x	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$	
3- Jim Reynolds.....	0	0	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5 - 3	"B" Championship: Bob Blakemore
4- Jack Craig.....	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	x	0	1	1	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$	
5- Bob Blakemore.....	0	0	0	1	x	1	1	0	1	4 - 4	"C" Championship: Jack Craig
6- John Ramirez.....	0	0	0	0	0	x	1	1	1	3 - 5	
7- Ivan Vegvary.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	1	1	2 - 6	
8- Paul Bogosian.....	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	0	x	0	$1\frac{1}{2} - 6\frac{1}{2}$	See Page 5.
9- Don Hufnagel.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1 - 7	

PRESENTATION NIGHT AND RAPID TRANSIT TOURNEY SEPT. 20TH

Thursday, September 20th, will be "Presentation Night" at the Precita Valley Chess Club. After trophies and prizes are presented, the club will hold a "Rapid Transit Tournament" open to all interested chess fans. This tourney will start at 8:15 p.m. and there will be an entry fee of 25¢ per player. Also on this night, if there is time, the new officers will be installed along with the successful incumbents.

There will be small prizes for the winners in the "Rapid Transit", the 25¢ fee being used for this purpose alone.

All members are urged to be in attendance on "Presentation Night" whether participating or not in the quick tourney.

SHOWALTER TEAM WINS TITLE!!

Precita Valley's Showalter team has officially won the Summer Championship of the El Camino Real League, match score 5-1, games $24\frac{1}{2} - 11\frac{1}{2}$. William Stevens, CENC Tournament Director, will present a trophy to the team for this effort. No credit can be given any one person for this fine achievement as the whole team played in the matches in a spirited manner. Jim Reynolds acted as team captain for the Summer, but James Cook is elected for the job for the coming year. Other members of the team were Jack Craig, Bob Blakemore, Paul Bogosian, Denny Ryan, John Ramirez, Noel Renaud, and Ivan Vegvary.

James Cook has generously donated medals for the individual members of the team. We think this is a fine gesture on his part. He would like to direct the team to another title in the Fall.

Vol. 1 CHESS HERALD No. 23
 September, 1956

Editor. Jim Reynolds
 Games Editor. Noel Renaud
 Guest Annotator . . . A. R. Castellanos
 Published Monthly by the Precita Valley Chess Club, 534 Precita Avenue, San Francisco 10, California. Phone VA4-0552
 Teams: SHOWALTER and KERES, entered in El Camino Real League, CENC.

C. D.'s VIEWS

THE FALL SEASON IS APPROACHING, and with it many activities. The first six months of our club history indicates we have been successful. We have built to a fair sized club, a merging with the old Keres Club helping matters. The merger found us with two teams instead of one and this is good. Showalter, our original team, won the Summer championship of the El Camino Real League. The Keres team didn't fair too well, but it will do better in the future.

So, we have finally concluded the club's first bonafide tourney-- the championship tourney which ended in a tie between two very topnotch players. Your C.D. must admit he expected no tie and did not make a provision for same. Even this is an accidental miracle! The club does not have one champion-- but TWO CHAMPIONS!!! Of course, this presents problems since even I said there would be only one championship tourney at the Precita Valley Club, championship matches deciding who will be future champions of the club. Yours truly keeps his word and I have come to a decision to remedy the situation. This decision will be revealed on "Presentation Night".

The club is getting so big now that your C.D. has difficulty in keeping up with what's going on. I don't wish to neglect anyone nor do I mean to harm any feelings. You can help me here. The only way I can know if something is wrong is if you talk it over with me, so don't be bashful.

BIG "SPAGHETTI FEED" SCHEDULED

The Precita Valley Chess Club will hold a big "Spaghetti Feed" on Tuesday evening, October 23rd, starting about 6:45 p.m. The chef in charge will be Julio Ercolini, who's idea it was to have this event to help build up a club fund. So, the idea is to get as many people to the occasion as possible. The charge will be \$1.00 per adult, 50¢ for teenagers and free to the little tots. The charges are fixed such as to entice everyone to make a family night of it.

Also there will be entertainment and possibly a random chess match if time allows. At any rate be prepared to come enjoy a spaghetti feed and a little off-hand entertainment on Tuesday, October 23rd, which is not a regular club night. Advanced reservations can be made with Noel Renaud, 125 Brompton Ave., S.F. 12.

CENC NOTES

It is advised that all Precita Valley Chess Club members do their best to join Chess Friends of No. Calif., Inc. This cost \$2.00 per year. Please remember that you cannot participate in team matches unless you are a member of CENC.

CENC directs the El Camino Real League in which our teams are entered. For all practical purposes the Summer season is completed and your editor offers the following as the final standings:

El Camino Real Chess League

Team	Match	Score	GW	GL
Showalter.....	5	1	24½	11½
Colle.....	4	1	17½	12½
Evans.....	3½	2½	22	14
Botvinnik.....	3	3	18	18
Alekhine.....	2½	3½	15½	19½
Max Lange.....	2	3	12½	17½
Keres.....	0	6	9	26

Keres has forfeited it's final game to Evans. The only remaining match is the Colle-Max Lange which may not even be played and who really forfeits? As it is Showalter has cinched the title, Colle has cinched 2nd, and the defending champs, Evans, are easily 3rd.

See page 3 about CENC's annual EAST-WEST match.

CMNC TO HOLD 2ND ANNUAL EAST-WEST MATCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

CMNC Tournament Director Bill Stevens announces that the 2nd annual East-West match will be held Sunday, September 30th at the Live Oaks Community Center, corner Shattuck and Berryman, Berkeley, Calif. The affair will start at 1 p.m.

Last year the event was held at the Parkside School in San Bruno and the West nipped the East 16-15.

This year it is hoped there will be 100 boards on each side. It could be done so Precita Valley Chess Club members are urged to participate in this event. You must be a member of CMNC to take part and this is the only requirement. When you decide to go remember to take along your board and men. Those interested contact the club director so that he may make transportation arrangements.

TEAM MATCH HIGHLIGHTS

How did the Showalter team do it? Pre-season dopsters didn't even have them in the picture. Even the team captain only predicted 4th place but hoped for 3rd. Not that it helps to solve the mystery but here is how the season went along:

SHOWALTER

6	Collie.....	0
2	Botvinnik.....	4
4	Evans.....	2
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Keres.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Max Lange.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Alekhine.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$		11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Of course, Collie surprised, too. The 6-0 licking by Showalter merely seemed to wake them up and they went on to mow down the rest of the teams. Defending champs, Evans, started off bad also but bounced back to take 3rd. Botvinnik, favored for the title, started off fast but the rating system seemed to hurt the team as the season went along. The Max Lange team looked good but seemed to drop crucial matches. Alekhine from Marin improved over last year's team and may even get stronger for the next season. The Keres team had it's troubles, losing very good players to other teams, but now this team can only improve.

SHOWALTER TEAM STATISTICS

The following are the individual team members' statistics:

Player	W	L	D	Score
Bob Blakemore.....	2	3	0	2 -3
Paul Bogosian.....	2	1	0	2 -1
James Cook.....	4	0	2	5 -1
Jack Craig.....	1	2	2	2 -3
John Ramirez.....	1	1	0	1 -1
Noel Renaud.....	6	0	0	6 -0
Jim Reynolds.....	4	1	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Denny Ryan.....	2	0	0	2 -0
Jim Lieberman.....	0	1	0	0 -1
Totals	22	9	5	24 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$

It should be noted that Noel Renaud did lose one game on time to Gil Ramirez but the point was awarded to him on default, Gil Ramirez not playing on the proper board. This was in the Showalter-Botvinnik match which is the only match the team lost.

Jack Craig's record is really better than it looks. Playing on the "C" board where he was supposed to Jack draw in his very first team match and won in his second. After that Jack was mainly used strategically on the expert board where he even managed to grab a draw versus an "A" player.

Another interesting note is the fact John Ramirez lost his first game as a team player, but it was while he, too, was playing on the expert board where he lost to an "A" player. After he was transferred to the Keres team he did manage to lose again, however. But, strange as it may seem, John didn't lose in a team match over a span of three seasons until in that fateful match with the Botvinnik team!

Denny Ryan kept his record going. Just another oddity, but Denny has yet to lose a game in a team match! He has been on three teams during the past three years and oddly enough, no matter what board he has played he has always come up with at least a draw but most of the time he comes up with a win. A cute story is when he was warned before a certain match about a particular player who had not lost nor drawn a game all season so Denny quipped, "So what, neither have I!" Needless to say, Denny went on to win in that match vs. the perfect record player.

GAMES SECTION

Edited by
NOEL RENAUD

Guest Annotator: A. R. CASTELLANOS

(Editor's Note: The GAMES SECTION of the CHESS HERALD is edited by Noel Renaud. Please send or give any interesting or odd games to him for publication. Noel will determine who will annotate the games given in. It may be himself or A. R. Castellanos or anyone who would like to try their hand at it and be a guest annotator.)

Game No. 12

Notes by A. R. Castellanos

Game played in the Showalter-Max Lange team match on July 12, 1956.

White: John Akins (ML)

Black: Bob Blakemore (S)

FRENCH DEFENSE

Exchange Variation

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 2. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 3. PXP | ... |

This move introduces the Exchange Variation. White solves Black's problem in the center.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 3. . . . | PXP |
| 4. B-Q3 | B-Q3 |
| 5. N-K2 | N-K2 |

Black imitates White's moves. This is not exactly good policy in all cases, but Black can afford it in this case thanks to White's liquidation in the center.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 6. O-O | O-O |
| 7. B-KB4 | BxB |
| 8. NxB | B-KB4 |
| 9. R-K1 | BxB |
| 10. QxB | N-Q2 |
| 11. N-B3 | P-QB3 |
| 12. R-K3 | ... |

White initiates a kingside attack contradicting the spirit in which he had played his opening. Since the exchange variation tends to draw, White should continue looking for a draw rather than attempt to gain the initiative he surrendered by exchanging his center pawn.

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 12. . . . | R-K1 |
| 13. R-R3 | P-KR3 |
| 14. Q-N3 | N-KB4! |

Black takes charge of the open King file.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 15. Q-N4 | Q-K2! |
| Threatening Q-KSch. | |
| 16. QN-K2 | NxP |
| Black continues to take advantage of White's weak first rank. | |
| 17. N-R5 | NxNch |
| 18. K-R1 | ... |
| Better would have been | 18. K-B1. |
| 18. . . . | N-N6ch |
| 19. RPxN | P-B3 |
| 20. N-B4 | NxB1 |
| 21. R-Q1 | K-R2 |

Prevents N-N6 by White.

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| 22. Q-B5ch | P-KN3 |
| 23. NxNP | NxN |
| 24. R-Q4 | K-N2 |
| 25. R-N4 | Q-KB2 |
| 26. Q-B4 | R-R1 |

An White's sacrifice fails to pay off.

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| 27. Q-Q4 | Q-K3 |
| 28. R/3-R4 | P-KR4 |
| 29. R-N5 | KxB2 |
| 30. R/5xRP | NxR |
| 31. RxR1 | ... |

BLAKEMORE

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r . . . . . R
pp . . . k . .
. . p . q p . .
. . . p . . . .
. . . Q . . . n
. . . . . P .
P P P . . P P .
. . . . . K

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AKINS

1 Position after 31. RxR

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 31. . . . | Q-K8ch |
| 32. K-R2 | N-B6ch |
| 33. PxN | RxRch |

White resigns

As mate cannot be avoided. Black has refuted White's strategy completely and finished the game with an effective combination which illustrates very well the point that all possibilities should be considered, since after 31. RxR the automatic recovery of the Rook is not necessary as shown by the text.

GIVE YOUR GAMES TO NOEL RENAUD OR MAIL THEM TO HIM AT 125 BROMPTON AVE., SAN FRANCISCO 12, CALIF.

 CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

About The Champions"C" CHAMPION FINISHES ABOVE "B"!!

JACK CRAIG won the "C" championship of the club, even scoring a half a point higher than the "B" champion-- quite an oddity in itself.

Jack joined the Precita Valley Chess Club shortly after it was begun and just in time to enter in the championship tourney. He also joined GFCG to play on the original Showalter team, so he is all-around a charter member of the club.

Mr. Craig has been quite a boost for the club and the team and it may have been his moral support, too, that shot the Showalter team into a title. After the Botvinnik match when the members of the team were feeling downhearted and making excuses, Jack quipped, "Come on, let's face it, men! We lost-- and to a very fine team! It's a long road ahead!" So we went on to win the rest of our matches and Jack had a lot to do with our upsetting the highly touted and defending champions, Evans team, handling his board like an old master!

BLAKEMORE CLIMBS UP FOR "B" CHAMPIONSHIP

ROBERT BLAKEMORE won the "B" championship of the club the hard way. He tackled all the rough players to begin with and didn't fair too well so his record didn't look so hot, but slowly and surely, he evened up his record and enough to take the "B" trophy.

Bob has been with the club from its very beginning so is also a charter member and a solid team player as you can see from his game with John Akins in the GAMES SECTION. There is a cute story behind this game. Bob felt very badly because he couldn't make the Botvinnik match at the last minute so he had let us down. When it came to the Max Lange match he said to the team captain, Reynolds, "Jim, I won't let the team down this time and no matter where you put me I'll win!" It so happens he got pitted against his ex-team captain but his ex-team captain never used him on the team! Ah, sweet revenge!!

SO WE HAVE CO-CHAMPIONS!!

What's wrong with having two club champions? It's great, and so are the two champions!

NOEL RENAUD has been playing the royal game for many years. Some years ago he was the New England States champion, and he also wrote a chess column for a New England newspaper.

Noel, too, is a charter member of the club and, of course, its very first treasurer. He has been a tremendous help to the club and the team. Not only is he the treasurer, but he is this periodical's games editor and also runs the club's chess clinic whenever there are interested "patients".

Mr. Renaud is not only a good teacher of chess, but also of the piano. He has an over abundance of patience which it really takes to teach any subject.

There is no end in telling all the things Noel has done for the club, like donating a trophy and helping the weaker players get stronger so they can beat him, and acting in many ways in an advisory capacity for the club.

JAMES COOK is about the most promising young player in this area. He is not exactly the youngest among the fine chess prospects in the bay area, but he is a highly respected player.

Jim, too, joined the club in its infancy so is a charter member. He came to us from the Keres Chess Club and may have given that club an idea as some months later they merged with us.

Mr. Cook was unanimously nominated to be the new team captain of our Showalter team and will take over the reins of this team when the Fall-Winter season starts. He is unopposed so the election will be a mere formality and is probably over when you read this.

Jim also accompanies the club director on chess excursions through the wards at Lettermen General Hospital.

He is very modest about his chess abilities and has an unusual respect for his opponents. Yet, he turns around and beats the best of them, and even so, studies to see if he could have done better.

Ladder Standings & Ratings

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1	Noel Renaud.....	A 1859
2	James Cook.....	A 1677
3	Robert Blakemore.....	B 1191
4	A. R. Castellanos.....	A 1543
5	John Ramirez.....	B 1125
6	Ivan Vegvary.....	B 1235
7	Don Hufnagel.....	B 1033
8	Ed Russell.....	B 1307
9	Jim Reynolds.....	B 1364
10	Jack Craig.....	B 1191
11	Paul Bogosian.....	B 1073
12	Carl Barton.....	C 968
13	Eugene Nakamura.....	C 750
14	Julio Ercolini.....	C 995
15	Leighton Allen.....	C 977
16	Henry Brauns.....	C 947
17	Richard Moreno.....	C 949
18	Douglas Jerdet.....	C 750
19	E. H. Batchelder.....	C 900
20.	Jess Silver.....	C 744
21	Dr. Earl Weyer.....	C 750

Ladder Notes:

Remember that these ratings have nothing to do with your CENC nor your USCF ratings. In the first place the Reynolds' system is much different than the Harkness' system. The system used here at the club is the one that was originally used by CENC but CENC now uses the Harkness' system which is also used by USCF. The above ratings are merely for the interest of our own club members and to keep up that fine spirit of competition which has been the trait of our club.

Since the CHESS HERALD has become a monthly periodical your editor does not see fit to show every week's results as this news tends to become stale.

The above standings and ratings are up to and including games played on Thursday, September 6, 1956.

The notation "A", "B", or "C" is just an additional mark to let you know your rating in the club in case you cannot savvy it by the figures. This has nothing to do with what board you may play on the teams, however, as again, we go by CENC ratings as far as the teams are concerned. It might influence where the team captain places you, so work hard men!

ACTION AROUND THE CLUB

GAMES HAVE BEEN PLAYED with much enthusiasm and with a friendly competitive spirit. New members are doing great trying to get themselves acquainted and somewhere in the thick of the action!

The new members and especially those who have been with us quite sometime but not soon enough to be in the championship tourney should be commended for their patience. Older members, though, are to be given credit for doing their utmost to keep the new ones busy on the ladder even when they did have other tourney games to play. But now, the championship tourney is over and this makes for an easier time of it to challenge for rungs on the club's ladder.

SHOWALTER LOSES, THEN WINS AT S.Q.

San Quentin, August 18th. With a dismal showing of only eight members participating, the Showalter team lost to the fine San Quentin chess team $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$, but came back to win on a 2nd round 7-board match $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. For the overall day of chess then, the San Quentin team still came out on top 8-7. As usual the San Quentin Chess Club proved to be fine hosts, even though they were probably disappointed in the size of our team.

JULIO ERCOLINI NAMED KERES CAPTAIN!

Julio Ercolini has been named the new Keres team captain. This was brought about due to changes in the coming line-ups of Precita Valley's two teams.

Actually, the Showalter team will be the no. 1 team of the club and the Keres the no. 2 team. This is not intended to hurt anybody's feelings. The idea mainly is to get more members into team match action to gain experience.

Your club director and team captains are going over the personnel of the club deciding who will play on what team but this is not judged by who they like or dislike nor are they trying to guess who the future masters are. It is all for the good of the club so please do not claim demotion nor promotion according to what team you are named to play on.

LAST MINUTE NEWS--Paul Bogosian was elected Assistant Club Director. Proposition on charter change was approved.