

Membership Card?

Tyson E. Cobb, who has been doing a darned efficient job rounding up members in Huntington (many thanks, Ty!), suggests we have a membership card, and had Sam Abrahams, secretary of the Huntington club, send along their card as a sample. A very neat job. Will the directors (and other members) favor me with their ideas on this suggestion? The original outlay would not be great (\$2 or \$3) and the supply would last a number of years. What say?

About the Yearbook

Covers for the yearbook have been printed. The drawing is by William Challinor of Clarksburg. Ray H. Griffin of the same city is playing the tourney games over to correct any errors in notation, and about half of them have been mailed out to annotators, who promise a quick return. Work on the rest of the MS. is well under way and printing will start in the next few days. We hope to have the book out late this month (just a hope!) or early next month. Looks now as if it will run to 20 pages, possibly more, on this size and kind of paper. (The larger the membership, the more we can afford to spend in getting out a good yearbook.)

Voice of the Membership

Tom Sweeney: "It has been more than a year since I played a single game of chess. I am at present an American Naval officer with the Royal Air Force here in Canada. Trying to find your way home when lost in the middle of the night high over the Canadian wilderness with nothing to guide one but the stars, a sextant and a plotting board is indeed an exhilarating sport, both physically and mentally. But to me the chess board still affords a better sport, just as fighting political gangs remains the greatest of all games. Regards, best wishes and my congratulations to the new champ!"

Tom also has this suggestion for '43 tourney play: "Limit players to 8 (one round robin), each club or section to be entitled to so many entries chosen by elimination tournament or as may be preferred locally. Thus, a player failing to qualify in Charleston might volunteer and be accepted to represent Wheeling in event no one from that section could attend; or, a Wheeling man in Charleston could play in the latter's elimination tourney."

Sam Abrahams: "I do not have the opportunity to meet the other chess players here (in Huntington) as often as I should like to, and am unable, therefore, to ascertain their views regarding the proposed tournament in 1943. My personal view would be, that since it is considered the patriotic duty of one not to travel much in these times, and considering that many organizations are not meeting in their annual conventions, and because of the 'war mood' of so many individuals, it might be advisable to consider dispensing with the proposed chess meeting 'for the duration.' ...We at one time had some very fine and active players--but at the present time the coterie of players is very small and that, I personally believe, is a reason why Huntington is not a very fertile place to stage a state or any other kind of a tournament. Regarding your having some games annotated, personally, I don't think that will add anything to the advancement of chess--"

literature that is available, that that would be of greater interest and result in some persons taking a greater interest than they do now. Games played by players without chess reputation never appealed to me, but, when it comes across a game played by nationally and internationally known chess players, they do attract my attention. One source of obtaining some fine games is Marshall's 'Chess Swindles' and Napier's 'Amenities of Chess,' and many games with queen sacrifices. This I most sincerely believe will accomplish more than the annotating of games of mediocrity by ones whose qualifications for so doing are unknown."

Harold M. Liggett: "I like the idea of some sort of an elimination tourney in each city, arranged to put 8 or more players in the finals."

William Challinor: "A round tournament is preferable even if it is played by two preliminary sections to begin at, say, Clarksburg and Wheeling."

Harold C. Heisey: "Have tourney on two consecutive week-ends to provide enough time for a round robin type of tourney....I would especially like a yearbook on the 1942 tourney."

Walt Crede: "Round robin! It can be no other way!...The sample of the yearbook paper you sent me is swell and should make up into a dandy book."

Jesse F. Church: "Glad you sent me an application blank. Here's my 50 cents. I think the state chess association should grow into a real organization."

A. W. Paull: "So far as I can tell at this time it will be all right to arrange to hold the next tournament in Wheeling, if that is agreeable to Clarksburg, Charleston and Huntington. Of course, a lot of unexpected things may happen, but if they do, the arrangements, of course, can be changed."

Tournament Plans

Apparently the questions of place and system for the '43 tourney are still open except that it is to be, somehow or other, a round robin affair.

Abrahams is the only Huntington player to express his opinion about holding it there. He doesn't think Huntington would be so good. However, if Huntington does want the meet, we feel it should have it. If not, Wheeling should have the call and after that, we believe Clarksburg is in line unless some other country should be heard from. Clarksburg is ready and willin', as we told you last time, but doesn't want to seem piggish. The locals had a swell time at the '41 meet and are rarin' to repeat, with flourishes this time. The directors will be asked to go into the matter of a place after the tourney date gets a little closer and sentiment clarifies. Will members in the towns under discussion write me of their opinions on the matter. Get the boys together and talk it over--that's the best way to find out.

With regard to the method^{of} play, your secretary has had a number of talks with Directors [unclear] and [unclear].

tative plans which take into consideration most of the suggestions so far offered, and go a little further. We're just offering these as suggestions, subject to the members' approval and modification:

Member Tourney Plan: This would set up a chess congress similar to those held in England. There would be two tournaments, one for the higher-ranking players who wanted a shot at the title, the other for dubs like your secretary who likes the thrill of a big tournament, enjoys seeing the big shots in action and wouldn't miss it for the world, but would rather do his playing in his own class. They might be set up like this:

(1) Masters' tourney. Entrance fee about \$5. Anyone may enter. Certain players, if they attend the meet, must play in the masters' tourney. These would include the current champion, all former champions (runners-up, too?), all winners of the members' tourney, and certain other persons whom the tourney committee or directors might arbitrarily assign to the section (Cobb and Stover, for instance, because of their outstanding reputations). Entries likely would be held to 9 or less, permitting a round robin to be played in 2 days.

(2) Members' tourney. Entrance fee about \$1. Anyone may enter except those assigned to the masters' tourney. This section may be round robin or some type of elimination meet, depending on the number of entries. Any winner of the members' tourney would be required to play in the masters' tourney in subsequent years.

Prizes in each section would be paid from entrance fees and would, naturally, be larger in the masters' tourney.

Split-City Tournament Plan: Entrants would be required to register and pay fees at least two weeks before the tourney date. Play would begin on the week-end preceding the formal tournament. Players in each town with two or more registered would meet under tournament conditions and get off their games. Players in isolated towns would go to the chess centers a day or two in advance of the formal tourney and get off their games. Then, on the Saturday and Sunday of the meet, all would assemble in the tournament town and finish up the round robin.

Would this plan work? We'll admit that on first blush it may seem a bit fantastic. But when we apply the theory to the 1941 and 1942 meets (the only ones on which your secretary has complete records), we find that the plan could have been used without difficulty. Here's how:

1941 at Clarksburg: Entrants, 7 from Clarksburg, 3 from Charleston and 1 each from Wheeling and Huntington. On the week-end of June 14-15 the Clarksburg players would have assembled and played off their games. At the same time the Charleston group would have met and played their matches. On June 18 or 19, the other two players (Hurt of Huntington and Altmeyer of Wheeling) would have arrived in Charleston and met the players there and each other. Then they would have accompanied the Charleston group to Clarksburg to play off the rest of the schedule between the two divisions. Thus, on June 21-22 no player would have had more than 7 games, which is not too tough. This plan would eliminate the necessity of playing off preliminary-round ties, an evil encountered both in Clarksburg and

1942 at Charleston: Entrants, 6 from Charleston, 4 from Clarksburg, 1 each from Huntington and Springfield, O. On the June 20-21 week-end Charleston players would knock off their games; Clarksburg players would do likewise. On June 24 or 25, Landis Marks of Huntington and Harold Heisey of Springfield, O., would have arrived in Clarksburg and played their games with Clarksburgers and with each other, then would have gone on to Charleston with the Clarksburg group. The two groups would have had only 6 games per player in the last two days.

Biggest objection is that the players from the "isolated towns" would have a tough three or four-day schedule, putting them at a disadvantage with the other participants. This might be obviated by using Heisey's suggestion about two consecutive week-ends; that is, the "isolated" players might join in the play the previous week-end, not waiting until two days before the tourney.

Whether such a plan would work in '43 depends on the number and location of the entrants.

Probably there are some other methods by which the round robin might be achieved. We are not overlooking the city elimination plan offered by Liggett and Sweeney but would prefer, if possible, to have an open tourney with no elimination whatever. Will members do their thinking caps and write us their reactions--and new ideas?

Treasurer's Report

Thought it might be well to keep members advised as to our finances in each bulletin. The following report brings us up to date:

	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Balance</u>
June 27 Balance on hand (see Bull. 2)	\$	\$	\$ 6.50
Carbon paper for '42 tourney		.21	6.29
13 membership fees at 50c	6.50		12.79
July 9 Registration fee & postage mailing			
war stamps to tourney winners		.48	12.31
July 10 Bull. 2 & ballots (69 copies):			
7 stencils 91c, envelopes 61c,			
1.2 reams paper 86c, ink 25c,			
postage 34.35, total		5.99	6.32
Jul-Aug 20 membership fees at 50c	10.00		16.32
July 19 Tom Sweeney, gift to yearbook fund	.56		16.88
Jul-Aug Correspondence with members et al		1.04	15.84
Aug 5 Yearbook supplies: 1 quire stencils			
\$2.86, cover paper 62c, 1 ream			
paper 97c; total		4.45	11.39

Balance in treasury Aug. 10 with most of yearbook supplies already bought: \$11.39.

Are You a Member?

This bulletin goes to 33 members and nearly 50 who have not yet joined or have not yet renewed their '41-'42 memberships. If you are one of the latter, you need send only 50c to Genl Collett, 231 Woodland Ave., Clarksburg, W. Va., to enroll in the association.