

# SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

Volume IV, Issue 7

5318 Callister Ave  
Sacramento 19, Calif

Sept. 24, 1953

## MINUTES OF CCCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

9/20/53

In the absence of the President and Vice-President the meeting was called to order by Secretary N. T. Austin. Present were Wm. T. Adams, San Jose; Frank Olvera, Pittsburg; E. L. Jeffers, Modesto; M. Hailmann, Fresno; Elmer Achtenberg, Visalia; C. J. Smith, Oakdale; M. A. Sanders, Stockton; and N. T. Austin, Sacramento.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read, as were the Treasurer's Report, and the financial reports on the Individual Championship Tournament and the State Championship Qualifying Tournament.

The following officers were unanimously elected, Wm. T. Adams, President; C. J. Smith, Vice-President; and N. T. Austin, Secy-Tras.

A spirited discussion was held on the subject of team size. It was decided to continue under the present rules for the coming season, and to appoint a committee to study the subject and report at the next meeting.

As Visalia will not field a team this year, but desires to maintain membership, a discussion was held on their voting eligibility. It was decided that Visalia should have full voting rights.

The Secretary was ordered to publish the rules of play in the next Sacramento Chess News.

A schedule for the coming season prepared by N. T. Austin, was approved and dates were set for each round. a starting time of one pm for all matches was agreed upon. If a team has not appeared by this time, clocks shall be started from the 1st board down.

It was agreed to continue holding two tournaments annually as at present. The President was instructed to appoint a Tournament Committee to plan for these events.

It was decided to drop the \$5 prize for best score at 1st board in League matches, and substitute a \$5 prize for best score at any board, ties to be decided in favor of the player playing the lowest (numbered) average board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

N. T. Austin

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Bal on hand 9/21/52	30.50	Prize (R.E.Burger)	5.00
Initiation fee (Visalia)	5.00	Donation (Tournament)	20.00
Dues Received	17.50		25.00
	<u>53.00</u>	Bal on hand 9/20/53	<u>\$28.00</u>

### Individual Championship

Entry fees	80.00	Rent	20.00
		Prizes	60.00
	<u>80.00</u>		<u>80.00</u>

### Qualifying Tournament

Entry Fees	40.00	Rent	20.00
Deposits	40.00	Tournament Fund	20.00
Donation (League)	20.00	Deposit (Burger)	5.00
Donation (Clubs)	20.00	Deposits returned	35.00
		Prizes	40.00
	<u>120.00</u>		<u>120.00</u>

## OFF THE CHESST

by George W. Flynn

Seems like I'm always slighting Dr. David-Malig when commenting on our tournaments. Of course, the reason is that I usually hear of results only second-hand, and rely on my poor memory altogether too much. Anyway, Editor Gee always comes through with the accurate results, and so credit is given where credit is due.

Anyway, I completely over-looked Dr. David-Malig's fine performance in the Qualifying Tournament. I apologize. In fact, if Dr. David-Malig is ever up in these hyar parts, I wish he'd give me a ring and maybe we could have a game or two and I could apologize in person.

But then, nobody takes me too seriously anyway...I hope, I hope. There is an old saying in professional chess that anyone who writes a chess column is entitled to a rook handicap when actually playing the game. I don't doubt the truth of that. For instance, I can casually criticize Botvinnik's faulty 33rd move, without making the typewriter stutter...but Botvinnik could easily give me the rook, without making his game stutter.

Well, it's all in the way you look at it. I had another error to my credit. Dr. Bowers of Woodland turned out to be Dr. Herb Bauer, Health Officer for Yolo County. Dr. Murphy (say, this is turning out to be a medical column...let's see if we can't publish it in the Journal of the A. M. A.) of Chico wrote in with the correct information, for which we send many thanks up Chico way. Incidentally, doesn't Dr. Ellis (Hal Ellis, I believe) of Chico push a mean pawn, especially in correspondence.

But to come back to Dr. Bauer of Woodland. In the shuffle of events, he wrote me a fine letter, which proves he has quite a sense of humor besides being a chess player. I quote.

"Dr. Murphy from Butte County sent me your remarks in "Off the Chesst" and asked me if I was the one you referred to. Since I did not recognize myself from your description I meant to deny it but in the meantime I received your kind invitation to play in your Club. I am sorry that some well-meaning soul must have represented me as a good player--which most certainly I am not.

"Wednesday night is usually occupied by some meeting or other so it may take quite some time until I can prove to you that anybody can beat me.

"There is a small group here in Davis where we usually play each first and third Tuesday nights. If you are interested in matching our respective groups I would be glad to talk to Dr. Albers about it, who organized our little club."

How about that for a letter? I got a kick out of that "it may take quite some time until I can prove to you that anybody can beat me." Also, the prospects of a match with the Davis group are of great interest. Perhaps a home and home series could be arranged, informally. How about it, team captains?

Well, let's switcheroo from the medical field quickly (I'm starting to worry about my health...of course, think of the advantage of having a doctor with not only a bedside manner but a chess-board he brings along). Anyway, Bob Burger wrote Editor Gee from Los Angeles that he played a bit sloppily in the State Tournament. Also, "say hello to George Flynn and tell him to blast me for such a poor representation of the League." Shucks, Bob, I hain't a-blastin' nobody, especially when they draw with players like Gross and Steiner (only a U. S. Champion) and beat one like Poliakoff.

Without any question, humility is good for the soul, but also without any question, Bob Burger is one of the best chess players on the Pacific Coast. I have been watching his results rather carefully for two or three years. Frankly, I see no reason why he can not play in top national or even international circles. In the last

(continued next page)

year, he has made considerable progress in eliminating sloppiness from his play. There is very little left when he plays even the best in our League. Perhaps there is yet a trace when he plays the best on the coast. But, since he eliminated about 90% of that tendency, why shouldn't he go to work on the remaining 10%?

If he can do that, all I say is, look out! Because the chess world will have to keep an eye on him. Even if he does not eliminate it, what the heck, I'll bet Gross, Steiner and Poliakoff will still keep both eyes on him, all the time. Because at his best, Bob is terrific. And even when he's off his game, he can still beat most of us.

In conclusion, I want to urge all chess players to do their best for their team (especially Sacramento). Not being prejudiced at all, at all, I also urge them to play their darndest. Of course, if they're gonna make any mistakes, I would prefer them to be made when playing against Sacramento. Or is that too much to ask? Yes, yes, I know. Of course it is.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CCCL Schedule 1953-54

Round #1	Oct 11	<u>Fresno</u>	vs San Jose	at Oakdale
		<u>Sacramento</u>	vs Modesto	at Oakdale
		<u>Stockton</u>	vs Pittsburg	at Oakdale
		<u>Oakdale</u>	bye	
Round #2	Nov 1	<u>Modesto</u>	at Fresno	
		<u>Oakdale</u>	at <u>San Jose</u>	
		<u>Stockton</u>	at <u>Sacramento</u>	
		<u>Pittsburg</u>	bye	
Round #3	Nov 22	<u>Stockton</u>	vs Fresno	at Oakdale
		<u>Pittsburg</u>	vs Modesto	at Oakdale
		<u>Oakdale</u>	vs Sacramento	at Oakdale
		<u>San Jose</u>	bye	
Round #4	Dec 13	<u>Oakdale</u>	at <u>Fresno</u>	
		<u>Modesto</u>	at <u>Stockton</u>	
		<u>San Jose</u>	at <u>Pittsburg</u>	
		<u>Sacramento</u>	bye	
Round #5	Jan 10	<u>Fresno</u>	vs Sacramento	at Oakdale
		<u>Modesto</u>	vs San Jose	at Oakdale
		<u>Oakdale</u>	vs Pittsburg	at Oakdale
		<u>Stockton</u>	bye	
Round #6	Jan 31	<u>Oakdale</u>	at <u>Modesto</u>	
		<u>Pittsburg</u>	at <u>Sacramento</u>	
		<u>Stockton</u>	at <u>San Jose</u>	
		<u>Fresno</u>	bye	
Round #7	Feb 21	<u>Pittsburg</u>	vs Fresno	at Modesto
		<u>Oakdale</u>	vs Stockton	at Modesto
		<u>San Jose</u>	vs Sacramento	at Modesto
		<u>Modesto</u>	bye	

AN ORIGINAL LASKER STORY FROM THE PAWNSHOP

by Chuck Hardinge

"That reminds me of the story of the tight spinster and the chivalrous chess master," said Barry Kent, the Club Secty. "Keep it clean," someone suggested... "I don't mean 'Tight' in that sense," Kent retorted. "I mean she was thrifty and hated to part with money. And she loved chess."

"That is," he went on, "she'd never join the Club but she was always dropping in, as a guest, to play a game or two. And every time she came in, old Charley Myers, who was Secretary then, would try to get her to join but she never did. He swore he'd bar her from the Club after one more warning but he didn't."

"Finally, we put on a big show. We had a chess exhibition with Dr. Lasker as the visiting star. But, since our club was pretty small we had to make the fee two dollars a board to pay him his price."

"This tickled Charley. He knew that the old lady, Miss Bates her name was, wouldn't want to miss playing Lasker. And he guessed how it would hurt her to pay a couple of dollars. So he took pretty good pains to tell her all about it and she was just as tortured as he could wish. She usually won most of the time but this particular night she was in a trance and lost every game. That tickled Charley.

"The next club night he was so happy to see her come in that he didn't even ask her if she wanted to join the club. All he said was, 'Will we see you at the exhibition?'

"She tossed her head at this. 'I don't know,' she said, 'Lasker isn't so good any more and it wouldn't interest me to play him if I could win so easily.'"

"'Is that so?' yelled Myers, getting purple, because Lasker was his hero and he hated to admit that the old man was slipping even after losing to Capablanca.

"'Listen, he'll beat the---well, he'll beat Capa in a return match.'"

"'I don't think so,' she smiled. 'Not if he can't beat me. And I don't want to pay out money just to beat a has-been.'"

"This got Charley. He fairly shrieked 'Listen, if Lasker doesn't beat you and in 30 moves, too, I'll give you your money back.'"

"'How nice of you!' she said graciously, 'I'll certainly take you up on that.' And she turned back to her board and won every game that night."

"So the exhibition rolled around and we had a good crowd, 17 boards, with old Miss Bates right in the middle, the only woman. Lasker came out, said a few words, and went to work."

"First one of us to lose was old Charley and as soon as he put his pieces away he moved over behind Miss Bates. I saw his face light up as he studied the position and I could just make out that most of her pieces were gone. Then I went back to my own game."

"I was one of the last to lose and after turning my King down I had just time to get over and see Lasker move his Queen in front of Miss Bates only remaining pawn, for a stalemate."

"Charley nearly died in his boots as the Master bowed to Miss Bates and moved on."

"After it was all over, old Charley couldn't help asking Dr. Lasker how come he made such a blunder."

"Blunder? queried Lasker, with a shrug. 'It would not have been the part of chivalry to defeat the only lady in the exhibition.'"

"And it didn't help old Charley any, either, when Miss Bates came up and thanked Lasker."

"'I knew you always drew with your female opponents,' she said, 'but it really took genius to draw that game.'"

"And to Charley, 'Thank you so much, Mr. Myers, I do hope we have another exhibition soon.'"

## RULES FOR CONDUCT OF CCCL TEAM MATCHES

Foreword: Surprisingly enough, no one set of rules has ever been officially approved by the Executive Committee. However, certain rules have been tacitly accepted by all the Clubs, and these, together with Executive Committee actions, constitute the following:

1. Eligibility of Players: All bona fide members of CCCL Clubs are eligible for League competition. No player shall compete for more than one club during a season. Unanimous approval must be obtained from the Executive Committee before a new player currently competing in another league may be used.

2. Size of Teams: Teams shall consist of a minimum of six (6) players. Team Captains shall agree to the number of boards to be played, prior to each match.

3. Game Forfeitures: A team consisting of less than six (6) players shall forfeit the remaining boards up to board six. Also, the home team shall forfeit all boards less than the agreed number. No forfeitures may be claimed if both teams travel. The lowest board shall be forfeited first, i.e. the top boards must be filled in order.

4. Colors and Lineups: Colors on 1st Board shall alternate each season. At each board, the captain whose team has White shall name his man, after which the other captain shall name his man to play Black.

5. Starting Time: Games shall start at 1 pm unless otherwise agreed. Clocks may be started at 1 pm, beginning with 1st board.

6. Adjournments and Adjudications: Previous to the match, the Team Captains shall agree upon time of adjournment and method of adjudication.

7. Team Championship: The Team Championship shall be decided on the basis of matches won, ties to count as 1/2. In the case of a tie, percentage of games won shall decide.

8. Rules for Individual Play: Play shall be governed by the latest F.I.D.E. Rules of Play.

9. Time Limit: The time limit shall be 40 moves in two hours, and 20 moves each hour thereafter. No player may refuse to play with clocks if his opponent so requests.

10. Game Scores: No player may claim a win on time unless he has kept an accurate and legible score. A player must keep his own score if a score is kept.

11. Miscellaneous: While difficult to enforce, it is not ethical for a Team Captain, in advising a player whether to offer or accept a draw, to use any analysis of the position in question other than that of the player involved.

### CCCL DIRECTORS

1. Wm. T. Adams, Pres., P. O. Box 1104, San Jose 8
2. C. J. Smith, Vice Pres., Rt 1 Box 622, Oakdale
3. N. T. Austin, Sec., 1608 42nd St., Sacramento 19
4. H.E. Paul, 1317 Eye St., Modesto
5. Frank Olvera, 1155 Maple St., Pittsburg
6. Mike Hailpurn, 1340 Harvard St., Fresno 4
7. M. A. Sanders (Stkn) Rt 2 Box 70, Manteca
8. Elmer Achtenberg, 912 So Tipton, Visalia

\*\*\*\*\*