



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

November-December 2002

Vol. 5, No. 6

President: Tom Knoedler
Vice President: Ed Royd
Secretary: Tom Knoedler
Treasurer: David Long
Publicity: David Braunfeld

Editor: David Long
2021 1/2 S. 4th St.
Springfield, Ill. 62703

Club Champion: David Mote

Mechem Goes 4-0 At Tournament

The October 26 tournament drew 17 players to town. The tournament was won by Paul Mechem, of Mascoutah, who scored a perfect 4-0. Second place and first C-D were tied; Kevin Guo, of Chesterfield, Mo.; and James Hodge, hometown unknown, scored 3 points to share those prizes.

The A-B prize went to Derek Sparks, of Middletown, who scored 2.5 points. Brian Creasey, of Springfield; and David Eilering, of Jacksonville, each scored 2 points to split the E-G prize. Finally, with 2.5 points, Troy Krimmiger, of Glen Carbon, took the unrated prize.

George Stone, of Decatur, returned to organized chess after an absence of 20-plus years by playing as a houseman in round two. He drew. Complete results of the tournament are on page 7.

More Quick Chess!

Mark your calendars! A quick chess tournament, in an unusual format invented by SCC member James Ruth, will be held Saturday, November 16, at Jerome United Methodist Church, at the corner of Reed and Leonard Streets in Jerome, two blocks north of Wabash Ave. (Due north of Ace Hardware.) It will be quick-rated, but not regular-rated.

The format involves four consecutive quad tournaments, with the sections broken up and rearranged every three rounds, by score (not rating), meaning it is possible (likely!) that some players will meet more than once. Prizes will also be done strictly by rating; the arrangement of the quad sections will not have any effect. Players use their quick rating if they have one; if not, use regular rating.

Registration ends at 9:45, with the first round at 10, and rounds every half hour thereafter, except for a lunch break from 11:30 to 12:30. The 12th and final round begins at 4:30. Entry fee is \$10 for SCC members (\$12 for non-members.) Snacks will be provided.

Time to Renew!

All SCC memberships will expire on December 31. Be sure to renew before the year is out! Annual dues are \$12. Mail in the membership form from page 8 or renew at a Wednesday night meeting.

Next Tournament: December 14

Our next *regular* tournament will be held Saturday, December 14 at the Signature Inn, all details the same as usual. Time control is G/80, first round at 9. Entry fees for SCC members: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door (\$2 more for non-members.)

The tournament will not be a club championship. There was not time enough to arrange the details. The Sep. 1, 2001, club championship is retroactively declared the '01-'02 championship. The next club championship will be held in August.

Welcome New Members

Larry Grammer, of Virginia, Ill., and Keegan Moore, of Springfield, have joined the Springfield Chess Club. Welcome to the club! Membership now stands at 40.

Back Issues!

Want back issues of the SCC newsletters? Back issues of the Chess Club *Observer* may be had for \$1 apiece (most of this will go to copying costs, the rest to the club treasury.) Back issues of its predecessor, the much smaller Chess Club *News*, cost 50 cents. There are 13 issues of the Chess Club *News* available, from 1993-94. All issues of the *Observer*, which started in 2000, are available, there are a total of 12 so far published (not including this one.) See David.

Ladder Standings - November 8, 2002

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. BRIAN CREASEY | 8. ED BOYD |
| 2. DAVID LONG | 9. DAVID BRAUNFELD |
| 3. JONATHAN HOFFSUEMMER | 10. MICHAEL SHORES |
| 4. GARALD BUMGARDNER | 11. BRIAN ALTMAN |
| 5. DAVID MOTE | 12. KEVIN WALTON |
| 6. JAMES RUTH | 13. PHILIP BORDERS |
| 7. TOM KNOEDLER | |

Absurdity, Part 8

Trivia time! The world champions are considered to be the "official" world champions, starting with Steinitz, and continuing up through today's champion, Kramnik. Answers on page 8!

1. Which world champion defended his title by *tying* the match...*twice*?
(a) Lasker (b) Botvinnik (c) Petrosian (d) Karpov
2. Which world champion died while holding the title?
(a) Steinitz (b) Lasker (c) Alekhine (d) Smyslov
3. Which champion has had three separate reigns as champion?
(a) Alekhine (b) Botvinnik (c) Tal (d) Fischer
4. Who held the title for the longest?
(a) Lasker (b) Alekhine (c) Karpov (d) Kasparov
5. Trick question! How many world champions were French?
(a) None (b) One (c) Two (d) Three

November 5: Special Meeting

Nominations Held

On November 5, the SCC held nominations for next year's club officers. Incumbents Tom Knoedler and David Long were renominated to the positions of president and treasurer, respectively. James Ruth has been nominated to the position of publicity officer, which is currently held by David "Leptomani" Braunfeld.

Incumbent Ed Boyd faces challenger James Ruth for the position of vice president. The position of secretary will be contested by Tom Knoedler and Gerald Bungardner. Tom is the incumbent.

The nominees for president, treasurer, and publicity officer were not opposed. After nominations were concluded, they were elected by acclamation, by a vote of 4-0.

Vote December 4!

Mark your calendars! The SCC's annual election will be held Wednesday, December 4, 2002. The voting will begin at 7:30 p.m. sharp. No hanging chads! Two offices are up for election; the candidates for vice president are Ed Boyd and James Ruth, and for secretary, the candidates are Tom Knoedler and Gerald Bungardner.

If you wish to vote, but are unable to attend the meeting, an absentee ballot is available. A sample absentee ballot follows. Do not try to vote with it, it is not official!

To request an official absentee ballot, see David at club meetings, or write (address on page 1) or call him at 522-0489. Absentee ballots must be returned to the club secretary (Tom Knoedler), and they must be in his hand before the regular election December 4.

Minor Tournament Fees To Increase

Also at the special meeting, the entry fees for the minor tournaments (the blitz series and the thematic tournaments) will be increasing by \$1, bringing the entry fees to \$2 for a blitz tournament and \$3 for a thematic tournament. The change will take effect at the beginning of the new year. The prize fund distribution is expected to remain the same, but may be increased. More later...

Sample Absentee Ballot

For Vice President (Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Boyd
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Ruth
For Secretary (Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Knoedler
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gerald Bungardner

Minor Event News

Current Minor Event Schedule

All minor events will begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entry Fee</u>
November 13	Blitz Tournament, Part 9	\$1
November 20	Evans Gambit Thematic	\$2
December 11	Blitz Tournament, Part 10	\$1
December 18	Budapest Gambit Thematic	\$2
January 15	2003 Blitz Tournament, Part 1	\$2
January 22	Staunton Gambit Thematic	\$3

Results - Blitz Tournaments

		<u>September 11</u>				<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Pl#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>		
1	James Ruth	x	W	L	L	1.0	3.0
2	David Braunfeld	L	x	L	L	0.0	7.5
3	David Long	W	W	x	W	3.0	29.5
4	Tom Knoedler	W	W	L	x	2.0	18.0

		<u>October 16</u>			<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Pl#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		
1	David Long	x	W	W	2.0	31.5
2	David Braunfeld	L	x	L	0.0	7.5
3	James Ruth	L	W	x	1.0	4.0

Cumulative Blitz Standings

1	David Long	31.5	(33)	95.5	6	Josh Rohrscheib	4.0	(5)	80.0
2	Tom Knoedler	18.0	(31)	58.1	7	Brian Creasey	4.0	(15)	26.7
3	Gerald Bumgardner	16.0	(21)	76.2	8	James Ruth	4.0	(16)	25.0
4	David Braunfeld	7.5	(33)	22.7	9	Ed Boyd	2.0	(11)	18.2
5	Jonathan Hoffsuemmer	6.0	(10)	60.0	2	tied with 0 points			

Results - Thematic Tournaments

		<u>September 18 - Alekhine-Chatard Gambit</u>						<u>Total</u>	
<u>Pl#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>		
1	James Ruth	x	L	L	L	L	L	0.0	Victories
2	David Braunfeld	W	x	L	L	L	L	1.0	<u>by Color:</u>
3	David Long	W	W	x	D	W	W	4.5	White - 6
4	Gerald Bumgardner	W	W	D	x	L	W	3.5	Black - 8
5	Brian Creasey	W	W	L	W	x	W	4.0	Draws - 1
6	Tom Knoedler	W	W	L	L	L	x	2.0	

Evans Gambit tournament October 23 was postponed until November.

You can Tuna piano but you can you Tuna fish?

By Big Tuna

Welcome to the first installment of a series of syndicated chess articles. People have asked Big Tuna to address chess openings. Big Tuna thinks this is real funny. It is the opinion of Big Tuna that chess opening are a conspiracy created by authors of chess books to help drive sales and are not of much importance to average chess players. 'Just say none to Nunn' BT says! Sort of like 'Just say no to drugs', uh ... maybe not. Instead of reading opening books our time would be better spent reading Pachman's Modern Chess Strategy or The Art of the Middle Game by Keres and Kotov or 101 Useful Home Projects for the Mechanically Challenged. I am going to present a game that I think is pretty cool. Then I will close with what I feel are some things we should learn and take away from this game.

First lets introduce the players who played this game. Playing the white pieces is Donald Bryne(1930-1976) He was the brother of famous US Grandmaster Robert Bryne. Donald Bryne won the US Open Championships in 1953. He represented the USA in three Olympiads (1962, 1964, 1968). Playing the black pieces is a thirteen-year-old boy named Bobby Fischer. Bobby is very good at Chess.

This game was played at the Lessing J. Rosenwald Trophy Tournament. This tournament was the precursor to the US Invitational Championships (which it became known as in 1957). This was the premier annual event in US chess. It was an invitational comprised of the 12 best players who could be secured for the event. This game was described by Hans Kmoch as "The game of the century."

D. Bryne v. Fischer - 1956
Rosenwald New York
1. Nf3 Nf6
2. c4 g6

3. Nc3 Bg7
4. d4 0-0
5. Bf4 d5

We have arrived at the Bf4 system of the Grunfeld Defense. This is one of White's most dangerous systems against the Grunfeld. This is Big Tuna's least favorite setups to have to face when he is playing the black side of the Grunfeld. The c7 and f7 squares can find themselves to be very sensitive for the black player.

6. Qb3 ...

I don't like this move. There are two reasons

1) White is mixing two separate systems the Bf4 system and the Russian System with Qb3. The d3 square can really be a problem for white in Bf4 setups. I prefer to deploy the queen to a position where she can strengthen the d3 square. But this is just BT's opinion which doesn't necessarily mean much. I am unaware of the current theoretical opinions on this strategy, I'm just commenting on my personal preference on queen placement for white in the Bf4 Grunfeld.

2) Moving the queen this early violates the classical rules of development, which are knight before bishops before rooks before the queen.

6. ... dxc4

This is a thematic capture against Qb3 systems of the Grunfeld. Black pulls White's Queen to the center of the board where she becomes exposed to further attack. In exchange black allows white to play e4 uncontested establishing a strong pawn center.

7. Qxc4 c6
8. e4 Nbd7
9. Rd1 ...

I don't like for this move. White has now made 2 high dollar moves in this game, first the queen and now the rook while all along the white king's bishop sits at home on the f1 square. Now black's knight on d7 can move to b6 attacking white's queen

allowing black to follow-up with the pin on the white king's knight with Bg4. Black can do this because he has faithfully followed the rules of proper development. Bobby was a very classical player at heart. He thought very highly of Steinitz. Remember the order of development, knights before bishops then rooks followed by queen! Not bring your queen to the middle of the board then move your queen's rook without castling while your king's bishop sits at home on f1, which is what white has done in this game.

9. ... Nb6
10. Qc5 Bg4
11. Bg5? ...

Oh No! Tuna alert!! White has violated the opening principle "Do not move a piece twice in the opening!". The simple developing move 11.Be2 would have been much better. This move would have relieved the pin on the knight and developed the bishop which still sits at home on the f1 square. 11. Be2 would have also made way for the king-side castle. White should try to castle king side in this system. With white's c-pawn gone I wouldn't feel very safe castling long against the fianchettoed bishop.

11. ... Na4!!

If you look at the position you will notice that if it was not for white's knight on c3 black would have the powerful move Nxe4 winning the pawn and preparing to open a file against white's non-castled king. 11. ... Na4 attacks the queen and the knight at c3.

12. Qa3 ...

Not only was 11. ... Na4 an attack on the white queen but it was also bait for the knight on c3. 12. Nxa4 Nxe4 leads to disaster for white: 1) 13.Qxe7 Qa5+! 14.b4 Qxa4 15.Qxe4 Rfe8 16.Be7 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Bf8 and white gets spanked on the open e-file! 2) 13.Bxe7 Nxc5 14.Bxd8 Nxa4 15. Bg5 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nxb2 black is up a pawn and white's pawns are a wreck! 3) 13.Qc1 Qa5+ 14.Nc3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nxc5 black recovers the sacrificed piece in a winning

position. 4) 13.Qb4 Nxg5 and 13.Qb4 a5!? also workout very well for black. Only through the magic of computers can Big Tuna appreciate just how DEEP a 13 year-old boy can play chess!

White by playing 12. Qa3 was hoping that by pressuring e7 he could discourage black from taking the e4 pawn, but Bobby is relentless.

12. ... Nxc3
13. bxc3 Nxe4!

The e-file will now open against the non-castled king!

14. Bxe7 Qb6
15. Bc4! ...

An active defensive move. Big Tuna appreciates this move. Bad is 15.Bxf8 Bxf8 16.Qb3 Nxc3! Qxb6 (16. ... Qxc3?? 17.Bb4 or 17.Rfe8) Note how tactics come natural to black due to the white's non-castled king and the open e-file.

15. ... Nxc3!

Remember, a pawn chain should be attacked at its base.

16. Bc5 Rfe8+
17. Kf1 Be6!!

The retreat of the Bishop is an awesome move. This move setup a windmill checking spree that nets black the full point. White was probably hoping for 17. ... Nb5? 18.Bxf7 Kxf7 19. Qb3+ Be6+ 20.Ng5+ which would put the game in white's favor. But Big Tuna say too bad, so sad. White should have properly developed his pieces.

18. Bxb6 ...

With proper play white is toast. An entertaining sideline would be 18.Bxe6 after which black can play 18... Qb5+ 19.Kg1 Ne2+ 20.Kf1 Ng3++ 21.Kg1 Qf1+! 22.Rxf1 Ne2# This is Phildor's mate also called Smothered mate.

18. ... Bxc4+
19. Kg1 Ne2+
20. Kf1 Nxd4+
21. Kg1 Ne2+
22. Kf1 Nc3+
23. Kg1 axb6
24. Qb4 Ra4

25. Qxb6 Nxd1

Black has captured 1 Rook, 2 Bishops, and 1 pawn for the Queen. White must also work hard to release his remaining rook still at home on h1. In fact black uses this as an opportunity to munch a couple more pawns.

Concerning the value of the queen, Big Tuna would like to point out that we all may like our women, but there may come a point where they just ain't worth the cost. Sorry, BT forgot that we are discussing chess. Oh well, the same lessons can be applied to chess also.

25. h3 Rxa2
27. Kh2 Nxf2
28. Re1 Rxe1
29. Qd8+ Bf8
30. Nxe1 Bd5
31. Nf3 Ne4
32. Qb8 b5
33. h4 h5

Notice that all of black's pieces are protecting each other. This is a sign of good technique. Piece coordination is key to good execution. Something for you to remember when playing is that if you secure a material advantage you should take time to consolidate your material and coordinate your remaining pieces. If you don't, Big Tuna says you may get spanked.

34. Ne5 Kg7
35. Kg1 ...

Black now begins the final offensive. Here white must be thinking why must I lose to this child! I know, Big Tuna has been there, done that.

35. ... Bc5+
36. Kf1 Ng3+
37. Ke1 Bb4+

A quicker road is 37. ...Bb7 but youngsters enjoy checking their way to mate.

38. Kd1 Bb3+
39. Kc1 Ne2+
40. Kb1 Nc3+
41. Kc1 Rc2#

Points to remember from this game are:

- 1) Opening principles exist for a very good reason. White did not follow proper principles and was severely spanked for it. White's additional tempo will sometimes allow him to survive a serious inaccuracy such as 11.Bg5, but in this case white had already committed some smaller inaccuracies. In this case moving the queen and queen's rook. The great players know when to break principles. However, when in doubt, don't.
- 2) Sacs are much more likely to work when the opponent's king is stuck in the middle with an open central file. In these positions intuition may be enough to steer through the complications, good news for those of us who are calculatingly challenged.
- 3) Bobby is very good at chess!

If you liked this first installment then let the publisher of your Chess periodical know and Big Tuna will continue to write more on the game of chess from the Tuna point of view. If you felt this piece was a waste of space please contact the publisher and let him know how you feel so The Big Tuna does not waste his time writing about chess when he could be playing it. Check and mate!

BT

Complete Results, October 26, 2002

1st place: Paul Mechem

1st AB: Derek Sparks

2nd-1st CD: Kevin Guo, James Hodge

1st unrated: Troy Krimmiger

1st EG: Brian Creasey, David Eilering

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Rd 1</u>	<u>Rd 2</u>	<u>Rd 3</u>	<u>Rd 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Paul Mechem	1889	W-14	W--2	W--7	W--5	4.0
2	Kevin Guo	1497	W-18	L--1	W-15	W-10	3.0
3	James Hodge	1496	L-11	W--9	W-14	W--7	3.0
4	Derek Sparks	1701	W--8	L--5	D--6	W-13	2.5
5	Zubin Chandran	1331	W-19	W--4	D-10	L--1	2.5
6	Troy Krimmiger	unr.	D-13	W-15	D--4	D-14	2.5
7	Greg Moses	1512	W--9	W-11	L--1	L--3	2.0
8	Matt Brink	1298	L--4	D-17	W-19	D--6	2.0
9	Dan Tuttle	1238	L--7	L--3	W-18	W-16	2.0
10	Brian Creasey	1194	HALF	W-13	D--5	L--2	2.0
11	David Eilering	1066	W--3	L--7	L-13	W-18	2.0
12	Tom Knoedler	1500	HALF	HALF	W-16	----	2.0
13	Paul Holland	1384	D--6	L-10	W-11	L--4	1.5
14	Jeremy Crum	1314	L--1	W-19	L--3	D-15	1.5
15	Brad Reese	669	W-16	L--6	L--2	D-14	1.5
16	David Bononi	1433	L-15	W-18	L-12	L--9	1.0
17	George Stone	unr.	----	D--8	----	----	0.5
18	Joe Boyd	1144	L--2	L-16	L--9	L-11	0.0
19	Josh Wilson	unr.	L--5	L-14	L--8	----	0.0

LATE ADDITION! The proposed large downstate tournament has taken a step towards becoming reality. SCC member James Sennett has found a site in his hometown of Lincoln that is suitable for holding a regional tournament. Lincoln would be an ideal place for the tournament, as it is centrally located between Springfield, Peoria, Bloomington, and Decatur. Watch the newsletter for more details on this long-awaited tournament!

(Membership form on reverse side)

Absurdity Solution

1. (b) Botvinnik. He tied Bronstein in 1951 and Smyslov in 1954. Lasker and Kasparov each did this once.
2. (c) Alekhine - in 1946, during match negotiations with Botvinnik. Botvinnik won the vacated title in a special tournament in 1948.
3. (b) Botvinnik. He lost to, and regained it from, Smyslov and Tal. Alekhine had two separate reigns, the only other champ to do so.
4. (a) Lasker, who held the title from 1894 until 1921. No one has ever come close. Even Kasparov did not reach 2nd place.
5. (b) One - The Russian-born Alekhine was a *naturalized* Frenchman when he won the title! (Spassky also took French citizenship, but it was long after he lost the title.)

Meetings

The SCC meets Wednesday nights, 6 to 10 p.m., at the American Legion Post 32, between 5th and 6th Streets, half a block south of Capitol Ave., downtown. On some Wednesdays, usually the first one of the month, we meet in a room upstairs (not our usual room.)

On the second Friday of each month, we meet from 6 to 10 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, near the corner of Route 4 and Wabash Ave.

Area Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Reg Ends</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Nov. 16	Springfield, Ill.	9:45	David Long	(217) 522-0489
Nov. 30	Quincy, Ill.	8:50	Gary Blickhan	(217) 223-8762
Dec. 14	Springfield, Ill.	9:45	Tom Knoedler	(217) 523-7265
Dec. 28	Normal, Ill.	8:45	Dennis Bourgerie	(309) 454-3842
Jan. 1 (maybe)	Columbia, Ill.	10:00	?	
Jan. 11	Peoria, Ill.	8:45	Fred Malcome	(309) 367-4833

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Membership Form

Annual Dues: \$12

NAME: _____

Make checks payable to
Springfield Chess Club

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

Mail to:
Springfield Chess Club
David Long, Treasurer
2021 1/2 S. 4th St.

PHONE: (_____) _____

USCF ID# (if any): _____

Springfield, Ill. 62703

Check if a new membership []

Check if a renewal []

Membership roster will appear in the newsletter every spring and autumn.

[] Check here to withhold address from publication.

[] Check here to withhold phone number from publication.