

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

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Summer is now upon us, and chess attendance suffers. Either players just do not show up, or else they soon migrate to the Chess Lounge at the Travelers.

A quick glance at the chess club cash shows a balance of \$50.50 on hand. Dues have not been paid recently, so please check your receipt and if not paid up, get in touch with the Treasurer before he has to "dun" you. Another couple months and the fall season will be here, with its tournaments, matches, and the expenses that go with such events. Please see your club treasurer immediately.

Finances of the "Chess News" have reached an all-time low. Looks as if we'll have to merge our funds with those of the regular Chess Club. We have collected several dollars at our weekly meetings in the rent kitty, over the rent charge. This is helping out considerably, but still not sufficient. The few necessary ingredients that make up the supplies that go into "Chess News" do cost a few dollars and there is no way to escape it. Present balance is \$1.66, with about \$4 in costs for this issue yet to be paid. Envelopes and stamps are on hand.

We understand that the California Chess Reporter needs about 200 more subscriptions to become self-supporting. This is a worthwhile paper, and the cost is only \$1 per year. The Reporter gives completed coverage on Bay Area chess news - which is perhaps the chess center of California - as well as covering many national and international events in brief. A good bargain for only a buck. Send subscriptions to H. J. Ralston, 184 Edgewood Ave., San Francisco 17.

Latest report on the Northern Calif. Championship is Gee lost to Capps. Playing a Ruy Lopez, Capps launched his favorite variation, and Gee didn't realize how dangerous it was until too late. A final oversight on a check gave Capps a forced mate - until that point Black had some faint drawing chances left.

THE CHESS DIAGRAM

by M. Neeley

Problem #21... White to move and mate in two. The problem for this issue was sent in by R. E. Baker, of Marysville, Calif. He ran across the problem in an old Chess publication and found it to be rather difficult. So did I!!

Solution to Problem #20. White moved Q-R6check, if Black interposes with R-N3 then White mates with Q-B8. If Black interposes with Q-N3, White plays Q-R3 threatening both R-R6 and Q-K6.

We have received a nice problem-contribution from Bob Burger. Thanks, Bob. Ye Ed will forward it to M. Neeley for future use. "Chess News" always welcomes material from its readers for publication.

Genial Neil Austin developed a severe stomach ache last Saturday morning, and as it became progressively worse during the day, he finally wound up at the hospital that evening. The doctor promptly removed an inflamed appendix, and Neil no longer has a stomach ache. At last report, he was biting his fingers because he wouldn't be at chess club this week..... Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery Neil.

COMMENTS

by Flynn

More good news on Sacramento Chess. J. B. Gee is carrying on the fightin' Forty-Niner tradition in the Northern California Championship. Playing in San Francisco, Ja has drawn with Jim Schmitt, former Oregon State Champion, and defeated the redoubtable Henry Gross.

I haven't seen the Schmitt game yet but have played over the Heinie Gross encounter, and it was a dandy. J. B. had the black side of a Ruy Lopez and gave up one pawn, then another, for an attack. The attack paid off, and Gee wound it up with a nice mating combination. I was almost as proud as if I'd won the game myself.

Like all losers, Heinie made mistakes but no gross errors...That there's a pun, son. Just to give you an idea of how good Heinie is, he played second board for the Northern team at San Luis Obispo and defeated the California State Champion, Ray Martin. Heinie is a great guy and we don't want to glory in his defeat, but still we can all feel pretty good when one of our own gang knocks over one of the best players in the west.

We can take a little of the credit too, since the bitter competition in the Valley League and the Sacramento Club has aroused Gee's interest in competitive chess, and I think there is no doubt he is playing better now than, say, a year ago. R. E. Russell and Ed Czapski, particularly, have given J. B. some real training battles.

Gee's next encounter is with Carrol Capps, the Oakland magician. That Capps can do the darndest things with a chessboard. But so can our J. B. Gee. If he plays the fine chess he can play, Gee should do all right. And even if he shouldn't, he has already made his mark in the Northern California Championship.

I came up with the idea of a Sacramento Invitational Tournament the other night. Austin tells me the idea has already been under discussion, and was brought up a month ago by Major Czapski. My plan was to run it as strictly a Sacramento enterprise, but the general opinion seems to be to run it as a Central California Chess League tournament. Which may be better, at that. In any form, I'm in favor of it. The more tournaments, the better the chess. It's as simple as that.

Somebody asked me, say, Flynn, if you can learn so darn much from playing a draw, what about when you lose a game? That has happened, or have I been misinformed?

Well, sir, you have been misinformed. I have never lost a game of competitive chess. Once or twice the sun got in my eyes. Another time, he hit me when I wasn't looking. On another occasion (or was it several occasions?) my combination didn't quite work out...surely you wouldn't call a little mistake like that a defeat, would you? Then again, it has happened that my fourth or fifth move was bad, and that lost the game. I didn't lose it, that darn fourth or fifth move did. Why should I take the blame for a thing like that? I think every chess player will understand my position in this matter. None of us ever loses. If worst comes to worst, we can just say, "Well, if I'd only moved the horse there, instead of here, any fool can see it was a won game."

Jack Hubert of Travelers Hotel is a former member of the Mechanics Institute Chess team and would be a strong addition to our club. It may happen, too. If Jack gets a change in his working hours. Hubert is a turrible strong player, as I have found out to my sorrow in several offhand games.

One item of bad news. Major Ed Czapski may leave our town in the near future. It's too bad. Ed was just rounding back into the form which made him a one-time champion of Detroit. He had me fooled, too. All along, I thought him a positional player, but after seeing some of his recent games, I know now that he is even more combinational-minded than I am. He will sacrifice at the drop of a pawn. Wherever you go, Major, our good wishes go with you. It was certainly fun to have you with the gang, even for a short time.

Let's all hope for a good record by R. E. Russell in the State Open, Labor Day weekend, in Santa Cruz. Wonder if there isn't some other local player to keep him company. It's really more fun to have a companion in a venture like that. The tournament is open to all.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP

There are nine players in this tournament, with Gee from Sacramento the only one not living in the Bay Area. The contest is very fierce, and the games tough. First prize is to be a suitably engraved cup, and the first three men placing in the tournament will represent the North in the California State Championship in LA over Labor Day. Your Editor has been very lucky so far, and his main hopes are to give the San Francisco boys a few bad moments, and show them that we do play chess out here in the Valleys. Here's the box score thru July 8th games:

Svalberg: lost to Capps, drew Pruner, beat Byron.
 Capps: beat Svalberg, Pruner & Byron.
 Pruner: lost to Capps, Schmitt, and drew Svalberg & Gross.
 Byron: lost to Svalberg, Capps & Schmitt
 Gross: drew Pruner, lost Gee, won Popoff.
 Gee: won Gross, drew Schmitt
 Bagby: won Popoff.
 Schmitt: won Pruner, Byron, Popoff; drew Gee

So it is anyone's tournament so far, with Capps, Bagby and Schmitt in the heavy-running so far. Gross had a bad game with Gee, but is far from being "out". Pruner is off to bad start, but being even-tempered and amiable, that won't keep him from winning some beautiful games. In fact, they are all worthy opponents!

Northern Calif.
 Championship 7/1/51

White: H. Gross
 Black: J. B. Gee

1 P K4 P K4
 2 N KB3 N QB3
 3 B N5 P QR3
 4 B R4 N B3
 5 O-O B K2
 6 R K P N4
 7 B N3 O-O
 8 P-KR3 P Q4
 9 PXP NXP
 10 NXP NXP
 11 RXP P QB3
 12 P Q3 B Q3
 13 R K Q R5
 14 Q B3 B Q2?
 15 B Q2? P KN4
 16 R K4 P N5
 17 PXP? Q R7ch
 18 K B Q R8ch
 19 K K2 QR K
 20 Q R3 Q N8
 21 P N3 N B3
 22 P KB3 B/3xNP
 23 N B3 Q B7ch
 24 K Q QxBPch
 25 K B BXP
 26 RxBch NXR
 27. N R4 RXP
 28 PXR N B7
 29 Q B N Q6ch
 30 QXP Q R8ch
 31 B K QxBch
 32 Q Q B B5ch
 33 Resigns
 2:05 1:50

Northern Calif.
 Championship 7/8

White: J. B. Gee
 Black: J. Schmitt

1 P-K4 P QB4
 2 N KB3 N QB3
 3 P Q4 PXP
 4 NXP N B3
 5 P KB3 P K4
 6 N N3? NXP!
 7 PXP Q R5ch
 8 K K2 P Q4
 9 P KR3 Q R4ch
 10 K K Q R5ch
 11 K K2 B K2
 12 PXP Q R4ch
 13 P N4 BXPch
 14 PxB QXPch
 15 K K Q N6ch
 16 K K2 Q N5ch
 17 K K Q N6ch
 18 K K2 Q N5ch
 drawn
 0:55 2:00

Challenge Match

White: Gee
 Black: Russell
 1 P-Q4 N KB3
 2 P QB4 P KN3
 3 N QB3 P Q4
 4 PXP NXP
 5 P K4 NXP
 6 PXP P QB4
 7 B QB4 B N2
 8 N K2 O-O
 9 B K3 N Q2
 (next column)

10 O-O Q B2
 11 R QB P QN3
 12 P B4 R Q
 13 Q N3 P K3
 14 P Q5 N B
 15 QR Q P QR3
 16 P QR4 R N
 17 PXP BXP
 18 P B5 RXP
 19 RXP PXP
 20 PXP BXB
 21 QxB Q K2
 22 Q B4 R K
 23 K B2 K R
 drawn

Second Game

White: Russell
 Black: Gee
 1 P K4 P K3
 2 P Q4 P Q4
 3 N QB3 B N5
 4 P K5 P QB4
 5 P QR3 BXPch
 6 PxB N K2
 7 P KR4 Q B2
 8 N B3 P B5
 9 P R5 P KR3
 10 P N4 QN B3
 11 P R4 B Q2
 12 B QR3 Q R4
 13 Q Q2 QXP
 14 B KN2 Q R4
 15 O-O Q Q
 16 KR N P QN3
 17 K R N B
 18 N N Q N4
 (next column)

19 QxQ PXP
 20 B B3 P B3
 21 PXP PXP
 22 R K K B2
 23 K N2 N/1 K2
 24 N R3 QR K
 25 QR Q N/2 B
 26 B B N Q3
 27 K N3 N N4
 28 R K3 P R4
 29 B KN2 N K2
 30 P B4 PXP ep
 31 NXP R/K KN
 32 R/1 K N B4ch
 33 K R3 NXR
 34 RXP N B2
 35 K R4 P K4
 36 R N3 PXP
 37 BXP R QB
 38 P N5? PXPch?
 39 BXP KR KN
 40 R B3ch K N2
 41 P R6ch K R
 42 R B7 RxB
 43 KXR B K3
 44 R K7 P R5
 45 K N6 R Nch
 46 K B6 R Bch
 47 K K5 R B2
 48 RxB NXR
 49 KXP R B7
 50 BXP P N4
 51 B B6 P R6
 52 P Q5 P R7
 53 P Q6 P R8/Q
 54 P Q7 Q Q8
 55 K K7 R k7ch
 56 K Q8 Q Q3
 57 Resigns

Match Game
 White: Gee
 Black: Russell

1 P K4	P K4
2 N KB3	N QB3
3 B B4	B B4
4 P B3	N B3
5 P Q4	PxP
6 PxP	B N5ch
7 N B3	NxKP
8 O-O	BxN
9 PxB	O-O
10 B R3	P Q3
11 Q B2	N B3
12 KR K	N K2
13 B Q3	N N3
14 P B4	P B3
15 B QB	P Q4
16 B N5	B K3
17 P B5	R K
18 N K5	Q B2
19 P B4	N B
20 P B5	B Q2
21 BxN	PxB
22 N N4	K R
23 Q Q2	N N3
1:17	1:37

adjourned

from Oakdale:
 White: Dr. Stapp
 Black: R.W. Brown

1 P K4	P K3
2 P Q4	P Q4
3 N QB3	N KB3
4 B KN5	PxP
5 NxP	B K2
6 BxN	BxB
7 P QB3	B Q2
8 P KB4	B B3
9 B Q3	N Q2
10 N B3	P KN3
11 Q K2	Q K2
12 O-O-O	O-O-O
13 N K5	N N
14 NxQB	NxN
15 P KN3	B N2
16 B N5	N N
17 B QR4	P QB3
18 B B4	N Q2
19 P R5	K N
20 Q QB2	R QB
21 Q N3	R B2
22 K B2	K R
23 R R	R QN
24 R R4	P QN4
25 PxP ep	NxP
26 R R6	Q Q
27 KR QR	BxP

28 Q R2	N Q4
29 BxN	BfxB
30 N Q6	Q Q2
31 Q R4	B B4
32 K N	QxQ
33 R/lxQ	R Q?
34 N N5	R N2
35 N Q4	R/Q1-QN
36 N B6??	RxPch
37 K B	R N8ch
38 Resigns	

THE GAME THAT SAVED MY LIFE.

Alexander Alekhine, the world's chess champion, before his death was asked by friends what was the most exciting and dangerous chess game of his life. This story was his answer:

As a Captain in the Czarist army and a member of a noble family, I was placed under arrest shortly after the Bolsheviks came into power. In the depths of despair, I was sitting in an Odessa prison and pondering my fate when the door was flung open and four members of the political police entered the cell. A fifth man entered and I recognized him immediately from his photographs. It was Leon Trotsky, I was certain my time had come. "Captain Alekhine," said one of the police, "Comrade Trotsky wants to play a game of chess with you." With that he placed an elaborate chessboard and set of men on the small table. I had heard of Trotsky's chess fanaticism and it was obvious that reports of my ability had reached him.

Trotsky sat down without a word, to begin the most interesting and dangerous game I ever played.

For I was faced with a titanic problem. I was convinced that on the outcome of the contest would depend my life. But--did Trotsky so badly want to beat me that he would allow me to live if I lost? Or did he feel that a person gifted sufficiently to conquer him at the board should be entitled to life?

I looked into Trotsky's face for a possible clue. It wore an intense expression, but beyond that gave me no indication. The police were impassive. Trotsky made the first move, a conventional opening. I decided to play a non-decisive, weak for the nonce, waiting for him to show his hand. He played well, but not brilliantly.

After some fencing, I decided to cast the die. I would play my best and beat him as quickly as I could. It did not take long. Slowly Trotsky rose from the table. "I lose," was all he said. He made a peculiar gesture, a sort of wave of the hand, then walked quickly from the cell. The next day I was declared a free man, and given permission to leave Russia if I desired. The paper was signed by Trotsky. Attached was a personal note in which the powerful revolutionary said he had enjoyed our chess game very much.

That game of chess gave me my life. I went to France to continue medical studies but decided to devote the rest of my life to the game.--as told to Albert A. Brandt.

Chess news seems to be scarce. It is too bad that we don't have a better variety of games to publish. But if players don't send them in, we can't publish them. Understand Meyer challenged Kozen, won the first game and lost the second. Why don't we have these two game scores? And as mentioned in our last issue, did that Jackson-Strob match come off for the championship of the League? If so, what are the results? We want and need more news, game scores, subscribers and so on. You send it in - we publish it.

No matter what chess club you belong to, if your dues are not paid up to date, how about doing so at the next meeting? Chess clubs need money to operate on, like you and me.