



VOL. 4 ISSUE 2 · FEBRUARY 2025

CHESS JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the Scott County Chess Club

Come join us on first Saturdays!

Our meetings are usually held on the **first Saturdays** of each month so everyone can plan ahead to join us.

The **NEXT regular meeting** will be held on **February 1** at the **Forest Public Library - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)**

Everyone is welcome! All ages and skill levels
NO membership fee to participate



Players may bring their own chess set if they have one.
We have boards and sets to use.
(provided by Friends of Forest Library group)



scottcountychessclub



@scott_chess

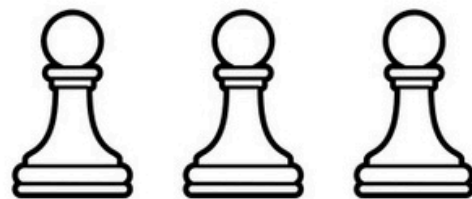


Scott County Chess



This issue:

- FHS 'Future Fest' event
PAGE 02
- 4th Bienville Classic
PAGE 03-04
- Calendar
PAGE 05
- Black History in Chess
PAGE 06
- Tournaments, US Chess Federation, Benefits of Chess
PAGE 07-09



Chess News Highlights

A 'future' in Chess

We have a number of activities planned for February including an appearance at Forest High School for early next week.

The school is hosting a parent night event called "Future Fest" which will feature displays offering information about resources in the community. Scott County Chess will have a booth set up providing information about the game and club.

The event is set for 5:30 until 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, at the high school.



Chess Puzzle by Pete Tamburro

This looks like a tough endgame, but there is even a chance for a mate and at least a way to win Black's bishop. (White's Move)

Solution: This is from a study by C.M. Bent in 1969 1.Nh5+ Kxg6 2.Be8+ Kh6 3.Ng3 Be4 3...Ba8 4.Nf5# 4.Nxe4 Kg7 5.Bh5 h6 6.Kf2 and the White king would enter, gobble up the pawns and mate with K+B+N vs. K, but we won't ask you to do that here. It's a forced mate, but not many people know how to do that.

CHESS PEACE

by Tony Sullivan



"Maybe you need to accept that you are just a pawn in the grand scheme of things!"

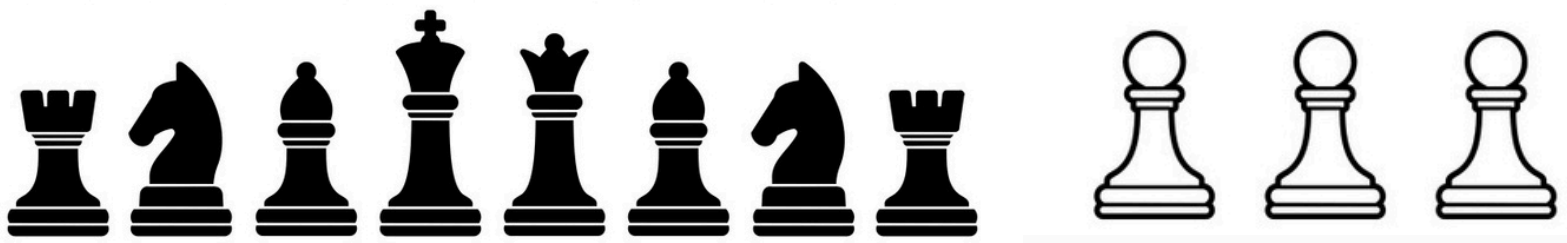
Tony Sullivan is a published cartoonist who combines his love of art with his interest in chess.

Sponsors

Community Bank
Cox Chevron
Bank of Morton
Tom Miles
Priority One Bank
French's Pharmacy
Fountain ACE Hardware
Bank of Forest
Jack Batte and Sons Lumber Mill
Joe McGee Construction

Partners

Central MS Regional Library System
Forest Public Library
Friends of Forest Library
U.S. Chess Federation
MS Chess Association
MS Scholastic Chess Association
Capital City Chess Club
Roosevelt State Park
Forest Baptist Church
Andrew Jackson Council - BSA
Community Bank
SwissSys
MS Trophy
Crown Trophy
Larchwood Designs
MS Secretary of State
Go Daddy (web hosting)
Ingram Printing
Scott County Times
The Spirit of Morton
SuperTalk MS
WLBT - Studio 3
Forest Chamber of Commerce
Town of Lake
City of Morton
Town of Sebastopol
King Registration
Friends of Roosevelt State Park



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

4th annual Bienville Chess Classic is set

MORTON – The 4th annual Bienville Chess Classic tournament is set for **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature only individuals playing rated and unrated games. **Registration is open!** Our first Bienville Classic in May 2022 attracted 32 players from around Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana and Florida. The player from Florida won the grand championship after driving 17 hours to play. In 2023, we attracted 45 players. Our 2024 Bienville tournament set a new record with 58 players participating. This brought our Bienville overall total to 135 players - returning and first timers. Our combined turnout for all eight tournaments held (including Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall and Forest Chess Challenge in August) is now 399 players.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our tournaments possible. This is a tremendous benefit because their contributions help keep the registration fees and expenses as low as possible which means funds left over after all bills are paid can be carried over to the next event. We really appreciate the support from the community and the businesses.

2025 Individual Tournament

Roosevelt State Park, Alfreda-Harris Lodge, 2149 MS Highway 13, Morton

Exit 77 on Interstate 20

4 rounds – Swiss System – Game control: 45+3

active U.S. Chess Federation membership and notation required for rated games

RATED - Open (Cash - \$200 & plaque for 1st, \$100 & medal for 2nd; \$50 & medal for 3rd)

RATED - U1200 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

RATED - U800 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

RATED - U400 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

REGISTRATION

\$35 early bird entry fee through **Saturday, April 5**

(at midnight April 6, **\$40 regular rate**)

(6 p.m. April 11 and thereafter, **\$45 late and on-site**)

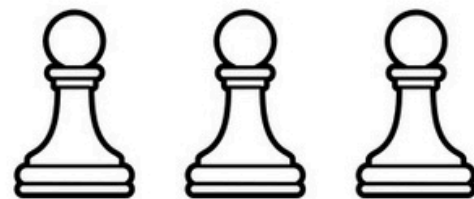
Register Online: Visit kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2025 (preferred)

*This method allows immediate registration using **PayPal, Venmo**, and other credit card options.*

To Register via email if necessary: Send information to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com
Provide Name, U.S. Chess Federation ID Number, Desired section, and Desired method of Payment
(PayPal, Venmo, CashApp) **Email response will be sent upon receipt.**

On site payment is also available if necessary - **cash or check only**

we do not have debit card payment access at this time.



2025 Bienville Chess Classic - continued

Schedule

Registration and Check-in 8 a.m. until 9 a.m.

All players must arrive by 9 a.m. so tournament can start on time.

**Park \$2 entry fee is waived. Tell the gatekeeper at entrance that you are attending the chess tournament.*

Welcome and Briefing of Rules 9:15 a.m.

Round 1 – 9:30 a.m.

Round 2 – 11:30 a.m.

Round 3 - 2 p.m.

Round 4 - 3:45 p.m.

Awards – To be presented after final round

(Please try to plan to stay for awards if possible)

Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0

Requested byes = 0.5 (make requests before start of round)

Players who have byes in the same round may request to play extra rated game.

Tiebreakers Ties will be settled by SwissSys computer program. Cash prizes will be split per USCF rules.

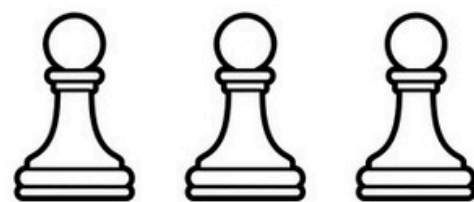
Computer tiebreakers will determine trophy and medal recipients.

Important Tournament Notes

- Registered players will receive a pre-event email on Wednesday or Thursday prior to tournament including important last minute details.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging between rounds, lobby seating is limited; an outdoor patio is available.
- Concession food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments (Paypal, Venmo, CashApp) accepted
- Skittles rooms will be available.
- Spectators allowed to watch tournament for no charge.
- Touch move is in effect.
- If possible, please submit any requests for change of section by 6 p.m. Friday, April 11.

More information is available on our website scottcountychessclub.org

Send questions or requests via email to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com



Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:
see our website at scottcountychessclub.org

* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting
Saturday, February 1, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

* **St. Augustine Spring Tournament**
Saturday, Feb. 1 - Ridgeland

* **PCS Chess Tournament**
Saturday - Feb. 8 - Hattiesburg

* **Girls State Championship**
Saturday, February 15 - Flowood

* **Capital City Chess Club Winter Partner Chess**
Saturday, Feb. 22 - Pearl

* **North Mississippi Championship**
Saturday, March 8 - Water Valley

* **Quads for Cash rated tournament**
Saturday, March 15 - Starkville, Mississippi State University

* **MSCA Individual and Team Chess Cup**
Saturday, March 15 - Starkville, Mississippi State University

* **Mississippi Team Scholastic State Championship**
Saturday, March 29 - Ridgeland

* **Mississippi Seniors State Championship**
Saturday, April 5-6 - Nissan Training Center, Canton

'I'm here
because I
was told
there would
be chess.'



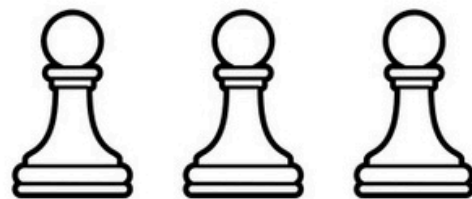
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

* **Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

* **Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



Black History Month in Chess

The game of chess is rich throughout history of cultures and civilizations around the world participating in this great game. We honor and salute them for their contributions. We recognize African-Americans who contributed and those who still serve to keep the game going to future generations of humanity. More information is on our web site.



Dr. James McCune Smith (1813) was the first Black American to hold a medical degree, which he earned in Scotland, not being permitted to study medicine in the United States. Smith was a passionate intellectual, a vocal and active abolitionist, a pioneer in modern medicine, and a great chess enthusiast.

Paul Morphy, the so-called Pride and Sorrow of Chess, one of the most celebrated chess players of all time, has some African heritage. This is quite a claim for Black Americans, and all of the Black chess community, as Morphy is arguably the most ingenious chess mind to have ever lived.



Maurice Ashley is a Jamaican-American chess grandmaster, author, and commentator. In 1992, Ashley shared the United States Game/10 chess championship with Maxim Dlugy. In 1999, Ashley became the first Black chess grandmaster.

Darrian Robinson is the highest-rated African American female chess player in the U.S. Chess Federation. Her USCF rating is 2086 and she holds the title of "Candidate Master." Her career became notable in 2006 when she ranked 6th in USCF's girls under 13 ranking. She represented the U.S. in Batumi, Georgia, at the World Youth Chess Championship.



'Chess is like life. There are rewards for good choices, consequences for the bad choices.'





Tournament action is all around

Many chess players are content to just play casually whenever the opportunity arises. This may include accepting a spontaneous invitation from a fellow chess player or attending a local chess club. However, there is another level to the game of chess - tournaments.

Tournaments are great ways to see how much progress a player is making in learning and growing in the game by discovering how they stack up against other players. It is also an opportunity to learn from other players in seeing a variety of strategies and styles of play. Like any other competitive activity, it is good to keep a healthy attitude and perspective, but playing in tournaments can reap many rewards.

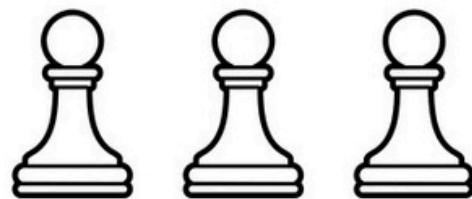
Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within the U.S. Chess Federation through their rating. It is up to each individual to determine what kind of chess life they wish to have.

In Mississippi, there are many opportunities to participate in tournaments. The Mississippi Chess Association sponsors a state tournament each fall for adults and youth. Youth may also participate in the annual scholastic tournaments. These events are precursors to representing the state on the national level at many events.

Tournaments usually include registration fees and players choose what sections they wish to participate in, based on their skill level as determined by their U.S. Chess Federation rating. Tournaments may also include team play where individual players' scores are combined and calculated for overall scores. Prizes may include cash, trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, and certificates.

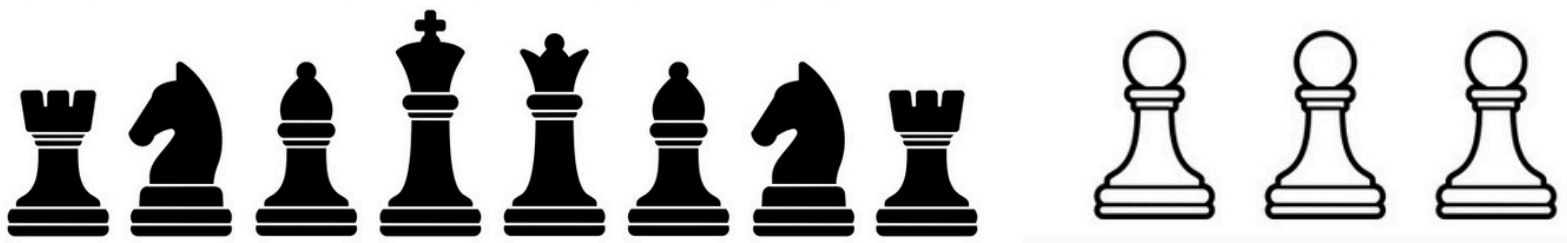
See calendar on page 5 and our website for more information!

scottcountychessclub.org



**'A day
without chess
probably
wouldn't kill
you,
but
why risk
it?'**





U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation, now based in St. Louis, Missouri, regulates and governs the game in the United States. It sanctions tournaments and officials as well as oversees the ratings system that measures players' skills.

Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

US Chess Goals

- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously improve internal operations and member services.

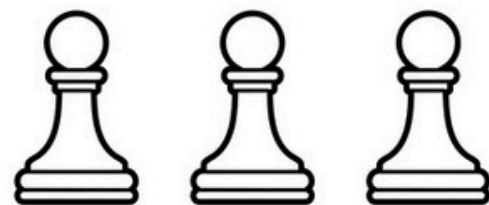
US Chess Core Values

- **Education.** We promote the transformative power of chess for lifelong personal growth.
- **Customer Service.** We endeavor to be responsive, adaptive and proactive in providing services to our customers.
- **Excellence.** We strive to be the best we can be as an organization and in service to the game.
- **Integrity.** We honor, preserve and promote fair play.
- **Inclusion.** We believe everyone has a seat at the chess table.
- **Love of the Game.** We embrace chess as a historic and iconic game, and we celebrate its history, growth and evolution in our activities and services.

Players must join the Federation to obtain a membership number which is required when registering for rated tournaments and other rated events. Tournament directors submit results to the Federation which impacts a player's rating.

For more information and to join, visit <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess>

USCF Membership makes for a great Birthday gift!!



Benefits of playing Chess

- **Improves concentration and memory.** According to studies done at the University of Memphis, playing chess significantly improves children's visual memory, attention span, and spatial-reasoning ability.
- **Enhances reading and math skills.** With its focus on problem solving and move variables, chess can improve math skills. Studies show that chess improves reading skills as well.
- **Fosters logic, critical thinking, and creativity.** Chess favors the "if-then" thinker. "If I move here, then my opponent may move here, here, or even here." That's logic and critical thinking in action! Studies also show that chess boosts creativity, most dramatically in one specific area—originality. Playing chess helps unleash your originality, since it activates the right side of the brain, the side responsible for creativity.
- **Encourages and rewards hard work.** Chess offers immediate feedback. Lose your focus, lose a piece. Practice and study the strategies, win more games. In chess, you control your destiny.
- **Promotes brain growth.** Games like chess that challenge the brain actually stimulate the growth of bodies that send out signals from the brain's neuron cells. Communication within the brain improves and becomes faster.
- **It exercises both sides of the brain.** A study indicated that when chess players were asked to identify chess positions and geometric shapes, both the left and right hemispheres of the brain became highly active.
- **Raises your IQ.** At least one scientific study has shown that playing the game can actually raise a person's IQ.
- **Helps prevent Alzheimer's.** A study found that people over 75 who engage in brain-games like chess are less likely to develop dementia than their non-board-game-playing peers.
- **Increases problem-solving skills.** Chess requires fast thinking and problem-solving on the fly because your opponent is constantly changing the parameters.
- **Teaches planning and foresight.** One of the last parts of the brain to develop during adolescence is the area responsible for judgment, planning and self-control. Chess helps this area's development and helps teenagers make better decisions in all areas of life.
- **Optimizes memory improvement.** Playing chess improves your memory, mainly because of the complex rules you have to remember, as well as the memory recall needed when trying to avoid previous mistakes or remembering a certain opponent's playing style. Many chess players have exceptional memory performance and recall.
- **Improves recovery from stroke or disability.** Chess develops fine motor skills in individuals who have disability or have suffered a stroke or other physically debilitating accident. This form of rehabilitation requires the motion of chess pieces in different directions (forward, backward, diagonally forward motion, diagonally backward motion), which can help develop and fine tune a patient's motor skills, while the mental effort required to play the game can improve cognitive and communication skills. Playing can also stimulate deep concentration and calm, helping to center and relax patients who are experiencing different degrees of anxiety.

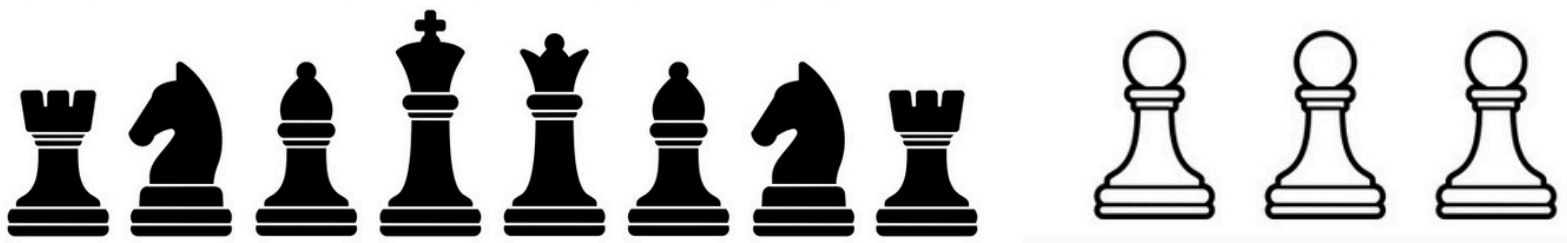
Most of all - Chess is FUN!

'Life is
full
of important
choices.'

'In chess,
there are no
losers.'

Either you
win or you
learn ...

sometimes
both.'



Find Us On Social Media and the Internet itself

scottcountychessclub.org



@scottcountychessclub



**Scott County
Chess**



@scott_chess

Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
send request and other questions to: scottcountychessclub@gmail.com