

BILL CUTHBERT NAMED WVCA PRESIDENT

Members of the West Virginia Chess Association, in their annual election, have chosen William R. Cuthbert of Wheeling as their president for 1949.

The choice is indeed a good one. Bill not only was the guiding spirit in the organization of the Wheeling Chess Club, but he has been throughout an ardent supporter of the WVCA and was one of the leading figures in putting on the smoothly operated and highly successful Tri-State Tournament last November at Wheeling. Congratulations to him and may he have a happy term in office!

Reid Holt of Charleston, executive secretary-treasurer the last two years, was elected for another term. Kanawha county chose Edward M. Foy, Richard Grimm and Edwin Faust as its directors, despite the fact that Faust lives in Fayette county. Since Faust also was legally elected a director-at-large, it becomes necessary for Kanawha county to choose a third director among Harold Liggett, Kingsley Hughes and James Schilling, who were tied for third place. Cabell county named Dr. V.S. Hayward as a director, while second place was a tie between Dr. Siegfried Werthammer and M. C. Scott. Ohio county elected the Rev. Wm. M. Erhard, Harrison county had a four-way tie and needs a run-off election.

The results of the election, as certified by Ray Griffin and William Challinor, tellers, were as follows:

For President: Cuthbert, 14; John Hurt of Charleston, 4; Edward M. Foy of Charleston, 2; Reid Holt, Harold Liggett, Dr. V. S. Hayward, Ray Griffin, Dr. Robert Humphries, Landis Marks and Gene Collett, 1 vote each.

For Secretary-Treasurer: Holt, 22; Foy, 3; M. C. Scott and Dr. Humphries, 1 each.

For Directors: Kanawha county--Edward M. Foy, 14; Richard Grimm, 12; Edwin Faust, 9; Harold Liggett, Kingsley Hughes, James Schilling, 2 each; John Hurt, Allen DuVall and Hugh Allison, 1 each. (Foy and Grimm elected. Faust not eligible since he is a resident of Fayette county. Tie for third directorship among Liggett, Hughes and Schilling, necessitating a runoff election.)...Cabell county--Dr. V.S. Hayward, 3; Dr. Werthammer and M.C. Scott, 2 each; H.D. Furke 1. (Dr. Hayward elected; runoff between Werthammer and Scott.)...Ohio county--Wm.R. Cuthbert 2, Rev. Wm. M. Erhard 1. (Erhard elected as Cuthbert rendered ineligible thru election as president.)...Harrison county--Frank Wisinski, Wm. Challinor, Ray Griffin and B.W. Devericks, 1 vote each. (Runoff election necessary.)...Director-at-large--Edwin Faust of Montgomery, 2; William Cuthbert of Wheeling 1. (Faust elected.)

Sam Abrahams of Huntington, longtime member of the WVCA, was unanimously elected a life member of the Association. He is the second member so chosen. Gene Collett of Pittsburgh, first secretary and still Bulletin editor for the Association, was named a life member in June, 1944.

GAMES FROM THE TRI-STATE POPPING UP HERE AND THERE

Games from the Tri-State chess tourney last November in Wheeling are popping up in all the chess papers. "Chess Life," in its Dec. 20, number, has the Sachs-Hesse playoff with notes by Erich W. Marchand. "The Firestone Chess & Checker Club Bulletin," in addition to games previously carried, had the Sachs Werthammer game Dec. 13, with notes by Sachs, who calls it "my best effort of the Tri-State." "En Passant" (Pittsburgh) has two of the Dietz games, against Hesse and Hurt, annotated by Fred Sorensen...And if you'll turn to pages 5 and 6 of this issue of the WVCB, you'll find two games--Sachs-Hesse, with notes by Hesse, and Stearns-Werthammer, with commentary by our own games editor, Dr. Werthammer.

TROPHY FOR RAY SACHS?--OTHER ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE TRI-STATE

The more we think about Art Plueddemann's suggestion that Ranier Sachs, runner-up in the Tri-State tournament last November, should have some sort of a memento commemorating the event, the better we like the idea.

After all, Ray did parade down the lists in homeric fashion. First he knocked off the Ohio champion, then he downed the Pennsylvania titlist and finally he defeated both the West Virginia co-champions. It seems likely that never before in the history of chess did a 16-year-old boy achieve such a feat.

We realize that no prize was announced for second place. We realize also that it is not a recognized custom of the chess world to make ex post facto awards.

We realize also that Ray Sachs does not expect an award. In fact, he is somewhat distressed about what he considers a minor war between the editors of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin and the Firestone Chess & Checker Club Bulletin. He writes us (Jan.1): "In regard to the slight controversy between you and Art Plueddemann, I wish to say that I fully agree with the opinions you expressed in the W.Va. Bulletin, though of course I am rather pleased that Art has so staunchly defended his view. I really can't expect a second prize in a six-man, non-entry-fee tourney. I hope this controversy may be considered closed."

Bless you, Ray, there isn't any "controversy." Art and I are in hearty agreement. In fact, since starting this page, I have phoned Bill Byland, major domo of Pennsylvania chess, and he says he agrees, too. I'm dropping cards to Reid Holt and Ray Phillips. If they agree, also, the deed is done.

All credit to Art Plueddemann for a good idea! Let's hope it comes to full fruition!

... We wish to apologize to Ray for misspelling his first name in the last issue of the WVCB. For the information of all and sundry, it's RANIER (not Rainer) Sachs. We got the erroneous spelling from a usually authoritative source (hmmm!) but an editor with nearly 30 years newspaper experience shouldn't let himself make such mistakes!

...In the last issue, also, referring to team play, we had Foy winning from Wyman and Semlo. It should have said Foy won from Wyman and Slater.

LAST STENCILS CUT FOR 1945-47 YEARBOOK

We are happy to announce, at long last, that all the stencils for the 1945-47 WVCA Yearbook have been completed and mailed off (Jan.3) to Bill Bever of Clarksburg, who is our excellent mimeographer. Bill says he hopes to have the completed pages in the mail to Secretary Reid Holt by Jan. 15. Reid then has the assembling, binding and mailing to do but, in any event, you may expect your Yearbook in the near future.

It's bigger than we thought it would be. Members recall that when we projected the Yearbook in a story in the February, 1948, Bulletin, we predicted a volume of 60 pages, with a 32-page game section. Actually, the book now runs 87 pages (or 98 pages including covers, end-papers, title page and so forth). And there actually are two games sections, totalling 41 pages in all. One is 8 pages of "My Best Game of Chess," reprinted from the Bulletin; the other is 33 pp. of tournament games, annotated by Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, George Koltanowski and others. About 22 pages are devoted to the history of West Virginia chess, particularly during the three-year period covered by the Yearbook.

Reading matter in the first three Yearbooks put out by the WVCA ran about 20,000 words per volume. This fourth volume will have about 46,000 words, or more, twice the amount in any previous issue. Which may explain, partially, why it took so long to get the book out.

The book represents a heap of work, not only to the editor, but also to Dr. Werthammer, who annotated most of the games, and to the other members who helped. We hope it will bring a compensating amount of enjoyment to its readers.

THE W.VA. CHESS ASSOCIATION President--William R. Cuthbert, 1104 West Washington Avenue, Wheeling, W. Va.
 Secretary-Treasurer--H.Reid Holt, 620 Churchill Drive, Charleston 4, W. Va. To Holt should go all letters on Association business. WVCA membership is \$1 a year including subscription to the Bulletin.
 Publicity Director--Edw.M.Foy, 4 Arlington Court, Charleston 1, W.Va. Report all tournaments, exhibitions and elections to Director Foy within 24 hours.
 Games Editor--Dr.Siegfried Werthammer, 2008 North Englewood Road, Huntington,W.Va. Send Dr. Werthammer all games intended for publication.
 Bulletin Editor--Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Avenue, Pittsburgh 27, Pa., to whom send all news items for use in the Bulletin and all papers for exchange.

NEW CHESS BOOKS

THE ROYAL GAME--CHESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, by Edith Lucie Weart, boards, 64 large pages, \$2.50, Vanguard Press, Inc., 424 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

This is the best book we have ever seen for teaching chess to youngsters. The White King tells the story, explaining his hopes and fears, his dangers and troubles and turmoils, how he is protected by his Queen and her 14 helpers, and what each of them has to do to take care of him. In addition to gorgeous color illustrations of the pieces, whimsically drawn by B. Brussel-Smith, a first-rate artist, the book had dozens of simple diagrams, easily understandable by any child. Congratulations to the author, artist and publishers on a masterpiece! Need we say more? (Members need not write for our copy, thank you; we're saving it for our 4-year-old. Vanguard Press says it has plenty of copies of hand in case you want one for your own youngsters, or you can ask for it at your bookstore.)

THE BEST AMERICAN CHESS PROBLEMS OF 1946, compiled by Eric M. Hassberg, with a foreward by Alain White, paper, 67 pages, \$1, Eric M. Hassberg, 757 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn 22, N. Y.

The problem editor of Chess Correspondent has done a masterly job on this volume and it is one which every solver and composer will want in his collection. There are 70 two-movers and 30 three-movers, the work of 30 composers. The opening pages of the book give a review of Americans in world composing championships in 1946, showing that the U.S. did pretty good in international competition. The editor of the book, by the way, was one of the world's outstanding composers during the year. More than half the problems in the book are the work of four composers--J.Buchwald, Vincent L.Eaton, F. Gamage and Eric Hassberg. If you want a copy write direct to Hassberg at the address given above.

OHIO PRAISES TRI-STATE SETUP AT WHEELING

The Ohio Chess Association Bulletin in its current issue, has nice things to say about The Wheeling Chess Club's handling of the Tri-State tournament Nov.12-14 at Wheeling. Just listen:

"Everyone who attended was ready to give a cheer for our hosts, when the show was over! The playing room on the mezzanine floor of the McLure hotel was ideal for such an event. It was well lighted and the lobby, adjacent to it, afforded an opportunity for those who had matters to discuss, to talk them over without disturbing players or going too far away...All details were well thought out in advance. Place cards in attractive wooden holders were ready at all the boards, in both the championship and team play sections...The tournament director was provided convenient accomodations at one end of the room. Score sheets, pencils, ice water (in the play-off match, Hesse and Sachs each drank six glasses of ice water) (it was such a hot game), convenient hat racks; in fact, everything was provided to make the players feel at ease...William Cuthbert and his fine committee at Wheeling were always ready to do anything to help make the visits of everyone most pleasant."

ROOKS WIN KANAWHA VALLEY CHESS LEAGUE TEAM PLAY

The Rooks team captured the Kanawha Valley Chess League championship late in December, taking the final round match from the Pawns, $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. The Knights took their final match from the Bishops, 3-1, to finish in a second-place tie with the Pawns. Final standings were as follows:

Teams	Matches		Games	
	W	L	W	L
Rooks	5	- 1	$16\frac{1}{2}$	- $7\frac{1}{2}$
Knights	$3\frac{1}{2}$	- $2\frac{1}{2}$	14	- 10
Pawns	$3\frac{1}{2}$	- $2\frac{1}{2}$	13	- 11
Bishops	0	- 6	$5\frac{1}{2}$	- $18\frac{1}{2}$

Edward Foy, Bill Truslow and A. Schoenfeld held down the top boards for the champion Rooks and, among them, scored 14 points out of a possible 18. The Rooks were the only team to finish the league schedule without a loss. They had a score of $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ each against the Knights and the Pawns and 2-0 against the Bishops.

In the individual league scoring, Foy finished with 6-0, closely followed by Team-mate A. Schoenfeld with $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Arthur Maloy (Pawns), 4-2; Al DuVall (Knights) $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$, and young Harry Sweeney (Pawns), with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ score. Others who broke into the scoring column were Hugh Allison and Bill Hartling (Knights), 3-3; Edwin Faust (Pawns) 3-3; Bill Truslow (Rooks) $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$; Reid Holt (Bishops) 2-2; Jesse Church (Knights) 1-1; Ray Martin (Knights) 1-2; Morris Friedman and John Hurt (Bishops) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$.

Eddie Foy, who is always too modest to pick himself as one of the outstanding players, selected the following All-Star teams for the Charleston Gazette:

First team: Board 1, Al DuVall (Knights); 2, Arthur Maloy (Pawns); 3, A. Schoenfeld (Rooks), captain. Second team: Board 1, Bill Hartling (Knights); 2, Bill Truslow (Rooks); 3, Harry Sweeney (Pawns), captain.

Foy explained that altho the teams were set up on a four-man basis, it often happened a team lacked a fourth member. Hence, he decided to put only three men each on the all-star teams. The two mythical groups include the current Kanawha Valley and Carbide club champion (DuVall), a former city champion (Maloy) and a former city and state champion (~~Maloy~~) (HARTLING).

ARBIDE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Carbide club (South Charleston), which has been continuing its bi-monthly, informal meetings at the homes of the players, announced the opening of its championship for 1949 early this month. Bill Hartling, ex-state champion, said he would play in an effort to stop Al DuVall from winning for the third straight year and retiring the club's trophy. Hal Liggett, another ex-state champ, also is a threat.

RAISE FOR WHEELING

Eddie Foy in this column in the Charleston Gazette says: "The Wheeling Chess Club is to be congratulated on its handling of the Tri-State Congress. It provided a fine trophy (a silver bowl) for the individual champion, as well as silver watch fobs for the championship Ohio chess team."

ANOTHER PRESS-PRINTED CHESS PAPER

Vol. 2, No. 1 of California Chess News, edited by WVCA Honorary Member George Koltanowski of Santa Rosa, Cal., has just appeared. We are glad to welcome another press-printed paper to the chess world, particularly such a good one as Kolty is putting out. The featured article of the current 16-page issue is by Dr. Max Luwe entitled, "The Queen Against Two Rooks." George promises a series of articles by such masters. If you're interested send him \$2 for a year's sub (10 issues.) The address: George Koltanowski, P.O. Box 124, Santa Rosa, Cal.

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GAMES DEPARTMENT

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

We present this month two games from the recent Tri-State Tournament (Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) held the week-end after Armistice Day at the McLure hotel, with the Wheeling Chess Club as host.

The first game, Sachs-Hesse, is annotated, quite extensively, by the new Tri-State champion, Hermann Hesse of Bethlehem, Pa. It certainly is an excellent game and a credit to the winner, the loser and the occasion. It was the playoff game for the championship.

The Stearns-Werthammer game is the shortest of the tournament and is quite lively.

TRI-STATE TOURNAMENT NOV. 14, 1948, WHEELING, W. VA.

IRREGULAR DEFENSE

WHITE: RANIER SACHS
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS,
OHIO

BLACK: HERMANN HESSE
BETHLEHEM, PENNA

(Notes to this game are written by the winner, Hermann Hesse.)

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|---------|-------|
| 1 P-K4 | N-QB3 |
| 2 P-Q4 | P-K4 |
| 3 PxP | NxP |
| 4 P-KB4 | N-QB3 |

In my opinion, the Nimzovitsch Defense, where Black plays P-Q4 on the second move, is superior to P-K4, adopted in this game. To the best of my knowledge, P-K4 was first played by Breyer (a highly talented master) who followed it up with N-N3 on the fourth move. My reason for playing N-QB3 instead was to get away from the routine. White's best reply is then 5 B-K3 after which Black's game is somewhat difficult.

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| 5 N-KB3 | B-B4 |
| 6 N-B3 | P-Q3 |

In spite of the loss of time involved, P-QR3 should have been played, after which Black seems to get an advantage even against best play on the part of White. E.g., 7 B-QB4 P-Q3, 8 P-B5! P-R3, 9 B-B4 N-B3, 10 Q-K2 (not 10 P-K5 N-KR4) O-O, 11 O-O-O R-K and White has difficulties because of the threat of BxP, 12 Q-Q3 being answered by QN-N5.

7 N-QR4 B-N5ch

The simplest reply was 7...B-N3, 8 NxB RPxN and Black has nothing to fear.

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| 8 B-Q2 | BxBch |
| 9 QxB | B--N5 |
| 10 B-K2 | N-B3 |
| 11 N-B | Q-K2 |

11...Q-Q2 is sounder.

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| 12 O-O-O | O-O-O |
| 13 P-KR3 | |

13KR-K was a good alternative.

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| 13 ... | B-Q2 |
| 14 KR-K | |

14 B-Q3 and if N-QN5, 15 B-B4,

would have left White with the better position.

14 ... NxP!

Before taking this P, I calculated the ensuing consequences very carefully and fully convinced myself that there was nothing to fear. This move took more than 30 minutes.

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| 15 NxN | QxN |
| 16 N-N5 | |

If 16 B-Q3 Q-R5 is sufficient.

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| 16 ... | Q-N3 |
| 17 B-B4 | |

After 17 B-Q3, Black plays P-B4 (but not B-B4, 18 B-B4 QR-B, 19 P-KN4 B-Q2 and White has an extra tempo and the same position as in the actual game), 18 P-KN4 QR-K, 19 B-B4 can now be answered by N-Q and 19 N-K6 by BxN, 20 RxB RxR, 21 FxP Q-K, 22 FxR QxP and so forth.

17 ... KR-B

My intention at move 14 was to play 17...QR-B! at this point, with the likely possibility 18 P-KN4 P-KR3, 19 B-Q3 Q-B3, 20 N-K4

(20 N-R7 RxN, 21 BxR P-KN3). Black can now play Q-Q5 or Q-Q with a fine game. The move actually made is good enough but still the second best.

18 P-KN4 P-B4

Now 18...P-KR3 is unsatisfactory because of 19 B-Q2 P-B4, 20 Pxp Q-R4 (Bxp, 21 N-K6), 21 N-K6 (21 N-R7 R-B2) BxN, 22 PxB and Black must be very careful for if QR-K, 23 P-B5 N-K4, 24 B-K4, or if 23... N-K2, 24 Q-R5 K-N, 25 B--K4. An objective judgment of this variation is far from easy, but at any rate, the text is preferable.

19 N-K6!

White thought for 28 minutes on this move but there just isn't anything there. If 19 FxP BxP, 20 B-K6ch K-N, 21 BxB RxB. If 19 B-K6 P-Kr3, 20 Pxp Q-R4, 21 N-K4 (21 N-R7 R-R) BxB, 22 FxB QxRP, 23 N-B3 QR-K. Black can also play 19...Pxp, 20 P-B5! (20 Pxp P-KR3) Q-R4, 21 Pxp QxP, 22

R-KN (this seems better than either 22 P-B6 or NxRP) Q-QR5. Both of these latter variations seem to leave Black with the advantage.

19 ... FxP!

After 19...BxN, 20 BxBch K-N, White would play not 21 BxP Q-B2 but either 21 FxP or P-N5 and because of the threats on the K-side Black would have to play with extreme care.

20 NxR/B8

After 20 NxQR KxN the K is not too badly placed at Q. See the note to move 26 where the 3 check would be prevented.

20 ... RxN
21 FxP BxP
22 R-N P-KR4
23 QR-K Q-B3
24 R-K4!

This is better than to tie up the R with QR-B or to allow the advance of the RP after KR-3. My next move was played partly to gain time on the clock and partly to find out what White had in mind.

24 ... B-B4
25 R-K3 B-N5
26 R-B

The correct play was 26 R-K4 and it would be difficult to turn Black's advantage into victory. 26...B-B6, fails after 27 R/K4 QxP, 28 QxQ RxQ,

29 B-K6ch K-Q, 30 RxP.

26 ... P-QR3
27 P-B5

An aggressive continuation but not quite sufficient.

27 ... N-K4
28 B-K6ch K-N
29 Q-N4 Q-N4
30 R-K BxP
31 B-Q5 B-B
32 K-N P-R4
33 QxP

An oversight; 33 RxN fails on QxR; Q-N3 or Q-B3 would have blocked the action of the R on third rank; but 33 Q-N5 could have been played. My intention was then to continue with 33...Q-Q, 34 QxP (34 BxP BxB, 35 R-QN3 Q-B) P-B3, 35 QxQ RxQ, 36 B-K4 P-KN4 and with precise play, the two passed Ps, supported by the well-placed B and N, should be sufficient for victory.

33 ... N-B5
34 R-K5 QxR
35 RxQ NxQ
36 R-K P-R5
37 P-N4 N-B3
38 R-N NxP
39 B-N3 P-R6
40 Resigns

The time registered: White, 1 hour 34 minutes; Black, 1 hour 56 1/2 minutes.

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TRI-STATE TOURNAMENT NOV. 13, 1948

FRENCH DEFENSE

WHITE: ELLIOTT E. STEARNS, CLEVELAND
BLACK: DR. SIEGFRIED WERTHAMMER

(Notes by Dr. Werthammer.)

1 P-K4 N-KB3
2 N-QB3 P-Q4
3 P-K5 N/3-Q2
4 P-Q4 P-K3
5 P-B4 P-QB4
6 N-B3?

By transposition a good variation of the French Defense resulted. The text is a serious mistake altho the move appears to be plausible. It blocks the route of White's Q to N4 which move is necessary if White wants an attack. Instead of the text, 6 FxP N-B3, 7 P-QR3 BxP, 8 Q-N4 is good.

6 ... N-QB3
7 P-QR3?

There is no time any more for this move. 7 B-K3 Q-N3, 8 Q-Q2 offering a P was necessary.

7 ... NxQP
8 NxN FxN
9 QxP B-B4
10 Q-Q3 O-O
11 N-N5

Black developed with gain of tempi. White, instead of the aggressive text, should have tried to get his K from the center: 11 B-K3 Q-N3, 12 BxB QxB, 13 O-O-O is better altho Black is preferable.

11 ... P-B3
12 QxR3 FxP!!

This had to be calculated exactly and refutes White's unjustified attacking attempt. Black gets an overwhelming position.

13 QxKPch K-R
14 QxQP

If 14 N-Q6 FxP!, 15 N-B7ch RxN, 16 QxR Q-R5ch with a winning attack.

14 ... FxP
15 P-KR4 Q-k2ch
16 B-K2 R-K
17 N-B3 N-B 3
18 Q-Q3 B-KN5
19 P-N4

On BxP QR-Q, 20 Q-N5 P-QR3, 21 Q-B4 or R4, 22 R-Q5 and White loses.

19 ... QR-Q
20 Q-B4 B-N3
21 B-Q2 R-Q5
22 Q-N5 RxB
23 KxR Q-K6ch
24 Resigns

The White K in the middle was quite helpless.

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Have you some good games you'd like to see in the WVCB? Send them along to our games editor, Dr. Werthammer, whose address you'll find at the top of this department. Our only source of member games is games submitted by the members. Do your part to make this a good games department.