



Chess Club Observer

Newsletter of the Springfield Chess Club

** DOUBLE ISSUE ** Winter-Spring 2021 -- Vol. 24, No. 1

President: Leonard Ferguson
Vice President: Tom Knoedler
Secretary: Garald Bumgardner

Treasurer: David Long
Publicity Director: Jimmie Cecil
<http://www.springfieldchessclub.com>

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Now that the corona virus vaccine is becoming available, it is now a good assumption that the club's meetings will resume in the foreseeable future – we just don't know when, yet. The club will be taking its cues from the Governor and from the hosting sites to determine when to resume meetings. At the time of this writing, White Oaks Mall closes at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, making evening meetings difficult; Lincoln Library's meeting rooms are closed, and Barnes and Noble has removed most of its seating.

Club Officers Renominated

No club business was conducted at the forum-based meeting last December. The sitting club officers automatically get another year. No dues are being collected for 2021.

Online Meetings Continue

The Springfield Chess Club is still holding virtual meetings on chess.com. To participate, look for us at: <https://www.chess.com/club/springfield-chess-club-1> on the days and times that would ordinarily be a regular meeting. For further information, contact Jimmie.

For information about chess lessons, held on Zoom for the time being, contact Leonard.

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Throwing a Hail Mary

This is a position from a tournament game in 2010. Both players are down to a few minutes on the clock. White to play. What would you do here? White has a lost position, but he can still try to make it as difficult as possible.

The move white played: 51 BxP!?

If black plays ...BxB, then 52 K-N5 and 53 KxP, and then black can try to do the bishop and knight mate with about 2 minutes on his clock. If he tries ...N-K5, white can play 52 KxN BxB 53 K-B3 and black has the wrong bishop to promote the rook pawn. In the actual game, black played ...B-Q1 52 B-B3 N-B5 53 B-K1. White will play 54 K-N6 P-R5 55 BxP, again forcing black perform a difficult checkmate with very little time. A draw was agreed after B-K1.