



WEST VIRGINIA Chess BULLETIN

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HUNTINGTON READY FOR BIGGEST CHESS EVENT IN STATE HISTORY

Huntington is sweeping off the welcome mat and the Huntington Junior Chamber of Commerce is ready for the biggest chess event in the history of the game in West Virginia.

The 10th anniversary of the West Virginia Chess Championship will be celebrated in a Chess Congress at the Governor Cabell Hotel, in downtown Huntington (corner Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street) during the Labor Day week-end, September 3-4-5, from masters to novices, and this, plus the hospitality and entertainment being offered by the Jaycees, is expected to draw a record entry.

The Governor Cabell will be official headquarters and all play will be conducted in the ballroom. Play will start promptly at 1 P.M. Saturday, and registrations will close at 12:45 so that play may start at that time.

This Chess Congress is being conducted by the Huntington Junior Chamber of Commerce under the sanction of the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Chess Association. The Association will have jurisdiction over all technical phases of the tournament, including the naming of the Tournament Director. (Gene Collett has been asked by the Board to serve, but at the time this Bulletin went to press the Board had not been officially notified by Gene if he would be able to come to Huntington for the tournament).

Players are given the opportunity of enrolling in any of the following five flights:

1. Championship Flight for the State cup
2. Open Tournament for strong players
3. Player's Tournament open to anyone, including novices
4. Junior's Tournament (under 21) for State Cup
5. Ladies Tournament

The Jaycees have announced that there will be prizes and trophies awarded to the winner and runner-up of each flight and the presentation of awards will be made Monday P.M. at close of the Congress.

All players who have clocks have been asked by Reid Holt, executive secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia Chess Association, to bring them for use in the Championship Flight.

In addition to the five flights mentioned, there probably will be a sixth one, a competition among West Virginia Jaycees themselves. This will be limited to members of that organization, and will not be an official division of the State Tournament.

Prizes which will be distributed to the winners and runner-up of the five official flights are being provided by the Huntington Jaycees or donated by Huntington merchants.

A large, and very strong, entry list is expected for the Championship Flight, headed by two Huntington players, Landis Marks and Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, whose records certainly qualify them the rating of West Virginia's best chess players. They probably will have, however, the strongest line of competitors they have been required to face in the course of a West Virginia state championship. From the looks of the probable entry list, there will be few "soft" spots for either of these excellent players where they can safely let down during a game.

Here are some of the players who will keep our two masters on their toes: Al DuVall, of South Charleston, who held Dr. Werthammer to a draw in their recent Huntington Club-Carbide Club match; Dave Marples, Carbide's sensational junior player, who drew Marks in the same match while playing the black pieces (these two were mentioned first because they are among our "younger set"); John Hurt, Jr., a veteran campaigner who brought his chess up to near master strength while in the Navy, and current co-champion with Dr. W.; Harold Liggett, a former champion; Bill Hartling, another former champion; Bill Cuthbert (our president) of Wheeling; and the following strong delegation from Clarksburg, Dr. Bob Humphries, B. W. Devericks and M. F. (Hap) Allison, all veterans in state competition. In addition to these challengers named, there are many more who are capable of walking off with the title. The list could be long - Ed Faust, Reid Holt, Ed Foy, etc.

THE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

This is the division where the fun may fly.

Bob Swarbrick, of the Carbide Chess Club, is the defending champion, having won the first junior tournament ever conducted in the state. He could find a rocky road ahead in defense of his title, however, in such good young players as Dave Marples (if he chooses to play in this division), Harry Sweeney, captain of the Charleston High School team; Larry Kinnaman, Ed Holt, and others of the state's promising youngsters.

LET US NOT FORGET, FOR LACK OF REPETITION, THAT YOUR ENTRY FEE AND YOUR DUES TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION MUST BE PAID BEFORE YOU START PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT.

A HISTORY OF CHESS TOURNAMENTS
IN WEST VIRGINIA

(From Ed Foy's Sunday Newspaper Column, "Soaking of Chess")

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Ten years ago (1939) the Charleston Chess Club held the first state chess championship tournament at the Kanawha Hotel, Charleston. It was a two-day program.

Although there had been an intensive publicity campaign, there were only ten entrants, with Parkersburg being better represented than Charleston.

The event was run off in two sections, the winners to play for the title. However, complications set in: one section resulted in a three-way tie for first place, necessitating three extra games in that section before John F. Hurt emerged the winner; in the other section Ed Foy barely managed to take first place, after escaping with a draw in a 100-plus mover with Arthur Maloy. (Had Maloy won there would have been a three way first place tie in that section). The play-off game had to be played later and, after one one adjournment, resulted in a win for Hurt, making John the first West Virginia Chess Champion.

The following year, Mr. A. W. Paull, of Wheeling, sponsored the 1940 tournament at the Fort Henry Club, Wheeling. It was another two-day affair, June 8-9. That year there were twelve entries. Players in preliminary sections qualified for either the championship tournament or one of two other final divisions.

William F. Hartling, then of South Charleston, captured the state title, with another South Charleston player, Arthur Maloy, being runner-up. (John Hurt did not defend his title.) Edward Foy won the consolation tournament and Walter Crede the Class A tournament.

Clarksburg played host for the 1941 West Virginia Chess classic. Again it was a two-day meet, with preliminary and final sections.

Again there were twelve contestants. John Hurt and Walt Crede tied for first in the championship but a tie-breaking arrangement gave the title to Crede. (If the editor's memory serves him correctly, Walt had a forced mate in his game with Hurt but failed to see it.)

The Consolation and Class A winners were B. W. Dovericks and William Challinor, respectively, both of Clarksburg.

At this tournament the West Virginia Chess Association was formed, A. W. Paull being elected president and Gene Collett (then of Clarksburg) Secretary-Treas.

The 1942 tournament was held in Charleston, with the usual number of entrants, twelve. H. Landis Marks, of Huntington, won the title without loss of a game in his first participation in the West Virginia event.

Hartling won the Consolation Flight and Challinor repeated in the Class A division.

The 1943 tournament, at Clarksburg, marked the advent of Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, of Huntington, in West Virginia chess championship circles. The doctor won in a tough eighth-man round robin affair.

Dr. Werthammer repeated in 1944 over 13 competitors to be the first two-time state champ. The Swiss System was introduced in this event, and has been continued since.

The Morgantown Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored the 1945 tournament and attracted eighteen entrants. Hal Liggott of South Charleston edged out Dr. Werthammer for the championship and thereby secured the first leg on a trophy put into circulation by the Morgantown Jaycoos. The 1945 tournament also started the present policy of holding the games over a three-day period, the Labor Day Week-end.

The entry list dropped back to 14 in 1946 at Clarksburg, but it was a tough field, which included John Hut and Eddie Foy, both back from the Navy, and Allen H. Duvall, who lived up to his advance notices that he was one of the most promising of the younger players by finishing second to Dr. Werthammer, who took his third W.Va. crown.

Landis Marks returned to the state tournament wars in 1947, and carried off the trophy, edging out Dr. Werthammer by a point. Eighteen players took part, tying the Morgantown record. That year chess clocks made their first appearance in the state tournament, most of them having been made by members of the Charleston Club.

Last year, the Carbide Chess Club of South Charleston, with the cooperation of Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corp., staged the first West Virginia State Chess Congress, with 29 players (a new record) taking part in one or the other of the three events.

Marks did not appear to defend his title and John Hurt and Dr. Werthammer tied for the title. So Charleston's Bob Swarbrick became the first state junior champion, edging out, by a half-point, Chuck Morgan of Huntington. Dick Grimm of South Charleston won the Players Tournament.

AND THE BLIND SHALL LEAD

THOSE WHO CAN SEE

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Albert Sandrin, 27-year-old Chicago chess champion, captured first prize in the U.S. Chess Federation's Open Championship held in Omaha last month.

Sandrin's score of 10-2 included four draws but no losses. The veteran Anthony Santasiere, also undefeated, finished second, one-half point behind. Young Larry Evans captured third position with a 9-3 score. Following came Arthur Bisguier, Jeremiah Donovan, George Krauss, Glenn Hartleb and Paul Paschel, all tied at 8-4.

Weaver Adams, the 1948 Open champion, did not show up to defend his title which he won last year at Baltimore. Missing, too, were Herman Steiner, I.I. Kashdan, Albert Pinkus, and others of the old masters.

(From the Firestone Chess and Checker Bulletin, a comment by Kurt L. Loening, secretary of the Firestone Club:

"Glenn Hartleb...writes that Sandrin won the Open. Now, I asked myself, who is Sandrin? So I looked through different Year Books of the United States Chess Federation, and there in the 1946 Year Book I found this interesting comment: 'The player of the black pieces (Sandrin) is a young man from Chicago who is almost totally blind, and needs a miracle to prevent a blackout. It is to be hoped that he will then love the more the greater inner light which we all possess, and, for the most part, ignore. Sandrin won his last five games in this tournament and eight of his last ten. We can

(Continued on Page 5)

CARBIDE CLUB EVENS SCORE WITH HUNTINGTON

Things like this make chess interesting. Two of the young players of the Carbide Chess Club of South Charleston held the state's two strongest players to draws and the Carbide Club defeated the Huntington Chess Club, 8 to 4, in a match at the Huntington YMCA on July 23rd.

The boys who pulled the "upsets" were Allen H. DuVall, playing the first board against Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, and David Marples, playing second board against Landis Marks, never a loser in a state championship tournament.

DuVall's growing strength at chess is well known in the Charleston area, but young Marples' play must be rated as surprising indeed, especially since he was playing with the black pieces.

This was the second match between these two clubs this summer, Huntington having defeated Carbide $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in June at the South Charleston Recreation Center. Both teams had stronger lineups for the second match, a summary of which follows:

| <u>Bd.</u> | <u>Huntington Chess Club (4)</u> | <u>Carbide Chess Club</u> | <u>(8)</u> | |
|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Dr. Werthammer | $\frac{1}{2}$ | Allen H. DuVall | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 2. | H. Landis Marks | $\frac{1}{2}$ | David Marples | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 3. | Rudd Neel | 0 | Dr. John Blagg | 1 |
| 4. | Dr. Vincent Hayward | 0 | Harold Liggett | 1 |
| 5. | Paul Dunn | 0 | Ray Martin | 1 |
| 6. | Charles Morgan | 0 | Robert Swarbrick | 1 |
| 7. | Murry Scott | 0 | Richard Grimm | 1 |
| 8. | Harrison Gregg | 1 | James Schilling | 0 |
| 9. | William Hoffman | 1 | Kenneth Andrews | 0 |
| 10. | Paul Sayer | 1 | Kingsly Hughes | 0 |
| 11. | Dr. Thomas Sasser | 0 | James Ankeney | 1 |
| 12. | Everett Shinkle | 0 | Bruce Marples | 1 |

(Carbide had the white pieces on odd-numbered boards.)

OPENINGS: 1. Alekhine's Defence. 2. Queen's Pawn. 3. English. 4. Petroff Defence. 5. Sicilian Defence. 6. Max Lange. 7. Two Knights Defense. 8. Four Knights Games. 9. Two Knights Defence. 10. Queen's Gambit Declined. 11. Guiooco Piano. 12. Four Knights Game.

AND THE BLIND SHALL LEAD (Continued From Page Four)

only be reverential before such courage. The age of heroes has not quite been exhausted.' -- Anthony E. Santasiere.")

A seven-round Swiss system tournament for the 15th annual Southwestern Open Championship will be held at the Mayo Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sept. 3-5. Prizes of \$100, \$50, \$25 and smaller will be given. If you are vacationing in or near Tulsa at that time drop in and see how the Southwestern boys play the game. Those aren't bad prizes, we are sorry to say, for a chess tourney.

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION: President, William R. Cuthbert, 1104 Washington Avenue, Wheeling, W.Va. Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Reid Holt, 620 Churchill Drive, Charleston 4, to whom should be addressed all mail on Association business. Membership in the WVCA is \$1. a year which includes subscription to...

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN, edited by Robert Jamison, 1207 Virginia Street, Charleston 1, to whom should be addressed all news items for publication and all papers for exchange. Games for publication should be sent to the Games Editor, Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, 2008 North Englewood Road, Huntington, W.Va. The WVCA Publicity Director is Edward Foy, No. 4 Arlington Court, Charleston 1, to whom should be sent within 24 hours data on all tournaments, team matches, elections and other newsworthy happenings for distribution nationally and through his Charleston newspaper columns.

YOUR NEW EDITOR ASKS YOUR HELP

One of the most difficult tasks that can be handed a person is to be given the job of replacing someone who is greatly his superior at the work. Your new editor wants it understood from the start that there never will be another West Virginia Chess Bulletin editor like Gene Collett. I agreed to undertake the editorship because I think Gene has more than earned a rest, if he really feels that he needs one. It is my most earnest hope that some day soon Gene will feel that he can resume the editorship.

In the meantime, I hope to carry on, but only with the help of every member of our State Association. The editorship no longer can be a one-man job. The fullest support of members of the Carbide Chess Club and the Charleston Chess Club has been promised, but you fellows elsewhere in the state will have to help, too, if we keep this Bulletin anywhere near the standard which Gene has set. You will notice that I already have had my troubles cutting the first stencils I ever cut in my life. I hope subsequent issues will be better, at least from the stencil-cutting stand point.

Thanks for help in getting out this issue are due to Al DuVall for his art-work, Ed Foy for his news, Reid Holt for help and advice, plus getting the envelopes addressed, and especially to Dick and Toni Grimm for continuing their fine work of assembling, stapling and mailing the completed Bulletins. I hope other members of our Association will be prepared for a call upon their services at any time.

Bob Jamison

DuVALL ASSURED OF TIE IN VALLEY TOURNEY

Al DuVall, defending titlholder, is assured of nothing worse than a tie for first place in the Kanawha Valley tournament this year. Al leads, 6 to 1, with all his matches played. Reid Holt, who has a score of 5-1, can tie Al if he defeats John Hurt in a postponed game.