



The Official
Oakland Chess Club
Newspaper
and
The Voice of Chess
for the East Bay

...Elvin C. Meyers

Editors
(Publicity Directors)

Martin E. Morrison.

NEWS

OAKLAND CHESS CLUB'S THIRD ANNUAL
SUMMER TOURNAMENT

The Oakland Chess Club's Third Annual Summer Tournament will be held this year on July 23-24 at the club's quarters, 225 Eleventh Street (Lincoln Elementary School). Two trophies and two books per class are guaranteed prizes. In addition, more prizes will be awarded depending on the number of persons attending. "Sruprize Prizes" will also be awarded.

The tournament is open to all chess players who are, or who will become members of the Chess Friends of Northern California. The tournament will be divided into three classes: Expert/A, B, and C and will be in the form of a five tound Swiss system.

Entry fees should be sent to: Oakland Chess Club (Summer Tournament), P. O. Box 1622, Oakland, California 94604. The fee is \$4 for members of Chess Friends, \$7 for nonmembers (includes membership). Fees will also be accepted from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 23, but for better

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SUMMER TOURNAMENT

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)

pairings and ease in registration advance registration is strongly recommended. (Fees will be refunded if subsequently unable to attend.)

Any questions about this tournament will be answered as explained on page two of this issue.

SAIDY EXHIBITION AT LERA

On Sunday, May 15, Dr. A. J. Saily, senior chess master gave a simultaneous exhibition in the Lockheed Employees' Recreation Association (LERA) Auditorium, Sunnyvale. Dr. Saily played on the U. S. Olympic Chess Team at Tel Aviv, and was Canadian Open Champion in 1961.

The senior master played 30 games, winning 28, drawing one (to John Blackstone, chess master, Saratoga) and losing one (to Kevin Hurt, Saratoga, son of LERA President James Jurt). Dr. Saily played two of the games blindfolded (against David Betanco and Dennis Prieur), winning both.

Dr. Saily introduced his exhibition with a short talk entitled "How to Almost Beat [sic] Bobby Fischer and Still Lose."

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En Passant is published monthly under the auspices of the Publicity Directorship of the Oakland Chess Club. Subscriptions: (USA) \$1.00 per year; free and automatic for members of this club. (Paid subscribers who later join this club will be given a proportional refund.) Advertisements: 50¢ per quarter page per issue. Extra copies of any numbers: 10¢ per copy.

Contributions of material are welcome and become the property of these editors; editing rights are reserved. To be considered for publication, an item must be received by these editors before the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of issuance in which it is to appear.

Persons seeking information about chess clubs and activities are invited to contact these editors.

If any reader who is not on the Oakland Chess Club's mailing list would like to be included on it, he should contact these editors.

The Oakland Chess Club holds its meetings from 7:00 to 11:30 p.m. Fridays at Lincoln Elementary School, 225 Eleventh Street, Oakland, California. All visitors are welcome.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGED? PLEASE NOTIFY THESE EDITORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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CHESS PROBLEMS

To create interest in this section of En Passant, these editors have set up a problem-solving contest. Problems will be selected which will make the contest interesting for weaker players, while the stronger players as well will find them challenging. The contest will be run as follows. Each month in this section we shall publish two problems. Anyone who cares to participate must mail the key move(s) to the editors by the tenth of the month following the month of the issue in which the problems appear. The address to which the entries should be sent will be found above. The contest will run for six issues—a total of twelve problems. Send any of the solutions you wish; if you miss the mailing for one month, you may still submit for other months. Late entrants will be admitted. Solutions will appear two months after the issue in which the problem appeared. Total correct solutions will be tabulated for each entrant; the one with the most points wins; a tie-breaking system will be devised by these editors. Anyone is eligible to enter. THE PRIZE: ANY CHESS PAPERBACK OF THE WINNER'S CHOICE (maximum: \$4).

To facilitate the publishing of the problems, we shall use a system which is both easy and widely used; as such, every chess player should be familiar with it. The FORSYTHE NOTATION works thus: the position on each rank, reading from left to right, is recorded by a series of initials and figures. The initials indicate the chessmen, capital letters being used for white men and lower case letters for black men. The figures represent the number of vacant squares. The notations for the ranks follow each other, separated by virgules (/). The order is always from White's eighth rank down to his first rank. Example: in the first problem below, White has a King on QK8 and a Queen on KR8, both on his eighth (last) rank; his seventh rank is completely empty; his sixth rank has a Bishop on QK6, while Black on the same rank (White's sixth) has a Pawn on his own Q3 and a Pawn on his own K3 (White's Q3 and K3).

Problem #1. K62/3/B2pp3/R1p1B2p1/4k1N1/5p2/3PN3/3.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Problem #2. Q7/R1p1r1p1/4k1p1/2B3K1/2b1B3/1p6/1P1r4/8.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Good luck. These two problems are due July 10.

OPENING ANALYSIS

The Snafu Counterattack
As Analyzed by John Notor

When White pushes the King Pawn in modern tournament play, seventy-five per cent of the time he finds himself facing some unsymmetrical defensive system. As a result, White's advantage of the first move is often offset by Black's ability to direct the game into lines which are more comfortable for him. The only defense of any worth where this apparently did not apply was Alekhine's Defense.

After 1 P-K4 N-KB3
White could transpose into less hypermodern debuts by 2 N-QB3 ...
But Black now has an out. 2 ... P-K3

This move gives White a chance to reform with 3 P-K5, transposing into Alekhine's Defense as follows: 3...N-Q4; 4 NxN, PxN; 5 P-Q4, P-Q3; 6 N-KB3, N-QB3; 7 B-K2; B-K2, 8 B-KB4, 0-0= (L. C. O. Tenth Edition, Alekhine's Defense, column 10, note 1).

3 P-Q4 ...
Probably the best. Other good moves are 3 P-B4 and 3 P-KN3. After 3 P-B4, there follows: 3...B-N5; 4 N-K2 (4 P-K4, N-Q4; 5 NxN, PxN is also interesting), P-Q4; 5 P-K5, N-Q2; 6 P-Q4, P-QB4, transposing into a French with both sides having equal chances. 3 P-KN3 could lead to 3...P-Q4; 4 P-K5, N-Q2; 5 P-B4, P-B4, where White's Queen Knight is misplaced. 3 P-Q3 is playable, although somewhat timid.

3 ... B-N5
4 B-N5 ...
The most dynamic. 4 P-K5 releases the tension too soon, allowing Black the more aggressive position after 4...N-Q4.
4 ... P-Q3

More regular is 4...P-Q4, transposing into the MacCutcheon Variation of the French Defense.

5 N-KB3 ...
Playable, although not as good, is 5 P-K5, PxP; 6 PxP, Qx? ch; 7 Rx?, N-Q4; 8 B-Q2.

5 ... P-B4
6 BxN ...
If 6 PxP, P-KB3 with complications.
6 ... QxB
7 Q-Q2 ...

Also good is 7 B-N5 ch, B-Q2; 8 BxB ch, HxB; 9 0-0, PxP; 10 NxP, BxN; 11 PxB, N-B4; 12 Q-K2, 0-0 with equality. Playable is 7 P-K5, Q-K2 (7... PxP; 8 PxP, Q-N3; 9 B-Q3 with advantage for White); 8 PxQP (3 PxBP?, PxKP!), QxP; 9 PxP, QxP; 10 Q-Q2, 0-0 and Black has a slightly better game.

7 ... N-QB3
8 0-0-0 0-0

Those who favor the rather cowardly 2 N-QB3 to avoid Alekhine's Defense, beware! Black can still steer the game into lines he prefers.

ANNOTATED GAME

The following game was first board in the match between the LERA Chess Club and the Western Electric Chess Club teams, Peninsula League, February 24, 1966. Kindly annotated by James E. Hurt.

1 P-K4	P-QB4	14 Q-B3	R-K1ch	27 R-K2	N-R3	40 PxP	B-D5
2 B-D4	P-Q3	15 B-K3	B-N2	28 R(2)-B2N-B4		41 P-N4	B-R6
3 P-Q3	N-KB3	13 0-0	B-QB3	29 Q-R3	N-K6	42 P-Q5	B-N5
4 P-KR3	P-KN3	17 BxP	QxN	30 R-K1	N-N5	43 P-Q6	R-K7ch
5 N-QB3	B-N2	18 P-QR3	P-Q5	31 Q-N3	NxR	44 K-B1	K-B2
6 N-B3	0-0	19 N-Q5	P-B5	32 QxN	RxP	45 P-Q7	K-K2
7 M-N5	P-QR3	20 N-K7ch	RxN	33 Q-N3	R-BSch	46 P-Q4	B-N6
8 N-N3	P-KN4	21 BxR	QxB	34 K-R2	QxQch	47 P-Q5	B-B6
9 B-Q5	NxB	22 QxP	N-Q2	35 KxQ	RxR	48 P-Q6ch	K-Q1
10 NxN	P-Q3	23 QR-K1	N-K4	36 K-B2	R-K1	49 K-N1	R-K3 mate
11 N-B3	P-B4	24 P-KR4	R-KB1	37 P-N4	B-R1	1:24	1:21
12 N-N5	P-Q4	25 Q-N3	Q-Q3	38 P-N5	B-Q3		
13 PxQP	PxP	26 P-KB4	R-B3	39 P-B3	R-K6		

After a quiet opening, White (J. P. Dirks, Western Electric) plays 14 Q-B3 threatening Q or N takes QP (more prudent would have been 14 0-0). Black (J. E. Hurt, LERA) plays 14...R-K1ch, to which White replies with 15 B-K3. At this point, Black can play 15...QxN, but White would counter with 16 QxPch and 17 QxR. Therefore, Black plays 15...B-N2, protecting the QP and threatening QxN. White castles, securing his Knight. Black would like to play P-Q5, forking the B and N, and also threatening BxQ, but first he must protect his QB; therefore, he plays 16...B-QB3. White must now lose a piece; he chooses to do it with 17 BxP, QxN. White continues with the weak 18 P-QR3 (better was 18 NxQP and 19 P-QB4) and after 18...P-Q5 (threatens PxN and BxQ) he must play 19 N-Q5 to save the Knight. Black plays 19...P-B5 threatening BxN. White escapes by giving up two pieces for a Rook. As Black then has three pieces for a rook, the win is just a matter of technique, Black mating on move 49.

GAMES

#1. Played in the simultaneous exhibition given by Dr. A. J. Saidy at the LERA Chess Club on May 15, 1966. White: Kevin M. Hurt; Black: Dr. A. J. Saidy.

King Pawn

1 P-K4	P-K4	11 Q-N3	PxP	20 QxB	Q-B5	30 R-KD3	R-K7
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	12 N-K4	Q-N3	21 P-KN3	Q-E3	31 R-N1	P-B5
3 B-QB4	N-KB2	13 N-N5ch	K-Q2	22 QxQ	PxQ	32 R-B5	K-K3
4 N-N5	P-Q4	14 B-B4	Q-B4	23 NxR	RxN	33 R-B5	E-Q3
5 PxP	NxP	15 B-Q2	B-Q3	24 P-QR3	N-Q4	34 RxP	B-B4
6 N-BP	KxN	16 Q-N3	QxBBP	25 KR-Q1	P-QB4	35 RxP	BxPch
7 Q-B3ch	K-K3	17 BxN	QxB(Q2)	26 QR-B1	K-Q2	36 K-R1	P-Q7
8 N-B3	N-N5	18 B-KGch	K-B2	27 R-Q3	P-N3	37 K-N2	R-K3
9 0-0	P-B3	19 N-B7	BxB	28 R-KB3	R-K1	38 KxB	NxR
10 P-Q4	Q-B3	20 QxB	Q-B5	29 R-B5	R-K4	39 resigns	

#2. Played on first board in the match between the LERA Chess Club and the Western Electric Chess Club teams, Peninsula League, February 24, 1966. White: E. G. Tapia, Western Electric; Black: W. Parks, LERA.

1 P-K4	P-QB4	7 N-K2	B-N2	13 N-Q2	N-K2	19 N-K2	N-K3
2 B-QB4	P-K3	8 P-B3	N-B3	14 P-B4	N-R4	20 Q-N3	N-Q1
3 N-QB3	P-QR3	9 B-B4	P-Q3	15 B-R2	K-R1	21 P-Q4	BPxP
4 P-QR3	N-QB3	10 0-0	0-0	16 PxP	PxP	22 PxP	PxP
5 N-B3	Q-B2	11 P-KR3	P-K4	17 N-KR3	N-B5	23 BxQ	N(1)-B3
6 P-Q3	P-KR3	12 P-KR3	B-Q2	18 N-B3	P-B3	24 N(2)xP	resigns

SAIDY EXHIBITION

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Saily also gave a series of three chess lectures in connection with his appearance.

Kevin Hurt's winning game against the chess master will be found in this issue as game number one (see page 4). He lost to Benko and Evans before when they were at LERA.

LERA B TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday, May 11, the LERA Chess Club's five round Swiss B Tournament ended leaving a four-way tie for first place between Charles Chattin, Len Heller, Theodore Nast, and Kenneth Stone. The tie was broken by a round robin; the results place the four in the following order: K. Stone, T. Nast, C. Chattin, L. Heller. In the tournament William Meyer won the Brilliancy Prize and Dr. Joseph Wissel, the Best Played Game Prize.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Rook...Or Is It the Castle?

In his column in the San Francisco Chronicle of Friday, June 17, George Koltanowski asked his readers to assist him in answering a question posed by a Mr. Kimball. The question was: how, when, and why did the word rook come into use as opposed to castle in chess? I was intrigued by the question and set about to find the answer. In researching the problem, however, the results were so unexpected that I thought others interested in chess would appreciate seeing a discussion of the question, since it might have occurred to them as well, even as it had to Mr. Kimball.

In order to answer a question of this nature, "the" work to consult is the compendious Oxford English Dictionary of the English Language; Webster's unabridged dictionary and the Encyclopaedia Britannica do not generally contain the type of information needed to answer such a problem as this. The unfailing OED lists the word rook, as used in chess, as being distinct from all other uses of the word. The chess rook is adopted, according to the OED, from the Old French word for the piece roc. Mediaeval Latin has a similar word, as do three of the Romance languages and four of the Germanic languages. The ultimate source for the entire set of words is said to be the Persian ruk. The OED remarks that the original sense of the Persian word is doubtful, but another voluminous and revered work quotes a scholar, d'Herbelot, as saying that in the Ancient Persian language ruk signified "a warrior who seeks warlike adventure, a sort of knight-errant," not a staunch tower or castle! The word is listed as being first printed in the early fourteenth century, the Middle English period, during which many loan words came into the English language, primarily from Latin and French. Just for the record, the quotation runs thus: with a roke he brac his heued ban.

The word tower, an obsolete term for this chess piece, is found in print first some two and a half centuries later, in 1562, in Rowethum's book, Play Cheests. In that work, Rowethum states: "Of the Rooke or Towre. The Towre is named amongst the Spaniards, Portugales, and Italians." This usage is an extension from the other meanings of tower.

Now I discovered the most astounding fact in this entire investigation. The use of the word castle to mean the chess piece does not derive from the other commoner meanings of the word until approximately the early seventeenth century! In 1610 the word first occurs in print in Gullin's Heraldrie, where that author poetically pens: "They [the Rooks] stand in the vttermost corners of the Chesbord, as frontier Castles."

Thus it turns out not to be the case, as Mr. Kimball seems to imply, that the use of the word rook is a later development than the use of the word castle. In fact, the latter word first occurs in print over three centuries later than the former. On the basis of pure antiquity, it seems that we Americans have at last outstripped the British in something linguistic, since they still use the relatively newfangled term castle.

(footnotes to the foregoing)

1. Also spelled rock, rok, rog, rocg.
2. Rocus or Fochus.
3. Namely, Spanish, Portugese, and Italian.
4. Namely, Middle Low German, Old Norse, Middle Swedish, and Danish.
5. The Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia.
6. Don't worry if you can't read the quotation. It takes more than a knowledge of Modern English to read Middle English. Even the difficult-to-read Shakespeare wrote three centuries later than the year in which this quotation was written. Probably it was as difficult for him to read it as it is for us to read him.

Julius Alexander

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS OF THE OAKLAND CHESS CLUB

(Of interest primarily to members of the Oakland Chess Club.)

Minutes

An adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oakland Chess Club was held on Friday, April 27, 1966, in the Faculty Dining Room of Lincoln Elementary School.

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 p.m. by the President, the Secretary also being present.

The minutes of the previous two meetings were approved as published in En Passant.

The Board proceeded to the special order for the meeting: the counting of ballots in the vacancy elections.

The report of the tellers (the Board of Directors) was:

For Treasurership

Number of votes cast	20
Necessary for election	11
Mr. Richard Lee received	20

For Tournament Directorship

Number of votes cast	23
Necessary for election	12
Messrs. Raymond Ng & Roy McCullough received	15
Messrs. Raymond Ng & Richard Lee received	6
Mr. Allen Golbert received	2

The President declared Mr. Lee elected as Treasurer and Messrs. Raymond Ng and Roy McCullough elected as Tournament Directors.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson and adopted by general consent that the Board adjourn (sine die). The President declared the Board adjourned (sine die) at 7:53 p.m.

Raymond Ng, Secretary

Theodore E. Anderson, President