

Open/Lines

the newsletter of the
Framingham/Metrowest Chess Club

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The Framingham/Metrowest Chess Club

Meetings and tournaments:
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Kennedy Senior Center
Natick, Massachusetts
(on Route 135)

Information: (508) 788-3641

email: mcc@world.std.com

President: Mark Kaprielian
(508) 620-7647

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Editor: Derek Slater
(508) 620-7967
email: dslater@cio.com

Martial chess / by Nevin Grimsley

Chess is a great sport, but let's admit it doesn't offer much in the way of cardiovascular fitness.

So, hoping to expand my repertoire of hobbies a bit -- as well as to get some exercise and prevent a stroke before I turn forty -- I recently started checking into martial arts classes. What I learned about Karate also taught me something about chess.

Martial arts are very *cool*, don't you think? As I researched a bit, I found that there are practically limitless schools and styles of fighting. If you are a straight-ahead power puncher, Karate, with its direct chops and strikes, might fit your taste. If, on the other hand, you are a smaller person, you might prefer a style like Judo, where you throw your opponents by using their own weight and momentum against them. Aikido is a method whereby you can control a larger antagonist strictly by the angle and pressure you apply against one of his wrists or elbows. Kung Fu, Tae Kwon Do, Wing Chun, Jiujitsu.... the list goes on. Even for those of us who have no intention of getting into a street brawl, these arts have a lot of benefit in exercise and self-discipline.

Chess has a lot going for it, but on the *coolness* scale it doesn't stack up very well compared to martial arts! First of all, look at our terminally boring terminology.

Martial arts student: "Yesterday at my Tiger Crane Kung Fu class, a Black Belt taught me the flying roundhouse kick!"

Chess student: "Yesterday at the chess club, a B-player taught me when to fianchetto in the English!"

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