

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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CURDO AND EPP TIE IN LARGEST WEEKNIGHT TOURNAMENT IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY; MATHESON WINS FRAMINGHAM PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR

John Curdo of North Billerica and Dr. Edward Epp of Weston each scored $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ to share first in the 2nd Mark Bond Classic, ending December 15 at the Framingham Chess Club. A six-way tie for third place at 4-1 included Alan Shaw of Somerville, Pat Walker of Newton, Rob Huntington of Wayland, Kirk Petty of Milford, Dave Ferreira of Watertown, and Sergey Spivakovsky of Concord; Huntington, Petty, Ferreira, and Spivakovsky were also equal first Under 2000. William McAllister of Framingham and Svein Abrahamsen of Needham shared first Under 1750 at 3-2, while Jody Overland of Framingham won top honors Under 1500, also at 3-2. The tournament, the only weeknight Grand Prix tournament in New England, attracted a 58-player field, which is believed to be the largest in New England history.

As the last rated tournament on the Framingham Chess Club Tuesday night schedule, the Mark Bond Classic also decided the 1987 Framingham Player-of-the-Year title, which goes to the player who compiles the most points in weeknight tournaments during the year. Bob Matheson of Natick clinched the coveted award in the final round, edging Mike LeBlanc of Westboro by a half-point. At the start of the Mark Bond Classic, Huntington, James Matthews of Dedham, and Dave Palmer of Sudbury were also contenders, but Matheson scored 2-1 in the first three rounds to eliminate Huntington and Palmer and pull a full point ahead of LeBlanc. Matthews, who led the Player-of-the-Year race much of the year, self-destructed in rounds 2 and 3, being upset in turn by Slawomir Luczak of Worcester and Overland, ending his bid for the title. Fate intervened in round 4, when LeBlanc had a minor auto accident and could not play; however, Matheson failed to clinch the title, losing to Spivakovsky. In the final round, only a Matheson loss coupled with a LeBlanc win could bring the contestants even (LeBlanc would then win the title on the tiebreak, best percentage), and through most of the final round it appeared exactly that

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would happen. LeBlanc crushed Kent Townley of Marlboro in a game so hair-raising LeBlanc inquired whether the TD knew CPR. Meanwhile, Matheson's game against Leonard Arsenault of Leominster steadily deteriorated. However, Matheson fought back in the last few minutes of his game to salvage a draw, pushing his 1987 total to $22\frac{1}{2}$ points, and becoming the club's fifth Player-of-the-Year. At 1745, Matheson was the lowest-rated player by nearly 200 points to win the title; he said he hoped his victory would be an inspiration to the lower-rated players in the club.

The tournament was a holocaust for the higher-rated players; of the 12 players rated above 2000 (four Masters and eight Experts) only six finished with plus scores. Apart from the previously-described woes of Matthews (rated 2040), second-seeded Lou Mercuri (2303) lost to Mike Grant of Boston and withdrew; Bijan Haririan (2232) of Maynard lost in rounds 1 and 3 to Abrahamsen (1621) and Mark Fins (1821) of Newton and withdrew; Drew Sarkisian (2122) of Oxford lost and drew to Ferreira (1945) and Michael Dreese (1778) of Newton and withdrew; and Bruce Downing (2102) of Foxboro, after collecting his Challenge Cup trophy, was shelled by Henry Blackwell (1591) of Framingham in the first round and withdrew. Several lower-rated players had the tournament of their lives: notable among the mice that roared was Overland (1390) who drew Fins (1821), defeated Menno Koning (1777) of Dover, defeated Matthews (2040), drew with Petty (1961), and was only stopped by Spivakovsky (1937) in the final round. Abrahamsen (1621) notched wins over Haririan (2232) and William G. Michael (1921) of West Bridgewater, while Blackwell (1591) defeated Downing (2102) and LeBlanc (1835), and had a strong game against Ferreira (1945) before succumbing to his nemesis, the clock.

Indeed, even the eventual prize-winners had a turbulent flight. After three rounds only five players had a perfect score: Curdo, Shaw, Brad Merrill of Westboro, David Drumm of Framingham, and Ferreira. Epp had slipped off the pace with a draw against Petty in the third round. In round 4 Shaw (2287) was dumped by Ferreira (1945), while Curdo (2473) barely salvaged a draw against Drumm (2026). Merrill had to take a half-point bye, so Ferreira, the fifteenth-seed, was the sole leader going into the final round. In the finale Curdo dispatched Ferreira to secure a share of first; later Epp downed Merrill to join him. Shaw defeated Drumm to advance to 4-1; Walker, Huntington, Petty, and Spivakovsky won respectively against Grant, Jorge Godoy of Framingham, John Fanning of Scituate, and Overland to squeeze into the winners' circle.

The annual tournament is named in honor of Mark Bond, the club's co-founder and first President.

2nd MARK BOND CLASSIC

November 17--December 15, 1987

1	John Curdo	North Billerica	2473	1	W27	W8	W4	D10	W7	4½
2	Edward Epp	Weston	2164	5	W41	W24	D6	W11	W9	4½
3	Alan Shaw	Somerville	2287	3	W51	W15	W5	L7	W10	4
4	Pat Walker	Newton	2004	12	W36	W26	L1	W17	W12	4
5	Rob Huntington	Wayland	1985	13	W42	W19	L3	W18	W15	4
6	Kirk Petty	Milford	1961	14	W37	W20	D2	D21	W16	4
7	Dave Ferreira	Watertown	1945	15	W38	W32	W22	W3	L1	4
8	Sergey Spivakovsky	Concord	1937	16	W56	L1	W51	W26	W21	4
9	Brad Merrill	Westboro	2043	9	W34	W25	W12	½B	L2	3½
10	David Drumm	Framingham	2026	11	W35	W18	W17	D1	L3	3½
11	Mark Fins	Newton	1861	21	D21	W43	W49	L2	W25	3½
12	Mike Grant	Boston	1933	17	W28	W48	L9	W19	L4	3
13	Larry Eldridge	Newton	1930	18	D43	W54	½B	W27	---	3
14	William G. Michael	West Bridgewater	1921	19	W44	L22	L20	W38	W32	3
15	Jorge Godoy	Framingham	1901	20	W45	L3	W41	W32	L5	3
16	John Fanning	Scituate	1811	23	W47	L23	W34	W20	L6	3
17	Slawomir Luczak	Worcester	1764	26	W55	W50	L10	L4	W33	3
18	Geoffrey Casteel	Maynard	1750	27	W39	L10	W36	L5	W34	3
19	William McAllister	Framingham	1713	29	W58	L5	W44	L12	W39	3
20	Svein Abrahamsen	Needham	1621	33	W49	L6	W14	L16	W30	3
21	Jody Overland	Framingham	1390	51	D11	W30	W50	D6	L8	3
22	Drew Sarkisian	Oxford	2122	6	W52	W14	L7	D25	---	2½
23	Michael Bienenstock	Newton	2048	8	W33	W16	½B	---	---	2½
24	Mike LeBlanc	Westboro	1835	22	W46	L2	L32	½B	W41	2½
25	Michael Dreese	Allston	1778	24	W29	L9	W53	D22	L11	2½
26	Bob Matheson	Natick	1745	28	W40	L4	W42	L8	D28	2½
27	Bob Engels	Framingham	1673	30	L1	W56	W39	L13	D29	2½
28	Leonard Arsenault	Leominster	1428	47	L12	D31	D30	W51	D26	2½
29	John Farrell	Framingham	1344	54	L25	L34	W37	W52	D27	2½
30	Menno Koning	Dover	1777	25	½B	L21	D28	W54	L20	2
31	Mark Steinberg	Framingham	1655	31	L48	D28	D38	L36	W42	2
32	Henry Blackwell	Framingham	1591	36	W57	L7	W24	L15	L14	2
33	Kurt Esser	Nashua NH	1581	37	L23	D47	W43	½B	L17	2
34	Syd Michael	Natick	1560	38	L9	W29	L16	W44	L18	2
35	Stanley Crowe	Newton	1537	40	L10	L39	W46	L40	W55	2
36	George Norman	Arlington	1507	41	L4	W40	L18	W31	---	2
37	Bruce Biewald	Wayland	1486	44	L6	L49	L29	W47	W51	2
38	Jeffry Gibson	Sudbury	1465	45	L7	½B	D31	L14	W52	2
39	Colt Forsythe	Waltham	1288	56	L18	W35	L27	W53	L19	2
40	David Hoplight	Natick	1229	57	L26	L36	W58	W35	---	2
41	Kent Townley	Marlboro	1614	34	L2	W46	L15	½B	L24	1½
42	Anthony Costa	Randolph	1507	42	L5	WF	L26	½B	L31	1½
43	John Gibbons	Upton	1428	48	D13	L11	L33	W56	---	1½
44	Dave Berube	Westboro	1414	49	L14	W52	L19	L34	D46	1½
45	Mark Limont	Wellesley	1403	50	L15	L51	W55	½B	---	1½
46	Frank Magdits	Mendon	1361	52	L24	L41	L35	WF	D44	1½
47	Robert Dean	Framingham	1347	53	L16	D33	L52	L37	W56	1½

48 Lou Mercuri	Newton	2303	2	W31	L12	---	---	---	1
49 Bijan Haririan	Maynard	2232	4	L20	W37	L11	---	---	1
50 James Matthews	Dedham	2040	10	W53	L17	L21	---	---	1
51 Dave Palmer	Sudbury	1624	32	L3	W45	L8	L28	L37	1
52 Ajit Goswami	Framingham	1613	35	L22	L44	W47	L29	L38	1
53 John Richard	Watertown	1540	39	L50	W55	L25	L39	---	1
54 Michael Becker	Framingham	1494	43	$\frac{1}{2}$ B	L13	$\frac{1}{2}$ B	L30	---	1
55 Tom Powers	Sudbury	1314	55	L17	L53	L45	Bye	L35	1
56 Larry Beatrice	Framingham	1449	46	L8	L27	$\frac{1}{2}$ B	L43	L47	$\frac{1}{2}$
57 Bruce Downing	Foxboro	2102	7	L32	---	---	---	---	0
58 Peter Reynolds	Marlboro	UNR	58	L19	---	L40	---	---	0