

Hi Magued

We sent out our Newsletter today. It has a first attempt at a write up for Ken. We are still gathering write ups and intend to get them to you by end of day Wednesday. For now, we have what we published below.

This went out to our list of 701 email subscribers.

Mark

From: MetroWest Chess Club <NewsDirector@MetroWestChess.org>

Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 6:09 PM

To: mkaprielian@verizon.net

Subject: 2021-04 Newsletter; Ken Ballou 1961-2021, Harvard Study, General Update

2021-04: Newsletter

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Ken Ballou, 1961-2021:



We are deeply shocked and saddened to report that longtime Club "Chief TD" Ken Ballou has passed away unexpectedly. Ken began directing tournaments at the club in 2005 and quickly progressed to the highest levels of chess officialdom. Ken was a US Chess National Tournament Director, and a FIDE International Arbiter. He was also Chair of the US Chess Rules Committee, and Elections Committee. He served on four other US Chess committees and was the US Chess Parliamentarian, running the Annual Delegates meeting. Along with countless MCC and other local events, Ken was the Chief TD/Arbiter for the 2018 US Championships, Millionaire Chess 3, and the 2017 Champions Showdown at the St. Louis Chess Club featuring GMs Carlsen, Caruana, Nakamura, Liren, So, Grischuk, Topalov, and Dominguez.

His contributions to MCC are immeasurable. Most recently he served on the Club's Board as Treasurer, but he will be remembered as a constant presence, running nearly every tournament. He will be greatly missed.

At this time service information is still incomplete. Tentative plans are for Monday, May 3rd but these aren't definite yet. We will issue a special bulletin when we learn of the arrangements.

Harvard Study Seeks Volunteers:

Long time club member David Canning writes:

"I am no longer playing competitive chess but am still working at Harvard and am doing a pilot study on how chess ability relates to general cognitive ability and if it can be used as a marker for aging.

The plan is to match their cognitive measures against their performance in the USCF website. We were going to do this at big tournaments in person but this no longer looks possible. The blurb on the study is below. We have ethical approval from the HSPH human subjects board. I want to recruit active chess players to an online survey."

The Harvard School of Public Health is conducting a study in order to gather information on the cognitive abilities of chess players who are members of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) We are interested in how chess performance calibrates with general cognitive ability and if chess performance can be used to measure the cognitive effects of aging and environmental exposures.

You are eligible to participate in this study if:

- 1. You are at least 50 years of age*
- 2. You have not been diagnosed with cognitive impairment*

3. *You are currently living in the United States*
4. *You are fluent in English*
5. *You are a member of the United States chess Federation (USCF) and have played at least one rated game since January 1st, 2019*

If you consent to participate, you will be asked to fill out a survey asking a few questions about your demographic background. You will then be contacted to schedule a Zoom interview. During the interview you will take a battery of tests to measure your cognitive ability in different dimensions. The complete study should take no more than 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete, including approximately 20-25 minutes for cognitive testing.

The link to the study is:

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/pgda/2021/02/23/chess-cognition-study/>

General Update:

Club Status:

The Club remains in indefinite "hibernation." Club officials are beginning to consider options for resuming regular over-the-board play at some point in the future, but no definite plans have been made yet. It will be at least a few months before anything is known with certainty.

The weekly blitz arena tournaments in the club's [chess.com group](#) have stopped due to lack of participation. There were nearly forty tournaments run on Chess.com!

Please check in there and on our accounts on [Twitter](#), and a page on

[Facebook](#) to keep apprised of club operations.

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