

# SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

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Lots of chess activities are coming up soon - hope our Club is well represented. There is a match this Saturday in San Francisco - see Austin's remarks. The annual North-South Match will be held this year on May 28th, at San Luis Obispo. Meyer, Austin, Flynn & Gee will represent Sacramento. This is a gala affair, and we hope to have a full report in our next issue.

Memberships in our Club are getting spread around a bit. In our last issue we reported that George Hedges of Dixon had supported our "Chess News" by joining the Club. Idea has gone a-field: Lee Kerfoot of Modesto has sent in a quarter's dues for support also. Mr. R. E. Russell, of Auburn, has paid \$5 for a year's membership. This support is very much appreciated - and the financial considerations will insure the "Chess News" a longer life than it could otherwise have!

There are plenty of copies of our last Yearbook on hand - if you want one just send in your name and address - or see the Secretary at the Club meetings. And on the subject of Yearbooks: The 1949 and 1950 books will be a combined affair. The information on 1949 is all gathered and ready to go to work on. If you have any game scores from the 1950 Tournament, or from Matches held since last year, that you would like in the Book, send them in immediately. The Book will be out before summer gets under way, so please hurry or you will be left out.

The Treasurer's Report is as follows:

Balance on Hand 4/30/50	\$53.38
Dues collected	<u>7.25</u>
Total on hand & collected:	60.63
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Cost of 5th Chess News:	<u>4.64</u>
	55.99
Additional dues collected	2.00
Rent over, 4/19 & 4/26	<u>.85</u>
BALANCE ON HAND 5/17/50	58.84

## THE CHESS DIAGRAM

Solution to #3 (in last issue): 1...R-R8ch; 2. KxR, QxPch; 3. K-N, P-Q5ch; 4. K-B, Q-R8 mate. Note from the artistic point of view how Black's Pawn on Q6 guards the only escape square for the White King.

Diagram #4 is taken from the Women's World Championship in honor of Mrs. E. V. Wallace who was kind enough to give us the names of two prospects for our Club. Yes, the ladies can play chess too. In this position Miss N. M. Karff (USA) made two strong moves with her Queen's Rook and Miss R. M. Hermannova (Poland) resigned without exchanging a piece or a pawn. Where did that Queen's Rook move?

(Ed's Note: George Flynn is responsible for these chess diagrams - and quite a bit of work it is, too. Give him a hand if you find a good diagram.)

## CHESS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

by Harold Soligan

New Year's Eve--1942--and the S.S. Rochambeau sailed out the Golden Gate with me and some 5,000 fellow-sufferers aboard. It was an old, stinking French liner and the holds, four stories deep, were hot and unbearable. Everybody tried to stay on deck 24 hours a day. The question was, What to do?

I learned chess. A fellow by the name of Sampsell taught me the moves. We played all during the crossing--three weeks time. And although a big crowd used to gather to watch us, I never saw anyone else play chess on the ship.

We hardly knew the moves, but we had a lot of fun. We sailed to Noumea, then to Guadalcanal, which was secured a week after we landed. Meanwhile chess continued. I played quite a bit with the fellows in the office staff of my outfit -- the 17th Field Hospital. I well remember Sampsell, William McQueen, and Ernest Weiss--all of us Sergeants eventually. Also, since rank meant less in a medical unit, with some of the doctors, Major C. Addison, Major Balson, and Major Shapiro. I even played one game with the commanding officer, Colonel Robert Bell. (Yes, I lost it.)

Our big strategy in chess was to get the Queen out early and grab anything we could get. We played hard and to win. But our lack of knowledge was a severe handicap. We went from island to island. Russell Island, the New Georgia campaign, the Pelelieu invasion--and still chess kept on--our own private little battles to match the big one going on outside.

We were bombed frequently, especially at Munda. Due to the blackout we would play in tents with only a single candle for light. Some of our best games were played outside in the moonlight, with no artificial light at all. One night we were having a very close game in that romantic setting. A big full moon and a hot tropical night. What was going to be the next move?? Suddenly--Condition Red! The 90 millimetres began to bark. And the next move was to the foxholes. Game called on account of gunfire.

Now I noticed our games were getting better and there were more players available. We learned to be cautious with our queen in the opening. Also we heard about the Giuoco Piano, Ruy Lopez, and Evans Gambit. We still weren't good chess-players but there was beginning to be just a little science to the game. We even dug up an old chess manual, in small print, and learned about castling and king-side openings.

Well, we went on and on. It seemed a long time, but looking back it seems a short time. Finally, the war was over. At the re-deployment center on the Philippines, there were plenty of chessplayers. At least 30 or 40 playing chess all the time. And on the S. S. Meteor, coming back, there were at least 20 players every night--some of them very good. Quite a contrast to the trip over.

And now--the Capital City Chess Club. I think I have something to tell the members. And that is, play the game to win and try to improve, but don't worry about it if you lose, or the improvement is slow. I am not a champion chessplayer and possibly never will be. But, as we played it in the South Pacific, it was a great game and will always be one of my brighter memories of what were dark years. And I learned you don't have to be a champion, or even a good player, to enjoy chess. All you have to do is to play. It's still a great game!

## COMMENTS

by Flynn

I wonder if we could field a pretty good team in a correspondence match with San Jose? Say 15 or 20 boards?

This writer has been brooding over the defeat San Jose gave us in over-the-board play this year in the Central Calif. Chess League. I could think up a blood-curdling challenge which they could ignore only at the cost of their self-respect. Something like this: "DR. DAVID MALIG AND OTHER WOOD-SHIFTERS OF SAN JOSE: Whereas it is well-known that the Capital City is superior in all respects--climate, chess skill, etc.--and whereas by some quirk of fate such superiority was disturbed by a defeat we suffered, and how we suffered, at your hands in Modesto--we do hereby throw down the gauntlet! We challenge you to a test of skill in the noble game of chess played via the U.S. mail, where neither car sickness or change of climate can deny us our rightful victory. Answer us if you dare!"

Note: car sickness and climate my own unique alibis. Next time we'll take along bottled sunshine and dramamine.

After chess club last week Jim Marianos, J. B. Gee, Bill Yersin, Big Jim Hastings, R. E. Russell of Auburn, and yours truly held a round table discussion on how to improve our chess club. The ideas were coming fast--good ideas too.

Big Jim, by the way, bought the first round of soft drinks--thereby becoming the stand-out candidate for next President of our chess Club.

**CHESS TRUTH OF THE WEEK:** Victory in chess goes to the man who makes the next-to-the-last mistake!!!

## CHESS REMARKS

Neil Austin

We have received notice that there will be a regional chess match held in San Francisco on May 20th, at the Hotel Cecil. We do not know all the details, but presumably one team will be composed of East Bay and Central California players, while the other will be composed of San Francisco, Peninsula, and Redwood Empire players. Anyone wanting to make the trip should contact Austin or Gee by next meeting. (Or immediately afterwards)

The North-South Match will be held on May 28th this year. It is undecided as yet as to whether it will be held in Atascadero or San Luis Obispo. (Flash, San Luis Obispo is the spot) There are several players in Sacramento who are strong enough to make the 50 board team. Those interested should contact Austin, preferably before May 20th.

Not much interest has been shown in the Rapid Transit Tourney. We will try to run it off next meeting, if there are enough present who are interested.

The Challenge Board is again in operation. We would like to hear some opinions regarding the advisability of making the first three games every meeting a challenge match. In other words, a player is challenging or defending automatically. Let us hear what you think about it.

10/5/48: White, Soligan	Black, Flynn	King Knight's Gambit	
1. P-K4	P-K4	7. BxP	PxN
2. P-KB4	PxP	8. QxP	NxQP
3. N-KB3	P-Q4	9. Q-Q3	N-K3
4. P-K5	N-QB3	10. Q-N5ch	P-QB3
5. P-Q4	P-KN4	11. Q-R4	P-N4
6. P-KR4	P-N5	12. BxQNP	PxB
		13. QxPch	B-Q2
		14. QxQP	NxB
		15. Q-K4	N-K3
		16. N-B3	B-N2
		17. O-O-O	Q-B2???
		18. QxRch	K-K2
		19. N-Q5	mate!!