

Richard Shorman**Chess****TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

The third annual USCF Regional Adult and Junior Chess Championship of Central California was held July 31 and August 1 at the Meek Estate Mansion in Hayward. The four round Swiss system event attracted 101 entrants vying for cash prizes and rating points. Martin Morrison and Elwin Myers directed. Complete results:

MASTER-EXPERT DIVISION

1. Lawrence Hughes, Berkeley, 3½-½, \$37.50 plus title.
2. Craig Barnes, Berkeley, 3½-½, \$37.50

CLASS A

1. Roger Alexander, Albany, and Charles Maddigan, Lafayette, 3½-½, \$35 each.
2. Eleuterio Alsasua, San Jose, Richard Bustamante, Salinas, Stephen Cross, Berkeley, and Ronald Thacker, Oakland, 3-1, \$2.50 each.

CLASS B

1. Louis Bignami, Oakland, 4-0, \$50.
2. George Harris, Berkeley, and Gilbert Temme, Santa Clara, 3½-½, \$15 each.

CLASS C

1. Michael Donald, Campbell, and Martin Sullivan, San Leandro, 4-0, \$35 each.
2. John Allen, Oakland, Chris Black, Sunnyvale, Ken Ellis, Berkeley, Michael Koblentz, Berkeley, Bruce Matzner, San Jose, and David Sagan, Berkeley, 3-1, \$1 each.

CLASS D-E

1. Todd Corenson, Los Gatos, 4-0, \$15.
2. Bernie Beadling, Union City, Glenn Griggs, San Jose, and Leon Hopkins, Hayward, 3-1, \$3.33 each.

JUNIOR DIVISION

1. Marcos Costa, Albany, 2½-1½, book prize.
2. Robert Vitteli, Sacramento, 1-3, book prize.

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Ron Thacker's rather bizarre chess takes some getting used to. "An endless series of two-move cheapoes!" lamented class-B winner Louis Bignami. In this age of position play Thacker remains true to the stylistic ideals of Andersen and Zukertort.

White: Ronald Thacker.

Black: Sydney Willett.

Hayward, August 1, 1971.

COUNTER DEFENSE

1 P-K4	P-Q4(a)	18 Q-Q3	QR-Q1(k)
2 N-QB3(b)	P-Q5(c)	19 Q-N3ch	K-R1(l)
3 QN-K2	P-K4	20 RXPch!	KxR
4 P-Q3(d)	N-QB3(e)	21 R-R1ch	K-N3
5 P-KN3	B-N5ch(f)	22 N-R4ch	K-N4
6 B-Q2	BxBch	23 Q-K3ch	K-B3
7 QxB	N-B3	24 Q-B4ch	K-K3
8 B-N2	0-0	25 P-Q5ch	K-Q2(m)
9 P-KB4(g)	N-KN5	26 QxBch	K-K1
10 N-KB3	N-K6	27 PxN(n)	Q-B3
11 K-B2	P-B4(h)	28 N-B5	P-KN3
12 P-B3	PxKP	29 R-R7!	PxN
13 QPxP	PxKBP	30 Q-R5ch	R-B2
14 PxQP	NxB	31 R-R8ch	K-K2
15 KxN	PxP(i)	32 RxR	KxR
16 PxP	B-N5	33 PxNP	Resigns
17 QR-KB1	Q-K2(j)		

(a) Moving first to drive White away from familiar ground.

(b) Not to be outdone in originality, Thacker spurns the usual (and stronger) 2 PxP.

(c) Out of the books already — after centuries of opening theory and only two moves! With 1 . . . N-KB3 Black could have slipped into a sideline of Alekhine's Defense. Rolf Schwartz cites 2 . . . PxP 3 NxP P-K4 (or 3 . . . N-QB3 4 B-N5 B-Q2 5 P-Q4) 4 N-KB3 N-KB 3 5 NxNch QxN 6 P-Q3 B-Q3 7 B-K2 0-0 (Opocensky—Gruenfeld, Pistyan, 1922) as a bit healthier for Black ("Skandinavisch und Jugoslawisch," Hamburg, 1969, pg. 97).

(d) White finds himself playing an improved version of Alapin's Opening (1 PK4 P-K4 2 N-K2 and 3 P-KB4), akin to a King's Gambit but with some added soundness.

(e) Since his KP will soon fall under fire, Black should shore up the center pawns with 4 . . . P-QB4.

(f) Accelerates White's development. More logical is 5 . . . P-KN3 6 B-N2 B-N2 7 P-KB4 KN-K2.

(g) White had to weigh the chances of bypassing and undermining an enemy knight on K6 before going ahead with this move.

(h) Best is 11 . . . B-N5 and if 12 NxKP, then 12 . . . NxN 13 PxN P-KB4! (not 13 . . . NxB 14 KxN BxN 15 QxB Q-K2 because of 16 KR-KB1 QxP 17 R-B5 Q-K3 18 Q-B2 QR-Q1 19 R-KB1) and White has problems, e.g., 14 NxP NxB 15 KxN QxN. But 12 P-KR3 (12 P-B3 NxB 13 KxN BxNch 14 KxB P-B4) maintains the tension after 12 . . . BxN (12 . . . NxB? 13 PxN 13 BxN P-B4 14 QR-KN1).

(i) The open lines lead to both kings and neither side is much better developed than the other. On 15 . . . B-N5 16 PxP BxNch 17 KxB N-K4ch 18 K-N2 N-N3 19 QR-KB1 Q-R5 20 KR-N1 White has an extra pawn plus great positional pull.

(j) Here 17 . . . BxNch 18 RxB RxR 19 KxR Q-B3ch 20 K-N2 R-Q1 offers counterplay.

(k) A pretty combination in "the grand old style" — spirited attack and weak defense — results from 18 . . . K-R1 19 N-B4 BxNch 20 QxB Q-N4 31 N-N6ch K-N1 22 QxRch RxQ 23 RxRmate.

(l) At last Black is in over his head (19 . . . R-B2 20 N-N5) and the fireworks begin.

(m) Unfortunately, returning the rook means giving up a piece as well: 25 . . . RxP 26 PxPch KxP 27 QxB.

(n) At journey's end Black's king stands surrounded by his captains, a little the worse for wear. White keeps up the initiative now by threatening 28 N-N6.