

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NO TWELVE

MAY 10, 1943

ANNOUNCING THE FIFTH ANNUAL WEST VIRGINIA CHESS TOURNAMENT

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, May 29 and 30, 1943 (giving some an opportunity to travel home on Monday, which is to be observed as Memorial Day).

Hours: Drawings at 9 a. m. first day; play starts at 10 a. m.

Place: Hotel Gore, West Pike Street at Second, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Method of Play: If 9 players or less, a single round robin; if more than 9 a double round robin, players drawn by lots, with winners to meet for title. (The latter plan subject to veto by players.) Kirk-Holland System to be used to break ties except in case of championship; if a tie there, the title shall be played off or jointly shared as the holders elect.

Entrance Fees: \$4 for Clarksburg WVCA members; \$4.50 for Clarksburg non-members; \$2 for visiting members; \$2.50 for other visitors; men in uniform admitted to play on payment of WVCA membership fee, without further charge.

Prizes: Receipts less WVCA membership, less tourney expenses; manner of distribution to depend on type of tourney; awards to be in War Savings Stamps.

Tournament Committee: WVCA Directors William Challinor and Ray H. Griffin.

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS CANVASSED ON TOURNEY PLANS

Directors and other officers were canvassed rather belatedly by your secretary. As of the date of this bulletin, he had received five replies and has been forced to make rulings on the basis of these, as follows:

1. Date, place and tournament committee, as given above, approved unanimously.
2. Round robin type of play approved unanimously if attendance not too large.
3. Question: "How many games are possible each day?" Answers ranged from 3 to 5. Average was 4.1 games. We therefore ruled 4 games and decided on a single round robin for nine players or less.

4. Question: "If some other form of play is necessary, shall directors, players or local committee decide it?" Vote: Directors 2, players 1, local committee 1. This gave the directors a rather doubtful mandate. (One did not vote on this.)

5. Question: "If directors decide, shall players be divided into two groups by lot or several groups by lot?" Vote: Two groups 4, several groups 1. Unless players object (they will be given a chance at Clarksburg), it will be two groups.

6. Question: "Several members have suggested increased dues to make the association more nearly self-supporting. Should directors decide on this or members?" Vote: Members 4, directors 1. (Three of those voting said that if the directors were to decide they would favor dues of \$1, the other two said dues of 75c.)

7. Question: "Shall we hold election of officers at the tourney, or by mail as we did last year?" Vote: Mail 4, meeting 1. By mail it shall be.

Comments on votes: Number of games possible--"Possibly five with an early start," "Four sounds strenuous but if others can stand it, so can I." Method of holding election--"There never is time for it at the tourney," "The mail method lets all the members in on it," "There are too few members present at the tourney."

A LOUD CALL FOR HELP

From the answers of the directors (and comments of other members) we apparently are committed to either a double or a single round robin. If any member has copies of round robin schedules running from 5 to 9 players, your secretary will be glad to get 'em. Otherwise, he'll likely sit up all night May 28 working on them.

A POST CARD BALLOT ON THE MATTER OF DUES

Since we feel the matter should be decided prior to the tournament, we are inclosing a post card and asking each member to fill it out and drop into the mail, telling whether he favors an increase in dues. Regardless of your answer to this question, fill in the following spaces, also, showing, if there is an increase, whether you favor raising them to 75c or \$1, the amounts suggested by the directors.

We shall try to use the postcard method in the mail election, also; if we can do so, it will save a considerable sum as compared with the use of stamped envelopes in the 1942 election.

WE'RE QUOTED IN CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Members who aren't already aware of the fact no doubt will be glad to learn that the West Virginia Chess Bulletin occasionally is quoted in the chess magazines. The February issue of Chess Correspondent, for instance, has our article about Koltanowski's new game on the chessboard--the one using dice. The Clarksburg Chess Bulletin also was quoted in the January C. C., relative to Kolti's memory feat at the Clarksburg exhibition. (Do you suppose Kolti is the attraction instead of us?)

The Chess Correspondent seems to become a better magazine with each issue. It is the official organ of the Correspondence Chess League of America and is edited and published by Walter T. James, 4130 Tyler street, Sioux City, Ia. The subscription with league membership is \$3; without, \$2. Walt will send you a sample copy.

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Pvt. Frank Wisinski, Charlotte, N. C.: "I've changed locations again. After a nice 5-wk. stay in Florida, got shipped out to Morris Field, Charlotte, N. C. It's a smaller and more compact base but very nice. Am working in the Finance Office here. Have no idea how long I may be here but don't think it will be very long. Had expected to be in Pgh. around the first part of June but now my plans are uncertain... Received the last W. Va. Chess Bulletin for which many thanks. Wish I could be in Clarksburg for the tournament."

Ray H. Griffin, Clarksburg: "I talked to Mr. Anthony, the new manager at the Gore hotel, today and he said we could have for our state touney play the same place we used two years ago, free of charge and with air-conditioning. So I made arrangements for Saturday and Sunday, May 29 and 30... Hap Allison arrived back from Oklahoma Wednesday night. He said he would like to play in the state affair, and would play if he possibly could. But he didn't know that far ahead whether he would be in Clarksburg that week-end... Did I tell you the paper that has Crede's column isn't sold in Clarksburg any more?"

(I hope the members will make it their business, while in Clarksburg, to look Mr. Anthony up and thank him for his fine courtesy and cooperation. It certainly is swell of him to do this for us. The Gore is an excellent hotel and we hope as many of the players as possible will make it their home while in Clarksburg... A business trip kept Hap Allison, the Clarksburg champion, from the '42 meet at Charleston. We trust things will break right for him to be among those present May 29-30.)

Siegfried Werthammer, Huntington: "I shall be happy indeed to play in the State Tournament. The exact date and all other conditions I am sure I will learn from the Chess Bulletin... I hope to meet you personally at the tournament."

(We asked the boss about May 29-30. He said that, barring a nationwide coal strike then, or some other unforeseen contingency, it was entirely probable he could arrange for me to get those days off. So I am hoping that one 'Gene Collett will be able to make it, too.)

Sam Abrahams, Huntington: "It will be of interest to you to learn that Landis Marks is back in Huntington at his old job. I spoke to him by telephone this afternoon. He told me to let you know that he has quite a lot of relatives in the service with whom he has been corresponding a lot, and he is just backward in his other mail... He wants you know that if nothing unforeseen occurs, he will be a participant in the forthcoming tournament. He told me that Dr. Werthammer gives him the hardest opposition, that he is a very fine player... Had I dreamt you intended to use my letter as a 'human interest story' in last month's bulletin, I would have polished it up somewhat for, after re-reading what I wrote to you, I found much that could

have been vastly improved in language... Perhaps that's just what news folks, like yourself, find to be of 'human story' interest... Anyhow, I'm glad you liked it well enough to present it to your readers."

Harold W. Liggett, Charleston: "Hope to see you at the tournament (if we don't go on a 48-hour week). Keep up the good work."

Members will be saddened to learn of the death at Clarksburg of Mrs. Pauline Jeffries, mother of Member William Jeffries. The word came as a great shock to most of the Clarksburg group, all of whom had been present at the good times provided by Mrs. Jeffries at chess sessions in her home. Bill may feel sure that he has the heartfelt sympathy of every member of the association.

ADDRESS CHANGES

H. L. Marks, 921 Eighth Street, Huntington A.
 Pvt. William Jeffries, 1098th Guard Squadron, L.A. A.F., Del Rio, Tex.
 Pvt. Frank B. Wisinski, 30th Service Group, Finance Office, Morris Field, Charlotte, N. C.
 Mrs. B. W. Devericks, 317 Sumner Street, Clarksburg
 Capt. B. W. Devericks, c/o Engineer Supply School, Granite City Engr. Depot, Granite City, Ill.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT--APRIL 10 to MAY 10

	<u>Recd.</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
Balance on hand April 10 (see Bull. 11)			\$11.25
Bull. 11 (80 copies 6 pp) mimeo work \$1.23 postage and envelopes \$1.13		\$2.36	8.89
Postage--correspondence with members		.32	8.57
Postage--mailing yearbooks to new members and sample copies of Bulletins 10 and 11 to prospective members		.24	8.33

Balance in general fund May 10 \$8.33; in correspondence tourney fund, \$2.50.

WE APPEAR IN THE PUBLIC PRESS

The following item, filed on The Associated Press wires by Member George Clark, was carried in most West Virginia newspapers:

"Clarksburg, W. Va., May 1-(ap)-The West Virginia Chess Association will hold its fifth annual state championship tournament in Clarksburg on May 29 and 30, it was announced tonight. The Clarksburg Chess Club will be host.

"Four former champions, three from Charleston and one from Huntington, will compete, together with other pawn pushers from Wheeling, Charleston, Pittsburgh and here.

"The tournament will be an open affair, with all chess players, whether members of the state association or not, eligible to compete."

Also we have a clipping of a story which Member Sam Abrahams caused to be inserted in the Huntington Advertiser April 15:

"Dr. Siegfried Werthammer and Landis Marks of Huntington are expected to enter the West Virginia chess tournament tentatively scheduled to take place in Clarksburg in May, Sam Abrams, secretary of the local club, reported today.

"The chess club will meet tonight at 7:30 o'clock at the YMCA. Visiting players and persons interested in learning the game have been invited to attend the meeting.

NEWS ABOUT CHESS IN CHARLESTON

BY WALT CREDE

On April 9, a six-man team journeyed from Charleston to Montgomery to engage a group from Alloy in the first over-the-board tussle the capital city boys have had in slightly more than two years--city vs. city, I mean. This match proved to be the 14th time Charleston has successfully defended its state team title, if such a label actually exists, officially. The bout was one-sided, Charleston winning 12-0. However, I'd like to point out here and now that the Alloy boys are going to be extremely difficult to push around in another six months. Never have I met a nicer bunch of chessers. Splendid chaps--real sports. And what they are lacking in experience is made up by enthusiasm and true, native interest in the direction of this sport called "Game du Royale."

WALT CREDE OFFERS ANOTHER

mrs. ludwig frank
h. reid holt
lowis morrison
ray martin

ches moover†
m. f. allison
hyman lurie
ray Griffin
bill hartling
rudd Neel
bill davis
george koltanowski

gene Collett
hal Heisey
homer peterson
sam abrahams
lee rogers

Anthony foy
landis marks
bill Schaeffer
ham lyon
ty Cobb
allan gilliland
a. w. Paul
george anthon
bill challinor
layton O. whitman
layne ford

* "Ches Moover" is the mythical dopester on my chess column in the Mail. For weeks he's hounded me to join the WVCA. Under pressure, I did it. He's tickled pink!... My apologies to members whose names weren't used

Members of the teams, ranking from board 1 to 6, were: Charleston, Johnny Hurt, Walt Crede, Hal Liggett, Dick Manahan, Al du Vall, John Carver. Alloy, Dr. Ernest Wolff, Ralph Morrison, "Nick" Nicholas, Larry O'Brien, Robert E. Lee, Koester Colville.

To give you some idea of the sportsmanship shown by the up-Kanawha team, no sooner had the match been completed than they began planning a return-match for Charleston some time in the near future. They actually love chess!

I talked to Dr. Wolff after the playing session. He has been in the U.S. only 4½ years, coming here from Germany. "And," he vows, "I'll never go back. To Europe, yes; but to return to Germany, no!" One thing he said you will find interesting: "In the German schools chess is taught, in all of them. And do you know why? The reason is to teach the Nazi children strategy." * * *

Here's a laugh for you: April 9 was Hal Liggett's fifth wedding anniversary, and Hal told me before he left home to play in the Alloy match, he explained to the little woman, "Well, a fellow's got to have some fun on his wedding anniversary, hasn't he?" Nope, no dishes flying through the air at his departing form; it was all in fun. They celebrated the following night, it being Saturday and all. * * *

Latest word about entrance of Charlestonians in the state meet indicates at least five--Hurt, Hartling, Liggett, Manahan and Crede. And there may be others. I'm trying to talk Dr. Wolff into coming. With Dr. Verthammer a sure bet from Huntington, and Landis Marks; A. W. Paul and Bruce Stover from Wheeling, plus at least three Clarksburgers--that makes at least 12. As I see it, the round robin is definitely out. A fellow can't play more than four games in a day; at least, I can't. So, my suggestion is: Stick to the tried and proved Kink-Holland system.

In spite of the war, it would appear that the 1943 tourney will be the best yet. Has any counsel been taken as to how prizes will be awarded--in defense stamps or the like?

Editor's Note: With regard to Walt's final question, we assumed the defense stamp plan of last year would be followed again this year. Are there any objections? 'Tis so ordered!