

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESSON WINS 1985 FRAMINGHAM CHALLENGE CUP

Craig Presson of Ashland decisively won the 2nd Annual Framingham Challenge Cup, an invitational round-robin among six of the leading players of the club ending August 27, defeating top-seeded Mike Lauziere in the final round for a 4-1 score. Presson, despite a string of impressive performances last fall and winter which pushed his rating into the upper 1900s, was not among the pre-tournament favorites due to his weak showings in the two tournaments preceding the Challenge Cup. However, wielding his favorite Queen's Gambit Accepted with deadly accuracy, he notched four wins (losing only to Jack Young) to take first place 1½ ahead of the field.

Sharing second with 2½-2½ scores were experts Mike Lauziere and Drew Sarkisian, both of Oxford, and Paul Heising of Ashland. Lauziere, the runner-up in the 1984 Challenge Cup and top-seed this year, had a shot at first in his final-round encounter with Presson, but could not penetrate Presson's Closed Sicilian and later stumbled in time-pressure. Sarkisian, who won the 1984 Challenge Cup and a share of the 1985 club championship (and the 1983 club speed championship and four other tournaments, making him the winningest player in club history) remained true to him Petrosian-esque style and yielded three draws to the bottom half of the cross-table, pushing himself out of contention. Heising, who has racked up five tournament victories at the club in the last two years and was the club's 1984 Player of the Year, rounded out the group at 50%.

Expert Jack Young of Marlboro, the club's 1984 and 1985 speed chess champion, has a byzantine style (reflecting his study of Myers' Opening Bulletin) that can be both brilliant and erratic. The erratic half showed in this tournament; his only victory came against the tournament winner. However, along the way he was not adverse to playing some hair-raising chess (see his game below against Lauziere). Rounding out the field was Alejandro Beltran of Wayland, whose astonishing string of victories earlier this year boosted his rating 400 points since January (and at this writing has carried him into the Expert range); in May he even won a share of the club's 1985 Championship. However, his over-exuberance in the opening (he played both 1 b4 and 1 g4 in this event) left him winless in this tournament.

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