

DR. WERTHAMMER WINS FIFTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

Heartiest congratulations from every West Virginia chess player go to Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington who became the fifth state champion at the tournament Saturday and Sunday, May 29 and 30, at the Hotel Gora, Clarksburg.

He had a score of 6 wins and 1 loss, dropping his only game to Ray H. Griffin of Clarksburg. The champion was not sure of his title until the final round in which he defeated John F. Hurt, Jr., of Charleston, a former champion.

EIGHT PARTICIPATE IN TITLE PLAY

There were eight entrants, enabling the use of a round-robin schedule. The other five were William Hartling, Walt Crede, Harold W. Liggett and Richard Grimm, all of Charleston, and William Challinor of Clarksburg. Here's the box score:

	Werthammer	Hartling	Hurt	Crede	Liggett	Griffin	Grimm	Challinor	Totals
Werthammer	...	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	6
Hartling	0	...	1	1/2	1	1	1/2	1	5
Hurt	0	0	...	1	1	1	1	1	5
Crede	0	1/2	0	...	1	1/2	1	1	4
Liggett	0	0	0	0	...	1	1	1	3
Griffin	1	0	0	1/2	0	...	0	1	2 1/2
Grimm	0	1/2	0	0	0	1	...	0	1 1/2
Challinor	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	...	1

The Kirk-Holland count (the score of all players defeated plus half the score of those tied) gave Hartling second place with 14 1/2 points to Hurt's 12.

For those who may be interested in the round-by-round scoring, we append herewith a table showing cumulative scores at the end of each round. The letters after the scores show the players who met in the round. Thus in Round 3, Werthammer and Liggett have "A's" after the scores, showing they were opponents in that round.

	Werthammer	Hartling	Hurt	Crede	Liggett	Griffin	Grimm	Challinor	Totals
Round 1	1(a)	0(a)	1(b)	1/2(c)	1(d)	1/2(c)	0(d)	0(b)	4
Round 2	2(a)	1/2(b)	2(c)	1(b)	2(d)	3/2(c)	0(a)	0(d)	8
Round 3	3(a)	1 1/2(b)	3(c)	1(c)	2(a)	2 1/2(b)	0(d)	1(d)	12
Round 4	4(a)	2(b)	4(c)	1(a)	2(c)	1 3/2(d)	1/2(b)	1(d)	16
Round 5	4(a)	3(b)	5(c)	2(d)	2(d)	2 3/2(a)	3/2(c)	1(b)	20
Round 6	5(a)	4(b)	5(b)	3(c)	3(d)	2 3/2(d)	2 1/2(c)	1(a)	24
Round 7	6(a)	5(b)	5(a)	4(c)	3(b)	2 1/2(d)	1 1/2(d)	1(c)	28

At the end of the fifth round, Johnny Hurt looked like a winner. Although he still had two tough games coming up, with Hartling and Werthammer, no one would have been so brash as to hazard a guess that he would lose them both. Werthammer had just dropped a game to Griffin while Hartling, after a bad start, had been able to get only 3 points in the first five rounds.

After the sixth round, Werthammer needed only a draw for the championship as the Kirk-Holland count would have won for him. However, he played for a win and got it. A loss would have shoved him down to third place!

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THAT CHAMPIONSHIP JINX STILL HOLDS SWAY!

Members will note that the championship jinx still holds good--no player has won the title twice. In 1939, Hurt was the victor; in 1940, Hartling; in, 1941, Crede; and in 1942, H. Landis Marks of Huntington. On account of his work, Marks was unable to attend this year's meet.

The new champion, Dr. Werthammer, was born 32 years ago in Vienna, Austria. He is married and a physician, at present serving as pathologist for the Memorial hospital and St. Mary's hospital in Huntington. He came to the United States in 1938, after the annexation of Austria by Hitler. Soon, he says, he hopes to become an American citizen.

Players will be interested to learn that his mother taught him the game when he was 5 years old. He believes he played his best chess between the ages of 16 and 20.

"Later on," he says, "due to medical school and professional life, I have not had much time for serious chess."

LET US HEAR FROM THE NEW CHAMPION

Here's what Dr. Werthammer says about the play at the Clarksburg tourney:

"I enjoyed the tournament very much. The players I met are a fine bunch of fellows and we all had a great time together."

"As you will see from the scores, I had much luck. Crede lost his queen by an oversight against me. Grimm won my queen very nicely because I ingested a 'poisoned' pawn. Despite this, I succeeded in winning the game, of course with Grimm's help. Grimm is very talented and has the makings of a great chess player."

"I was lucky, too, with the last game against Hurt, which was the crucial point of the tournament. Hurt was tired out by a very difficult preceding game against Hartling. Unfortunately, our game became very complicated. I did not want to play for a draw (which would have been good enough for first place)."

"The game giving me the greatest pleasure was the one which I lost against Griffin. I was brilliantly defeated and rightly punished for faulty opening strategy in a Ruy Lopez."

Then the too-good doctor goes on to say: "About the secretary of the chess association--not the winner but he is the hero of the tournament for making the tournament possible. For his preparation of the tournament and 'remote control' of it by many sheets of instructions. Even if he was not here, his spirit definitely was."

The last sentence is 200 per cent true but the rest ^{SHOULD} be taken with a grain of salt. Truth is, I expected up until the last few days to be among those present and in anticipation had prepared schedules of play and prize awards. When I found I couldn't make it, I mailed copies of the schedules to Griffin and Liggett for possible use in case nothing better was on hand. Anyway, many thanks for the flowers!

PRIZE AWARDS ARE HIGH THIS YEAR

Prize awards went to the top four players, as follows: First, seven-fourteenths of the prize money or \$12.75; second, four-fourteenths, \$7.25; third, two-fourteenths \$3.75; fourth, one-fourteenth, \$1.75. Awards were made in War Saving Stamps.

Reasons for the large amount of prize money available (\$25.50) despite the small entry list were threefold: (1) Players each put in an additional 50 cents over and above the advertised entry fees in order to allow \$1 to be taken out for WVCA dues, (2) there were no hotel bills or other expenses except 50 cents for pencil carbons used in scoring, and (3) Ray H. Griffin, having posted \$10 to be used as entry fees for any Clarksburgers desiring to play and finding the fees unclaimed, allowed the money to be distributed in prizes.

Tourney receipts were: Two Clarksburg entrants @ \$4.50 each, \$9; six out-of-town entrants @ \$2.50 each, \$15; donation, \$10; total, \$34.

Tourney expenses: Prize money (listed above), \$25.50; pencil carbons, \$0.50; 8 memberships to WVCA @ \$1 each, \$8; total, \$34.

The Association expresses appreciation to the Clarksburg Chess Club for furnishing 100 score-sheets for use in the tourney when the secretary was unable to

find time to print them. We'll run off a new supply within the coming month and pay back our borrowings.

To the tournament committee--Griffin, Challinor and Liggett--thanks for a tough job well done.

Our thanks go out also to Mgr. Anthony of the Hotel Gore for providing us a lovely tournament room for two days and nights without charge to the association. The Gore has our good will now and forevermore!

THE TOURNAMENT HAS VISITORS

Visitors at the tourney (an incomplete list, we are afraid) included Mrs. Werthammer, wife of the champion; Dr. Steinmetz who came up from Huntington to see his colleague win; Milford B. Mott of Arthurdale; and the Rev. William Erhard, Bill Schaeffer (of the Clarksburg Exponent staff), Sam Allison and others from Clarksburg.

The Hurt-Hartling game ran pretty long and most of the round 7 games were finished before the finale between Hurt and Werthammer got under way. Result was that practically everybody had a ringside seat for the big match--and occupied it.

The last game ended about 8 p.m. This was achieved by running a 4-game schedule the first day leaving only three games for the second day. This gave members from distant points a chance to get an early start home Sunday night.

Everyone was sorry Landis Marks couldn't make it this year. He was a popular winner last year and many of us feel he could go places in a national meet. We'll be looking for you in 1944, Landis! (Or do you want us to bring the tourney to Huntington?--it might be arranged, if you are interested.)

Member Erhard acted as purchasing agt. for the War Stamps given as prizes.

Reports of the match have been mailed to the leading chess publications--Review, Bulletin and Correspondent. Members George Clark and Bill Schaeffer of Clarksburg filed the story of the meet on The Associated Press wire, insuring its use in practically all West Virginia papers.

MESSAGES FROM ABSENT MEMBERS

Layne H. Ford, Grafton: "I am now at signal corps pre-radar school at West Virginia University but I have classwork until midnight Saturday, so doubt if I'll be able to show up at the tourney. Have a good time!"

Harold C. Helsey, Springfield, O.: "Would very much like to attend the tournament but my work in a war plant will interfere this year."

Capt. B. W. Devericks, Granite City, Ill.: "Will I be at the tournament at Clarksburg? Ha! ha! -- P. S. Remember the little Dutch lad and his thumb? That's me!"

Cliff Mosier, Charleston: "Sorry I won't be able to attend the tournament. Can't get off."

Edward M. Foy, Auburn, Ala: "I will try to write you soon. Best wishes for a successful tournament. I only wish I could attend!"

REPORT ON OUR POSTCARD POLL LAST MONTH

Eighteen members returned their cards in our postcard poll last month. Votes were as follows:

Do you favor increasing dues? Yes 16, No 1, Not voting 1.

If dues are increased, what amount do you favor? Seventy-five cents 5, One Dollar 10, Not voting 3.

Will you attend the state tournament at Clarksburg? Yes 8, No 9, Didn't say 1. (And we had exactly eight present!)

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A nineteenth card was received from O. E. Shefreland, who said: "Because I have moved away from Springfield, O., I think it best that you drop my name from your mailing list. Thanks!"

'Tis done and a narrow escape for Mr. Shefreland, as we mailing out bills for 1943-44 dues with this month's bulletin!

DR. WERTHAMMER PLAYS THREE GAMES

ANNOTATED BY GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI WORLD'S
BLINDFOLD
CHAMPION

We present herewith what may or may not have been the three best games of the state tournament May 29 and 30 at Clarksburg, but three games which were at any rate highly important in that match.

They are Dr. Siegfried Werthammer's victories over William Hartling, runner-up, and John Hurt, third match in the match, and his defeat at the hands of Ray Griffin.

The annotations were kindly done posthaste by Honorary Member George Koltanowski who rushed them back by return mail in order to make this issue of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin.

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QUEEN'S PAWN GAME

(White Picks Out a Good Hole and Plunges Through For a Touchdown.)

WERTHAMMER HURT

1 P-Q4	P-K3
2 P-QB4	N-KB3
3 N-QB3	B-N5
4 Q-B2	N-B3
5 N-B3	O-O
6 B-N5	P-Q4
7 P-K3	R-K

I would suggest P-KR3 here to force the issue about the White B. If 8 B-R4 then P-KN4, 9 B-N3 N-K5 with more chances.

8 6-O-O	BxN
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There seems nothing better.

9 PxB	R-KR3
10 B-R4	PxP

Black should try still 10...P-KN4, 11 B-N3 N-K5, 12 B-Q3 P-KB4 and then hope for the best.

11 BxP	Q-K2
12 K-N	QN-R4
13 B-Q3	P-QN4

Surely not hoping that White will fall for BxP R-N, etc.?

14 N-K5	R-N
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Black should play here 14...Q-R6. If 15 BxN PxN, 16 N-N4 K-N2, 17 P-K4 P-QB4! with a good game. Now White finishes matters.

15 K-R	P-N4
16 B-N3	B-R3?
17 P-KR4	N-R4
18 PxP	NxB
19 RxP!	QxP
20 R-R3ch	K-N2
21 R-R7ch	K-B
22 RxPch	K-N
23 B-R7ch	K-R
24 N-N6ch	

Coup du grace.

24 ...	QxN
25 BxQ	Resigns

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QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (IN EFFECT)

(The Knight and the Passed Pawn don't get in on the final kill but they paved the way for it.)

WERTHAMMER HARTLING

1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-K3
3 N-QB3	P-Q4
4 B-N5	B-K2
5 P-K3	P-B3
6 N-B3	QN-Q2

7 R-B	O-O
8 P-QR3	P-QR4

So far, so good, but a move like P-QR4 is never good so early in the game. 8...P-KR3, followed by R-K is better.

9 PxP	KPxP
10 B-Q3	P-KR3

Here Black could break free with 10...N-K5.

11 B-B4	N-R4
12 O-O	NxB
13 PxN	B-Q3
14 N-K5	Q-R5

Waste of good time. 14...NxN, 15 BPxN B-B2, followed by P-B3 is to be recommended.

15 P-KN3	Q-R6
16 R-K	BxN
17 BPxB	Q-K3
18 Q-R5	P-KB4
19 N-K2	Q-B2
20 QxQch	KxQ
21 N-B4	

This wins a pawn. If 21 BxP, then NxP! etc. Now Black is lost and White finishes very strongly.

21	N-N3
22 P-K6ch	K-B3
23 N-R5ch	K-N3
24 P-KN4	N-B5

WERTHAMMER HARTLING
 25 N-N3 N-Q3
 26 PxPch K-B3
 27 R-K5 N-K
 28 N-R5ch K-K2
 29 N-B4 K-Q3
 30 QR-K P-QN3
 31 P-QN4 PxP
 32 PxP R-R5
 33 R-N R-B3
 34 N-K2 B-R3
 35 P-N5 P-B4
 36 PxB PxP
 37 P-B4 R-R6
 38 R-QNPch K-B2
 39 R-N7ch K-K3
 40 R-Q7ch Resigns

6 R-K N-B3
 7 NxP NxN
 8 RxNch B-K2
 9 Q-K2 P-QN4
 10 B-N3 P-Q3

And now Black gains plenty of time.

11 R-K3 P-Q4
 12 P-Q4 B-K3
 13 N-B3

This move is not good as the N is not so well placed here. 13 P-QB3 was better.

13 ... P-B3

Not yet necessary. Castling immediately is better.

14 B-Q2 O-O
 15 P-KR3 R-K
 16 R-K P-B4
 17 RxB

Looks very good. White could also have played PxP, although Black gets a strong game after BxBP.

17 ... PxR
 18 QxPch K-B

19 BxP
 Forced. If 19 NxQP P-B5, 20 NxB QxN, 21 QxQch RxxQ, 22 B-N4 N-Q4 wins.

19 ... NxB
 20 NxN B-B3
 21 QxRch

White has nothing better.

21 ... QxQ
 22 RxQ RxxR
 23 NxR PxN
 24 PxP R-K7
 25 B-B3 P-B4
 26 P-B6 K-K
 27 P-KN4 PxP
 28 PxP K-Q
 29 B-R5ch K-B
 30 P-B7 RxxBP
 31 P-N4 RxxRP
 32 K-N2 RxB
 33 P-B4

So far everything has been forced. White could not do anything. Now after finding that 33 PxP loses through P-N5 and Black will queen the pawn, White could have resigned.

33 ... R-R7ch
 34 K-B3 KxP
 35 P-B5 K-Q3
 36 K-B4 K-K2
 37 P-N5 K-B2
 38 K-K5 R-R5
 39 Resigns

ROY LOPEZ

(White fumbles a bit in the opening and Black never lets him get back on his game.)

WERTHAMMER GRIFFIN

1 P-K4 P-K4
 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
 3 B-R5 P-QR3
 4 B-R4 N-B3
 5 O-O NxP

Black hits out immediately by trying to avoid being tied by his greater theoretical adversary.

Commenting on Ray Griffin's game as a whole, Koltanowski says: "Congratulations are due to Mr. Griffin for a wellplayed and cool-headed game."

RICHARD GRIMM VISITS PITTSBURGH

Dick Grimm spent his vacation with his parents in Pittsburgh and returned to Charleston by way of the Clarksburg tournament.

While in the Smoggy City, he dropped in for a session of Downtown YMCA Chess Club and furnishes your secretary with this report:

"Played chess with Meese of the Pittsburgh club--and is he good! Beat me 7 out of 11."

Finding this note in our mailbox at the Y with Dick's name signed to it, we phoned him at Fieldbrook 2928 and we were able to get together with a little incidental chin music before he left for Clarksburg. We can inform Richard that losing to Meese is no disgrace--he's one of the Top Ten at the Downtown Y. (Your secretary is one of the Lower Twenty.)

Dick had planned to leave Pittsburgh on the 2:15 a. m. bus, getting into Clarksburg at 9:20 a. m., just in time to begin tourney play. Due to the gasoline emergency, however, he was left standing on the platform. He wired Ray Griffin to hold a place for him, took the next bus for Clarksburg, arriving shortly after noon, and plunged immediately into competition. And from what Dr. Werthammer says about him (see page 2) Dick may be the man to watch in 1944!

West Virginia Chess Association

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT---1942-43 (UP TO AND INCLUDING MAY 28, 1943)

Balance on hand at end of 1941-42 association year (Bull. 2)	\$ 6.50
Receipts during year:	
56 membership fees 1942-43 @ 50¢ each	28.00
1 membership fee 1943-44 @ 50¢	.50
1 yearbook sold without membership	.50
Contributions to yearbook, bulletin and association:	
Paull \$10, Chrislip \$2, Devericks and Grimm \$1 each, Sweeney 56¢,	
Taylor, Liggett and Collett 50¢ each, Challinor and Peterson	
25¢ each---total	16.56
Commissions on chess books and magazines sold thru the association	3.37
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Total to be accounted for	<u>\$55.43</u>
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Expenditures during year:	
Balance expenses 1942 tourney--pencil carbons 21¢, registration	
and mailing of war stamps to tourney winners 48¢--total	\$.69
11 bulletins (Nos. 2-11, July 1942-May 1943) (breakdown of cost is	
given below)	25.02
Yearbook 74 copies--Printing \$13.33, mailing \$2.40 (complete break-	
down of cost given in November 1942 bulletin)	15.73
Secretary's correspondence with members, etc., about half of which	
was in connection with yearbook	4.49
Election costs:	
June 1942 balloting for officers, etc., mimeo work 29¢, envelopes	
30¢, postage \$1.76	2.35
May 1943 vote on dues and poll on tourney attendance, mimeo work	
11¢, postcards 60c	.71
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Total expenditures for year	<u>\$48.99</u>
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Balance on hand May 28, 1943	<u>\$ 6.44</u>
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Note: The above report does not include \$2.50 entry fees in correspondence tournament, being held in special fund for prizes.

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Breakdown on bulletin costs:

Mimeo work (stencils, ink, paper, etc.) \$13.41; envelopes and postage \$11.61; total \$25.02, or an average of \$2.27½ for each of the 11 issues. Heaviest bulletin cost was for No. 2 (July 1942) the sheets of which were printed on one side only, \$3.64. Lowest was \$1.08 for the four-page October 1942 issue.

Bulletin expenses are somewhat higher since I moved to Pittsburgh. At Clarksburg I delivered bulletins personally to almost all the members there, thus saving postage.

During the 1942-43 club year, members received 60 pages of bulletin or an average of 5.5 pages per issue. The number of copies printed ran from 60 to 80 per issue (the extra copies being used for promotion and filing).

The bulletin cost likely will run somewhat higher during 1943-44 due to extra postage and the increased cost of materials. If necessary to stay within our income, we can reduce the number of pages. This is about the only saving possible if we are to have a monthly bulletin, as I believe we should.

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A curious fact appears in our financial report. At the end of the 1941-42 year, we had a balance of \$6.50. This year the balance is \$6.44, showing that we came within six cents of living within our income during the past twelve months. This balance in our treasury was made possible, however, only through generous contributions from a number of members, notably Pres. Paull of Wheeling who donated \$10 to the cause.