

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

JUNE, 1948

NO. 69

SOUTH CHARLESTON GETS STATE MEET; WOMEN'S, JUNIOR AND PLAYER EVENTS SET UP

The tenth annual West Virginia State Championship Tournament will be held Saturday to Monday, September 4 to 6, at the Recreation Hall in South Charleston. The Carbide Chess Club will be host and James Schilling, president of the club, will be chairman of the committee on arrangements. The Charleston Chess Club has promised any assistance the Carbide club may need.

In addition to the customary play for the State Championship, three new events have been set up this year, providing at least two persons desire to take part:

- (1) Women's State Championship.
- (2) Junior State Championship (any player under 21 is eligible).
- (3) Players' Tournament, for those who do not wish to enter championship events.

Directors of the WVCA, polled by Executive Secretary-Treasurer H. Reid Holt, also approved the following types of tournaments for the four events, depending on the number of entries:

- (a) Two or three players--double round robin.
- (b) Four to eight players--single round robin.
- (c) Nine to 12 players--five-round Swiss System.
- (d) 13 or more players--six-round Swiss System.

There will be no tournament held or title awarded where only one player enters an event.

Entrance fees will be as follows: State Championship, \$5; Players' Tournament and Women's Championship, \$2; Junior Championship, \$1. In the first three groups, \$1 of the fee will go for WVCA membership fees; in the junior group, 50 cents.

Harold Liggett has been named Tournament Director, with the following assistants: Championship flight, Gene Collett; women's Championship, Mrs. Toni Grimm; junior championship, Dave Marples; players' tournament, Kingsley Hughes.

Allan DuVall will be in charge of transportation; Edward M. Foy, radio and newspaper publicity; Reid Holt, hotel reservations.

Advance registrations should be forwarded to H. Reid Holt, 164 Sunset Drive, Charleston 1, W. Va. If hotel reservations are desired, please say what sort of accommodations are needed, in order that reservations may be made.

Registration at the tourney hall will begin at 11 a. m. Saturday, September 4. Drawings for the initial round will be held at 12:45 p. m., with play getting under way at 1 p. m.

Quarters for the tournament are being provided free of charge through the courtesy of the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation.

JOHN HURT WINS CHARLESTON TITLE FOR FIFTH TIME; REID HOLT BECOMES FOUR-TIME RUNNER-UP

John Hurt, Jr., has won the Charleston City Championship for the second year in a row, and for the fifth time in his career.

The top five positions were not much different from last year. Hurt and Reid Holt finished one-two both years. It's Reid's fourth runner-up place in his last four city tournaments. Last year Edward M. Foy finished third with Al DuVall and Bill Hartling tied for fourth; this year DuVall finished third, while Foy and Hartling tied for fourth. Two points separated first place from fourth-fifth.

Here are some excerpts from Eddie Foy's story on the meet in his "Speaking of Chess" column in the Charleston Gazette:

"Hurt's only loss was to Hartling, and he drew with the third place winner, DuVall. Holt determination helped him to get out of some tough spots; even his draw with Foy went almost 60 moves. Holt did not feature in any of the upsets--which proved so costly to DuVall and Hartling.

"DuVall scored $\frac{1}{2}$ points out of a possible two in his games with the two players above him. His loss to Hartling was not an upset, but his loss to Frank Brammer and his draw with Lynn Cavendish were surprises.. Hartling's fine wins from Hurt, DuVall and Foy were offset by losses to Cavendish and Bill Truslow.. Edwin Faust, playing in his first Charleston championship, got only a single draw from the 'first division' players--but he can be counted on to make trouble in both the Kanawha Valley tournament (August) and the State Tourney (September)."

Here is the tourney score-sheet:

	Hur	Hol	DuV	Foy	Har	Fau	Bra	Cav	Mar	Tru	Sny	Totals	
John F. Hurt, Jr.	-	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	$8\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$	
Reid Holt	0	-	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$	
Allen H. DuVall	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	-	1	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	7 - 3	
Edward M. Foy	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	$6\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$) tie
William Hartling	1	0	1	1	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	0	1	$6\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$	
Edwin Faust	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	5 - 5	
Frank Brammer	0	0	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	4 - 6) tie
Lynn Cavendish	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	0	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	4 - 6	
Ray Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	3 - 7	
Bill Truslow	0	0	0	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	-	1	$2\frac{1}{2}-7\frac{1}{2}$	
T. A. Snyder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-	$\frac{1}{2}-9\frac{1}{2}$	

Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington will award a prize to the player of the most brilliant game. He is now judging the games submitted.

The Charleston club held two "consolation" events. In Section A, first prize was won by Jesse Church, while in Section B, the winner was Stan Miskura. Final scores were: Section A--Church $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$; Hugh Allison 3-1; Allan Gilliland $1\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$; Dan Lowder and A. Schoenfeld 1-3 each. Section B--Miskura $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$; Mrs. Lynn Cavendish and Don Robinson 3-2 each; Herb Herring and Bob Luippold 2-3 each; Jack Hennig $1\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$.

CARBIDE CLUB TITLE MATCH POSTPONED

The match between Harold Liggett and Al DuVall for the Carbide Club Championship has been postponed and will be played off sometime this month. Hal and Al tied for first place in the club's six-round Swiss System. They started one game but it had to be adjourned during Al's attack of appendicitis from which he is now, happily, recovering. (Bulletin!!! DuVall won the first game--in 80 moves!!!)

MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK WINS WORLD TITLE

The Russian, Mikhail Botvinnik, the new world chess champion--successor to the late Dr. Alexander Alekhine--was a favorite before the meet opened, and he lived up to expectations.

Of course, he was not a favorite with your editor, who was backing Sammy Reshevsky, the U. S. entry, with every atom of his being. A study of the game scores, however, shows that Botvinnik definitely had more on the ball, so all we can do is tell Sammy, "You did a swell job, fellow, on a tough assignment. Keep at it and we'll back you again in the Next World Championship play!"

Botvinnik, undoubtedly the world's greatest player as of now, is 37 years old and an electrical engineer--but he has devoted himself intensively to the game; more intensively than any American player of the first rank has been able to do.

You may enjoy reading Eddie Foy's report in the Charleston Gazette:

"As we recall, Mikhail Botvinnik won every national (Russian) tournament he ever entered--with but two exceptions. Although his first tournament out of Russia saw him finish only fifth (Hastings, 1934-35), it must be remembered that this event boasted a strong field, including both Capablanca and Dr. Euwe. However, in a strong international tournament in Moscow in 1935, he tied with Salo Flohr for first, ahead of both Dr. Lasker and Capablanca. The following year, he came second to Capablanca in another strong international event in Moscow but later in the year he and the Cuban tied for first in the great Nottingham tournament (one of the strongest ever held). Botvinnik finished third (behind Keres and Fine) in the AVRO tourney but he won the strong Gronigen event in 1946. It must be kept in mind that his many successes in purely Russian tournaments is another indication of his great chess prowess--for chess is probably the national game of Russia and they boast many fine players."

Here is the box score of the World Title play for the entire 25 rounds:

	Botvinnik	Smyslov	Keres	Reshevsky	Dr. Euwe	Totals
Botvinnik, Russia	-----	$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}-1-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	1-1-1-1-0	$1-\frac{1}{2}-0-1-1$	$1-\frac{1}{2}-1-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	14 -6
Smyslov, Russia	$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}-0-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	-----	0-0- $\frac{1}{2}$ -1- $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}-1-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	1-1-0-1-1	11 -9
Keres, Russia	0-0-0-0-1	1-1- $\frac{1}{2}$ -0- $\frac{1}{2}$	-----	0- $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-0- $\frac{1}{2}$	$1-\frac{1}{2}-1-1-1$	$10\frac{1}{2}-9\frac{1}{2}$
Reshevsky, U.S.A.	0- $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-0-0	$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}-0-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	$1-\frac{1}{2}-0-1-\frac{1}{2}$	-----	$1-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}-1-1$	$10\frac{1}{2}-9\frac{1}{2}$
Dr. Euwe, Holland	0- $\frac{1}{2}$ -0- $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	0-0-1-0-0	0- $\frac{1}{2}$ -0-0-0	0- $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ -0-0	-----	4-16

Foy points out that Botvinnik had a plus score over each of his opponents. It will be noted also that Botvinnik won the first four round robins ($3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$, 3-1, 3-1) and drew the fifth (2-2). These two facts indicate the measure of his victory--that he had a plus score over each competitor and a plus score in all rounds save one. He lost only two games--his third against Reshevsky and his fifth against Keres.

Here is some more comment from Foy:

"Smyslov, youngest of the fifth competitors, was the surprise of the tourney. He, of course, played under less pressure than the other four, as he had less prestige to uphold. Of course, on the other hand, there was the incentive of justifying his selection to play in this event. He made the best showing against Botvinnik--four draws and only one loss...Smyslov can well be proud of his showing!...

"All in all, we should say that Samuel Reshevsky made a credible showing. Playing far from home and handicapped by a lack of master tournament play during recent years he alone scored a win over Botvinnik before the Russian had clinched the world title. And he missed a win in another of their games. As usual, Reshevsky had trouble with his clock and his opening play was probably the poorest of the five contenders, but his middle-game play was not surpassed by any of the others, which his end-game play is probably the best in the world...Reshevsky planned to return at once to the United States to see his son, born while the U.S. Champion was away. Reshevsky announced his temporary retirement from chess--including the forthcoming 1948 U. S. Championship, an event in which he has never finished out of first place....

"If Dr. Euwe could have done better, it would have made for a closer tournament...Poor Dr. Euwe, one of the most honored and respected men who ever played master chess! He got off to a bad start and just could not seem to pull himself together. He came up with some fine games--up to a certain point; then an apparent win would become a draw or even a loss. The only living ex-world chess champion surely played below his best form of other years. Although not an old man (only in his 40's), Dr. Euwe was the oldest of the five candidates. He lost twice and drew three times against the new champion; his previous record against Botvinnik was two wins and three draws. Time passes on."

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION President, Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, 2008 N. Englewood Road, Huntington, W. Va.; secretary-treasurer, H. Reid Holt, 164 Sunset Drive, Charleston 1, W. Va. Address all letters on WVCA business to Secretary Holt. WVCA membership is \$1 a year, which includes subscription to--

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN which is published monthly by Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh 27, Pa., to whom send all news stories intended for publication and all papers for exchange. Games for publication should be sent to Dr. Werthammer, Games Editor (address above).

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS 78 Cleveland Public Library, Serials Department, 325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

- 79 A. E. Cassab, 709 Main Street, Charleston, W. Va.
- 80 Dr. M. M. Klein, Veterans Hospital, Huntington, W. Va.
- 81 Fred H. Stoppel, 5214 Twenty-fourth Street, Cicero 50, Ill.
- 82 H. D. Burke, Route 1, Box 109, Huntington, W. Va.
- 83 Paul E. Sidebottom, 3125 $\frac{1}{2}$ Third Avenue, Huntington, W. Va.

ARE YOU READING? American Chess Bulletin, bimonthly, \$2 a year, 150 Nassau St., New York 7, New York.

Chess Life, semimonthly, \$2 a year, Edward I. Treend, 12869 Strathmoor Avenue, Detroit 27, Michigan.

Chess Review, monthly, \$4.75 a year, 250 West 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.

(If you subscribe to one of the above, please tell the publisher you saw this notice in the WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN.)

LETTER FROM CLARKSBURG Kingsley Smith, Clarksburg, writes (May 24): "Things are still quite slow here--and we may have to do some leg-work to get out a good turnout for Schiggi when he gives his simultaneous here. After June 5 we will probably meet at Dr. Bob Humphries' home--it saves expense. Bob is a grand host, and we never have over a baler's half-dozen at summer sessions, anyway...As soon as the simultaneous is over, I will try to get you several WVCA members--should have done it long ago."

YEARBOOK FUND AT \$87.50 Contributions since last month have swelled the WVCA 1945-47 Yearbook Fund to \$87.50 and we fully expect it to hit the grand goal of \$100 within the coming month. This likely will be the last appeal, so if you want to get into the swim, send your money along to Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh 27, Pa.

Contributions previously acknowledged, \$71.50. New contributions, etc.: A.R. Phillips of Cleveland, editor of the Ohio Chess Association Bulletin, \$5; chess books sold, \$10; 1944 Yearbook sold (Cleveland Public Library), \$1.

We're now over to Page 32 in the stencil cutting and 26 pages have gone to the mimeographer. The cover has been done and we think it will be a pleasant surprise to the members. Look for your 1945-47 Yearbook in July!

There are still 5 or 6 copies of the 1944 Yearbook on hand. If you need one, send Collett \$1. Proceeds go to the fund for the new Yearbook.

GOING TO U.S. OPEN? Writes Edward Foy: "Don't forget, you West Virginia chess players, that the U.S. Chess Federation's annual open tournament will be held July 5-17 at the Lord Baltimore hotel, Baltimore, Md. Why not enter this meet? At least why not visit Baltimore during the tournament? This tournament will, most probably, be much farther from West Virginia next year."

WANT WORLD TOURNEY GAMES? Just send 60 cents to Edward I. Treend, 12869 Strathmoor Ave., Detroit 27, Mich., and tell him to send you six issues of "Chess Life," starting with the March 20 and you'll get them all...Or better still send Ed \$2 for a full year's sub (starting March 20, or whenever you want) to this paper, the official newspaper of the U.S.C.F. We guarantee you'll get your money's worth. Tell Ed you saw this notice in the WVCB.

Editor: Dr. Siegfried Werthammer,
2008 North Englewood Road,
Huntington, West Virginia

GAMES DEPARTMENT

William Challinor sent a short game as his best, It contains a beautiful Q sacrifice. There are not many combinations in the early stages of a game which have not been played before and recorded in chess literature. The same is true about the attacking idea in this game. A Q sacrifice in a similar position is found in a game played by Derrickson in 1860 in Philadelphia. Steinitz used a similar line of play in a game against Dubois in London in 1862. Steinitz and later Tartakower analyzed the ramifications of the attack. This does not detract, however, from the merit of Bill's combination. While the sacrifice is not new it is very difficult to see and to follow through with the attack.

The other selection is a Sicilian Defense which is again treated in a hyper-modern fashion by Frank Branner leading the white pieces. After a careful defense, Bill Hartling cunningly gets the initiative and a decisive attack. His last move in the game is like an unexpected thunderbolt.

MY BEST GAME OF CHESS - XI

GIUOCO PIANISSIMO

Clarksburg Chess
Club Oct. 10, 1942

WHITE: Hap Allison
BLACK: Bill Challinor

- 1 P-K4 P-K4
- 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
- 3 B-B4 N-B3
- 4 O-O B-B4
- 5 P-Q3 P-Q3
- 6 B-KN5?

It is a mistake to pin the KN before Black has castled. Black can now initiate a P roller at White's K-wing. He does not need to castle and his KR is well placed on its natural square from which it will menace the White K after the KR file has been opened.

- 6 ... P-KR3
- 7 B-R4 P-KN4
- 8 B-KN3 P-KR4!
- 9 NxNP

White plays actively as P-KR3 or P-KR4 would leave him a bad game.

- 9 ... P-R5
- 10 NxP FxB!!
- 11 NxQ

No better is NxR. For example, 11...

- B-KN5, 12 Q-Q2 Q-K2,
- 13 N-N6 Q-R2, 14
- P-KR3 N-Q5, 15 Q-N5
- N-K7ch, 16 K-R
- QxPch, 17 P-Q B-
- B6 mate (analysis by Tartakower).

- 11 ... B-KN5
- 12 Q-Q2 N-Q5!
- 13 N-B3?

P-QB3 would prolong the game. In a game Ashley-Tollit (Birmingham 1923) White played 13 P-KR3 and lost after 13...N-K7ch! 14 K-R RxPch, 15 P-R B-B6 mate.

- 13 ... N-B6ch!
- 14 P-N B/5xP
- 15 Resigns

If 15 P-P R-R8 mate.

Send your "Best Game" to Dr. Werthammer for use in the West Virginia Chess Bulletin. Let other players share your pleasure in your best game of chess.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

Charleston City
Tournament, April
14, 1948

WHITE: Frank Branner
BLACK: Bill Hartling

- 1 P-K4 P-QB4
- 2 N-QB3 P-Q3
- 3 P-KB4 N-QB3
- 4 N-KB3 P-KN3
- 5 B-N5 P-QR3
- 6 BxNch FxB
- 7 P-Q3 B-KN2
- 8 N-K2 B-KN2
- 9 P-B3

White's play against the Sicilian is original but too slow and passive. Black has already the initiative with pressure at the QN-file and good possibilities for the two Bs.

- 9 ... N-B3
- 10 Q-B2 Q-N3
- 11 P-B4?

Makes his own center structure rigid with weak points and a still weaker QN-file. Better is O-O P-B5ch, 12 P-Q4 with a fair game. The Black double Ps are strong only if

they are not moved; otherwise it is the Black central position that becomes weak.

- 11 ... O-O
- 12 O-O N-Q2
- 13 R-N P-QR4
- 14 P-QN3 Q-B2
- 15 B-N2 P-B4

Black hits at White's center from the side; punishment for immobility.

- 16 N-N5

If 16 BxB KxB, 17 Q-N2ch K-N, 18 P-K5 P-R5, with advantage for Black.

- 16 ... N-B3
- 17 Q-B3

If 17 P-K5 N-N5!; better than the pointless move is N-N3.

- 17 ... P-R3
- 18 N-B3 FxP
- 19 FxP R-B2
- 20 N-R4?

A faulty combination which loses a P. If 20 P-K5 N-N5; relatively best was 20 Q-Q3 though Black keeps the superior game after 20...N-R4.

20 ... NxP	the attack now.	28 R-N2	R-N6	by playing Q-Q4.
21 Q-Q3 B-B4		29 R-B3	R/6-N5	31 ... RxFch!!
22 NxB PxN	24 ... K-R2	30 Q-K3	Q-KN2	32 QxR QxR!!
23 N-N3 NxN	25 P-KR4 R-KN	31 Q-B2		33 Resigns
24 QxN	26 Q-Q3 P-K3			
	27 BxB		Loses at once;	The final combin-
White probably			however, the better	ation was very
had a position like	Somewhat better		R/3-B2 would only	pretty; after R-N3,
this in mind when he	is KR-K.		prolong the game as	QxQch followed by
played 20 N-R4 but			Black could obtain	RxRch, Black has a
it is Black who has	27 ... R/2xB		a won endgame simply	won P endgame.

WVCB GAMES DEPARTMENT
MAKING FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Our Games Department has been shorter than we might wish the last couple of months. Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, our Games Editor, has been hard at work on his annotations for the 1945-47 WVCA Yearbook and, as a result, has had to hold work on the WVCB games section to a minimum. We promise readers that once we are out of the Yearbooks woods, there will be more games in the Bulletin.

We feel it necessary to make this comment as the Games Department is winning friends all over the country and Dr. Werthammer's notes are being widely reprinted. Charlie Hardinge used several of our games--all of those from one WVCB issue, we think--in a recent number of his Pawnshop, a compliment we truly appreciate. Other of our games have been reprinted both in the local and national chess magazines.

The following letter (May 20) from Jack Spence, editor of the Nebraska Chess Bulletin (one of the two press-printed state chess papers in the U.S.) gives some idea of the response our Games Department is evoking:

"May I congratulate you on the selection of games appearing in the recent issue of The West Virginia Chess Bulletin? No doubt Dr. Werthammer's efforts go unheralded in your state, for so often an editor's labor is taken 'as a matter of fact' and little thought is given to his endeavors.

"I have noted that in previous issues Schiggi always selects interesting games, but in this issue the trio seems to be 'Extra Nice.' The two games from the Charleston Tourney were worthy of note, particularly the strategic play in the Hurt-Holt game. A new twist in an opening is always interesting. I also enjoyed the Lemke-Mott game. The excellent conclusion more than makes up for Black's weak 12th move. It certainly is worthy of reproduction.

"Perhaps my enthusiasm over the games choices of the month is based on the fact that I like brief games--those which end up in 15-30 moves. I detest 50-60 move games which end up in a draw. Brilliances will always draw praise from me.

"Success to Schiggi in his editorship!"

A FEW 1944 YEARBOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Only a few copies of the 1944 West Virginia Chess Association Yearbook are still available. This book, the third in the series of WVCA Yearbooks, contains 20 pages of tournament games, mostly annotated, from the tournament of 1944, plus historical matter, selections from the Bulletin, original articles, chess cartoons, and so forth. The books are offered at \$1 each, money derived from their sale going to the fund for the publication of a 1945-47 Yearbook. Send orders to Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Avenue, Pittsburgh 27, Pennsylvania.