

CHESSWATCH

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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TAL DAZZLES CAPACITY CROWD AT CLUB

Former World Champion Mikhail Tal took on 30 players in a simultaneous exhibition on March 8 at the club. Watched by almost 100 spectators and numerous chess columnists and photographers, the legendary Grandmaster took just under three hours to score 26 wins, two draws, and two losses. Tal preceded the exhibition with an hour-long lecture/Q&A period, enchanting the overflow crowd with his anecdotes and dry wit.

Winning against Tal were Bobby Seltzer of West Roxbury and Bob Salvas of Cumberland RI. An eerie aspect of Seltzer's game was that Tal played against the 12-year old former New England Junior Champion exactly the same line of the Sicilian he played in his first game against Bobby Fischer in 1959-- until Tal impetuously sacrificed his queen, a sacrifice Seltzer coolly refuted. Tal also overreached himself in another Sicilian against Salvas, who simplified to a won endgame. Drew Sarkisian of Oxford, a frequent club titlist, scored one of the draws, holding the upper hand in the game until he was the last holdout, and Tal pulled up a chair to sit across the board from him. Michael Perlmutter of Sherborn, who has never played tournament chess, fought resolutely to obtain the other draw.

Losing to Tal were Michael Becker, Lee Hull, Joe Pineau, Mike LeBlanc, Andrei Poonen, Dominic Nocera, Brad Merrill, Victor Kutkowitz, Dave Palmer, Larry Eldridge, Frank Niro/Rob Huntington (Rob starting Frank's game when Niro was delayed, and playing an opening Niro detests!), Bob Oakley, Michael Dreese, Bill Cloos, Kirk Petty, Michael Bienenstock, Matt Rothman, Alan Beck, John Farrell, David Greenberg, David McGilvray, Lee Coldwell, Frank Magdits, John Gibbons, Dave Berube, and Walt

CALENDAR

April 12-13 (Tuesday, Wednesday): TEAM MATCH AGAINST THE WACHUSETT CHESS CLUB OF FITCHBURG. First round in Framingham on Tuesday, second round in Fitchburg on Wednesday.

April 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24 (Tuesdays): 1988 FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP. 6-SS in one section. EF: FCC members \$10, others \$13. Prizes: \$75-50-30-25, with title and trophy to top club member, 1st U2000/U1750/U1500 each \$40. Large turnout expected (last year: 58), so come early to register (before 7:15).

April 23 (Saturday): CHESS CONGRESS INVITATIONAL. Framingham will be one of five clubs to field teams in this unusual, Hutton-system team tournament to be held in Westford, MA. For more information, see Warren Pinches.

Champion. Tal's best wins were scored against Champion and Dreese, though his queen sacrifice (this one sound) against Petty was also notable. Among the losers, Berube and Pineau came the closest to scoring against the former World Champion.

The exhibition was organized at the last minute when Tal made plans to attend the National Open in Chicago. Tal joins such players as Boris Spassky, Sammy Reshevsky, Zsuzsa Polgar, Roman Dzindichashvili, and Nigel Short among the world-class players who have appeared at the club during the last four years.

RECORD TURNOUT FOR FEBRUARY OCTAGONAL

Though seven of the last nine tournaments at the club have attracted 50 or more players (including the 55-player March Trisectional now in progress)

octos have been among the club's less popular tournaments, never before attracting more than 38 players. The February Octos ending February 20, however, had 50 entrants in six sections. Drew Sarkisian of Oxford rebounded from his January showing to win Section I with 2.5 points, ahead of Dave Ferreira of Watertown, Michael Bienenstock of Newton, and Adam Bemporad of Newton, each with 2. Dan Fortier swept through Section II with a 3-0 finish; Jorge Godoy of Framingham and Geoffrey Casteel of Maynard shared second a point back. Archie Woods of Natick topped Section III, also with 3-0, with a tie at 2-1 among Matt Rothman of Randolph and Jody Overland of Framingham. After sweeping his section in the West Suburban Winter Grand Prix, Stan Crowe of Newton continued undefeated through the February Octos, winning Section IV with a 3-0 score, ahead of Syd Michael of Natick, Bob Curley of Milford, and Dick Reil of Sutton. Dave Berube of Westboro won Section V, also at 3-0, with Frank Magdits of Mendon second at 2.5. Unrated John Poirier of Worcester bulldozed Section VI with 3-0; Fran Litterio of Sterling, Raymond Jaeger of Framingham, and Dave McGilvray of Southboro shared second.

"LONG ISLAND KNIGHTMARES" RETAIN NEW ENGLAND TEAM TITLE

For a fourth straight year the club hosted the New England Amateur Team Championship, and for a fourth straight year saw the title exported to New York, as the top-seeded "Long Island Knightmares" (Roger LaFlair, Evan Turtel, Alan Kantor, and Paul Ascolese) won the title for a second straight year, scoring four match victories, and 11.5 game points. Wang Laboratories (Brian Wall, Mark Lanin, Joel Johnson, and Gary Oro) took clear second, with three match points (losing in the second round to the "Knightmares") and 12.5 game points. Also at three match points but only 11 game points was an upstart team (tenth-seeded) from Worcester Polytechnic, calling themselves "Rook Out! IM Goring to Kiel Euwe b4 Heuer Reti to Colle Mate"; they clinched at least the Under-1900 team award after only three rounds, and went on to take third place overall. Winning the Under-1900 trophies instead were the "Nasty Knights" of the North Shore Chess Club of Lynn, while the Providence Post Office won first Under-1600. Best results on each board were scored by Brian Wall, Mark Lanin, Alan Kantor, and Paul Ascolese. The Framingham Chess Club fielded three

teams; "The Dave Greenberg Fan Club" (Jack Young, Drew Sarkisian, Mike Lauziere, and Adam Devoe) scored 2.5 match points and 9 game points, with their finest effort the ouster of the 1985 and 1986 champions, "Nation of Sentra", with a 3-1 win in the final round. "Mike's Comics" (Rob Huntington, Mike Grant, John Fanning, and Mike Dreese) finished with 1.5 match and 7 game points, after a 0-4 mauling in the first round by Wang Labs. "Turm and Drang" (Slawomir Luczak, Svein Abrahamsen, Matt Rothman, and Tony Costa) had a dreadful weekend, finishing last with 0.5 match and 3.5 game points. Other club members included Dave Greenberg, who captained "e4=mc2", and Pat Walker and Adam Bemporad, who played on an all-Newton "Motley Crue".

SCHEDULE CHANGES: THE BAD NEWS...

Due to continuing shortages of manpower to organize and direct tournaments, the April and May one-day tournaments, and the West Suburban Summer Grand Prix in June, have been cancelled. Hopefully the club's schedule of weekend tournaments will return to normal after this three-month hiatus. Also, at the club's annual meeting on March 1, the membership decided to close the club for the two Tuesdays during this year's US Open in Boston, in light of the high level of participation in that tournament expected among club members. The dates: August 9 and 16.

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

The club has reached a tentative agreement with Soviet Grandmaster Mark Dvoretzky to lecture at the club on Saturday, August 6. Dvoretzky is one of the leading trainers and coaches in the Soviet Union, and will lecture on Soviet training techniques and tournament tactics. The lecture is timed to occur the day before the start of the US Open in Boston. Remaining details will be settled by early summer.

A ONE-ROUND TOURNAMENT?

The Framingham Chess Club, along with the Billerica, Nashua NH, Wachusett (Fitchburg), and Nashoba Valley (Westford) Chess Clubs, will participate in an unusual team tournament at Westford on Saturday, April 23. The ten-player teams will be paired using the Hutton System, in which each team will play a composite of the other teams in a single-round event. This format, popular

in Britain, is rarely seen in the United States. The tournament will be held 12 noon to 5 p.m., using 40/90, 15/30, SD/30 time limits. Interested players should contact Warren Pinches.

CLUB ELECTION (YAWN) RESULTS

At the club's annual membership meeting on March 1, the results of the 1988 club elections were announced. With all candidates running unopposed, suspense was absent and only 16 ballots were returned. All five incumbent officers were returned for another term: Jack Martin (Wayland) as President, Dave Palmer (Sudbury) as Vice-President, Warren Pinches (Boston) as Program Director, Tom Zuppa (Billerica) as Treasurer, and Paul McClanahan (Wrentham) as Membership Secretary. The growth in the club's membership added a fifth Member-at-Large position, and with two incumbents (Glenn Gates and Herb Weisberg) retiring from office due to other commitments, three new Members-at-Large were selected. Joining incumbents Paul Heising (Millbury) and Bob Matheson (Natick) are Dave Berube (Westboro), Brad Merrill (Westboro), and Kirk Petty (Milford). Berube is interested in a local

scholastic program and a membership drive, while Merrill, an active tournament player at the club for several years, is coaching a local scholastic group. Petty has a formidable background as a tournament director, having served as state association president, tournament clearinghouse, and USCF regional Vice-President in Louisiana before relocating to Massachusetts last summer. The first meeting of the new club Board of Directors should occur in early April.

NEW MEMBERS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

Matthew Rothman (Randolph)
Pippin Petty-Schroepfel (Westboro)
Walter Graustein (Bolton)
Joe Sparks (Somerville)
George Norman (Arlington)
Michael Perlmutter (Sherborn)

**THE 1988 FRAMINGHAM
CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
April 19-May 24
Single Section, Six Round Swiss
Your Shot at the Top!**