

CHARLESTON PICKED FOR STATE MEET

Directors of the West Virginia Chess Association have decided to hold the 1944 State Championship tournament Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, at Charleston.

If there are 8 players, or less, the play will be a single round robin, such as was used last year. If there are more than 8 players, the Koltanowski Swiss System (explained elsewhere in this issue) will be employed.

Entrance fees will be \$1 for men in the uniform of the armed services; for others, \$4.50 for residents of Charleston, \$2.50 for all others.

From each entrance fee, \$1 will be deducted for membership in the West Virginia Chess Association. If the player has already paid his 1944-45 dues, the entrance fee will be reduced by \$1. The fee charged service men actually represents only the WVCA annual dues.

Other fees, aside from the expenses of the tournament, will be distributed as prize money. Players who finish in the top half of the contestants will receive prizes in accordance with a schedule previously arranged. Awards will be in War Savings Stamps.

At stake is the championship of West Virginia. The defending champion, Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, of Huntington, is expected to participate.

VOTE OF THE DIRECTORS

The vote of the directors on tournament plans was as follows (8 voting of 11 possible):

For holding a tournament this year--Unanimous.

Place of tourney--For Charleston 6 (Altmeyer, Challinor $\frac{1}{2}$, Collett, Crede, Griffin $\frac{1}{2}$, Liggett, Werthammer). For Huntington 1 (Challinor $\frac{1}{2}$, Griffin $\frac{1}{2}$). For Wheeling 1

(Paull). Challinor and Griffin listed both Charleston and Huntington on their ballots.

Date of tourney--May 27th & 28th 6 (Challinor, Paull not voting).

Method of play--Round robin if 8 or less and Koltanowski Swiss System if more than that 5 (Challinor, Collett, Crede, Liggett, Werthammer). Round robin if 8 or less, double round if more 1 (Altmeyer). The 1942 plan (enough brackets drawn by lot to select a field of four for the final round) 1 (Griffin). Not voting 1 (Paull).

Prize money--To go to top half of players 5 (Altmeyer, Challinor, Collett, Griffin, Liggett). Any other suggested plan (none was) 1, (Crede). Not voting 2 (Paull, Werthammer).

Prizes to be awarded in-----War Stamps 5 (Altmeyer, Collett, Crede, Liggett, Werthammer). Cash 2 (Challinor, Griffin). Not voting 1 (Paull).

Entrance fees--Same as last year 6 (Altmeyer, Challinor, Collett, Crede, Griffin, Liggett). Higher 1 (Werthammer). Not voting 1 (Paull).

COMMENT ON VOTING

The decision to meet at Charleston was reached after some soul-searching on the part of the directorate. Up until the time of balloting, only Charleston had been mentioned. Then this letter came from Pres. A. W. Paull:

"If Wheeling could be considered as the place of meeting, then I would like to have the tournament held here. However, only about 3 Wheeling players would be available, Mr. Russell, Mr. Altmeyer and myself.... Oh, yes, I overlooked Mr. Stover, our best player; he has not been active for the last year or two, but he can trim any player here, hands down...."

If the other participants would like to come here, notwithstanding the difficulties of transportation then we shall be only too glad to have them."

So we wrote the directors again and got back five letters, four of them from Challinor, Crede, Liggett and Werthammer--expressing the desire to abide by the vote putting the meet in Charleston; and the fifth from Pres. Paull himself who summed it all up with:

"I heartily endorse Charleston as the place for the next meeting. I only suggested Wheeling tentatively, for I realize it would be less convenient than almost any other locality for the players to attend."

"In regard to 1945, suppose we put it this way; if the players would like to arrange to play in Wheeling any time, let us know and unless something unexpected intervenes, we will plan accordingly. In other words, the latch string is out."

Which seems to us highly gracious and we trust the other directors, as well as the membership generally, will bear Pres. Paull's invitation in mind for next year.

Crede and Liggett said they believe Charleston will enter 8 or 10 players this year. Crede spoke wistfully, however, of Wheeling:

"On several occasions now, I have played with the Wheeling group in its splendid Ft. Henry Club Headquarters, and I am certain no more perfect setting could be found for the event; nor could a more perfect host be wanted than Mr. Paull and his lovable companions."

And Liggett suggested: "Wheeling would be an ideal spot for our grand Victory tournament, perhaps next year, and I believe Mr. Paull would like that." (A bit optimistic that "next year," we fear, although we earnestly hope Hal is right!)

Challinor and Griffin mentioned the possibility of a Huntington meet but the suggestion brought forth no answering cheers from the

some day to stage a state meeting there, so be warned, Messrs. Abrahams, Marks, Neel, Werthammer et al!

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VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, Huntington: "I will be in Wheeling on May 14 to 17 to attend the West Virginia state medical convention. While there I shall try to meet the players and maybe we can have a chessical session one evening. ...I sincerely hope to meet you at the state tournament."

A. W. Paull, Wheeling: "I am glad to know Dr. Werthammer expects to be in Wheeling May 14-17 and we certainly will endeavor to arrange some games with him. From what I have read of the Doctor, however, I feel sure we will not afford him very much sport, unless Mr. Stover comes out of his present seclusion which we will endeavor to have him do..... IN REFERENCE TO MR. ALTMAYER, PLEASE SAY IN THE NEXT NUMBER OF THE BULLETIN THAT I REGARD HIM AS A CHESS FOUR-FLUSHER OF THE MOST ULTRA TYPE. PLEASE MAKE THIS CONSPICUOUS SO HE WILL BE SURE TO SEE IT."

(There! Is that conspicuous or is it conspicuous?--abl in capital letters. We don't mind saying we run the above lines with great fear and trembling--just what has Mr. Altmeyer done to offend President Paull? Did he wallop him in their last session? Or what? We would like Members Paull and Altmeyer to give us some explanation of this mystery? And we just can't see Mr. Altmeyer as a four-flusher--he just sent in his 1944-45 membership renewal--the first of our members to do so!)

Walt Crede, Charleston: "Our club, meeting Monday evenings in the Canton restaurant in Quarrier Street, is enjoying the best turnouts in years. We have a weekly attendance of about 25. I am entirely sincere in saying at least 10 of these will enter the 1944

WVCA championship tournament if it is held here; perhaps more... I'm fairly sure Dr. Ernest Wolff of Montgomery will play... Our city league got under way late in March using four 6-man teams; not bad, eh?... Here's a little problem you might enjoy: White, 2 pieces --K at KN7, P at QB5; Black, 3 pieces --K at QR4, R at KR, P at KR2... White to play and draw! It can be done although at the first glance you will swear it's impossible!"

TOURNEY PRIZES?

(In a recent letter to William Challinor, we said: "If I had my way, we'd eliminate the prizes entirely at the W. Va. meets and play just for the love of it. But human nature being what it is, I don't suppose that will ever be possible. Though I may propose it to the WVCA some day, now that I am so far away no one can heave darnicks at me. After all, chess is a game of skill; it makes me rather sad to think we must get excited over prizes before we can have a tournament." Here's what Bill said in reply:)

William Challinor, Clarksburg: "I heartily agree with you regarding prizes for chess tournaments. Many years ago I suggested to the American Federation (it was formed about 18 years ago; I joined it shortly after it was organized) that they should not worry about cash for prizes in any tournament they might start, the principal prize in my opinion being the honor and prestige of being U. S. champion."

(We offer the subject for discussion in the Bulletin. Not, of course, with a view to affecting the 1944 tournament--that's already decided. What do others think on the subject of tourney prizes? Pro and con--we can take it, if you disagree!)

Challinor also says: "The March Bulletin was exceptionally good. I certainly feel we should hold the state meeting each year. Ray Griffin is a sure starter this

year for Charleston (he likes to visit there, anyway), and very probably Frank Wisinski. I am not so sure about myself at this time. Mott of Arthurdale is a strong player, quite equal to the best Charleston players."

Rev. Wm. Erhard, Clarksburg: "We are still going strong in the club here in Clarksburg, although we have only about 6 active members. Challinor, Wisinski and I are there each meeting. Schaeffer comes at his lunch hour almost invariably. Sam Allison comes now and then. Griffin is very regular except from the first of the year unto March 15."

Harold W. Ligett, Charleston: "I have started one of Chess Review's correspondence tournaments. Chess interest seems to be increasing daily here--new faces at the club every week."

POSTAL CHESS NOTE

"London, March 30--(AP)--An order tightening the rules in the European theater of operations was issued tonight by the censor.

"Among other things banned is the playing of chess by transatlantic mail. It was explained this was done to prevent enemy agents from employing such mediums to get code messages across the ocean."

NEWS NOTES FROM "CHESS REVIEW"

Internationalist Arthur Dake is now a private in the U. S. Army. He recently gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Camp Roberts Service Club in California.

The 6th Annual Ventnor City meet will be held July 1-9; Santasiere, Yanofsky and Shainswit have been invited to play.

The New York State Chess Association has published an attractive yearbook with a full report of the 1943 meeting and advance details of the forthcoming 1944 Congress, to be held at Johnson City, N. Y., on August 12 to 21.

The U. S. Chess Tournament got under way April 15 in New York. We will give results later.

<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</u> -- March 10 to April 20, 1944:			
	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Bal. on hand March 10 (see Bull. 19)			\$28.07
Bull. 19 (60 copies 8 pp) mimeo \$1.44, stamped envelopes \$1.09		\$2.53	25.54
Correspondence		1.06	24.48
Gene Collett, contributed	\$1.00		25.48
J. P. Altmeyer, 1944-45 renewal	1.00		26.48
April 20 gen. fund balance \$26.48, correspondence tourney fund \$2.50			

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pvt. Henry R. Holt 35779406, Co. D, 225th I.T.B., 69th Reg., Camp Blanding, Florida

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE SWISS SYSTEM (KOLTANOWSKI VERSION)

This the way Kolti operated the Swiss System at the '43 Pennsylvania tourney, with possibly a few new wrinkles inadvertently tossed in:

First round--opponents chosen by lot. Second round--winners meet winners, those who drew are matched, and those who lost play each other. Later rounds--players with highest scores meet each other, and so on down the line.

If there is an odd man, the bye-player in each round is credited with a point. He is the undrawn man in the first round and thereafter is always the low man (or one of them, settled by lot).

No player may meet the same opponent more than once (unless to settle a tie after the regular rounds are completed).

First round--colors decided by lot. Later rounds--director assigns colors if needful or directs a draw if assigning is unnecessary.

Director maintains a set of cards, one for each player, keeping his point score up to date, as well as the number of times he has played each color.

Five rounds of play (five games for each player) will be adequate to choose a winner for any number of players from 9 to 32. Three rounds can be held first day, two second day, leaving the evening of the second day free, if desired. There can be a final game for breaking ties and (if necessary) there is a point count, similar to the one used in past years, for settling stubborn ties.

Sessions can start at 9 a. m., 2 p. m. and 7 p. m., with three hours allowed for completion of each game. It is obvious, of course, that all games of one round must be through prior to the start of the next round in order to permit matching of opponents. Games not complete within a half hour of starting time for the next round will be adjudicated.

CLEVELAND AREA CHESS BULLETIN

Thru the kind offices of Member Koltanowski (our unofficial missionary) we have become postally acquainted with Joseph R. Dorsey and have received a copy of March 23 number of his Cleveland Area Chess Bulletin which he edits and publishes for the Association of Chess Clubs of the Cleveland Area, twice monthly. We're exchanging for a while.

It is a live publication, giving results of all events held by member clubs, items from the world at large, chess problems, editorials, three pages of reminiscences of chess in bygone days in the Cleveland area, and a double-page announcement of the Cuyahoga County Chess Championship which started April 10 and was scheduled to finish in two weeks.

We thoroughly enjoyed our first issue of the CA&B and hope Joe will keep us a long time on his mailing list.