



The Berkeley Chess School

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008

"BCS sends sixty-seven students to State Scholastic Chess Championships. Thirty-eight earn awards".

Sixty-seven Berkeley Chess School students traveled to San Jose on May 17 and 18 for the State Scholastic Chess Championships. All enjoyed the highly competitive atmosphere and thirty-eight earned awards. A total of 1028 students competed from all over Northern California.

See page 3 for a list of the winners.

Recent BCS Team Championships

The Berkeley Chess School's annual team championships in Walnut Creek and Berkeley were the most exciting in years. At each tournament five teams still had a chance at first place going into the final round. At Berkeley, Havens pulled ahead to win and in Walnut Creek Rheem and Palmer tied for first. A playoff will be held on June 7, to determine the BCS 2008 team champion.

Continued on page 6.



Havens Elementary School, Piedmont



Rheem Elementary School, Moraga



Irina Krush

Guest teachers Krush, Browne, Pruess and Shankland at BCS summer camp.

In 1998 Irina Krush, became the youngest-ever U.S. Woman Champion at age 14, and remains a leading figure in U.S. and world chess. She won the U.S. Women's title in 2006 & 2007 and was an important player for the U.S. Chess Olympiad team in 2002 and 2004. She defeated the current World Women's Champion, Xu Yuhua, in both of those Olympiads. She will teach the Master class at the Berkeley camp from June 16-20.

On the week of August 4-8, another Master class will be offered at Berkeley. GM Walter Browne will play a simultaneous exhibition with the students on August 4, and I.M. David Pruess will teach August 5-8. David is a BCS alumnus, having first taken classes with us at his Elementary School in Berkeley.

The lead teachers for the remaining weeks will be Life Master Roger Poehlmann and National Master Sam Shankland, who is also a BCS alumnus from Glorietta Elementary school in Orinda.

Berkeley Summer Camp Dates:

6/16 - 6/20, 6/23 - 6/27, 6/30 - 7/3, 7/7 - 7/22, 8/4 - 8/8 and 8/11 - 8/15

Location: 1581 Le Roy Ave, Berkeley

BCS also offers summer chess in Alameda, Alamo, Lafayette, Orinda, Pleasanton and San Ramon. See website, www.berkeleychessschool.org for details.

Profile of a Board Member

John DeWitt

John DeWitt, the father of nine-year-old BCS student, Jonathan DeWitt, has recently joined the BCS Executive Board. He has volunteered with non-profits that focus on serving children and has served on the board of the YMCA and on the board of the School of the Madeleine. John came to the Bay Area from Memphis in the late 1960s. "It was a trip in a VW to check things out." He quickly put down roots in Berkeley where he became a member of the accounting firm of Rankine, Carleon & DeWitt. The founding partners have passed away, John says, "but we have kept our emphasis on providing accounting services to local businesses."

Both father and son enjoy physical sports, but they especially enjoy sharing a game of chess. John will be a great addition to the BCS Board.



Elizabeth Shaughnessy and John DeWitt

Profile of a Teacher

Roger Poehlmann

Roger has been a teacher at the Berkeley Chess School since 1995 and also serves on the BCS Executive Board. He has a B.A. in Physics from U.C. Berkeley and is a Life Master, having played over 300 tournament games since becoming a Master at age 16.

When did you first realize you liked chess?

When I was nine. My dad took me to a game store in L.A. where "the old guys" played at chess tables outside. At first they'd say, "Go away, kid" but after I won a few times they would let me play with them regularly. At the age of twelve I started reading chess books and was already rated over 1600 before I started taking lessons.

What was your most embarrassing moment in chess?

When I was in the fifth grade I challenged the "best" player in the school at recess. I was proudly criticizing him for bringing out his Queen too early—but then, with my entire class watching, he checkmated me in four moves! He used Scholar's Mate; something we teach all students at BCS, but I never learned it from playing "the old guys".

What are your best moments teaching chess?

It's when a teacher tells me about a child in the class who doesn't feel like he's good at anything—he's not the best reader or the best in math—but since we've started doing chess he finally feels like he's the best at something. Now he's more confident, he likes school, and he's doing better in reading, math and everything else.



Roger Poehlmann

State Scholastic Chess Championships

Sixty-seven Berkeley Chess School students traveled to San Jose on May 17 and 18 for the State Scholastic Chess Championships. All enjoyed the highly competitive atmosphere and thirty-eight earned awards. A total of 1028 students competed from all over Northern California.

The winners were:



Our Kindergarten Champions
with coach Stephen Shaughnessy

Kindergarten:

Owen Pan (tied for 2 nd)	4/5
Abigail Yu (tied for 8 th)	3/5
Philip Chin (17 th)	2/5

Rookies:

Andrew Wan (tied for 15 th)	3.5/5
Stanley Lam (tied for 22 nd)	3/5

1-3 under 500:

Nathan Auyoung (tied for 16 th)	3.5/5
Jessica Pena (tied for 16 th)	3.5/5

1-3 under 800 JV:

Leo Kitano	First 5/5
Berik Chin (tied for 12 th)	3/5
Angelo Paraiso-Arroyo (tied for 25 th)	2.5/5

1-3 Championships:

Niraek Jain-Sharma (tied for 23 rd)	3/6
---	-----

K-6 under 600:

Julie Yu (tied for 4 th)	5/6
--------------------------------------	-----

4-6 under 900:

Andrew Peng (tied for 2 nd)	5.5/6
Gilbert Han (tied for 3 rd)	5/6
Nathaniel Sauerberg (tied for 3 rd)	5/6
Ian Pryor (tied for 14 th)	4/6
Joseph Larsen (tied for 14 th)	4/6
Miranda Christ (tied for 14 th)	4/6
Preston Hsiao (tied for 14 th)	4/6
Joshua Pena (First in his grade)	3.5/6

4-5 Championships:

Tudor Muntean (tied for 6 th)	4.5/6
Jack Hirsch (25 th)	3.5/6

4-6 Championships

Tommy Gonda (tied for 5 th)	4.5/6
Jimmy Yan (tied for 9 th)	4/6
Vishank Jain-Sharma (tied for 16 th)	3.5/6
Danny Stoll (tied for 16 th)	3.5/6
Thomas Yuan (tied for 16 th)	3.5/6
Jeffrey Zhanag (22 nd)	3/6
Sam Scherer (tied for 22 nd)	3/6

7-8 under 900 JV

Qjurui Liu (tied for 18 th)	3.5/6
---	-------

7-8 Championships

Andrew Chen (tied for 3 rd)	5/6
Joedat Esfahani (tied for 11 th)	4/6
John Clara (tied for 11 th)	4/6
James Ren (tied for 11 th)	4/6
Gabriel Lee (tied for 24 th)	3.5/6
Brian Fu (tied for 24 th)	3.5/6

9-12 under 1000 JV

Jonathan Lee (tied for 18 th)	3/6
---	-----

9-12 Championships

Sreekar Jasthi (tied for 11 th)	4/6
---	-----

We congratulate all the students who attended whether they won a trophy or not. The more you play the better you get.

BCS Participating Schools

Alameda

Bayfarm
Earhart
Edison
St Joseph's
St Philip Neri

Alamo

Alamo Elementary
Rancho Romero

Albany

Cornell
Marin
Ocean View
Albany Middle School

Belmont

Central
Challenge Chinese

Berkeley

Arts Magnet/Whittier
A.T.D.P. UC Berkeley
Cragmont
Crowden
Ecole Bilingue
Emerson
Hickman
Hillside
Jefferson
King Middle School
Madeleine
Oxford

Berkeley continued

Rosa Parks
Washington

Burlingame

Burlingame Recreation
Franklin
Lincoln

Castro Valley

Crossroads Christian

Clayton

Mt. Diablo

Concord

Highland
Monte Gardens
St. Francis

Danville

Green Valley
San Ramon Valley Christian
Tassajara Hills

Dublin

Nielsen
Quarry Lane

El Cerrito

Castro
Fairmont
Madera
Prospect Sierra

El Sobrante

Olinda

Foster City

Challenge Chinese

Hayward

All Saints

Kensington

Kensington Hilltop
Montessori Family School

Lafayette

Happy Valley
Lafayette
Lafayette Recreation
Springhill
St Perpetua
Tri Valley Home School

Marin County

Glenwood (San Rafael)
Olive (Novato)

Martinez

John Muir
John Swett
Morello Park

Millbrae

St Dunstan's

Moraga

Los Perales
Moraga Rec
Rheem
Saklan Valley

Oakland

Allendale
Beacon
Bentley
Canyon
Chabot
Crocker Highlands
Emiliano Zapata
Glenview
Head Royce
Hillcrest
Joaquin Miller
Kaiser
New Highland
North Oakland Charter
Oakland Hebrew Day
Redwood Day
Redwood Heights
St. Paul's
Thornhill

Orinda

Camino Pablo
Del Rey
Glorietta
Orinda Recreation
Sleepy Hollow
Wagner Ranch

Pinole

Ellerhorst

Piedmont

Beach
Corpus Christi
Havens
Piedmont Recreation
Wildwood
Zion Lutheran

Pleasant Hill

Strandwood
Sequoia

Pleasanton

Garden West
Donlon
Fairlands
Lydiksen
Pleasanton Rec
Walnut Grove
Carol Cloud Home School

Richmond

JO Ford
Valley View

San Francisco

Buena Vista
Marshall
Rooftop

San Ramon

Bollinger
Country Club
Coyote Creek
Golden View
Hidden Hills
Live Oak
Montevideo
Quail Run
San Ramon Recreation.
Twin Creeks
Windemere Ranch
Dougherty Station

Santa Clara

Morningstar

Walnut Creek

Bancroft
Buena Vista
Dorris-Eaton
Murwood
Palmer
Parkmead
Valle Verde
Walnut Heights
Civic Arts Center

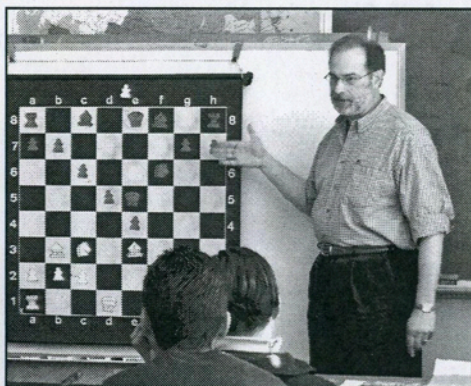


BCS Outreach Program

The BCS First Moves Program is designed to introduce students from low-income Bay Area neighborhoods to the joys of chess while exercising the skills they need to excel in school. Now in its fourth year, our program currently offers chess instruction and tournament play to over 100 students at J. O. Ford Elementary School in Richmond and hopes to expand in the 2008-2009 school year to five other Title One Schools. Chess at J.O. Ford has been made possible because of the support of the Trio Foundation, the Y. & H. Soda Foundation, and the Stulfsaft Foundation.

A 2006 study of BCS students at J. O. Ford shows that students whose classes included chess instruction did 20% better on the math assessment tests and 15% better on the English assessment tests than their peers, and shows strong improvement in attitude, attentiveness and self-esteem.

The J.O. Ford Scholastic Chess team excelled again at the 2008 BCS Berkeley Area Tournament finishing among the top ten teams for the third year in a row. Team members Ricardo Navaro, Peace Taylor, Jason Clemente, and Joseph Bryant are shown on the left.



Chess Makes a Difference at the Emiliano Zapata Street Academy

Two years ago Dave Chen, Social Science teacher at Emiliano Zapata Street Academy in Oakland believed that chess would help his students develop critical thinking skills and learn how they can be useful in solving problems. Emiliano Zapata is a very low-income school, and many students face great challenges in life and in school. He contacted the Berkeley Chess School who sent chess Master Robert Hamm, to teach the class. Hamm quickly won the respect of the students by arranging all of them in a circle, playing them simultaneously and winning all the games.

Robert Hamm worked with students individually to help them become aware of long-standing habits. "One of the boys was a boxer," Dave Chen said, "and he was known as a fighter who was taught to never back down. He would go toe-to-toe and never take time to read his opponent." Through Robert Hamm's lessons, the student began to see how much this spontaneous response limited him in chess and in other areas of life.

"Chess has been very positive," says Zapata principal Patricia Williams-Myrick. It has helped students in focusing and having better motivation in completing class work."



When I was younger I thought I couldn't learn chess. Then when I came here I thought I would give it a try. Chess helped me figure out a lot of things in my life. I look at how the other player approaches playing. I can prevent problems—or else I have already lost the game. It helps me learn from mistakes...Chess is an eye game. You look for all the ways you can solve them (situations). Keep your eyes open. You can avoid a lot of problems."

Manuel Avolos, A senior at Emiliano Zapata

Please consider donating to BCS or serving on a fundraising committee

What will your donation do?

- Make sure that we can continue to recruit dedicated and effective teachers
- Strengthen our scholarship fund
- Help us match foundation and corporate funding in order to bring chess education into more low-income schools
- Help us launch a permanent center for chess education

"We see the Berkeley Chess Education Center becoming a hub of activity for everyone interested in quality chess education and for everyone concerned with closing the education gap."

Elizabeth Shaughnessy

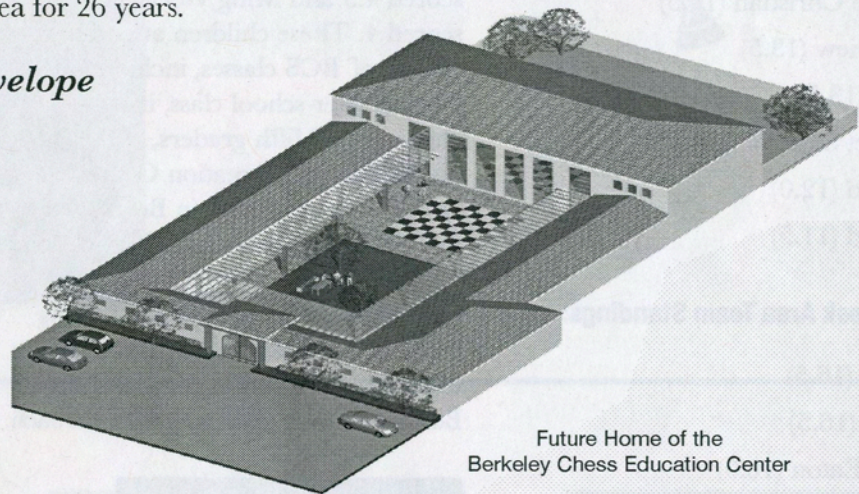


The Berkeley Chess Education Center

The Berkeley Chess Education Center will be a model community center. It will have tournament and classroom space, a lending library and appropriate facilities for teacher training. The Center will link retired chess players to young children and it will house chess classes for lifelong learning.

We welcome your financial support as we move to create long-term stability to a program that has served the Bay Area for 26 years.

Please return the attached envelope



Future Home of the
Berkeley Chess Education Center



Thanks to all the BCS parents for encouraging their children during the past year and for helping them learn the lessons of chess and of life!



Beach School brings 17 players to the Berkeley Tournament

Play Offs June 7

Berkeley Area Team Championships

On May 2, 2008, one hundred and twenty three BCS students representing 31 schools enjoyed a beautiful day at Cragmont Elementary School in Berkeley. With views of the Bay, families picnicked and played sports in between the six rounds of the Berkeley Area Team Championships. The students eagerly went to the Coaches Corner where several BCS teachers analyzed their games. Parents watched their kids through the windows and checked the standings as they constantly changed. In the end Havens Elementary in Piedmont earned first place with a score of 19.5 wins out of a possible 24. Of the ten players from Havens, the four earning the most points were, Michael Wang with a perfect score of six out of six, Drake Palmer scored 5 wins, Nathan Yuen scored 4.5 and Ming Wei Samuel scored 4. These children attend a variety of BCS classes, including the Havens after school class, in-school classes for all fifth graders, classes at the Piedmont Recreation Center, the Friday evening classes in Berkeley and BCS summer camps. In addition parent coach Stuart Samuel hosted bi-monthly chess workshops, netting the kids extra experience and a strong team spirit. Head Royce, Bentley and Beach tied for second with 18 wins each.

Berkeley Area Team Standings:

1. Havens (19.5)
2. Head-Royce (18.0)
3. Bentley (18.0)
4. Beach (18.0)
5. Chinese Christian (16.5)
6. Oceanview (13.5)
7. Marin (13.5)
8. Prospect Sierra (13.0)
9. J.O. ford (12.0)
10. Oxford (11.5)

Walnut Creek Area Team Standings:

1. Rheem (16.5)
2. Palmer (16.5)
3. Dorris-Eaton (16.0)
4. Glorietta (15.5)
5. Walnut Heights (14.5)
6. Camino Pablo (12.0)
7. Buena Vista (10.5)
8. Springhill (10.0)
9. John Swett (9.0)
10. Sequoia (8.0)



At the Berkeley tournament Miranda Christ (4th grader at Bentley) won the prize for the best game.

Walnut Creek Area Team Championships

On April 26, 2008, Rheem Elementary School in Moraga won the BCS Elementary Schools' Team Championships in the Walnut Creek area. Ninety kids participated from 29 schools that have BCS programs in the Walnut Creek Area. It was one of the most closely contested tournaments in years, as going into the last round, five teams had a chance for first. When the dust settled, Rheem elementary and Palmer Academy tied for first place with 16.5 points out of a possible 24. Rheem won on tie-breaks.

The standard tie break measures the strength of the competition that each school played by counting the number of wins by each opponent. The team who played tougher competition is favored in this tie break.

Glorietta and Dorris-Eaton placed a close 3rd and 4th. Dorris-Eaton made a remarkable transformation from two players in 2007 to 17 in 2008, thanks to the encouragement of chess teacher David Petty and involved parents.



At the Walnut Creek tournament Owen Pan, Kindergarten, Los Perales School, won the prize for best game.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Nc3 (should consider Ng5, fried liver attack) 4..... Bc5 (should consider 4.....Nxe4! 5. Nxe4! d5 (winning back the piece with positional advantage) 5. d3 (good! Don't castle kingside in Giuoco Piano) 5.....d6 6. Bg5 Bg4 7. Nd5 Bxf3 8. Nxf6+! gxf6 9. Qxf3 fxe5? 10. Qxf7#
Owen is 5 years old!

Parents and Teachers Help Build School Teams

This year the Berkeley Chess School decided to go the extra mile and provide instructors for parents organizing weekend chess parties. All of the chess players at any particular school were invited to learn more and compete for their school's chess team. Many parents took us up on this offer, and these schools finished at the top at this year's team championships. BCS provided these extra classes free of charge. Please let us, and your chess teacher know, if your school is interested in forming a team (minimum 4) when the tournament season comes around again next year. We can also order team t-shirts if there is an interest.

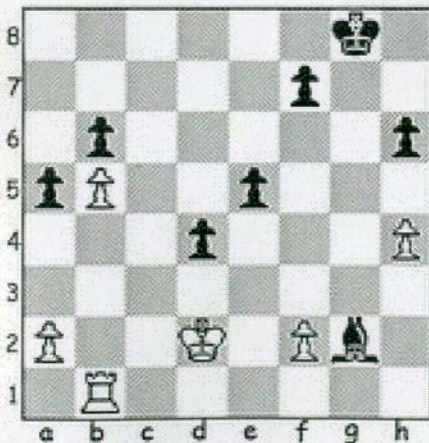
Parent Joe Scherer describes the experience at his school. "The Spring Elementary Team Tournament sponsored by BCS motivated more than just the kids at Head-Royce school — it motivated the parents too. Parents started hosting "chess salons" at their homes to entice the better chess players to play together as a team (the HoRSes) in anticipation of the tournament. Enthusiasm built to a fever pitch with 18 HoRSes participating in the 2007 Elementary School Tournament in Berkeley (1st place) and 12 HoRSes competing in 2008 with a much younger team (2nd place). The enthusiasm was truly contagious with the parents of two of the HoRSes now serving on the BCS Board of Directors!"



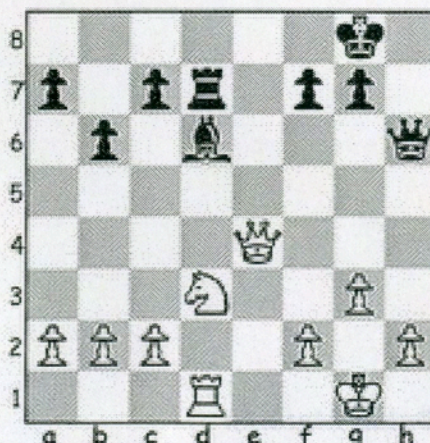
Team preparation for Beach School led by Stephen Shaughnessy



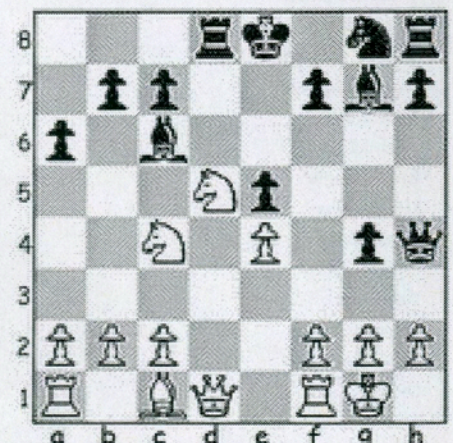
Test Your Tactical Skills



White to move and win a piece using a pin.



White to move and win a piece using a fork.



Black to move and win a piece using a double attack.

BCS Board of Directors

Founder and President, Elizabeth Shaughnessy
Chair, Queen Graham
Treasurer, Neil Levy
Secretary, Roger Poehlmann
Emeritus (1903 – 2000), George Koltanowski
Member at large, Joe Scherer
Member at large, Thomas Gonda
Member at large, John DeWitt
Member at large, Michael Novogradac

BCS Staff

Executive Director, Elizabeth Shaughnessy
Development Director, Gary Osteraas
Grants and Outreach, Beth Slatkin
Office Administrator, Judy Strain
Administrative Assistant, Kat Chen
Business Development, Marc Newman
Operations Manager, David Mendelsohn
Webmaster & Tournaments, David Petty
Data Entry, Tania Yates
Financial Officer, Elke Moritz
Graphic Design, Chantal White

BCS Chess Instructors

NM Roger Poehlmann
Master Robert Hamm
Master Sam Shankland
Master Ron Cusi
Stephen Shaughnessy
David Stambuch
Tony Lama
Morgan Baker
Rodney Edwards
Vincent Gonzales
Christopher Saldana
Armen Boyd
Ben Russack
Dave Ceponis
Adrianna Frick
Robert Gavrich
M.B. Hanif
Shane Hare
Michael Lum
Dan Rozenblatt
Tyler Richardson
Oliver Morse
Venkatesh Naidu
Kris Caltagirone
Tim Moore
Michael Scidel
Eric Shaughnessy
Udham Singh
Sam Sloane
Cynthia Warren
Farid Mark Watson
David Petty
Steve Knowlton
Dickson Lam
Max Landaw
Tang Kitiporka

Classes and Tournaments for Adults at the Berkeley Chess School

A USCF rated tournament for adults is held every Sunday evening, in 6-week segments, at 6pm at the Berkeley Chess School at 1581 Le Roy Ave in Berkeley. Adults and children rated over 1000 are welcome to attend.

Classes for beginning and intermediate level adults are offered at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave in Berkeley. Classes include an introduction to the principles of chess, analysis of strategy and tactics used in actual games, and practice games with other students.

For information on the classes or the tournament, please call 510-843-0150 or go to www.berkeleychessschool.org.



Berkeley Chess Club Sunday Marathon

The Berkeley Chess School
PO Box 10073
Berkeley, CA 94709

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BERKELEY, CA
PERMIT #597

Dated Material