



# Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

January-February 2004

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Springfield, Ill. 62703

Club Champion: Doug Van Buskirk

## Van Buskirk Wins December Tournament

The December 13 tournament drew sixteen chess players to town. City champion Doug Van Buskirk, of Springfield, went 4-0 and won the tournament. Second place and first class A and B were split by Isaac Braswell and Guy Kittilsen, each of whom won three games. (Hometowns unknown for both.) The class C and D prize was split by Matt Creemeens, of Springfield; and Dan Tuttle, of St. Louis. They scored 2 points. Finally, the class E and under prize went to Evan Dorosheff, of Springfield, with 2 points. No unrateds participated.

For complete results, see page 4.

## Next Tournament February 21

Our next regular tournament will be held Saturday, February 21, at the Signature Inn. All tournament details are the same as usual: registration ends at 8:45, the first round begins at 9, entry fee \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door, \$2 more for non-SCC members.

## Have You Renewed?

If not, please do so today! Check your mailing label; if it is typed in red, then this is your last issue! There is a membership form on page 5.

## Rated Blitz

According to *Chess Life*, the WBCA (World Blitz Chess Association) folded late last year, leaving no organization to rate blitz games.

The USCF has stepped in to fill that job; it now rates anything as fast as 6/5 under its Quick rating system. Look for the SCC to hold some rated blitz events, either on club night, or as a diversion during a regular tournament.

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**Please take a moment to fill out the survey enclosed!**

## SCC's Turnout, Revenues Falling Fast!

Over the last several months, attendance at the SCC's regular meetings, and the SCC's tournaments, has fallen. Because of the declining participation, each of the last few regular tournaments has lost money for the club. In addition, the SCC lost its shorts to the tune of about \$550 in the Illinois Class.

The 2004 dues are coming in, which has kept the club afloat these last few months. According to the annual treasurer's report, the club's treasury contained \$205.77 as of December 31, 2003, down from \$767.35 at the end of 2002. We need more people to show up at the tournaments, else there won't be enough money to fund the tournaments!

Please take a moment and fill out the survey on page 7. Feel free to write your opinion on how we might make the SCC a place where more people want to play chess, and have fun playing it!

## 2003: The Year in Review

### Useless Statistics:

Membership: 44. Membership at end of 2001: 42.

Percent change: +5% Renewal rate: 76%

Average tournament attendance, 2003: 20 (6 regular tournaments)

Average attendance, 2003: 27 (6 regular tournaments), pct change: -25%

Percent change, 2001-2003: -49% (*this is not good!*)

Average rating at tournaments (inc. Ill Class), 2003: 1566

Average rating, 2002: 1402, percent change: +12%

### Tournament winners:

February: Derek Sparks, Middletown, 3.5-0.5

March Quick: Kevin French, Decatur, 5-1

April: Tony Cao; Chesterfield, Mo.; 4-0

June: Alex Stannov, Chicago, 4-0

August: Doug Van Buskirk, Springfield, 4-0

October: Dennis Bourgerie, Normal; James Healy, Springfield; 3-1

Illinois Class: Class MX: Doug Van Buskirk, Springfield, 4-1

Class A: Anjali Datta; Lawrence, Kan.; 3.5-1.5

Class B: Jonathan Bonwell, Normal, 4-1

Class C: Brian Creasey, Springfield, 4.5-0.5

Class D: Dan Griffin, Morton Grove, 3-2

Class E: Jack Heller, Mattoon, 4-1

December: Doug Van Buskirk, Springfield, 4-0

### Club Champions

1993 - David Mote

1994 - David Mote

1998 - Doug Van Buskirk

2001 - David Mote

2003 - Doug Van Buskirk

## Minor Event News

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Entry Fee</u>
January 14	2004 Blitz, Part 1	\$2
January 21	3-Round Swiss (6/15)*	\$3
February 11	Blitz, Part 2	\$2
February 18	3-Round Swiss (6/15)	\$3
March 10	Blitz, Part 3	\$2

\* January 21's tournament will be the first using Gerald Bungardner's proposal of starting from a certain position. We will examine the actual game continuation after the tournament is over.

### December 10 Blitz

<u>Pl#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
1	John Taylor	x	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	0.0	4.5
2	Daunte Carter	W	x	W	L	L	W	W	L	4.0	34.5
3	James Ruth	W	L	x	L	W	L	D	L	2.5	35.0
4	Evan Dorosheff	W	W	W	x	L	W	L	L	4.0	17.0
5	Michael Shores	W	W	L	W	x	L	W	L	4.0	12.0
6	Cole Taylor	W	L	W	L	W	x	L	D	3.5	21.0
7	Matt Crenieens	W	L	D	W	L	W	x	L	3.5	32.5
8	Tom Knoedler	W	W	W	W	W	D	W	x	6.5	53.5

### Cumulative Blitz Standings - FINALS FOR 2003

1	Tom Knoedler	53.5 (67)	79.9	10	Michael Shores	12.0 (32)	37.5
2	James Ruth	35.0 (61)	52.5	11	Josh Rohrscheib	11.0 (18)	61.1
3	Daunte Carter	34.5 (49)	70.4	12	Kyle Churchill	6.5 (50)	13.0
4	Matt Crenieens	32.5 (46)	70.7	13	John Taylor	4.5 (50)	9.0
5	David Long	32.0 (42)	76.2	14	Barney Bruzetti	3.0 (20)	15.0
6	Cole Taylor	21.0 (57)	36.8	15	Michael Grounds	2.0 (9)	22.2
7	Gerald Bungardner	17.0 (22)	77.3	16	Leonard Ferguson	1.0 (3)	33.3
8	Evan Dorosheff	17.0 (35)	48.5	17	Gaylon Richards Sr.	1.0 (4)	25.0
9	David Braunfeld	14.5 (27)	53.7	18	Gaylon Richards Jr.	0.0 (4)	0.0

### December 17 - Alapin Opening Thematic

<u>Pl#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Victories</u>
1	Kyle Churchill	x	L	L	L	L	n	0.0	<u>by Color:</u>
2	Cole Taylor	W	x	L	L	L	n	1.0	White: 5
3	Evan Dorosheff	W	W	x	W	L	W	3.0*	Black: 7
4	Tom Knoedler	W	W	L	x	W	n	3.0	Draws: 0
5	Daunte Carter	W	W	W	L	x	W	3.0*	
6	James Ruth	n	n	L	n	L	x	---	*

\* James Ruth's games do not count because he withdrew before half of the games were completed.

# Complete Results, December 13, 2003

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	Doug Van Buskirk	2153	W-12	W--6	W--5	W--4	4.0
2	Isaac Braswell	1833	W--7	L--4	W-12	W--5	3.0
3	Guy Kittilsen	1754	L--8	W-11	W-13	W-10	3.0
4	Jonathan Hoffsuemmer	1651	W-16	W--2	D-10	L--1	2.5
5	Jonathan Bonwell	1729	W-11	W--8	L--1	L--2	2.0
6	Dennis Bourgerie	1719	W--9	L--1	D--7	HALF	2.0
7	Matt Cremeens	1570	L--2	W--9	D--6	D--8	2.0
8	Dan Tuttle	1351	W--3	L--5	D-11	D--7	2.0
9	Evan Dorosneff	648	L--6	L--7	W-16	W-12	2.0
10	James Healy	1679	D-14	W-15	D--4	L--3	2.0
11	Jack Heller	1170	L--5	L--3	D--8	W-16	1.5
12	Jim Davis	1695	L--1	W-16	L--2	L--9	1.0
13	Gary Blickhan	1623	D-15	D-14	L--3	----	1.0
14	Tom Koedler	1500	D-10	D-13	HALF	HALF	1.0
15	Richard Kujoth	1937	D-13	L-10	----	----	0.5
16	Cole Taylor	676	L--4	L-12	L--9	L-11	0.0

## Corrections

Kyle Miles, of Mattoon, tied for second in his section at the Illinois Class on a technicality (he played a cross-section game); this was not noted either in the newsletter or at the tournament itself! He scored 2.5 in actual play (3 points under the special rule.)

Oops!!! In some of the Illinois Class results listings, the round numbers were scrambled or otherwise befouled! All the games listed are accurate, in proper 1-2-3-4-5 round order, despite the headings.

## B&N Meetings Return To Old Schedule

The SCC Board of Directors has not extended the experiment of having meetings at Barnes & Noble every Friday. The official club meetings there are now back to the old schedule, the second Friday of every month between 6 and 10 p.m.

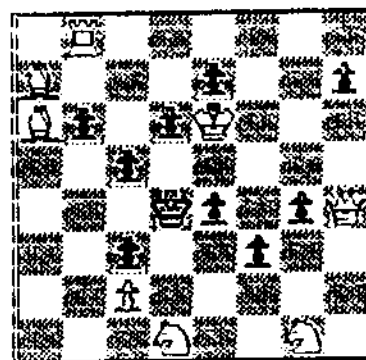
## Absurdity, Part 14

white to play and mate in one.

If careful examination of the position fails to show any mate in one, try setting the position up on an actual board, and the solution will become more obvious.

Solution on page 5!

Problem by Dr. F. Mendes de Moraes



## Absurdity Solution

If you set the position up on an actual board, you may have run out of black pawns! There are nine in the position, which is illegal! Remove any one of the pawns, and there is a mate in one.

## 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. *Every week until further notice, we will be meeting in room 207, upstairs (not the room we have usually used.)*

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>
Jan. 23/24-25	Chesterfield, Mo.	*	Continental Chess	(845) 496-9658
January 24	Peoria, Ill.	8:45	Fred Malcome	(309) 367-4833
January 31	Florissant, Mo.	9:30	Al Howlett	(314) 387-5127
<b>February 11</b>	<b>Springfield, Ill.</b>	8:45	Tom Knoedler	(217) 523-7265
February 21	Collinsville, Ill.	8:45	Paul Holland	(618) 288-4117
Feb. 28-29	Peoria, Ill.	8:45	Wayne Zimmerle	(309) 686-0192
March 13	Salem, Ill.	9:15	Paul Holland	(618) 288-4117
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Springfield, Ill.</b>	9:50	David Long	(217) 522-0489
March 20	Florissant, Mo.	9:30	Al Howlett	(314) 387-5127

\* 3-day schedule: registration ends Friday 7 p.m.

2-day schedule: registration ends Saturday 10 a.m.

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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.  
Springfield, Ill. 62703

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID# (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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.

SCC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Please fill out the survey and mail it to David Long, (address on top of page 1), or give it to him at a club meeting. (Leave blank any questions you do not wish to answer.)

About yourself:

Assess your skill level:

- Beginner (Class G and below)
- Novice (Class F and E)
- Intermediate (Class D and C)
- Advanced (Class B and A)
- Expert or higher

How old are you?

- Under 21
- 21-35
- 36-49
- 50-65
- Over 65

Describe your occupation.

- Work
- Student
- Unemployed
- Retired

How often do you play?

How often do you attend club?

- Almost every week
- Majority of meetings
- About half of meetings
- About once a month
- Once every few months
- Never

How often do you attend SCC tournaments?

- Every tournament
- Majority of tournaments
- About half
- One or two a year
- Never

How often do you play casually?

- Every day
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Rarely or never

What is your opinion of SCC meetings?

Why do you attend club meetings? (Check all that apply.)

- Enjoy casual chess play
- Enjoy mini-tournaments
- Friendship with other members
- To get out of the house
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not attend club meetings

Why do you NOT attend club meetings?

(Check all that apply.)

- Dislike casual play
- Competition too strong
- Competition too weak
- Dislike site's location downtown
- Wednesdays inconvenient
- Too noisy
- Too smoky
- Too crowded
- Have other priorities
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your opinion of SCC tournaments?

Why do you attend SCC's tournaments?

(Check all that apply.)

- Play chess for fun
- Serious competition/rating
- Friendship with other players
- To get out of the house
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not play in tournaments

Why do you NOT attend the tournaments?

(Check all that apply.)

- Dislike tournaments
- Competition too strong
- Competition too weak
- Don't like tournament's format
- Costs too much
- Prize fund too small
- Selected dates are inconvenient
- Don't want to join USCF or ICA
- Dislike location
- Don't like to travel
- Have other priorities
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How do you like to play your chess?

What kind of games do you prefer?

(Check all that apply.)

- Casual games
- Organized club games
- Serious games
- Opponent has same skill level

What time controls do you like?

(Check all that apply.)

- Non-rated blitz (5 mins or less)
- Non-rated quick (6-15 minutes)
- Rated quick (10-29 minutes)
- Fast (game in 30-59 minutes)
- Medium (game in 60-119 minutes)
- Slow (game in 2 hours or more)
- Non-sudden death
- Untimed casual games

How would you change SCC tournaments?

How often should SCC hold a tournament?

- Every two months, as is
- Every month
- Every three months

How high should the entry fees be?

- Leave them alone
- Raise them
- Lower them
- Increase club discount
- Decrease club discount

How big should the prize fund be?

- Leave it alone
- Increase it
- Decrease it

How would you distribute the prizes?

- Leave it alone
- Larger place, fewer class prizes
- Larger class prizes
- More, smaller prizes
- Fewer, larger prizes

How would you adjust the format?

- Leave it alone
- More, faster games
- Fewer, slower games
- Start later
- Finish earlier

How would you change SCC meetings?

Where do you want the club to meet?

- Stay where it is
- Move to larger quarters
- Move to a different part of town
- Move to a no-smoking venue

When do you want the club to meet?

- Leave it on Wednesdays
- Mondays
- Tuesdays
- Thursdays
- Fridays

What should happen at the meetings?

- Leave as is
- Casual play only
- Fewer mini-tournaments
- More mini-tournaments
- Lectures/lessons

What would you add to the newsletter?

- More games
- More regional news/results
- More chess puzzles/problems
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How would you boost club revenues?

- Raise dues
- Membership drive
- Raise mini-tournament entry fees
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you have other comments or sug-gestions, please fill them in here! Thank you for your participation!