

CalChess REPORT

• April 1991 •

THE LAST SASP

The all-time favorite USCF program is the State Affiliate Support Program, SASP, which returns one dollar of every member's dues back to the state. Originally proposed to sell another dues increase at the annual meeting, SASP has grown into the chess equivalent of "Social Security," a program so popular with the state organizations that it is political suicide to propose eliminating it.

But every time the bureaucrats in New Windsor screw up, they look for a way to cover their dis-aster. Current debacles are a decline in mail-order sales (the Federation's biggest profit generator), and horrendous losses on a 1990 U.S. Open that nobody attended.

Outright assaults on SASP have been beaten back so many times that not even lame ducks on the Policy Board harbor illusions, but now there is a proposal on the table that will cut off SASP without actually saying so. Authored by PB members Camaratta, Sperling, and Goichberg, the new proposal suggests tying SASP funding to growth in membership. If a state grows by five percent or more, it receives its regular SASP allotment. If it grows by less, the allotment is reduced proportionately—a growth rate of 4% means 80% funding, a growth rate of 1% means 20% funding. Goichberg allows that any state that achieves more than 5% growth can save the excess to credit the following year. That is, if the growth rate one year is 7% and the next year is 3%, the extra 2% from the first year can be carried over to achieve the goal of 5% for both years.

You don't need a Ph.D. in math to see that the end result will be elimination of SASP; no state can indefinitely pyramid 5% growth; as state after state loses its funding, that money balances losses in other programs.

In Northern California, the third-largest state, **CalChess** would need to increase by 150 members per year to meet the target of 5%.

CANDIDATES' NIGHT

The next **CalChess** meeting will be Sunday, June 23, at 3:30 at the Berkeley Class Struggle, in the Student Union at UC Berkeley.

The main attraction will be the appearance of Jerry Hanken, "Mr. Insider," who will speak on chess politics and governance. If you have questions about the USCF, Jerry will answer them.

This year Jerry is running for Member-at-Large on the USCF Policy Board, a position he held from 1978-87. When not straightening out the mess in New Windsor, he is veep of the Southern California Chess Federation, organizer of tournaments such as the Software Toolworks American Open and 1991 U.S. Open, and—exceptionally rare in a chess politician—a Life Master who can't skip a tournament and *loves* to play chess.

WHAT'S NEW IN 1991?

▲ CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

One of the exciting new things on the agenda for 1991 is the California Women's Championship, the first of its kind ever held in California. Several participants of the U.S. Championship will be sharpening their technique and sizing up the competition at the event, scheduled for the first weekend in June.

A highlights will be the participation of Julia Tverskaya, a newcomer who has just qualified for the U.S. Women's Championship, and Talyana Kanzaveli, another Russian who has played very little chess since her arrival with her husband (also a master).

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The idea for the tournament was the brainstorm of Ray Orwig, who will direct.

▲ LERA ACHIEVES "HERITAGE" STATUS

Now that Jim Hurt's LERA tournaments of Sunnyvale are well into their third decade, they have earned consideration by the USCF as "heritage" events. To earn "heritage" status, a tournament has to have been held for more than twenty-five years. Recognition as "heritage" means special display in Chess Life, and other benefits from the USCF.

Jim runs four tournaments a year at LERA. In March, he has the Sunnyvale Class Championships, now 27 years old; next month, the Memorial Day Class Championships, now 23. In August and November he also holds tournaments.

But Jim has to take a vacation once in awhile. In fact, he and his wife are in Hawaii for the month, sipping papaya coolers and basking in the sun. While there, he is organizing and directing the Maui Chess Championship, May 4-5.

▲ SACRAMENTO OPEN, JULY 4-7.

Another bright spot on the 1991 organizational calendar is the revival of Sacramento tournaments, starting with the Sacramento Open on the July 4 weekend.

Those of you familiar with the culture of Northern California chess know that Sacramento had long been one of the bright spots. Stars like Ed Edmonson, who ran the USCF during the glory years and made Fischer world champion, got their start in Sacramento. Nearby Davis is a college town, and for twenty years Serge von Oettingen ran one of the toughest little clubs in the West. Every time a GM passed through, headed for Lone Pine or elsewhere, Serge would arrange a clock simul against the local masters and experts. Some of the games Robert Fischer played in

Davis survive in the Wade & O'Connell collection. Other simuls were given by Gligoric and Smyslov.

In the mid-eighties, the general malaise of Northern California chess hit Sacramento hard; there have been no weekend tournaments at all for years. Bill Goichberg's committee on tournament development identified Sacramento as one of the places where the ratio of USCF members to rated tournaments was particularly disproportionate (almost 300 USCF members in ZIPs 956-958!). Yet Sacramento is perfect for tournament activity. It has become one of the major population centers of the West. The leading paper, the Sacramento Bee, has carried Richard Fauber's excellent locally-written chess column for over twenty years. Finally a catalyst arrived in the form of Art Wake, President of the Sacramento Chess Club, who previously organized in Indiana.

For his first tournament, the Sacramento Open, Art is making sure everything is first-rate. He has obtained the very best playing site in the area, the new Hyatt Regency Sacramento at Capitol Park. As tournament veterans well know, no venue for a chess tournament compares with the comfort and convenience of a luxury hotel.

To guarantee a professional operation, Art retained as Chief Director GM George Koltanowski, America's most experienced TD (16 U.S. Opens). And contributions by the Hyatt and local benefactors will make the prize fund one of the most generous. The organizers are determined that everyone have a pleasant tournament, by offering amenities such as complimentary coffee service and souvenir programs. The Open section will be FIDE rated, and some of Northern California's best players are already committed to play.

Those who are not going to the World Open in Philadelphia should mark the calendar for Sacramento and an excellent chess tournament.

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The Sacramento Chess Club will be holding regular tournaments. Art has even discussed with Hyatt management the possibility of a bid for the U.S. Open in '94 or '95—perhaps even an international grandmaster tournament in '92 or '93.

▲ BLITZ TAKES OFF IN PALO ALTO

The Palo Alto Chess Club has started its series of regular monthly Five-Minute tournaments with a very strong \$300 tournament held April 16. Among the participants were state champion Vladimir Strugatsky, SMs Greg Kotlyar and Renard Anderson, NMs Richard Koepcke, Mike Arné, Alan Stein, Steve Schonhaut, Julia Tverskaya, Tom Dorsch, and others. And of course there are those five-minute specialists who make mincemeat of the masters, such as Neil Regan. Even Jordy Mont-Reynaud, an eight-year-old, was gaining valuable experience. Those of you who enjoy sharpening your wits against fine players, or even just enjoy five-minute, should catch the next one.

The event was ably directed by Bill Wall. The Palo Alto Chess Club holds its WBCA-sanctioned 5-minute tournaments on the third Tuesday of each month. The next is May 21. The entry fee is only \$10, and almost everything is returned. For more info call Bill Wall, (415) 964-3667.

And if you like Blitz action, don't forget the monthly Contra Costa blitz tournaments held by the Walnut Creek Chess Club on the last Tuesday of each month. The next one is April 30. For more information call Larry Lehman, (415) 946-1545.

▲ NEW STOCKTON CLUB

A new chess club has been started in Stockton by Ron Houssaye. It meets Friday evenings at St. Andrew's Church, 4910 Claremont, and Saturday afternoons at the Blackwater Cafe, 912 N. Yosemite. Contact Ron at (209) 339-8641.

▲ SOUTH BAY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

Another new development on the chess scene are the South Bay Sectionals, an interesting idea of Pat Howlett of San Jose. There is a sectional for below 1800 on April 27-28, another for above 1800 on May 4-5. For info call Pat at (408)988-5008.

Pat is a Certified Financial Planner who rents a suite of offices in Santa Clara, and wants to have quality chess tournaments in his office space, with virtually all of the entry fees returned as prizes. He can provide optimal playing conditions for no more than 32 players (16 boards).

Pat's second event, an Open, will be the weekend of June 8-9, and Pat plans to cannibalize additional offices to accommodate up to eighty players. Watch for flyers.

APRIL CalChess MEETING

The April **CalChess** meeting was held at UC Berkeley. Action included the award of \$500 in SASP funds to support the California Women's Championship, and \$200 in SASP funds to the state high school champion, Alan Stein, for going to Los Angeles to play in the Denker Tournament.

It was also decided to establish a patron class of **CalChess** memberships to allow those with the will and means to provide financial support to do so.

The next **CalChess** meeting will be at the Berkeley Class Struggle, June 23, at 3:30.

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HAVE YOU JOINED CalChess?

SUPPORT YOUR STATE FEDERATION!

APRIL 1991

20	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
27-28	SaSu	Santa Clara (U.1800)	PH
28	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
30	Tu	Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz)	CL

MAY 1991

2	Th	Burlingame CC (Action Quads)	SWi
4-5	SaSu	Santa Clara (O.1800)	PH
12	Su	Palo Alto (Quads)	BW
18	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
19	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
25-27	Sa-M	Sunnyvale/LERA (Class)	JH
28	Tu	Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz)	CL

JUNE 1991

1-2	SaSu	San Rafael: Calif. Women's Open Champ.	RO
8-9	SaSu	San Jose (Scholastic)	FS
13	Th	Burlingame CC (Action Quads)	SWi
16	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
22-23	SaSu	UC Berkeley (Class)	PY
25	Tu	Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz)	CL
28-30	F-Su	SF/Mechanics: Stamer (Open)	MW
29	Sa	UC/Berkeley (Quads)	PY

JULY 1991

4-7	Th-Su	Sacramento Open	SWa
20	Sa	Palo Alto (Quads)	BW
21	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
27	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
28-(9)		LA: U.S. Open	
30	Tu	Walnut Creek CC (WBCA Blitz) (and last Tu of each month)	CL

AUGUST 1991

17-18	SaSu	Sunnyvale/LERA (Class)	JH
18	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
24	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
31-(2)	Sa-M	SFX: No. Calif. Champ. & Open	JB

SEPTEMBER 1991

12	Th	Burlingame CC (Action Quads)	SWi
14	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
15	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
27-29	F-Su	SF: U.S. Class Champ.	BG

OCTOBER 1991

12	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
17	Th	Reno (WBCA Blitz)	JW
18-20	F-Su	Reno: Western States Open (Class)	JW
20	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
31	Th	Burlingame CC (Action Quads)	SWi

TOURNAMENT CLEARINGHOUSE (938-951, 954-961)

Alan Glasscoe	415/652-5324
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NOVEMBER 1991

2-3	SaSu	Livermore (2 Sect.)	CP
9	Sa	Palo Alto (Quads)	BW
16	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
17	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
23	Sa	SF/Lowell HS (Sectional)	PD
29-(1)	F-Su	Sunnyvale/LERA (Class)	JH

DECEMBER 1991

7-8	SaSu	San Jose City College	FS
14	Sa	UC Berkeley (Quads)	PY
15	Su	Richmond (Quads)	JE
19	Th	Burlingame CC (Action Quads)	SWi
21	Sa	SF/Lowell HS (Sectional)	PD

JANUARY 1992

25	Sa	SF/Lowell HS (Sectional)	PD
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FEBRUARY 1992

15-17	Sa-M	UC Berkeley: People's (Class)	PY
22	Sa	SF/Lowell HS (Sectional)	PD

MARCH 1992

21-22	SaSu	Livermore (2 Sect.)	CP
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APRIL 1992

18	Sa	SF/Lowell HS (Sectional)	PD
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