

CHESSWATCH

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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SARKISIAN AND BIENENSTOCK TIE IN SUMMER SECTIONAL

Drew Sarkisian of Oxford and Michael Bienenstock of Newton scored 4.5-0.5 to outrun the field in the 51-player Framingham Summer Sectional, ending August 2. A full point back, Robert Martin of Framingham, Brad Merrill of Westboro, and Rob Huntington of Wayland shared third. Sarkisian downed Merrill in the final round, as Bienenstock edged top-seeded Martin. Kenneth Cooper of Millbury scored 5-0 to demolish the lower section; Stan Crowe of Newton took clear second with Bob Engels of Framingham, Archie Woods of Natick, and Ralph Schinzel of Holliston equal third. Dave Berube and Brad Merrill directed.

MERRILL AND MCALLISTER ASSUME KEY EXECUTIVE POSTS; STEINBERG JOINS BOARD

The club's Board of Directors underwent a significant restructuring at a series of meetings in June and July, as part of its ongoing effort to decentralize management functions. Brad Merrill, who was elected to the Board as a Member-at-Large in March, was named to the club's Vice-Presidency, after two-term incumbent Dave Palmer had resigned due to other pressing time commitments. William McAllister took over as the club's new Treasurer; incumbent Treasurer and former club President Tom Zuppa stepped aside to make room for McAllister's accounting expertise. Zuppa will remain on the Board as a Member-at-Large. Mark Steinberg of Framingham was also named as a Member-at-Large; Steinberg's work as

CALENDAR

August 23, 30; September 6, 13 (Tuesdays): FRAMINGHAM SUMMER CLASS TOURNAMENT. 4-SS in Master/Expert, Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D/E sections. TD reserves right to merge sections if few entries in a section. EF: FCC members \$8; others \$12. 1st-2nd \$40-20 in each section.
September 20 (Tuesday): FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP. RR-format, 5-minute games. Upper and lower sections will be created based on entries. EF: FCC members \$2; others \$3. Title and trophy to top-finishing club member.

Volunteer Coordinator has been largely responsible for the success of the club's reorganization efforts during the last four months.

The new lineup on the Board of Directors includes Jack Martin of Wayland as President, Brad Merrill of Westboro as Vice-President, Warren Pinches of Boston as Program Director, William McAllister of Framingham as Treasurer, Paul McClanahan of Wrentham as Membership Secretary, and as Members-at-Large, Paul Heising of Millbury, Bob Matheson of Natick, Dave Berube of Westboro, Tom Zuppa of Billerica, and Mark Steinberg of Framingham.

MEMBERS SPEAK THEIR MINDS

The tabulated results of the questionnaires circulated at the club during June yielded few surprises, as the membership seemed generally content with the status quo. The most popular tournament formats proved to be the

two- and three- section Swisses, with single-section Swisses and Octagonals significantly less popular, and Quads either loved or hated-- mostly the latter. The length of tournaments was judged to be about right, with some preference for longer tournaments. Occasional low entry--low prize tournaments were favored 3-2, while the members split almost 50-50 on whether trophies or other non-cash prizes should be used more often. Of non-rated events, the members liked an occasional speed or Action event, but time-handicap speed tournaments took a surprising drubbing. One-day weekend tournaments were strongly supported by the members, with an Octagonal format being the top choice. The members also supported a continuation of weekend Grand-Prix level tournaments, by a 6-1 margin.

The club's no-smoking policy continued to be supported by a huge majority, but the members preferred 3-1 that smoking continue to be allowed in the skittles room. The club's new policy of fining players for forfeiting games received enthusiastic and almost unanimous support. Use of sudden-death time controls was

strongly endorsed; in general members were comfortable with the club's standard 40/90, SD/45 time limit. The club's annual dues and tournament entry fees were felt to be reasonable if not too low, and most members had no objection even to a dues increase to boost the club's reserves. While most members attributed the club's success to the quality of its administration, almost uniformly they also cited the club's friendly, supportive atmosphere, an attribute of the club for which every member may claim credit.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE: FOOTSOLDIERS STILL NEEDED

The set-up of the club at the start of the evening and the pack-up at its conclusion are now in the hands of set-up and pack-up crews, but Volunteer Coordinator Mark Steinberg reports that we have only one crew of each, while we had hoped to have several such crews to rotate from tournament to tournament. Members who can get to the club early on Tuesday evenings or stay until the end of the evening are urged to contact Steinberg at the club or at 508-875-2331.

FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB
c/o Warren Pinches
115 Bay State Road #7
Boston, MA 02215