

CAROLINA GAMBIT

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NC Chess Association

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NCCA POLICY

Dues are \$6.00 per year for adults and \$4.00 per year for juniors under 18. Membership is open to all, but only NC residents can vote and hold office. Each member is entitled to play in NCCA-sponsored events and will receive "The Carolina Gambit," published six times a year. Games, articles, tournament reports, and other materials for "The Gambit" are welcome and necessary. All tournament reports and address corrections should be sent to the President and all other materials to the Editor. The next Gambit will be published around September 30, 1983.

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FROM THE EYES OF A FISH
by Robert Singletary

In the time I have been an NCCA officer I have tried to maintain a positive attitude; however, sometimes that is rather difficult. In the last issue of the Gambit, which I produced during final exam week under some time pressure, a game mistakenly attributed to two North Carolina players was published. Apparently someone incapable of producing interesting games on his own thought it would be funny to see if he could slip one by us. This is not the first time a game with false attribution has been submitted, and unfortunately this one did get by. The consequences have been less than funny, however, and accordingly I feel compelled to limit my NCCA activities to the presidency. Charles Alden (note his new address) will continue as Gambit Editor; please send all comments and materials for submission to him (except for tournament results, as I am maintaining the Grand Prix records).

We learn from reliable sources that Jim Mottonen and Jimmy Hardy will be leaving North Carolina to enter graduate school: Jim at M.I.T. and Jimmy at the University of Florida at Gainesville. Both have been exceptional players and personalities in North Carolina and we wish them the best. (We also expect them to start importing points back from their new homes.)

In a curious twist, former NCCA and UNC-CH CC president Tom Galloway, who has gone from UNC to Yale to M.I.T. and now to Pennsylvania, will be holding the Ram North XXI at the University of Pennsylvania sometime this fall. So, when the name of the Ram changes to Ram South, you will know why. In his announcement Tom plans to hold his tournament at UNC-P (the University of North Carolina at Pennsylvania), which should totally confuse everyone. Tom and former UNC-CH CC president Danny McKeithen will direct the Ram Norths. Clearly directing tournaments in Chapel Hill can be dangerous to your mental health.

As you will note elsewhere, the plans for the North Carolina Championship tournament on Labor Day weekend are all set, and it promises to be a fantastic event. In addition, the annual business meeting will be held, and if you have any items of interest to bring up, please write Patsy Spurrier for inclusion on the agenda. At the moment we have very few items of business to bring up and are open for suggestions. As the business meeting looks to be short, it will probably be held right before one of the rounds. In addition, the tournament will have an unrated tournament and probably a simul and speed tournaments as well. So even if you don't plan to play in the main event, come anyway.

Best wishes until after the Championship (hope to see you there!)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Championship Details Finalized

Details for the 1983 North Carolina Championship and David Stern Memorial have been finalized, with this year's tournament offering a record \$5000 in prizes! The tournament will be held at Carowinds, eight miles south of Charlotte, on the state border. The tournament is being sponsored by the Charlotte Chess Club and was organized by Leland Fuerstman. For full details see the tournament announcement on p. 9. The annual NCCA business meeting will be held between rounds, and other featured activities will be a speed tournament and possibly a simul. This should be a most remarkable tournament: Be there or be square!

NCCA Obtains Non-profit Status

After a 20-month struggle with the Internal Revenue Service, the NCCA has been granted non-profit status. The main benefit of this status is that all organizational mail can be sent from the president's address at amazing savings, i.e. about 5¢ per issue for the Gambit rather than 20¢.

Cunningham, Kirby Make Top 50 Lists

Robin Cunningham of Raleigh, who is entering the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall, and John Kirby, a junior at Charlotte Independence High School, have broken into the top 50 lists in the July 1983 USCF Rating Supplement. Robin, 17, was ranked 45th in the nation in the 17-18 age category with a rating of 2027, and John, 16, was ranked 25th in the age 15-16 category. In addition, Kevin Kirby, John's brother, narrowly missed the age 13-14 list with a 1640 rating.

Mainqi Wins ICLA Scholarship

Rajesh Mainqi, valedictorian of Raleigh Enloe High School, has won an Intercollegiate Chess League of America Scholarship, one of only 25 awarded in the nation. This is the third consecutive year a North Carolina student has won an ICLA scholarship, which is based on scholarship and leadership as well as chess skill. Rajesh placed fourth in the recent NC Scholastics.

Postal Challenge Issued

Joe Bononia of Allegan, Michigan, is interested in corresponding with North Carolina postal players. His rating is 1500-1600. For more information, write Joe at 329 S. Cedar, Allegan, MI 49010.

Two New Clubs Form

We are happy to announce the formation of two new clubs in North Carolina: the Jacksonville Chess Club and the Greensboro Chess Club. The Greensboro Chess Club meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at "Our Daily Bread" on the corner of Spring Garden and Chapman. For more information contact Bob Spurrier. The Jacksonville Club meets on Sundays at noon; for details contact Jeffrey Walsh, 5624 Oregon St., Camp Lejeune NC.

CLUB NEWS

Charlotte Club Shines

The Charlotte Chess Club, under the energetic leadership of Leland Fuerstman, has become the most active club in the state recently, featuring regular rated tournaments with rounds nearly every week. The CCC also has been instrumental in sponsoring the North Carolina Championship two of the last three years. Below are the results of the four most recent Charlotte tournaments, all directed by Leland Fuerstman.

The Big Boy IV, a five-round tournament ending January 26, attracted 33 players. First in the top section was Robby Cunningham, a recent defector from Atlanta, who missed round 1 but nonetheless won the tournament and a master's title by defeating Randy Kolvick in the last round to score 4-0. Second were Leland Fuerstman and Jeff Rayfield with 3.5. The lower section was won by John Welch with 4-1, and David T. Richards was second with 3.5.

The Big Boy V, a five-round event ending March 2, drew 29 players. Robby Cunningham again demonstrated his mastery by scoring 4.5, drawing only with Marion Mahaffey in round 2. Second was Leland Fuerstman with 4-1. The lower section was won by David T. Richards with 4-1 and Simon Frohman with 4-0 (he defeated Richards but missed a round).

The Slim Jim I attracted 25 players and ended April 7. Again first place went to Robby Cunningham, this time with a perfect 5-0. Second was John Kirby with 3.5. The lower section was won by David T. Richards with a perfect 5-0, and Kevin Kirby was second with 3.5.

The Slim Jim II ended early in May and drew about 40 players. The winner of this hotly contested event was James F. Tobin (1790), who with a bit of luck and a bit more resourcefulness scored a perfect 5-0. (Cunningham did not compete). Leland Fuerstman was second with 4-1. The lower section was won by Kevin Kirby with 5-0.

The Charlotte Chess Club meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 at Shoney's at the intersection of Woodlawn and South Avenues.

Cape Fear Chess Club

A series of five-round club ladder tournaments began in October 1982 at the Cape Fear Chess Club in Wilmington. The USCF postal rating system has been used to calculate club ratings based on the ladder tournaments. John Clifford won the first event with 4.5 points, David O'Bryant won the second with a perfect 5-0, and the two shared first with 4-1 each in the third ladder, ending in April. David O'Bryant gave a simultaneous exhibition against nine players on November 17, winning six (the other three were unfinished at closing time). The club sponsored its first USCF rated tournament, the Azalea Open, on April 16-17.

FROM THE EDITOR

Gambit readers will be saddened to learn that the news of your Editor's disappearance from the planet, as reported last issue, was slightly exaggerated. After my first two issues the police and my neighbors objected to the crowds of irate chessplayers burning rooks on my lawn, so I have moved (two blocks) and obtained an unlisted Social Security number. However, my mail has been forwarded, so those of you who have sent in games for publication without enclosing a bribe are not off the hook: your games, and the possibilities you overlooked, will still appear for all to enjoy.

Unfortunately, game submissions have been the smallest portion of the mail. The annual midsummer madness, in the form of USCF elections, has brought forth the customary torrent of campaign hoopla: this year's burning issue is the selection of an at-large member to the USCF Policy Board. The three candidates, Denis Barry, Ramona Gordon, and Jerry Hanken, and all of their friends, have kept their typewriters and the postal service busy in producing testimonials of their qualifications. This year's campaign is a bit more civilized than most USCF political events, and much of the hysteria and recriminations that have characterized other elections have been missing. Also, I have been spared some of the telephonic blitzkrieg that other voting members may have encountered, as the candidates have run out of money before they could contact all the provinces. Stay tuned - the fate of Western civilization hangs in the balance.

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed something amiss with one game published last issue, listed "Fuerstman-Gilruth". First, there was no Fayetteville Open; second, these two players have never met over the board; and third, the game was actually Byrne-Fischer 1958. Our apologies to Leland and Peter: we knew all along you could play better than that.

One odd piece of mail that came in was a free sample "Galachess" set, as bait for a review or plug. Sorry folks, I can't do it. You've seen the ads in Chess Life, a new chess game with a board composed of hexagons instead of squares, and an "orbiting" knight. The set itself is an almost normal set (seven pawns and two queens), hollow and of cheap plastic, and the board is similarly cheap cardboard, thin white hexagons on a black background with white splotches (stars?) as distractions. The game looks like it was conceived in one evening, all the moves direct copies of chess but adapted to a hexagonal grid. This includes castling and en passant, which really look out of place. A moment's thought reveals that the knight doesn't have a definite jump, but can move one or two spaces in any direction, more like The Blob than a leaper. The illustrations in the rules book are confusing at first until one realizes the composers have confused the king and queen symbols from normal use. Others may find some amusement from the concept of this game, but don't expect this product to be more than shoddy. In short, give me the real thing or nothing.

We often hear the argument that the decline in chess popularity in the years after the "Fischer Boom" was due mainly to the retirement of the champion. The argument goes that a champion, and the attendant publicity, are the necessary stimuli for the general popularization of the game. I disagree: my recollection of those heady days of the early 70's is that while the newscasts from Reykjavik did indeed entice many people to take up the game, most of the newcomers were driven away from organized play by a host of profiteers who wanted only to cash in on the boom. Overnight the entry fees in most events approximately tripled, but grassroots organization and education were largely neglected.

Incorporating chess into the curriculum of elementary or secondary education is routinely put forth on the "wish list" of chess promoters, although rather less attention is paid to this truly developmental activity than to the size of tournament prize funds. For those interested in the long-term growth of chess in this country, introducing children to the beauties of chess should rank as the single most important developmental activity: those who truly believe in the power of the game to fascinate and give pleasure do not need to look for increased cash prizes or promotional gimmicks; rather, the game itself is sufficient to draw and sustain interest. From a base of knowledgeable players and spectators will rise the support for the professional players. We may draw a comparison with soccer: while professional soccer in this country began as a small sport dominated by foreign stars, it is rapidly becoming big-time because of the increased interest in that game at the school level.

Raleigh experts Bernie Schmidt and Esco Yancey have done far more than just theorize; they have gone ahead and developed programs, won their admission into curricula, and taught and coached young players. Particularly notable is Dr. Schmidt's use of chess as a teaching device for "problem learners", students whose attention was not captured by conventional techniques but who found, through chess, a means both for self expression and for learning methods of abstraction. This influence carried over measurably into the students' overall scholastic development. This is potentially very important work both for remedial education and for the development and promotion of chess.

One hopes that organizations such as the USCF or the American Chess Foundation will take notice of programs such as this and consider material support as well as lip service in the promotion of chess in the schools. One more trip by an established grandmaster to a foreign tournament will not appreciably increase the status of chess in this country, especially if the net result of the trip is an article in Chess Life where our representative does little more than complain about the hotels, food, and chauffeurs on his trip. However, a few more scholastic programs like that of Philadelphia Vaux would do a great deal to change the stature of chess in the U.S.

The hardest part of setting up a scholastic chess program may be persuading the system to including it in the curriculum. Thus the example of Dr. Schmidt's experience, and his prepared course outlines, may serve as strong selling points in swaying a school board to approving chess programs in your school.

BOOK REVIEW

"How to Teach Chess in the Public Schools: A Course Outline"
by Bernard Schmidt, Ph.D.
with supplements by Esco Yancey, M.A.
43 pp.; \$6

Currently the quality and curricula of American public schools are the subjects of vigorous public debate, with a groundswell of public support being voiced for a strengthening of the content and rigor of our educational system. The value of chess as an exercise in logic, planning, and patience is well known to chessplayers, but not so well to the lay public, who may still harbor the stereotype of chessplayers as musty eccentrics. For a world entering the Computer Age, with abstract problem-solving and spatial recognition skills becoming ever more important, the value of chess as an educational tool as well as a game should be readily apparent.

This is where this monograph enters. This is a very specialized booklet, designed as an outline or syllabus for three levels of chess courses at the secondary school level. This is not a textbook, nor does it pretend to be: no diagrams, sample games, or problems are presented. What is given is an intelligent, well-written guideline to teachers, who may or may not be proficient at chess, on how to approach and conduct a full chess course as a classroom subject. It is evident from reading this monograph that lazy teachers need not apply; the heart of Dr. Schmidt's technique is an enthusiastic involvement of the class in spirited combat. The value of this book is that it derives from the actual experience of teaching chess in a classroom, and the emphasis is on the dynamics of the learning experience rather than a dry exposition of positional principles.

The old master Jacques Mieses argued that the "ideal" way to teach chess was to start the pupils on endgames, to let them learn the interactions of a few pieces at a time, then build up to more complex situations. They would forego actually playing games from the starting position for a long time. While this idea has its merits, it may be more appropriate for a grandmaster tutoring a prodigy in hopes of creating a champion than for a classroom situation. In Schmidt's method, the students plunge right in to rapid-fire games as soon as they have learned the moves, and learn the tactical and psychological nuances as they go. One might wonder how Mieses' hothouse flowers would stand up to Schmidt's products of the rough-and-tumble school.

It has sometimes been said, only partly in jest, that the only thing studying chess teaches is how to play chess better. Not so: from Dr. Schmidt we learn that study of chess teaches much more than the game itself. This monograph will be of interest mainly to educators who wish to establish a chess program in their schools, and for them it offers two valuable features: cogent, intelligent arguments for why chess courses are beneficial to other aspects of students' development, and course outlines that would require many hours to devise. Copies are available from Bernard Schmidt at 1503 Tivoli Ct., Raleigh NC, 27604.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

10th Annual Lipkin-Pfefferkorn Open --5 rd SS, TL 50/2, Hilton Inn, 420 High St., Winston-Salem NC. \$\$G 10,000 in three sections:
Open: \$\$G 5,000: 1,000-500-300; 2200-2299, 2100-2199, 2000-2099, 1999 & below each 400-250-150.

Amateur: open to below 1900. \$\$G 2,800: 500-300-200; 1700-1799, 1600-1699, 1500-1599 each 300-200-100.

Novice: open to below 1500/unrated. \$\$G 2200: 300-200-100; 1300-1399, 200-150-100; 1200-1299, 1100-1199, 1000-1099 each 150; below 1000, UNR 300-200-100. Unrated may win unrated prize only.

All: EF \$32 if received by 7/25, \$38 at door (state membership req., other states OK). Optional trophies available. Accelerated pairings may be used. Special dinner Friday night 7/29. Unrated may play in Open section and be eligible for top three prizes.

Reg: 7:00-9:00 p.m. 7/29, 7:00-9:00 a.m. 7/30, Rds. 10-3-8, 10-4.

TD: Harry Sabine. HR: 32-37-42-45. July rating supplement used.

Players whose USCF class letters show a former rating 101 or more points over group or prize maximum may not win more than 20% of any prize, or may elect to play up. Adjourned games permitted at discretion of TD.

Ent: Harry D. Sabine, P.O. Box 381, Crossville, TN, 38555 (615-484-9593)
Information: Dr. Al Lipkin, 5873 Poplar Ln., Pfafftown NC, 27040 (919-924-2688). LS.

Grand Prix Points Available: 30

August 13

Morehead City

Down Easterner #5 --2 rd SS, TL 40/100, Webb Library & Civic Center, 107 South 9th St., Morehead City, NC. EF: \$3 (state membership req.), trophy to first each four-man section. Reg.: 9:15-9:45 a.m., Rds. 10-3. Ent.: Donald V. Miller II, 206 N 6th St., Morehead City, NC 28557 NS.

August 20

Chapel Hill

Ram XV -- 3 rd SS, TL 40/90, 30/G, Carolina Union, UNC-Chapel Hill (Highway 54 business). EF: \$5 if received by 8/17, \$6 at site (state membership req.). \$\$ (25 b/8): first each section. Reg.: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rds.: 10-2-6. Ent.: Robert N. Singletary, Box 6, Carolina Union 065A, Chapel Hill NC 27514. NS.

August 20

Elkin

Yadkin Valley CC Tempo III -- 3 rd SS, TL 40/90, Mama's Restaurant and Game Room, 105 Main Street, Elkin NC. EF: \$7 if received by 8/16, \$8 at site. \$\$ (37 b/8): 25-12. Reg. 9:00-9:45 a.m., Rds. 10-2-6. Ent.: Yadkin Valley CC (919-835-1802), c/o Mama's Restaurant & Game Room 105 Main St., Elkin NC 28621. LS.

