

# Tom Nard Memorial

The Tom Nard Memorial was held on February 28, 2015, at Evangel Church in Montgomery. The tournament was named in honor of Tom Nard, who passed away in February. Tom enjoyed a long and distinguished chess career and was one of Montgomery's leading chess players for many years.

31 players competed in three sections: Open, under 1800, and under 1200. Players from Alabama, Florida, and Georgia played in the event. The tournament was four rounds of 45-minute chess with 10-second increment per move. Increment time adds to the chess clock on each move and played a role in several close endings in the tournament.

The Open section was won by Stephen Adams, who is the reigning Alabama State Champion as well as a three-time Alabama State Scholastic Champion. He will be taking his last turn at the State Scholastic in mid-March in Mobile.

The U1800 section was won by Floridian John Laning. Prior to the last round, John remarked that he was unaccustomed to being in the driver's seat of a tournament. I responded that he should be careful not to drive over any nails. His final-round win secured the championship.

Top honors in the U1200 were shared by Esther Graveling, who is a reigning state co-champion at the 45-minute time control, and Charles Esan, who was one of four newcomers to USCF-rated tournaments.

Thanks to all the players for supporting the event, and thanks to the Nard family for helping Evangel Chess Club to honor Tom's legacy.

Final results (players from Alabama unless noted):

OPEN

Champion: Stephen Adams

2<sup>nd</sup> place & U2000 prize (tie): Roger Johnson and Jonathan Rasberry

U1800

Champion: John Laning (Florida)

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Christopher Trees

U1600 prize (tie): Bob Buchanan, Alexander Self, and Sarvagna Velidandla

U1200

Champion (tie): Esther Graveling and Charles Esan

U1000 prize: Dominic Self and Bart Carpenter