

# CHESSWATCH

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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## SHAW WINS FRAMINGHAM CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP IN UNPRECEDENTED SWEEP

National Master Alan Shaw of Somerville won the 1988 Framingham Chess Club Championship, ending May 24, to become the club's fifth champion. Shaw scored a perfect 6-0, the first in the history of the always ferociously-contested event. Finishing equal second at 5-1 were David Ferreira of Watertown and John Fanning of Scituate, with Drew Sarkisian of Oxford, James Matthews of Dedham, and Rob Huntington of Wayland equal fourth at 4.5-1.5.

With Fanning claiming a share of second, the Under-2000 prize was divided eight ways, among Mike Grant of Somerville, William G. Michael of West Bridgewater, Jorge Godoy of Framingham, Larry Eldridge of Newton, Slawomir Luczak of Worcester, Adam Bemporad of Newton, Svein Abrahamsen of Natick, and Ralph Schinzel of Holliston, all at 4-2. (Experts Bruce Downing of Foxboro and John Neville of Nashua NH also finished 4-2.) First Under-1750 was Bob Oakley of Newton with 3.5-2.5, while the Under-1500 prize was divided three ways, among Jeffry Gibson of Sudbury, Kenneth Cooper of Millbury, and Rich O'Keeffe of Watertown.

Shaw, the top-seed, defeated William McAllister of Framingham and Eldridge in the first two rounds, and recovered from a rocky start to down Joe Pineau of Natick in the third. Shaw then outgunned Godoy in the fourth, but barely extracted a win from a queen ending against Michael in the fifth round. Sarkisian, the 1985 co-champion and second-seeded player, had slipped off the pace with a draw in the first round against David Faramarzpour of Sudbury, before reeling off four wins in the middle rounds, the last two against Experts Rob Huntington and John

## CALENDAR

**June 7, 14, 21 (Tuesdays): FRAMINGHAM JUNE QUADRANGULAR.** 3-RR in 4-player sections; possible 3-SS in odd-numbered bottom section. EF: members \$8; others \$12. Prizes: \$20 1st each section.

**June 28 (Tuesday): JUNE TIME-HANDICAP SPEED TOURNAMENT.** RR-format. 5-minute games with time handicap of 1 min/100 rating points. EF: \$2; all entries returned as prizes.

**July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2 (Tuesdays): FRAMINGHAM SUMMER SECTIONAL SWISS.** 5-SS in Open and Under-1750 sections. EF: FCC members \$8; others \$12. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20 each section; 1st Under-1900/1500 \$20 each.

**August 9, 16 (Tuesdays): CLUB CLOSED** for US Open in Boston.

Neville. Sarkisian thus came into the final round trailing Shaw by a half-point, but with White against Shaw in the final round.

In the decisive game, Shaw transposed into the Dutch Defense and generated a standard king-side attack against Sarkisian, who kept the game very closed: no pawns were exchanged until move 35. While Sarkisian's forte is closed positions, in this game he became exceedingly cramped trying to restrain Shaw's kingside breakthrough. First Shaw, and then Sarkisian, drifted into time-trouble, producing a flurry of moves at the flag: the players in fact played on to move 45 before realizing they had made the time control at the 40th move. During the scramble both players also left en prise strategic pawns. As

the second time control began, however, it was clear that Shaw had forced a decisive breakthrough, and he went on to force the win of a piece on move 52, and so clinch the club title.

One of the wildest games of the tournament occurred on board two in the final round, in which Fanning dropped a piece on move 5, but proceeded to complicate the game so enormously (by move 30 the position resembled a composed problem) that Downing lost the thread of the game, losing back the piece and transposing to an untenable endgame. (Having been knocked out of the Mark Bond Classic by Fanning six months ago, Downing sadly commented after the game that he was determined to make Fanning an Expert yet.) Thus the irrepressible Fanning, who had previously defeated Ferreira and suffered his only defeat at the hands of William Michael, cliched a share of second place, despite being only the fifteenth-seeded player. Ferreira defeated William Michael in the finale with his trusty King's Indian Attack, recovering from his third-round loss against Fanning to post a 5-1 finish. Sarkisian shared fourth place with Matthews, who defeated Schinzel in the final round, and Huntington, who beat Oakley.

Although the tournament started with ten players over 2000, the early rounds proved fatal to the ambitions of most of the Experts: Sarkisian, Neville, and Michael Bienenstock of Newton all suffered first-round draws, while Downing, Matthews, and Ferreira all were upset on adjacent boards in round three. After three rounds Shaw shared the lead only with Michael (1900), Godoy (1867), and Fanning (1861); after Shaw defeated Godoy and Michael downed Fanning in round four, Shaw then beat Michael in round five to take a clear lead. Sarkisian and Neville trailed by a half-point after four, and in round five Sarkisian defeated Neville to earn the right to face Shaw for the title.

Among the lower-rated players, notable performances were Schinzel (1752, 24th-seed) defeating Bienenstock and Godoy back-to-back in rounds four and five, and Oakley's 2.5-0.5 with two half-point byes, which carried him undefeated into the final round. The biggest upset was O'Keeffe's third-round win over Mark Steinberg of

Framingham, despite the 410-point differential.

1987 Champion Jack Young of Acton was unable to defend his title due to other commitments, but was on hand during the final round to congratulate his successor. Previous champions had been David Drumm of Framingham (1986), Drew Sarkisian of Oxford and Alejandro Beltran, now of Flushing NY (co-champions in 1985), and Larry Williams of Worcester (1984). The 1988 Championship attracted a 58-player field, a record for the club championship which also tied the club's previous record weeknight tournament turnout. Warren Pinches directed.

### **CLUB TO RESTRUCTURE ADMINISTRATION DURING COMING MONTHS**

Through its history the Framingham Chess Club has been almost entirely dependent on one person--Program Director Warren Pinches--to manage its affairs. This has not only left the club dangerously vulnerable should Pinches be unable to continue in this role, but has also caused the club to enter into a period of stagnation, with the day-to-day details of the club strangling any serious work on the expansion and improvement of the club. Accordingly, the club Board of Directors at its May 15 meeting launched an ambitious plan to recruit volunteers to take over all of the routine functions of the club, so the club's more experienced organizers can be freed to work on more ambitious programs for the club. Available at the club (and included with the mailing of this newsletter to club members) are the Framingham Chess Club "Classified Ads", detailing the volunteer opportunities available within the club. As many as 50 volunteers could easily be absorbed by the club's many activities. The club leadership calls on each member to review this list, and decide how he can best support the club.

Mark Steinberg of Framingham has been appointed Volunteer Coordinator to manage this transition. The fundamental jobs in keeping the club open on Tuesdays are the ones in which volunteers are most sought: the set-up and closer crews, directors for weeknight tournaments, and persons willing to keep the financial and membership records of the club. Without this minimum, the club cannot even

survive; with volunteers for these and other jobs, the club would have the capability to develop far beyond its existing services to become one of the premier clubs in the country.

### **PENALTIES FOR GAME FORFEITURES TO BE ENFORCED**

There has been an increasing trend in recent tournaments towards players not contacting TDs if they cannot make a tournament round, and thus forfeiting the game to their opponent. In particular, this occurred 15 times in the club championship alone. Since the club membership is drawn from a large geographic area, a player may drive more than 40 miles only to have his opponent fail to show. (John Neville, of Nashua NH, obtained two forfeit wins in back-to-back rounds during the club championship.) The USCF permits tournament organizers to impose fines on players guilty of such poor sportsmanship. The club membership, at the 1987 General Membership meeting, voted to support such sanctions, though it was hoped we would not have to resort to such measures.

In light of recent trends, however, the club Board of Directors at their May 15 meeting voted unanimously to fine a player who fails to appear for a scheduled tournament game one-half the amount of the entry fee of that tournament; the player may not continue in that tournament or register for any subsequent tournament until the fine is paid. Further, if a player forfeits again within a twelve-month period, the fine will be increased to the full entry fee of the tournament. The TD will have the discretion to waive these fines if the player has an acceptable excuse, but only the most dire of emergencies--one that prevents a player even from being able to make a phone call--would be deemed sufficient excuse. In the future, if you don't show, be prepared to pay.

### **PINCHES TO GIVE TD SEMINAR**

Club Program Director Warren Pinches, a USCF Senior Tournament Director and former member of the national TD Certification Committee, will give a seminar on tournament direction Thursday evening, June 16 at a location in the Framingham area.

Pinches gave such seminars most recently in late 1986. Any individual interested in tournament direction should contact Pinches at the club or at 353-1889 for more details.

### **GAMES FROM ROUND SIX OF THE FRAMINGHAM CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

#### **DREW SARKISIAN (2125) vs. ALAN SHAW (2267), DUTCH DEFENSE**

1. d4 e6 2. c4 Bb4+ 3. Bd2 Qe7 4. Nf3 f5 5. a3 Bxd2+ 6. Qxd2 Nf6 7. Nc3 b6 8. e3 Bb7 9. Be2 d6 10. Qc2 0-0 11. Rc1 Nbd7 12. 0-0 Ne4 13. b4 Rf6 14. d5 Nxc3 15. Qxc3 e5 16. Rce1 Rh6 17. g3 Rf8 18. Nh4 g5 19. Ng2 Nf6 20. f3 Bc8 21. Qd2 Qg7 22. Rf2 Rh3 23. Ref1 Re8 24. Qc2 Qh6 25. Ne1 g4 26. f4 Bd7 27. Bd3 e4 28. Be2 Nh5 29. Rg2 Qf8 30. Qc3 Nf6 31. Kf2 h5 32. Rh1 h4 33. Rgg1 Qh6 34. Kg2 Kf7 35. Kf1 hxg3 36. Rg2 Rxh2 37. Rhg1 Rxg2 38. Nxx2 Qg7 39. c5 Rh8 40. c6 Bc8 41. Bc4 Rh2 42. Qe1 Qh6 43. Ke2 Qh3 44. Qf1 a6 45. b5 a5 46. a4 Ng8 47. Kd1 Ne7 48. Kc2 Ng6 49. Be2 Nh4 50. Nxh4 Qxf1 51. Rxf1 Rxe2+ 52. Kc3 Rh2 0-1

#### **BRUCE DOWNING (2122) vs. JOHN FANNING (1861), PIRC DEFENSE**

1. d4 g6 2. e4 Bg7 3. Nf3 d6 4. Bc4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nxe4 6. Bxf7+ Kxf7 7. Nxe4 Rf8 8. Bg5 Kg8 9. Qd3 Bf5 10. Qb3+ d5 11. Ng3 Be4 12. Nxe4 Qd7 13. 0-0-0 Nc6 14. Nc5 Qg4 15. Qxd5+ Kh8 16. Qe6 Qxg2 17. d5 Rxf3 18. Rhg1 Qxf2 19. dxc6 Qxc5 20. cxb7 Rb8 21. Bxe7 Bxb2+ 22. Kb1 Qb5 23. Qc8+ Kg7 24. Bf8+ Rxf8 25. Qd7+ Qxd7 26. Rxd7+ Rf7 27. Rxf7+ Kxf7 28. Kxb2 Rxb7+ 29. Kc3 Rb5 30. Rd1 Ke6 31. Rd4 Rc5+ 32. Kb3 g5 33. h4 h6 34. c4 Kf5 35. Kb4 Re5 36. hxg5 c5+ 0-1

#### **DAYE FERREIRA (2012) vs. WILLIAM G. MICHAEL (1900), KING'S INDIAN ATTACK**

1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nbd2 Bc5 5. g3 0-0 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. 0-0 dxe4 8. dxe4 e5 9. Qe2 Re8 10. Nb3 Nd4 11. Nfxd4 Bxd4 12. Rd1 Bg4 13. Bf3 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 Qe7 15. c3 Bb6 16. Bg5 Qe6 17. Bxf6 gxf6 18. Rd5 c6 19. Rd3 Rad8 20. Rad1 Qe7 21. Kg2 Rxd3 22. Rxd3 Rd8 23. Nd2 Rxd3 24. Qxd3 Qc5 25. Qf3 Bd8 26. Qg4+ Kh8 27. Qc8 Qe7 28. Nc4 Qc7 29. Qg4 Be7 30. Ne3 Qd8 31. Qh5 Qg8 32. Nf5 Bf8 33. Qd1 Bc5 34. Qd7 Qf8 35. Qxb7 Qe8 36. b4 Bb6 37. Nd6 1-0