

2009 Chris Bond Memorial Classic Chess Tournament Results

Date: 8 AUG 2009

Location: Frazer United Methodist Church
Montgomery, AL

This year marks the 5th Anniversary of the Christopher Bond Memorial Classic. We honor Chris Bond for his love of family, friends and chess. He was known to carry a chess book wherever he went. I believe he is teaching Angels above how to play chess.

Scott Varagona earns another chess title – 2009 Chris Bond Memorial Classic Open Champion - with a perfect 4.0 score. He entered the tournament at the eleventh hour, so to speak. I see that studying math and chess until the midnight hours paid off for him. If you don't know, Scott is a PhD Candidate in Math at Auburn University.

Will Stevenson, Bryan Tillis, Joshua McClellan, Terrance Edinburgh and Eddie Koen battled for the second place honors. That is a testament to the historical competitiveness of this tournament. They come to play and win.

In the Reserve section, Dr. Doug Strout earned the first-place honors by scoring 3.5 points. Doug has become a regular player over the past two years. And, he is no stranger to being among the top finishers in the reserve section. Thomas Gilbreath and Varun Yerramsetti shared second place with 3 points each.

Rachel Garner of Montgomery won first place in the combined scholastic rated section. She scored 5.5 points from the double Round Robin format. Logan Mercer amassed 3 points, Eliza Strout earned 2 points and Spencer Robinson garnered 1.5 points. The scholastic players were few in numbers, but their love for the Royal Game and competitive spirit was great.

In the Novice section, two newcomers to organized tournaments, Venkata Macha and Maria Paolini, battled for 6 games. Venkata proved to be the better player by winning their match play with a perfect 6.0 score. Nevertheless, Maria played each game with the desire to play well and learn from the experience. She did not quit. Despite the final match score, her willingness to play chess showed me that she has the desire to become a better player.

In closing, it was a great pleasure to me to see some of our up and coming scholastic players in the Reserve section challenging their elders. They are our chess future. Let's teach them how to play chess and teach them well.

And, we want to say "Thanks" to Frazer UMC for hosting the tournament and their commitment to supporting our efforts to promote chess in Montgomery.

Top Finishers:

Open: 1st: Scott Varagona, 4, 2nd: Will Stevenson, Bryan Tillis, Joshua Mc Clellan, Terrance Edinburgh, and Eddie Koen, 2.5

Reserve: 1st: Doug Strout, 3.5, 2nd: Thomas Gilbreath and Varun Yerramsetti, 3

Knights: 1st: Logan Mercer, 3

Pawns: 1st: Rachel Garner, 5.5, 2nd: Eliza Strout, 2, 3rd: Spencer Robinson, 1.5

Novice (K-9): 1st: Venkata Macha, 6, 2nd: Maria Paolini, 0

Chief Tournament Director: Caesar Lawrence

Assistant Tournament Director:

Sponsor: Caesar Chess

Attendance: 31 Players (25 Classic and 6 Scholastic)

USCF Tournament Rating Report:

<http://main.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?200908080021.0>