

MOTT WINS CONTEST - - NEW PRIZE OFFERED

Winner of last month's prize contest is Milford B. Mott of Arthurdale for his solution, White mates in 9. The main line (after 24...P-KR3) is as follows: 25 N-B7ch K-R2, 26 NxP Q-B3, 27 N-B7 dis ch Q-R3, 28 NxQ R-K2, 29 N-B5 dis ch K-N, 30 NxRch K-B, 31 N-N6ch K-K, 32 N-K5 dis ch K-B (or P-N3), 33 Q-B7 (or Q-R8) mate. If 28...R-B4, 29 N-B5 dis ch K-N, 30 Q-B7AK-R or K-R2, QxP mate. If 25...K-N, 26 NxPch PxN (if 26...K-R or K-R2, 27 N-B7ch K-N, 28 Q-R8 mate), 27 Q-B7ch K-R, 28 Q-R7 mate.

Most of the members discovered the key moves 25 N-B7ch and 26 NxP although a few insisted that Black has a draw in any variation. Second-best paper came from Allen DuVall, Charleston, who figured Black could hold off till the 30th move. He missed the sacrifice move 28...R-K2. DuVall also offered this original thot: 25 N-B7ch K-R2, 26 NxP Q-R4, 27 N-B5 dis ch K-N, 28 Q-B7ch K-R or K-R2, QxP mate. Frank Wisinski, Clarksburg, also presented a variation not found by the other solvers: 25 N-B7ch K-R2, 26 NxP Q-K4ch, 27 QxQ KxN, 28 QxPch K-R4, 29 Q-N5 mate.

BLACK

	R	R		K
P		R		P
	P		P	
				N
				Q
	P			P
	Q			
			P	P
				K

Thanks are due also to Jesse Church, Johnny Hurt, Hal Liggett, Dick Grimm and others for interesting suggestions and to Honorary Member Koltanowski for his help with the analysis of the position.

WHITE

Mott has selected a 4-month trial subscription to Chess Review as his prize. The order is in the mail.

Which brings us up to Prize Contest No. 2:

Hal Liggett writes: "I suggest Black's best move in the Hurt-Grimm prize position is 24 Q-R5 Q-B7, 25 N-B7ch K-N, 26 N-R6ch K-R and White draws by perpetual check. If Black takes the N he loses by 26 N-R6ch PxN, 27 Q-B7ch K-R, 28 Q-N7 mate. If after 26 N-R6ch K-R White plays 27 Q-B7 Q-N3 wins for Black."

Dick Grimm writes: "If after 24 Q-R5 Q-K4ch, 25 P-N3 I had played 25 Q-KN4, 26 N-B7ch K-N and White should now play 27 N-R6ch PxN wins or if 27 N-N5 Q-N3 and I think Black is safe. If I'm wrong here, I would be glad to know how White wins or draws."

There you have a situation! Two of our tourney players are in direct disagreement as to the outcome of two "best" moves. Here are the prize questions:

(1) Since there probably is only one "best" move if that many, is it the one suggested by Hal or the one preferred by Dick? (2) Do either of the moves give Black a chance to win or draw? In other words, starting with 24 Q-R5 (the position shown above) what is the logical outcome of the game with best play on both sides?

Dick and Hal, in spite of their pre-analysis (which may or may not be correct), are of course eligible to compete along with the other members. But our suggestion is that both of them look the position over carefully again before sending in their solutions.

Conditions are the same as for Contest No. 1: For the best solution received by the secy with a postmark Sept. 30 or earlier, we offer a choice of the following: (1) membership in the WVCA for anyone your designate, (2) membership in the U.S. Chess Federation, (3) a 4-month trial subscription to Chess Review, or (4) any \$1 chess book or credit of \$1 toward any more expensive chess book you may select.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

- 47 William Schaeffer, 651 Washington Avenue, Clarksburg
- 48 Mrs. Ludwig Frank, 1570 Kanawha Boulevard, E., Charleston
- 49 Dr. Ernest Wolff, 510 Fifth Avenue, Montgomery (NEW)

ADDRESS CHANGES

- William F. Hartling, 1979 Benedict Circle, Belvil Park, St. Albans, W. Va.
 - George Lewis Morrison, 408 Hillcrest Hotel, Toledo, Ohio
- (Owing to work on Yearbook, we're holding bulletin to 4 pages--finance report next time)

PENNSYLVANIA TOURNAMENT - SWISS SYSTEM

Dick Grimm, Charleston, spent his vacation in Pittsburgh and played in the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation Tournament held there over Labor day week-end. He wasn't first but he did right well (just where did you finish, Dick?) and Honorary Member George Koltanowski spoke of him as "a strong player." Not bad at all! Anyway, since Dick played, we feel we should give a report on the meet.

The championship was won by Tom Gutekunst, 34, advertising salesman for the Allentown Call & Chronicle. Bob Smith, Pittsburgh, a member of the Downtown Y Chess Club (to which your secy also has the honor to belong), was second. A total of 31 played.

The tourney plan was new to your secy. Kolti called it the Swiss System Blank Variation. (He says he hasn't decided what to call the variation yet.) The method won the praise of all we heard talking about it. If W.Va. has too many for a round robin next year and 8 seems the r.r. limit--this Swiss System might be the answer to our much-discussed problem. So here's a brief and far from exhaustive explanation of it:

- (1) Round One. Opponents and colors drawn by lot.
- (2) Round Two. Winners meet winners, losers meet losers, those who drew meet those who drew. If there was an odd player in Round One, he goes with the winners and is credited a point.
- (3) Round Three. Those with 2 points meet those with 2 points, those with $1\frac{1}{2}$ pts. meet those with $1\frac{1}{2}$, etc. If there is an odd player in a group, he goes into the next lower group. If there is a bye player, he is always in the bottom group.
- (4) And so on thru as many rounds as are needed. Pennsylvania with 31 players had 7 rounds. Kolti said only 5 were needed to pick a finalist and sure enough the man on top at the end of Round 5 was also on top at the end of Round 7, altho there was some shifting of minor positions. In W.Va., we should be able to settle all our questions in a 5-round meet--tho we could play 6 or 7 if players wanted it that way.
- (5) No player is permitted to meet the same opponent twice.
- (6) The Tourney Director (T.D.) keeps tab of colors, seeing that each player gets W & B an equal number of times. In last round, if an odd number, colors are selected by lot. In fact, wherever possible, they are chosen by lot; the T.D. assigns colors only when necessary to keep one player having W or B too often.
- (7) Ties for position are broken much as we broke them in W.Va. meets--a player gets full score of defeated opponents, half the score of tied opponents. If there is still a tie, scores of opponents to whom the player lost are added in. If there is still a tie, the position is settled by the flip of a coin. "But," says Kolti, "I have put on several tourneys under Swiss rules and never yet had to flip a coin."

Of course, there are more details but that gives you the main outline. Much depends on the T.D. who must be willing and able to make decisions that will stick. Kolti says the system can be operated nicely by a playing director if he is fair. We should have no trouble about this in W.Va. as we have had extremely little friction over tourney rules.

Results of play under the Swiss System are that after the first round or two, the stronger players rise to the top and thereafter meet each other exclusively. Poorer players (like your secy) gravitate nachally to the bottom. A stronger player pushed down in the early rounds soon climbs back up.

"Of course," says Kolti, "there's a certain amount of luck in it. But, in what tourney method is there no luck?"

It seems from here that the S.S. is the perfect answer to the problem which has been vexing us in West Virginia. Will members please express their views?

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Ray Griffin, Clarksburg: "Last week the club had a record attendance: Challinor, Erhard, Allison, Wisinski, Schaeffer and myself--count 'em--six...I wonder how the players' notes are coming? What is this, anyhow, having us annotate games after Koltanowski? You want to show us up?...I believe the way you printed the notes in the June 10, bulletin, introducing them in the text of the moves, is a great improvement over footnotes. Euwe's 'Meet the Masters' and Marshall's 'Fifty Years of Chess' are examples of this method. Of course, this applies to Koltanowski's notes only; the players' notes, if you use THEM, should be given in footnotes. To mix our notes with his would be confusing--as well as ludicrous."

(Disagree on the word "ludicrous," but if there are no dissenting votes, it shall be done in the Yearbook as Ray orders. Glad the Clarksburg club is getting enough players together for a real meeting again; seems a long time since we had 25 out for a session, doesn't it? But the war won't last forever--we hope. Thinking about a city championship this year?...Thanks, Ray, for the clipping on the New England tourney Sept. 3-6 at Bpston. Send us the scores if you get 'em.)

Walt Crede, Charleston: "City tourney starts here Sept. 1. Will give full particulars later...Here's a problem: White 2 pieces, K at KN6, Q at KR8, Black 4 pieces, K at K3, P's at QB4, QB6 and QN7. Can White win?...The 10-game Dick Grimm-Dick Minahan match is over, the latter winning 6-3. Will send some of the games, if required. I've taken Dick Minahan on in another 10-gamer, the score up to now being DM 2, WC 1. I may lose my pants!...The bulletin has arrived, a danged good job but methinks too much Crede!--give the other fellows a chance, please!...I didn't once think of the additional expense necessitated in the ordeal of producing the bulletin twice a month. Funny I didn't; I'm usually on the alert when something pertaining to money pops up, but this once it caught me napping. I will make an effort to get that additional \$20 --it can be done--but I want you to drop the idea--publishing twice as many bulletins --it's too much work. For the present, we are getting along okay, much better than the majority of the state chess units...Cliff Mosier hands me \$1, inclosed herewith, as an extra contribution to the WVCA. Stout fella, Cliff!...No, I will not be appointed officially as news gatherer for the Charleston gang. I will be glad to help all I can but I feel incapable of getting all the chess news from this district. My idea is that if I am put on such a job the others who have been doing such grand work won't be very much efforted toward such a goal thereafter. And I do, therefore, decline your generous offer--forgive!...Think your plan to send the Yearbook to other state organizations is a good one; believe you will find nothing in the other states to equal ours!...Best of chess to you!"

Jesse Church, Charleston: "You are doing a wonderful job with the Chess Bulletin. Keep it up--and good luck!"

Reid Holt, Charleston: "I'm delighted to hear that 'Wild Bill' Devericks and I are walking delegates. Upon whom do we stramp--and when? I'm all agog to enter upon my official duties and if you can arrange it so Sweet Willie and I will be able to get together for a scam session, then I'll second the mosh for you to be nominated for President of these (apparently) United States...Glad to hear Walt Crede plans a city tourney here. Durn if I don't pin his ears back if I get a chance. Wanted to play chess the other night and couldn't round up an opponent for love or money. Odd how a fellow loses touch...Concerning any funds your or the association may need--count me in. If the dues don't provide enough--raise 'em or pass the hat my way. All concerned know I'm no 'got-rocks' but chess has provided me so much pleasure and brought me so many friendships that I'd be an ingrate to haggle over an occasional buck or so."

William M. Erhard, Clarksburg: "Challinor suggested that we suspend the Clarksburg Chess Bulletin for a while. I am suggesting to him that we resume with an issue soon. Wisinski is back from the Army and makes one more active member. Concerning the

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS (continued from preceding page)

change in time of the week for holding the W.Va. Chess Championship, would suggest that you do not propose any change. Such a change might help one and hinder fifty."

NOTES BY THE EDITOR

Thanks to Dick Grimm for Bill Hartling's new address and to Johnny Hurt for that of George Lewis Morrison.

On a recent trip to Clarksburg, we met Bill Schaeffer who handed us 50¢ for his renewal...and said he'd send a contribution for the Bulletin a little later.

On the matter of dues, some members seem slightly worried about the present set-up. Let us again explain that 50¢ fully covers a year's membership, including the Yearbook --altho a member may send more if he wishes. The plan we're using does provide enough revenue to get out the Yearbook and publish 12 issues of the Bulletin (I hope!) without running the WVCA into the red...If members wish, however, we can adopt the practice of showing 50¢ as dues and listing the rest of the payment as a "contribution." Let's have a show of hands.

George Koltanowski liked Walt Crede's "Game Ended" (Bull. 15) very much and asked me to pass his compliments and appreciation along to the author. He said he may, a little later, ask to reprint the story in a publication of his own. It's okeh with the Bulletin; with you, too, Walt?

RHG: The games are coming along swell. Got Dr. Werthammer's large pack of them a few days ago. Practically all are in now except Bill Hartling's and those were sent to an ~~in~~ incorrect address and returned "unclaimed" and we had to hunt up a new address and they just got in the mail a few days ago. Work of laying out the Yearbook pages is already under way, altho we're rather handicapped just as present as our family, our typewriter and our mimeograph are all still in Clarksburg, which makes operations difficult. The Yearbook printing will have to be postponed until I get my family moved up here, I'm afraid. But I'm hoping that will be soon.

HRH: Your query about the directors causes me to take thought that a word on the subject might not be amiss. Directors are called in whenever a problem gets too big for the secy, who has a sort of carte blanche on the small affairs of the association. Directors usually decide such things as date and place of tournament, method of tournament play, entry fees, association dues. In case the directors are not in utter agreement, the matter usually goes to a vote of the full membership. The constitution committee, named last year, is still plugging away at a constitution for our group and hopes to have it ready for submission to the directors and the membership within the next few months.

BWD: Word reaches us from the distaff side that you are preparing a probably caustic and uncomplimentary communique to be dispatched to this WVCA official. Since hearing the rumor, we have waited vainly three weeks and still no sign of the missile. It can't be the want of a 3-cent stamp because I've heard sojers never use them. Why, then, may I be so bold as to inquire, this untoward delay? Speak--the WVCA is waiting!

Kolti and I had the chin-fest prophesied in last month's Bulletin. There was enough material in it for several Bolumas but most of it is a bit uncertain as yet. There is some fish frying in the offing, never fear; we hope to be able to let WVCA members in on all the lurid details in the next month or so. That is, if the thing ever materializes. Kolti asks to be reminded to all his Clarksburg, Charleston and other West Virginia friends. He says his duties in New York keep his nose to the grindstone and he likely won't do much touring this year, outside of a few one-night week-end trips. But, he says, in case you're interested, just drop him a line, and he'll see.