



# Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

May-June 2006 -- Vol. 9, No. 3

President: Tom Knoedler

Vice President: Leonard Ferguson

Secretary: Matt Cremeens

Treasurer: David Long

Publicity Director: David Braunfeld

Newsletter Editor: David Long

Club Champion: Evan Dorosheff

## Cao, Michel Split May Tournament

On May 13, fourteen chess players participated in the latest local tournament. Bruce Michel, of Stonington; and Kevin Cao, of Chesterfield, Mo., each scored 3½ points and shared first place. Gary Blickhan, of Quincy, scored 3 points and captured the A-B prize.

David Bononi, of Springfield; and Henry Cao, of Chesterfield, Mo., scored 2 points and shared the C-D prize. Larry Coulter, of Mount Sterling, won the E prize, also with 2 points. Paul Peterson, of suburban Chicago, won the unrated prize, this being his first tournament. He also got 2 points.

Club leader Tom Knoedler, out of circulation since January because of problems with his knee, has recovered enough to visit the tournament, if only for a few minutes. Get well soon, Tom!

Complete results are on page 2.

## Next Tournament August 19-20 in Hopedale

The Springfield Chess Club's next tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20, at the Hopedale Community Room in Hopedale. Registration ends at 9:45, and the five rounds are on Saturday at 10, 2, 6; Sunday at 10 and 2. Time limit is G/110. Entry fee is \$29 in advance, \$39 at the door, \$2 discount for club members.

Hopedale is about two miles east of Exit 19 off I-155, between Lincoln and Morton.

## City Championship Postponed

The SCC's championship tournament, originally scheduled for June 24, has been postponed until further notice. We will attempt to reschedule it for later in the year. More news when it becomes available.

## Next Regular Tournament October 21

The Springfield Chess Club's next tournament will be held Saturday, October 21, at the Signature Inn. Registration ends at 8:45, and the four rounds are at 9, 12, 3, and 6. Time limit is G/80. Entry fee is \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$2 discount for club members.

## Turnout Continues To Fall

Fewer and fewer people are showing up at Wednesday night meetings anymore! From being that of a healthy club a year or two ago, with seven to ten chess players on most nights, turnout has declined through the stage of being meager but adequate (four or five players) to being almost non-existent today. In the ten Wednesdays ending May 10, five meetings had turnout of 2, and the record for that period was 5, achieved only once. In two of those weeks, no one else showed up at all.

## Club Reduces Dues And Expenses

Because of lackluster turnout at our rated tournaments and abysmal turnout on club night, the SCC is trying to shake things up a little, so that we might increase membership, participation, and revenue. Look for dues to go down and newsletters to get less frequent.

Newsletters, currently published once every two months, will shift to a quarterly schedule effective July 1. Therefore, there will be a total of five newsletters this year and four in 2007. Since participation is down (*way* down), there is less news to report, and mailing six issues of three pages each is wasteful of postage!

Dues are also being reduced by one third, from \$12 to \$8, effective January 2007. This is being done partly to compensate for reduced club service (the newsletters), and partly to entice new members to the club. A membership drive, similar to that of 2001, targeted at local USCF members, is currently in the planning stages. Perhaps getting some new blood in the club will encourage some of our existing members to play more chess.

## Other Club Meeting News

At the Legion hall, because a new restaurant has been set up in the area near the big TV near the south entrance, **most or all club meetings will be held in the upstairs room until further notice**. The elevator at the west end of the building is the easiest way to get there.

## Complete Results, May 13, 2006

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	Kevin Cao	1592	Half	W13	W5	W8	3.5
2	Bruce Michel	1611	W12	D5	W10	W4	3.5
3	Gary Blickhan	1668	W11	W10	D4	Half	3
4	Matt Cremeens	1653	W8	W6	D3	L2	2.5
5	Dennis Bourgerie	1713	W13	D2	L1	Half	2
6	David Bononi	1447	W9	L4	D12	D7	2
7	Henry Cao	1440	Half	L11	W13	D6	2
8	Larry Coulter	1083	L4	W9	W11	L1	2
9	Paul Peterson	unr.	L6	L8	W14	W12	2
10	Laszlo Naszodi	1456	W14	L3	L2	Half	1.5
11	Partha Nookala	1148	L3	W7	L8	Half	1.5
12	Will Kerns	1039	L2	W14	D6	L9	1.5
13	Dan Tuttle	1303	L5	L1	L7	W14	1
14	Peyton Russell House	779	L10	L12	L9	L13	0

# Minor Events

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

**Blitz dates:** May 17, June 14, July 12 (\$2 entry fee)

**March and April blitz tournaments canceled because of lack of turnout.**

## Welcome New Members

Alex Bilyeu, of Springfield, has joined the club. Welcome to the club! Membership now stands at 27.

## Meetings

The SCC meets Wednesday nights, from 6 to 10 p.m., at the American Legion Post 32, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets, half a block south of Capitol Ave., downtown.

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

## Area Tournament Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Reg Ends</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
May 20-21	Joliet, Ill.	10:45	Dennis Doyle	??
May 25-28	Oak Brook, Ill.	Multiple	Continental Chess	(845) 496-9658
May 27	Quincy, Ill.	9:50	Gary Blickhan	(217) 222-0304
June 17	Bloomington, Ill.	9:30	Dennis Bourgerie	(309) 454-3842
June 24-25	Joliet, Ill.	??	Dennis Doyle	??
July 1	Peoria, Ill.	8:45	Fred Malcome	(309) 367-4833
July 15	St. Charles, Mo.	8:50	Al Howlett	(314) 497-4971
August 5-6	Oak Brook, Ill.	9:30	US Chess Fed	(800) 903-8723
August 5-13	Oak Brook, Ill.	Multiple	US Chess Fed.	(800) 903-8723
August 12	Oak Brook, Ill.	11:15	US Chess Fed.	(800) 903-8723
<b>August 19-20</b>	<b>Hopedale, Ill.</b>	9:45	David Long	(217) 522-0489