



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

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<http://www.springfieldchessclub.com>

Club Meetings Suspended During Epidemic

The Springfield Chess Club has suspended its meetings and other activities during the coronavirus epidemic. Meetings will resume at a later date, when our hosting facilities reopen and the Governor's stay-home directive expires.

If you are interested in holding a virtual meeting, contact Jimmie Cecil. He has floated the idea of holding meetings on chess.com until regular meetings can start again. No tournaments are currently scheduled, but one later this year may be possible if the epidemic subsides soon.

A Chess Puzzle

There being no further chess club news to report, here is a chess puzzle that originally appeared on chess.com in 2016. *Hints and solution below.* Cover this page with another piece of paper beginning with the crossed swords to avoid having it spoiled!

The puzzle: Construct a game that ends with black playing ...N-KB8, *not capturing on that square, checkmate* on move 6. (N-f1 if you prefer algebraic notation.)

✕✕ **Four hints**, with the most obvious one last (uncover one at a time). Solution follows hint 4.

1. It would take a black pawn five moves to promote, and move 6 would take a promoted knight off the back row. Thus, the puzzle cannot be solved with a promoted knight.
2. Black's queen's knight must take at least five moves, and the king's knight at least four moves, to reach the ...KB8 square, leaving black a maximum of one or two moves respectively that can be made by pieces other than the knight.
3. White can only make 6 moves, and he must use them to clear his KB1 square (else black's last move would be a capture), maneuver his king into a position where it can be checkmated by that move, and ensure that he could not get out of check by capturing the black knight on move 7.
4. A discovered check can still be checkmate.

Solution: 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. B-B4 Q-R5 3. N-K2 N-KB3 4. 0-0 N-N5 5. K-R1 NxRP
6. R-N1 N-B8 disc. mate.

SCC memberships expire on December 31 (regular) or June 30 (scholastic). If your membership is expiring (check your mailing label), please renew today! To renew, return this stub and a check payable to Springfield Chess Club to:
Springfield Chess Club, c/o David Long, 401 S. Illinois St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

New members, please use the full page forms available at: www.springfieldchessclub.com/join.htm.

Name: _____ \$8 Regular \$5 Scholastic

Write any changes to your contact information below. If no changes since last year, check here →