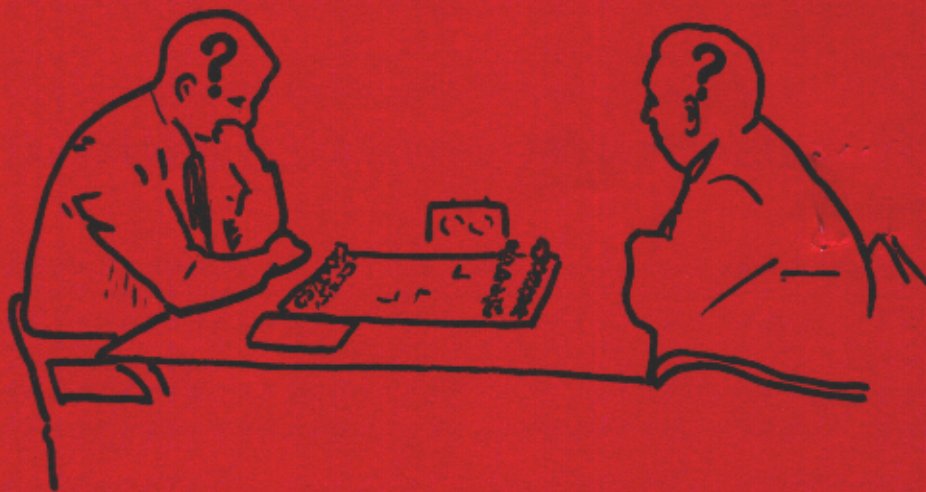


# SCCA NEWS

vol.xx no.iii

July 1985



INSIDE: *Attributes of Chessplayers*



## APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITOR

This July 1985 issue is very late--coming out in August. For that, I must assume all the blame. My reason, or at least my excuse, was that we started actively househunting in June, continuing through July. We looked through numerous neighborhoods (Columbia's a big place), exhausting the patience of a crowd of real estate agents and a financial adviser. When we got through, we wound up staying where we are! We just couldn't bear the thought of increasing our monthly mortgage payment by several hundred dollars, especially when our preschool children have growing appetites, and our future living expenses consequently are hard to predict.

In the meantime, the SCCA News just didn't get written. Whenever I sat down to write, my pen started figuring mortgage payments instead. (I'll take chess analysis over financial analysis any day.) I just didn't have any mental energy left to produce a magazine.

If I'm this late with another issue, I solemnly promise to resign the editorship. Again, my apologies.

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We regret to inform readers of the passing of Don Lemaster's mother in late May. Mrs. Lemaster had been recovering from a heart attack, when she was again stricken. Our deepest sympathies to Don and his family.

GHOSTS IN THE LIBRARY  
(by the Editor)

Is history a science? Yes, the study of history is a science like anthropology or cosmology. History teaches us how our present world came to be.

I like to study history by transporting myself back into time. My "time machines" are old books. Open an old book, and you will start to think and feel like a person of that century. Open one of Staunton's books, and you can practically feel his ghost looking over your shoulder!

Here is a list of a few of my favorite old chess books. Their titles are mostly cumbersome, so I'll give brief descriptive titles, or just the author's name, with the year of publication.

1) Stamma 1745: My oldest book is highly significant historically. Phillip Stamma introduced both algebraic notation and composed problems to modern chess, taking both ideas from old Arabic literature. Stamma experimented with both capitals and lower-case letters in different parts of the book. Philidor put out his book in 1747, and beat Stamma in a match; Philidor's victory ensured that his descriptive notation would become more popular in London than Stamma's algebraic. My copy has the bookplate of the Marquis Townshend, who were the family responsible for the Townshend Acts before the American Revolution. My copy also is signed by Stamma, as a sort of copyright protection measure.

2) Twiss 1805: This book is more about draughts than about chess, but it inspired one of my best published historical discoveries about chess. It quotes in full a portion of a book on draughts published in 1756 in London, arguing that draughts strengthens "caution, foresight, and circumspection." These just happen to be the same qualities credited to chess by Ben Franklin, 31 years later. Coincidence? Probably not. Franklin moved to London as a diplomat in 1757, where he probably saw the newly published book.

3) Staunton's Periodicals, 1840's. Howard Staunton was still a "good guy" in the 1840's when he published a chess magazine and a weekly chess column. Those periodicals are fascinating reading. In Staunton's writings you witness the birth of chess tournaments and organizations, and the dramatic announcement of the new Staunton chess set. You will see Staunton trying to create chess's first international code of laws, and struggling to promote women's chess! Staunton was irascible and often unfair, but was a highly progressive man with considerable charisma. His writings are the most fascinating in my collection.

4) Alexandre's Book of Problems, 1845. My copy was the property of Charles Henry Stanley, the first U.S. chess champion, and the first U.S. chess columnist. The copy still has Stanley's bookplate, as well as his handwritten correction of the misspelling of his own name over one of the problems. (He complained about this misspelling in his American Chess Magazine of 1846-47.) Near the time Stanley purchased this book, he played a match for the U.S. championship in New Orleans. This no doubt inspired the imagination of one of the spectators, a little boy named Paul Morphy.

5) London, 1851, by Howard Staunton.

The book of the first international chess tournament ever, Staunton details the attempts of the London chess club to crush the tournament for petty reasons. Many of the games were quite poor; a one-move mate was overlooked, and a bishop left en prise, in two of them. There were numerous notation errors in the published game scores. Still, it's history!

6) The Book of The First American Chess Congress (1859). The account of Morphy's famous success, by which he became the second U.S. chess champion ever (after Stanley). The book is filled with praise of the "young Philidor." The U.S. was entering its chess ascendancy; in addition to Morphy, Sam Loyd was becoming the most famous problemist ever. Unfortunately, that ascendancy barely survived beyond the Civil War.

7) My Autographs: I have the autographs of four world champions, and three F.I.D.E. presidents, among others. The Fischer autograph is most interesting; it's in his Russian language copy of Suetin's book on chess opening theory. Fischer signed it: "Bobby Fischer. May 1959. \$1.00. New York. Earth. U.S.A." Few people know that Fischer sold his entire chess collection to Walter Goldwater in the late 1960's. His friends kept this fact unpublished, perhaps because they feared he was about to give up chess forever. Maybe they thought if this possibility were publicized, Fischer would be too stubborn to change his mind. Goldwater has since resold most of the Fischer items one-by-one to collectors.

I obtained Max Euwe's autograph at the 1981 F.I.D.E. Congress in Atlanta. It was one of the last he ever signed, as he died four months later. I also got Campananes' and Olafsson's autographs there, along with cosmonaut Sevastianov (president of the U.S.S.R. chess federation), and a number of others. I recently bought an old envelope on which Alekhine had written an address in his own hand, and I got Petrosian's autograph at his 1972 Augusta simul.

I have lots of other old books, but these were a few of my favorites. Back to 1985!

## A KNIGHT IN GEORGIA

(by John Crawford)

For some of us the wait between tournaments can be a little too long. I recently stumbled upon a new opportunity to play and would like to pass the word on to other SCCA members, particularly those in the southern part of the state.

With an uneventful Memorial Day weekend looming ahead and a solid "kitchen pass" in hand, I decided to try out the 17th Savannah Coastal Empire Open. I was pleasantly surprised with what I found.

The 5-round Swiss was held May 25 and 26 at Savannah State College. One of the school's professors directed the tournament. Play was held in classrooms, very remindful of Charleston's Trident Technical College playing site. Nine players entered the Open Section. Brad Jeffers, a familiar face in South Carolina tournaments, was highest rated at 1969. SCCA members Harry Lee Abrams from Columbia and Michael Milburn from Burton also entered. The Booster Section (under 1600) had 14 players. Prize money totaled \$150. Trophies were also awarded to section winners, best in class and best unrated.

The tournament was perhaps a little small and weak by normal South Carolina standards; nevertheless, it was well-run, well-supported, and very enjoyable. The 1600 cutoff seemed ideal and provided very competitive play in both sections. A group of youngsters in an apparently active chess program was there on the first day, and the tournament received local television coverage on the last day.

I saw a couple of "innovations", at least for me, while at the tournament. At the beginning of the 3rd round two co-leaders of the Booster Section agreed to a draw before even starting the clock! (I'm not too sure about the legality of that one and know it's not in the spirit of the game.) I also noticed at least three players wired to mini tape recorders and headsets during their games . . . shades of Petrosian who sometimes tuned out by turning off his hearing aid!

Savannah has 2 chess clubs with a combined membership of approximately 40, about 15 of whom are "hard core". The presidents of the clubs, the director, and in fact everyone I met were pleased that the small South Carolina contingent (3) had come. I was asked to extend a welcome to all SC players to their next tournament. I of course told them what I could about upcoming tournaments in our state. The president of the larger club also mentioned that Grandmaster Edmar Mednis was scheduled for a simultaneous exhibition in Savannah in early August. He promised to pass the details to me as they firm up.

Oh yes, I almost forgot! The results. A player from Athens, Georgia won the Open Section. I'm a woodpushing 1335 but played over my head and finished in a three-way tie for 1st in the Booster Section with 4 points. After strength of opponents was measured, I was awarded the 1st place trophy and quickly got it back across the state line! (I don't win that often.) My long-suffering string of losses to higher rated players in SC finally paid some dividends.

Overall, it was a weekend of good chess. I plan to go back next year and hope more SCCA members will join me.

What are chessplayers like as people? Do they really fit the popular stereotypes?

First, let's define "chessplayers". Millions of people have learned the moves, but have shown no further interest in the game. So let's define a chessplayer as one with an abiding interest in the game, its literature, and its organized aspects. With that definition in mind, let's look at these questions.

1) Is chess mostly a man's game? The answer of course is "yes." However, I don't think that there's any reason it has to be that way. Nearly every activity in life is "gender-stamped," whether economic or recreational. These gender designations are typically quite arbitrary, with no apparent logic. For example, why is golf a man's game, while swimming and tennis (more vigorous than golf) are considered coed? I think that historical accidents and cultural stereotypes influence gender-stamping more than reasoning does. The fact that women have been traditionally thought of as less intelligent than men has undoubtedly influenced chess being considered a "man's game."

2) Are chessplayers more intelligent than average? Again, probably "yes." I suspect that the I.Q. scores of chessplayers fall into the "high average" to "very superior" range, with the median perhaps in the "superior" range at least. I suspect that interest in chess is correlated with intelligence level. It is also possible that chess ability is correlated with intelligence, but this is probably a weak relationship. Keep in mind that although Paul Morphy and Bobby Fischer did not succeed in life outside chess, they both came from families that included highly accomplished people.

3) Are chessplayers unconventional? In some respects, yes. Chessplayers tend to be less "uptight" about some social conventions, such as those pertaining to dress. Maybe that shows a tendency to be more logical, since social conventions are often lacking in logic. When I attended the U.S. Open last year in Fort Worth, I saw a fine lecture on computer chess delivered by a world-famous programmer -- in bluejeans. Even the delegates' meeting sported everything from suits to shorts in peaceful coexistence. On the hotel elevator, I encountered Fred Cramer, famous as Fischer's personal spokesman during the Spassky match. Cramer, who wore a pullover sweater, commented on my three-piece suit. I responded (truthfully) that I didn't have enough casual attire for the trip, so I had to bring some suits!

3) Do chessplayers tend to mathematical careers? Possibly, but I doubt it. My observation is that chessplayers occupy the same range of careers that typical middle-class males do. Generally, they probably have overall interest patterns typical for males of their socioeconomic niche, including interest in sports. Their political opinions range from one extreme to the other: Czar Nicholas and Lenin were both chessplayers!

In all, chessplayers are very fine, productive people; a high-quality group to be associated with!

## A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SCCA CONSTITUTION

Our old constitution and bylaws are out-of-date, as they do not fully reflect some changes in practice that have occurred. Furthermore, some amendments have apparently been made at Membership Meetings, but have not been properly recorded in any official minutes that anyone can locate.

Below is a proposed new constitution developed by this editor. It will be on the agenda of this year's Membership Meeting in October. The most significant recommended changes have to do with the election of officers in which it incorporates suggestions by president Floyd that we have a mail ballot.

### Constitution of the South Carolina Chess Association

(developed by John McCrary)

#### Article I - Purpose

The South Carolina Chess Association, hereinafter abbreviated as SCCA, is an organization of persons interested in furthering the enjoyment of chess in South Carolina. It is recognized by the United States Chess Federation as the State Affiliate Chapter for South Carolina.

#### Article II - Membership

A. Any person may become a member of the SCCA by paying the authorized dues. Membership privileges begin when a SCCA elected officer, or member of the Membership Committee, certifies that dues have been received by issuing a signed membership card. Membership privileges terminate in the year indicated, at the end of the same calendar month in which they began.

B. Membership privileges include the following: (1) The right to vote in SCCA elections, and to hold SCCA office; (2) The right to participate and vote in Membership Meetings; (3) The right to receive the SCCA News; (4) Other rights as may be established by the SCCA.

C. Membership dues are determined solely by Membership Meetings. Different dues amounts may be established for different classes of members, but all members enjoy all rights of memberships.

#### Article III - Officers

A. The SCCA has the following elected officers: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The term of each elected office commences at the start of each calendar year in South Carolina, and ends at the end of each calendar year in South Carolina.

B. The elected officers have the following duties:

- 1) The president is responsible for seeing that the provisions of this Constitution, and all decisions of the Membership Meetings, are properly carried out. He presides over the Membership Meetings.



- 2) The vice-president assumes the duties of the president whenever the president is unable to carry them out.
- 3) The secretary keeps records of all SCCA members, including the dates of their memberships and their mailing addresses. The secretary maintains official minutes of all Membership Meetings. The secretary mails to members the SCCA News, the mail ballots, and all other material designated to be mailed to SCCA members.
- 4) The treasurer deposits all monies paid to the SCCA, and pays all debts incurred by the SCCA out of these monies. The treasurer maintains a full record of all SCCA financial transactions, and makes this report available to all SCCA members through the SCCA News. The treasurer's report is also made verbally at the Annual Membership Meeting.

C. Each year the president appoints a nominating committee of five members who do not hold elected office, before the Annual Membership Meeting. As far as possible, the committee members should represent different areas of the state. The nominating committee shall present a list of nominees for the elected offices at the Annual Membership Meeting. Additional nominations may be made at the Annual Membership Meeting by any member, provided that any nomination must be supported by two members other than the nominee to become official. Members not present at the Annual Membership Meeting may make nominations in writing, provided that such nominations are presented by another member to the Annual Membership Meeting; any officer being sent such a nomination is responsible for notifying the Annual Membership Meeting of it. Written nominations must also be supported by two members other than the nominee.

D. The names of all official nominees shall be printed on a mail ballot to be mailed to all SCCA members at their address of record no later than October 31st. Members who choose to vote must return their ballots to the Teller, who is designated by the Annual Membership Meeting. Ballots must be received by the Teller before December 1st to be valid. Write-in votes are permitted. The Teller shall maintain the secrecy of all ballots, separating them from envelopes in which they are received. The Teller shall notify the president and all nominees of the election results no later than December 7th. The Teller must retain all ballots until January 1st, and must make them available during that period for inspection by any SCCA member. The envelopes in which the ballots are received must similarly be retained until January 1st for inspection by any SCCA member, but must be clearly separated from the ballots, with the secrecy of the ballots maintained. Election shall be by plurality of votes. In the event of a tie vote, the nominees who are tied shall determine among themselves, by agreement or by lot, who will occupy the office.

E. The SCCA News Editor is appointed by the president, and may be removed by the president.

F. The SCCA membership committee is appointed by the president. The membership committee is responsible for promoting the growth of SCCA membership. The committee may have any number of members, one of whom shall be designated by the president as chairman.

G. When the annual list of South Carolina delegates, alternate delegates, and alternate voting members to the United States Chess Federation is certified each year, the president and vice-president in office at the time of certification shall occupy, respectively, the first two positions on that list. The president

shall appoint all other persons on that list.

H. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice-president becomes president for the remainder of that term. In that event, the office of vice-president becomes vacant, and is filled according to Article III, Section (I).

I. If an elected office other than president becomes vacant, the other elected officers fill the vacancy by plurality vote in writing, after consultation with each other. The president is responsible for seeing that the duties of the office are fulfilled until the vacancy is filled.

J. An elected office becomes vacant if the officer dies or resigns, or refuses to renew his SCCA membership, or moves to a principal residence outside of South Carolina. An elected officer may be removed from office if all other elected officers vote unanimously in writing to do so.

#### Article IV - Membership Meetings

A. The Annual Membership Meeting will be held each year at the site and during the time of the South Carolina State Championship. All SCCA members will be notified of the starting time of that meeting.

B. Special Membership Meetings may be called by a plurality vote of the elected officers. All SCCA members must be mailed notice of Special Membership Meetings at least 21 days before that meeting, at their mailing address of record.

C. Actions taken at any Membership Meeting determine SCCA policy, provided that they do not contradict the SCCA constitution.

#### Article V - Activities

A. The SCCA shall publish a periodical called the SCCA News four times a year. The SCCA News shall include news of chess activities in South Carolina, as well as other items interesting to members. The SCCA News Editor is responsible for publication, subject to the authority of the president. Tournaments held in South Carolina must require membership in the SCCA or another state association to be advertised in the SCCA News.

B. The SCCA shall hold a tournament for the South Carolina State Championship each year. That tournament should, if possible, commence on the first Friday of October, conclude the following Sunday, and be held in a central area of South Carolina. The South Carolina State Championship tournament shall be open only to permanent residents of South Carolina, and to those temporarily residing in South Carolina for the purpose of military duty or school or college attendance. The president shall be responsible for arrangements for the South Carolina State Championship tournaments.

C. The SCCA shall hold a South Carolina State Postal Championship tournament at least every other year. That tournament may include a series of qualifying sections. Entry shall be open to all who are permanent residents of South Carolina, or who are temporarily residing in South Carolina for military or educational purposes, on the date their playing assignments are mailed. If an entrant ceases residing in South Carolina within ninety days of the mailing of his playing assignment, he is considered to have withdrawn from the tournament. If an entrant resides in South Carolina for at least the

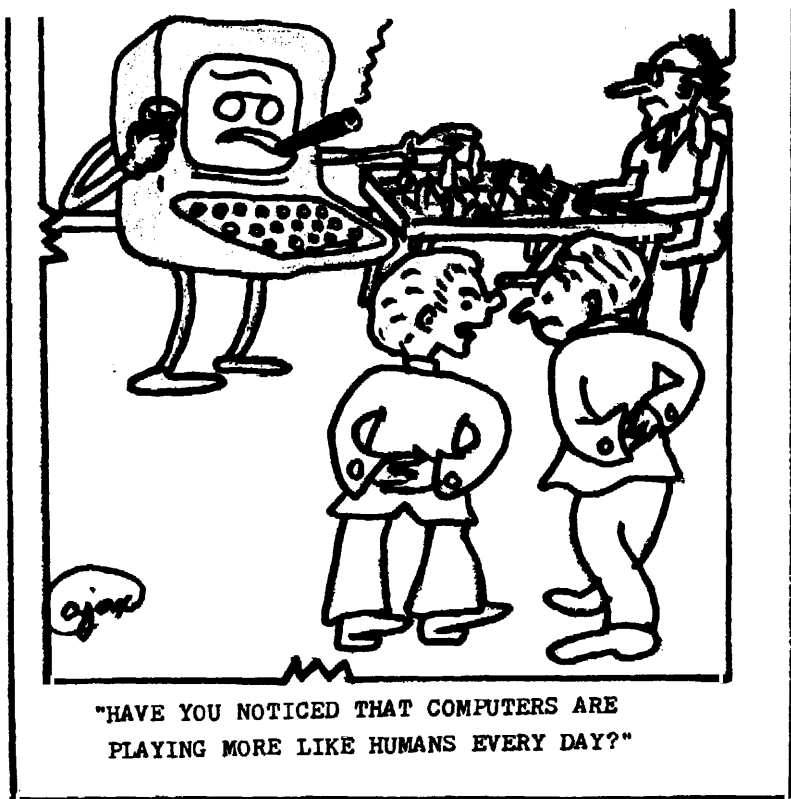
ninety days immediately following the mailing of his playing assignment, but subsequently moves out of the state, he may continue in the tournament section he is in and may compete for first place and the championship, if applicable, but he may not enter subsequent qualifying sections. If a player moves outside the United States at any time during the tournament, the tournament director may at his discretion disqualify the player from the tournament. The president is responsible for tournament arrangements.

D. Players in both the State Championship tournaments described above must remain members of the SOCA throughout the duration of the tournament.

E. If players are tied for the State Championship or State Postal Championship, co-champions shall be declared.

#### Article VI - Amendments

The SOCA Constitution may be amended only if an amendment is passed by majority vote of those present at the Annual Membership Meeting, and is then approved by a majority of SOCA members returning the mail ballots for elected officers, with the proposed amendment being included in the mail ballot.



Rapid Deployment I  
 TD - Henry Cabaniss

June 8-9, 1985

#	Player	Rating	Rounds					Score
			1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Patrick Hart	2078	W17	W6	W9	W2	D3	4.5
2.	Thomas Krause	2178	W16	W21	W3	L1	W9	4.0
3.	Rory Cahoon	1952	W18	W4	L2	W8	D1	3.5
4.	Ronald Robinson	1720	W20	L3	W13	D5	W10	3.5
5.	Robert Moorer	1791	L13	W12	W17	D4	D6	3.0
6.	Robert Strickland	1725	W15	L1	BYE	W11	D5	3.0
7.	Randall Ryan	2121	W11	W10	D8	---	---	2.5
8.	Thomas Waters	1902	W22	W13	D7	L3	---	2.5
9.	Scott Thomson	1870	W12	W23	L1	D10	L2	2.5
10.	John Vonderlieth	1748	W19	L7	W22	D9	L4	2.5
11.	Michael Milburn	1688	L7	W19	W21	L6	D13	2.5
12.	James Hanlon	1534	L9	L5	W24	W22	D15	2.5
13.	John Califf	1488	W5	L8	L4	W17	D11	2.5
14.	John Crawford	1335	L21	L16	D19	W24	W20	2.5
15.	Philip Walker	1502	L6	L17	W20	WF	D12	2.5
16.	James Blanning	1699	L2	W14	WF	---	---	2.0
17.	David Downs	1606	L1	W15	L5	L13	WF	2.0
18.	Philip Lawrence	1587	L3	L20	BYE	---	W24	2.0
19.	Richard Murray	1522	L10	L11	D14	D20	BYE	2.0
20.	Robert Elkins	UNR.	L4	W18	L15	D19	L14	1.5
21.	William Floyd	1755	W14	L2	L11	---	---	1.0
22.	Gale Nicolet	1540	L8	W24	L10	L12	LF	1.0
23.	Jody Poore	1183	W24	L9	LF	LF	---	1.0
24.	Jerry Barrett	UNR.	L23	L22	L12	L14	L18	0.0

## 1985 Charleston Chess Club Championship

April 10, 17, 24 &amp; May 1, 1985

TD - Patrick Hart

#	Player	Rating	Rounds				Score
			1	2	3	4	
1.	Ed McCauley	2079	W12	W6	W8	W2	4.0
2.	Paul Tinkler	2052	W13	W4	W9	L1	3.0
3.	Patrick Hart	2078	W20	L8	W14	W9	3.0
4.	Ron Robinson	1720	W17	L2	W15	W8	3.0
5.	David Causey	1986	W14	L9	D12	W13	2.5
6.	Robert Moorcer	1805	W16	L1	D7	W12	2.5
7.	John Crawford	1335	L8	WF	D6	W18	2.5
8.	Scott Thomson	1870	W7	W3	L1	L4	2.5
9.	Robert Strickland	1761	W18	W5	L2	L3	2.0
10.	Clark Rivers	1279	---	W19	LF	W17	2.0
11.	Wayne Smith	1156	---	L15	WF	BYE	2.0
12.	Al Veronee	1630	L1	W17	D5	L6	2.0
13.	Gale Nicolet	1502	L2	D16	WF	L5	1.5
14.	Ian Wolfe	1468	L5	W18	L3	D15	1.5
15.	Arthur Simeone	1453	---	W11	L4	D14	1.5
16.	Jaime Ibarra	UNR.	L6	D13	L18	W19	1.5
17.	Paul Snyderwine	1113	L4	L12	WF	L10	1.0
18.	Robert Galdonez	UNR.	L9	L14	W16	L7	1.0
19.	Raleigh Rivers	UNR.	---	L10	LF	L16	0.0
20.	James Hanlon	1570	L3	LF	LF	---	0.0

Elections '85

President: Patrick Hart

Vice-President: Robert Moorcer

Treasurer: Patrick Hart

## TOURNAMENT ADS

## SC CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 4-6, 1985

5-SS, 4th floor cafeteria, Seibels Bruce Building, Corner Lady and Bull, Columbia. 3 sections: Closed, open to SC res., students, and military. EF: \$18 if received by 10/3, TL 40/2 \$\$ (340 b/25, 1st, 2nd, Top A. Gtd.): 125-85-50, A 50-30, trophies to 1st Top A. Reg: 6:00-7:45 p.m., Rds: 8, 9:30-4, 10-3. Amateur, open to under 1800/Unr. EF: \$14 if received by 10/3, \$\$ (220 b/25, 1st, 2nd, Top C Gtd.): 85-50-30, C 35-20, trophies to 1st, Top C. TL 40/90, Reg: 8:00-9:15 a.m., Rds: 9:30-4-7, 10-2:30. Reserve, open to under 1400/Unr. EF: \$10 if received by 10/3, \$\$ (150 b/25): 50-30-20, E/Unr 30-20, trophies to 1st, Top E/Unr. TL, Reg, and Rds. same as Amateur section. All: EF's: \$3 more at site S \$6, Jr. \$3. One-half bye available in Rd. 1, 2, or 4 if requested in advance only (add \$2 to EF). Ent: Don Lemaster, 1471 Pine Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. (803) 755-2761. NS. NC. (NOTE: Amateur and Reserve only on October 5-6.)

NEWCOMER SPECIAL: Play in the 1985 Closed Championship (Amateur or Reserve Sections only) for 60% off if you have never played in a tournament, or 30% off if you didn't play in any of the last 4 closed tournaments. Also, a special 50% SCCA membership discount available for those who play in the tournament who have never been SCCA members, or \$2 off SCCA membership if you have not been a SCCA member in the last 2 years.

# Definite!



"DIDN'T I SAY ALL ALONG IT WAS A MISTAKE GIVING HIM  
A POSTAL CHESS ENTRY BEFORE CHRISTMAS?!"

SCCA News is published by the South Carolina Chess Association (SCCA), a non-profit organization of persons interested in chess in South Carolina. The SCCA seeks to encourage and foster the playing of chess within the state. It is the recognized state affiliate of the U.S. Chess Federation for South Carolina.

Any person is eligible to become a member through payment of annual dues to the Secretary. Regular dues are \$6.00. Junior dues for persons 18 years of age and younger are \$3.00. A person may become a patron member by payment of \$10.00.

The SCCA has the following officers:

President: William B. Floyd, 4315 Devereaux Rd., Columbia,  
South Carolina 29205  
Vice-President: Paul E. Tinkler, 1716 Pearlott Street,  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407  
Secretary: Donald Lemaster, 1471 Pine Street, West Columbia,  
South Carolina 29169  
Treasurer: Marion E. Mahaffey, 1207 Memorial Park Road,  
Lancaster, South Carolina 29720  
SCCA News Editor: Robert John McCrary, 564 Rainbow Circle,  
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169  
SCCA News Games Editor: Charles Braun, 7 Winthrop Drive,  
Aiken, South Carolina 29720

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