

CAROLINA GAMBIT

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NC Chess Association

Jan.-Feb. 1984

NCCA OFFICERS

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NCCA POLICY

Dues are \$6.00 per year for adults and \$4.00 per year for juniors under 18. Membership is open to all, but only NC residents can vote and hold office. Each member is entitled to play in NCCA-sponsored events and will receive "The Carolina Gambit," published six times a year. Games, articles, tournament reports, and other materials for "The Gambit" are welcome and necessary. All tournament reports and address corrections should be sent to the President, membership renewals should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer, and all other materials should be sent to the Editor. Free tournament supplies are available for tournaments which require NCCA membership; write Robert Singletary for more information.

IN MEMORIAM: RONALD GRAY

By Will Foster

Ronald Reid Gray, age 49, of 922 W. Johnson St., Raleigh, was found deceased in his bed on Wednesday, December 28, 1983. He did not come to work as expected Monday or Tuesday, so a fellow employee investigated, was let into Ron's apartment by the landlord, and Ron's death was discovered.

An autopsy at Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, showed Aortic Stenosis, a narrowing of the aortic valve of the heart which is associated with sudden death from coronary artery disease in 15 to 20 percent at an

average age of 60 years (unless repaired surgically).

Ron was employed by the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges for the past 16 years. Prior to that, he was a night clerk at the old Sir Walter Hotel (in downtown Raleigh) for a number of years where he learned to play chess.

Prior to that, he played professional baseball with a major league farm club in Florida and was a devoted fan of the Durham Bulls.

He grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina and was an only child. In high school he won letters in all three major sports. His father, now deceased, was a Charlotte policeman. His mother, Mrs. Alma Taylor Gray, is still in Charlotte. He was divorced, but he is also survived by a daughter, Ms. Mary Rhonda Gray of Raleigh.

Attending his memorial service from the Raleigh Chess Club were Dr. Will Foster, D. B. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cobb, Roger A. Steward, and Alan Patrick.

Ron Gray leaves behind dozens of his fellow North Carolina chess players who will miss him. He always had a warm greeting and a smile for each of us. He was famous both for his good nature and his opening innovations which were usually as much a surprise to him as to us!

He played best with the white pieces against stronger opponents and in open or unclear positions loaded with tactics. These positions arose frequently from his unbooked opening play. It was said that "Ron rediscovered the opening in every game he played."

Ron, dear friend, we mourn you. The LPO, Rams, and my Invitationals will never be the same for us, your loving friends.

Sample Game--Ron Gray/Will Foster (Ram III--March 1980)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 ed (The Scotch Game virtually forces Black to liquidate his center since 3. ...d6 4. d x e5 d x e5 5. Q x d8+ K x d8 (5. ...N x d8 6. N x e5) and 6. Bc4 or Nc3, perhaps followed by 0-0-0 and a big lead in development for White.) 4. Bc4 (He avoids 4. N x P (Scotch game) and 4. c3 (Goring Gambit) to play the Scotch Gambit.) Be7?! 5. N x P N x N (Transposing back to the Scotch Game, but now the usual 5. ...Be5 wastes a tempo.) 6. Q x N Bf6 7. Qd5 Qe7 8. 0-0 d6 9. f4 c6 10. Qd3 Be6 11. Nc3 0-0-0?! (Best was 11. ...B x B 12. Q x B B x N 13. Q x B Nf6.) 12. Be3 Kg8 13. Rfel Qd7?! (Possible here was 13. ...g5!?) And if 14. f5 then 14. ...B x B 15. Q x B Nh6, with a hole at e5. At the time, I was making room on e7 for the King Bishop to retreat so I could play ...Nf6.) 14. Bb3! (Ron develops a nice plan--to open the a-file.) 14. ...Be7? (Necessary was 14. ...Qc7 15. f5 Bc8.) 15. f5 B x B 16. a x B (Now the old tactician has a decisive attack.) 16. ...b6 (16. ...a6 was slightly better.) 17. Ra6 Rc8 18. Real c5 (18. ...Bd8 was better.) 19. Nb5! Rc7 20. N x R Q x N 21. Qb5! Nf6 22. Qa4 b5 23. Q x P+ Qb7 24. Q x Q+ K x Q 25. R x P+ Kc6 26. c4! Bd8 (Also 26. R x B wins, but he can afford to be "fancy.") 27. Rala6+ Bb6 28. b4 and mate next move.

President's Tribute to Ron Gray

All of us associated with North Carolina chess lost a dear friend on December 27 when Ronald Reid Gray passed away at age 49.

Ron was the kind of person who cared about others always before he cared about himself. Frequently, when I was running ragged trying to keep a tournament running properly, Ron would come by, asking if he could help and saying something that would cheer me up. He always conveyed his altruistic nature to me as well as to other people in the state. In addition, his friendly, easy-going nature won him many friends, regardless of what occurred over the board.

Ron was a very active player prior to his passing--probably the most active in North Carolina. His rating fluctuated around the 1700 mark, even though his tactical play was noticeably stronger. Despite hovering around this rating for a prolonged period, nearly everybody knew him around the state, either from L.P.O.'s, Championships (where he often played up), or Rams. He was one of the most popular and most loved players this state has ever known.

He will be a tremendous loss to this organization as well as to the other groups he associated with. His fond memory will be cherished for many years to come.

Tribute from George Harwell—Danville, VA

Editor's Note: George Harwell is a long-time friend of the NCCA and was state champion back in the 1960's. He moved from North Carolina in 1982 and found out about Ron's death at a recent Ram.

In the death of Ron Gray, the NCCA has lost an irreplaceable person. Of all the players I have known, none found more pleasure in playing the game just for itself. Nor have any possessed a greater gift of sportsmanship: in victory he was gracious; in defeat, he made no excuses. I think that everyone who knew him will miss him; I know that I shall--greatly and for a long time.

Ronald Gray Memorial

On April 14, 1984, in place of Ram XXII, the first annual Ronald Gray Memorial will be held at the Carolina Union on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The tournament will have a regular Ram format in terms of game times but will be played according to rating category, a la Billy Watt Memorial. The prize fund is \$500 guaranteed and the tournament has achieved USCF Grand Prix status.

As the entry fee is low, donations for this year's tournament and future tournaments are being solicited. Donations will be matched by a corporate sponsor on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Donations can be sent to Dr. Will Foster, 3617 Lubbock Dr., Raleigh 27612.

I ask that everybody who can to attend the Ronald Gray Memorial. Ron was always a gracious friend and this tournament has been christened in his loving memory. I hope that you will lend the tournament your support.

For complete details of the tournament, see the Upcoming Tournaments section in this issue or in the April 1984 issue of Chess Life. Very briefly, the round times are 10-2-6, registration is 9:00-9:40, and the entry fee is \$8 for the Open section and \$6 for the other sections, one dollar cheaper in advance.

NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Preview of 1984 North Carolina Scholastics

By Robert Singletary

More than 200 students from around the state are expected to converge on North Garner Middle School April 6-8 for the 12th Annual North Carolina Scholastics. For the first time ever, the tournament will be divided into two sections--elementary and post-elementary.

In the high school division, the team race looks to be most intriguing. The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, which has won the tournament the last two years on tiebreaks over Raleigh Enloe, looks to be a slight favorite. Enloe, which has lost its powerful nucleus of Matthew Noble and Rajesh Maingi, I pick to finish a somewhat distant second. Charlotte Independence, led by John Kirby, is also capable of winning the title, but I pick Independence to finish third barely over Forest Hills, though Forest Hills could conceivably finish as high as second. Raleigh Sanderson and Raleigh Broughton, which won the title four years in a row from 1978-1981, could also provide strong competition, but these past champions are still in the process of rebuilding.

In the individual division, Mark Seawell of Garner and John Kirby of Independence, co-champions in 1983, are the prohibitive favorites. Also expected to provide strong challenges are Kevin Kirby and John Lee of Independence, Jun Versola and Stuart Berkowitz of Enloe, and Jill Wright of Science and Math.

In the middle school division, East Union and Hudson are the class of the state. While Hudson was successful last year, I pick East Union to win the elusive title. The battle for third should prove most interesting, but Martin should make a strong showing. Ligon and Carroll will probably finish fourth and fifth, respectively. Among middle school individuals, Stephane Simpson of Martin, David Schmidt of Ligon, and Venkat Murty are the ones to watch.

In the elementary division, Conn is the heavy favorite while Hunter should finish second, and Aversboro third.

As usual, I will probably be wrong, but it is always fun trying to guess the winners. As for the past winners, a list will be provided next issue.

Joel Benjamin Spring Exhibition Tour

Joel Benjamin, a junior at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut and present Pan-Am champion, will give a series of simultaneous exhibitions in the Carolinas May 18, 19, and 20. Joel, who is presently the highest rated player in the nation with a rating of over 2600, will give a lecture and answer questions before the simul.

Five sites across the Carolinas will hold simultaneous exhibitions. The list of these sites and the contacts are listed below:

Friday, May 18	Raleigh, NC---Robert Singletary (919-782-3809)
Sat., May 19	Winston-Salem, NC---Allen Cooley (919-722-6962)
Sat., May 19	Charlotte, NC---Leland Fuerstman (704-523-2181)
Sunday, May 20	Greenville, SC---Bill Corbett (803-895-2691)
Sunday, May 20	Columbia, SC---Cliff Hyatt (803-787-9636)

Despite the fact that 25 places are available for the simul, places are going extremely fast. If you want to reserve a place, you should call the contact in your area immediately. The entry fee is \$25 with the proceeds benefiting chess club activities in these cities. The simultaneous tour was organized by Leland Fuerstman and the Charlotte Chess Club.

Bids for Championship Requested

Bids for the 33rd annual North Carolina Championship/David Stern Memorial are being accepted through April 30, 1984. If you are interested in making a bid, please contact Robert Singletary as soon as possible--(919) 933-6033 (weekdays) or 782-3809 (weekends).

Bidders do not have to have concrete details ready when you call, but a general idea of the tournament format would help. The Championship is scheduled as usual for Labor Day Weekend.

Carolinas Open Approaching

The 1984 Carolinas Open will be held at the University of South Carolina at Lancaster March 10 and 11. The tournament is being organized by Marion Mahaffey, an excellent South Carolina director and organizer.

Details of the Carolinas Open are in the Upcoming Tournaments section and in the March 1984 issue of Chess Life. I encourage everybody who can to attend this event--this tournament is rapidly increasing in popularity, and I assure you the tournament arrangements are excellent.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Directors/organizers: Branson Sheets is stepping down as clearinghouse director because he will be attending seminary this fall, and Robert Singletary will take over later this spring. If you need to clear a tournament, talk to either Branson or Robert before scheduling your tournament.

March 10-11

Lancaster, SC

1984 Carolinas Open--University of SC at Lancaster, Starr Hall, Hubbard Dr., Lancaster, SC 29720. In six sections: Open--4-SS, TL 40/2. EF: \$20 if by 3/7, \$25 at site. Rds: 10-3, 9-3. Cat I--4-SS, TL 40/2, open to below 2000. EF: \$20 if by 3/7, \$25 at site. Rds: 10-3, 9-3. Cat II--4-SS, TL 40/2, open to below 1800. EF: \$17 if by 3/7, \$20 at site. Rds: 10-3, 9-3. Cat III--5-SS, TL 40/90, open to below 1600. EF: \$15 if by 3/7, \$18 at site. Rds: 10-2-6, 9-2. Cat IV--5-SS, TL 40/80, open to below 1400 and UNR. EF: \$12 if by 3/7, \$15 at site. Rds: 10-2-6, 9-2. Cat V--5-SS, TL 40/80, open to below 1200, no UNR. EF: \$12 if by 3/7, \$15 at site. Rds: 10-2-6, 9-2. All--state membership required. \$\$G 80%: 40%-20%-10%-10%. Reg: 8:30-9:30. Ent: Marion E. Mahaffey, 1207 Memorial Park Rd., Lancaster, SC 29720. NS. NC.

March 17

Raleigh

2nd Annual Wake County Scholastics (Closed)--5-SS, TL 40/60, G/30, Martin Middle School, 1701 Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607. Open to Wake County students only. EF: \$2.25. Trophies to top team, individual, girl in each section: high school, middle school, elementary, primary. Reg: 8:30-9:15; Rds: 9:45-12:00-2:15-4:30-6:45. Ent: Robert N. Singletary, 3712 Dade St., Raleigh, NC 27612. NS.

March 17-18

Wilmington

1st Annual Lee O'Bryant Memorial--4-SS, TL 40/110, El Berta Motor Inn, 4505 Market St., Wilmington. \$\$500 b/42 in three sections: Open--\$125-80, Cat. I/below 75. Amateur--limited to below 1800. Cat. II 70, Cat. III/below 65. Novice--limited to below 1400/UNR. Cat. IV/below 55, UNR 30. All--EF: \$13 if received by 3/14, \$15 at site. State membership required. Reg: 11-2; Rds: 2:30-7:30, 10:00-3:30. Ent: David O'Bryant, 739 Eastwood Rd., Wilmington, NC 28403. LS. NC.

March 24

Chapel Hill

Ram XXI/Scholastic Warm-up--3-SS, TL 40/90, 30/1, SD/30, UNC-CH Student Union (Hwy. 54 Business), Chapel Hill 27514. EF: \$7 if received by 3/20, \$8 at site; under 18 \$7. \$\$(\$54 b/12): 36-12-6. Reg: 9:00-9:45; Rds: 10-2-6. Ent: Robert N. Singletary, 20 Old East, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. NS. NC.

April 6-8

Garner

12th Annual North Carolina Scholastics--N. Garner Middle School, Powell Dr., Garner, NC 27529. In two sections: High School/Middle School--6-SS, TL 45/90, G/30, open to NC students grades 6-12. Trophies to top five schools, top four middle schools, top five individuals, top five middle school individuals, top III, IV, V, VI, UNR. Rds: 8, 10-2:30-7, 9-1:30. Elementary section--7-SS, TL 40/1, G/30, open to NC students grades K-5. Team trophies to top five schools, top five individuals, top three K-2. Rds: 8, 10-12:45-3:30-6:15, 9-1:30. Both--EF: \$7 if received by 4/1, \$9 at site. State membership required. Reg: 6-7:15 p.m. Half-point bye available for Sunday morning round if for church service and if requested by 4/1. Top four individual scores form team score, no more than ten players can be on a team. Ent: Robert N. Singletary, Box 6, Carolina Union, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. (919) 933-6033 weekdays, 782-3809 weekends. NS. NC.

April 7-8

Morehead City

6th Annual Morehead City Open--4-SS, TL 45/2, Morehead City Recreation Center, 1600 Fisher St., Morehead City, NC 28557. EF: \$12 if re-

ceived by 4/4, \$15 at site. State membership required. \$\$ (300 b/20): 120-90-60, trophy to first. Reg: 8:45-9:45, Rds: 10-3, 10-3. Ent: Morehead City CC, P.O. Box 3601, Morehead City, NC 28557. NC. LS.

April 7-8

Winston-Salem

Arts City Open--5-SS, TL 40/90, Winston-Salem Hilton Inn, 420 High St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101. In three sections: Open--EF: \$30 if received by 3/26. \$\$ (520 b/20): 250-100-50, under 2000 120. Amateur (open to below 1800)--EF: \$25 if received by 3/26. \$\$ (420 b/20): 200-100, under 1600 120. Reserve (open to under 1400)--EF: \$25 if received by 3/26. \$\$ (420 b/20): 200-100, under 1200/UNR 120. All--EF: \$5 more at site (state membership required). Reg: 8:30-9:45, Rds: 10-2-7, 9-2. HR: 35. Ent: Allen Cooley, 116 S. Marshall St., Apt. No. 1, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. (919) 722-6962. LS.

April 14

Grand Prix Tmmt.

Chapel Hill

Ronald Gray Memorial/Ram XXII--3-SS, TL 40/90, 30/1, Carolina Union (Hwy. 54 Business), UNC-CH, Chapel Hill 27514. In four sections: Open--\$\$G 150-100. Cat. II--\$\$G 70-30. Cat. III--\$\$G 50-25. Cat. IV/below--\$\$G 50-25. All--EF: \$6 (\$8 for open), \$1 less if received by 4/10 (state membership required). Reg: 9:00-9:45, Rds: 10-2-6. Ent: Robert N. Singletary, Box 6, Carolina Union 065A, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. NS. NC.

Grand Prix Pts. Available: 5

April 28

Grand Prix Tmmt.

Statesville

1984 Billy Watt Memorial--3-SS, TL 40/90, 40/1, Bristol Rd. Community Center, Statesville 28677. In five sections--Open, Cat. I, Cat. II, Cat. III, Cat. IV/below/UNR. All--EF: \$5 if received by 4/21, \$6 at site. State membership required. \$\$G 1000: Open 150-100, Cat. I 100-60-40, Cat. II 100-60-40, Cat. III 100-60-40, Cat. IV 75-50-25. Reg: 9:00-9:45, Rds: 10:10-2-6. Ent: Robert N. Singletary, 20 Old East, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. NS. NC.

Grand Prix Pts. Available: 5

May 5

Morehead City

Down Eastener XI--3-SS, TL 40/90, Webb Library, 107 S. 9th St., Morehead City, NC 28557. EF: \$5 if received by 5/1, \$6 at site. State membership required. \$\$ (25 b/8): 25 and trophy to first each section. Reg: 9:15-9:45, Rds: 10-2-6. Ent: Morehead City Chess Club, c/o Donald V. Miller II, 206 N. 6th St., Morehead City, NC 28557. (919) 726-1918. LS. NC.

June 2

Morehead City

Down Eastener XII--See Down Eastener XI.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Winter Open
Morehead City, NC

January 7, 1984
Director: Donald Miller

1. Robert Singletary	1716	W 9	D 2	W 7	D 5	3.0	\$35.00
2. Jeffry Walsh	1565	W 8	D 1	W10	D 4	3.0	\$35.00
3. Anthony Bell	1371	L10	Bye	W12	W 6	3.0	\$35.00
4. David Parker	1834	W13	W 6	L 5	D 2	2.5	
5. Paul Hargett	2023	D 7	D 8	W 4	D 1	2.5	
6. John Smith	1634	W12	L 4	W11	L 3	2.0	
7. Stuart Berkowitz	1632	D 5	W13	L 1	D 8	2.0	
8. Cliff Merrill	1780	L 2	D 5	W13	D 7	2.0	
9. E. Patterson	1393	L 1	L12	Bye	W11	2.0	
10. James Blanning	1714	W 3	D11	L 2	Unp	1.5	
11. Richard Hasz	1258	Bye	D10	L 6	L 9	1.5	
12. Fred Quick	UNR	L 6	W 9	L 3	L13	1.0	
13. Pat Nelson	1606	L 4	L 7	L 8	W12	1.0	

Nova #5
Winston-Salem, NC

January 7, 1984
Director: Allen Cooley

1. Leland Fuerstman	2153	W10	L 8	Unp	1.0		
2. Allen Cooley	2084	W 4	W 9	D 3	2.5	\$15.00	
3. Tony Magee	1936	W 5	W10	D 2	2.5	\$15.00	
4. Marion Mahaffey	1802	L 2	L 6	L 7	0.0		
5. Greg Hall	1771	L 3	W 7	Unp	1.0		
6. Billy Gentry	1621	L 8	W 4	W10	2.0	\$50.00	
7. Bradley Fowler	1566	L 9	L 5	W 4	1.0		
8. Carl Morris	1555	W 6	W 1	W 9	3.0	\$120.00	
9. Amon Funderburk	1554	W 7	L 2	L 8	1.0		
10. Phillip Cousins	1253	L 1	L 3	L 6	0.0		

Ram XIX
Chapel Hill, NC

January 14, 1984
Director: Robert Singletary

1. Greg Samsa	2330	D 5	W 8	D 2	2.0	\$ 4.00	
2. Bill Mason	2173	W 6	W 4	D 1	2.5	\$20.00	
3. Dan Liu	2132	W 7	L 5	D 6	1.5		
4. Rex Demers	2107	W 8	L 2	D 5	1.5		
5. Bernard Schmidt	2101	D 1	W 3	D 4	2.0	\$ 4.00	
6. Allen Cooley	2097	L 2	W 7	D 3	1.5		
7. Dana Nance	2075	L 3	L 6	W 8	1.0		
8. Mark Becker	2050	L 4	L 1	L 7	0.0		
9. William B. Henson	2044	W13	L11	L14	1.0		
10. Robin Cunningham	2042	W14	L16	W12	2.0	\$ 6.00	
11. Alexander Keyes	1964	W15	W 9	L16	2.0	\$ 6.00	
12. Matthew Noble	1961	L16	D14	L10	0.5		
13. Rajesh Maingi	1945	L 9	L15	W24	1.0		
14. Frank Necci	1942	L10	D12	W 9	1.5		
15. Ken Baxter	1934	L11	W13	Unp	1.0		
16. Glenn Evans	1916	W12	W10	W11	3.0	\$20.00	

