

The
WEST
VIRGINIA

CHESS

BULLETIN

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The WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

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ANNOUNCEMENT

OHIO VALLEY OPEN Won last year by Harkins & Berzzarins.
November 10 & 11, 1962

5 Round Swiss

At the: BROAD LINCOLN HOTEL, 631 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio.

OPEN TO: Residents of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia only.

ENTRY FEE: \$4.00.

PLUS: All contestants must be or become members of the USCF (\$5.00)
and one of the three state organizations (WVCA, \$2.00).

REGISTRATION: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. FIRST ROUND: 10:00 a.m.

TRI-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Dates, place, registration, entry fee same
as above. Won last year by Saul Wachs.

OPEN TO: All former Tri-State champions.

Former champions of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia
starting with 1945.

Present champions and second place players from these
states as determined by latest state championship tourna-
ment. No entry fee required from this group.

A five-round tournament with cash prize. Minimum first prize: \$50.00

Further information: J. R. Schroeder, Box 652, Springfield, Ohio.

Remember to bring your chess clock, if you have one. If you don't, don't
stay away for that reason. You'll enjoy this tournament.

24TH ANNUAL STATE TOURNAMENT

The annual state tournament was held over the Labor Day weekend at Wheeling, Sept. 1-2, with 21 players taking part.

In the Senior Championship, Dr. Alex J. Darbes of Huntington successfully defended his title, winning by a 5-1 score. He defeated Tom Sweeney, Don McKee, David Marples, Dr. S. Werthammer, and Jhn Scherer in order, clinching the title, and then lost in the final round to Edward Foy. Scoring 4-2 for 2nd to 5th place tie were Scherer, South Charleston, Foy, Charleston, McKee, Wheeling, and Marples, St. Albans. Two M.D.'s tied for 6th and 7th places with $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$, Dr. Werthammer of Huntington and Dr. G.H. Pierson of Clendenin.

To determine the runner-up who qualified for the Tri-State Championship (Scherer) the median tie-break was used. Of course Foy and Dr. Werthammer have already ^{qualified} in previous years, since former winners are now eligible.

Mrs. Cedric Smith of Wheeling, as the highest scoring woman player, was voted the title of West Virginia Women's Champion (over her own mild protest).

A pleasant surprise was the show of strength by the Wheeling players, Don McKee and Otto Zwicker. The latter went scoreless two years^{ago}, but rose to 3-3 this time, winning from Dr. Pierson, Scherer, and Ritter, the latter another capable Wheeling player. Parkersburg was not represented, for the first time in several years.

In the Junior Championship, William Barnes of Wintersville, Ohio, won first place, scoring $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. J. Gogol of Glen Dale and Janis Zvargulis of St. Albans scored 4-2 and were declared Junior Co-Champions, being the highest-scoring West Virginia residents. Joe Werthammer, the Doctor's son, made 4th place with $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ and was the only one to manage a draw with Barnes. The quiet behavior of the juniors was appreciated by all. (The previous 4 tournaments were noisy.)

Both tournaments were directed by Alfred Bobbs of Wheeling, assisted by Otto Zwicker and Dr. Darbes. Don McKee was in charge of tournament arrangements for the host club.

TOURNAMENT TALK

The WVCA finally had to pay for its pleasures, as had been expected. Hotels are less able to donate tournament space as time goes on. It's not only the competition of motels. Use of trailers, speedier transportation making some stopovers unnecessary are two of many other factors.

In spite of this, we seem to be having more competition for the hotels on our particular weekend. This year the state Young Democrats got the best hotel, and other organizations holding Labor Day weekend meets are the barbers (Parkersburg 1950) and the deaf-mutes (Wheeling 1956).

...William Barnes, junior winner, is a prime mover in the Wintersville, Ohio, High School Chess Club, said to be the only high school club in the country with a USCF charter. It has a large membership and is active in holding tournaments and team matches. Those interested in playing team matches should write Daniel De Nicola, Grandview Estates, Wintersville, O.

BUSINESS SESSION

New officers elected were Dr. George H. Pierson of Clendenin, President; Charles L. Ritter of Wheeling, Vice-President; and re-elected was Thomas O. Bergquist of Huntington, Secretary-Treasurer.

At the business session it was suggested that an effort be made to induce members who were unable to attend the tournament to pay their dues anyway. Dues are \$2 and the money is needed mainly for prizes and bulletin expenses. It should be mentioned also that the WVCA is indirectly

responsible - through its members' private efforts - for a lot of good work in arousing interest in chess and bringing its benefits to more people. Some of the ways in which this has been done are : team matches, including some with the state penitentiary, chess classes at the YMCA's, helping high school chess clubs, conducting junior tournaments, short wave radio matches, simultaneous exhibitions, and other publicity stunts. All of this cost the Association nothing, yet it helps the cause of chess. However, one thing does cost money - the Tri-State Tournament - and that is one of the main reasons why we would like all you absent members to send in your dues: \$2 for seniors, and \$1 for juniors, those under 21. Mail your dues to Thomas O. Bergquist, 3926 Brandon Road, Huntington, W.Va.

A second suggestion was that local clubs add a dollar to their own tournament entry fees for the benefit of the Association. The Huntington club sent its entry fees to the WVCA one year, when things were kind of tight, so likely other clubs would be glad to contribute if the need were explained.

WHEELING

Last Spring the Wheeling Chess Club attempted a double round robin open tournament with 22 entries. Of the 462 possible games, 169 were actually played, over a period of 3 months. Since many contestants played a different number of games, final rankings were assigned by a kind of rating formula constructed by Don McKee. On this basis, Charles L. Bishop, Jr., won first prize - a chess clock - with a score of 20-1, and Charles L. Ritter was second with 22½-4½. Bill Cunningham won a travelling chess set for completing the most games--36 out of a possible 42. ...Club Secretary Don McKee reports on his chess class last Spring--March through May:

"The arrangement arose from my desire to enlarge activity at chess and to benificiate relationships between Wheeling Chess Club and officials of the local YMCA (where the club meets).

The concession allowed by the YMCA officials encompassed facilities for a class from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on Saturdays--involving youths of ages nine through thirteen. Therein may have existed the first mistake--the ages of the pupils, I mean. However, that was the only style of human being that was wanted for the class by YMCA authorities.

Attendance was huge, as was disorganization. Attendance rose from 8 on the first day of the meetings to 24 three weeks later. The increased number lent itself well to increased dependent activities such as wrestling. At any amazing rate, the progressive mentor, one I, was able to discourage physical violence among the group to furnish an almost suitable atmosphere for chess.

We reached a low point in respect to behavior when a couple of the more inventive youths tossed chewing gum (already chewed) onto the seats of an open convertible automobile which was resting beneath a window in the third floor room in which I was otherwise occupied at the time. The proud teacher, one I, learned about that incident indirectly later, at which time I did learn also that the car belongs to an officer in the very YMCA.

However, we continued in confused zeal with the crass class. Despite their efforts, the boys gradually accumulated more knowledge about chess.

Enthusiasm reached such a point that one of the youths even went so far as to attend several regular meetings of Wheeling Chess Club. That devotion was encouraging but marred by his tendency to babble and blather and mutter and otherwise talk rather continuously, while engaging in games of chess in the room with the contrastingly rather silent adults. Not being able to conceive of a method to instruct this particular youth not

to make noise like that during games, unless I predictedly would discourage him altogether concerning chess, I let him babble onward.

Somehow, he quit attending the adult gatherings, perhaps for the good of all...

Although the type of mass class that I have described does evidently not immediately provide members for the sponsoring chess club, still it ought to do so eventually.

Further, I hope that the YMCA officials later will extend their facilities for classes for other groups. It has been my plan to work up to opportunities to instruct adults by co-operating with the initial requests by the YMCA for instruction of youths. Of course, I may be working down to a lack of opportunities for teaching chess, considering the vandalistic tendencies of those boys...

Eight sets were used, each being an example of the least expensive sort of set marketed by E. S. Lowe and Company--each costing the enormous sum of 90 cents.

Not only are such sets suitable for casual contention at chess, but are particularly well suited for forming of the pieces into stacks, to which incidental project the lads were often noted devoting more attention than to actual moving of pieces on the boards.

If I may be exaggerative, let me claim that some of the contests were decided according to which player had stacked his captured pieces more impressively. Of course, the desire on the pupils' parts to stack captured pieces must have induced a larger desire on their parts to bring about captures, which effect is somewhat rewarding to the beleaguered teacher."

boy

(PAS: In my class, one small/made a jungle gym out of the easel holding the demonstration board. Another found a slug that would not only operate the Y's pop machine but reject itself, so they all had a round of drinks on the Y. Only took home what they could carry under their belts, however. Three joined our club, Then dropped out.)

CHARLESTON

David Marples is in charge of preparations for the 25th Annual State Tournament next Labor Day weekend at Charleston, with state centennial overtones. He is making a list of all former members of the WVCA who have not been in tournaments lately. If you can help him collect their names and addresses--and of course those of new prospects--please send them to him at 392 Baier St., St. Albans, W. Va.

...From Chess Life, news that Harry McKinney again went to the U. S. Open, scoring $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$, one of his opponents being Charles Morgan, who won.

And from the Arizona Woodpusher, with whose editor, Col. Paul Webb (former Huntingtonian) we exchange bulletins, news that McKinney was in the U. S. Junior tournament at Tucson. He scored 5-4, good for 15th place, and played the 2nd and 3rd place winners, Irwin and Formanek. Larry Gilden won.

HUNTINGTON

H. Landis Marks continued his tournament-hopping as described last issue by going to the Eastern Open at Washington (score 5-5) and to the New York State Championship at Poughkeepsie, where he tied for 3rd, winning a cash prize. Both events were won by Pal Benko, The New York performance was one of Marks' best yet.

...Charles Boggs also went to the Eastern Open, scoring 6-4.

...In June the Huntington-YMCA chess club held a 5-round, 8-player 30-30 tournament (30 moves in 30 minutes), won by Marks, 5-0, ahead of Dr.

Darbes, 4-1, and Boggs, $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. (Also Sayre, last year's winner, $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$.)
...In July we played the club championship tournament, with only 5 taking part, perhaps due to the competition of the great outdoors. Dr. Darbes won $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$, winning from Sayre and Marks and drawing with Frank Bruzzese. Sayre scored 3-1 and Marks 2-2. Young Billy Payne took part in his first rated tournament and won from Bruzzese.

...Charles Morgan, noting our article on his becoming a master last issue, writes that he was born in West Virginia and not Ohio--he moved there at the age of 4, then moved back later. So now we can correct the record and proudly announce that he is West Virginia's first native-born chess master, and not just native-bred. He went to the U. S. Open at San Antonio, scoring 7-5, one less than last year. He played the tournament winner for the second year in a row, last year Benko, this year Medina. His rating has dropped somewhat, but he has been too busy to devote much time to chess.

...Bill McComas, in the Air Force at Keesler AFB, Miss., was one of two representatives of his base in the Air Training Command Chess Tourney at a base near San Antonio. He and his friend made 4-2, a tie for 4th place, and 26 bases were represented. Ross Sprague of Ohio was the winner with a perfect 6-0 score. Bill has been getting in some practice with an expert.

MORE ABOUT "SOVIET SCHOOL OF CHESS"

An out-of-state correspondent--a USCF expert and a critic of books--writes that "Your review of 'The Soviet School of Chess' is inaccurate. You missed the most important part of the book - the opening innovations. The propaganda in this book can easily be ignored. It is definitely NOT organized to show what great guys the communists are--rather than to help the student of chess improve his game."

Being relatively ignorant of openings myself, I confess that this is likely true. Still, it is hard to make use of innovations if you do not know the reason for them or the probable ways of following them up. Sometimes the book omits these things. Several pages are devoted to a catalogue of new moves which are named after Soviet players and left unexplained. Statements like this are sprinkled through the "catalogue" and elsewhere: "The modern theory of this major opening (Ruy Lopez) has evolved exclusively from the analyses and tournament games of Soviet players. (names listed)" Traditional Russian megalomania on top of the usual Communist propaganda produces a kind of Pelinn-on-Ossa exaggeration which I find alternately irritating and funny. Hence my remark about "unconscious" humor". However, it may be that an advanced player can detect the reasons for the innovations even though they are not always explained. And this is why I said the book is "likely good for advanced players". I will add that ordinary players - like me - will likely be entertained by it, and might easily get more out of the opening lore than I did. And finally, there is no answer to the charge that Western books on openings, such as Modern Chess Openings, give too little space to Soviet research--one reason for the undercurrent of outraged dignity in this book.

CHANGING TIMES IN WEST VIRGINIA CHESS.

There are at least three changes to consider: the wave of "emigration" changing in playing sites, and the change, or growth, in our objectives. 1) Players moving away from our state in the last few years are Walt Crede, Reid Holt, and John Hurt of Charleston, Charles T. Morgan, Dr. Donald Burdick, Jim Ballard of Huntington, Dr. Richard Lee of Morgan-

town, and several others. There is nothing we can do about this as chess players, as far as holding back the "waves" is concerned. But we can--some of us--give the Association more of our time and try to help hold things together until better times return. As in many chess games, a defensive strategy is indicated, though where possible we must seize the initiative. Perhaps some of the suggestions at our "back-to-the-wall" business session will bear fruit.

2) Most old-timers can remember when a playing site was no problem at all. We were even willing to try - as occasional variant on the usual YMCA meeting room - the WVU School of Commerce or their hospital library, or the Beckley Elks Club, or the Charleston Coca-Cola plant. But we are a little older now and have been trying to emphasize hotels as playing sites, both for the convenience of the between-round rest, and to have nice surroundings and encourage new members to take part. Our problem now seems to be that economic conditions not only force the hotels to charge us for their service, but prevent some from giving us very much for our money. Editor had investigated the idea of holding this year's event at a motel in Wheeling, but apparently not thoroughly. There was a motel with a meeting room, but it was a new one and my informant did not know about it. Huntington also has a new motel with meeting rooms, but rates start at \$8.50 and \$14.00 single and double, for sleeping quarters. Furnishings are luxurious,--perhaps too much so, for us folks.

3) By the change in our objectives I mean the change from what is called "chess for fun" to "chess for blood", or serious tournament chess. The Huntington players went through this difficult phase about 10 years ago. A new member, asking the purpose of the club, was told it was "to provide a place where anyone who wants to can go and play chess"--meaning whether or not he could afford dues, and meaning also, just plain chess, without special emphasis on formal events, 3 or 4 of them constituting a busy year. Probably few players went beyond a present-day Class B level of play and the club fell apart every few years.

Influenced by Dr. Werthammer and the late Dr. V. S. Hayward, several young players began to study the "books" seriously. Youngsters like Charles Morgan and Donald Burdick outplayed older, more conservative members and outpointed them in tournaments, and expressed a wish for more serious chess events. Eventually, either due to chessical pressure or for other reasons, some of the older players dropped out, to the detriment of the club.

If any other West Virginia clubs go through this phase--and times are pointing that way--I would like to say I think it's unnecessary. "Fun" and "serious" players not only are compatible, they need each other. The serious ones help you improve your game, and the fun players teach you something equally valuable, how to relax and enjoy it. In our club, the fun players get an occasional invitation to a tournament, but we make a point of not badgering them to enter. Good manners demands that personal foibles be remembered, and if you don't like tournaments, you just don't like 'em. So we allow time for skittles after each event. A chess club, like any other enterprise, should offer complete service.

West Virginia Chess Association
 Financial Statement
 Sept. 1, 1961 to Aug. 31, 1962

Cash on Hand Sept. 1, 1961 \$ 20.33

Receipts

1961 Tournament				
Championship	16 @ \$5.00	\$80.00		
	3 @ 3.00	9.00		
Junior	10 @ 2.00	<u>20.00</u>	\$109.00	
Annual State Dues		2.00 <u>2.00</u>		
1960-1961	1 @ 2.00	2.00		
1961-1962	4 @ 2.00	8.00		
Overpayment	1.00	<u>1.00</u>	11.00	
Individual USCF Dues				
	8 @ 5.00	40.00	40.00	
Donations for Excess 1960 Ohio Valley Open Expenses				
			<u>7.00</u>	<u>167.00</u>
Total Cash Available				\$187.33

Disbursements

Trophies				
	1961 Tournament	\$ 7.42		
	1962 Tournament	<u>20.00</u>	\$ 27.42	
USCF Individual Memberships		40.00		
	Less 20% Commission	<u>-8.00</u>	32.00	
USCF Dues for WVCA Franchise			10.00	
Printing				
	Bulletins	54.38		
	Score Sheets	7.50		
	Announcements	<u>3.08</u>	64.96	
Postage-Bulletins & Announcements			7.38	
Rating Fees to USCF			5.40	
Dues Refund to Ed. Foy (Overpayment)			1.00	
Telephone			5.68	
Wm. Byland-Donation for 1961 Tri-State Expenses			<u>25.00</u>	<u>178.184</u>

Cash on Hand Aug 31, 1962 \$ 8.49

(Signed) Thomas O. Bergquist
 Secretary-Treasurer, WVCA

W. Va. Senior Championship, Wheeling 1962

1 Dr. A. J. Darbes, Huntington	W12 W4 W5 W6 W2 L3	5-1
2 J. Scherer, S. Charleston	L8 W13 W4 W3 L1 W6	4-2
3 E. M. Foy, Charleston	W11 W8 D6 L2 D7 W1	"
4 D. McKee, Wheeling	W9 L1 L2 W11 W10 W8	"
5 D. Marples, St. Albans	W13 W12 L1 L9 W14 W11	"
6 Dr. S. Werthammer, Huntington	W7 W10 D3 L1 W8 L2	3½-2½
7 Dr. G. Pierson, Clendenin	L6 W14 L8 W12 D3 W9	"
8 O. Zwicker, Wheeling	W2 L3 W7 W10 L6 L4	3-3
9 P. Sayre, Huntington	L4 L11 W14 W5 W12 L7	"
10 C. Ritter, Wheeling	W14 L6 W11 L8 L4 W13	"
11 G. Hobday, Charleston	L3 W9 L10 L4 W13 L5	2-4
12 T. Sweeney, Wheeling	L1 L5 W13 L7 L9 W14	"
13 A. Dobbs, Wheeling	L5 L2 L12 W14 L11 L10	1-5
14 Mrs. Cedric Smith, Wheeling	L10 L7 L9 L13 L5 L12	0-6

W. Va. Junior Championship, Wheeling 1962

1 W. Barnes, Wintersville, Ohio	W6 W5 W2 D4 W3 Bye	5½-½
2 J. Gogol, Glen Dale Follansbee	W3 W7 L1 W5 L4 Bye	4-2
3 J. Zvargulis, St. Albans	L2 Bye W4 W6 L1 W5	"
4 J. Werthammer, Huntington	L5 W6 L3 D1 W2 Bye	3½-2½
5 K. Dolgowski, Wheeling Glen Dale	W4 L1 W7 L2 Bye L3	3-3
6 C. Chaddock, " "	L1 L4 Bye L3 WD	1-3
7 A. Melott, Moundsville	Eye L2 L5 WD	1-2

WD -- Withdrew

Tournament director, A. C. Dobbs, assisted by
O. Zwicker and Dr. Darbes

USCF RATINGS August 1962 list, tournaments March through June.

The J. Abraham in the April list was apparently not a W. Va. player. The only W. Va. event rated in this list is the Huntington-YMCA chess club Spring rating tournament, although W. Va. players entered several out-of-state events. Rowland Burns, Jr., Frank Bruzzese, and Kelly (Jerry) McLean are three new USCF members from Huntington. So is Billy Payne, but our July tournament is not rated yet.

F. Bruzzese	1722*	D. McKee	1645
R. Burns, Jr.	1400*	K. McLean	1618*
Dr. A. J. Darbes	1934	H. L. Marks	2085
H. Eads	1750	C. T. Morgan	2151
J. Hürt	2015	P. Sayre	1838
W. McComas	1753	T. Sweeney	1729

* Less than 5 tournaments, not representative.

WVCA Officers:

President: Dr. George H. Pierson, Clendenin, W. Va.

Vice President: Charles L. Ritter, 111 Elm St., Wheeling, W. Va.

Secretary-Treasurer: Thomas O. Bergquist, 3926 Brandon Road, Huntington, W. Va.

Bulletin:

Editor: Paul A. Sayre, 1033 14th St., Huntington, W. Va.