



# MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the MetroWest Boston chess community since 1983

## February 2007 Newsletter

### Highlights

#### MCC Winter Warmer Swiss Results

Congratulations to the winners!

OPEN	IM Igor Foygel, FM Chris Chase, and NM Charles Riordan (4.0/5)
U1800	Mark Kaprielian (5.0/5)
U1450	Leonard Gruenberg (5.0/5)

#### Groundhog Day Swiss – 4 Rounds

More Winter or Early Spring? Come join us for the Groundhog Swiss at MCC!  
Rounds on **Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27** at 7:30 pm.  
Four sections: Open, U2000, U1700 & U1400.

Emanuel Raisin will have chess books for sale the first week – browsers welcome!

#### Wanted: Your Games

The MCC games collection has been updated and now contains 827 club games. We especially want games from the upper two sections and any others that you think show interesting play. Please drop off your score sheets in the slot near the pairings or send them electronically (preferred). You can email your games in CBV format (generated by Fritz or ChessBase), in PGN format, or as a text file. Send your games to **Games at MetroWestChess dot org**

#### The David Harris Lectures

David Harris will continue his lecture series this month. He will talk on “Gambits and Counter Gambits” at 6:30 pm before the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round (**Tuesday, Feb. 13 and 20**).

Listen and learn as David sheds some insights into a couple of risky topics.  
I'd like to thank David for his consistent help in making the club a better place.

### From the Editor

Did You Know: ***That there are some pretty neat articles on the Members Contributions pages?***

Check out the following link.

[http://www.metrowestchess.org/Community/MemberContributions/Top\\_MemberContributions.htm](http://www.metrowestchess.org/Community/MemberContributions/Top_MemberContributions.htm)

To see many more interesting tid-bits regarding ratings and a whole bunch of other stuff, explore the Knowledge pages which are linked to from the club's home page.

If anyone at the club has something they would like to contribute please contact me at News\_Staff at MetroWestChess dot org.

*Joe Murphy*  
*Newsletter Editor*



## COMMUNITY :: Club and Partner Calendar

<b>Tuesday, February 6</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Round 1 – Groundhog Day Swiss</b> Books from Europe – Emanuel Rasin
<b>Tuesday, February 13</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Round 2 – Groundhog Day Swiss</b> Group Lesson at 6:30 – David Harris
<b>Thursday, February 15</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Chess School – Class 2</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 20</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Round 3 – Groundhog Day Swiss</b> Group Lesson at 6:30 – David Harris
<b>Tuesday, February 27</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Round 4 – Groundhog Day Swiss</b>

## COMMUNITY :: Club Info and Partner Activities

### **CLUB**

#### **Board of Directors**

To learn more about our governance, visit  
[http://www.metrowestchess.org/Community/Club/Governance/Top\\_Governance.htm](http://www.metrowestchess.org/Community/Club/Governance/Top_Governance.htm)

Contact Mark (Kappy) Kaprielian, President

**[MKaprielian at MetroWestChess dot org](mailto:MKaprielian@MetroWestChess.org)**



### **PARTNER**

#### **Greater Worcester Chess Club**

- Organizer Donna Alarie

**[Donnachesspals at aol dot com](http://Donnachesspals.aol.com)**

- 508-847-8574 (night)
- [www.chesspals.com](http://www.chesspals.com)



### **PARTNER**

#### **Books from Europe – Round 1**

- Proprietor Emanuel Rasin
- [www.BooksFromEurope.com](http://www.BooksFromEurope.com)



## MCC Tournament Schedule for 2007 – 2008 and Modified Championship Qualification Rules

*By James Krycka, Monthly Tournament Program Director*

Periodically the monthly program director and an advisory committee review the MCC tournament schedule, make adjustments, and extend the schedule for at least a year. This time the review was considerably more comprehensive – similar in nature to what occurred in 2003 when the club championships were reinstated and a qualification process was implemented. During the past two months, data from the last three years of play were used to review the section breaks, attendance figures, prize structure, and the championship qualification point process. The goal was to determine what worked (and should be preserved) and what areas could be improved to enhance the playing experience at the club going forward. As part of this holistic review, several club members provided suggestions and feedback. The result was a series of incremental and evolutionary changes on which the 2007 and 2008 schedules are based.

Before looking at the changes, I'd like to offer the following high level observations:

- Attendance has been remarkably steady over the past three years averaging 83 per month with a high of 97 and a low of 66.
- In recent months there has been an increase in the number of masters, MCC continues to attract beginners, and many mid-level players choose to play up a section, especially in months that offer three sections. Pairings are improved in months that have four sections.
- The current championship qualification rules tend to favor the player who can score one big win (such as clear first plus bonus points for a 4-0 or 5-0 score) over a player who consistently finishes near the top of his/her section.
- The A-player, who has to play mostly in the Open section because of the section breaks, tends to be disadvantaged relative to the B-player in qualifying for the class (U2000) championships. When a large number of masters enter the Open section, the Expert player has a difficult time earning any championship points.

Considering these and other factors, the following changes have been made to the base 2006 schedule to produce the MCC tournament schedule for the next two years.

### **Sections and section breaks:**

- Offer four sections for all regular monthly events.
- Introduce the new U2000 section in February 2007. Make U2000 and U1900 the norm for the highest Unnnn section break point.
- Raise the level of the intermediate Unnnn sections a little so that U1700 and U1650 are the most common break points.
- Raise the level of the lowest Unnnn section a little so that U1450 and U1400 are the most common break points and eliminate the U1300 section.
- For 2007, hold a 6-round Stanley Crowe Memorial in November-December and use the last available date in December for a G/10 quick chess event.

## Prizes:

- Due to steady attendance, increase the yearly prize fund by \$1010 for 2007 over what it would have been if the 2006 guidelines were used. Some of the money goes to funding the new 4<sup>th</sup> section for 5 and 6 round events.
- This increase adds a little money to most sections throughout the year.
- This increase adds \$300 above the prorated prize structure for the 6-round Stanley Crowe Memorial to create a very moderate “big event” in the fall. The other larger than usual payout occurs during the championship month due to the two extra championship sections.

## Championship point rules:

- Increase the number of placements that earn championship points from 6 to 10 per event, namely 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place for the Open section and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the top two Unnnn sections. This is designed to help those players who frequently finish near the top of their section to earn qualification points.
- Change the placement point ratio from 8-4-2-1 to 8-5-3-2-1. Therefore, instead of a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish being worth twice as much as finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, it now will be equal to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place combined. For example, for a 4-round Open section the new distribution will award championship points of 64-40-24-16 for four placements instead of 64-32-16 points for three placements. This proportionately increases the reward for those who place but do not score a clear 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Reduce the perfect score bonus from 50% of the 1<sup>st</sup> place value to 25% of the 1<sup>st</sup> place value. Thus, scoring 4-0 in the Open will earn 64+16 points instead of 64+32 under the old rules; scoring 4-0 in the U2000/1900 section will earn 32+8 points, etc.
- Award an upset bonus of 15 points for a win against an 1800 or higher rated player where the winner is rated at least 300 points lower (or 600+ lower for a draw). Both players must be fully rated. Note that there have been 11 wins and one draw over the last two years that would have met these criteria.

To test the effect of the new rules, I recomputed the 2007 qualification standings using the new point allocation rules. The result was that the top six qualifiers for both the club and class championships were the same people, but the order of finish varied. The biggest change was that players who frequently scored near the top of their sections rose considerably in the standings, some of whom narrowly missed reaching the top spots. I could not simulate the effect of the new U2000 sections, but this should increase the chances of the A-player to qualify for the class championship.

Periodic mini-reviews will be held to monitor the usefulness of the section breaks, the appropriateness of the prize structure, and the effectiveness of the championship point allocation rules. Adjustments will be made if conditions warrant.

You can view the complete schedule online using the [Future Events](#) link on the MCC home page. Your feedback is welcome. If you have any comments or questions regarding the schedule, please contact me or any board member.

## COMPETE :: Next Tournament

### MCC Groundhog Day Swiss

<b>When</b>	Tuesdays at 7:30 pm February 6, 13, 20, 27	<b>Prizes</b>	
<b>Format</b>	4-SS, 40/90, SD/30	<b>Open</b>	\$160 - 100 - 60
<b>Sections</b>	Open, U2000, U1700, U1400	<b>U2000</b>	\$100 - 60 - 40
<b>Prize Fund</b>	\$ 710 Guaranteed	<b>U1700</b>	\$ 60 - 40 - 20
<b>Entry Fee</b>	Masters                      Free MCC Members              \$15 Others                         \$20	<b>U1400</b>	\$ 40 - 20 - 10
		<b>Championship Points</b>	
		<b>Open</b>	64 - 40 - 24 - 16
		<b>U2000</b>	32 - 20 - 12
		<b>U1700</b>	16 - 10 - 6
			25% bonus for winning all games

## COMPETE :: Previous Tournament Results

Print the section results on the following pages and show them to your friends 😊



**James Krycka**  
Monthly Tournaments Director



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January 2007  
Tournament  
Results

Open Section

## 1st Place Tie 4.0 / 5 points



IM Igor Foygel



FM Chris Chase



NM Charles Riordan

## Upsets over 200 points



Bennet Pellows (4) !



Winston Huang



Paul Mishkin



Edward Astrachan



# MetroWest Chess Club

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January 2007  
Tournament  
Results

**U1800 Section**

**1st Place 5.0 / 5 points**



**Mark Kaprielian**

**2nd Place Tie 4.0 / 5 points**



**Jesse Nicholas**

No picture on file

**Bill Stein**



**Plamen Krastev**

**Upsets over 200 points**



**Steve Wollkind (2)**



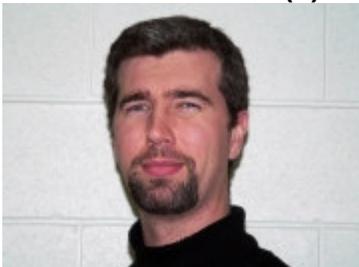
**Vishrut Gupta (2)**



**Jenshiang Hong (2)**



**Tyler Cichowlas**



**Branislav Cenanovic**



# MetroWest Chess Club

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**January 2007  
Tournament  
Results**

**U1450 Section**

**1st Place 5.0 / 5 points**



**Leonard Gruenberg**

**2nd Place 4.0 / 5 points**



**Thomas Simon**

**3rd Place Tie 3.5 / 5 points**



**Alan Schaefer**



**Edward Lafferty**



**William Luff**



**George Callahan**



**Venkata Vutukuri**

**Upsets over 200 points**



**Michael Zhang (2)**



**Gregory Cermak**



**Sabrina Zhang**

## COMPETE:: Club and Class Championship Qualification Standings Through January 2007

With the January tournament we begin the qualification cycle for the 2008 Club and Class Championships. And the new season is off to a great start: 97 players entered the tournament and the Open section featured 7 masters and 9 experts. Since July 2007, we've had at least 4 players of master strength attend every month. In February the club will offer an U2000 section.

The outstanding play of Bennet Pellows in January's Open section was the buzz of the tournament. Bennet, an A-Player, scored two huge upset wins and two upset draws for a performance rating of well over 2350! Although his 3.0/5 score was not enough for a placement, he earned upset bonus points for each of his two upset wins where his rating was 337 and 416 points below the rating of his opponents.

The current 2008 championship qualification standings (in tie break order) are as follows:

### Club Championship Qualifying Points

1.	IM Igor Foygel	54
2.	FM Chris Chase	54
3.	NM Charles Riordan	54
4.	Mark Kaprielian	38
5.	Bennet Pellows	30
6.	Leonard Gruenberg	19
7.	Bill Stein	10
8.	Plamen Krastev	10
9.	Jesse Nicholas	10
10.	Thomas Simon	10

### Class Championship Qualifying Points

1.	Mark Kaprielian	38
2.	Bennet Pellows	30
3.	Leonard Gruenberg	19
4.	Bill Stein	10
5.	Plamen Krastev	10
6.	Jesse Nicholas	10
7.	Thomas Simon	10
8.	Five players	1

For the 2007 Club and Class Championships in May, the following players will be invited to compete in the 5-RR events based on their finish in each category. Note that Hadrian Zbarcea has moved from the area and has stated that he will not be able to participate, therefore the first alternate will qualify. The qualifiers for the 2007 championships (in tie break order) are as follows:

### Club Championship Qualifying Points

1.	IM Igor Foygel	486
2.	NM Denys Shmelov	336
3.	FM John Curdo	280
4.	David Harris	152
5.	FM Chris Chase	112
6.	Ilya Krasik	86

### Class Championship Qualifying Points

1.	Neil Cousin	83
	<del>Hadrian Zbarcea (moved)</del>	69
2.	Bill Michael	52
3.	Robert Harvey	50
4.	Genesis Lung	45
5.	Ethan Thompson	39
6.	Larry Eldridge	38