

CJA Annual Meeting

The Chess Journalists of America annual meeting was held August 1 during the U.S. Open in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Those present included President Peter Tamburro, Secretary/Treasurer Randy Hough, Lynn Conant, John Fernandez, Mike Goodall, Roger Gotschall, Jerry Hanken, Dan Heisman, Howard Hickman, John Hilbert, Tim Just, Peter Kurzdorfer, Daniel Lucas, Glenn Petersen, Tim Redman, Ira Lee Riddle, Denis Strenzwilk, and Helen Warren.

Tamburro, who served as Chief Judge of the annual awards competition, reported that there were over 200 entries. Over 20 members volunteered as judges; this information is listed on the website. Several certificates were presented personally. Dan Heisman was recognized for four awards, including three firsts. Tamburro stressed the importance of Honorable Mention awards in such a difficult competition.

Awards issues discussed included: definition of "under 1000 circulation"; desirability of including a letter of explanation for "most improved" entrants; who should get credit for cover/layout (consensus: just one certificate issued); catalogues (consensus: no); column (submission of three consecutives will no longer be required); failure to follow through on a prior mandate to include best website and best state website in the categories; and the fact that no press releases were submitted this year.

Yasser Seirawan was selected as Journalist of the Year. Don Schultz raised money to replace what was lost when the Cramer bequest was hijacked.

Hough reported approximately \$4400 in the treasury. There was discussion of membership categories. Life memberships have traditionally been awarded to Journalist of the Year honorees. Riddle moved to delete any one percent cap on life members and enact a life membership category of 15 times the current annual rate. Passed 12-1-1. Tamburro mentioned that the webpage, maintained by Franklin Campbell, has received 5000 hits.

Hanken moved to thank Tamburro for outstanding service as Chief Judge. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:05.



Knowing the Score: How to collect scoresheets for publication

by John Hillery

In round-robin tournaments, there's no problem about collecting game scores -- the arbiter stands there at the end of the game and takes them. Swiss tournaments are another matter. How do you get players to turn in their score sheets?

Well, one method certainly works. The U.S. Open provides duplicating scoresheets for all players, has someone collect them as the players leave the room, and in extreme cases won't pair the players who don't turn them in. If you have one game a day and an unlimited budget for TDs you can try this, but I don't recommend it.

What else can an organizer do? The first and simplest method is to ask. Put out a box for scoresheets and ask the players to submit good games, and you may be surprised by the result. Even those surly titled players who claim to compete only for the money are not without vanity, and they will want to see in print a flashy victory against a hated rival.

To make it easier for them, you can supply duplicating scoresheets. A few organizers do this for the whole tournament, but I advise against it. It's a pointless expense, and while you will get a few more good games, they will be

buried in a mass of bad games you really don't want. A better idea is to put out duplicating scoresheets at the start of each round on the top ten (or five, or twenty) boards. And, again, *ask* the players to turn them in.

If you're still not getting enough response, try offering a best-game prize. It doesn't have to be much -- in Southern California, \$25 is usual, and we get plenty of games for our state magazine. For that matter, when money was tight, we offered a best-game prize without mentioning an amount, figuring the honor would be sufficient. And it was! We got about the same number of games submitted as before.

Finally, **publish the games**, at least some of them. State magazines, newspaper columns, *Chess Life*, web pages -- there are lots of places. Nothing will discourage the players more than having all those scoresheets disappear into oblivion. And there is no better (or cheaper) way to encourage players than to let them see their names and games in print.

