

C H E S S \* T I M E

A publication of the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club,  
Santa Monica, California

Joseph Mill Brown, Editor

1. P-Q4, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Santa Monica Bay Chess Championship, again, after a hiatus of some five years. Tradition is tradition, even if the chain breaks every once in a while. Previous Club Champions have been Tibor Weinberger, Fritz Leiber, Ray Martin and Emil Bersbach, among others. So, if tradition holds the winner should rank as one of the top bananas in West Coast chess.

Prizes for our resumed classic will be a beautiful trophy for the winner, a perpetual trophy for succeeding champions, four cash prizes, and books for Class Winners (Modern Chess Openings and ex-World Champion Max Euwe's newest treatise). An exquisite, magnetic pocket set from Japan is also numbered among the awards.

The finale, six weeks hence, should be bloody, but exhilarating.

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Time ran out for Santa Monica as the Herman Steiner Club held on for a 3 - 3 draw in the penultimate round to clinch the Southern California Chess League club championship in Division "A" play. Here's how it went for our gang, which finished as runner-up. (Odd-numbered boards for SMBCC were white):

<u>Santa Monica</u>	<u>Steiner</u>	<u>Opening</u>
(1) Art Spiller.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Carl Pilnick..... $\frac{1}{2}$	King's Indian Defense
(2) Conrad Batchelder... $\frac{1}{2}$	Jack Moskowitz.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Slav Defense
(3) Bill Bragg.....1	Jim Tarjan....0	Polish
(4) Steve Hohensee...0	Irving Rivise....1	Petroff Defense
(5) Karl Stani..... $\frac{1}{2}$	Sam Geller.....0	Closed Sicilian
(6) Frank McReynolds.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Charles Antman.... $\frac{1}{2}$	QGA (by transposition)

Probably the most exciting moments occurred in the Moskowitz-Batchelder game when Black's sixteenth move overlooked an outright win. However, Batchelder's performance with the black pieces in a pressure situation against Master Moskowitz (USCF-rated 2376 against Conrad's 2014), highlighted a commendable showing for a young Santa Monica team that was an eleventh-hour entry. Both, past reputation and future promise, seemed to have served Santa Monica well.

Moskowitz, Steiner (White) Batchelder, Santa Monica (Black) - Slav Defense:  
(Notes by Santa Monica Team Captain Andy Kempner)

1. P-Q4 P-Q4; 2. N-KB3 N-KB3; 3. P-QB4 P-QB3; 4. PXP PXP; 5. N-QB3 N-QB3;  
6. B-B4 B-B4; 7. P-K3 P-K3; 8. B-QN5 B-QN5; 9. Q-R4 BxNch; 10. PxB -O-O;  
11. O-O N-K5 (!); 12. BxN(?) (White overlooks the possibility of Black's economical King side onslaught) 12...NxBP(!); 13. Q-R3 N-K7ch; 14. K-RL NxB; 15. BxNP R-NL; 16. B-R6 N-N3(?) (Black is unaware of tremendous potential. 16...NxBP wins outright by 17. KxN B-K5; 18. R-KN1 Q-R5!!

White cannot avoid impending check and subsequent loss of pawn.)  
 17. QR-B1 B-N5; 18. N-Q2 P-K4; 19. P-B3 B-K3; 20. PXP NXP; 21. N-N3  
 N-B5; 22. BxN PxB; 23. N-Q4 B-Q4; 24. KR-Q1 Q-B3; 25. P-K4 B-K3;  
 26. P-K5 QxP. Draw agreed.

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Stream of Chess Consciousness: "Tarrasch's mistake was his failure to comprehend the dynamic nature of the struggle in chess, the unique process of transition from one stage of the game to the next. In every game of chess, the players must repeatedly take concrete decisions, often based not on the principles but on exceptions to them. (Alexander Kotov, Russian Grandmaster, in "Alekhine's Chess Heritage.") ... "Fischer will give nobody any counterplay. But nobody. That's the type of player he is." (Arthur Bisguier, in the Analysis Room during the Second Piatigorsky.)... "Najdorf said (Boris) Spassky plays simple chess. He just gets his pieces out there."... "Spassky's strength is, he always knows what he's doing. He doesn't make many mistakes, knows his openings, and doesn't get into time trouble." (Irving Rivise and Carl Pilnick at Ditto). ... "Let us depart from science. Chess can never reach its height by following in the path of science. Let us, therefore, make a new effort, and with the help of our imagination turn the struggle of our technique into a battle of ideas." (Jose Capablanca, "One Hundred Best Games.")

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One of the most significant games in modern American chess was played in the U. S. Championship, in December 1958, between 15-year-old Bobby Fischer and the reigning monarch, Sammy Reshevsky. Although the game lasted forty-two moves, it was all over by the eleventh. Critics later debited Reshevsky for not being up on the latest in Russian theory; the decisive variation was played in the Moscow Championship, 1958, Bastrikov-Shamkovitch. The opening follows: Fischer (White), Reshevsky (Black), Sicilian Defense: 1. P-K4 P-QB4; 2. N-KB3 K-QB3; 3. P-Q4 PXP; 4. NXP P-KN3; 5. N-QB3 B-N2; 6. B-K3 N-B3; 7. B-QB4 O-O; 8. B-N3 N-QR4(?); 9. P-K5 N-K1 (and here the Russians went 9....NxB; 10. KPxN, NxR; 11. PxB NxPch; 12. QxN, R-K1; P-B4 for the win.) 10. BxPch! KxB 11. N-K6 (which wins the Queen as Black is mated after 11...KxN; 12. Q-Q5 ch.K-B4; 13. P-KR3 P-KR4; P-N4ch, to victory.)

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The West European Women's Zonal Tournament is held every three years in Arenys de Mar, a town in Catalonia, Spain, so small it has but one street. Chess, there, is obviously a passion. Despite its minuscule size, the local chess organization claims over two hundred registered players.

It recalls the legend of the eager traveller who debarked from a Yugoslav train in a small town of 3,000.

"Where's the chess Club?" he asked a passerby..

The native replied, "Which one?"

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(Please forward news items for this journal to your editor at 214<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> South Hamilton Drive, Beverly Hills (90012) ).