

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

Volume 5, Issue 7

5318 Callister Ave
Sacramento 19, Calif.

Nov. 3, 1954

CCCL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (for State Championship)

No.	Name	Club	1	2	3	4	Score	Solkoff
1	M O Meyer	Sacto	W2	W5A	W4	W5	4 - 0	9.0
2	R E Burger	Pitts	L1	W7	W3	W4	3 - 1	10.5
3	R Leigh	Stkn	D7	W8	L2	W5A	2½ - 1½	8.5
4	R G Guzman	Pitts	W9A	W5	L1	L2	2 - 2	10.5
5	H E Paul	Mod	W9	L4	W9A	L1	2 - 2	9.0
	E L Jeffers	"	W11	L1	W8	L3	2 - 2	9.0
7	T Fries	Fresno	L3	L2	W9	D8	2 - 2	8.5
8	R McCullough	"	W12	L3	L5A	D7	1½ - 2½	7.5
9	C J Smith	Oakdale	L5	D11	L7	W12	1½ - 2½	6.0
	W Shirey	Fresno	L4	W12	L5	D11	1½ - 2½	6.0
11	F Olvera	Pitts	L5A	D9	L 12	D9A	1 - 3	6.0
12	M E Mattingly		L8	L9A	W11	L9	1 - 3	5.5

The 1954 Central California Qualifying Tournament

By M. O. Meyer

The third annual tournament sponsored by the Central California Chess League for the purpose of selecting one player for the California State Championship was held in Modesto October 23-24. The four round Swiss event was ably directed by H. E. Paul (who played when it was discovered there would otherwise be 11 participants), L. H. Kerfoot of Modesto and N. T. Austin of Sacramento. Unfortunately, a number of players who have made impressive records in League match competition were unable to enter for business or personal reasons.

R. E. Burger of Oakland, winner of the 1952 and 1953 events, was the pre-tournament favorite. His fine record at first board for Pittsburg, his 4-0 wins in the 1953 and 1954 Individual Championship Tournaments, and his outstanding achievements in San Francisco and east bay competition justified the expectation that he would again occupy top spot. It was thought that the real struggle would be for second place, which the writer had occupied in the previous two tournaments.

By virtue of the initial draw, which was "blind" except to avoid the matching of players representing the same club, the eventual winner and runner-up met in the first round. After sharing the point in four earlier meetings in team match and tournament play, this game proved to be the first in which either player scored a full point against his opponent. The result was correctly regarded as an upset, and we are certain that our cause was substantially aided by the fact that our opponent, who is engaged in graduate work at the University of California, felt that he should have spent the week-end studying for examinations rather than playing chess.

Five players scored wins in the first round, the lone draw being played between R. Leigh of Stockton and young Tom Fries of Fresno, who had made a fine showing in the 1954 United States Junior Championship Tournament. At the end of the second round only R. C. Guzman of Pittsburg and the writer had scores of 2-0, and at the end of the third round the latter had 3-0 and four players were tied for second with 2-1. We had already played three of the four, so that the top draw for the final round was automatic.

We have heard it said that one must be lucky to win a tournament and that was proved in each of my four games. We have also heard that the best players have the most luck, but the results of the recent tournament proved an exception to that rule, provided the observation may be regarded as such.

Oct 29, 1954

Mr. Mike Hailparn, President
Central Calif. Chess League
727 Ferger Ave
Fresno, California

Dear Mr. Hailparn:

At a recent meeting of the Fresno Chess Club our members were confronted with a bill to the amount of \$7.50, from our good member, Tom Fries. We were informed the amount was due because of the participation of three of our members in a tournament held in Modesto Oct. 23-24, the winner to qualify for the State Championship Tournament.

It was the unanimous opinion of the attending membership that the amount assessed was unjustified for several reasons:

- (1) The Fresno Chess Club was not notified through our secretary or any other source of such a fee.
- (2) No fee should be paid by any chess club for voluntary participation of its members in any tournament unless authorized to do so. Tournament chairmen should request such an authorization.
- (3) All participants should be advised as to the total expense of entry and such fee should be collected "En Toto" at the time of registry— not after the tournament has terminated, and additional funds are requested.

The above are only a few reasons for what we consider an unjust and inequitable fee. We are therefore registering this protest as to the handling of the entrance fee, and the lack of specific instructions through proper channels. We urge a change in any rule (if one exists) that makes the remittance of \$2.50 per person an obligation of any chess club.

Yours very truly,
Herbert Kallmann, Pres.
Fresno Chess Club

cc: Olvera, Gee, Crofut, Adams, Austin

Nov. 1, 1954

Mr. Mike Hailparn
President Central Calif. Chess League

Dear Mike:

I have a copy of the letter written to you by Dr. Kallman, President of the Fresno Chess Club, which registers the protest of the Fresno Club relative to the handling of the entrance fees in the recent tournament at Modesto. As you were not present at the tournament, I am writing this letter in order to acquaint you with the facts regarding this matter.

In the first place, I will take full responsibility for making the assessment. Upon my arrival near the end of the event, I discovered that the Committee had made no provision for the collection of the prize money, and set about to rectify the situation. Unfortunately, this assessment had not been announced by the committee, and I had no official status.

Dr. Kallman's letter gives several reasons why the Fresno Chess Club unanimously considers the fee to be unjust and inequitable. I must agree that the reasons are all sound. (1) The clubs should have been notified; (2) Tournament chairmen should request such an authorization; (3) Participants should have been advised of all expenses.

I do not agree that the fee was either unjust or inequitable. Both previous tournaments were conducted on the basis of the clubs supplying the prize money at the rate of \$2.50 per entry. This is a precedent that was set up as the only way to get a prize fund. The individual entry fee, after paying the rent, goes into the State Championship Prize Fund. We paid \$35 into that fund, less per man than the Bay Area or Southern California pay in. Whether this fee should be paid by the club or by the individual, is a matter for the club to decide.

All hail the new Champeen, as George Flynn would say! Milt Meyer has unseated a very sedentary figure at the twice-yearly Modesto fete. And in no uncertain fashion, either. Milt started with his chief rival and mowed 'em down in order. In fact, this tournament was so convincing for the winner that it makes the former victor think a little bit about how unconvincing the previous tourneys were in contrast, and in particular how unconvincing they might be in the future.

With the possible exception of Tom Fries, there were no serious challengers who did not get a clear right to challenge Milt in his bid for the title. Fries had the misfortune of being paired with another favorite, yours truly, in the second round even after he drew his first round game with Leigh and after Burger had lost to the eventual winner. This pairing brought about the curious circumstance that, if you consider Fries, Meyer, and Burger the chief contenders, Fries would have to beat the other two to win the tourney, while Meyer would only have to beat one, as it actually happened. This very minor deficiency does not detract at all from Meyer's performance, since it might be argued that Fries put himself in an awkward situation by drawing in the first round. But this fact does show that a mechanically run Swiss can lead to a very unsatisfactory tournament if there are only four rounds.

In this tournament, the only unsatisfactory outcome to my mind was the anticlimax. Herb Paul had graciously agreed to play when an odd number of entrants arrived, and he even more graciously paired himself with non-contenders in the first three rounds so that, when possible within the strict limits of the rules, he would not figure in the outcome. Unfortunately, when the fourth round came, he was the only one left who could play Meyer according to the rules, since the other contenders had knocked each other out. If the tournament director had any discretionary power at all, he could have reached down for Fries to meet the winner in the last round. Instead, we had the spectacle of the winner matched with the tournament director, who hadn't intended to play in the first place, who hadn't met what I consider the top contenders, and who nevertheless was bound by the rules to step forward.

In the four previous Modesto tournaments, only once was there a really climactic game in the final round (Fries-Burger, 1954 League Championship.) The winner of those tournaments has never played Mike Hailparn at Modesto, despite the fact that Mike was a leading contender in several tournaments there. He has similarly avoided Phil Smith, Bill Adams, Ojars Celle, and others in crucial situations because of the mathematical pairings. When this element of chance is added to the vagaries of individual games, the result is largely fortuitous. But even more important, the winner rarely meets a representative selection of the stronger players, thus missing the preparation that Bay Area or Los Angeles players receive in their respective tournaments.

In my opinion, the mathematical pairing in our Modesto tournaments should have been abandoned long ago. Let us agree: the only purpose of a Swiss tourney is to allow every player a chance to win a short tournament. This purpose is NOT defeated by doing a little enlightened pairing.

To Milt we wish the best of luck in the finals. Only lack of recent practice will possibly keep him from the top, if anything does. In my opinion, he will fare far better than his predecessor, which is not saying much: more than this, I believe he has the style to put new respect for Central Valley in our smog-bound friends.

In conclusion, I base the justice and equity of my action on the precedent of the two previous qualifying tournaments, and regret only that the Committee neglected to publicize the expected source of the prize fund.

Yours very truly,
N. T. Austin

cc: H. Kallman -- Sacto Chess News.

Your Editor is Chairman of the Tournament Committee, but was unable to attend the last tournament as he was out of town on business. However, the three objections given in Kallmann's letter, (to the method of collecting entry fees for prize fund) and agreed to by Austin's answer, are certainly not in line with my own thinking. First, there is a misconception, particularly among Fresno players, that the Qualifying Tournament is an "open" tournament and, hence - anyone in the CCCL can enter. This is not true. All three of such tournaments have been limited to not more than 15 entrants, and each club is to pick, or authorize, the ones who enter from individual clubs. Entry fee is \$5. After payment of tournament expenses (mainly hall rent) balance is sent to the State Championship Tournament Fund. Any club that authorizes a player to participate is supposed to pay \$2.50 prize money for that player entering. This has been done for two years previous, and this year was no exception. Your Editor wishes to point out that Mr. Kallman has been in the League for many years, both Hailparn and Fries have been active members, Hailparn is now president, and it seems strange that the Fresno Club was not aware of these provisions. As to changing the rule that makes \$2.50 assessed to a club that puts a player in the CCCL Qualifying Tournament, that has to be taken up by the Executive Council of the League.

FRESNO CHESS CLUB
1954

Team Training Tournament

Michael Hailparn has won the right to play board one for the Fresno Chess Club in this year's Central California Chess League Matches by virtue of his fine 7-1 score in the 1954 Team Training Tournament. Mike, a graduate student at Fresno State College, scored his second consecutive tournament victory in Fresno, having won the Championship Tournament concluded in April.

The tournament was one of the most exciting affairs ever held locally, with the lead changing hands several times. Going into the final round Tom Fries of Fresno and Elmer Achterberg of Visalia still had outside chances for first prize. Hailparn's sole defeat was at the hands of Fries, who in turn was knocked out of first place by a loss to Achterberg.

The affair was an eight-round Swiss System with twenty-one participants. The tournament was enlivened by the play of three promising youngsters - William Shirey, Roy McCullough and Robert Garabedian.

The tournament was directed by Tom Fries. Final Standings: — Solkoff

1	M Hailparn	W14	W19	W13	L2	W8	W3	W9	W6	7 - 1	
2	T Fries	W18	W9	D4	W1	L3	W13	W8	D7	6 - 2	
3	E Achterberg	W11	L13	W9	W16	W2	L1	W6	D4	5½ - 2½	
4	O Maschke	W17	W16	D2	W7	L1	L6	W13	D3	5 - 3	34.5
5	R Clark	L6	D15	L10	D12	W20	W14	W17	W9	5 - 3	26.5
6	C Fotias	W5	W8	L7	D13	W16	W4	W3	L1	4½ - 3½	37.5
7	R Baker	D8	W21	W6	L4	L9	D10	W11	D2	4½ - 3½	32
8	W Shirey	D7	L6	D15	W14	D10	W16	L2	W13	4½ - 3½	31.5
9	L Schafer	W10	L2	L3	W19	W7	W11	L1	L5	4 - 4	37
10	R Garabedian	L9	W17	W5	L11	D8	D7	D12	D14	4 - 4	32
11	J Hastings	L3	W18	W14	W10	L13	L9	W7	W20	4 - 4	28
12	L Legler	L19	L14	W20	D5	L15	W17	D10	W18	4 - 4	22
13	H Kallmann	W21	W3	L1	D6	W11	L2	L4	L8	3½ - 4½	39.5
14	R McCullough	L1	W12	L11	L8	W18	L5	W20	D10	3½ - 4½	31.5
15	E Thompson	L13	D5	D8	W18	W12	Withdrew			3 - 2	
16	R Durant	W21	L4	W19	L3	L6	L8	L8	L17	2½ - 5½	25
17	H Holladay	L4	L10	L18	W20	W19	L12	L5	D16	2½ - 5½	24.5
18	A Sotelo	L2	L11	W17	L15	L14	W16	L20	L12	2 - 6	
19	H Houle	W12	L1	L6	L9	L17	Withdrew			1 - 4	
20	R Eckdahl	L12	L7	L5	W18	L14	L11			1 - 5	
21	V Depoyan	L16	L7	Withdrew						0 - 2	

Chess activity in Fresno has been stimulated over the summer months by the creation of a new ladder point system. At the present time the top notch on the ladder is held by Elmer Achterberg of Visalia.

What's happened to the CCCL? (Ed Note - Did something happen) At the Open in Santa Barbara, Fresno registered eight (8) entrants, as against a grand total of three from the rest of the League. What's wrong? Let's get on the ball!

Fresno recently sent a 12-man team to Bakersfield for a match. The Kern City Club won to the tune of 7½-4½. Winners for Fresno were Bob Garabedian, Lloyd Kennedy, Bob Mitchell, and Roger Allbritton. Otto Maschke drew on top board. A rematch is slated for October 17.

The Recent sign-up for Fresno's team tournament reached an all-time high of twenty-one despite the absence of such regulars as Lloyd Kennedy, Phil Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Rubin, Bob Womack, and Ernie Cook!

CCCL QUALIFYING

Burger vs Meyer*

French Defense-1st rnd.

1 P K4	P K3	31 RxB	QxR	21 N N3	B B3	51 KxRP	NxP
2 P QB4	P Q4	32 Q B3	QxQ	22 N K4	R KN	52 K N6	P R5
3 BPxP	PxP	33 PxQ	K B3	23 N N5	BxN	53 P R4	P R6
4 P K5	P QB4	34 R K8	K Q4	24 BxB	RxB	P R5	P R7
5 P B4	N QB3	35 P N3	N K4	25 QxR	QxQ	55 P R6	P R8/Q
6 N KB3	B B4	36 B N3	P Q6	26 RxB	R K	56 P R7	Q Q
7 B K2	Q N3	37 Resigns	ch	27 R KB5	RxP	Resigns	
8 P Q3	B k2			28 R B7	P K5		
9 N B3	O O O			29 P Q4	R N3		
10 N QR4	Q B2	Round 1 CCCL Tourney		30 RxBP	R N2		
11 B K3	P Q5	Mattingly-McCullough		31 R B8ch	R N		
12 B B2	P QN4	1 P Q4	N KB3	32 R B7	R QN	WE NEED MORE GAME	
13 NxP	BxN	2 N KB3	P KN3	33 R Q7	P Q4	SCORES AND NEWS !!	
14 O O	KN K2	3 QN Q2	B N2	34 RxBP	N B6	PLEASE MAIE SALE IN!	
15 Q N3	B QN3	4 P K4	P Q3	35 R RB5	P QR3		
16 KR B	R Q4	5 B Q3	O O	36 R K3	N N4		
17 N N5	P B3	6 QR N	QN Q2	37 R K3	R K	Capital City Chess	
18 N B7	KR Q	7 P QN3	P Q4	38 P B3	NQxP	Club Championship	
19 NxR	QxN	8 P Q5	N K	39 RxP	RxR	Tournament is now	
20 B B3	K N2	9 P KN4	N QN4	40 PxR	N B7ch	taking entries. See	
21 BxR	QxB	10 P KR3	NxB	41 K Q2	NxNP	Gee or Austin for	
22 Q R3	PxP	11 PxN	F KB4	42 P R3	N B3	entry. Let's have	
23 PxP	P N5	12 NPxP	NPxP	43 K B3	K N2	an "all-out" gang	
24 Q R4	BxP	13 N B	N B3	44 K B4	K B3	of chessplayers	
25 R K	B N4	14 N N5	Q K	K Q5	K N4	this year!	
26 Q Q	NxP	15 KPxP	NxQP	46 P K5	P KR4		
27 Q R5	B B3	16 P QN4	K R	47 P K6	K R5	MEMBERS OF TEAM:-	
28 Q R3	N/2-N3	17 N K6	BxN	48 K Q6	KxP	We play Modesto this	
29 QR B	N KB5	18 PxB	N B6	49 K B7	K n6	Sunday at home. The	
30 Q N3	N/ 4-N3	19 Q KN4	NxR	50 KxNP	N Qch	place is Turn Verain	
		20 R N	Q K2			Hall.	