

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

Volume II, Issue 9

5425 8th Ave., Sacramento

Sept. 22, 1951

There seems to be a lot of important news on hand for this issue, so we urge you to read this front page carefully. First, there will be no Club meeting next Wednesday night. In moving the Y from 5th & J to 21st & W the Chess Club has been left without tables upon which to play. In checking with the 21st & W location, we find there is not sufficient room for us at present. In fact Ye Ed was informed that "Standing Room Only" would not even apply. It is hoped that we can arrange by next Friday to have our regular Room 202 at 5th & J back for the time being. This only points up the need for a better meeting place, particularly with tournaments and other activities coming up soon. Also, the decision of all club members approached favors changing the meeting night to Fridays as soon as possible.

The Annual Dinner will be held this Friday evening at the Alhambra Restaurant. (On Alhambra, between J & K, northwest corner of alley.) Two main menu items will be New York steaks \$2.35, Chicken Dinner \$1.85. Other food of course will be available. Dinner time is 7:30. It goes without saying that those who desire liquid refreshment before dinner should meet at 6:30. You will certainly have company. Any members of out-of-town clubs who should happen to be in Sacramento that evening are welcome to attend the Annual Dinner. There will be a short business meeting, and some form of chess as planned by T.D. R. E. Russell.

Sacramento is planning on having Samuel Reshevsky here for an exhibition some time between Feb. 2 - 15. Cost of playing in the exhibition is set at \$3.00 per board, spectator fee \$1.00. Boards will be sold in advance. Reshevsky's fee is \$75.00; add the cost of a hall and other arrangements, and you can see we must have from 30 to 40 participants. The fee covers up to 40 boards. As final arrangements are completed, they will be reported herein.

Merl Reese of Denver advises that the Colorado tournament was a good success. It was won by Julius Partos of Long Island, N.Y.; Paul Poschel of Chicago 2nd, Ray Martin of Santa Monica 3rd, Underwood of Denver 4th; Ludwig of Omaha 5th. Denver desires congratulations on this undertaking, and already is planning on a bigger and better tournament next year. --- Incidentally, plan are being made for a Sacramento Invitational Tournament to be held in November over a weekend. Plans will be released in the next issue. Participants to be mainly from the CCCL.

Club finances are in good shape. We have over \$75.00 to start our fall season, and many dues remain unpaid. The CCCL has voted to assist the "News" to the tune of \$6 per Club per year. This will pay half the cost of our annual charges (approx.) and we hope the other clubs will furnish us with more news and games scores. Also, when sending in scores please note "please return" if you wish it mailed back. Ye Ed's ambition is to have so much material on hand that we will have to do some "selective printing". Wouldn't that be something? How about CCCL member Clubs advising when their club meetings are held, so we can print this information?

CHESS DIAGRAM

by H. Neeley

Problem No. 21 in Issue 7 hasn't a proper solution, because of a pawn omission in stamping. If you wish to solve #21 add a black pawn at Black's Queen Bishop Two and try again. The comments in Issue #7 re #21 were incorrect too. The composer is Mr. H. J. Ralston of San Francisco. He published it in Fortnight Magazine, June 11, 1951. My apologies to Mr. Ralston

Problem #22, White to play and mate in two moves. Composed by Dr. Dobbs and published in Cincinnati Enquirer 1937. Sent in by Bob Burger, Lafayette, Calif.

Let's have more news - and especially game scores. Then we can print more often. Spiller of Santa Monica won the State Championship, apparently the SF boys did not do so well, which is surprising after the North-South affair. Neil Falconer of Berkeley won the State Open. Congrats to both Champions, they are swell chess-players. Ed had picked Falconer as a future Champion some years ago.

GENERAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE
Schedule 1951-52

Rd. #1	Oct. 7	All matches at Oakdale.		
		Fresno vs <u>Pittsburg</u>		Oakdale bye
		Modesto vs <u>Stockton</u>		
		<u>San Jose</u> vs <u>Sacramento</u>		
Rd. #2	Oct. 28	All matches at Oakdale.		
		<u>Oakdale</u> vs <u>Stockton</u>		Pittsburg Bye
		<u>Fresno</u> vs <u>Sacramento</u>		
		<u>Modesto</u> vs <u>San Jose</u>		
Rd. #3	Dec. 2	Oakdale at <u>San Jose</u>		Stockton bye
		<u>Modesto</u> at <u>Fresno</u>		
		<u>Sacramento</u> at <u>Pittsburg</u>		
Rd. #4	Jan. 6	Oakdale at <u>Fresno</u>		Sacramento bye
		Modesto at <u>Pittsburg</u>		
		<u>San Jose</u> at <u>Stockton</u>		
Rd. #5	Jan. 27	Oakdale at <u>Modesto</u>		Fresno bye
		<u>Pittsburg</u> at <u>San Jose</u>		
		<u>Stockton</u> at <u>Sacramento</u>		
Rd. #6	Feb. 17	Modesto at <u>Sacramento</u>		San Jose bye
		<u>Pittsburg</u> at <u>Oakdale</u>		
		<u>Stockton</u> at <u>Fresno</u>		
#7 (Final)	Mar. 16	All matches at Modesto.		
		<u>Sacramento</u> vs <u>Oakdale</u>		Modesto bye
		<u>Stockton</u> vs <u>Pittsburg</u>		
		<u>Fresno</u> vs <u>San Jose</u>		

Underlined Teams have White on Odd Boards.

Here is an interesting game, submitted by a reader. 1. P-K4, P-QB4, 2. N-KB3, N-QB3
3. B-N5 a conservative move which aims at space control at the cost of loss of one
of the Bishops to a Black N. White is given time to build up a good pawn center
because Black cannot play P-K4 in most variations. 3...P-KN3, 4. P-B3, P-KN2,
5. P-Q4, P-N3; 6. B-K3, PxP The fact that this capture is forced justifies White's
opening. 7. PxP, N-B3; 8. N-B3, N-KN5; 9. O-O, NcB; 10. Pxd, O-O; 11. Q-R7, to
make use of his good center and open KB file, White must tie up the Q-side.
11...B-N2; 12. B-R6, Q-B; 13. BxB, QxB; 14. P-QN4, P-QN4; 15. Q-N3, P-K3;
Eventually necessary to remove tension on KB2 and prevent N-Q5. 16. P-QR4, P-QR3;
17. P-R5, QR-B; . Hoping for 18. N-N5 when NcQP! wins. A sounder maneuver was
N-Q2 followed by P-Q4. White has nothing to fear on the QB file, in a very short
while pressure on the KB file and center will force the issue. Black fails to
recognize the true nature of the position even after White's next move. 18. R-B2,
R-B2; Black intends to counter against 19. QR-KB and N-N5 with his threat of KR-B
and NcQP. However, he finds too late that White can at any time play N-K2 and
defend before he begins his attack on the KB file. 19. QR-KB, P-KB3? Yet this
further inconsistency only precipitates White's attack. True, it blocks the KB
file for good, and prevents N-N5, but it also weakens the diagonal on which the
King stands, and shuts his Bishop out of the game. 20. P-Q5, N-Q; 21. N-Q4, Q-B
Apparently an adequate defense has been found and at last the QB file is obtained;
the logic of 18...R-B2 has to all appearances born fruit. But as the following
incisive action demonstrates, that very Rook is now lost, though only a step from
his backyard and in open territory. 22. QKxP! Pxd; 23. NxdP, R-B5; 24. There are
two other possibilities: (1) R-N2 losing the exchange, after which the passed pawns
more than compensate, and (2) R-B8, when White would exchange Rooks and have no
trouble queening a pawn. 24. N-Q6, R-B6! 25. Q-N2, Q-B2; unfortunately the only Q
move, losing the R anyway. 26. N-N5, Resigns. This ~~pos~~ final position makes a
pretty contrast to the one on White's 24th move, an echo effect seldom found any-
where but in the problems of the Bohemian school.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

The Executive Committee of the League held its initial meeting of the season Sept. 16th at Oakdale, President C. J. Smith presiding. Those present were C. J. Smith (Oakdale), M. E. Mattingly (Stockton), N. T. Austin (Sacto), Francis Crofut (San Jose), H. E. Paul (Modesto), and Kyle Forrest (Fresno). Lee Kerfoot acted for Frank Olvera (Pittsburg) who was unable to attend. In addition, several players from the member clubs were present.

The Treasurer's Report by Secy-Treas. Mattingly was read and accepted.

Balance on Hand	\$47.60
Prizes to be Paid	5.00
Balance	\$42.60

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming season.

President	N. T. Austin (Sacto)
Vice-Pres.	M. E. Mattingly (Stkn)
Secy-Treas.	Francis Crofut (SJ)

Inasmuch as the individual championship last year resulted in a tie between M. C. Jackson and H. Strob, and no play-off had occurred, it was decided to split the \$5.00 prize between them.

The committee approved the tentative schedule with some necessary modifications, and colors were assigned to the first boards for each match.

It was decided to abolish the upper limit of 12 boards, allowing two teams to play any number of boards by agreement. The lower limit of 6 boards was retained.

The suggestion of the Incoming President that the Team Captains match their players below 1st board was accepted after some discussion. This is a change from the "blind" pairings in effect last year.

No decision was reached in the matter of holding individual tournaments, and the President appointed H. E. Paul and Francis Crofut to look into the feasibility of the plan.

Francis Crofut was placed in charge of keeping data for the Northern Calif. ratings, and to examine the feasibility of keeping our own separate ratings.

On the suggestion of M. E. Mattingly, the Sacramento Chess News was made the official organ of the League, thus eliminating sending out of match results by the Secretary. It was decided that each club subscribe \$6.00 toward defraying the expenses of the News.

Before adjournment, Crofut discussed the Chess Reporter, of which he is an associate editor, and also the projected Calif. Chess Federation.

It was agreed by all representatives that it would be unethical to play a weak player high on the team or to play a strong player low on the team.

The CCCL desires to be an active participant in the formation of the proposed Calif. State Chess Federation.

An attempt will be made to hold a giant team match at Modesto next spring, Central Calif. vs Bay Area, on 50 or more boards.

The article in last issue by Austin, "Who was the Greatest of Them All" surely drew a lot of attention, and corresponding praise for Neil. It was a well-written article and the obvious result of lots of study over the years. We simply didn't think it could be Neil, but we are glad it was. Perhaps some other chessplayers can surprise us with articles now and then.

Ye Ed suggests a certain former Fresno member take time out and advise us how to get revenge on Fresno this year for our 1950 trouncing. How about it?

COMMENTS

by Flynn

One game reported from a British tournament went 1. N-KB3, N-KB3 2. N-N, N-N 3. N-IB3, N-IB3 4. N-N N-N 5. N-KB3...drawn by repetition of moves. Good thing, too. If that kept up much longer one of them would have got absent-minded and played out the Queen Knight instead.

Jack Hubert tells about an experience he had down at San Luis Obispo a number of years ago when he arrived late for the North-South match. His clock was already going when he got there so he naturally moved immediately on arrival. He had white pieces and reached over to play 1. N-IB3 (a favorite opening of his). But one little Gremlin got in the way and he played the wrong knight, 1. N-QB3. This startled his opponent a great deal, and very nearly unnerved Jack. But he did the only possible thing, kept a straight poker-face and went on to an eventual win.

It's been a long time now, but maybe some of our members don't know that Dr. Daniel Yule is a first-class golfer — won a tournament a while back. The activities of some of our members outside the chess club are varied. Did you know that Jim Marianos was an astronomer? Owns his own telescope, a big one. And Jim Hastings is an expert tennis player, I believe he coaches the game. Hilt Meyer is probably our best Canasta player. And just to add a final note, Neil Austin (I'm just kidding Neil) is our Martini expert.

Neil Austin, by the way, wrote a letter in to "Chess Life" disagreeing with the editor, Montgomery Major, on the importance of the recent Botvinnik-Bronstein match for the World Championship. Montgomery Major has gone kinda political in his chess views and thinks Soviet chess should be played down, or something, because of the world situation. And he is pretty quick to call people names when they disagree with him. I was just waiting for him to give Neil a blast, but he didn't do it. In fact, I was figuring out a nasty answer to him in advance. Have no fears, Neil, you've got plenty of adjectives in your corner.

Old friend Steve Spaulding can't get down to club meetings right now, but is playing correspondence chess and keeping in practise for the day when he'll be back with us.

R. E. Russell was not too pleased with his results in the California Open but felt he gained valuable experience in tournament play. Russ scored $2\frac{1}{2}$ points, however, which wasn't bad in that competition. I do feel he could have done better if he had been used to the rapid tempo of a week-end tournament. Howard Ridout of Canada flew down to the Calif. Open and scored well. And, if you recall, Russell just plain murdered Ridout in their individual game during the Log Cabin-Sacto match.

Good news about Harold Soligan. Harold has been very ill, down in the Oakland veterans' hospital, but is coming out of it now. I talked to his wife on the telephone and she says he should be home pretty soon now. Harold picked up a new chess set and found an opponent in the hospital, so should be ready for some good games when he comes back. We'll be seeing you, Harold---and the sooner the better.

There wasn't much interest in the correspondence match with The Robin Hood chess club of England, so maybe we'd just as well let it go. Steve Spaulding wanted to play, but that's about all. If anyone wants an individual game with someone over there, let me know and I can fix it up (this goes for players outside of Sacramento, other valley league players, for instance) but I can't see any use in trying to play a match.

The Big Annual Dinner coming soon! (Friday, Sept. 28th) Let's all be there. Games, eats, lots of fun. Don't miss it. It's the big event of the year.

ONE OF THE ROVING KIND

By Bob Burger

Ingredients: Black pawns at K4, KB4; R at K6; K at KB5.
White pawn at KB3; Q at Q5; B at Q2; K at KR4

For the inquisitive, apparently the Black Queen is out to a PTA meeting, which fact allows White a slight edge, as Steinitz would say. But unfortunately, the White Queen is also obliged to make some meeting or other shortly, and consequently can make only three roves and then must go. Being a typical CCC&CC wood-pusher, Black takes notice of this hastening fact, whistles a little tune, and prepares to defend to the bitter end.

The White Queen is on the spot, mate in three or only a draw, or even a forfeited game. Indeed Black isn't very sporting about the whole thing, but who can blame him? His only piece is pinned, and his only move is P-K5.

However, White rises to the situation with the following reasoning.

After his first move Black will be free to capture the pawn at White's KB3. Can White mate him in that position? There would seem to be only one way, to get the Queen to KB1. If White played to get there in two moves, however, by say Q-Q3, then Black could capture the Pawn on his first move, and White could not mate by Q-B1 because Black would have a flight square at his K5. Therefore, White must keep control of the diagonal KB3 to QR8 on his initial move, to force Black to self-block his K5. So his first move must be either Q-B6, N7, or R8. and his second move must be from either of those squares to the first rank, so as to get to KB1 on his final move. However, after Black plays P-K5, the square K4 of his would offer another flight. So White must play his second move so as to take control of Black's K4. Now the only square on the first rank from which the Queen could control Black's K4 is QR1. and the only way to get to QR1 from the diagonal KB3 - QR8 is QR8.

So we have: 1. Q-R8 P-K5
2. Q-R1 KxP (or PxP, 3. Q-Q4 mate.)
3. Q-KB1 mate

The White Queen takes about the longest itinerary and just manages to catch the Black King, and so makes the PTA meeting on time.

(By the way, this setting was by W. von Holzhausen, if it makes any difference.)

The reasoning behind the Queen maneuver is surprisingly enough a common occurrence over-the-board, if not to deliver a mate, at least to defend and attack pawns in an Endgame. And some of these roving Queen paths are as hard to plot as a PCL travelling schedule.

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Team Captain Austin is sending a questionnaire concerning our valley league play to several club members. Please send in the answer card immediately, so Neil can plan his team accordingly.