Peorians Win Tournament

Twenty-two chess players participated in the August 21 tournament. Bill Naff and Mike Leali, both of Peoria, scored 3.5 points and shared first place. Kyle Miles, of Mattoon, and Hector Hernandez, of Chicago, scored 3 points and shared the Class A-B prize.

Matt Cremeens, of Springfield, also scored 3 points and won the Class C-D prize. Evan Dorosheff, also of Springfield, and Daniel Ladd, of St. Louis, each scored 2 points, and won the E-and-under prize. No unrateds participated.

For complete results, see page 6.

City Chess Championship Approaches!

The Springfield Chess Club will hold its club championship on Saturday, September 18, 2004, at the Lincoln Library downtown. The event is open to the public to watch, although only SCC members may play. There is no entry fee — all members can play *for free!*

Some tournament conditions have been changed since the championship was first mentioned in the last newsletter. Read the enclosed flyer for final details of the tournament.

Be There!

Next Tournament October 9

Our next regular tournament will be held Saturday, October 9, 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.

Board Meeting September 15

The club's annual board meeting to plan for the following year is scheduled for September 15, at 7:30 p.m. Although only board members will be voting, input from the entire membership is welcome.

Minor Events

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

Date	Event	Entry Fee
September 15	Blitz, Part 7 (6 p.m.)	$2
September 22	3-Round Swiss	$3
October 13	Blitz, Part 6	$2
October 20	3-Round Swiss	$3
November 10	Blitz, Part 5	$2

July 14 Blitz

Pl#	Name	1 2 3 4	Month	Year
1	Matt Cremeens	x W D W	2.5	18.5
2	Leonard Ferguson	L x L D	0.5	7.0
3	Evan Dorosheff	D W x W	2.5	19.5
4	Mark Maisenbacher	L D L x	0.5	0.5

August 11 Blitz

Pl#	Name	1 2 3 4	Month	Year
1	Matt Cremeens	x L D W	1.5	20.0
2	Evan Dorosheff	W x L W	2.0	21.5
3	Tom Knoedler	D W x W	2.5	23.5
4	John Voigts	L L L x	0.0	0.0

Cumulative Blitz Standings

1	Tom Knoedler	23.5	(27)	78.3	9	Kyle Churchill	1.5	(7)	21.4
2	Evan Dorosheff	21.5	(38)	56.6	10	Larry Grammer	1.0	(5)	20.0
3	Matt Cremeens	20.0	(31)	64.5	11	Mark Maisenbacher	0.5	(3)	16.7
4	David Long	17.5	(22)	79.5	12	David Braunfeld	0.5	(5)	10.0
5	James Ruth	12.0	(32)	37.5	13	Michael Shores	0.5	(5)	10.0
6	Daunte Carter	7.5	(12)	62.5	14	Cole Taylor	0.5	(7)	7.1
7	Leonard Ferguson	7.0	(13)	53.8	15	John Voigts	0.0	(13)	0.0
8	John Taylor	1.5	(7)	21.4					

July 21 - 3-Round Swiss

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	David Long	1953	W---3	L---2	W---4	2.0
2	Leonard Ferguson	1659	W---4	W---1	L---3	2.0
3	Tom Knoedler	1518	L---1	W---4	W---2	2.0
4	David Braunfeld	1049	L---3	L---2	L---1	0.0

August 18 - 3-Round Swiss

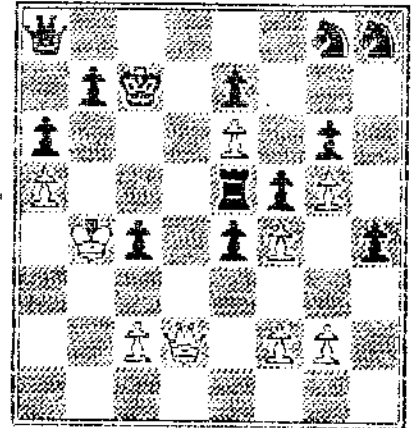| Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	David Long	1953	W---3	W---5	W---2	3.0
2	Matt Cremeens	1570	W---6	W---4	L---1	2.0
3	Tom Knoedler	1500	L---1	W---6	W---5	2.0
4	Leonard Ferguson	1659	L---5	L---2	W---6	1.0
5	Evan Dorosheff	1088	W---4	L---1	L---3	1.0
6	John Voigts	unr.	L---2	L---3	L---4	0.0

Absurdity, Part 18

Oscar Blathy (1860-1939), was a Hungarian engineer fond of composing extremely long chess problems. Although his lifetime collection of puzzles was no thicker than most, the number of moves in the solutions totals over 50,000; a record.

This Blathy-composed problem is the longest legal direct-mate problem without any promoted pieces in the starting position. There is a hint at the bottom of this page. Solution on page 5.
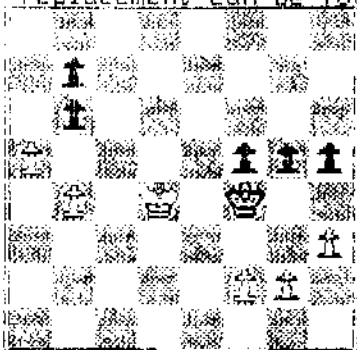
White to play and mate in 257 moves.
Have fun!!!

ICA News

The Illinois Chess Association seems to be functioning again. The organization's membership secretary has resigned; in doing so, he passed along a large pile of checks - nearly a year's worth - to the treasurer, Howard Cohen. Now that the checks are finally in the the bank, some new members may finally look forward to receiving their magazines.

Howard is also acting as temporary membership secretary until a replacement can be found.

What's the best strategy?

This position occurred recently in a Peoria tournament. What should Black do?

(A) Take the pawn to eliminate a white queenside pawn.

(B) Ignore the pawn and try to break through on the kingside.

The answer is B. If Black plays 45...PxP?, he runs into trouble after 46. PxP P-R5   47. K-B5 P-N5   48. K-N6 P-N6   49. PxPch! KxP   50. KxP KxNP   51. P-R6 P-B5   52. P-R7 P-B6   53. P-R8=Q P-B7, and Black may just be able to draw.

In the actual game, Black played 45...P-R5!   46. PxP P-N5   47. K-Q5 P-N6   48. P-B3 K-K6   49. K-Q6 K-B7   50. K-B7 KxNP   51. KxP KxRP   52. K-R6 P-N7   53. P-N7 P-N8=Q   54. P-N8=Q Q-QR8ch   55. K-N5 Q-KB8ch   56. K-B5 Q-B7ch   57. K-N5 QxP   58. Q-K5 P-B5 and later won.

The point is, White's king needs four moves in the diagram to capture the pawn on QN7, because it cannot approach directly. If Black plays ...PxP, White's king needs only three moves to capture the pawn, and it no longer has to take a move to step out of the way of his other pawn, which is now on the QR file! Black would be giving White *two* free moves by taking the pawn.

ABSURDITY HINT: The 50-move rule, which states that a game may be declared drawn if 50 moves pass with no pawn moves or captures made by either side, *does not apply in composed problems.*

Membership Roster

State is Illinois and area code is 217 unless otherwise specified.

(redacted)

Absurdity Solution

Black has a lot of extra material, so White must force Black to make certain moves in order to gain "free" moves, one by one by one. So... 1. Q-Q7ch K-N1 2. Q-Q8ch K-R2 3. Q-Q4ch R-B4 (delaying) 4. QxRch K-N1 5. Q-K5ch K-B1 (a move longer than 5...K-R2 6. Q-Q4ch K-N1 7. Q-Q5ch K-R2 8. Q-N6ch) 6. Q-Q5 K-B2 (6...Q-R2 7. Q-Q7ch K-N1 8. Q-Q6 mate.) 7. Q-Q7ch K-N1 8. Q-Q8ch K-R2 9. Q-N6ch K-N1.

White would like to get rid of the knight on KR8. Doing so too soon, however, would allow ...P-QN4. Meanwhile, 10. KxP fails to ...K-B1 11. Q-B5ch K-Q1 12. Q-Q4ch K-K1 13. Q-N7 Q-B1ch and White's king pawn will fall soon, and bang goes the mate. White must prevent this:

10. P-QB3 K-B1 11. Q-B5ch K-N1 (11...K-Q1 loses now, because in the above line, 13. Q-N7 Q-B1 is not check!) 12. Q-K5ch K-B1 13. Q-Q5 K-B2 14. Q-Q7ch K-N1 15. Q-Q8ch K-R2 16. Q-N6ch K-N1. We saw these moves earlier. By playing them, White gets a free move every six moves. This sequence of moves will be referred to as [6 moves].

17. K-R3 K-B1 [6 moves] 24. K-N2 K-B1 [6 moves] 31. K-B1 K-B1 [6 moves] 38. K-Q1 K-B1 [6 moves] 45. K-K1 K-B1 [6 moves] 52. K-B1 K-B1 [6 moves] 59. K-N1 K-B1 [6 moves] 66. K-R2 K-B1 [6 moves] 73. K-R3 K-B1 [6 moves] 80. KxP During that long sequence, Black would surely have invoked the 50-move rule if this had been a real game. Now, White must not be too hasty! Trying to break through with 87. P-N4 allows ...PxPch 88. KxP K-B1 [6 moves] 95. P-B5 PxPch 96. KxP K-B1 [6 moves] 103. P-N6 N-R3ch 104. K-N5 NxP 105. KxN/N6 N-N5 106. K-B7 N-K4ch 107. KxP N-B3ch (preventing any future Q-Q8) 108. K-Q7 Q-R2 109. Q-B7ch K-R1 110. Q-B6ch Q-N1, and Black is unlikely to lose. Patience is a virtue!

Back to the problem. 80...K-B1 [6 moves] 87. K-R3 K-B1 [6 moves] 94. K-R2 K-B1 [6 moves] 101. K-N1 K-B1 [6 moves] 108. K-B1 K-B1 [6 moves] 115. K-K1 K-B1 [6 moves] 122. K-Q1 K-B1 [6 moves] 129. K-B1 K-B1 [6 moves] 136. K-N2 K-B1 [6 moves] 143. K-R3 K-B1 [6 moves] 150. K-N4. During this sequence, we see why 10. P-QB3 (remember that far back?) was necessary. If Black is allowed to play ...P-B6 at any time, White must either capture the pawn, or cross vulnerable Q1 square with his king. After K-Q1, the black queen escapes. Breaking off from the six-mover, Black plays his king to Q1 and K1 (as in the variation above), and meets White's Q-N7 with ...Q-Q1ch followed by ...Q-Q7ch.

Something slightly different happens now: 150...K-B1 151. Q-B5ch K-N1 152. Q-K5ch K-R2 153. Q-Q4ch K-N1 154. QxN K-B2 155. Q-K5ch K-B1 (155...K-B3 156. Q-B5 mate.) 156. Q-Q5 K-N1 (better than ...K-B2 in this position) 157. Q-Q8ch K-R2 158. Q-N6ch K-N1. White has bagged a knight, now it's time to move in for the kill.

159. K-R3 K-B1 [6 moves] 166. K-N2 K-B1 [6 moves] 173. K-B1 K-B1 [6 moves] 180. K-Q1 K-B1 [6 moves] 187. K-K1 K-B1 [6 moves] 194. K-B1 K-B1 [6 moves] 201. K-N1 K-B1 [6 moves] 208. K-R2 K-B1 [6 moves] 215. K-R3 K-B1 [6 moves] 222. P-N4 Black's longest-lasting defense is to ignore the pawn move. ...K-B1 [6 moves] 229. PxP PxP 230. K-R4 K-B1 [6 moves] 237. K-R5 K-B1 [6 moves] 244. K-N6 K-B1 [6 moves] 251. K-B7 K-B1 252. K-K8 K-N1 253. K-Q7 (zugzwang!) ...P-K6 254. PxP N-B3ch 255. PxN PxP 256. P-K7 Q-R2 257. Q-Q8, checkmate.

How did Oscar Blathy have the time to figure all this out? Your guess is as good as mine.

Welcome New Members

Sally Yalavarthi, of Springfield, has joined the Springfield Chess Club. Welcome to the club! Membership total is now 42.

Complete Results, August 21, 2004

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	Bill Naff	2000	W-16	W-18	W--4	HALF	3.5
2	Michael Leali	1994	W-17	W--7	W--3	HALF	3.5
3	Hector Hernandez	1910	W-19	W--8	L- 2	W--6	3.0
4	Kyle Miles	1761	W 15	W- 5	L--1	W--9	3.0
5	Matt Cremeens	1570	W-22	L--4	W-19	W--8	3.0
6	Doug Van Buskirk	2177	W-10	D-13	W-18	L--3	2.5
7	Gary Blickhan	1690	W-20	L--2	D--9	HALF	2.0
8	John Renze	1661	W-12	L--3	W-16	L- 5	2.0
9	Gordon Ruan	1575	HALF	W-14	D--7	L--4	2.0
10	David Bononi	1413	L--6	D-21	D-15	W-17	2.0
11	Daniel Ladd	1138	L 13	W-15	W-14	L--H	2.0
12	Evan Dorosheff	1088	L--3	L-17	W-22	W-15	2.0
13	Tom Barnard	1737	W 11	D--6	-----	-----	1.5
14	Rudy Padilla	1543	HALF	L--9	L-11	W-20	1.5
15	Dan Tuttle	1428	L--4	L 11	D-10	W-21	1.5
16	Dominick Leali	1357	L--1	W-20	L--8	HALF	1.5
17	Laszlo Naszodi	1284	L--2	W 12	D---H	L-10	1.5
18	Dennis Bourgerie	1727	W-21	L--1	L--6	-----	1.0
19	Peter Kohler	1216	L--3	W-22	L--5	L-12	1.0
20	Aaron Lebow	1101	L--7	L-16	W-21	L-14	1.0
21	Larry Coulter	1127	L-18	D-10	L-20	L-15	0.5
22	David Wiedman	990	L--5	L-19	L-12	-----	0.0
H	Tom Knoedler	1500	HALF	HALF	D-17	W-11	2.5

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 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

Date	City	Reg Ends	Contact	Phone
September 11	Quincy, Ill	10:50	Gary Blickhan	(217) 223-8762
September 18	Springfield, Ill.	10:00	David Long	(217) 522-0489
October 9	Springfield, Ill.	8:45	Tom Knoedler	(217) 523-7265
October 23	Normal, Ill.	9:30	Dennis Bourgerie	(309) 454-3842
Oct. 30	Peoria, Ill.	8:45	Fred Malcome	(309) 367-4833