

SONOMA COUNTY CHESS NEWS

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PETALUMA * ROHNERT PARK * SANTA ROSA

LOCAL PLAYERS EXCEL

Three Santa Rosa Chess Club members competed in the Marin County Special tournament last weekend, and they had a combined score of 10-5 through the 5-round Swiss event! Rich Canty tied for 2nd-4th overall with 4-1 while Bill Poindexter won two games and drew three straight to score 3½-1½. Youthful Jim Al-Shamma lost a tough game to Canty in the last round (below) but still came in at 2½-2½.

This position was reached in the game Canty vs. Al-Shamma from the fifth round:

4rrk1 pplq3n 3bb2p 2p3p1 2Pp1p2 1P1P1NP1 PB3PBP R2QR1K1	To add to the pressure Jim has just tried 20. ... P-B5 21. N-K5 Q-N2! 22. N-N4 P-KR4, and he's winning. But surprised by the
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desperate rejoinder

23. RxB RxB
 24. B-Q5 PxN??,

he allows the tables to be turned with disastrous effect. Up to that time a super game; the poise of Black's pieces after the 20th move is notable.

The tournament was justly won by Expert Tom Dorsch, who fought a long uphill battle to draw in the last round with provisionally-rated Alan Colby.

CARROLL CAPPS MEMORIAL

Five US Master-class players and seventy others were attracted to the Fifth Carroll Capps Memorial Tournament at the Mechanics Institute, also occurring last weekend. Splitting 1st place after six rounds (there was no official tie-break) were David Strauss, former State Champion, and Paul Cornelius, a top-flight expert. Each took home \$320.

PROBLEM

White to move and draw!

	2N3N1
C. Mike Bent	16
New Statesman	3k4
1974	1q6
	8
	Kn6
	b4Rin

STUDY GAME

Two Class A players draw an offbeat Sicilian: from the Marin tournament.
 W - R. Sferra B - W. Poindexter

1. P-K4	P-QB4	24. NXP	QXP
2. P-QB3	N-QB3	25. NxB	QxQ
3. N-KB3	P-Q3	26. RxQ	BxN
4. P-Q4	PxP	27. RxP	B-N2
5. PxP	N-KB3	28. RxR	RxR
6. N-QB3	P-K3	29. N-K2	R-B2
7. B-K2	P-QR3	30. P-B4	R-K2
8. O-O	P-KN3	31. N-Q4	RxR
9. P-KR3	P-QN4	32. NxB	K-B3
10. P-QR3	B-QN2	33. N-Q4	N-K2
11. R-K1	N-K2	34. K-B2	N-B1
12. B-Q3	B-N2	35. K-K3	N-Q3
13. B-KB4	O-O	36. P-N3	B-B1
14. Q-Q2	R-K1	37. P-N5	K-K2
15. B-R6	R-QB1	38. P-KR4	B-Q2
16. P-KN4	Q-N3	39. B-B2	P-QR4
17. BxB	KxB	40. B-Q3	P-R5
18. Q-B4	R-KB1	41. PxP	PxP
19. N-K2	P-Q4	42. K-B3	N-B5
20. P-K5	N/B-N1	43. BxN	PxB
21. N-N3	P-B3	44. K-K3	K-Q3
22. QR-B1	N-B3	45. N-K2	
23. Q-K3	PxB		½-½

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the Chess News enable everyone to control the contents therein. Do you have an annotated game? A book review? A grudge?

News from Petaluma is needed.

TARJAN FIRST IN BERKELEY!

IM James Tarjan, true to his top-rated form, repeated his victory of last year with a clear win of the Northern California Open Chess Tournament. In round six Tarjan (2484) defeated USCF Master Dennis Fritzinger (2294) by piling unbearable pressure upon a Sicilian defense; the win gave Tarjan a 5½-point score and dropped Fritzinger into a tie for 3rd-6th places with other local masters. US Master Jeremy Silman (2313) got the only ½-point from Tarjan and his 5-1 score took clear second.

Last year's turnout was slightly stronger than this year's: it included IM Anthony Saidy and the very strong US Master Dennis Waterman (then 2400 or so). It's too bad that Berkeley's most famous and most successful player, GM Walter Browne, does not play here. Purses of \$4-500, apparently aren't worth the trouble (and possible trauma).

Class winners were:

- EX - Leon Cown (2073), tiebreak
- A - William Bartley (1955), tb
- B - Norman Johnson (1775)
- C - Iraj Rahbar (1587), tb
- D/E/UR - Josef Reif (UR)

One amusing circumstance found two Class A players continuing a R + KRP vs. R + KRP ending for what seemed like ages because one of them would not accept a draw. He soon lost the pawn (!) and now down in material still would not accept the draw! whereupon his opponent exchanged rooks and abandoned his pawn, leaving only the kings.

Thanks to Kristof Almasi for aiding in the fact-finding at the tournament. The Labor Day event attracted 132 players.

solution to Bent's bender: 1. N(N)-K7+ K-K3 2. R-B6+ K-Q2 3. N-N6+ K-K1 4. P-N6 Q-R4+ 5. K-N1 K-Q1 6. R-B6 K-K1 7. R-B6 and draws! perpetual draw theme, commended by the judges but criticized for "static features"(black minor pieces).

THE MATCH THAT DIDN'T

For his repeated avoidance of a match with him, Howard Staunton usually bears the brunt of blame for Paul Morphy's disillusionment with chess. And it is true that Morphy's last serious games date from the winter of the year of his disappointment in London. Still, relations with Staunton must be viewed as only one of several ills which seemed to enervate Morphy during his brief career: his remarkable melancholy, lack of ambition, and complete insensitivity to success and recognition being others.

In case of such a match Morphy had little doubt about the outcome:

"His knowledge of the theory of the game was no doubt complete; his powers as an analyst were of the very highest order; his coup d'oeil and judgment of position and his general experience of the chess-board great; but all these qualities, which are essential to make a great chessplayer, do not make him a player of genius. These must be supplemented by imagination and by a certain inventive or creative power, which conceives positions and brings them about. Of this faculty I see no evidence in the published games of Mr. S.

"In a given position, where there is something to be done, no matter how difficult or recondite the idea, Mr. S. will detect it and carry out the combination in as finished a style as any great player that ever lived, but he will have no agency in bringing about the position.

"Therefore, in his best day, Mr. S., in my opinion, could not have made a successful fight against a man who had the same qualities as himself, and who, besides, was possessed of the creative power above mentioned. Such were Anderssen of Germany, McDonnell of England, and Labourdonnais of France."

(Morphy in British Chess Magazine)