

NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB

“THE HEART OF CONNECTICUT CHESS”

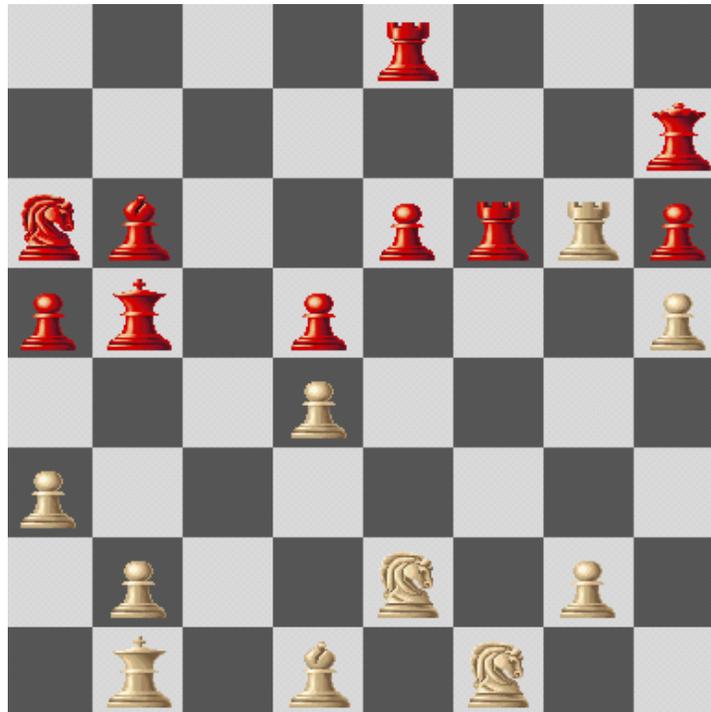
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2010 NEWSLETTER

by Robert Kozlowski

WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN



This chess puzzle was posted on <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/adam.bozon>.

The solution is on page 27.

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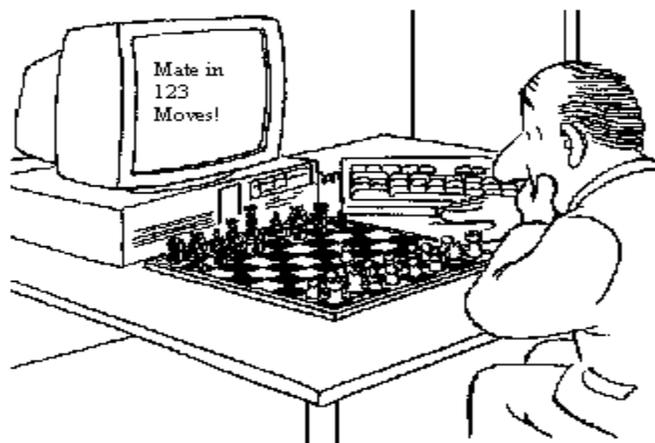
INTRODUCTION

Season's Greetings, friends of the New Britain Chess Club family:

As we share the joy and peace of the holiday season with our family and friends, it is time once again for me to recap another year at the NBCC. As has become an annual tradition since 2005, I am taking you down memory lane and sharing all of the club highlights and memorable moments that happened during the last twelve months.

With the transition to a new venue still a hot topic on the officer's agenda from 2009, two-thousand-and-ten was shaping up to be a very crucial year for our club. The club's future depended on how carefully management dealt with the process of moving the club. However, it was not too long in the year when swift action taken by a few key members resulted in our club's relocation to a beautiful venue and provided our organization with a fresh start.

And now, my friends, it is my utmost pleasure to take you on another journey and share stories of another astounding year at the NBCC, with many new milestones set. In addition, I will report that, even when our club's tenancy at the New Britain Quartette Club faced checkmate and was put to the ultimate test, our loyal supporters put their full support behind the officers' decision to move, proving, by their actions, that the NBCC continues to be "The Heart of Connecticut Chess."



This chess cartoon was posted by AliciaS at <http://www.chess.com/photos/view.html?id=482>

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

JANUARY

Two-thousand-and-ten started off with a bang! For the first time in club history, a tie-break playoff was used to determine qualification into the annual NBCC Championship. After the completion of the preliminaries in early January, there were four players left vying to be seeded into the finals. In one section, NBCC President Joseph Mansigian was tied with member Mike Pascetta for second place, and, in another section, we had members Nathan Lacombe and Jozef Madej with equal second place scores. According to the rules drafted by Tournament Director Randy Shane in 2008, the players involved in the tie had to play a series of G/15, 5 games, once as White and once as Black. If the tie remained after that, a series of G/5, 3 games would be played. If the tie still remained, then there would be an “Armageddon” playoff. The match between Nathan and Jozef was won by Nathan quickly in the first playoff series. However, the match between Joe and Mike was an incredible showdown. Not only did these gentlemen tie in the first and second tie-break playoffs, rather than play an “Armageddon” game, they opted to play a series of G/30, 5 games at the Borders Bookstore in Farmington later in the week. After what seemed to be a battle of epic proportions and an incredible display of talent between two very strong chess competitors, Joe won the final tie-break game and advanced to the finals.

In late January, I began transferring the entire club archives maintained by the late Arkadijs Strazdins to electronic format. Because Mr. Strazdins kept very meticulous records of the winners of the NBCC’s major tournaments since 1951, along with other interesting facts about our club during that time, I felt that it would be an excellent idea to create the first NBCC Hall of Fame. You can view the NBCC Hall of Fame on the club website.

FEBRUARY

The annual United States Amateur Team East Chess Championship was held in Parsippany, New Jersey, from February 13 to 15. As in the past three years, the NBCC has been well represented and performed exceptionally well at this national chess tournament. This year’s overall NBCC team captain was John Nitz, who thoroughly reported on the results and highlights of each of our teams below.

“New Britain Prodigies won the Top Connecticut Team with 4.5 points. The team consisted of Ted McHugh, Danny Rozovsky, Doug Fiske, and Jason Lenore. One of the team's best matches was a ‘perennial’ win over the Boylston Chess Club in round three. Per Doug, ‘Ted had a snappy win against Master Lawyer Times, employing an Alekhine's Defense; on board two, Danny, as Black, found his way through an insanely tactical middle game to a better ending and a nice win against Master Cary Theil; on board three, I drew as White against Master Greg Kaden; and on board two, Jason, as Black, beat expert Charlie Mays.’ New Britain Prodigies also had a fine draw in round four against a team led by IM Yury Lapshun, rated over 2500. Both Danny and Jason ‘slayed the Dragon’ with excellent attacking wins in the Yugoslav Variation.

Three New Brits and a Husky finished 4-2. The team consisted of Alex Fikiet, Ed Scimia, John Nitz, and Chris Jensen. Alex, a sophomore in high school affiliated with the UConn Chess Club, has a USCF rating of 2115. He had a terrific tournament, finishing 5-1, only losing to a master, 2400+, in the first round. The team endured a tough loss in round one to a team rated 2190 yet managed to win the next two games and stay above .5 the rest of the way. The team defeated the West Point A Team, and Ed loved it when his opponent said, ‘Thank you, Sir,’ after she earned a draw against him. Chris bounced back during the tournament despite a bout with food poisoning.

Check!Please also finished with a record of 4-2. The team was comprised of Yogesh Raghunathan, playing on board one for the second year in a row, Yuval Shemesh and friend Mike Hulme sharing board two, Andres Montiel on board three, and Kevin Zimmerman on board four. The team had three wins, two draws, and a loss in round one. Yogesh played up-and-coming 20-year-old Alex Lenderman, who has the credentials for grandmaster status. Lenderman said that Yogesh played the Caro-Kann Advance Variation better in defeat than a grandmaster who Lenderman had played in a recently played tournament.

Tiger's Modern with Extra White Queens competed for the top team name but lost to Pawnstars Never Decline Tiger's Sac. The all-NBCC team composed of FIDE Master Richard Bauer, Derek Meredith, Mike Pascetta, and son Danny Pascetta finished with a record of 3-3. Derek had the best score of the team with 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. According to Rick, ‘the best highlight for the team was getting inside the ropes in round five on board nine with a score of 3-1. Young Danny was very excited at getting his first time to play there but remarked that he had been the only one to lose games up to that point (older players draw more). We were all playing up in rating, but Danny had one of the biggest rating disparities, a 1900+ player. Yet he was the only one to win, scoring clearly the best upset for the team in the tournament. We lost the match 3-1, but it was great to see our future star take a nice scalp.’

New Britain Dragons Return finished 3-3 and included Steve Sanabria, Brian Kosnoff, Bill Montross, and Emily Pond. The team had a fine tournament, given their average team rating of 1437. Steve finished with a personal record of three wins, two draws, and only one loss on board one. He drew IM Albert Kapengut, playing the black pieces in a Ruy Lopez opening. The team overall had two wins, two draws, and two losses.”

For finishing in first place in the 2010 NBCC Championship Reserves 1 Tournament held on February 23, member Laurent Lafosse won his first major tournament at the club.

MARCH

The 1st “Pond Kwik Chess Tournament,” named after Tournament Director Emily Pond, was held on March 19. This event was held at Borders in Farmington, and it was won by FM Nelson Castaneda and organized by Derek Meredith.

APRIL

On April 6, FM Danny Rozovsky earned the very distinguished honor of becoming the youngest member to win the annual NBCC Championship at age fourteen.

Also, on April 6, member Eric Light won his first major tournament at the NBCC for taking first place in the 2010 NBCC Championship Reserves 2 Tournament.

The third annual IRS Quick Chess Tournament was held on April 13. This year’s event was dubbed the “Bride of IRS Special Quick Chess Tournament.” Keeping with the tradition of the unique tournament, no entry fees were charged to participants, based on the theory, according to Randy Shane, that “nobody [has] any money left after Tax Day.”

Twenty-four supporters of the NBCC participated in the 1st Hartford Open Chess Championship held at the Sheraton Hotel at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks held from April 17 to 19, tying the record set back at the 2008 USATE Championship for the most past or present members playing in a non-club tournament. I had to carefully review the list of players to ensure that I did not miss a past member, especially with the old record being almost in jeopardy. The following past or present club supporters who played in the 1st Hartford Open were:

Open section

FM Danny Rozovsky and Luis Rodrigues

Under 2205 section

Derek Meredith

Under 2005 section

Martin Garcia, Mike Pascetta, Kevin Berry, and Danny Pascetta

Under 1805 section

Gert Hilhorst, Max Krall, Robert McDaniel, Andres Montiel, Anthony Diaz, Julio Echevarria, Alan Morrill, and Sydney Faria

Under 1605 section

John Twombly, Richard Chang, Scott Hafersat, and Kevin Zimmerman

Under 1405 section

Laurent Lafosse and Jonathan Aiyathurai

Under 1105 section

Tom Pasim, Eric Hilhorst, and Anthony Diaz Jr.

On April 20, a simultaneous chess exhibition and lecture was given by world-renowned chess author, coach, and international master, Dr. Danny Kopec, thanks to the efforts of members Marcus Komons and Steve Mitlitzky, who arranged the IM's event. Dr. Kopec first spent about an hour giving an analysis of some of the games between Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik. Afterwards, about thirty participants had an opportunity to show their skills against the master. Historically, most of the simulms held at the NBCC have finished before midnight. However, that night, the participants put the pressure on to extreme levels. Incredibly, many of the games were still in progress at midnight, and it was not until 2:15 a.m. when the final game ended, making that the latest closing time in the history of our club. The first winner against Dr. Kopec was UConn Chess Club member Alex Fikiet. Members Robert McDaniel and Leonid Stolov also earned wins. Draws were earned by Stuart Finney, Marcus Komons, and Luis Rodriguez. Although it must have been a tiring night for Dr. Kopec, the NBCC was thrilled to have one of the "greatest exponents of chess knowledge" offer his services to our members once again (he gave a simul at the NBCC back in the 1980s).

Just one week later, another IM, and a friend of Gert Hilhorst, Jan van de Mortel, who resides in Storrs, played in the 2010 New Britain Spring Open Quick Chess Tournament held on April 27. It was a delight to have him play at our club, and we hope that he has time in his schedule to play in more of our club's tournaments soon.

JUNE

Veteran member Peter Galazan won the reserve section Strazdins Cup trophy on June 1, making that his first win in a major NBCC tournament.

The annual club business meeting was held on June 15. The highlights were:

1. A motion passed to change the automatic seeding process into the Club Championship Finals. Instead of inviting the four highest-rated players as of the month in which the Qualifier normally starts, the top two scorers in the prior year's Club Championship and only the top two highest-rated players as of the start of the Qualifier after that would be automatically eligible to play in the finals.
2. A motion passed to purchase six additional Game Time II digital chess clocks from the United States Chess Federation.
3. After serving the club for seven years as president (Joseph Mansigian), seven years as vice president (Robert Kozlowski), and four years as secretary (Marcus Komons), these gentlemen decided to retire as managers of the NBCC. Back in April, Joe encouraged all those interested in getting actively involved in the administration of the NBCC to seek nomination. Around 8:30 p.m., Mike Pascetta, Derek Meredith, and Brian Kosnoff were elected the next president, vice president, and secretary, respectfully, of the NBCC. They started their new positions on September 1. Andy Strazdins expressed his desire to continue as club treasurer. The NBCC thanks Joe, Robert, Marcus, and Andy for their many years of service to the club.

For the past four years, our tournament directors have used the Holland system as the primary method to group and pair players who play in our club's blitz chess tournaments. Generally, this format has had support, but its main objective to prevent games from lasting past midnight has not always been accomplished. Our TDs, therefore, decided to modify the format the 2010 NBCC Blitz Chess Championship on June 29 from a Holland system to a one-section, twelve-round Swiss-system event. The only flaw in using this format was that many players were paired against opponents many score groups above or below them, especially in the later rounds, which resulted in some very unusual pairings but interesting games. Overall, the new format made the games go faster. The winner of the first blitz chess event at the club using this format was USCF National Master Ted McHugh.

JULY

On a warm and humid July 3, friends of the local chess community gathered for a day of outdoor recreation. The activities commenced in the early afternoon at 2:00 p.m. when event coordinator extraordinaire Derek Meredith organized a soccer match at Beachwood Park in West Hartford. Led by Team Captains Mike Pascetta and Derek, the two teams of six vigorously competed for over an hour, with each side determined to score the winning goal. After our soccer match, our guys had a chance to relax and later gathered at Derek's house to play a few casual chess games on his human-size set. Around 4:00 p.m., The Veterans Team, with President Joseph Mansigian, Derek, Mike, Doug Fiske, and member Jerry Aiyathurai, faced off against Yogesh Raghunathan, Danny, Bob Kozlowski, Brian Kosnoff, and members Jonathon Aiyathurai and Andres Castaneda of The Rising Stars. The battle over the board was nearly as intense as it was on the soccer field. Both teams played exceptionally well, almost with razor-sharp accuracy. In the end, despite having an exchange advantage, The Veterans lost on time, although Yogesh is still analyzing the game. After the game, it was time to serve our hungry crew. Mike filled in as the event chef ("Z" unfortunately could not attend) and grilled and served hot dogs with all of the classic picnic fixings. Most of the guys decided to call it night by 8:00 p.m.; however, some of us decided to challenge Derek in a series of 5, 2 games. Some of the games were quite bizarre. Thrills of these blitz chess games were captured by chess commentators Sofia Leja and Yogesh. By 10:00 p.m., everyone had left Derek's house, except for Joe and me, who eagerly wanted a rematch with Derek. We both lost, but it was a long day.

Doug Fiske filed the necessary paperwork with the USCF to become a tournament director of the NBCC, bringing the total number of our TDs at the club to seven. Doug started his first tournament assignment by assisting Al Pinto in directing the 2nd annual New Britain Summer Games Chess Tournament, which started on July 13.

Also around July 13, Marcus Komons announced his retirement as a tournament director, faithfully serving the club in this role since March of 2005. Throughout his years of service, Marcus carried out his responsibilities with the highest level of professionalism. He was a very caring, hard-working, and devoted TD, and it was always a delight to work with him. It should also be noted that Randy Shane, Ed Scimia, Emily Pond, and member Doug Pence have decided not to continue as NBCC TDs at this time. However, like Marcus, these members should be recognized for their years of loyal service to our club.

Vipul Bhale, one of our newest members, won his first major tournament at the club for winning the Striving Upwards section of the 2010 New Britain Summer Games.

On July 20, the NBCC welcomed its newest and 100th member, Nitin Ramnane. Even though 100 members did not break the membership record in our club, it was no doubt a significant milestone. Incidentally, the record for membership in our organization was 119, which occurred sometime in the early 1970s during the Fischer era.

A special session, led by Derek Meredith, took place on July 31 at the Taste of India restaurant in West Hartford, the purpose being to have members who were interested in becoming certified tournament directors to speak on a topic in the USCF rule book, as they chose or were assigned, and sign a statement, which would be sent to the USCF, stating that they would abide by and enforce the USCF rules as TDs. Besides Derek, Al Pinto, and Doug Fiske, the following members attended the training meeting: Mike Pascetta, Sydney Faria, Dennis Himes, Jerry Aiyathurai, Kevin Zimmerman, Jozef Madej, and Andres Montiel. That was the largest one-time increase in the number NBCC TDs in the history of our organization. Also, Joseph Mansigian decided that our new tournament directing staff should have access to a club laptop computer rather than using their own. So, in late July, the club purchased a used laptop from member Richard Lee, who offered it to the club for \$200.

AUGUST

The members of the NBCC sent its best wishes to Brian Kosnoff, a few of whom celebrated his milestone birthday of thirty years with him and his family.

The annual New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship, or what has become known as the NBCC's annual picnic, held on August 8, was another incredible success. With sixty-eight players participating, it was wonderful to see the outpouring of support and have the opportunity to reconnect with many of our chess friends. Some of our players traveled as far as North Carolina (Yuval and Miki Shemesh) and Maryland (Donald and Benjamin Connors) for the tournament. This year's event was quite unique, in that it was not held at the NBCC's home location, a first in club history. Thanks to the efforts of event organizer, John Nitz, our "open-air" tournament (we actually had the luxury of playing in the beautiful enclosed air-conditioned pavilion) was held at the Hawk's Landing Country Club in Southington.

Besides being able to afford a picturesque view of the golf course while playing their games, participants were treated to a grand buffet lunch provided by the HLCC staff. But even though the food was catered this year, there were still many hours of planning and promotion that went into organizing that one-day tournament. And I thank my fellow volunteers - Tournament Directors Emily Pond and Al Pinto, Joseph Mansigian, Andris Strazdins, Derek Meredith, Brian Kosnoff, and Kevin Zimmerman - for their assistance. Thanks also to those who helped with the set up and clean up. Of major note, Samantha Aiyathurai earned the biggest upset of the tournament. She achieved her upset against Srimat Sridher, a difference of 1,163 rating points, and broke the club record for the biggest upset for a game with a time control of thirty minutes or longer. Emily previously held the club record.

The club has held many quick chess events in recent years, but, in late August, incoming club officer Derek Meredith came up with an interesting twist and idea of holding the club's first G/20 championship on August 24 and 31. Derek also began his training as a tournament director and assisted Al Pinto in directing that five-round Swiss-system event. FM Richard Bauer and FM Nelson Castaneda were the winners in the open section, and Chris Jensen, Andres Montiel, and Jozef Madej tied for first place in the Under 1750 section.

The 4th annual Zimmerman Games Day held at "The House of Z" on August 28 was another sensational event. It was one awesome day with music, chess, door prizes, barbeque, and more. Kudos to Kevin and his fiancée Marie for hosting their sensational summer outing that brought our chess family together once again. Kevin and Marie recapped the joy and celebration of that incredible gathering below.

"Well folks, another 'Z' Games Day ends the summer with a boom-boom. Thanks to the collective participation of the NBCC and its members and the You've Got Rhythm Drum School, friends, family, and a foreign exchange student [Veronica] representing Poland. You don't have to say much more. Just that the 4th annual 'Z' Games Day was awesome. Marie and I would like to thank all who attended. You made this event worth the time and effort. We try to share visions of peace on earth, good times, and good food, with some love and happiness, and it works. Memories shared at this years 'Z' Games: Quote of the day by Krzysztof Kubiak, 'Is it OK for your dogs to eat everything on the table?'"

At the end of August, the membership for the 2009-2010 NBCC year reached the highest in at least the last seven years, topping the 100 mark in July and ending with a grand total of 101 members for the period from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

On the final meeting of the club year, August 31, a reporter from the *New Britain Herald* took photos of and interviewed some of our members. Specifically, during their interviews, Mike Pascetta and his son Danny, Emily Pond, and Al Pinto spoke about how they got involved in chess. Since that was the first media coverage since our club relocated to the Assyrian Club, it was an excellent opportunity for our organization to promote our new site. You can view our article on the club website.

SEPTEMBER

On September 7, the new club administration held its first tournament, an eight round Swiss-system time odds event, the first in club history. According to Mike Pascetta, the 1st “What Are the Odds Blitz Chess Tournament” allowed the players to “receive more time than their higher-rated opponents in order to level the playing field.” Everyone enjoyed the event. And, after three hours of spirited play, FM Richard Bauer captured first place.

On September 25, the members were invited to the home of Mike and Michelle Pascetta for a day of fun. On that very warm early autumn day, about twenty people of our family gathered for some serious sporting action. Many of our talented sportsmen like Derek Meredith, Danny Pascetta, Doug Fiske, Brian Kosnoff, Andres Montiel, and Yogesh Raghunathan (even Andris Strazdins) displayed their incredible skills on the field. And although most of the afternoon was devoted to playing football, ultimate frisbee, and soccer, our friends did play some blitz chess in the evening. And, as has become a common theme with many of our club’s social events, our guys were served with some delicious food. Mike was the event chef, a true master of the grill (ok, I promise not to tell Chef “Z”). Between the recreation and the food, that social function capped yet another fantastic day for the NBCC family.

OCTOBER

In order to get more scholastic players involved in chess, Derek Meredith organized a tournament in honor of William “Bill” Dworski, the club’s most veteran member, who joined in the late 1940s. The event was held in the backroom of the Taste of India on October 3. Bill was president of the club for one year during the 1950s and has been a strong advocate for the club. The “Bill Dworski Over/Under 15 Quick Chess” name was unique. The idea behind the number fifteen was to attract players who were both rated below 1500 and under age fifteen for a scholastic section.

Anyone who did not meet both criteria was placed in the open section. Overall, the event drew a number of talented chess youths, thanks to its major recruiter, Gert Hilhorst, and the tournament was a success. Hopefully, the club can hold more events at this restaurant. The winners of the event were: Open section: Danny Rozovsky, Under 1500 section: Ian Lomeli.

Congratulations to Andris Strazdins for winning his first major tournament at the NBCC for taking clear first place in the Under 1600 section of the 2010 Oktoberfest Open Chess Championship on October 12.

On October 15, some of our members and their family attended the annual NBCC Oktoberfest dinner party at the Corner Pug in West Hartford. Twenty people of our family celebrated this German season with great food and beverages. As has become tradition at this event, Andris Strazdins entertained our crew with German songs on his harmonica. It was nice to see our regularly attending partiers at the event, but there were some new faces at this year's dinner. Regardless of how many attend each year, everyone always enjoys this club function. So, if you have not been to one of these social gatherings, I hope you can make it in 2011. Thanks to Mike Pascetta and Derek Meredith for organizing the party.

On the last two meetings in October, the club held a tournament in honor of another one of the club's veteran members, Edmund "Eddie" Valauskas. Eddie has been a member since the 1960s and has been one of the club's most active players. Eddie was also a NBCC tournament director for many years. The turnout for the "Fast Eddie Valauskas Best-of-Seven Quick Chess Tournament" was great, with twenty-three players and the games, as always, very competitive. The winner of that fun event was USCF NM Dennis Prawira, who commanded the playing field. And, in the end, he earned the title of champion in the "best-of-seven" event with a perfect score.

We take this moment to congratulate Al Pinto for passing the test to become a USCF Local tournament director.

NOVEMBER

As you might recollect from the business meeting in June, the conditions for automatic seeding into the annual NBCC Championship Finals were modified for 2011. The four seeds would be the top scorers from the 2010 annual event, along with the remaining highest two members to accept the invitation.

Therefore, on November 2, FM Danny Rozovsky and FM Nelson Castaneda, the top two finishers in the 2010 NBCC Championship, earned the right to be seeded. Regarding the 2011 NBCC Championship Qualifier Tournament, three of our members had an opportunity to get some experience as tournament directors for the first time: Sydney Faria, Jozef Madej, and Dennis Himes.

DECEMBER

Doug Fiske became a USCF local tournament director, and the club congratulated him for earning this title.

Continuing with holding events in tribute to our club's veteran members, the officers held a tournament on December 5 for our club's third longest-standing member, Andris "Andy" Strazdins. Andy has served the club as treasurer for nearly four decades. Andy, like his father, is a man of strong character, and the club truly appreciates his labor of love for its members. Like the event held for Bill Dworski, the name, location, and format of this event was the same. The turnout for the "Andy Strazdins Over/Under 15 Quick Chess Tournament" was impressive, thanks in great part again to Gert Hilhorst, who recruited sixteen students from the Simsbury Library Chess Club, setting a record for the most scholastic players in a NBCC-sponsored tournament. The winners of the event were: Open section - FM Nelson Castaneda, Under 1500 section - Bryan Yekelchik.

Allan Vega won his first major tournament at the club for his first place win in the Under 1400 section of the 2011 Club Championship Qualifier on December 12.

On December 19, the NBCC held its annual Christmas party, a tradition started in 2005. In conjunction with the party, the club held the 2010 Connecticut State Open Blitz Chess Championship and its annual raffle and silent auction. This year's event was even more special, as Kevin Zimmerman, NBCC's chef extraordinaire, along with his fiancée, catered the party, a first in club history. "Z" and Marie served up delicious sandwiches and wraps and delectable desserts and did a professional job. Thanks to the officers for coordinating those exciting year-end functions for the club and to Tom Hartmayer, Martin Garcia, FM Richard Bauer, Doug Fiske, Marcus Komons, and USCF NM Ted McHugh for their contributions to the silent auction. Congratulations to John for winning the raffle. Ted reclaimed the title of CT Blitz Chess Champion this year. Close to sixty people attended that blockbuster celebration, capping another incredible year for our wonderful organization.

NBCC MEMBERS' MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The following major achievements were earned by our members at non-club tournaments and in the USCF in 2010.

NBCC MEMBERS RANKING IN THE TOP 100 LISTS IN THE USCF AS OF THE DECEMBER 2010 (ANNUAL) RATING SUPPLEMENT

Please note that only ratings of USCF members who have been active within the last year were used in compiling the Top 100 listings.

NBCC MEMBER	USCF TOP PLAYER LIST	USCF RATING	USCF RANKING
GM Ildar Ibragimov	Overall	2591	20 th
	Overall Quick	2545	12 th
IM Danny Kopec	Overall Quick	2472	23 rd
Max Krall	Age 17	1823	96 th
FM Danny Rozovsky	Quick Under Age 16	2019	35 th
	Age 14	2176	6 th
Danny Pascetta	Age 11	1882	16 th

NBCC MEMBER ATTAINING THE LEVEL OF USCF MASTER

Danny Rozovsky earned his USCF NM certificate in June, becoming the youngest member to accomplish this major achievement.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT NBCC MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2010, Connecticut resident and FM Nelson Castaneda became the 2010 state chess champion. The event was held by the UConn Chess Club at the Storrs campus on June 20 and 21.

MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR THE FASTEST INCREASES IN RATING IN ONE YEAR

NBCC MEMBER	RATING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	RATING AT THE END OF THE YEAR	INCREASE	YEAR ACHIEVEMENT OCCURRED
Max Krall	1368	1823	455	2010
Jonathan Aiyathurai	878	1291	413	2010
FM Danny Rozovsky	1373	1754	381	2007
Danny Pascetta	1440	1805	365	2009
Eric Hilhorst	862	1181	319	2010

CHES TRIVIA

In 2010 alone, an astounding eight of our members became USCF tournament directors. The requirements to become a TD are quite simple, but the rules outlined in the 300-plus page book can be somewhat complicated.

Listed below are a few questions that I created from my years of experience as a tournament director. Even if you are not a TD, it is important that all chess players know the basic USCF rules of chess. Therefore, I encourage you to take this quiz below. The answers can be found on page 26.

1. How many games would there be in a four-round Swiss-system chess tournament with seventeen players, assuming there were no forfeits, withdrawals, or byes?
 - a) 28
 - b) 32
 - c) 36
 - d) 40
2. According to the current official USCF Rules of Chess, when making pairings in a Swiss-system event, which of the following rules generally has the least priority?
 - a) Equalizing colors
 - b) Upper half score group vs. lower half score group
 - c) Equal scores
 - d) Alternating colors
3. Seen on USCF crosstables, what letter is used to represent a game won by forfeit?
 - a) X
 - b) F
 - c) U
 - d) B
4. According to the current official USCF Rules of Chess, what would be a player's rating floor if the highest established rating he or she achieved was 1799?
 - a) 1300
 - b) 1400
 - c) 1500
 - d) 1600

NBCC PICTURE GALLERY

The following photos were taken by John Nitz and Robert Kozlowski.



2010 UNITED STATES AMATEUR TEAM EAST CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

OUR SUPERSTARS BRING HOME THE GOLD FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

BACK ROW: USCF NM Ted McHugh, Derek Meredith, Steve Sanabria, and FM Richard Bauer

SECOND ROW: Yuval Shemesh, Kevin Zimmerman, Bill Montross, Ed Scimia, John Nitz, and Mike Pascetta

FRONT ROW: Yogesh Raghunathan, Emily Pond, Danny Pascetta, and Brian Kosnoff (kneeling in front)

Missing from this picture were Jason Lenore, Doug Fiske, Danny Rozovsky, Alex Fikiet, Chris Jensen, and Andres Montiel

**GREETINGS FROM THE GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE
OF THE NBCC FAMILY**



The Kubiaks
2010 Zimmerman Games Day



Mike Fries and Bethany Sonstrom
2010 Zimmerman Games Day



The Montiels
2010 Zimmerman Games Day



Tom Hartmayer, Andris Strazdins, and Rob Roy
2010 New Britain Summer Open



Yogesh Raghunathan, Veronica, Kevin Zimmerman, and Marie Juergens
2010 Zimmerman Games Day



The Connors
2010 New Britain Summer Open



The Pascettas
Party at the home of the Montiels



The Shemeshs
2010 New Britain Summer Open

PLAYERS OF ALL AGES AND LEVELS DISPLAY THEIR TALENT AND SKILLS OVER THE CHESS BOARD



Back: Ian Lomeli vs. Eric Farmer
Front: Mason Pawelek vs. Eric Hilhorst
“Bill Dworski Over/Under 1500 QC Tournament”



FMs Richard Bauer and Nelson Castaneda face off
2010 New Britain Summer Open



Gert and Eric Hilhorst anticipate IM Danny Kopec’s next move



Back: Samantha Aiyathurai vs. Bryan Yekelchik
Front: Elias Hanna vs. Daniel Schenk
“Bill Dworski Over/Under 1500 QC Tournament”

SOME MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST AT OUR CLUB’S ANNUAL DINNER PARTY



The NBCC in party mode once again



Toasts from Mark Bourque and his fiancée, Linda



Celebrate good times – come on!

THE ROAD TO A NEW HOME FOR THE NBCC **THE CONCLUSION**

Over the last three years, the former New Britain Chess Club Board of Directors have made many efforts to meet with our former landlord, the Quartette Club, to suggest and offer ways to improve the overall playing conditions in their hall that would be mutually beneficial to both of our organizations. Despite our good-natured intentions, the management of the Quartette Club did not want to engage in any conversations with us, and it became increasingly difficult to arrange meetings with them. When a meeting was finally set, only the same person from their board attended. To say the least, those meetings were not very productive. Since about 2007, we have been baffled on why the Quartette Club Board would not make a concerted effort to meet with us. We soon came to the conclusion, and the stark realization, that the NBCC no longer had any members who were members of the Quartette Club, like the late Arkadijs Strazdins, the late Stanley Archacki, and Bob Milardo, to advocate on our organization's behalf.

In July 2009, after much spirited discussion and debate, the club held a referendum for the membership to decide whether to stay at the Quartette Club, home of the NBCC since 1975, or relocate to the Assyrian Club of New Britain. In order to make an informed decision, all members had the opportunity to visit the Assyrian Club on a Tuesday evening. A week after the visit, the final votes were tallied by former President Joseph Mansigian and were reviewed by former Vice President Robert Kozlowski. In the end, the membership narrowly voted, 30-28, in favor to remain at the Quartette Club until August 31, 2010.

During the later months of 2009 through February of 2010, however, conditions with our landlord rapidly deteriorated to the point where there were blatant indications that their board had little or no intentions of renewing our quarterly verbal contract with us on March 1 (for the period from March 1 through May 31, 2010). Their bitterness and resentment was fueled with accusations that our members were intentionally damaging the floor in their hall by making scuff marks with their shoes. At one point, one of the Quartette Club Board members told Robert Kozlowski and former Secretary Marcus Komons, in no uncertain terms, that he was hesitant to accept our second quarter rent check.

The Quartette Club did honor our payment; although, in February, the situation came to a climax when we tried to discuss the matter with their board in a rational manner, explaining to them that a few of their chairs had the rubber supports removed from them and that might be causing the damage to their floor. Despite bringing that concern to their immediate attention, the Quartette Club still was very reluctant to listen to us and vehemently refused to continue any discussions on the matter. It was then that we needed to take swift action and make a decision about the NBCC's future tenancy at the Quartette Club.

After days of meetings, the former officers collectively agreed to arrange for a meeting with the proprietor of the Assyrian Club to see if their previous offer to rent from them was still available. Gratefully, it turned out that it was. On February 11, thanks to the magnanimous efforts of Derek Meredith, Joseph Mansigian and he met with one of the Assyrian Club Board members to finalize a deal. After given a tour of the site again, an agreement was made. On March 2, the NBCC moved to its new home - the New Britain Assyrian Club at 39 South Street.

In conclusion, the decision to move to the Assyrian Club was based, in part, on many years of challenges and frustrations in establishing a workable dialogue with our former landlord. Our relocation was never a question of if, but when. It became apparent that there was a growing sense of urgency that, at some point, the NBCC was going to move based on the Quartette Club's very tepid and sour relationship with us in recent years. Furthermore, there was much doubt about whether the Quartette Club would renew our contract with the NBCC come March.

A letter of termination was submitted to the management of the Quartette Club, notifying them of our leaving on February 23.

The former board of directors want to emphasize that, although many of our members had strong emotional ties to playing chess at the Quartette Club, the relocation was made for the betterment of the club and chess throughout Connecticut. We can rejoice that this important matter was resolved and behind us now, and we can hopefully look forward to a more tranquil period at the NBCC as we celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in our long-established history.

My friends, the future of the NBCC at the Assyrian Club has yet to be written. So, to all of our loyal supporters, let us continue to work together to make it a good one.

CHESS POEM

Before closing with my year-end commentary, I want to share a beautifully written chess poem by one of our youngest members, Jonathan Aiyathurai.

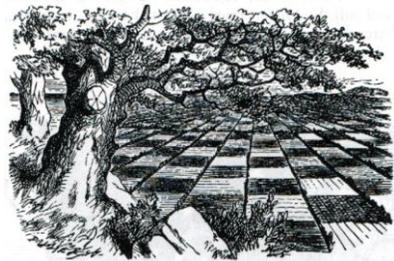
Chess

By Jonathan Aiyathurai



Chess, a story unfolding:
Two authors trying to rip each other apart
A silent medieval battle
Without a worry being pronounced
People are dying and
Becoming new royalty

Yet a tear of grief is not shed
Miles and miles of
Black and white jungle with
Two kingdoms reduced to
Sixty-four
Black and white squares



And the reasons there are no tears?
Chess is just a game



BOB KOZLOWSKI'S COMMENTARY

My friends, our journey of another successful and sensational year at the NBCC is sadly coming to a close. Two-thousand-and-ten, no doubt, will be remembered as the year the NBCC faced one of its greatest challenges. Thankfully, this resulted in good change for our club. As I have been doing since 2006, I want to give a brief recap on some of the most memorable NBCC moments that occurred during the year. I also will present my thoughts on what lies ahead in the future for our wonderful organization.

Here is a list of the NBCC's most significant highlights in 2010:

1. NBCC moved to a new venue - the New Britain Assyrian Club at 39 South Street.
2. New club administration took shape - Mike Pascetta, Derek Meredith, and Brian Kosnoff became the next president, vice president, and secretary, respectively, of the NBCC.
3. NBCC hosted the annual New Britain Summer Open at the Hawk's Landing Country Club, thanks to John Nitz. The HLCC might be the site for future Summer Opens and other NBCC-sponsored events.
4. Membership topped the 100 mark for the first time in decades, perhaps the first since the Fischer era.
5. A historic eight members became tournament directors for the NBCC, which essentially created a new TD staff for our club.
6. An effort was made by the new officers to start organizing scholastic chess events.
7. The new administration began holding quick chess events in honor of our club's longest-attending members.

So, what lies ahead for the NBCC? Well, if history is a good indicator of the future, then I predict our club's future will be a very bright and promising one.

Throughout the years, our core members have been very loyal advocates of the club. However, it should be noted that people like Rob Roy (organizer of the 2010 Southington Open Chess Championship) and Jim Celone have co-sponsored events for the mutual benefit of the NBCC and their respective chess associations or clubs. These gentlemen must be acknowledged for their contributions to Connecticut chess, and they should also be recognized for their persistent efforts in building our organization.

The NBCC is a very social club. As most of you know, our members greet newcomers to this game with their charm and warmth. And although some of our members are more competitive than others, they all are willing to help their friends improve each other's game.

But, as with many chess organizations, not all of these new players become regularly attending members. In the past six years, the NBCC has made significant progress on improving the structure of our events for the betterment of all of our members. Perhaps we might consider holding more non-rated events in the future, to give those newest to our club an opportunity to play at a level that does not require one to be as competitive. Perhaps we also might consider having a few of our members who do not regularly participate in our major club tournaments give lessons on Tuesdays free of charge to our beginners. These ideas are merely suggestions, but they are definitely worth thinking about.

The NBCC is a special organization to many. As I have said before, the NBCC is not merely a group of chess people. We are a very large, supportive family. Since 2005, I have made it my goal to capture the essence of our club in these newsletters. Looking back on the myriad of memories, it is incredible what a club of our size can accomplish in just six years. During that time, our club has ascended to being perhaps one of the largest chess networks in America. Our members have always been there for the NBCC. So, to all of our supporters from Connecticut and beyond, thank you for keeping the spirit of the NBCC alive. Because of your generosity, you have enriched our club, making writing these newsletters, as your club historian, a most treasured and honored experience.

The NBCC officers, tournament directors, and webmaster wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

President: Mike Pascetta
Vice President: Derek Meredith
Treasurer: Major Andris Strazdins
Secretary: Brian Kosnoff
TD staff: Mike Pascetta, Derek Meredith, Doug Fiske,
Al Pinto, Jozef Madej, Dennis Himes,
Andres Montiel, Sydney Faria, and Bob Kozlowski
Webmaster: Brian Kosnoff



The membership currently stands at seventy-two. If you are not a member, I hope you will join or rejoin the club in 2011. I wish you peace and happiness.

Your friend in chess,

Robert Kozlowski (“Dr. K”)

SPECIAL ADDITION! **NBCC FAMILY AND FRIENDS PICTURE TRIVIA**

Since 2007, our club webmaster, Brian Kosnoff, has kept a huge gallery of photos taken by some of our members at NBCC functions. Since 2008, I have included some of those pictures in the annual club newsletter. In 2009, I added a separate NBCC Family and Friends Picture Trivia page as part of the club newsletter and wanted to do the same this year by including more classic Kodak moments of our chess family.

I am assuming most of you know who these gentlemen are, but do you know at what club function each of the photos was taken? You can find the answers on page 27.



SPECIAL ADDITION!
THE ULTIMATE NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB
HISTORY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

The NBCC is the oldest chess club in Connecticut. According to Andris Strazdins, our club was founded around the turn of the 20th century, although it was not very active until the 1930s. Unfortunately, most of the club records prior to 1951 were destroyed in a fire. But, with all of the archives currently on file, thanks in great part to Mr. Strazdins' meticulous recordkeeping since the 1950s, I thought it would be fun to create the Ultimate NBCC History Trivia Challenge.

Regardless of how long you have been a member of the NBCC, I hope you take this fun test. The questions were written in order of difficulty, based on what I think most of our members would know about our club from 1950 on. The answers can be found on page 27.

1. Who holds the record for being the longest-serving officer of the New Britain Chess Club?
 - a. Arkadijs Strazdins
 - b. Edmund Roman
 - c. Andris Strazdins
 - d. Jan Cendrowski

2. Which of the following members became a tournament director of New Britain Chess Club most recently?
 - a. Carl Heineman
 - b. Robert Kozlowski
 - c. Marcus Komons
 - d. John Pasco

3. USCF NM Dennis Prawira earned a 2700 provisional rating for winning what NBCC tournament with a perfect 5-0 score?
 - a. 2nd annual Oktoberfest Open
 - b. 57th annual NBCC Championship
 - c. 43rd annual New Britain Summer Open
 - d. 1st Arkadijs Strazdins Cup

4. Which of the following members was the first to obtain the level of USCF expert?
 - a. Andres Castaneda
 - b. James Nitz
 - c. Danny Rozovsky
 - d. Yogesh Raghunathan

5. Which of the following events was held first at the New Britain Chess Club?
 - a. First “NBCC odds tournament”
 - b. First NBCC quick chess tournament
 - c. First NBCC sectioned tournament
 - d. First NBCC outdoor tournament

6. For how many years did the New Britain Chess Club hold meetings at the New Britain Quartette Club?
 - a. 30
 - b. 35
 - c. 40
 - d. 45

7. Which of the following events in New Britain Chess Club history did not occur between 2003 and 2010?
 - a. GM Gildardo Garcia gives his first simul at club
 - b. Last New Britain City Chess Championship held
 - c. 1st NBCC Christmas party
 - d. Joseph Mansigian elected club president

8. What is the record for the greatest number of New Britain Chess Club members in one year?
 - a. 108
 - b. 113
 - c. 119
 - d. 127

9. Since 1951, what member, with the exception of Mr. Strazdins, has earned the title of New Britain Chess Club Champion the most?
 - a. Bob Milardo
 - b. Richard Bauer
 - c. Nelson Castaneda
 - d. Mike Casella

10. Of the twenty-two matches held between the New Britain Chess Club and the Springfield Chess Club of Massachusetts, how many were tied?
 - a. 0
 - b. 3
 - c. 5
 - d. 8

SOLUTION AND ANSWERS TO CHESS PUZZLE AND TRIVIA

CHESS PUZZLE (FROM COVER PAGE)

1. Ba4+ Kc4 or (if 1... Kxa4 2. Nc3+ Kb3 3. Nd2#)
2. b3+ Kd3
3. Bb5+ Ke4
4. Rg4+ Rf4 or (if 4. Rg4+ Kf5 5. Ne3#)
5. Rxf4 #

CHESS TRIVIA (FROM PAGE 15)

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

NBCC FAMILY AND FRIENDS PICTURE TRIVIA (FROM PAGE 23)

(From top to bottom - left to right)

PICTURE 1: Richard Lee, Joseph Mansigian, Bob Kozlowski, Derek Meredith, Yogesh Raghunathan, and FM Nelson Castaneda (at an event at Derek's house in 2007)

PICTURE 2: In front – Dennis Himes vs. FM Danny Rozovsky
Next – USCF NM Ted McHugh vs. Al Cabot
(2009 Connecticut State Open Blitz Chess Championship)

PICTURE 3: In front – Andres Montiel vs. Kevin Zimmerman
Next – Joseph Mansigian vs. Bob Kozlowski
(2008 Zimmerman Games Day)

THE ULTIMATE NBCC HISTORY TRIVIA CHALLENGE (FROM PAGES 24 – 25)

1. c {Currently, Andris Strazdins has been club treasurer for thirty-seven years.}
2. c {Marcus Komons became a club tournament director in March of 2005.}
3. a {On his way to victory, USCF NM Dennis Prawira defeated two of our club's FMs.}
4. d {Yogesh Raghunathan became a USCF expert in August of 2006.}
5. d {The first NBCC Outdoor Tournament was the 1975 New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship.}
6. b {The NBCC moved to the New Britain Quartette Club in 1975.}
7. a {GM Gildardo Garcia gave his first simultaneous chess exhibition at the club in 2002.}
8. c {This record occurred during the Fischer boom in the 1970s.}
9. b {FM Richard Bauer was champion or co-champion of the NBCC Championship eight times.}
10. b {The last match between the NBCC and the SCC was held in 2005.}