

NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB

“CONNECTICUT’S LARGEST AND STRONGEST CHESS CLUB”

**IN CARE OF THE NEW BRITAIN QUARTETTE CLUB
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2005 NEWSLETTER

by Robert Kozlowski

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INTRODUCTION

Season's Greetings, fellow New Britain Chess Club members:

It is difficult to imagine another year in the rear-view mirror, but we are rapidly approaching the end of 2005. Two-thousand-and-five was a very exciting and eventful year at the NBCC, with many new tournaments and social activities, which are setting the stage for a new chapter in our club's history.

In the first NBCC newsletter, I listed what I believe were the club's most memorable events of the year and noted commendable achievements of our members. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

JANUARY

One of our veteran USCF National Masters, Richard Bauer, gave a simultaneous chess exhibition at the club on January 18. Of the twelve players in the event, Rick lost to Scott Cameron and member Andres Castaneda. Club officers Joseph Mansigian and Bob Kozlowski and member Marcus Komons earned draws. Scott received a chess book for being the first player to win against the master.

MARCH

Marcus Komons became a club tournament director. Marcus is a devoted, hard-working TD and a good friend. The club appreciates all of his work. The 2005 New Britain City Reserves was the first event that Marcus directed with me.

APRIL

Andres Castaneda and member Joe Bihlmeyer won their first major club tournament for tying for first place with member Bill Grzesiak in the 2005 New Britain City Chess Championship on April 19.

On April 26, USCF NM Zimel Livshits gave a simultaneous chess exhibition at the club, his first since 1992. Twenty-seven players from around the state participated in his event. The following players defeated the master: Anthony Diaz Jr., Marcus Komons, and member Dinkar Ahuja. The master had draws against Chuck Coleasa and Joseph Mansigian and members John Baclawski, Paul Gobell, Peter Galazan, Patrick King, Andres Montiel, Joshua Wolf, and Divakar Ahuja. Anthony was presented with a chess book for being the first player to defeat the master.

MAY

On May 31, Robert Lawrence became the first member in six years to win two major tournaments at the club in one year, excluding blitz chess tournaments. Robert won the 2005 New Britain City Reserve and Club Championships.

JUNE

On June 13, the NBCC held its 22nd match with the Springfield Chess Club of Massachusetts. The match was held at the SCC. Club President Joseph Mansigian organized the match, and nine players from our club participated to take on the SCC. The final score was 3.5 New Britain - 5.5 Springfield.

At the annual business meeting on June 14, members voted in favor 14 to 3 to change the start time for all club activities from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., except for the first round of all tournaments. 7:30 p.m. was the start time for many decades. Also, members unanimously ratified a motion made by member Derek Meredith to make tournament directors exempt from paying entry fees for tournaments they direct at the club. Finally, Andris Strazdins was elected to his thirty-third term as treasurer, a new club record. Prior to Andris, the record for being the longest-serving club officer was Mr. Strazdins.

AUGUST

FIDE Master and member Nelson Castaneda gave a simultaneous chess exhibition at the club against twenty-five players, an impressive turnout. Many competitors defeated the master. They were Andres Castaneda, James Wiseman, Michael Gibbs, John Baclawski, and members Anthony Diaz, Dennis Himes, Bob Milardo, and Hermann Zickfeld. Paul Gobell and member Jozef Madej drew the master. A chess book was awarded to Dennis for being the first player to win against the master.

On August 16 and 23, the club held its 1st Summer Open Quick Chess Tournament. Players were grouped into two sections (an open and an U1600) in the four-round Swiss-system tournament, the first use of that format in club history. This event attracted twenty-seven players from all rating levels, and many of the participants, especially the masters and experts, were thrilled with the new format and faster time control. Member and USCF NM Ted McHugh won the open section, and the late Danny Elkayam won the U1600 section. Based on the turnout, Marcus Komons and I plan to hold these quick chess events more often.

SEPTEMBER

Derek Meredith organized a reverse simultaneous chess exhibition at his home on September 3. Experts and class players formed teams with designated captains, with each team competing against one NBCC Master (USCF NM McHugh, USCF NM Appelman, or FM Nelson Castaneda) with a time control of G/120. The event attracted over twenty players. A gracious host, Derek cooked steak, hamburgers, and hot dogs on the grill and served beer and other refreshments. It was a wonderful social gathering. Thanks to Derek for organizing that cool event.

On September 13, USCF NM Harris Appelman played against fifteen players in his simultaneous chess exhibition. James Wiseman, Scott Cameron, USCF NM Ted McHugh, and member David Aldi beat the master, and Andres Castaneda drew him. For being the first player to defeat the master, James won a chess book.

NOVEMBER

Derek Meredith and David Aldi tied for first place in the 1st New Britain Fall Open Quick Chess Tournament held on November 29.

DECEMBER

In conjunction with the annual New Britain Open Christmas Blitz Chess Tournament, the officers held the 1st NBCC Christmas party and raffle on December 20. The club thanks Quartette Club bartender Kim Rochette for her contributions to the party. At our event, Hermann Zickfeld raffled off a decorative Austrian chess set, and Marcus Komons won it. All contributions from the raffle went to support club operations.

On December 27, FM Nelson Castaneda won the 1st New Britain Winter Open Quick Chess Tournament.

NBCC MEMBERS' MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The following scholastic members earned places in the Top 100 USCF list by age category. The members' ratings shown below are as of the October 2005 supplemental listing.

Danny Rozovsky: Age 9 – 1753 – ranks 2nd in the nation

Dinkar Ahuja: Age 8 – 1245 – ranks 35th in the nation

UPDATE ON MR. STRAZDINS

Can you believe it has been almost two years since Mr. Strazdins has been at the club? I report that he is doing well. According to Mr. Strazdins, his health is usually “50/50.” Sure, “Straz” does experience occasional muscle discomfort during inclement weather, but his spirits remain high. And even though his doctor advises him not to consume beer, he can drink wine and an occasional shot of whisky or brandy. His son Andris is hopeful that his father will come to the club in the near future. And even though it has been a while since “Straz” has played chess, he is eager to play competitively. Perhaps he will participate in the 2006 New Britain City Reserves. Let us hope so. Everyone wishes President Emeritus Arkadijs Strazdins and his family a joyous holiday season and the best of health in 2006.

Finally, President Joseph Mansigian, Treasurer Major Andris Strazdins, Secretary Carl Heineman, Tournament Director Marcus Komons, and I extend our holiday wishes from our family to yours. Thanks for supporting the NBCC and U.S. chess.

Yours in chess,
Bob Kozlowski