



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP

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VOL. 1, NO. 4

THE BEST OF BARRETT
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

Sept. 24, 1961

Browsing through the City Library last week, we found these idioms to be true. Did you realize that a great number of books have actually been written about Round Three of the So. Calif. Championship?

Sure, Take "Crime and Punishment" by Dostoevsky, for instance. It tells the psychological story of the BAKER - KUPERSMITH game. It was a crime for BAKER to send his Queen material-hunting in the woods, while the wolf was knocking at the door of his cabin filled with undeveloped pieces. His punishment came swiftly, but we're not so sure that it relieved his conscience....

Or "Gone With The Wind". It describes the trials and tribulations of the SHERIDAN - YARMAK battle, and takes about as long to read as the game lasted. (From 1:00 to 9:00 P.M., going 105 moves!) Come to think of it, the attractive chess widow waiting for SHERIDAN all that time probably read the book while waiting--twice over....In "The Importance of Being Earnest", Oscar Wilde characterized Sven ALMGREN, naturally. He was earnest in opening with P-K4 and playing a good opening against a Caro-Kann, earnest in proceeding to gain a Pawn in the middle-game, and downright earnest in getting an unstoppable Pawn to the seventh rank against BURKE. The latter incidentally did much better timewise than in Round Two: He had about 35 seconds for 18 moves, while previously he was in serious time-trouble....."Cimarron" is just an early spelling of "See MARON" -- if you want to find out about the effects of a Pawn-barrage catapulted your way by MEGO.....

Then there's Hemingway and "The Old Man And The Sea". This highly poetic, exciting tale about Steve PARKER (who aged many years after last Sunday's game) trying to bring in the big one (F. HUFNAGEL) and losing it to the sharks of experience, is a real epic.....Although no more so than "Moby Dick". Here we have Captain Ahab JACOBS hanging on to MARTIN, the white whale, throwing K-side harpoons at him in an attempt to forget his own woes about losing a piece. The poignancy of the whale finally dragging the strapped Captain below is classical.

The old 1961 So. Calif. Championship closes its doors for another year. It has been a great tourney, enjoyed by everyone, played in exotic surroundings under the palms of Cashio Street. Here are the scores.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. R. Martin | 6½-1½ | 13. F. Hufnagel | 4½-3½ | 25. H. Rosenzweig | 3-5 |
| 2. I. Rivise | 6½-1½ | 14. M. Gordon | 4½-3½ | 26. K. Forrest | 3-5 |
| 3. W. Cunningham | 6½-1½ | 15. L. Kupersmith | 4½-3½ | 27. D. Young | 2½-5½ |
| 4. J. Hanken | 5½-2½ | 16. G. Sheridan | 4-4 | 28. J. Freed | 2½-5½ |
| 5. G. Rubin | 5½-2½ | 17. J. Mego | 4-4 | 29. S. Salter | 2½-5½ |
| 6. T. Weinberger | 5-3 | 18. S. Parker | 4-4 | 30. D. Brannies | 2½-5½ |
| 7. R. Jacobs | 5-3 | 19. C. Rasis | 4-4 | 31. F. Pye | 2½-5½ |
| 8. s. Yarmak | 5-3 | 20. M. Kerllenevich | 3½-4½ | 32. L. Rudin | 1-7 |
| 9. T. Fries | 5-3 | 21. D. Maron | 3½-4½ | 33. W. Metzger | 1-7 |
| 10. S. Almgren | 5-3 | 22. D. Benge | 3½-4½ | 34. D. Baker | 1-7 |
| 11. V. Homolka | 4½-3½ | 23. H. Rogosin | 3-5 | | |
| 12. F. Burke | 4½-3½ | 24. E. Rader | 3-5 | | |

Vincent HOMOLKA gained so many rating points it'll heat up the presses of CHESS LIFE: 118! Steve PARKER, a young newcomer to chess, chalked up 64; MARTIN 58, SHERIDAN 49, CUNNINGHAM 47, MARON 37, RADER 35, and RIVISE 32 to mention a few. On the other side of the ledger, M. KERLLENEVICH had a real string of bad luck, dropping 60 rating points, Don YOUNG 58. Of course these will be all adjusted in the proper manner by U.S.C.F. and it may not be so bad (or good!).

The finals start Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Herman Steiner Chess Club, when ZOLTAN KOVACS joins five qualifiers: R. MARTIN, I. RIVISE, W. CUNNINGHAM, G. RUBIN and T. WEINBERGER. (S. SHOLOMSON, California Open Champion, seeded to play in the finals, was unable to make it.) They will play a round robin with four representatives from the North, to determine the California Champion. Good luck to all of you!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AMATEUR OPEN

October 18, 1961

CARAVAN OF THE NOMADS

The camels were ready, the route planned, water kegs filled...as eighty-eight sturdy tribesmen (and tribesladies) decided to forsake the cool cases of their dwelling last weekend for a trek through the dunes of the So. Calif. Amateur Open at Santa Monica. In 100+ temperatures, the ambitious travellers set out in quest of Arabian treasure, consisting of \$525 in three prizes, plus a shining trophy to the winner -- and at the halfway mark, 52 nomads were seeing mirages of bejewelled trunks filled with gold. These 52 qualified into the top section, having attained two points or more, leaving 27 caravan-members behind to face the samum --while nine starters got too much sand in their shoes and retired completely from the trip.

At the moment, it's a wide open hunt -- 3 players lead with perfect scores of 4 - 0 (GILBERT, BEAN, K. SIMON), another 3 follow close behind with 3½ - ½ (KECKHUT, CLARK and your editor), then a large group of 17 contestants each with 3 - 1! This latter group includes such formidable prospectors as Tom FRIES, C. HENDERSON, F. LEIBER, BOOK, BENGE, H. ROGOSIN etc., and no one is really out of the running. In fact, those with lower scores (2½ - 1½, 2 - 2) also have a chance to make a top spot. City Terrace's R. GISH and H. RADER are among the 3-pointers, while E. JIMENEZ lost two games (one to your editor) to take a rest at a caravanserai, along with M. SARLEY (2½ - 1½) and B. KAKIMI (2 - 2). Saturday night's round was almost cancelled by the dark desert sky (i.e., no electricity) but the stars came out in time. Mr. H. ABEL is really an able and busy guide, and his directing duties will increase in scope for the last four rounds at the Steiner Club this weekend.

Have you ever wondered if the Flying Dutchman, a renowned chessplayer, is still sailing around the seven seas, after centuries of fruitless search and frustration? Well, you need not ponder any longer. He's come to the end of his search last weekend, when he rode in on the crest of the waves to the fabulous So. Calif. Amateur Open Tournament. As a chessplayer under 2000, he found fulfillment of all his intrinsic desires: tremendous cash-prizes, top opposition, adventure and excitement.

We won't reveal his actual identity (he wished to enter incognito), but he was there at the Steiner Club on Sunday, one of 88 entrants, witnessing (or taking? the first place trophy and \$225 cash being awarded to Donald BERGE (7 - 1). Congratulations, Don! And congrats, Tom FRIES, for tying for first with the same score, collecting \$225 as well. Also in the money were runner-ups O'CONNOR, HENDERSON, H. ROGOSIN, LEIBER and LEWIS with 6 - 2.

Excitement ruled throughout this great tourney, as the leaders kept on overtaking each other in every round. There were several upsets over the board, but not many otherwise -- in fact, H. ABEL kept an iron hand over the controls to see it through without an incident. After four rounds, those with 1½ points or less were classified into a consolation section, but there was no prize allotted for the section's winner -- which may have accounted for the close to twenty withdrawals that occurred after this round. Several players wished the tournament were rated -- though some were mighty glad it wasn't.

The time-limit of 45 moves in 90 minutes was very suitable, allowing time for meals, analysis and the occasional extra long game; in fact, we believe this limit will be adopted more and more in future weekend tournaments. Several experts and masters dropped in at various times to watch proceedings (wishing their ratings were under 2000) and there were many guests and kibitzers enjoying the show.

Gordon Barrett

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Isaac Kashdan,
President

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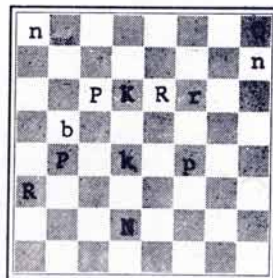
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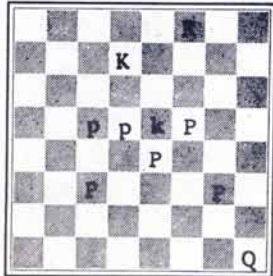
PROBLEMATES by Sven Almgren

White mates in two

No. 1



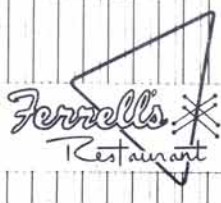
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STEINER CLUB TOURNEYS

by Isaac Kashdan

The championship tournament of the Herman Steiner Chess Club will be played in two parts, a preliminary six-round Swiss System to start December 15 and a final round-robin to start January 25.

All club members are eligible for the preliminaries with membership in the U.S. Chess Federation an additional requirement. The entry fee is \$10.00 with \$2.00 to be posted as a forfeit fee.

The six highest ranking members, Harry Borochoy, Carl Pilnick, Zoltan Kovacs, Jack Moskowitz, Irving Rivise, and Tibor Weinberger, will be seeded directly into the finals without going through the preliminary tournament.

The six winners in the preliminaries will join the seeded players in a 12-man final for the championship title. The first prize will be \$250 and a trophy. Other cash prizes are \$150, \$75, \$50 and \$25.

The remaining preliminary players will form two groups which will contest separate tournaments, the division to be based on the final standings in the preliminaries.

Registration may be made Tuesdays or Thursdays with Mrs. Lina Grumette at the club.

Herbert T. Abel will be the director.

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Tour. Dir. Herbert T. Abel

60 - 60 TOURNAMENT

Open to all Steiner Club Members

Place Herman Steiner Chess Club
Register Herman Steiner Chess Club
Entry Fee \$4.00
Prizes \$3.50 of entry fee will
be used for prizes
Time November 24 - 26, 1961

| | | | |
|---------|--------|----------|---------------|
| 1st rd. | Friday | 24th | 8:00 P.M. |
| 2 | " | Saturday | 25 12:30 P.M. |
| 3 | " | " | " 3:30 P.M. |
| 4 | " | " | " 7:30 P.M. |
| 5 | " | Sunday | 26 12:30 P.M. |
| 6 | " | " | " 3:30 P.M. |

Tour. Dir. Herbert T. Abel

From a letter written by Jerry Spann to Al Bisno: "...A prime reason for my visit to Los Angeles recently, was to congratulate Mrs. Piatigorsky, not only for her fine contribution in connection with the match, but for the construction of the magnificent new Steiner club, the most beautiful in the United States..."



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THE SOUTHERN CALIF. CHESS LEAGUE
by Allan Troy

What does The Southern California Chess League mean to you? How does it operate? What does the SCCL do for me?

The SCCL is a coordinating group of representatives from about thirty-three, (33) different chess clubs in the Los Angeles County area. Each club sends a league representative to the league meeting in which varied tournaments are planned, ie; Team Matches, Expert Candidates Tournament, SC Chess Championship Amateur Tourney, etc. These club representatives meet together at the Dept. of Water and Power Chess Club on predetermined Wednesday nights during the year. Primarily, at the first meeting of the year, the Executive Board - President, Vice President, Tournament Director, Secy-Treasurer, etc. - is elected. Your executive team then plans and sets forth the events and dates during the year for the club actions, Closed and Open Tournaments, Morphy Day, and numerous other events, for the approval of your representatives. Since the league is only a coordinating body it does not have the facilities in which to run chess events, and therefore is dependent on the member clubs to volunteer to serve as the host club. The Westchester Club for the Annual Westchester Open, Steiner Club for Expert Candidates, Amateur Tournament, State Championship, Qualifying Tournaments. Santa Monica for the Southern Calif. Open, and the San Gabriel and Downey Clubs for Morphy Day. These are examples of what the various clubs contribute to their individual season, and how they assist the neighbor clubs in the Los Angeles area.

THE SC LEAGUE CALENDAR

5.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|---|--|
| *January 26-27-28 Jan. - Feb. March - April | WESTCHESTER OPEN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM INTER-CLUB MATCHES BYE WEEK OF APR.1-7 |
| *April 6-7-8 | METRO OPEN |
| *May 5-6 | SAN BERNARDINO OPEN |
| May 19 | YANK-REBEL MORPHY DAY |
| *May 6-12 | EXPERT CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT STARTS |
| 13-19 | RD 2 |
| 20-26 | RD 3 |
| June 9 (Sat.) | RDS 4 - 5 - 6 |
| 10 (Sun.) | RDS 7 - 8 |
| *June 23-24 | SOUTHERN CALIF. OPEN |
| *July 20-21-22 | NOVICE TOUR. PROPOSED |
| Last July thru August | SOUTHERN CALIF. QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS |
| *Labor Day Week end Sept. - Oct. | STATE OPEN at FRESNO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIPS |
| *Last 2 week ends-November | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AMATEUR |
| Thanksgiving Week end | STATE CHAMPIONSHIP "CLOSED" 10 MAN ROUND ROBINS |

Suggested Locations for Various Events

Experts Sections at Van Nuys, Pasadena, Whittier, Inglewood, Santa Monica, W. & P.
Final Rounds (5) at Garvey Memorial Park.
Y-R-Morphy Day - Spt. Park, Inglewood (Troy)
Metro Open - "Ford Park", Downey (Pye)
Novice Tournament - Park S.F. Valley
Qualifying Sections at Valley, Monterey Park, Downey, So. Bay, Santa Monica, W. & P. ***

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Cecil Rhodes

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GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

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SUNSET BRIDGE CLUB 6268 Sunset Blvd.

The club membership roster boasts an over-45% increase since August 1st. A gratifying note is the rise in the number of promising juniors who have joined the ranks. On the distaff side, the picture is also blooming, with a count of sixteen femmes.

A hearty welcome is herewith extended to the following new members, who joined last month.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Carl Pilnick | Leonard Barr |
| Ray Caldwell | Ben Heller |
| Guillermo Restrepo | Michal Topiol |
| Sevil Smook | Israel Chodos |
| Frances Wynshaw | Marshall Neuss |
| Wm. Wallace | Peter Ganine |
| Walter Cunningham | |

Bill St. Clair has accepted the job of associate editor of the Club Bulletin. We hope he has been warned that it pays three times nil - in money, that is. From a non-material point of view, it's more fun than skittles..Really?! Bill, incidentally, was a Captain in the Air Corps, and is a veteran of World War II and Korea.

.....

SCENE AND HEARD

Clock-punchers Jerry Hanken vs. Gene Rubin, Allen Troy vs. Leo Kupersmith blitzing through 5-minute chess. A lively show if we can only figure out who beats whom..Sociable Maxwell Gaston and Walter Steele kibitzing one another's moves as they play.

.....

Browsing through some of our old Chess Reviews, we came across the following item, in the March 1953 issue:

Chess editor Ladner writes that there are only three chess clubs for the deaf in this country—all in California! The oldest is the Berkeley Chess Club founded 20 years ago; the others are in Los Angeles and Sacramento. As chess would seem to be an ideal recreation for the deaf, it is rather surprising that there is not a tenfold greater number of deaf players.

As many of our members know, the Steiner Club holds special sessions on Monday night, for deaf chess players.

.....



PRO FILE

by William J. St. Clair, Jr.

Zoltan Kovacs

Herman Steiner Club members feel justifiable pride in having Zoltan Kovacs as a fellow-member. An International Master since 1951, the 46 year-old Kovacs has had a brilliant career in the world of chess competition both in the United States and Europe.

Born in Hungary, Kovacs started playing chess as a boy, and by 1938 had become University Champion of his country. Many other laurels were to be won by him. He placed 4th in the Hungarian Championship Matches of 1940, as well as remaining a top-seeded player in numerous other trials.

His career was interrupted by World War II, but was resumed following the end of the war. In 1947 he took 1st place in the Hastings "B" tournament, (rated by critics that year as being stronger than the "A" matches)

Shortly after that, in 1949, Zoltan was assigned to the diplomatic corps and eventually to the Hungarian Embassy Staff in Vienna. During those chaotic years in Hungary there was little time for chess. However, in 1954, at which time he was employed as a journalist for the Vienna Weltpresse, he resumed his chess playing activities and became champion of Vienna. In the same year he was awarded a special prize as highest scorer on the Austrian Olympic Chess Team.

Kovacs is the current California State Champion and held the California Open title last year. He is considered in many quarters, a powerful contender for the U.S. title.

###

JOHN SHERLOCK, in The Diners' Club Magazine "... If, on the other hand, you want Mexican food (some people think this Mexican food is amongst the best in the world), try Casa Cienega..."

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CLOSED MONDAYS

Exciting games are always the spice in the dry positional chess menu one is served these days. We thus appreciate the fearlessness and courage of a player who continuously skirts the brink of disaster throughout his game. Though mistakes and oversights abound in this type of game, as aptly demonstrated below, we are nevertheless ready to overlook these errors in exchange for a few minutes of sheer chess enjoyment.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP - 1961

Gene Rubin
WhiteSaul Yarmak
Black

1. P-K4
2. P-KB4
3. B-B4
4. K-B
5. N-KB3
6. N-B3
7. P-K5!

- P-K4
PxP
Q-R5+
N-KB3
Q-R4
B-N5?
--

Naturally, 7.--, BxN, 8.QPxB N-K5, 9.BxP(B4)! would be very bad for Black here, therefore 6.--, B-N5? was a time-wasting move.

- N-N5
B-R4
Q-R3
P-Q4

This pawn sacrifice was virtually forced, as Black's Queen is in a vulnerable position.

- Q-QB3
P-QR3
--

Although this move is not actually bad (in itself), there was an easy and rather elegant way to consolidate his advantage: A) 13.N-KB6+, PxN or (NxN) 14.PxP+, B-K3 (14.--, K-B leads to mate in three) 15.P-Q5 and wins easily. B) 13.N-KB6+!, K-B, 14.P-KR3! and Black is devastated.

13. --
14. PxN
15. BxB
16. P-B4
17. Q-K4
18. P-Q5
19. N-N5!

- B-K3
BxN
QxB
Q-Q2
N-B3
N-K2
--

Excellent! White forces Black to take desperate measures to relieve his cramped position. The immediate threat, of course is NxBP. If to prevent this Black plays 19.--, N-N3, then 20.P-K6!, PxP, 21.RxP!, R-B+, 22.N-B3! follows and Black can not defend against White's multiple threats.

- 19.--
20. NxBP
21. P-K6
22. B-N5
23. K-K2?

- O-O-O
KR-B
Q-R5
QR-K

Why this outright blunder when White has 23.RxP!, and now if NxP then 24.QxN and RxN will not do because the Queen has moved from the pin.

- 23.--

P-R3?

Black misses his only chance of escape, NxP! is good now because after 24.Q-N, RxN, White cannot recapture the Rook due to his King's position. 24.P-QN3 would drive Black's Queen to a more menacing position.

The rest is fairly straight-forward.

24. P-Q6
25. P-Q7+
26. PxR(Q)+
27. KR-Q
28. R-Q7
29. QR-Q
30. P-N4!
31. Q-K5
32. RxB
33. QxP (5)
34. QxN
35. QxR
36. R-Q8+
37. NxQ

- PxB
K-N
QxQ
N-B3
B-N5
B-K2
NxP
Q-B
N-B3
NxR
R-K
QxQ
QxR
Resigns

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White

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. N-KB3 | P-Q4 |
| 2. P-KN3 | P-QB4 |
| 3. B-N2 | N-KB3 |
| 4. O-O | P-K3 |
| 5. P-Q3 | N-QB3 |
| 6. P-QB4 | B-K2 |
| 7. N-QB3 | P-Q5 |
| 8. N-N5 | P-QR3 |
| 9. N-R3 | O-O |
| 10. N-B2 | Q-B2 |
| 11. P-QN4 | P-K4 |
| 12. PXP | BXP |
| 13. B-N5 | N-Q2 |
| 14. P-K3 | PXP |
| 15. BXP | R-Q1 |

Allan Bourke
Black

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| 16. N-N5 | B-K2 |
| 17. Q-R5 | BxN |
| 18. BxB | R-K1 |
| 19. N-K3 | N-B4 |
| 20. N-Q5 | Q-Q3 |
| 21. P-B4 | P-K5 |
| 22. P-B5 | NxP |
| 23. P-B6 | Q-B4+ |
| 24. K-R1 | QxP |
| 25. N-N6 | Q-Q5 |
| 26. NxR | N-B7+ |
| 27. RxN | QxR+ |
| 28. R-B1 | QxP |
| 29. N-B7 | R-K4 |
| 30. PXP | P-K6 |
| 31. B-Q5! | Resigns |

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RESHEVSKY EXHIBITIONS

Samuel Reshevsky, who starts his annual exhibition and lecture tour in January, is scheduled for three different types of events at the club. The confirmed dates are as follows:
Wednesday, January 10 - 7 P.M. Lecture
Saturday, January 13 - 8 P.M. Simultaneous Clock games against eight masters and experts.
Thursday, January 18 - 7 P.M. Simultaneous exhibition against all comers
Playing fee, \$3 per board.

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