

Precita Valley

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U. S. "Open" Championship

BOBBY FISCHER IS NEW "OPEN" CHAMP -- ART BISQUIER IS RUNNER UP

Cleveland, Ohio, August 16. Bobby Fischer, the ordinary kid from Brooklyn, did the unordinary by "outpointing" Arthur Bisguier for the U.S. "Open" Championship. Just two weeks prior to this task he had won the U.S. Junior Championship at San Francisco. The last round was quite a dramatic one all around since it was scheduled to start at noon, but, because of a Shriners' Luncheon, never did get started until 3 p.m. It was even more dramatic as the last chess piece was moved. A quick computation had it that Arthur Bisguier had repeated his feat of the year before by once again winning the U.S. "Open" Championship. Cleveland reporters and photographers were there in full force, and Art "the Biscuit" Bisguier smiled broadly as flash bulbs exploded about him. In the meantime, sadfaced and half-crying, Bobby Fischer was telling the T.D., George Koltanowski, that it was he that had won, not Bisguier, because, "I played the stronger players". It was half assumed that since Bobby had won his first round by forfeit that he was nipped by the tie-breaking points. A recheck, however, revealed that Bobby, sure enough, was the true winner!

CALIFORNIA STATE "OPEN" AT MONTEREY OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND - 7 ROUNDS

The California State Chess Federation "Open" Championship will be held at Monterey, Calif. over the Labor Day weekend, starting approximately 12:30 p.m. Saturday, August 31st. There will be 7 rounds in this Swiss System Tourney.

As this goes to press the full details are not known by this reporter. However, it is believed there will be 3 rounds on Saturday, 2 on Sunday, and 2 on Monday. The exact spot in Monterey is also unknown by this reporter.

This tourney should prove interesting this year as something new will be tried. After three rounds, the players will be divided into groups according to how they score in these first three rounds. There is much speculation on how this new idea will work, but we must give the organization a salute for at least daring to try a new twist. The entry fee is \$5.00 to CSCF members and \$7.50 to non-members, the latter including membership and a subscription to the CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER.

Yes, it was quite a tournament--, 176 entries almost breaking all records. California (and especially S.F.) had almost as many participants as the city of Cleveland. William Addison and Gil Ramirez both accounted for themselves well. Addison was nip and tuck with the leaders until he lost the 10th round to Fischer.

Henry Gross, Guthrie McClain, and S. Van Gelder were no pushovers, nor was Leighton Allen of the Precita Valley Chess Club. Jim Reynolds started out like dynamite but fizzled in the later rounds, and Bill Rebold started slow but came roaring back near the close.

Sonia Graf Stevenson of Palm Springs won the Women's Championship. To show how tough the tourney was, she did this by scoring 6½. Fischer and Bisguier, by the way, each scored 10 in the 12 rounds.

More comments may be found on other pages of this issue.

C. D. 's VIEWS

On Why Chess Players End Up In The Parlor

SO MANY THINGS IMPRESSED ME while I was in Cleveland at the U.S. "Open" and while attending meetings---; also, a few things DEPRESSED me. The turnout of 176 players surely impressed me. It told me that chess was on the uptrend. But, is it really?

We have a national organization called the United States Chess Federation which seems fine. It offers a publication called CHESS LIFE to its members every other week, books at cut-rate prices, organized events, and a national rating. Despite all this, however, it can only claim about 2100 members in the whole United States of America! This depresses me...., among other things. Holland, a small country in Europe, boasts 15,000 members in its national chess organization. We know, of course, that there are many many more chess players in the United States. Where are they? No doubt, if you search hard enough and long enough, you will find them home with friends playing chess in the parlor. Many of them have drifted through local chess clubs, and, yes, even USCF. They drifted--, they did not stay! Why?

I can only attempt to answer this question by my personal experiences around chess clubs, even serving as a secretary of one (also as a secretary of a statewide organization at one time), and eventually organizing a club along with a few friends. It seems the biggest hold back is to find an incentive for the chess player. When he first joins a club he is usually of the average caliber (or below), but he is eager to learn. So, a chess class is always in order and, if a club has a competent instructor, then all the better. Next, he needs tournaments with GOOD prizes. What good is it to become a fairly good player if there is nothing in it to be had? This is a big problem because most clubs and organizations cannot afford what the winner of a tourney considers a suitable reward for his efforts. Next, comes the most difficult problem to conquer -- the conduct of the players. Sounds absurd, eh? Not so! In chess, more than anything else, there is an awful lacking of good sportsmanship! There are very few chess players who will compliment the player who just defeated him. Besides that, the kibitzer is always there ready to tear a good game apart from beginning to end! Then we have the jealousies, the dislikes, and the forever after grumbling and groaning where nobody actually accomplishes anything. Our new member has stuck around for just about a year and he has returned to his parlor but is now playing bridge, and 1,001 renewal notices will not bring him back!

We have a new president of USCF in the person of Mr. Jerry Spann, who, to me, is a wonderful guy. He has a tough job ahead of him as did past presidents. We directors gave Jerry Spann our vote of confidence and he needs this and much more help. However, after listening in on these meetings, I cannot say that I favor the intended ideas to promote more members for USCF. Like past president J. M. Phillips (82 years old by the way and very active), I believe there are other ways besides force to entice players to join organized chess and USCF. The force? Oh, that's not to rate tourneys unless every player of a tourney is a USCF member. Mr. Harkness, USCF rating statistician, feels he has players so rating conscious that they will just swamp to these tourneys and join USCF to get rated. Sorry, Mr. Harkness, but I

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GAMES SECTION
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Edited by Noel Renaud

GAME PLAYED IN P.V. Candidates' Tourney,
June 20, 1957.

Game No. 27

Battle of the Knights

White: Bob Blakemore
Black: Ivan Vegvary
FRENCH DEFENSE

- 1. P-K4 P-K3
- 2. P-Q4 P-Q4
- 3. N-Q2 . . .

The Tarrasch variation. Botvinnik and Keres employ this move quite regularly against the French. It was also a favorite of Alekhine in his later years.

- 3. . . . P-QB4

The approved equalizing reply.

- 4. KPXP KPXP

In spite of the theoretical objection to the early Queen development, 4...., QXP is also considered playable.

- 5. B-N5 ch B-Q2

Boleslavsky often plays 5...., N-B3.

- 6. Q-K2 ch Q-K2

Or 6...., B-K2; 7. PXP, N-KB3; 8. N-B3, O-O; 9. O-O, BXP.

- 7. BxB ch NxB

- 8. QxQ ch . . .

This exchange is to Black's advantage.

- 8. . . . NxQ

- 9. PXP NXP

A serious error and the direct cause of most of Black's difficulties. Correct is 9...., N-B3 with a much superior development.

- 10. N-K2 . . .

Seizing control of the vital square Q4.

- 10. . . . N-B4

Black cannot afford this second error.

10...., N-B3 is still best, though not so strong now, since White can contest control of Q4. 10...., N-B3; 11. N-KB3, N-K3; 12. B-K3, B-B4 with equal chances.

- 11. N-KB3 B-Q3

To provide for the unpleasant 12. P-KN4.

- 12. O-O K-Q2

Trying to protect the Isolani in this fashion makes Black's position all but untenable. Should consider 12...., N-K3 or O-O.

- 13. R-K1 N-K2

- 14. N-B3 K-B3

This must be an oversight. 14...., P-QR3 or N-K3 is necessary. In any case Black's position is not enviable.

- 15. B-K3 QR-Q1

Again there is a crying need for 15...., P-QR3. The penetration of a Knight on N5 must be prevented.

- 4 16. N-Q4 ch K-Q2
- Equally disastrous is 16...., K-B2 and 16...., K-N3.

- 17. N/4-N5 . . .

Threatening to win a piece.

- 17. . . . K-B3

The only move to save the piece now is 17...., N-K3. If 17...., N-B3, then 18. NxB, KxN; 19. N-N5 ch.

- 18. NXP ch . . .

White wins with 18. NxB, K or RxDN; 19.

BxDN, KxB; 20. RxDN.

- 18. . . . K-N3

Black is given another chance--, 18...., K-Q2 and 19...., N-K3.

- 19. N/7-N5 B-K4

The threat 20...., P-Q5 does not save the piece. 20. P-QN4, P-Q5; 21. PxDN ch, KxB; 22. BXP ch, BxB; 23. RxDN and wins easily.

- 20. N-Q4 . . .

BxDN ch also wins. 20. BxDN ch, KxB; 21.

RxB, N-B3; 22. R-B4.

- 20. . . . N-B3

Black misses his last chance to save the piece. 20...., BxDN; 21. BxB, N-B4; 22.

N-R4 ch, K-N5.

- 21. N/3-K2 NxN

- 22. NxN P-N3

Offering better chances of keeping Black's losses to a minimum is 22...., B-B3. If

23. P-QB3, K-B2.

- 23. P-QB3 P-B4

- 24. P-KB4 BxDN

Now that the Bishop Pawn has moved the position is hopeless. If 24...., B-B3; 25. N-K6, R-QB1; 26. NxN, RxDN; 27. P-QN4.

- 25. BxB KR-K1

- 26. P-QN4 Resigns

Game No. 28

Played in the U.S. Junior Championship in San Francisco, Calif. A promising sacrifice proves insufficient to overcome

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GAMES SECTION (cont'd from page 3)

White's stubborn resistance.

White: G. Ramirez
Black: R. Fischer
RETI OPENING

- 1. N-KB3 N-KB3
- 2. P-KN3 P-KN3
- 3. B-N2 B-N2
- 4. O-O O-O
- 5. P-B4 P-Q3
- 6. N-B3

Slightly better is 6. P-Q4. If QN-Q2; 2. Q-B2 with a position identical to the game Pavay won from Keres (1954 USA-USSR match).

- 6. P-K4
- 7. P-Q4 QN-Q2
- 8. P-KR3

There is no immediate call for this move. Better is 8. Q-B2 and if 8...., R-K1; 9. R-Q1.

- 8. R-K1
- 9. Q-B2 PxP

Black seizes the initiative.

- 10. NxP N-N3
- 11. P-N3

This is weak. White is already in difficulties, being unable to get in P-K4, or stop Black's P-Q4. 11. R-Q1 is still best. Then, if 11...., NxP; 12. N/3-N5, and White comes out rather well. Of course Black would not capture the Pawn, but play 11...., P-QR3. White could now play 12. P-N3 with less danger as 12...., P-B4 is no longer good.

- 11. P-B4
- 12. N/4-N5

Forced as 12. N-B3, N-K5 wins the King Pawn.

- 12. P-QR3
- 13. N-R3 B-B4
- 14. Q-Q2 P-Q4
- 15. P-KN4 BxP

Black's positional advantage undoubtedly warrants this sacrifice but he must guard against a forced exchange of Queens.

- 16. PxB KNxP
- 17. B-R3 Q-R5
- 18. K-N2 P-Q5 ?

To prevent the exchange of Queens, Black must not close the long diagonal. More promising is 18. B-Q5. If 19. P-K3, NxP ch; 20. PxN, RxP; 21. QxR, BxQ; 22. BxB, P-Q5 and Black wins easily. If 19. Q-K1, R-K4 maintains the pressure. If

19. Q-B4, BxN; 20. R-N1, R-K5.

- 19. Q-N5 ! QxQ
- 20. BxQ P-B4
- 21. BxN PxB
- 22. N-Q5 NxN
- 23. PxN P-Q6

It is dangerous to capture the King Pawn, but 23...., R-K4 followed by 24...., RxQP is safe enough as White's Knight has no time to get in position to fork the Rooks.

- 24. PxP BxR
- 25. RxB R-K4

DRAWN

P.V. Candidates' Tourneys

DAVE GIBSON AHEAD IN "A" DIVISION

JACK CRAIG LEADS "C&B" DIVISION

Dave Gibson leads the "A" Division and Jack Craig leads the "C&B" Division in Precita Valley's Candidates' Tourneys. Due to the fact the T.D. has been in Cleveland the past three weeks, the tourneys are extended and will definitely conclude on September 5, 1957. All games must be in by this date.

Dave Gibson seems to have the inside track to win the "A" Division, but anything can happen yet. He has 2 1/2 points and must await the result of the Allen-Reynolds game. Allen must beat Reynolds to force the tourney into a playoff, but if he draws or loses, Gibson wins!

Jack Craig just about has the "C&B" Division clinched with only one round to play. His only chance of losing is to lose to Ron Meyers and then have either Bob Blakemore or Paul Bogosian win their remaining two rounds. These two have each other to play. Paul Bogosian already has the "C" part of this division won-- that is, unless Ron Meyers wins his two remaining rounds.

"C&B" Division Standings

Player	W	L	D	Score
Jack Craig (B)	5	0	0	5 - 0
Bob Blakemore (B)	3	1	0	3 - 1
Paul Bogosian (C)	3	1	0	3 - 1
Ivan Vegvary (B)	3	3	0	3 - 3
Lowell Tullis (C)	2	4	0	2 - 4
Ronald Meyers (C)	1	3	0	1 - 3
Julio Ercolini (C)	0	6	0	0 - 6

"A" Division Standings

Dave Gibson	2	1	1	2 1/2 - 1 1/2
Leighton Allen	1	1	1	1 1/2 - 1 1/2
Jim Reynolds	1	2	0	1 - 2

B A C K R O V I N G R E P O R T E R

IT WAS A LONG WAY TO CLEVELAND, OHIO but your reporter had to rove somewhere! The management of the HOTEL MANGER probably hope they never see a chess player again for some years to come. At any rate, the accomodations were very suitable. The BALL ROOM was the "Tournament Room" while smaller rooms were used from time to time as the "Kibitzers' Room" for "crying, bragging, etc.". Hats off to the CLEVELAND CHESS ASSOCIATION for a job well done!!

Then there was just ex-president of USCF, Frank Graves, walking around the premises with a badge on just like all the rest of us, except his was captioned, "FRANK GRAVES, THE DUMBEST PLAYER IN TEXAS"! When questioned about this, Mr. Graves would reply, "It's true and I can back it up with authority! Not am I only the dumbest player in Texas, but I am probably the only deaf, dumb, and blind player in the world. I have a hearing aid that only works in spurts. I am blind in one eye and can barely see out the other, and for the dumb part, I can surely back that up with positive proof!" And, Mr. Frank Graves did his "doggondest best" for USCF while he was president the past three years!!

THE CLEVELAND CHESS DIVAN was quite the place. It was fronted by a restaurant on Euclid Avenue right in downtown Cleveland. There was a chess board in the window of the restaurant with the pieces set up in one of those complicated problems. One had to walk through the restaurant and up a flight of stairs to the clubroom. The room was spacious enough and well equipped for playing chess. At one end of the room was a huge fireplace (not used during the summer!) decorated with the many trophies the club had won. Also there was plenty of chess literature in one corner of the room. The club did not boast being open 24 hours a day, but each member had a key to the place and could come and go as he pleased. Visitors needed only to find a member to frequent this club.

The Cleveland public library boasted that they had every chess book one could possibly think of--; if they didn't have it, they'd get it! This library also had a rare collection of all sorts of chess pieces which was especially displayed (with special guards around) the duration of the "open".

Like the President officially opens the baseball season, the Mayor of Cleveland officially opened the U.S. "Open" Championship Tourney (not by tossing in the first ball)--, he made the first move. He only wanted to make the best move and it seemed that 1. P-K4 won out amongst those who advised him. So with the camera bulbs flashing, the Mayor made this move to officially start the tournament.

There were so many memorable moments during the "open" that I cannot possibly relate them all here. However, I must say that I met some wonderful people, both big and little in chess. For instance, there was Sonia Graf Stevenson who joked about the reporters and photographers. "When I'm doing terrific in a tournament", she said "Nobody pays attention to me. But, when I'm doing terrible, like I am here, they keep taking pictures of me and asking questions!". Then there was John Ishkan of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who refused to shave until he won a game. He grew a pretty long beard before he broke the ice, but after that he was clean shaven most every day toward the conclusion of the tourney! Then there was Lynn Henderson of Los Angeles who had enough courage to get up before the general meeting and just let all those people know how we, in California, felt about forced (through rating system) membership to USCF. I seemed to run into Marshall Roland, USCF secretary, almost every day just before the rounds of the tourney and when I asked him if he was busy keeping up with the minutes of the meetings, he remarked, "No trouble at all--, they are so tame this year compared with the meetings of the past!". It was something to watch known great players, such as Robert and Donald Byrne, Art Bisguier, John W. Collins, Hans Berliner, et al. But the big payoff is this--, I had to go all the way to Cleveland, mind you, to meet a fellow from our own back yard, Spencer Van Gelder! It's a small world!!

Club Ladder Standings & Ratings - P.V.

The following standings and ratings include games played up to Aug. 8, 1957.

<u>Run</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1	Leighton Allen.....	A	1702
2	Noel Renaud.....	A	1770
3	James Cook.....	A	1588
4	A. R. Castellanos.....	B	1487
5	Bob Blakemore.....	B	1296
6	Dave Gibson.....	A	1683
7	Lowell Tullis.....	B	1273
8	Ivan Vegvary.....	B	1369
9	John Ramirez.....	B	1179
10	Jim Reynolds.....	A	1558
11	Paul Bogosian.....	B	1182
12	Julio Ercolini.....	C	991
13	Carl Barton.....	B	1234
14	Don Hufnagel.....	B	1135
15	Rex Hiatt.....	C	850
16	George Natali.....	C	850
17	Jack Craig.....	B	1278
18	Ronald Meyers.....	C	895
19	Richard Moreno.....	C	959
20	Ed Russell.....	B	1235
21	Steve Cabito.....	C	902
22	Henry Brauns.....	C	946
23	Douglas Jerdet.....	C	745
24	R. P. Kovach.....	A	1500
25	Eugene Nakamura.....	C	913
26	Walter Lewis.....	C	907

2000 & above - Expert; 1500-1999 - A;
1000-1499 - B; Below 1000 - C.

PRECITA VALLEY ELECTION THIS MONTH

The election of officers of the Precita Valley Chess Club takes place this month. Ballots will accompany this edition of CHESS HERALD for those who are members of the club. Please fill out these ballots and return to the club on or before September 12th. You may also mail them to the present club director (address on page 2), postmarked not later than Sept. 10th.

Those running for office are as follows: CLUB DIRECTOR, Leighton Allen; ASS'T. DIRECTOR, Paul Bogosian; SECRETARY, Ivan Vegvary; TREASURER, John Ramirez; TEAM CAPTAIN (1), Bob Blakemore, Dave Gibson; TEAM CAPTAIN (2), Lowell Tullis.

As you can see only the office for team captain (1) is contested. However, a courtesy vote is expected for the unopposed.

C. D. 's VIEWS (cont'd from page 2)

have my doubts. Right here in my own club I know of players that would just as soon have you drop them from your files! I know of others outside of my club!! The only players really interested in their ratings are of the master and expert classes--, those below would just as soon forget about it. Like Phillips, bless his heart, I believe there is a better way to make USCF grow. Also like Phillips, I believe a strong organization grows little by little and does not blossom overnight. Steady members are proven members and their steadiness tells others they're in something good. Anyhow, let's not knock people over the head (rating system or no) to get them to join USCF!

Then, how do we do it? It's very difficult, but I would first make USCF something to join and the game of chess a game worth playing. I do not know how to do this because I don't know who to change the general personalities of chess. I only know that chess players will have to become good sports (and not soreheads), and that masters will have to stop sneering at each other, but recognize each others' talents in the game, and the kibitzer who likes to tear apart good games must go! State organizations will have to become branches of the national organization with sub-charters. In California, for instance, we have two organizations that just can't seem to get together because of differences. For the good of chess they should, and this state organization should merely be a branch of the national one. It sounds silly, but is really sound--, or should I repeat the much used phrase--, "United, we stand! Divided, we fall!"? I think someday it will happen, and chess will organize when personalities forget their differences, but I'm afraid I won't live to see it! And, if we were united, it means all the money gets pooled together to make for those better prizes! USCF's major difficulty is finances--; these finances can be taken care of by a big membership! When will chess promoters wake up??!! Eve bridge is way ahead of us, and golf, and well--, every game! Chess only beats itself with those in it!! Well, good luck Mr. Spann!!!

-----Editor....