

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

Volume I, Issue 10

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Aug. 12, 1950

The Annual Dinner was a complete success - for those of us who attended. We had a couple hours of skittles and beer before dinner, during which time Colonel Carey beat the Sox off the Champ. Must have been the cigars and martinis that Carey was using. Then we had a fine dinner, very enjoyable. Much repartee and joshing was indulged in. Afterwards, we adjourned for an after-dinner drink and some more chess. Partner-chess got started, and it was one o'clock before the party broke up. No one was in the mood for a business meeting or the dry details of the Treasurer's report, so such matters with gusto were summarily dispensed. On to chess!

You will notice that the previous issue and this one are being mailed in open envelopes and with 2-cent stamps. This is done to lower cost of mailings. The envelopes are stamped "Return postage guaranteed" so our mailing list can be kept as accurate as possible. If you have any corrections or changes, please send them in now to the address listed in the heading. This issue is being mailed to some 90 chessplayers, hither and yon. We still wish to get more names, and better yet more members in the Club.

Your Secretary has included notices of dues in some of the envelopes. In which case, a 1-cent stamp has been added and the envelope sealed to comply with postal regulations. Dues can be paid quarterly, at \$1.25, but we much prefer to receive \$5 for a fiscal year, Sept. 1, 1950 to Sept. 1, 1951. Several members have paid up to Dec. 31, 1950; these are Milt Meyer, Neil Austin, Vern Gilman, Bill Yersin, Dick McDonald, R. E. Russell to 5/10/51, M. G. Neeley to 6/8/51, Jim Hastings to 9/1/51, and Arbee Young to 9/1/51. Membership has grown to such a degree that keeping track of dues and such is quite a chore. If any mistakes are made in this matter, let us know immediately. A small receipt book has been purchased and receipts for dues will be again given, as we did several years ago. Also for the Club's consideration is the idea of securing some membership cards to be given to our members. The first big advantage is that a man actually feels that he has joined a club when he receives such a card. Second advantage is that a card would be an excellent introduction to other chess clubs when members travel. What do you think of this idea?

TREASURER'S REPORT 8/4/50

Balance on Hand 3/10/50		\$31.29
Dues collected		57.50
Rent over-collected		14.50
Sale score sheets		<u>1.00</u>
Total on Hand & Collected		104.29
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Chess News subscription	2.00	
1949 Prize (Carey)	2.50	
Cost of Sacto News	<u>40.76</u>	-45.26
		<u>59.03</u>
Dues collected, at dinner		11.25
Shortage at Annual Dinner		- 1.50
BALANCE 8/12/50		\$68.78

This balance is subject to prizes due winners in 1950 Tournament. These should be cleared immediately, as we are starting into our fall season and winter activities.

Our last issue was loaded with articles, but the writers have not done so well for this issue. All chessplayers are welcome to write articles for this paper, or send in suggestions. Also, come up the Club any Wednesday evening at the Y, you don't have to be a member to be welcome. And if we're all busy playing chess when you do come up, we want you to know you are welcome just the same. Most of the time our opponent has us in a tight and we can't leave the game right then to say hello. But come up anyhow. And if you like the Club and the setup, why not officially join us and attend regularly? It's a great game, with a lot of swell fellows at the Club.

COMMENTS

by Flynn

It was a real thrill to shake hands with S. S. Kozen after club meeting last Wednesday night. To those of you who don't know him, Mr. Kozen was City Champion in 1946, playing a tough 13-game round-robin tournament in which he allowed only two draws. In other words, fellows, he's GOOD. More than that he's a real gentleman, and I have a personal interest in Mr. Kozen because, although he probably doesn't remember it, he was the first member of the chess club to give me a friendly greeting when I dropped down to play. I only played him once and it was, to me, a titanic struggle. I was all keyed up because I had never played in the club before and undoubtedly was trying much harder than he was. I won a pawn and thought sure a second pawn was due to drop. So I transposed to a Rook and Pawn ending--just a little too soon. The second pawn did not drop. Instead one of my own fell, then another -- and S. S. Kozen won the game. But I still remember our battle with a good deal of pleasure.

Another thing, Mr. Kozen is one of the few local players who can extend J. B. Gee. And, in my opinion, that is very important to our club. The idea is not to "get" Gee but to make all of us, even and perhaps especially our champion, work to win. (You sure got your nerve to say that, George! Everyone darned chessplayer in the country has been beating me all summer!-Gee) Now if we could only get A. R. Chapman, another former champ (and Milt Meyer) active again in chess and several others, we would have a fine group of top players--with several of the active members pushing up and gaining strength all the time.

I understand our "newcomer" tourney is under way, with a small but select field of seven. It will not be an easy one to win, and there are a couple of dark horses in the field--but from where I sit, I would guess the winner to be either R. E. Russell or Ralph Stagg. May the other five forgive me!

A lot of fun at the annual dinner, and I had to work. Doggone. F. A. Cartier was there, and Jim Hastings. Colonel Carey showed up too. I've never met the "Kunnel" as Gee calls him, but I sure hope to one day. I did get out late after the ball (or brawl?) was over, and said "Hello" to Sam Johnson, Milt Meyer, Jim Marianos, and Arbee Young of Roseville. Arbee is another strong player who hopes to get down to see us more often. Jim Hardy and the Auburn gang were there, I understand, but they had left before I arrived.

There's another player in our town who loves chess and should be in our club--Orville J. Kline. Kline is very active and successful in correspondence chess and formerly played for the South in the North-South matches. I sure wish he'd get the fever and come on down. How about it, Mr. Kline?

I could certainly bawl everybody out about not getting down to the Club except for one small item--I can't get there myself. But the summer will soon be over and then I hope to get active again. How about YOU and YOU and YOU???

As I see our club, everything good comes out of membership. The more members the more ideas, the more good games and interesting competition. My spies tell me that Syd Zucker's game is improving all the time. Syd has been one of our most reliable members and has been present at almost every meeting since the first of the year. It is good to hear that his game is getting stronger. Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever played you, Syd. Next time I get down how about us playing a game for sure?

One thing I forgot to mention about Ralph Stagg, last time. He is also President of the Fresno Chess Club, in absentio. (that in absentio is Pig Latin, meaning he aint there). Now we have the unusual spectacle of Ralph playing Jim Marianos, our Club President, every week in the Traveler Hotel Chess Chambers. Maybe it isn't so far from Fresno to Sacramento as we used to think. Some of you don't know what you're missing at the Traveler's--where some of the hottest chess in town is played every Wednesday from midnight until they throw us out.

PLAYS ACROSS THE SEA
by George W. Flynn

One of the surest ways to improve your chess is to play by correspondence. It is interesting and probably indicative that in the last city tournament the first four places were taken by players with a good deal of correspondence experience. As J. B. Gee remarked one day, "Correspondence play steadies your game."

Recently I mentioned a letter from Knut Monssen of Oslo, Norway, but I failed to explain just how it was that I was writing him. He was one of my opponents in an International Chess section of seven players--which included one Englishman, one Dane, one Norwegian, two Germans, and a Frenchman, besides myself. So far in this section, I have won two and lost two. Some day I would like to tell you all about the section but, right now, just to give you the flavor of international chess I'd like to quote from the last letter Mr. Monssen wrote to me, after I had resigned.

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for your letter of 9/5. I should have answered a long time ago, but as it was no time limit any longer it has been postponed from day to day because I have been very busy.

You resign, very early I think, you are only one pawn down and should have a chance to get your knight into play. My capturing of the pawn was a little risky, but when you could not find anything better than exchanging the queens I felt sure that I had the better game. In the first 15 moves I played very careful, not so aggressive as I use as I saw you had a little better position. Now Volkmann has resigned too. I have 5 wins and one game against Prillwitz unfinished.

This tournament has been my first success in postal chess after several attempts in the last 8 years. Now I should like to make an attempt in ICCA, Master Class.

I will thank you very much for the game and for your many fine long letters, it is a pity that our game is over. To me the correspondence has been a pleasure and a fine opportunity to brush up my English.

At last I will thank you for the kind words at the end of your letter. I should have said quite the same. I should be glad if I ever can be to any service to you, and if you ever should come to Oslo, then...

It is a pity that this is our last letter, it needs not be it, if you once have something to say or ask for you can be sure to get answer promptly (relative).

With best wishes for the future,
Your friend, Knut Monssen

Mr. Monssen is not alone in regretting the end of our correspondence. It was a great pleasure, with such an opponent, to push pawns across the sea.

THE CHESS DIAGRAM

Solution to #7 (in last issue) -- 1...QxRPch, and White might just as well toss in the towel.

#8 (following) is not diagrammed, because it is an opening trap, involving only six moves, and should be played move by move. Here would be a good chance to try your hand at blindfold play, by seeing if you could solve this without a board. 1. P-Q4, P-Q4; 2. P-QB4, PxP; 3. P-K3, P-QN4; 4. P-QR4, P-QB3; 5. PxP, PxP; 6. ? - ?. ??? What is White's Sixth move? Simple as this trap is, it is the basis of the entire Queen's Gambit. In other words, if Black could accept the Gambit pawn and hold it as above, the Queen's Gambit would not be playable. However, by taking advantage of Black's weakened Queen side, White wins at least a piece by his smashing sixth move. What is it?

As once written in THE PAWNSHOP, in Hardinge's inimitable style:

"Come on, come on come, and dig up that thar five bucks and git yourself a membership in this heer clubb plus a hole yeers subscription tew dis valleybull maggyzene. Yew need de laffs and we kneed de doe. . . ."

And we add, pay your dues promptly and keep up your membership - this is going to be a whale of a chess-year for the Capital City Chess Club!

In the newcomers' Tournament, several game scores have been turned in. Here they are, as received:

White: Keiffer	W: Scheuerman	W: R.E. Russell	W: Gottfredson
Black: Crusinberry	B: Hardy	B: S. Zucker	B: Stagg
1. P-K4 P-K4	1. P-K4 P-K4	1. P-K4 P-K4	1. P-K4 P-K4
2. N-B3 N-QB3	2. P-Q4 P-KB3??	2. N-KB3 N-KB3	2. N-KB3 N-QB3
3. B-N5 N-B3	3. PXP PXP	3. NXP B-B4	3. B-N5 P-Q3
4. O-O B-K2	4. Q-R5ch P-N3	4. P-Q4 B-N3	4. N-B3 P-KB4
5. R-K O-O	5. QXPch N-K2	5. B-QB4 O-O	5. P-Q3 PXP
6. P-QB3 P-QR3	6. QXR P-Q4	6. O-O P-Q4	6. NXP(K4) N-B3
7. B-R4 P-Q3	7. B-KR6 N-N	7. PXP NXP	7. B-N5 B-K2
8. P-Q4 B-K3	8. QxN Q-K2	8. P-QB3 R-K	8. O-O NxN
9. BxN PxB	9. B-Q3 PXP	9. N-Q2 P-QB4	9. BxB QxB
10. PXP NXP	10. B-QB4 P-K6	10. QN-B3 PXP	10. PxN O-O
11. RxDN B-Q4	11. N-KB3 PXPch	11. R-K PxBP	11. Q-Q5ch B-K3
12. R-K Q-N	12. KXP Q-B4ch	12. BxN P-B7	12. Q-Q2 P-QR3
13. PXP BXP	13. B-K3 Q-Q3	13. BXPch K-B	13. BxN PxB
14. Q-Q3 R-K	14. Q-B7ch K-Q	14. QxQ RxQ	14. P-KR3 R-B3
15. RxRch QXR	15. B-N5ch B-K2	15. B-KN5 R-Q3	15. P-QN4 Q-B2
16. B-Q2 B-K5	16. Q-N8ch K-Q2	16. N-B4 R-QB3	16. P-QR4 BxKRP
17. Q-K3 P-QB4	17. N-B3 Q-B4ch	17. NxB RPxN	17. PxB R-KN3ch
18. N-R3 Q-K3	18. B-K3 Q-KB4	18. B-N3 R-R4	18. N-N5 P-KR3
19. R-K R-K	19. QR-Qch K-B3	19. QR-B B-KN5	19. R-KB4 PXP
20. N-N5 Q-N5	20. B-QN5ch QxB	20. B-K7ch K-K	20. QXP QxQ
21. NxB RxDN	21. NxQ Resigns	21. B-N4ch K-Q	21. RxQ RxDNch
22. QXR Resigns		22. BxR PxB	22. K-B R-N6
		23. N-K5 R-QN3	23. P-R4 R-KB
		24. NxB P-R5	24. RxRch KxR
		25. BxBP RxP	25. R-QB R-R6
		26. B-B5 RxRP	26. P-QB4 R-R8ch
		27. R-B8mate	27. K-B2 RxR
			28. Resigns

Now fellows, let's not have any harsh comments on these scores. After all, most of these players rank in the "newcomer" caliber, and none of us have been out of it too long. They will soon enough be giving us trouble. Some have already. Besides, if the better players won't turn in game scores, I'm sure as heck going to publish those of the up and coming players - at least they're trying hard.

And when you turn in a score for publication, please underline or check your name, so I'll know who owns the score I have and where to return it. I've several on hand now and no idea which player turned in the score.

The article on Problems in the last issue, by Bob Burger, was very interesting. However, Ye Ed does not agree with him - not at all. I still maintain -and believe I can prove - that 99% of all problems have absolutely no relationship with the actual game of chess as we play it. True, problems do show the extreme power of the pieces, and usually to such an exaggerated extent that it is meaningless. In the example given last issue, I don't see how, in an actual game, Black could ever have reached such a position without resigning first. He was hopelessly beaten, problem or no problem. Most problems have such weird positions that aside from the pieces looking familiar, I see no relationship to chess. No don't confuse the above remarks with endgame compositions, which are in a class by themselves. These have a direct bearing on the chess game as we know it, and a study of such is helpful to all chessplayers. I'm not disparaging Burger's remarks on problems - every man to his own fancy in chess - problems give much enjoyment to many players. But I prefer the real game - and studies based on it. Not fanciful problems that practically never arise. If you want a good problem that can come up in actual play, try to mate a lone King with a King, Bishop and Knight. That will give you a headache - unless you happen to know the actual "book" moves. Even then I have lots of trouble. Does anyone else wish the floor on the subject of problems? Do we have any composers who would like to submit some problems in this bulletin? Be glad to publish them. Meyer has composed quite a few, so has Austin. How about it, fellows?