

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

Volume I, Issue 12

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Sept. 10, 1950

Egad! Egad! What kind of weak-kneed chessplayers live in this town anyhow? In the last issue we went to great lengths to suggest a gambit tournament, even printed the opening moves for seven gambits - requested comments and letters from those interested. Yup, you guessed it! Not a single chessplayers showed one bit of enthusiasm - to say nothing of "interest". Now how do you figure that? What do you have to do to get chessplayers aroused--give 'em Queen odds? Apparently. Phooey. Tell you what we'll do. Ye Editor hereby challenges anyone and everyone to gambits. Beginning moves as given in the last issue of Chess News, you take either white or black. Play to be at the rate of straight 25 moves per hour. Now there is your chance to beat the City Champion - he doesn't know anymore about gambits than the next guy. Maybe Art Cartier or Jim Hastings will take him up on this, they are miniature "gambit fiends". Wm. Trousdale throws a wicked Muzio at black too - whenever he has the opportunity. So come on, you gambit fiends, who will tackle Ye Ed this coming Wednesday night? If you win, game will be published in the next issue of this paper. We sure do need games, even if they might show our "Chump" at a disadvantage! So come on, let's play (gambit) chess!

Bob Burger of Lafayette (formerly of Sacto) has come through with some most interesting articles on Alekhine, first of which is in this issue. Thanks a lot, Bob, we surely appreciate your help. Wish more fellows around here would write up stories and impressions of chess in Sacramento. We need it. Am sure the readers will enjoy these articles, and look forward to each issue.

No news on the Newcomers Tournament. Wasn't able to make the club meeting this week, had to take in the State Fair with the kids. But the tourney should be coming to a conclusion soon. A titanic battle is shaping up between Stagg and Russell. That, in effect, is Fresno vs Auburn played at Sacramento. Sort of an international flavor, eh? Our Central Valley Chess League is getting under way this month. Four members from Sacto will journey to Modesto this Sunday for the business meeting of the League. Afterwards a North-South match will be held, all within the League membership tho. Incidentally, Neil Austin is Treasurer of the League, and was the wheel which set the affair into motion. Thanks to Neil for this good work, and the Club should support him to the tune of getting out a strong team each time and winning the dad-blamed championship again this year. Next issue will have a report on the meeting at Modesto on Sept. 17th.

TREASURER'S REPORT 9/10/50

Balance on Hand 8/26/50		\$82.38
Dues collected		5.00
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
1950 Prizes paid out	\$25.00	
11th Sacto News	4.79	-29.79
BALANCE 9/10/50		\$57.59

Another year's membership has been added to our paid up list by George Flynn. Thankee Geo. Now that the hot weather is over we hope more players will start coming to the meetings and turning in shekels to the treasurer. Club officials are lining up winter activities now to keep you fellows busy. If you have some ideas or suggestions, how about turning them into to President Jim Marianos? He will sure appreciate them! Incidentally, Jim is an expectant father nowadays. Sure is a strain on a hard-working electrician! And genial Doc Yuk: just added a Queen to his family. Hearty congratulations. Tisn't every chessplayer that has a girl after three boys. More power to the Yukes.

COMMENTS

by Flynn

A friend of mine was telling me about chess in the middle ages. Seems as tho the boys played for high stakes. The usual prize for the winner was a finger. Yep, that's right, a finger. The ring finger of the loser, ring and all, was lopped off by the winner. I was just thinking what a heck of a time I'd have running a typewriter if I'd been playing in those days.

To turn to more pleasant items, Leslie Boyette tied for first place in the Norther California Championship. So what?

So Leslie Boyette is one of the fanciest, flashiest players ever to hit these parts. I didn't realize quite how good he was until I played over his game with Wade Hendricks which appeared in the SF Chronicle recently. Boyette is definitely a minor master on the basis of that one game, and maybe we could leave out the word "minor".

In that game, Boyette left a bishop in take while he captured a pawn. Then he left a rook in take while he captured a knight. Then, just to add the final twist he left his queen in take while he captured a piece! Could you do that and win the game? Boyette did, by gum.

Sure wish we could get Boyette up here sometime to play a simultaneous. Maybe we could slow him down enough with Gee and Meyer in the lineup, so that the rest of us could get a chance at a fair game with him. Of course we couldn't afford what he's worth, but perhaps as a lover of chess he'd come up partly for the fun of it. Another bay area player who would be a good prospect for a simultaneous is Guthrie McClain. "Mac" is another great combinations man and would add considerable zest to one of our meetings.

I wonder also (I'm always wondering, when I'm not wandering) if we couldn't get a one page article from both McClain and Boyette, telling us a little something about themselves..where they learned chess, what they look for in a game, etc. There are several other bay area players we'd like to know more about...and I think we could get the information.

Saw Norman Talcott downtown the other day and we exchanged the chessplayers' greeting..."Pawn to King Four". No "hello" for us, just "Pawn to King Four". All right, all right, so you're a queempawmer. "Pawn to Queen Four" is ok, too.

Also, I went out to see Harold Soligan the other day. He's still a little under the weather, but his chess game doesn't show it. When he gets well, I'm going to be afraid to play him, if He's that good when he's sick.

Here's a tip for fellows who get discouraged about improving their game. Try it backwards! Get hold of Fine's Basic Chess Endings and try out some of the examples. Start with pawn endings. YOU'd be surprised how much there is to them. Then experiment around with bishops vs knights, etc. Just take any position in the book, set it up on your board and play it out. You'd be surprised how much you can learn that way. Pretty soon you'll be seeing more not only in the endings but in the middle and begging too.

Jim Marianos and I have been playing quite a bit lately out at his house. And what a bad time he gives me! Anyway, I finally win one, a queen and pawn ending, and what does Jim say? "You caught me with my pawns down." Did you ever get caught like that??

THE CHESS DIAGRAM

Solution to #9 (in the last issue) 1. N-B6ch, K-B5 2. N(7)-Q5ch, K-B4; 3. P-K4ch, MxP 4. P-N4ch, PxP 5. N-R5 and white mates next move no matter what black does. Very pretty, try it out. C. M. Bent, the composer, is a rubber planter in Malaya and a newcomer to the world of problems and endings. But he is obviously a composer of great talent.

#10 (in this issue) should not be too hard to find, when you know that something is there. The point is that a player like Capablanca always assumed there was something in the position and never took it for granted, as most of us do, that an apparently even position was drawn. Rossolimo is champion of France, Capablanca former champion of the world...there was the difference.

I. Alekhine: His Psychology

By Bob Burger

Dr. Emanuel Lasker is generally regarded as the greatest exponent of psychology in chess. Reuben Fine, among others, considers Alekhine superior in this field, and has good reason behind him. The strange thing is, however, that Alekhine was skeptical of the modern attitude and caustic in his remarks against would-be "psychologists", while Lasker was a professed student of Lian's mind and life itself.

Critics of Alekhine will point to Capablanca and admire his way of "playing the board", at the same time inferring that Alekhine was a "chump" in 'playing the man', that is, in adapting a type of game to please the character of his opponent the least. The same critics will praise Lasker for complicating matters against an inferior opponent, knowing the opponent would come out short against his superior insight. The fact is, however, that Alekhine neither played the board, played the man, nor played the odds: he played from move to move on the reasonableness of each move. The very moves that annotators will see psychology in, Alekhine will criticize these moves of his the most, as a failing of his better judgment. And what we see of psychology in the rest of his games is psychology simply because of that elusive fact: psychology does not produce a good move, but comes from one. Of course in situations where two equally promising lines lay before him, Alekhine's frame of mind at the moment was the deciding agent.

Alekhine has written of how he studied the very life and make-up of Capablanca to prepare for his championship match in 1927. From this one may surmise that Alekhine was very definitely preparing to 'play the man', rather than play abstract, reasonable chess. But here is the point: the human element of chess makes an abstract game impossible, in the same way that a problem is abstract; the more Alekhine could learn of the human tendencies of Capablanca, the better he would know the trend of his games, and the better he could be prepared for the average position Capablanca would drift into. It's not that he would play strictly a combinational game, knowing Capablanca's positional skill; the fact is, he didn't. Whether or not he won from a poorly prepared and over-confident opponent, he did win and win in every way.

The first game Alekhine ever won from Capablanca was the first game of that match, and the last game he won was the last game of the match. Some may argue that Alekhine was small about not granting a return match, and others may claim Capablanca rapidly lost his interest in the game and wouldn't have wanted a return anyway, but in either case it is no reflection on the merits of the men as chess-players. And comparing their merits is just as impossible as it would be to compare two personalities. But from the records we can say that Alekhine's "psychology" as full and broader in outlook, while what we call the psychology of Capablanca was more an idiosyncrasy of his Latin-American temperament. Possibly this is accountable to the fact that Alekhine was truly a world citizen with a good deal more all-round experience than Capablanca.

The loose use of the word psychology has made that term valueless, and it is hard to find a phrase to express the idea. But knowing the games of Alekhine and his comments to them, we can appreciate what it means to chess. We might call it "the reason of the moment" and agree with Fine that Alekhine was everything to it and because of it. What did Alekhine say of it after his successful championship match? "Psychology is the most important thing in chess."

I understand that Stockton has a live-wire chess club going now, that meets Fridays at the Y. Why couldn't a car-full of us get together some Friday evening and run down there - for an impromptu match - or skittles - or just chess? Who is interested? I know of one person who is going - if alone!

Here are a few games from last year's Chess League play - taken from material on hand for our 1950 Tournament Book soon to be ready for distribution.

Sacto vs Modesto

Jan. 16, 1949

White: Meyer

Black: Paul

1 P-Q4 N-KB3
 2 P-QB4 P-K3
 3 P-KN3 P-B4
 4 N-KB3 P-Q4
 5 B-N2 N-B3
 6 BxP KNxP
 7 O-O Q-N3
 8 P-K4 N-B3
 9 P-Q5 N-Q5
 10 N-B3 N-Q2
 11 NxN PxN
 12 N-R4 Q-R3
 13 QxP R-K4
 14 Q-Q N-B3
 15 B-K3 B-KN5
 16 P-B3 B-Q2
 17 N-B3 B-QN5
 18 Q-N3 Q-Q6
 19 QxB QxBch
 20 K-R P-QR4
 21 Q-Q6 Q-N4
 22 QR-B P-R4
 23 P-B4 PxP
 24 QxP QxQ
 25 RxQ K-K2
 26 QR-B B-K
 27 B-R3 N-R2
 28 P-K5 P-KN4
 29 R-Q6ch K-Q
 30 R-B4 P-N5
 31 B-N2 N-N4
 32 R-B7 N-B6
 33 BxN PxB
 34 K-N B-B3
 35 R/7xEP P-KR5
 36 P-KN4 P-R6
 37 K-B2 P-R5
 38 P-K6 R-QR3
 39 R-Q B-K
 40 RxNP R-R
 41 R-QB7 B-N3
 42 P-K7ch K-K
 43 P-Q7ch Resign

(Board #2)

Sacto vs Modesto

Jan. 16, 1949

White: C J Smith

Black: Austin

1 P-K4 P-K4
 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
 3 B-B4 N-B3
 4 P-B3 NxB
 5 P-Q3 N-B3
 6 O-O B-B4
 7 P-Q4 P-Q4
 8 B-N3 B-Q3
 9 B-N5 B-K3
 10 P-QR4 P-QR3
 11 P-QR5 O-O
 12 R-K R-K
 13 B-QR4 B-Q2
 14 R-R2 P-K5
 15 PxB PxB
 16 N-Q4 NxB
 17 BxB QxB
 18 BxN N-B6ch
 19 K-R PxB
 20 PxB Q-R6
 21 R-Wch K-R
 22 P-KB4 BxBP
 23 P-B3 QR-Q
 24 Q-KB QxQ
 25 RxQ PxB
 26 R/2-KB2 R-K7
 27 N-R3 RxB
 28 R-QN RxBch
 29 K-N P-B7ch
 30 K-B R-R8ch
 31 KxB RxB
 32 NxB R-Q8
 33 N-R3 B-K4
 34 K-K2 R-KN8
 35 N-B2 P-R4
 36 P-B4 P-R5
 37 K-B2 R-N6
 38 P-B5 P-R6
 39 P-N5 P-R7
 40 P-B6 P-R8/Q
 41 PxB Q-R7ch
 42 Resign

to go by. Those on lower boards without clocks would do well to keep in mind that four hours for a 30 or 40 move game is quite a long time. You can take 3 to 5 minutes for most of your moves and be quite safe in so doing. Don't move hastily! Look the position over thoroughly, even after you've picked out your next move. There may be something better. Don't let your team-mates down by moving fast and throwing away a game - and sometimes an already won game. TAKE YOUR TIME!

Sacto vs Modesto

Mar. 20, 1949

White: Berry

Black: Johnson

1 P-K4 P-K3
 2 P-Q4 P-Q4
 3 P-K5 P-QB4
 4 P-QB3 N-QB3
 5 N-KB3 Q-QN3
 6 B-Q3 B-Q2
 7 B-QB2 PxB
 8 PxB KN-K2
 9 N-QB3 N-QN5
 10 B-QR4 BxB
 11 QxBch N/5-QB3
 12 O-O N-KB4
 13 N-K2 P-QR3
 14 P-QN3 Q-QR2
 15 P-Q4 BxBP
 16 B-QR3 BxB
 17 QxB N/4-K2
 18 R-B O-O
 19 N-KB4 N-KB4
 20 Q-QB5 N/4xQP
 21 QxQ NxBch
 22 PxB RxQ
 23 R-B5 R/2-R
 24 N-Q3 P-KN4
 25 R-K P-KR3
 26 P-KB4 PxB
 27 NxB K-R
 28 R-K3 R-KNch
 29 K-KB QR-QN
 30 N-KR5 R-KN4
 31 N-KB6 K-N2
 32 P-KB4 R-KB4
 33 R-N3ch K-R
 34 R-N4 NxBP
 35 K-K2 NxB
 36 Resign

A word of caution about playing in matches. The higher boards usually use chess clocks and so have a time guide to go by. Those on lower boards without clocks would do well to keep in mind that four hours for a 30 or 40 move game is quite a long time. You can take 3 to 5 minutes for most of your moves and be quite safe in so doing. Don't move hastily! Look the position over thoroughly, even after you've picked out your next move. There may be something better. Don't let your team-mates down by moving fast and throwing away a game - and sometimes an already won game. TAKE YOUR TIME!

Sacto vs Modesto

Mar. 20, 1949

White: Talcott

Black: Krogness

1 P-K4 P-K4
 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
 3 B-B4 B-B4
 4 P-B3 P-Q3
 5 P-Q4 PxB
 6 PxB N-R4
 7 PxB NxB
 8 Q-R4ch P-B3
 9 QxN N-K2
 10 O-O O-O
 11 N-QB3 B-K3
 12 Q-K2 PxB
 13 P-QN3 N-N3
 14 Q-B2 B-N5
 15 N-Q2 N-B5
 16 P-B3 B-K3
 17 N-B4 Q-N4
 18 R-B2 QR-Q
 19 N-K2 N-R6ch
 20 K-B Q-B3
 21 B-N2 Q-R5
 22 PxB BxBch
 23 K-N Q-N4ch
 24 K-R P-N4
 25 R-KN Q-R5
 26 RxBch K-R
 27 R-N4ch Resign

These games are quite interesting. Wish we had more of them. Remember the other fellows like to play over your games, so turn them in. We have many more match and tournament games for our book this yr.