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A publication of the Northern California Chess Association,  
Box 11478, Oakland, California 94611

## Editorial: Our Purpose

### Why a 65<sup>th</sup> Square?

This newsletter is intended as a vehicle for chess organizers and active tournament players to share their ideas about making chess happen. This first issue, admittedly, is also an idiosyncratic effusion of a few of the author's ideas. That is a privilege of doing the work.

Letters to the editor may be sent to the NCCA post office box.

But this newsletter, should it be regularized by the Board of NCCA, serves a second purpose. It is an attempt to answer the ques-

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## Sandbagging

We suspect that one cause for local players' discomfort is *sandbagging*. We all know that some players like to lose games to lower their ratings and then win big class prizes at some other tournament.

There are two places to head off sandbagging: at the small tournaments where they drop the rating points, and at the big ones where they try to enter the lower sections. There are some ways you can keep sandbaggers from ruining your class event.

**Floors:** USCF lets you know the highest established rating (first two digits). By USCF regulation, no one's rating can fall through more than one class, e.g., if you reach Expert you can never fall back to B. Many directors feel this isn't good enough and impose 100-point floors. Vic Ofiesh has imposed a 50-point floor. This means he has to use non-standard section divisions.

**Personal Exclusion:** USCF rules also let an organizer bar a player or make him play up pretty much at the TD's discretion. Pre-tournament pub-

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## Appeals: not Appealing

Some time ago Max Grober [Berkeley] wrote an excellent piece on the differences between the old and new rulebooks. He predicted that the Appeals Procedure would prove to be trouble.

How right he was!

Some of you may have gotten a cryptic press release from New Windsor with the results — or lack thereof — from the US Open in Portland. Tournament officials were faced with an appeal of the 11th round pairings from GM Bisguier. After much agonizing (we hear) Bisguier's appeal was upheld, giving GM Browne three consecutive blacks. That's not supposed to be permit-

ted by the new rulebook, but some people couldn't believe that the rules were now placing color equalization above the Basic Swiss System Laws.

Browne cross-appealed and invoked a truly weird provision that allows players to "play under protest". That's OK for baseball, where the season lasts for months, but after the tournament—then

what? So Browne is petitioning for a magic point from heaven (or New Windsor) to tie for second.

**FLASH**—As we go to press, a USCF News Release arrives: Browne is awarded  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a point and \$2000, as clear second. USCF is out the extra \$2000. Surely future generations of chess historians will wonder what rules variation allowed for  $\frac{3}{4}$  points!

## Being an Affiliate

Official state chapters of the US Chess Federation have a number of special privileges besides the State Affiliate Support Program (SASP) disbursements. Organizers may find some of these useful.

For example, once annually we can get a free list of all the USCF members in our area. We haven't asked for this list recently and I am waiting for an announcement that it is available on computer disk. The list of all 3300 names is awkward, since it is then very expensive to photocopy the entire list and we want to be able to select the active players, the juniors, etc. In the meantime, we have put some effort into getting an accurate mailing list of active

### NCCA Officers

as of October 26, 1987

<b>President:</b>	Alan Glasscoe [Oakland]
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Walter Randle [Rohnert Park]
<b>Secretary:</b>	Michael Sweeney [Hayward]
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Max Grober [Berkeley]
<b>Board:</b>	Robert Green [Ferndale], Matthew Haws [San José], Andrew Lazarus [Oakland], Pat Mayntz [Campbell], Vic Ofiesh [San José], Trendell Ball [Richmond], one seat vacant [outside Bay Area]

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players.

We can get rating reports of all tournaments held in our area. Maryland, with many fewer tournaments, pays \$100 per year, so this may be an extravagance.

Here is an important opportunity we have never picked up on: USCF will send us the names and addresses of new members and also members who have just expired. We need local volunteers to contact these potential dropouts and reclaim them, even if they don't play many

tournaments.

State affiliates are required to select the USCF Delegates and Voting Members. The delegates are the governing body of the USCF, meeting annually at the US Open. The voting members are essentially the Electoral College. The USCF Policy Board is elected every third year (except one member-at-large elected in each of the off years).

Our responsibilities to USCF are less tangible, but they involve

holding some sort of championship and conducting some sort of scholastic program. Our most important task is the same as theirs: publicize our game.

The NCCA Board met at the conclusion of the Richmond tournament held October 10. Robert Hamm had resigned as Vice President and Walter Randle of Novato took his place. Trendell Ball of Richmond was appointed to one of the vacant Board seats.

Ray Orwig was reappointed as Scholastic Coordinator. Liza Toth, attending her first meeting, was appointed to a new position involving chess in businesses.

Our USCF Delegates were selected. The unfortunates will find out soon enough what the late Clare Booth Luce meant when she said "No good deed goes unpunished."

Northern California  
Chess Association

Join Now —  
only \$2 to Dec. 1988

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## Typography

This newsletter has been set on a Macintosh computer and then printed on a laser printer. We will strive for more attractive layout in the future!

For a real chess magazine, with games and results and other interesting stuff, subscribe to *California Chess Journal*, an official state magazine. Write Hans Poschmann, 4621 Seneca Park Avenue, Fremont, CA 94538. It's \$12/year.

**Sandbagging**, *continued from page 1*

licity should mention this. I wrote three notorious sandbaggers and told them they couldn't enter my events again (except at their true strength), and they haven't.

**Warning:** Certain particularly clever sandbaggers have discovered that if they start their chess careers by sandbagging, then their first established rating will be very low. Therefore their floors won't catch up to them for months. One of these is on the loose. He plays IMs even up at speed chess but could only draw against 1300s at his last rated event. Organizers are welcome to contact NCCA officers to learn his name so that he can be barred from big-money class events. We are also trying to get his phony bad results cancelled by New Windsor.

**The Solution:** Maybe it's hard to find. But don't be intimidated — bar those sandbaggers.

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tion: What is the product of NCCA? Often this is asked as: What do I get for my \$2.00?

The USCF has certain expectations of its state affiliates, and in return offers them several special services, partially enumerated on page two. For a long time I hoped that NCCA could promote chess activity so widely that there would be no question of its usefulness.

Unfortunately, except for the first Open State Championship in at least twenty years, things are quiet. I won't mention, for example, the name of the organizer who intended to take charge of a chess league. If he's made any progress, though, it's a secret to me.

Since I am suggesting a quarterly publication, I hope you feel you've gotten your 50¢ worth!