



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

Winter 2008 -- Vol. 11, No. 1

President: Tom Knoedler
Vice President: Leonard Ferguson
Secretary: Matt Cremeens
Treasurer: David Long
Publicity Director: David Braunfeld

Newsletter Editor: David Long
Club Champion: *vacant*

Ricardo Szmetan Wins December Tournament

On December 8, the Springfield Chess Club organized what is almost certainly the last tournament to be held at the Signature Inn. 30 chess players plus one houseman participated, continuing the very encouraging upward trend in participation! Ricardo Szmetan, of Champaign, won all four of his games and took first place in the tournament. Two players tied for second place and first in Class A-B. They were Matt Cremeens, of Springfield, and Kevin Cao, of Chesterfield, Mo., each with 3 points.

Turnout in the A-B class was so exceptional that we had enough revenue to create a second place prize in that division, the first time since 2001 that that has happened here. This prize ended up being split eight ways, between Brian Thomas, of Decatur; Derek Sparks, of Middletown; Bruce Michel, of Stonington; Troy Krimmiger, of Collinsville; Dennis Bourgerie, of Normal; William Tong, of St. Louis; and Tobias Simpson and Robert Naiman, both of Champaign. Each scored 2½ points.

2½ points was enough for half of the Class C-D prize. William Kerns, of Franklin, and Cameron Heino, of Champaign, divided it between them. Shelly Rode, of St. Louis, took the Class E prize with 2 points, and Michael Hines, of Champaign, scored 1½ points and won the unrated prize.

For the second straight tournament, the prize fund was raised from 75% of advertised (the minimum required by turnout) to 90%, and after including the second A-B prize and rounding up the ones that were shared, the total payout was actually above the \$300 advertised, the first time in over six years that we have been able to do that!

Special thanks to Tobias Simpson, who brought a contingent of eight (including himself) from the Champaign-Urbana area. We hope they, and everyone else who came in from out of town, made it home safely in the ice and sleet that night!

Complete results of the tournament are on page 2.

Have You Renewed?

If not, your membership has expired and this will be your last issue! Your mailing label will be typed in red if this is the case. There is a membership form on page 3, fill it out and mail it in or bring it to club! Annual dues are \$8.

Results – December 8, 2007

Rank	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	Ricardo Szmetan	2317	W18	W4	W15	W3	4
2	David Long	2020	Half	Half	W12	W9	3
3	Kevin Cao	1898	W21	W11	W6	L1	3
4	Matt Cremeens	1719	W30	L1	W19	W15	3
5	Brian Thomas	1973	D17	D13	W18	D10	2½
6	Derek Sparks	1843	W26	W16	L3	D7	2½
7	Robert Naiman	1954	D14	D17	W25	D6	2½
8	Dennis Bourgerie	1765	W29	W20	Half	----	2½
9	Tobias Simpson	1751	W19	D12	W13	L2	2½
10	Troy Krimmiger	1727	W27	L15	W17	D5	2½
11	William Tong	1665	W24	L3	D22	W16	2½
12	Bruce Michel	1644	W23	D9	L2	W24	2½
13	Cameron Heino	1472	W31	D5	L9	W22	2½
14	William Kerns	1412	D7	L18	W23	W20	2½
15	Richard Kujoth	1900	W25	W10	L1	L4	2
16	Martin Franek	1712	W28	L6	W21	L11	2
17	Daniel Parnet	1415	D5	D7	L10	W27	2
18	Marc Mc Conney	1467	L1	W14	L5	W26	2
19	Shelly Rode	1117	L9	W31	L4	W25	2
20	David Bononi	1501	W22	L8	D24	L14	1½
21	Dan Tuttle	1322	L3	W30	L16	D23	1½
22	Michael Hines	unr.	L20	W27	D11	L13	1½
23	Yue Xu	872	L12	W26	L14	D21	1½
24	Satish Satyam	893	L11	W29	D20	L12	1½
25	Ian Chong	1394	L15	W28	L7	L19	1
26	William Wilson	1171	L6	L23	W28	L18	1
27	William Sheets	1076	L10	L22	W31	L17	1
28	James Riddle	924	L16	L25	L26	W31	1
29	James Ruth	1164	L8	L24	----	----	0
30	Larry Coulter	1033	L4	L21	----	----	0
31	Howard Brooksbank	unr.	L13	L19	L27	L28	0

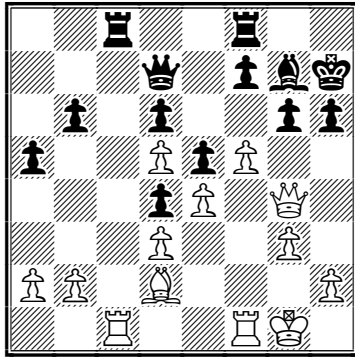
No New Tournament Site Yet

As reported in the last issue, the increase in the room rental at the Signature Inn has made it impractical to continue holding our tournaments there. We have been talking to some possible new sites, but nothing has developed yet.

Since the lead time for any tournament to be advertised in *Chess Life* is a minimum of four months, there will be no scheduled tournaments until at least May, probably later. We will hastily draw up a 2008 schedule when we have a place to hold the tournaments.

We are open to filling that time by holding impromptu tournaments for club members if there is enough interest in them. Feel free to come by club and request one!

Never Say Die!



This position occurred at the tournament in Jacksonville in November, between David Long (white) and Richard Kujoth. It is black's turn, but if he makes an indifferent move, 19 Pxpch picks up the queen. He played **18...RxR**.

White continued **19 Pxpch??, Black resigns???**

No one ever won a game by resigning! The cute pawn check was actually a colossal mistake.

Black can simply play 19...PxP 20 QxQ R/QB8xRch 21 K-N2 R/KB1-B7ch 22 K-R3 RxB. He now has two rooks and a bishop for the queen, which should be a decisive advantage even if he did not threaten to put the game away quickly with 23...R/8-B7.

White could have simply played 19 BxR, maintaining the tension on the kingside, although whether or not a breakthrough would have been possible is uncertain.

Rest In Peace, Bobby Fischer

On January 17, 2008, former world chess champion Robert James Fischer died in his adopted home of Iceland at age 64.

The Springfield Chess Club, in its current form, was incorporated in 1976, four years after Fischer won the world championship and one year after he lost it by forfeit. Several of the SCC's older players got their start in organized chess during the Fischer boom.

Meetings

The Springfield Chess Club meets Wednesday nights, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., at the American Legion Post 32, 1120 E. Sangamon Ave., Springfield (north end of the city.).

On the second Friday of each month, we meet from 6:30 to 10 p.m. in the café section of Barnes & Noble, near the corner of Route 4 and Wabash Ave.

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2007: The Year In Review

Useless Statistics

Membership: **22**. Membership at end of 2006: **29**. At end of 2005: **37**. At end of 2004: **46**.
Percent change: **-24%**. Two years: **-41%**. Renewal rate: **62%** (2006: 59%)
Average tournament attendance: **28** (3 regular tournaments)
Average attendance in 2006: **16** (3 tournaments) Percent change: **+75%** (yay!)
Average rating in 2006 tournaments: **1460**
Average rating in 2005 tournaments: **1423**. Percent change: **+3%**

Tournament Winners

March: Matt Cremeens, Springfield, 4-0
May: Brian Creasey, Springfield, 4-0
December: Ricardo Szmetan, Champaign, 4-0

Club Champions

1993: David Mote 1994: David Mote 1998: Doug Van Buskirk
2001: David Mote 2003: Doug Van Buskirk 2004: Matt Cremeens
2005: Evan Dorosheff

Area Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Reg Ends</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Feb. 23-24	Peoria, Ill.	9:45(?)	Wayne Zimmerle	(309) 686-0192
Feb.29-Mar.2	St. Louis, Mo.	6 pm/10 am	Continental Chess	

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

USCF ID (if any): _____

Check to withhold address from publication in newsletter.

Check to withhold phone number from publication.

Annual dues are currently **\$8**.

Make checks payable to:
Springfield Chess Club.

Bring to club, or mail to:

Springfield Chess Club
David Long, Treasurer
2021 ½ South 4th St.
Springfield, Ill. 62703