

# SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

Volume II, Issue 4

5425 8th Ave., Sacramento 17

Apr. 28, 1951

## RUSSELL WINS TOURNEY!

In the final round of the Tournament, Russell had White against Gee, and played P-K4. Gee used a Philidor Defense (?) and continued to defend for over forty moves, when Russell managed to completely block the position and a draw was enforced. All the play of the game was on his side, so Gee had to be contend with the draw too.

And so another tournament becomes history, and we have a new Sacramento City Champion, R. E. Russell of Auburn. We wish him continued success in the following years. It is definitely a good thing for the Chess Club, to have some new blood at the top. This thing of Meyer - Gee running the show too long is discouraging. As for Ye Ed, I'm glad to be out of the top spot. In fact, I'll even give my interest in second position to Austin, if he'll take it! Personally, I'm going to learn to play skittles!

Last report of finances on the Chess News showed \$9.42 on hand. \$1 subscription has come in, and have spent 2.46 for stamps, 3.25 for paper and stencils on the 3rd Issue (last one) and now have \$6.31 on hand and enough envelopes and stamps to take care of the following two issues. Something should be done about finances.

The present finances of the Sacramento Chess Club:

Balance on hand 3/22/51	60.00
Dues collected	17.50
Expenses: Postage .60	
Rent 1.40	
Prizes 25.00	-27.00
On hand 4/28/51 . . . . .	\$50.50

The annual North-South Match has been set for Sunday, June 3. A group will journey from here to attend, at San Luis Obispo or Atascadero. If you are interested in this event, contact Neil Austin who is acting as District Chairman.

The Club will continue to meet Wednesday nights at Room 202, YMCA, 8 PM, until further notice. No definite plans on moving are available at this time. Our attendance has fallen off, but we suggest each member try to bring in a new chess-player to join the Club. Surely you know at least one player who should belong to the Club and doesn't.

### THE CHESS DIAGRAM

by Flynn

One of the best features of our magazine is its informality. If we don't know something, we can just say so -- and that's that. As to Diagram #18 (in last issue)....it was taken from a Canadian chess column and the answer is not known. However, 1. RXPch looks like a win in all variations. Has anybody got a better move?

#19 is an opening trap in the Petroff Defense. It is fairly well known but worth pointing out again just to show how soon a poor old chessplayer can get into trouble (Gee pulled this on me one time). 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 N-KB3 3. NXP NXP? 4. Q-K2 N-KB3? And White wins the Black Queen on his next move. What is move #5??

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Walked into Travelers Bar for a beer after chess the other night, and from our "chess" booth there, came a rapid fire sound like a machine-gun. Upon rushing over, I find Hardy and Stagg both try to see who would Queen a pawn first! Don't remember who did! Haw.

## COMMENTS

by Flynn

Congratulations to R. E. Russell on winning the 1951 Championship. It was truly an amazing performance in tournament play and probably surprised Russell more than any of us. Ray told me at the beginning of the contest that it was his ambition to score 4 points. Well, he scored 5 and that was enough to win.

Russell was undoubtedly lucky, but you have to be lucky to win in these short tournaments and his success was also due to great steadiness under fire. And to hard work (Ugh, hate that word!). Russ is an improving player and a very serious student of the game. Just to give you an example, I told him that I thought the Australian CHESS WORLD was the best chess magazine in existence and that its editor, C. J. S. Purdy, was the best writer on chess. Russell promptly subscribed to CHESS WORLD and, now get this, sent for the last five years of the magazine. With an attitude like that, one can't say his victory was altogether due to luck.

Russell, in style and chess temperament, is a great deal like Milt Meyer, and that is a high compliment. Both Russell and Meyer are, primarily, steady positional players and very hard to find a good move against. Both take little interest in skittles play, and are happiest in a difficult, locked position.

Russell's weakness as a player is in combinational play. I say this advisedly and he and I have discussed the matter. But I wouldn't count on him missing combinations very long, since he is now working on improving his tactical eye. And, knowing him, I think that very, very soon, he will be ripping things wide open in the best Boyette Style. He hopes to enter the State Open Championship this year and, if he does, we know he will give a good account of himself.

Three other players (Gee, Meyer, Austin) were undefeated and Steve Kozen tied for second, losing only one game to Gee. In a way, the tough draws among these players set the stage for Russell's triumph. In other words, they knocked each other out of half-points until they couldn't quite equal his top score.

It was one of the most fiercely contested tourneys in Sacramento chess history and it is a credit to our Club that we can hold an event like that. Once again, to the winner, R. E. Russell -- hearty congratulations!

Many thanks to J. B. Gee for his kinds words on my railroad column -- "Beside the Tracks." I have almost as much fun writing about the "Choo-choos" as I do writing about chess. But, unless the readers rebel, I plan to keep right on with "Sacramento Chess News." The only thing I would like would be for somebody to take over the "Chess Diagram" column. Both Gee and I like to see wider participation in the magazine by members and if someone were to volunteer for that department, it could be easily arranged.

Another thing we could do to improve our magazine would be to get some contributing articles from Carroll Capps of Oakland. Capps took second place in the State Open last year and is a fine player. He is also a first-class writer. He started a column in "Chess Digest" called "Crackpot's Corner" which was a dandy. Capps, now that this magazine has folded up, would probably be glad to send us some material. I saw very little of his work but enough to impress me with the fact that Capps is even better as a writer than as a player -- and that is saying a whole lot.

Well, let's see how many can enter the Lightning Tourney coming up. R. E. Russell will be Tournament Director and plans to be very strict about enforcing the ten-second rule. If he should call a time violation on you, don't get mad at him. Get mad at yourself, if anybody. It's all just in fun anyway but a rapid transit event has got to be run off properly, or it's no good at all.

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Note to clubs in Stockton, Oakdale, Modesto, Fresno, Bakersfield, San Jose, Pittsburg, and everywhere: How about game scores and news from your Clubs? We want material to print. It continually gets tougher for two or three men to keep writing up this bulletin every month. Come on and send us news and games! PLEASE.

## THE SANTA BARBARA OPEN, 1950

by Ken Chambers  
Stanford Univer.

Mr. George Flynn, one of the nuttier chessnuts currently pushing pawns around the Sacramento Chess Club, in the last California North-South match encountered as a competitor a confederate by the name of Kenton Chambers, who at that time was pursuing that elusive old bird, Knowledge, at a Southern institution known as Whittier College. An epic struggle ensued; and after the smoke had cleared, both contestants found they had been lucky to escape with a draw. The egg they both laid there at San Luis Obispo has recently hatched into a rather flighty friendship currently manifesting itself as a carrier pigeon transporting the moves of a chess-game-by-mail. I have since left the Whittier nest, and as a fledgling Ph.D. candidate am now roosting, or eavesdropping, in various classes at Stanford University. Mr. Flynn, who scratches a mean quill himself, has asked me to relate some of my experience at the recent Santa Barbara Open Championship in which I competed, so I shall hop onto a literary perch long enough to peck out a cheep and rather seedy little song, which I'm afraid won't be very trilling. (I almost ducked into a fish metaphor there with that "perch").

When I awoke this morning I immediately got up and started to write this article in the form of a poem, but suddenly realized I was going from bed to verse, so wrote it instead as straight prose. (Note: Here's a guy as good as Meyer. Ed.) The Santa Barbara Open, attracted players of various strength from all over the state. The Los Angeles and San Francisco areas were well represented, as was Santa Barbara itself. Games were played at the headquarter of the S. B. Chess Club at the Recreation Center, the whole tournament being very ably directed by Mr. LeRoy Johnson of Los Angeles. The Swiss System of assigning opponents was used, as there were about eighteen players and only six rounds were played. The first round was chosen by chance, the others by matching players with equal points. Main contenders for the crown from the start were: C. Capps, San Francisco; P. Velliotos (wonder-boy of the Santa Barbara Club), G. Steven, Santa Monica; G. Hunnex, San Diego, and A. Spiller, Santa Monica. Spiller lost to E. Bersbach (LA) in the second round in a very interesting game.

Perhaps this is betraying a trust, but if any of you happen to play Spiller, he told us during this game that his strongest points are openings and endings, and that if he loses, it's usually in the middle-game attack. Apparently he plays a strong opening, gains the upper hand, simplifies, and wins the ending, a nice formula if you can make it work. Bersbach, playing black with a French Defense, got an excellent attack against Spiller's king after Spiller played P-KR3 at one stage, then later was forced to play P-KB3, leaving a bad hole at his KN3 which won for Bersbach. Spiller admitted during the game that if he lost, it would be because of his unnecessary P-KR3, and he did! The moral is, don't push pawns just for the fun of it!!

Bersbach was later very cold, losing a couple of games on blunders, and ended up with only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points. There is an interesting story there. Bersbach always plays an irregular French Defense, with a P-KB4 at an early stage, usually the 3rd move. After white plays KPxBP, and black replies KPxBP, the game gets a complexion like a variation of Petroff's Defense. In one round, Bersbach tried this line against one of the younger players, but made a weak fifth move with his king's bishop and was lucky finally to draw the ending.

Hunnex, who was slated to play Bersbach next, had a conference with this fellow who had drawn with Bersbach and spent a lot of time analyzing Bersbach's defense. Hunnex drew white, played P-K4, and sure enough Bersbach played his odd defense. This time though, he had a better fifth move, and was going along all right until Hunnex left a pawn en prise. There was a trap involved, and I was watching and whispered to Hunnex, "Bet you hope he takes the pawn!" Hunnex just smiled; but then, Bersbach took the pawn! The trap was sprung, Bersbach lost a piece, then another, and resigned in three moves. His weakness is that he loves to talk and kid during a game, but when he does, he makes bad moves. Moral: you must take tournament chess seriously.

The other players were true to form. Volliotes won four games in a row, but lost to Capps and drew with Stevon in the last round to get  $4\frac{1}{2}$  points. Stevon played well but cautiously to win  $4\frac{1}{2}$  points. Hunnox, who whopped me in the first round, lost and drew but finished strongly to get  $4\frac{1}{2}$  also. Spiller recovered well, and had 4 points going into the final round. He was matched with Capps with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  (who had only to draw to win the tournament). The game was close, but Spiller won a pawn, simplified to his beloved endgame, and won it beautifully, getting the title.

Among the weaker players there were many thrilling, if somewhat inaccurate, games. There is not time to list here all the interesting situations that occurred. I myself lost to Hunnox, drew a bye, lost a hard-fought Sicilian to Dan Fidlow and another soon after to A. Stobbe (I was pretty tired after the Fidlow epic). Next got a lucky draw from Robert Currie (he probably could have won the ending.) My last game is here included.

All in all, it was loads of fun, and really very educational. There is always the chance that you might even win a game from some titan, and thus gain a reputation as a "giant killer". As for me, my sling-shooting needs some more practice!

Santa Barbara Open  
6th Round

<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
K. Chambers	H. King
1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. N-KB3	P-K3
3. P-QB4	B-K2
4. N-B3	P-QB3
5. Q-B2	....
Should have played 5.P-K4, as long as he's so bashful, about bringing out his KN. Now he makes like a Trojan and hides behind a "Stonewall!" This is a good idea so long as you make sure the wall doesn't become a gravestone (in which case you could perhaps be called your own "mortarician").	
5. ....	P-KB4
6. B-B4	....
K5 is an important square. Besides, it's a good idea to get this bishop out before P-K3 nails it in the kind of coffin Black's QB gets into later.	
6. ....	N-B3
7. P-K3	N-R3
8. P-QR3	....
Shame on that knight for threatening to attack a lady!	
8. ....	N-B2
This Horse's "home on the Range" is well "fenced in"!	
9. P-B5	....
Locks the barn door <u>before</u> the horse gets out. (Black wanted to play PxP and N(2)-Q4).	

9. ....	N-R4
10. B-K5	O-O
11. B-Q3	....
In case Black tries P-B5, this bishop will attack his King. (The age-old conflict between the Church and State!)	
11. ....	N-K
Heading for greener pastures.	
12. P-QN4	B-B3
13. O-O	BxB
14. PxB	....
Laces up Black's straight-jacket, and opens Q4 to the Knights.	
14. ....	R-B2
15. N-Q4	P-KN4
16. P-KB4	
if now, 16...P-N5, 17. P-N3 closes the gates to my King's fortress.	
16. ....	Q-K2
With ideas of bringing the queen to the King's side. Black would like to attack, but his pieces have too little scope. Positions like his are sometimes difficult to play, but have great defensive potential. He has to make some mistakes before I can win.	
17. N-R4	....
My best chances to penetrate are on the Queen's side.	
17. ....	K-R
18. B-K2	N/1-N2
Now the knight on R4 is out on a limb, and I waste some time trying to find a way to shake him off with a pawn.	

19. P-N3 Q-B2  
20. Q-Q2 ....  
Still shooting at the knight, but  
he's bulletproof.

20. ... B-Q2  
The B takes a short (!) walk.

21. KR-B ....  
Maybe I should have kept after that  
pesky knight with K-N2, P-R3, and P-  
N4 or Q-Q, but I figured he'd just  
close the door with 2... P-n5.

21. .... R-QN  
22. QR-N B-B  
The knight on QR4 prevents P-QR3  
because of N-N6.

23. R-N2 ....  
Looking at it now, I think the time  
is ripe for 23. P-N5, because of the  
threats: 24. PxP PxP 25. RxB QxR  
26. NxP; or 24. P-N6, getting a N  
to N6 later. (But it's complicated,  
and I win later anyhow!)

23. .... B-Q2  
24. R/l-N ....  
Now the time is ripe for P-N5, but  
in this case my knight on R4 is on  
a limb, so he tries:

24. .... P-N3  
25. PxQNP PxP  
26. R-QB ....  
Should have left him there before!

26. .... P-B4  
Threatens BxN, or if N-B3, PxN. What  
follows is not "brilliant", but a pro-  
duct of necessity.

27. PxBP BxN  
28. PxQNP Q-N2  
29. BxN! NxB  
30. NxP

Got three pawns for the knight, and  
threaten a couple more.

30. .... PxP  
My idea is that Q-R3 would be better  
here or on his next move. But I will  
leave it to you as a little problem of  
analysis, if you like that sort of  
pastime.

31. R-B7 ....  
The move I counted on.

31. .... RxB  
32. PxR PxB  
33. PxRch Resigns  
There is a mate in the offing.

Dressing this up a little vis a vis  
with lyrics hasn't enhanced its value  
as a chess game very much. It has,  
however, certain historical value as  
the first and only tournament game I  
have ever won! I only hope it isn't  
the last!

### '51 City Championship

Tournament Director R. E. Russell

The six round Sacramento Championship Tourney finished without the usual major upset unless the final result, itself, may be so construed. Director Russell, holding doggedly on to part of an early lead, just managed to stave off the resolutely closing N. T. Austin, J. B. Gee and S. Kozen in a blanket finish.

This year's field proved to be a good representative strength, two former contestants returning after a lapse of years (N. T. Austin and S. Kozen) and three newcomers (R. E. Russell, R. Stagg and Wm. Allen), accounting for five of the first nine places. A noteworthy feature of the close struggle is the fact that none of the three prizewinners lost a game. And further, there was but one loss amongst the first five to finish. Here it should be noted that H. O. Meyer, a strong force for years in City play, was in poor health during the tournament, yet played out his games on schedule and was undefeated! A fine gesture by a fine gent. We look forward to Milt's speedy return to good health, that he may apply a hot foot to the rosy cheeked lads, who, (for that reason?) finished ahead of him.

The Club Challenge Ladder is in full operation. Here is the chance for all to avenge the blows hard luck may have dealt out during the tournament or in rendering impossible their entering the tournament. Three game challenge matches may be arranged between any two players, it being incumbent upon the higher placed to secure at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points in order to retain his position. (continued next page)

The Speed Championship (at ten seconds per move) will be decided on Wednesday, May 9th, beginning at 8:15 P.M., in a Round Robin Tournament. Entries will be accepted at the regular club meeting Wednesday, May 2nd, or by postcard addressed to R. E. Russell, P. O. Box 192, Auburn, Calif. and postmarked not later than May 3rd. Entries will be closed at this time by reason of the fact that a set schedule of play must be drawn up. In this conjunction the Director asks that only those quite sure of being free to play on May 9th enter. Entrance fee will be one-half dollar payable May 9th and prizes will be given. Come out and try your luck!

1951 Sacramento City Chess Championship, 6 round  
Swiss System Tournament (\* denotes forfeit)

	#	R O U N D S						/ Point Score	Modified Sonnenberg Score
		1	2	3	4	5	6		
1.	R. E. Russell.	W14	W9	W7	W6	D3	D2	5 - 1	21.00
2.	J. B. Gee	W19	W4	D3	D5	W6	D1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18.00
3.	N. T. Austin.	W8	W12	D2	W9	D1	D5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18.00
4.	S. S. Kozen	W11	L2	W13	W7	D5	W8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	16.50
5.	M. O. Meyer	W15	D6	W8	D2	D4	D3	4 - 2	14.50
6.	G. W. Flynn	W16	D5	W11	L1	L2	W12*	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10.00
7.	S. G. Johnson	W10	W13	L1	L4	D11	W15	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9.50
8.	R. Stagg	L3	W14	L5	W17	W10	L4	3 - 3	6.00
9.	Wm. Allen	W18	L1	W16*	L3	D13	D10	3 - 3	4.50
10.	J. Hastings	L7	D15	W14	W12	L8	D9	3 - 3	3.00
11.	R. McDonald	L4	W17	L6	W19	D7	D13	3 - 3	2.50
12.	D. J. Yuke	W17	L3	W18*	L10	W15	L6*	3 - 3	2.50
13.	J. T. Marianos	Bye	L7	L4	W16	D9	D11	3 - 3	1.00
14.	E. Hardy	L1	L8	L10	Bye	W18*	W16	3 - 3	--
15.	N. E. Talcott	L5	D10	W17	W18*	L12	L7	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	-1.00
16.	C. A. Iverson	L6	Bye	L9*	L13	W19*	L14	2 - 4	-8.50
17.	Gene Gray	L12	L11	L15	L8	Bye	W19*	2 - 4	-9.50
18.	Frank Sprague	L9	W19	L12*	L15*	L14*	Bye	2 - 4	-9.50
19.	Earl Waters	L2	L18	Bye	L11	L16*	L17*	1 - 5	-15.50

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From the City Championship, final round. Russell vs Gee: 1. P-K4 P-K4, 2. N-KB3 P-Q3, 3. P-Q4 N-Q2 4. N-B3 P-QB3 5. B-Q3 B-K2 6. O-O KN-B3 7. P-QR4 P-QR4 8. P-QN3 O-O 9. B-N2 PXP 10. NXP N-K4 11. P-KR3 B-Q2 12. Q-K2 Q-B7 13. N-Q N-N3 14. N-B5 R-K 15. N/1-K3 Q-Q 16. QR-Q B-B 17. Q-B3 N-K4 18. Q-N3 BxN 19. NxB Q-B2 20. KR-K K-R 21. Q-N5 R-K3 22. Q-Q2 N-K 23. P-QB4 R-N3 24. K-r R-Q 25. B-K2 R-K3 26. P-B4 N-Q2 27. B-B3 N-B4 28. Q-B3 Q-N3 29. N-Q4 R-B3 30. Q-K3 N-K3 31. NxN QxQ 32. Rxx Rxx 33. R/3-Q3 R-N 34. B-R3 P-QB4 35. B-N2 P-B3 36. K-N P-QN3 37. K-B2 N-B2 38. P-KN4 R/3-K 39. P-KR4 K-N 40. K-N3 P-R3 41. P-R5 N-R3 42. B-B3 N-N5 43. BxN RpxB 44. P-B5 Drawn

Stagg vs Kozen: 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 N-QB3 3. B-N5 P-Q3 4. P-KR3 P-QB3 5. P-R4 N-KB3 6. P-Q3 P-QN4 7. B-N3 N-QR4 8. O-O NxB 9. RpxN P-QB4 N-B3 B-N2 11. N-KR2 B-K2 12. P-KB4 N-Q2 13. P-QB3 Q-B2 14. Q-R5 P-KN3 15. Q-B3 P-KR4 16. P-KN4 PXP 17. NXP O-O-O 18. K-R2 P-KB4 19. N-K3 N-B3 20. N-Q5 NxN 21. Pxn B-KB3 22. P-B4 P-QN5 23. N-QB2 R-R5 24. R-KN Q-R2 25. K-N2 R-KR 26. R-R R-N5ch 27. K-B2 Q-R5ch 28. K-K2 R-N6 29. Q-KB2 Q-R4ch 30. K-Q2 PXP 31. Q-K2 QxQ 32. KxQ R-N7ch 33. K-Q P-KN4 34. R-QN R-K 35. P-R4 R/1-K7 36. N-K R-R7 37. Rxx Rxx 38. N-B3 R-R8ch 39. K-B2 P-N5 40. N-N5 P-B6 41. B-K3 RXP 42. N-B7 R-R7ch 43. K-B K-Q2 44. B-B4 R-R8ch 45. Resigns