

Chess Champ Daniel Fidlow Will Meet All Challengers

By Harold Lafferty

Anybody for ten simultaneous games of chess?

Well, Daniel Fidlow is. And that's not unusual competition for Daniel who is Richmond City Chess Champion and holder of the J. F. Scott Memorial Cup, which he won in the Richmond City Chess Tournament last June.

In a simultaneous chess exhibition sponsored by the newly formed University of Richmond Chess Club, Fidlow will compete against all comers starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center on Monday, October 31. Among his competitors will be other members of the chess club as well as students and faculty members.

Fidlow, a mathematics major, is a junior. He has placed very high not only in Virginia but also in Kentucky and California State Chess Tournaments. Besides high-level competition and multiple competition such as that encountered in simultaneous chess, Daniel is also adept at playing blindfolded. This, of course, requires not only a thorough familiarity with the game but also great mental concentration, in that it necessitates a player's forming a mental picture of the intricate relationships of his own and his opponent's chessmen so that he is able to instruct a secondary as to moves that are to be made.

It will be remembered by some that the University of Richmond was host to the 1955 tournament of the Southern Intercollegiate Chess Association last February. It was during this tournament that Kit Crittenden, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina, was beaten by Dan Fidlow for the first and only time during Crittenden's five years of intercollegiate chess competition.

In an organizational meeting recently the University of Richmond Chess Club came into being, replacing the Chess Team of former years. Jim Farrar, a Richmond College junior and a physics major, was elected President of the Club while Dave Brown, also of Richmond College, was elected Executive Secretary. This first meeting of the Club turned up several new men from among the freshmen and Jim Farrar expressed

the hope that there are more who haven't appeared yet but who may do so soon, thus adding even more strength to what already appears to be a formidable Club.

Farrar further stated: "We now have fine prospects for a good team but are also vitally interested in building the strength of the Club and in adding reserves for a strong, long-lasting organization."

That there's excitement ahead for the Richmond Chessmen there can be no doubt. Secretary Brown is even now busily engaged scheduling meets with other teams in the SICA. A tentative itinerary might well include meets with teams from the University of Virginia, Randolph Macon College, Georgetown University, Duke University, George Washington University, the University of Maryland and the University of North Carolina during the 1955-56 season. An early forecast might show North Carolina and Duke to offer the stiffest competition. The University of Virginia is host to the SICA tournament to be held in the spring. To be sure, the Spider Chessmen will be there plugging for highest honors.