

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER 45

MAY, 1946

U.S. CHESS SPLIT DESPITE U.S.C.F. COMPROMISE

There is a definite cleavage among chess players of the country despite recent efforts of the United States Chess Federation to work out a suitable compromise with the newly-formed Association of American Chess Masters, according to a news release sent out by Hermann Helms, editor of the American Chess Bulletin.

The AACM, headed by Dr. Edward Lasker, international master and author, who is the president and treasurer, and Alexander Kevitz, champion of the Manhattan Chess Club of New York City, was organized "to safeguard the interests of the top-ranking experts and to prevent the omission of any of them from the tournaments for the national championship, sponsored since 1936 by the USCF," Helms says.

Excerpts from the Helms release follow:

"That Organization (the USCF) had submitted a new regional plan of qualification which, conceivably, might work out to the disadvantage of some of the stronger players. Only the present champion, Arnold S. Denker of Forest Hills, N. Y., was seeded under that plan, which was submitted to the many USCF directors thruout the country and adopted by an overwhelming vote.

COMPROMISE IS ATTEMPTED

"This action, however, was the direct cause of the masters taking so-called protective measures. To meet them more than half-way, officers of the national body--President Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., of Chicago, and Secretary Paul G. Giers of Syracuse, N. Y.--drew up a new proposal whereby six additional experts were seeded. In this, too, they are supported by a large majority of the directors.

"For a time, it was thought the chief difficulty had been overcome, but the masters were still not satisfied. Delay in correspondence between New York and Chicago led to a misunderstanding and now, according to Laster, the Masters' Association, which wanted the entire control of the biennial title contests, intends to break away from the Federation and conduct its own championship tournaments. With few exceptions, it is claimed, the leading players, mostly New Yorkers, including the 10 that played Russia by radio, will rally to the support of the Association.

DR. LASKER PROPOSES TOURNEY

"As a preliminary to the first national title competition, Dr. Lasker will suggest to the Metropolitan Chess League (New York) the holding of a tournament open to all first-class players with any claim to consideration. A minimum prize fund of \$1,000 will be provided. No official action has been taken.

"We are vitally interested in spreading chess activity throughout the country," said Dr. Lasker in an interview, "and therefore welcome regional tournaments. We do not limit the number of players from any region who want to compete for the U.S. title as long as they are qualified, by the standards of our executive committee.

"We have established a rating procedure," Dr. Lasker continued, "and we are inviting all American players to send us their tournament and match records who feel entitled to a rating. On the basis of these records, as evaluated by our

executive committee, we shall give each player a preliminary rating which the tournaments and matches we propose will gradually correct."

"Dates have not yet been set either for the AACM's Metropolitan or the USCF's national championships. In the meantime, the USCF will hold its annual 'open' championship tournament at Pittsburgh July 8-20. Regional contests to qualify players for the USCF national finals are now under way and must be finished not later than Labor Day. The finals, according to President Wagner, will be held during next October at a place to be designated.

"Hitherto, these championship finals have invariably been held in New York City, thus affording the majority of the 'masters' ample protection. It was a condition, however, primarily responsible for the protests arising all over the country. While Eastern players were thus favored, it left promising aspirants in other sections of the country practically high and dry. It was this condition which the officials of the USCF were endeavoring to ameliorate, with the result that there is now a party of the ways."

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Editor's Note: We don't know, of course, just what will result from this civil war the AACM is deliberately provoking, but we might pose one question, which some of the "masters" might think over: How are the masters going to feel if they find themselves highly unpopular with the rank-and-file chess players of the United States? It could happen. The chess players of the United States, by and large, like the new set-up for the national championships. Let the masters ponder this fact.

CHARLESTON CHESS LOG

Week of April 7--William Hartling won a rapid transit tourney at the Charleston club, defeating Al DuVall in a playoff. Hartling's score was 5-0; DuVall's, 4-1.

Week of April 14--State Champion Hal Liggett broke even in a simultaneous exhibition against 21 players at 15 boards, scoring 4 wins, 4 losses and 7 draws, in a session at the Charleston club. Wins were scored by Jerry McGrew, Bill Hartling, Reid Holt and John Hurt, while draws were achieved by Branner-Elliott, E. Foy, A. Brenne- man, Carver, DuVall, Crede, Gilliland and R. Brenneman. With the Swiss System in play in the South Charleston Club tournament, Dick Grimm is leading 4-0.

Week of April 21--Charleston and South Charleston played to an 8½-8½ tie in a match at the Charleston club. The 17 boards probably make it the biggest match event ever held in the state. A return match is slated for May 6. The summary:

Bd. Charleston		South Charleston		Bd. Charleston		South Charleston	
1	Wm. Hartling 0	Dick Grimm	1	10	Dr. Jablonski ½	B. Marples	½
2	John Hurt 0	Hal Liggett	1	11	Allison 0	Smith	1
3	Edw. Foy 1	Seldon Terrant	0	12	Edw. Holt 0	K. Hughes	1
4	Reid Holt 1	Fales	0	13	A. Brenneman 0	Meadows	1
5	Al DuVall 1	Dayton Whitman	0	14	R. Brenneman 1	Schilling	0
6	Ken Andrews 1	R. Sharbrick	0	15	Tom Arnold 1	T. Swarbrick	0
7	Jerry McGrew 1	D. Marples	0	16	Don Blackhurst ½	Frances Hughes	½
8	A. Schoenfeld 0	Ray Martin	1	17	Jesse Church ½	Toni Grimm	½
9	Branner 0	Zopp	1	Totals		8½	8½

Week of April 28--The Charleston club announced an invitation chess tournament with eight contestants. Six of the entrants are former winners of the Charleston or the West Virginia championship, or both: Harold Liggett, John Hurt, Jr., Arthur Maloy,

William Hartling, Walt Crede and Edward M. Foy. The other two entrants will be the winner and runnerup of a club tourney (Swiss System) to be held in May. The Championship round will be played in June, July and August...John Hurt, Jr., 1939 West Virginia champion, staged a 19-board simultaneous at the South Charleston club, winning 12, losing 6 and drawing 1. Winners were Seldon Terrant, Schilling, R. Swarbrick, K. Hughes, Bluestein and Layton Whitman; Dick Grimm got the draw.

Week of May 5--The Charleston Chess Club defeated South Charleston 14-7 in their return match. The 21 boards set a new record--42 players in the match. The summary:

Bd.	Charleston	South Charleston	Bds.	Charleston	South Charleston
1	John Hurt	1 Dick Grimm	0	12 Schoenfeld	0 B. Marples
2	Wm. Hartling	$\frac{1}{2}$ Hal Liggett	$\frac{1}{2}$	13 Wiles	1 Smith
3	Edw. Foy	1 Seldon Terrant	0	14 Mrs. Snyder	1 Hughes
4	Reid Holt	1 Fales	0	15 Edw. Holt	0 Schilling
5	Walt Crede	1 Layton Whitman	0	16 Arnold	1 Snyder
6	Al DuVall	1 Swarbrick	0	17 Bill Lawrence	1 Meadows
7	Ken Andrews	0 D. Marples	1	18 R. Brenneman	1 Toni Grimm
8	Jesse Church	0 Ray Martin	1	19 A. Brenneman	0 Cook
9	Truslow	1 Ankeney	0	20 Woo	1 Richman
10	Braner	$\frac{1}{2}$ Lang	$\frac{1}{2}$	21 Mosier	0 Field
11	Gilliland	1 Zopp	0	Totals	14 7

Six rounds have been completed in the South Charleston club's tournament. Dick Grimm continues to lead the way with a 6-0 score and seems a sure winner. Nearest rivals are Hal Liggett, 4-2; B. Marple, 4-3; R. Swarbrick, 3-3....Leaders in the Charleston club's tourney, after one round, are Dr. Jablonski, Sam Lawrence, Sr., Dick Grimm, Reid Holt and Bill Lawrence, with a victory each. Grimm is playing in both tournaments.

Bulletin Work: In addition to the above activities, the Charleston Chess Club has agreed to take over the job of assembling the printed pages of the Bulletin each month, stapling them, addressing envelopes, tucking the Bulletins inside and mailing them out. This work, a big load off your editor's hands, begins with this issue. Dick Grimm, Eddie Foy and Hal Liggett are the main actors in this work to date; others will be given credit after the program is completely set up and duties are assigned.

Challenge: Eddie Foy writes (May 8): "Any state chess teams want to meet our club in one or two matches? Either 'half-way' or 'home and home.'" What do you say, members at Huntington, Clarksburg, Morgantown, Wheeling? Let's get going! Write to Edward M. Foy, #2 Arlington Court, Charleston 1, W. Va.

AMERICAN CHESS PUBLICATIONS YOU SHOULD BE READING

AMERICAN CHESS BULLETIN, 35 cents a copy, \$2 a year (10 issues). 150 Nassau Street, New York 7, New York.

CHESS CORRESPONDENT, \$2 a year (10 issues), write for membership rates in Correspondence Chess League of American. 1517 St. John's Place, Brooklyn 13, New York.

CHESS NEWS FROM RUSSIA, 10 cents a copy, \$2 a year (24 issues), special introductory offer 7 months (14 issues) for \$1. Albrecht Buschke, 80 E. 11th St., New York 3, N.Y.

CHESS REVIEW, 35 cents a copy, \$3 a year (16 issues). 250 West 57th Street, New York, 19, New York.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY OF THE 1945 USCF YEARBOOK, due to come out any day now? \$1 for the paper-bound edition, \$1.50 for cloth. Includes membership for one year in the USCF. Write to Paul G. Giers, Secretary, 2304 South Avenue, Syracuse 7, New York. A membership in the USCF is your share toward a chess-conscious America!

POETICA REGUM PROBLEM DEPT. FRANCIS J. C. DE BLASIO

NO. 109 (UNCOOKED)
v. AMER. CHESS BULL.

			R		
			P		
Q	P				
B					R
	R	K			
B					
B	S	S	Q	P	
	B	S		K	

NO. 110 (UNCOOKED)
v. THE CHESS PROBLEM

B					B
	Q	P			
S	R				
R					
	R	P	K	P	P
B	S	S		K	

NO. 111 (UNCOOKED)
v. THE PALESTINE POST

					S
Q	B			P	P
				K	
	P	S			
					K
					B
B					

NO. 112 (IMPROVED)
v. CHESS CORRESPONDENT

	Q		S	B	Q
		R			P
	P	B			
			P		
			K		
		R	P		
		R	P	S	
		S			K

NO. 113 (IMPROVED)
v. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

B	R				B
	R			R	K
	R		S		P
		P	K	S	Q
	S				
	P	P			
		S	Q		

NO. 114 (IMPROVED)
v. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

			Q		
			P		
	S				
R		R	P		
			K	P	K
	Q		B		
S	S				

NO. 115 (UNTOUCHED)
TO ALAIN WHITE

	S		B	K		
		R		P	P	S
S		R		R	P	
				K	P	P
					P	
		Q				

NO. 116 (UNTOUCHED)
NEW YORK POST

	B			B		
		S		K		
S			P	K	B	
	R		P		R	
		S	R	R	S	
					Q	

NO. 117 ORIGINAL
SKETCH

						P
				K		K
				P		P
				B		
P						P
Q						

PAGES 5 Y 6 MISSING FROM THIS FILE

of withdrawals, byes and the luck of the draw. But if such a system is used, we have a preference for the theoretically sounder tho more involved method of crediting the player with the Swiss rating scores of opponents defeated which would represent an attempt to evaluate the strength of opponents defeated more exactly than merely listing points scored. This method would frequently reverse the results obtained by the simpler, more usual procedure."

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Tho Surgies does not mention it, mention might be made that first-place ties are played off in Wisconsin meets, as they have been (theoretically) in Swiss System meets in West Virginia. In our own tournaments, ties for other places have been allowed to stand with prizes, if any, being divided equally. First-place ties (there have been none) would be subject to playoff, or could be let stand.

We have had no seeding procedure in West Virginia. The tournament procedure committee might study this question to determine whether any advantages accrue from such methods. Surgies puts up a pretty good argument for the plan. The bye for the odd seeded player, if there is seeding, seems to follow logically.

Committee members may also be interested in the following further note from the Wisconsin Chess Letter:

"The system of play used for the recent Minnesota state tournament merits consideration: A field of 55 was cut down to 4 by a Swiss type elimination and the 4 survivors then played a round robin. Under this system the elimination tournament of 6 rounds might continue for 2 days, after which the 4 prize winners would stay one more day for the play-off, or arrange to play it at a later date."

WALT JAMES DIES

Members of the West Virginia Chess Association, many of whom corresponded and played chess with him, will be saddened to learn of the death of Walt James, former secretary of the Correspondence Chess League of America, on April 9, 1946, in a hospital at Sioux City, Iowa, after several months' illness, possibly induced by his devotion to his duties as a promoter of chess. Walt built the CCLA from a small beginning to a national organization with many hundreds of members and its own press-printed magazine. That organization, now in the guidance of other capable hands, may well serve as Walt's monument in the chess world.

OUR APOLOGIES TO CHAMPION BARNES

In our last issue, led away by one of Editor Charles Hardinge's pleasantries in the Pawn Shop (official organ of the Minneapolis Chess & Checker Club), we inadvertently referred to Bob Konkel instead of George S. Barnes as the champion of Minnesota. We asked Chuck to have Bob challenge George to a match and win the title off him in time to avoid a correction in this issue, but Shuck says George is too busy with other challenges to take Bob on at this time. We wish to apologize to Champion Barnes for depriving him, even momentarily, of his well-deserved title, and to wish him all luck in his forthcoming matches!

SERVICE MEN KEEP COMING BACK

Their addresses keep changing--more home addresses keep popping up. Problem Expert Tom Sweeney is back in Wheeling again. Layton Whitman, Art Maloy, Seldon Terrant, Johnny Hurt and the Foy boys have rejoined Reid Holt in Charleston. Dr. Humphries has returned to Clarksburg to resume his games with his fellow ex-serviceman, Frank Wisinski. And a letter from John R. Hardesty, Morgantown (April 26), reports that John L. Abbott has been discharged from the service and is back in Morgantown again. Hardesty adds reconversion has been working him overtime but things are beginning to a little easier and he hopes "to have a little more free time for chess soon."

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN, official organ of the West Virginia Chess Association, published monthly by Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh 27, Pa., to which address all communications should be addressed. Effective with the June issue, the Bulletin will be mailed to new members until the end of the Association year, September, 1946, for the sum of 45 cents, which includes the 1945 Yearbook, if one is published. Single copies of the Bulletin, 10 issues each. Make checks payable to Gene Collett. Stamps of 1, 1½ or 3 denomination acceptable.

WVCA FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 21 TO MAY 10, 1946

	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
Bal. on hand April 20 (see Bull. 44)		36.41
Receipts: None.		
Expenditures: Bull. 44 (175 copies, 12 pp.) mimeo 3.93, mailing 2.98;		
rental typewriter May 7-June 6, 3.00; 6 Yearbooks ('44) mailed, 0.27;		
mimeo correction fluid 0.35; correspondence, 0.76; bulletins returned,		
postage due, 0.04; total	11.33	25.08

NEW ADDRESSES

John L. Abbott, 723 College Ave., Morgantown, W. Va.
Seldon W. Terrant, Jr., 91 Riverside Drive, South Charleston 3, W. Va.

IT WILL BE THE BIGGEST, FINEST USCF NATIONAL OPEN EVER HELD!—MORE ABOUT KOLTI

Have you made your plans yet to attend the USCF National Open Championships to be held July 8-20 in the Roosevelt Hotel at Pittsburgh? This promises to be the biggest, finest "Open" ever held, with stars such as Horowitz, Koltanowski, Santasiere and Adams participating, and many other battling to knock these luminaries out of first honors.

George Koltanowski, the world blindfold champion, writes to thank us for our notice in last month's Bulletin, but points out he has been away from chess for some years and that months on the road in behalf of the USCF (he gave exhibitions in 115 clubs, signed hundreds of USCF members) has left him little time to prepare himself for tournament play. "The Cuban tournament has given me back my old appetite for tournament chess," writes Kolti, "but it doesn't indicate I'm good enough to win in Pittsburgh. No, I don't think I am quite back in my old form yet. I get too often in hot water with the time clock. At Havana, I yielded a couple of draws in games I would have been able to win in days of yore. By playing more often now, I feel I should be able to be my old self in another year—but that doesn't mean I'll be able to win everything in sight, but merely to give a good account of myself."

Kolti reports further results of his Cuban-Puerto Rican trip:

Cuba: Won a rapid transit tournament. In blindfold at Havana, won 4, lost none, drew 2; and at Artimisa, won 5, lost 1.

Puerto Rico: Blindfold, at Ponce, won 5; at Guayama, won 5 drew 2; at Yauco, won 6, drew 1; at San Juan, won 5 lost 1 drew 2. Simultaneous at San Juan, won 21 of 21. In a rapid transit championship, won first prize with 11 points out of 11.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT YANKTON, S. D.

George Koltanowski has been named director of an international chess tournament to be held Sept. 15-22 at Yankton, S. D., in connection with the annual Congress of the South Dakota Chess Association. He writes: "The international event will have eight players and \$500 in prize money. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela are sending their Champions. Pennsylvania will send Bill Byland and Wisconsin will send Averill Powers. Champions from Texas, New York and Washington (D.C.) will be there. There will also be minor tourneys, open to all players from anywhere. Anyone who cares to hunt pheasants, play a bit of chess, visit the Black Hills and really have a swell time is welcome. Write Mrs. Nancy Gurney, Hotel Charles Gurney, Yankton, S. D., as soon as possible. I'll send you a pheasant if I manage to shoot one!"