

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

A USCF AND MACA AFFILIATE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
15 November 1987

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Bruce Downing of Foxboro won the 4th Framingham Challenge Cup, an 8-player all-Expert invitational ending November 3, with a $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ score. Sharing second were Drew Sarkisian of Oxford (the 1984 Challenge Cup winner and 1985 club co-champion), David Drumm of Framingham (the 1986 club champion), and James Matthews of Dedham. Defending Challenge Cup champion Paul Heising of Millbury scored 4-3 for 5th place; trailing were Michael Bienenstock of Newton and 1985 club Player-of-the-Year Joe Pineau of Natick with 2-5, and Kirk Petty of Milford with 1-6. Going into the final round, Downing, Sarkisian, and Matthews each had a chance for clear first, but Downing defeated Sarkisian, while Matthews was upset by Pineau. In the early going Matthews and Sarkisian appeared to be running away with the tournament: Matthews scored four straight wins, including markers over Downing and Heising, while Sarkisian ran up a 3-0 tally. But Matthews then managed only a half-point in the last three rounds, losing to Drumm in the fifth round and then missing even a share of first by losing to Pineau, while Sarkisian yielded three straight draws before losing to Downing in the finale. Meanwhile Downing, the top-seed, had scored only $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the first three rounds, losing to Matthews in the third, but then scored four straight wins to best the field. Drumm scored wins in each of the last three rounds to offset his 1-2 start. Heising made a valiant attempt in his title defense, going 3-1 in the first four frames, losing only to Matthews. However, he lost his critical sixth-round game with Downing, a game played with abandon by both players, each of whom needed a win to stay in contention for first. Heising then missed a share of second when he succumbed to Bienenstock in the final round. The club hopes to upgrade the 1988 Challenge Cup to a FIDE-rated futurity.

NORFOLK-MIDDLESEX CHESS ASSOCIATION