

July Swiss at EBCC Produces Tense Struggles and Sparkling Play

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By IM Vinay Bhat

The July Open Swiss at the East Bay Chess Club was a great success with a strong turnout of 34 players ranging in rating from 1370 to SM David Pruess at 2429. The chess was extremely competitive as each round produced tense struggles across many boards. Pruess ended up taking a clear first, going a perfect 4/4. Playing the black-side of the Najdorf in the final round, Pruess punctuated his performance with a sparkling pawn sacrifice to gain the kingside initiative and ultimately win against expert Batsaikhan Tserendorj.

The loss in the final round dropped Tserendorj (3/4) into fourth place as NM Andy Lee and rising star Phillip Perepelitsky shared 2nd and 3rd place at 3.5/4. Strong play up and down the field was reflected in results for the rating class prizes. Edward Perpelitsky made it a family success by tying with local A-player Craig Andries for the best performance under 2100 with 3/4. Also scoring 3/4 was Robert Smith, who just-edged out Varun Behl(2.5/4) to claim the under 1900 prize. Sreekar Jasthi(2.5/4) demonstrated the power of connected passed pawns against a piece in an exciting last round win to sew up under 1700 honors, and Jamie Sawhill(2.5/4) went through the tournament without a loss (playing up every game) en route to a clear first under 1500. Finally, the competitiveness of the tournament is perhaps best reflected in the fact that eleven players under 1900 turned in an even score of 2/4 including the quintet

of Paul Ganem, Brendan Purcell, Nelson Sowell, Carl Woebcke, and Jason Gurtovoy who tied for third under 1900. Rohan Sathe, Ted Belanoff, Marika Litras, and Albert Starr tied for 2nd under 1700, while Robert Duran and Nick Gauger tied for 2nd under 1500. Thanks to everyone who participated for making this such a terrific event. A few photos from the tournament have been included below. More photos can be found on our website, at <http://www.eastbaychess.com/pics/julyswiss/index.html>. The East Bay Chess Club runs 2- or 3-day swisses practically every month. The next weekend swiss will be held on September 17th and 18th. (There will likely be no August club swiss.)



Marika Litras vs Andy Lee begins. Larry Snyder looks on while waiting for his opponent.



Games getting started in round 2.



The main playing room at the East Bay Chess Club.



Mark Kokish vs Rohan Sathe, Carl Woebecke vs Jamie Sawhill, and Robert Duran vs Iris Kokish