

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF DEREK MEREDITH

On the second meeting of 2013, January 8, the club continued its series of tournaments held in tribute to its veteran members with the Matt Columbe Quick Chess Tournament. Although some of our longest-standing members knew Matt by his name back in the 1970s and 1980s, all of you know him today as USCF National Master Derek Meredith. Derek has had a very long history with the NBCC. Derek, whose membership in our organization spans about thirty years but is separated by a ten-year absence due to time spent creating his business, has been one of our club's greatest advocates. He has contributed so much to the club in his role as its spiritual leader since 2011. Specifically, Derek's ideas on using different tournament formats, as with the Club Championship, and starting new tournaments, like the Planet Earth Chess Championship, have added much variety to the club's schedule of activities and have tremendously benefited our organization financially. However, I adamantly believe that Derek's involvement in helping the prior club administration locate and secure our club's wonderful venue and his role as host of the many social functions he has held at his home for our members and the Connecticut chess community since 2005 stand out as his two most significant contributions to the NBCC. All of Derek's efforts have added to the richness and diversity to our organization. Moreover, Derek executes his club duties with much energy and passion and is very welcoming to all new members to the club. There was a good attendance for Derek's tournament. Twenty-four people came for the one-night tournament. After four rounds of friendly play, FM Nelson Castaneda, who made history that evening for becoming the first member to win or tie for first place in twenty club quick chess tournaments, won the event with a perfect score. Four of our members tied for first place in the Under 1600 section: Andres Montiel, John Twombly, Andris Strazdins, and Bob Kozlowski. Lastly, Mike Fries and Jason Stange, two of our members who recently became certified tournament directors, assisted TD Jozef Madej with the event.