

The PENNSWOODPUSHER

November 2003 A Quarterly Publication of the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation

"The Ideal Socialism"

Bill Ruth, the Ruth Opening, and Correspondence Chess

In recent years the opening variations 1.d4 d5 2.Bg5 and 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5, commonly known as the Trompowsky opening after the Brazilian chess master Octavio Siqueiro F. Trompowsky, have become popular with many chessplayers at all levels of playing ability. The chief proponent of the Trompowsky, or the "Tromp" as fans call it, during the past decade and a half has been the talented British Grandmaster Julian Hodgson, who uses it as a mainstay of his opening repertoire.

Grandmaster Joe Gallagher, writing in his book *The Trompowsky* (The Chess Press, 1998) suggests renaming the Trompowsky opening to reflect Hodgson's role in promoting its use at the highest level, although even Gallagher admits "the Hodgson-Trompowsky Attack is such a mouthful that I fear it will never happen." What Gallagher and others are overlooking is that the opening has another name for another popularizer, at least in the United States. The talented and free-thinking Philadelphia chess master and Pennsylvania State Chess Champion William Allan Ruth (1886-1975) first began surprising opponents with the second move Queen's Bishop sortie in the early 1920's. Bill Ruth, as he preferred to be called, was a tireless promoter of what he called his "pet" and his "fair-haired child", in both his published annotations, and later as chess editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* from 1952 to 1955. Unfortunately Ruth did not have an international reputation as a chessplayer, and so, as in the case of the Wilkes-Barre variation of the Two Knights Defense, the "American" name for the variation never received widespread international use, although it was popular in the USA, and remains in use by some writers such as Grandmaster Robert Byrne.

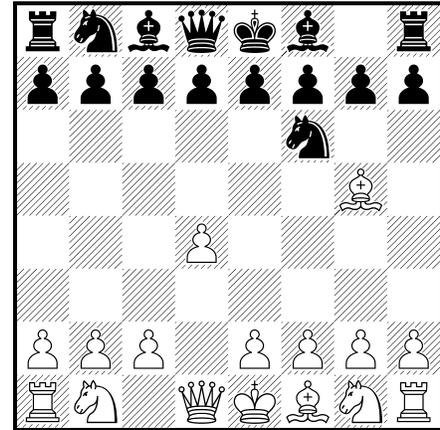
The earliest known example of master-level use of the Ruth opening by Bill Ruth is the following game, played in a 1922 telephone match between Philadelphia and Washington, D. C. Ruth, befitting his title of Pennsylvania Champion, played first board in the match. This game predates any known use by Trompowsky of this opening.. One wonders what Ruth's opponent thought of White's second move.

The 2003 PA State Age Champions were crowned at the PA State Junior Championship on Sept 27 & 28 in Pittsburgh:

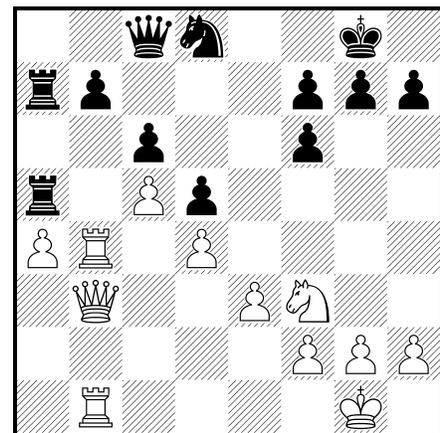
Age 20	Jared E. Schwartz
Age 19	Gregory S. Weller
Age 18	Aaron J. Schiff
Age 17	Douglas C. Burgwin
Age 16	Kevin F. Berthoud
Age 15	Ted Permigiani
Age 14	Bob C. Waruszewski
Age 13	Matthew Barbara & Bryan G. Joseph
Age 12	Evan D. Schell
Age 11	Neiladri K. Khan
Age 10	Alexander C. Heimann
Age 9	Randall W. Gough
Age 8	Michael F. Weaver
Age 7	Michael Hamblin
Age 6	Kemen Linsuain

Bill Ruth – Isidor Turover [D00]

Philadelphia–Washington telephone match, November 25, 1922
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5



2...d5 3.♘d2 c6 4.♗gf3 ♖b6 5.♗xf6 exf6 6.b3 ♗b4 7.e3 ♗f5 8.♗d3 ♗xd3 9.cxd3 ♖d8 10.♖c2 ♘a6 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.a3 ♘c7 13.♗fe1 ♘e6 14.b4 a5 15.a4 ♖b6 16.bxa5 ♖xa5 17.♗eb1 ♗b4 18.♘b3 ♖c7 19.♘c5 ♗xc5 20.dxc5 0-0 21.♗b6 ♗a5 22.d4 ♗fa8 23.♗ab1 ♗a7 24.♗b4 ♖c8 25.♖b3 ♘d8



26.h3 g6 27.♘h2 ♖a8 28.♗a1 f5 29.♘f1 ♗g7 30.♘g3 ♘e6 31.♘e2 ♗g8 32.♘c3 ♖c8 33.♗b1 ♘d8 34.♖d1 ♗a8 1/2-1/2
Philadelphia Public Ledger, December 24, 1922

Martin Simsak, a retired chessmaster, recently described the reaction of a collection of strong Central Pennsylvania chessplayers when Ruth demonstrated the opening in to them in 1936: "We thought it looked kind of screwy, but it was a lot tougher than it looked." Many of Ruth's opponents may have felt the same way when they faced the opening in the early 1930's, just as Julian Hodgson's did at first.

In the following game, Ruth uses his homegrown weapon against

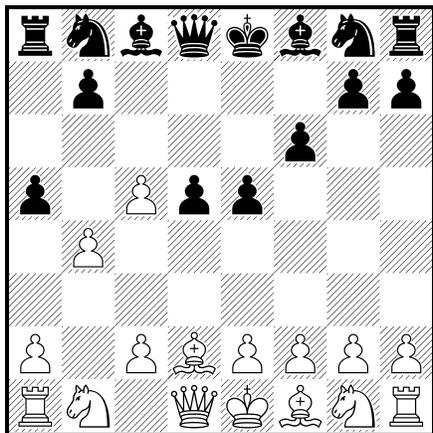
one of the strongest chessplayers ever born in Pennsylvania, Sydney T. Sharp (1885-1953). The nine-time Pennsylvania Champion's response to the Ruth Opening looks decidedly modern, although later mistakes by both players muddy the picture. Ruth himself annotated the game for William H. Steckel's chess column in the *Allentown Morning Call*.

Bill Ruth – Sydney Sharp [D00]

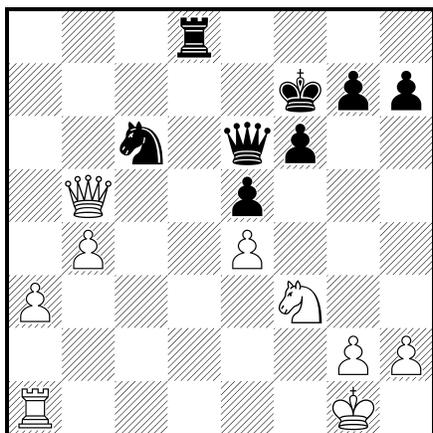
Philadelphia Championship, 04.1934

Notes by William Ruth

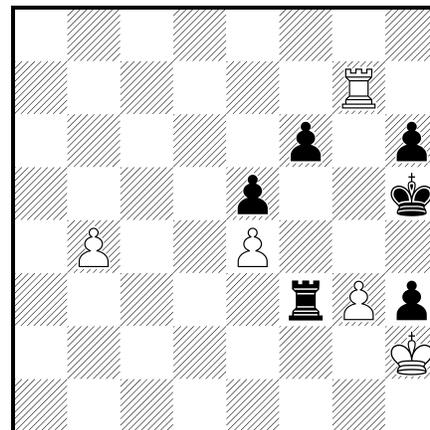
1.d4 d5 2.♘g5 c5 3.dxc5 f6 4.♙d2 e5 5.b4 a5



This is a very fine move, much better than the idea in back of it. Black seeks to break up White's Queenside pawns, an impossibility as the subsequent play demonstrates. However, if Black had been content to leave the position sit after making this move, White's development on the Queenside would have been a serious problem. 6.c3 axb4? 7.cxb4 b6 8.cxb6 ♖xb6 9.♗c3 ♙e6 10.a3 d4 11.♗a4 ♖c6 12.♗b2 ♙d6 Black again fails to grasp his opportunity. 12...e4 would have given him a positional advantage more than compensating for the pawn minus. 13.e3 dxe3 14.fxe3 Not 14.♙xc3 on account of 14...♖c3+ 15.♖d2 ♙xb4 14...♗e7 15.♗f3 0-0 16.♙e2 ♗d7 17.♙c1 ♖b7 18.♙c4 ♙xc4 19.♗xc4 ♙c7 20.♖b3 ♖d5 21.e4! ♖e6 21...♖xc4+ would lose to 22.♗c3+ 22.♙e3 ♙b6 23.♙xb6 23.♗fd2, as suggested by Bernie Winkelman, was probably more correct. 23...♗xb6 24.♗fd2 ♖fc8 25.0-0 ♗xc4 26.♙xc4 ♙xc4 27.♖xc4 ♗f7 28.♙a1 ♗c6 29.♖b5 29.♖xe6+ ♗xe6 30.♗b3 was probably sufficient. 29...♙d8 30.♗f3



30...g5 From a psychological standpoint, it is of interest to note that this really inferior move was the fundamental cause of Black drawing. White, sensing the insecurity of the Black King, ignored his material win on the Queenside in an attempt to set up a mating net, an effort that failed by only the narrowest of margins. 31.♙f1 ♗g6 32.♖b6 ♙a8 33.♙c1 ♗d4 34.♖xe6 ♗xe6 35.♙c3 g4 36.♗h4+ ♗g5 37.g3 ♗d4 38.♙c7 Better was 38.♗f2 38...h6 39.♙g7+ ♗h5 40.h3 gxh3 41.♗h2 ♙xa3 42.♙f7 ♗f3+ 43.♗xf3 ♙xf3 44.♙g7



44...♙f1 The only move to draw. It will be noticed that if White's b pawn was on b5, the position would be an easy win due to the fact that Black's Rook could not leave the sixth rank due to the threatened mate, while White's pawn would queen without opposition. 45.b5 ♙b1 46.♗xh3 ♙h1+ ½-½ *Allentown Morning Call*, April 15, 1934

As an annotator, Bill Ruth liked to wax psychological, as we have seen. Eighteen years after this game was played Ruth got the chance to be as philosophical, psychological, or political as he pleased when in 1952 he took over the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* chess column from Isaac Ash. During Ash's decade-long tenure as columnist, the column was not known for either any special emphasis or any great liveliness. This continued the style set by Ash's predecessor Walter Penn Shipley, who had presided over a decorous and straight-laced column since 1906, when he replaced the dying Harry Nelson Pillsbury as columnist.

Inquirer readers didn't have long to wait to discover that Ruth's column would be nothing like Ash's. Ruth was a flamboyant writer, with a unique prose style, unlike anything the chess world has seen before or since. In some ways his writing was just as "screwy" as his opening. For example, here is Ruth discussing a rather well known Philadelphia chessplayer, from his October 26, 1952 column: " In Philadelphia we all have a proprietary interest in Benjamin Franklin. It was here that he munched a bun, saw a girl, and discovered electricity...."

After quoting a passage from Franklin's Autobiography concerning chess, Ruth rambled onto his conclusion: "In chess are many anomalies, contrasts that surprise and confuse. Franklin, the student, and Tamerlane, the barbarian, both played. Ruy Lopez, the Spanish Priest, and Charlemagne the Great enjoyed the royal game; the padre between prayers; the emperor between conquests. Chess is not only for the highly cultivated mind. We have played in the stockyards of Chicago, aromatic games to be long remembered, and on the sands of Miami and we have met many, all different and yet all alike in their love of the game. Chess is the ideal socialism."

Once they recovered from that performance, the readers discovered a rich column, with games, problems, and national and local chess news. Ruth displayed his "ideal socialism" weekly in his column. Unlike some chess columnists who view the chess world through over-the-board blinders, Ruth's column encompassed all forms of chess.

Ruth, like many chess columnists, used his weekly allotment of newspaper space as a bully pulpit for his favorite causes. Naturally enough, one of them was the Ruth Opening, and he was always happy to publish games played in the variation. For example, the following correspondence game by long-time postalite Philip Driver. Ruth's comment regarding the game was to call the opening "our pet".

Philip Driver – Schwartz,P [D00]

Correspondence game, 1952

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♙g5 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.dxc5 e5 5.b4 ♘c6 6.a3 ♙f5 7.e3 h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 h5 10.♙b5 ♗c7 11.♘g3 ♘d7 12.h4 g4 13.♘d4 ♙g6 14.c4 f5 15.♘e6 ♗b8 16.cxd5 ♘d8 17.♘c4 ♘f7 18.c6 1-0

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 2, 1952

And like almost all chess columnists, Ruth was fond of receiving letters from his readers. Especially when they wrote to him about the Ruth variation:.

"Dear Mr. Ruth,

I am enclosing the score of a correspondence game played with Eugene Hoeflin of St. Paul, MN, It is a shortie wherein I used the Ruth Variation. Hope you will find it interesting.

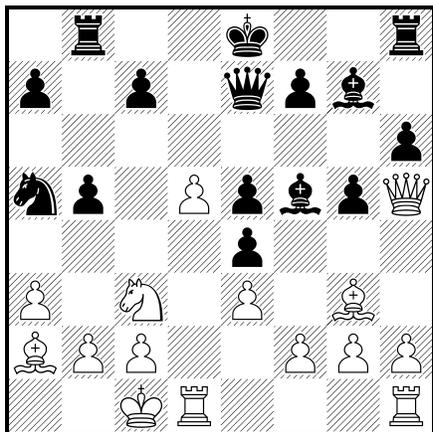
Sincerely, Jack Lieberman"

"We most certainly do" was Bill Ruth's response, in addition to printing the letter and gamescore.

Jack Liberman – Eugene Hoeflin [A45]

Correspondence, 1953

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♙g5 ♘e4 3.♙h4 g5 4.♙g3 ♙g7 5.e3 d5 6.♘d2 ♘c6 7.♘xe4 dxe4 8.♗h5 h6 9.♙c4 e6 10.0-0 ♗e7 11.a3 e5 12.d5 ♘a5 13.♙a2 b5 14.♘e2 ♙f5 15.♘c3 ♗b8



16.d6! cxd6 17.♗xd6 ♙g4 18.♙xf7+ ♘f8 19.♗xg4 ♗xd6 20.♗d1 ♗f6 21.♙h5 ♘g8 22.♘xe4 A beautiful game at our favorite variation. 1-0

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 8, 1953

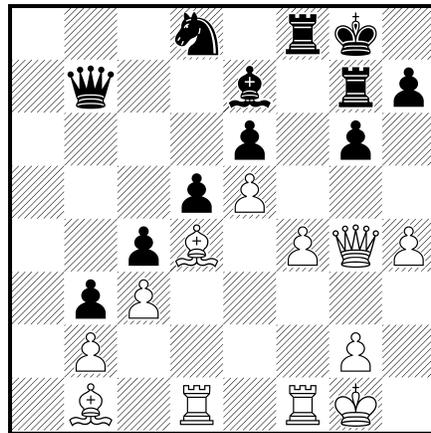
But it wasn't just correspondence games played with his "pet" opening that Ruth featured in his column. Other games would appear from time to time, including the following pair from Ira Isenberg, a

correspondence and over-the-board player from Enola, Pennsylvania. Commenting on the first of the pair of games, Ruth mentioned that Black had just won an over the board tournament in Colorado.

Ira Isenberg – Bela Rosza [C83]

Correspondence, 1950

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♙e6 9.c3 ♙e7 10.♙e3 0-0 11.♘bd2 ♘xd2 12.♗xd2 ♘a5 13.♘d4 ♗d7 14.♙c2 c5 15.♗d3 g6 16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.f4 ♗ad8 18.♗ad1 ♗f7 19.♗e2 ♘c6 20.a4 ♗df8 21.axb5 axb5 22.♙d3 c4 23.♙c2 ♗b7 24.♗g4 ♘d8 25.♙d4 b4 26.h4 b3 27.♙b1 ♗g7



28.h5 gxh5 29.♗xh5 ♘c6 30.♗f3 ♙d8 31.♗h6 ♘xd4 32.cxd4 ♗d7 33.♗h3 ♗f7 34.f5 ♙g5 35.fxe6 ♙xh6 36.exd7 ♙g5 37.e6 ♗f8 38.♙xh7+ 1-0

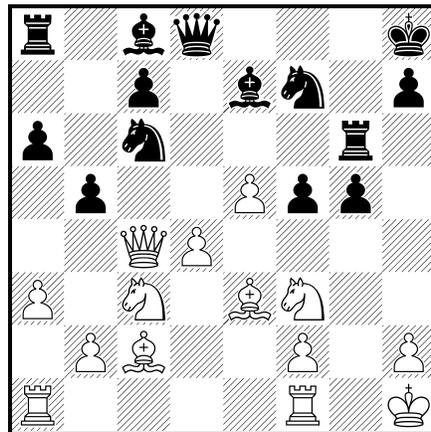
Philadelphia Inquirer, October 19, 1952

And in his first column of 1953 Ruth featured another correspondence game by Isenberg. Ruth described the ending as played "very nicely", and mentioned that Isenberg "does mighty well at this kind of competition."

Ira Isenberg – K. Stamm[D31]

Correspondence, 1952

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 dxc4 4.e3 ♘f6 5.♙xc4 ♙e7 6.♘f3 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.e4 ♘e8 9.♙e3 ♘d6 10.♙d3 f5 11.e5 ♘f7 12.♙c2 ♘c6 13.a3 ♘h8 14.♗d3 ♗g8 15.♘h1 g5 16.g4 ♗g6 17.gxf5 exf5 18.♗c4 b5



19.♗xf7 ♙e6 20.♗xe6 ♗xe6 21.♙xf5 ♗h6 22.♗g1 ♗e8 23.♙e4

♞d8 24.♞d5 ♞xd5 25.♞xd5 ♞g6 26.♞xg5 ♞d8 27.♞e4 ♞g7
 28.♞f3 ♞e6 29.♞xg7 ♞xg7 30.♞g1 ♞f7 31.d5 ♞e8 32.e6 ♞f8
 33.♞d4+ ♞f6 34.♞e5 ♞g7 35.♞f7+ ♞g8 36.♞h6+ ♞h8 37.♞xg7
 ♞xg7 38.♞f5 ♞g8 39.e7 ♞e8 40.♞xg7 ♞d7 41.♞f8 1-0
Philadelphia Inquirer, January 4, 1953

With this much of an interest in correspondence play and his philosophical bent it was only a matter of time until Ruth held forth on postal chess. On Sunday, September 14, 1952, Ruth did just that, headlining his column "The Mail of The Species".

"We have", Ruth stated, "social chess and club chess, tournament chess and exhibition chess - simultaneous and blindfold - and chess by mail. Here the postman brings plays from friends we have never met, from places we have never visited. He delivers the world to our front door. As distance lends enchantment, so correspondence chess gives us a golden opportunity to enjoy competition that would otherwise be beyond our reach.

"After dinner, ensconced in our favorite chair, we calmly formulate our plans, consider our responses and calculate our attack and defense - and all of this in our home and the miracle of it, we are playing with an opponent in Omaha.

"Correspondence chess lends itself to extended analysis. Here we can wander far ahead of the position at hand, we can probe possibilities and consider complicated combinations deeply and at leisure; a pleasure denied under the restriction imposed by clock chess. We can see our dreams come true."

After providing the address of the Correspondence Chess League of American, and suggesting his readers contact them about "this fascinating angle on the royal game", Ruth included three examples of dreams coming true for local correspondence players. All the players were members of Philadelphia's Franklin Chess Club, and all three were part of a ten board correspondence match organized by Ruth and played between the Franklin and the Circulo de Ajedrez chess club of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The first game in the column that day featured local postalite John Seibert giving a lesson on postal play to a teenage chessplayer experimenting with correspondence chess. His opponent fortunately overcame this setback and went onto better things.

Hans Berliner – John Seibert [B03]

Correspondence, 1947

1.e4 ♞f6 2.e5 ♞d5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 ♞b6 5.f4 ♞f5 6.♞c3 dxe5
 7.fxe5 e6 8.♞f3 ♞c6 9.d5 ♞b4 10.♞d4 ♞h4+ 11.g3 ♞xd4
 12.♞xd4 ♞c2+ 13.♞f2 ♞xd4 14.♞e3 ♞c2 0-1
Philadelphia Inquirer, September 14, 1952

F. Weaver – B. Albert [A16]

Correspondence, 1952

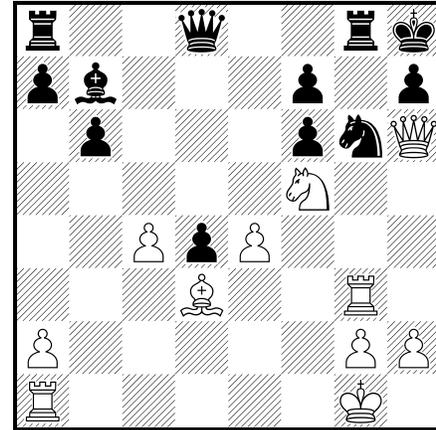
1.c4 ♞f6 2.♞f3 g6 3.♞c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♞xd5 5.e4 ♞xc3 6.bxc3
 ♞g7 7.♞a3 ♞d7 8.♞b3 c5 9.♞b5 0-0 10.♞xd7 ♞xd7 11.♞xc5 b6
 12.♞d4 ♞b7 13.d3 e5 14.♞xe5 ♞xe5 15.♞xe5 ♞xd3 16.f3 ♞fe8
 17.♞d4 ♞xe4 18.♞f2 ♞d2+ 19.♞g3 ♞g5+ 20.♞h3 h5 21.♞d1
 ♞f5+ 22.g4 hxg4+ 23.fxg4 ♞e4 0-1
Philadelphia Inquirer, September 14, 1952

E. Strang – Robert Merchant [E32]

Correspondence, 1952

1.d4 ♞f6 2.c4 e6 3.♞c3 ♞b4 4.♞c2 ♞xc3+ 5.bxc3 b6 6.e4 d6
 7.♞d3 ♞bd7 8.♞e2 ♞b7 9.0-0 c5 10.f4 e5 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.♞g3

0-0 13.♞f5 cxd4 14.cxd4 exd4 15.♞g5 ♞e5 16.♞f4 ♞g6 17.♞xf6
 gxf6 18.♞g4 ♞h8 19.♞d2 ♞g8 20.♞g3 ♞e5 21.♞h6 ♞g6



22.♞xh7+! ♞xh7 23.♞h3+ ♞h4 24.♞xh4+ ♞g6 25.♞h6+ ♞g5
 26.♞f1 ♞xe4 27.h4+ ♞g4 28.♞e2+ ♞f3 29.♞xf3 ♞e8 30.♞h7 1-0
Philadelphia Inquirer, September 14, 1952

There is no evidence that Ruth ever played correspondence chess himself, but it was clear from his writing that he thought highly of the postal game compared to the average over-the-board master. If there was still any doubt in a reader's mind, his November 8, 1953 *Inquirer* column resolved it. The column that Sunday was a typical display of Ruthian thunderbolts on the subject of postal chess.

The column began with a letter from Victoria, Australia, written by WW II veteran Sgt. Graham Franklin: "Perhaps sir, you might know a player who would be willing to play a game of chess with me by correspondence. I don't profess to be skilled in the art of chess, but - I believe skill comes with practice against a better player." Having spent some time in Philadelphia during the war, Franklin felt it was appropriate to contact the local chess columnist for help.

Ruth provided a little more information on his Australian correspondent, as a way to lead up to his homily: "Sans right arm, he learned the moves when in the hospital, and since has become a devotee of the royal game."

And having given himself his cue, Ruth took it and ran with it: "Royal game - not by my good right eye! A brigadier general could play with our Sergeant without losing caste. Or a buck private who has yet to get his stripes. A pauper or a millionaire would fill the bill equally well. Believe us; there is no more democratic game in the world than correspondence chess.

"You mail your card. It goes across the state, across the country, or around the world. Your opponent is the real John Doe. You know not if whether he is a pipe fitter or a plutocrat and you care not. You have a community of interest that bridges all social barriers. Correspondence chess is a royal good game but as democratic as Jigg's corned beef and cabbage."

Ruth neatly concluded his sermon by returning to the Australian's request: "How about some of our readers accepting the sergeant's challenge. Bet he can beat you."

We do not know whether Sergeant Franklin ever found a Philadelphia opponent for correspondence chess. Nor do we know for sure how Bill Ruth would have responded to the

widespread use of the name "Trompowsky" for his "pet," although the words "with annoyance" come to mind. But we can be sure of one thing. Ruth would be pleased to see the opening used so widely by so many chessplayers of differing strengths, and used in both over the board and correspondence chess. Truly a case of ideal socialism.

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This article first appeared in *Correspondence Chess News*
<http://ccn.correspondencechess.com>

Last Paupack Tourney Packed Lots of Action by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

On Nov 8, the Paupack "Pauns" Chess Club hosted its final tournament at John's Family Italian Restaurant in Greentown. Twenty-five players entered the farewell event, including many local players, as well as travelers such as David and Rory Wasiolek, William Gates, Russell Palkendo, Marvin Wilson, and myself. Twenty-five players may not seem like very many, but it was greater than the expected turnout, and the prize fund was increased from \$300 to \$415.

The first round was as cold to the players on the lower half of the wallchart as the weather outside. There were no upsets at all in round one, although I had a scare against Howard Meiser. Round 2 saw Robert Kampia (1763) win the upset prize when he demolished New Jersey's Edmund Koss (2031). The top boards in the next round saw Kampia blunder a rook to Phil Rizzo is a slightly better position, Rory Wasiolek beat Patrick Walker with black on board 1 and I defeated Marvin Wilson.

The winners of those three games had perfect scores entering the final round. I had white against Rizzo, and Wasiolek was white against the highest rated player with two points (no one had 2.5), Ed Koss.

Despite my best intentions to try to win the game, Rizzo quickly traded everything off, and we agreed to a draw on move 13, when it was clear that we would trade down to a king and two-rook ending with symmetrical pawns. This guaranteed us a tie for second place. We then spent over an hour watching the game on board 2. Phil and I knew our bank accounts would grow, but by how much dough, we didn't know. Wasiolek had an advantage, and when he established a connected passed pawn on e6, I was ready to take my guaranteed \$55 and return home to Douglassville. But patience is a virtue. Koss gained some counterplay. The pawn on e6 fell. Wasiolek had two connected passed pawns on the queenside; Koss had the same on the kingside. With both kings on the kingside, Wasiolek sacked his knight for the pawns, leaving him with a rook, the passed pawns, and an f-pawn, against Koss's rook, knight, and d-pawn. After some inaccurate moves by both sides (which nearly gave Rizzo a heart attack), Koss was finally able to win all of the pawns and promote his own pawn to ensure the victory of the game. This gave the victory of the tournament, as well as an extra \$20 each, to Phil Rizzo and your author.

Tying for third overall with 3 points were Wasiolek, Koss, Walker, Gates, and Robert Brubaker. The latter two won the U1500 prize. U1300 went to Gary Stevens, U1100 to Derek Miller, and Chu Quinn was the best unrated.

The Paupack Club was a major club in the heart of the Poconos. Fittingly, I encountered some snow flurries and I drove to the site on Route 84. The club was founded about ten ago. It originally met at the Wooden Spoon Restaurant in Paupack. When the restaurant folded, the club moved to the Overboard Restaurant. Renovation forced the club

to move again, this time to the Settler's Inn in nearby Hawley. That too was renovated, and meetings now take place at Arby's Restaurant in Hawley.

On November 17, 1996, the club held an Arthur Bisguier simul. Bisguier took on fifteen players, winning twelve and losing to Louis Trebony and the late Jesse Lladoc, and drawing Ralph Sharper. In addition to hosting three or four tournaments a year, the club also became active on the scholastic level, and many students received lessons from club members.

The club is no longer an official organization. Now, it is simply a gathering spot of a half-dozen men. The end of the club as an organization was caused by three factors. First, President Louis Trebony was recently declared legally blind, and cannot attend most meetings. Second, Al Rine, who directed many of the tournaments the club hosted, including this final one, has decided to step down as effectively acting as all of the club's other officers. Third, naturally, is dwindling membership. Mr. Rine has indicated that Arby's may be going out of business, and that may cause the club to disband entirely.

However, another club in the region is taking steps to fill the void. Patrick Walker is currently forming a club in Scranton. Currently, there is no regular meeting time or place. He hopes to resolve these problems quickly, and begin running three or four tournaments a year in Scranton. If anyone would like information about the Scranton Chess Club, please contact Patrick Walker at 570-347-5200.

The author would like to thank Al Rine and Patrick Walker for their contributions to this article.

Scholastic Corner by PSCF SE Scholastic Coordinator Dan Heisman

Scholastic corner is aimed for players K-12, their parents, and scholastic sponsors/coaches. At this time of year, we like to address the column to sponsors and coaches to help them prepare their program for the school season. So if you are a scholastic player or parent and your sponsor/coach is not likely to receive this article, please copy or lend it to them or anyone else who could benefit! Thanks – this little effort might go a long way!

Before getting into PA-specifics, I would like to note that USCF's excellent booklet, *A Guide to Scholastic Chess*, is now available on-line at www.uschess.org/scholastic/01GuideScholches.pdf. If you have not seen this, it is a great idea to download it, and print it out or browse through it to keep in mind where to find this helpful information. Of course for the parents there is my book "A Parent's Guide to Chess", available from www.chesscafe.com and elsewhere.

I would urge every school sponsor to prepare a "start of the year" handout and disseminate it to all of the students (and parents!) who attend his/her chess program. This handout can have two parts – one part can be specific to your program, but the second part should be generic and similar within all programs: it should contain information on what the main events are this year, and where to get more information about scholastic events and improvement. The following information should help you get started:

Web sites (all of these have many pages useful to both you and your students):

- US Chess Federation: www.uschess.org
- PA State Chess Federation: www.pscfchess.org/
- SE PA Scholastic Chess Coordinator: www.danheisman.com

Important Dates for PA Scholastic Chess in 2004:

- Jan 24-25 – PA Team Championship West - Pittsburgh
- Feb 21 – PA Team Champ East – Philadelphia Community College – Scholastic and HS/MS sections
- Feb 28-29 – PA Scholastic Chess Championship – Carlisle, PA –138 trophies!
- Apr 2-4 National Elementary (K-6) Championship in Pittsburgh
(www.uschess.org/tla/upcomingnationalevents082503.html)
- Summer 2004 – PA State Chess Championship (all ages but includes a Scholastic section)
- Fall 2004 - PA Junior (under age 21) Championship - Pittsburgh, PA. – State age champions crowned

More detail on all of these events is available at the above web sites. A primary site for PA State Championship events is www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/. Alternately, you can go to the USCF web site and click on “tournaments” – you get to www.uschess.org/tla, and then click on “Listings by State” and “PA”, etc. Or for SE PA events, you can go to www.danheisman.com and click on “Tournaments/Events”. And all these events are listed in detail monthly in the back of Chess Life, in their Tournament Life Announcement section.

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” This quote was apparently first stated by Lao Tzu, the famous philosopher. Use it for acquiring information about where to play chess: [Teach your students how to find events by themselves and then they can share the information with others in your group.](#)

Many coaches allow their players to “start at the top”, which is a tough way to learn. By this I mean that they encourage their players to only play one or two championship events a year, like the PA Team Tournament and the PA Scholastic Championship, this year for the first time at the Clarion Hotel in Carlisle. This approach is somewhat like expecting your football or basketball players to only play in the PIAA playoffs but not play in normal leagues and summer camps. There are many scholastic (K-12) events held all over the state throughout the year, like the Delaware Valley Scholastic Grand Prix (DVGP) Events, the PSCF-CCP events in Philadelphia, and many in the Pittsburgh area run by Jerry Meyers and Tom Martinak. Playing in scholastic events before the championship events is great preparation for your players and teams. These events can be found at the above web sites and also via scholastic e-mail lists. To get on my SE PA scholastic e-mail list, send an e-mail to danheisman@comcast.net for Tom, it is martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com.

It is also a good idea to let the older (above elementary) students know that not only can they play in those scholastic events, but they are usually welcome at local clubs, and at “open” tournaments for all ages. Especially enticing are events like the PA State Championship (which also has a scholastic section) or the large National Chess Congress in Philadelphia over Thanksgiving weekend, which has about a dozen sections to accommodate all players from master to beginner. It is certainly no coincidence that at these all-age events you always see students from many-time National HS Champion Masterman or Pennsbury. These are two of the best programs in the state, partly because coaches Steve Shutt and Ed McKenney encourage their players to play in the top events, scholastic or not.

If a sponsor/coach does not want to “send” his players to these events, at least he should let them know that these events exist – I always feel sorry for players whose sponsors knew about events (or at least how to find them), did not tell the players, and then the players missed the event even though it later turns out they would have loved to have played. I was once a student who would have loved to have played organized events outside my school but I did not know about them, so I am very sympathetic to those in that situation now. Therefore, as much as possible, coaches and sponsors should let their students know there is a whole world of chess eager to welcome them outside of their local team or league! And don’t let anyone tell you “You are not good enough” – sometimes I have to return “unrated” trophies for recycling because players who have not played before are improperly discouraged from coming to events and no new players show up to get the trophy!

Final note: USCF (and PSCF!) membership is required for all PSCF Championship events. Lately USCF has been struggling financially so if at all possible you want to join, get the magazine, and support your national chess organization. See www.shopuschess.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/scstore/member.html?E+scstore

Bishop, Yeager, Shvartsman Star at 2003-04 Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Chess Championship

Maurice Bishop of Philadelphia, a junior at Southern High School, took the first place trophy and was declared one of four High School Chess Co-Champions at the 2003-2004 Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Chess Championships. Bishop also won as a freshman and thus becomes the first two-time winner! The annual event was held at the Kaiserman JCC in Wynnewood on November 2nd. This tournament, which crowns the individual and school area champions, drew a record 169 participants from as far away as Pittsburgh, Virginia, and Northern New Jersey! The play was held in four sections: High School, Middle School, Elementary, and Elementary Under-700. The event was sponsored by the JCC, Main Line Speech of Haverford, and M&T Bank.

Bishop drew with top-rated Rory Wasiolek of Devon Prep in the final round to secure an undefeated 3½-½ score and take the trophy on tiebreak. Wasiolek, a junior, was also declared Co-Champion, along with Andrew Madorsky of Hempfield HS and Christopher Blaise, Jr., representing the York Youth CC, all also scoring 3½-½. Zach Thompson of the host school district Lower Merion HS took the fifth place trophy, among a large contingent scoring 3-1. Other prize winners included Stephen Kendrex of St. Augustine Prep (NJ) as the Top U1200 player, David Roeman Jones the Top Philadelphia Resident, and Frank Broomell of St. Augustine Prep as the Top Unrated. The team competition was a torrid 3-way affair between Pennsbury, Pocono Mountain East, and St. Augustine Prep. When the smoke had cleared only half point separated the three squads, with St. Augustine and Pennsbury declared Co-Champions, St. Augustine taking the first place trophy on tiebreak.

In the Middle School section Daniel Yeager of Warminster drew with Josh Bowman of Blue Bell in the final round to take the title of Greater Philadelphia Middle School Champion with a 4½-½ score. Bowman, representing Main Line Chess Club, finished 2nd on tiebreak, leading a group of six players with 4-1. The others at 4-1 were Alex Liebergall (3rd), Boris Valerstein (4th), Jack Archer (5th), Evan Ames (Top Philadelphia), and Jack Jiang (Top Under-1000). Max Blumenthal won

the Top 8th grade prize, Patrick Schoener Top 7th, and Ben Fisher Top 6th. Tyler Welker won the Under-800 prize and Jarey Wang and Dennison Bechis took the first and second unrated prizes, respectively. In the team competition Masterman MS was first school, Harrisburg Academy was second school, and the Main Line Chess Club took the Top Club trophy.

Andrew Shvartsman of Milton Allen Elementary (NJ) swept the Elementary section 5-0 to become the Greater Philadelphia Elementary Champion. There was a five-way tie for 2nd with 4-1, with the trophies going to Udit Gupta (2nd), Hibiki Sakai (3rd), Arie Milner (4th), Madhu Karamsetty (5th), and Andrew Jiang (Top Under-900). The Under-700 prize went to Marc Williamson, David Lai was Top Unrated, and Michael Levin was Top Philadelphia player. In the team competition Swarthmore-Rutledge was Top School and Lake Anne Elementary (VA) edged Abrams Hebrew Academy on tiebreak for second. The Top Club trophy went to Greater Somerset County (NJ) Chess Club.

In the new Elementary Under-700 section for less experienced players, Julian Lurie of French International School and Ethan Stein of Hillside Elementary both swept 4-0 to share first place honors. Trimmer Elementary easily took the Top School prize and the Montgomery County Youth Club was Top Club.

SE PA Scholastic Coordinator NM Dan Heisman was the chief tournament director. He was assisted by PA Scholastic Chess Coordinator Steve McLaughlin and Neil Brennen. For further information contact Dan Heisman: (610) 649-0750.

Main Line Masters Action Tournament By Dan Heisman

With a nod to Greg Shahade's NY Tuesday night Master's Action tournament, we started a similar event on Tuesday nights at the Main Line Chess Club. Recently the following players have stopped by (most are 2003members), so it made sense to give this a try: FM Peter Fleischer, FM Matt Bengtson, FM Rodion Rubenchik, NM Pete Peterson, NM Dan Heisman, NM Rich Pariseau, NM Rich Lunenfeld, Experts: the Chressanthis brothers, Neal Oberholtzer, Sam Waldner, and Mike Glick; and Arnold Shafritz, along with 1800+ juniors Zach White, Rory Wasiolek, and Alan Deckelbaum. This three round unrated G/30 swiss is planned for most club nights, in addition to our ongoing rated G/75swisses. All events are free to club members (membership is \$20 per year and \$15 for juniors). The rating restriction is 1900 minimum, 1800 for juniors. Registration ends at 7:30 for round 1, which is scheduled to start about 7:40. More info on the club, including map and directions, at

http://mywebpages.comcast.net/danheisman/Events_Books/Main_Line_Flyer_99.htm.

The inaugural event was played by Fleischer (who as a master got a full point bye since he had to miss round one, because initially we have no entry fee or prizes), Bengtson, Heisman, Glick, Pariseau, and Wasiolek.

Rd 1: Fleischer 1B Wasiolek 0.5B
Heisman 1 Pariseau 0
Glick 0.5 Bengtson 0.5

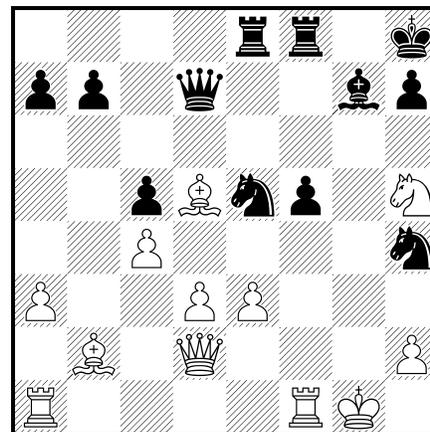
Rd 2: Fleischer 1 Heisman 0
Bengtson 1 Wasiolek 0
Pariseau 0 Glick 1

PeterFleischer – Dan Heisman [A01]

Main Line Action Tournament, 2003

Notes by Dan Heisman

1The game of the night was the wild 2nd round game between Peter and I. I missed my chance with 19... ♖xf4 and if 20. ♖xf4 then 20... ♙xc4. After that I had good pressure but Peter played it well and Fritz said that during the time scramble he was always well on top. **1.b3 e5 2.♙b2 d6 3.g3 c5 4.♙g2 ♖c6 5.c4 g6 6.♖c3 ♙g7 7.a3 ♖ge7 8.e3 0-0 9.♖ge2 ♙e6 10.♖d5 ♗d7 11.0-0 f5 12.d3 ♗ae8 13.♗d2 g5 14.f4 gxf4 15.gxf4 ♖g6 16.b4 ♖h8 17.bxc5 dxc5 18.fxe5 ♖cxe5 19.♖ef4 ♖h4 20.♖h5 ♙xd5 21.♙xd5**



21...f4 [Notice that the intended 21...♗xd5 fails to 22.cxd5 ♖hf3+ 23.♗xf3 ♖xf3+ 24.♖g2 ♖xd2 25.♖xg7 (or 25.♙xg7+ . Later Q sacs on g2 always fail to Bishop defenses of g2. Darn!)] **22.♖h1 f3 23.♗f2 ♗f5 24.♖xg7 ♗xg7 25.♙e4 ♗g5 26.♗af1 ♗g8 27.♗d1 1-0**

So the standings going into the final round were:

Fleischer 2
Bengtson 1.5
Glick 1.5
Heisman 1
Wasiolek 0.5
Pariseau 0

Rd 3: Bengtson 0 Fleischer 1
Heisman 0.5 Glick 0.5
Wasiolek 0 Pariseau 1

In a time scramble, Matt got his Bishop pinned and lost a piece. Peter only had 8 seconds left but, with time delay, easily picked up the point that made him the inaugural winner. In the battle for 2nd, I unwisely traded Queens in the opening and was slightly worse when Mike strategically took a draw from a slightly superior ending, wrapping up clear second for him. Mike recently regained his Expert's title - he has been playing very well this year.

Final Standings:

1. Fleischer 3
2. Glick 2
3-4. Bengtson, Heisman 1.5
5. Pariseau 1
6. Wasiolek 0.5

Letters to the Editor

Dear Neil,

... The last issue of *The Pennswoodpusher* was great. I especially liked the article by Martin Simsak. Some publications might have chopped it in two parts, but I liked that you kept the whole article in a single issue...

Joe Mucerino

(The following is from the newsgroup rec.games.chess.politics . - Editor)

Neil,

I won't be upset. Post your own games if you wish. Add dozens of !!!! moves to dress them up, too. Here we are not paying a membership fee to see a state editor steal space from more worthy players in order to parade his ego around. So, fire away with your Dutch victories. After you've gone to all that time and trouble, no one will play over your games.

RSHaas

(We think Mr. Haas is confused.. Our records show TWO Brennen games published since February 2002, one of them a loss. We've also published more than 120 other games, positions, and problems during that time. However, since Mr. Haas has given us permission to publish our games, here is one of them. Please let us know if you play it over. - Editor)

Terry Morris (1350) – Neil Brennen (1400) [A85]

NPCF Membership Drive (3), 09.1998

Notes by Neil Brennen

1.d4 f5 2.c4 d6 3.d3 g6 4.d3 g7 5.e3 N 0-0 6.b4 d6 7.g3 [7. b2 c5=] 7... e8 8. g2 c6 9. b1 d6 10. b2 e5 11. dx5 dx5 12. c5 e4 13. b3+ h8 14. d5 e5 15. f1? [15.0-0 and White can hope to live] 15... h6 16. d3? [16.h4 was interesting.] 16... d3+ 17. e2 e6 18. a3 [18. c2 doesn't change anything anymore 18... d8 19. d5 x5+ (<19... d5 20. xg7+ xg7 21. d1-+) 18... d7 White has to start throwing away material to hold off mate. 0-1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Tom Martinak

Thanks to Penn State Abington for allowing us to repost on our website at <http://www.pscfchess.org/IraRiddleNews.htm> their article on our own Ira Lee Riddle. Ira had ably served for many years as both PSCF President and *Pennswoodpusher* Editor. He is currently the PSCF Vice President - East along with organizer and tournament director of many events. Congratulations, Ira!

The big news for the coming year is that the Scholastic Championships are moving to Carlisle. It will be held in the Clarion Hotel & Convention Center and now everybody will be able to stay right at the tournament site instead of having to drive back and forth to the hotel! Check out the details on all the events in the tournament listings later in this issue.

As the official state affiliate of the USCF, we will be submitting a list of people who wish to run for USCF Delegate for Pennsylvania. Any interested PSCF member should contact me about being included. Especially if you plan to be attending a US Open and will be able to attend the official meetings there.

ALEX'S COLUMN by FIDE-Master Alex Dunne

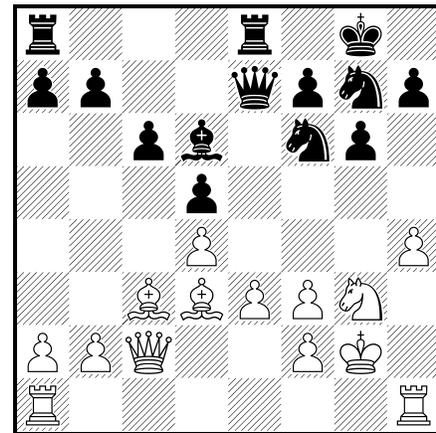
ATTACK ME? ATTACK YOU!

Ed Kelley and I have played each other nine times with but one draw. Instead, our games usually resemble a brawl. The following game is typical of our fights and not for those of a peaceful nature.

Ed Kelley (2101) – Alex Dunne (2253) [D45]

Binghamton (3), 05.2003

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e6 3.d3 d5 4.d3 c6 5.e3 d6 7.cxd5 More usual is 6. c2 or 6. d3 preserving the tension. 6... exd5 7. d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9. d2 This is development just for the sake of development. Better is 9. c2 or 9. b1. 9... e8 10. c2 This particular Pawn structure calls for white to initiate a minority attack. Romashko–Iljin, Kharkov 2001 saw 10. a3 d4 11. b4 a6 12. c2 d7 13. b1 f5 14. a4 when Black was better but White had queenside play. 10... e7 11. f1 d4 12. d2 Solid defense, White brings the Queen Knight to defend his King. 12... d6 13. d3 g4 14. c3 x3!? Black stands slightly better after 14... g6. The text precipitates a fierce battle. 15. gx3 f5 16. g2 g6 17. h4 d6 18. h1 d7



19.h5! White stakes everything on this advance, and rightly so. If Black gets in ... d5, White will stand poorly. 19... xg6! 20. hxg6! c7 21. gx7+? But this is the wrong way. After 21. gxh7+ h8 22. d1, White has one Pawn for the piece, but a dangerous attack. 21... xf7 22. xh7 d7 23. xh7 g5+ 24. h1 g6 At this point I was satisfied I was winning or I would have played the simpler 24... h8 25. g1 xh7+ 26. xh7 h5+ with a winning endgame. 25... g1?! An amazing try — Kelley at least gets a star for imagination. 25... xc2 26. gxg7+ f6 27. f7+ e6 28. xc7 xf2 Avoiding 28... h8 29. e7+ with a draw by perpetual check. 29. h6+ f5 30. f7+ g5 31. h3 h8 0-1

GAMES BY PSCF MEMBERS

We start off our expanded game section with a lesson on castling:

Joshua Lowenthal – Dan Heisman & Peter Fleisher [C11]

Tandem Simul, 06.2003

Notes by Dan Heisman

Last night FM Peter Fleischer and I played a tandem simul (alternating moves) against 21 players at the Main Line CC. We won 20 and drew 1, Expert Neal Oberholtzer getting the draw. Here is a great game we won against Josh Lowenthal, showing

the dangers of not castling early: I made the odd Black moves and Peter made the even ones (at least initially until/if Josh blitzed or passed, which I don't think occurred, so we played that parity the entire game) **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.a3 cxd4 8.♗xd4 ♗c5** [8...♗dxe5 9.fxg5 ♗h4+-+] **9.♗b3 ♗e7 10.♗g4 0-0 11.♗e3 f5 12.exf6 ♗xf6 13.♗d1 e5 14.fxg5 ♗xe5 15.♗d4 ♗c6 16.♗a4?** [Better 16.♗d2 ♗g4 when Black has a slight advantage. Now Black whips up an enormous attack against the helpless monarch.] **16...♗g4 17.♗d4 ♗g5** [Even better is 17...♗xd4, for example 18.♗xd4 ♗h4+ 19.g3 ♗c8+ 20.♗c2 ♗e3 21.♗f2 ♗f6 22.♗c5 b6 23.♗b5 ♗xc3 24.bxc3 ♗f6+ 25.♗f3 ♗g4 26.♗c2 ♗ac8] **18.♗d2 ♗e8+ 19.♗e2 ♗e3 20.♗xe3 ♗xe3 21.♗f1 ♗xg2+** [21...♗f4! is even faster.] **22.♗d1 d4 23.♗c4+ ♗h8 24.♗e2 ♗g4 25.♗fg3 ♗e3 26.♗f1 ♗xf1+ 27.♗xf1 ♗f2 28.♗d2 ♗e8 29.♗fg3 ♗e3+ 30.♗d1 ♗g1+ 31.♗d2 ♗xa1 1-0**

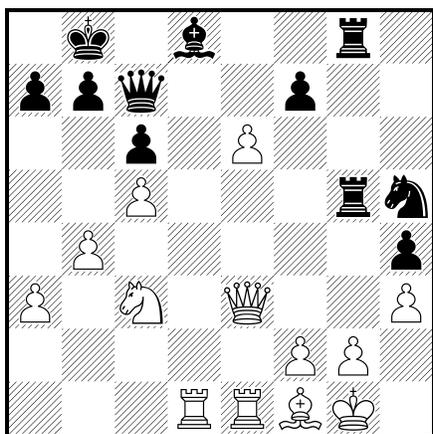
Joe Mucerino continues his streak of beating *Pennswoodpusher* contributors. Last issue Bruce Leverett bit the dust, and this issue Alex Dunne has the honor. Alex was kind enough to add his notes to Joe's.

Alex Dunne (2253) – Joe Mucerino(1997) [B01]

World Open (2), 07.2003

Notes by Joe Mucerino and Alex Dunne

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♗f6 3.d4 ♗g4 4.♗f3 [4.♗b5+ c6 5.dxc6 ♗a5+ 6.♗c3 ♗xc6 7.♗ge2± Goldberg–Tan, Guernsey 2001 –Dunne] **4...♗xd5 5.♗e2 ♗c6 6.0-0 0-0 7.♗e3 e6 8.♗c3** [8.♗bd2 ♗d6 9.c4 ♗f5 10.h3 h5 11.♗b3 e5 12.dxe5 ♗xe5 13.♗h4+– Malakhov–Senoner, Bled 2001 –Dunne; 8.c4 gaining space in the center, is better. White could then follow up with ♗c3, and the Queen could easily enter the game.] **8...♗f5 9.♗e1 ♗e7 10.h3 ♗xf3 11.♗xf3 ♗e5 12.♗e2 h5 13.♗c1 ♗c6** [Not 13...♗g6 14.♗d3 ♗a5 15.♗xg6 fxe6 and Black's pawns are shattered.] **14.♗d3 ♗a5 15.♗e2 ♗b4 16.♗c4 ♗bd5 17.♗d2 ♗b6 18.♗b3 ♗e4 19.♗e3 g5 20.c4!** Finally White plays an active move, and his position improves immediately. I thought I was in trouble now. **20...♗xe3 21.♗xe3 ♗f6 22.♗ad1 h4 23.c5 ♗a5** [The more natural looking 23...♗c6 loses a tempo to 24.♗c3 and ♗a4.] **24.♗c3 ♗b8** [Not 24...g4? 25.hxg4 ♗xg4 26.♗xe6+ fxc6 27.♗xc6+ ♗b8 28.♗xg4] **25.♗xg5?!** –Dunne gives this a !? [This move will come back to haunt White. He should play 25.d5! , and try to exploit the hanging Bishop on e7. 25...♗dg8] **25...♗dg8 26.♗e3 ♗h5 27.♗c4 ♗hg5 28.♗f1 c6 29.a3 ♗c7 30.b4 ♗h5 31.d5!** This should have won the game for White if he had followed up correctly. **31...♗d8** [Better is 31...♗f8 with the options of going to g7 and h6.]



32.dxe6? [The wrong idea. White decided to place his Knight on d6, a good square for it, but 32.d6! would have given him a protected passed pawn and would have left the Black Queen with some poor squares to choose from. 32.d6 32...♗d7 33.♗e4 ♗5g6 34.a4 –Dunne] **32...fxe6 33.♗e4** [33.♗xc6 ♗xg2+ 34.♗xg2 ♗xg2+ 35.♗xg2 ♗f4+ 36.♗f1 ♗xe6 37.♗xc6 ♗h2 38.♗xd8+ ♗c7 39.♗ed6 ♗xh3+ 40.♗c2 –Dunne] **33...♗5g6 34.♗d6 ♗g5 35.♗f3 ♗f4 36.♗e5** Threatening 37.♗xg5 ♗xg5 38.♗xf4. [36.♗e4 –Dunne] **36...♗h6 37.♗c4 ♗g7 38.♗e4 ♗xg2 39.♗g4 ♗f4 40.♗e3 ♗xg4+ 41.hxg4 ♗h5 42.♗h3 ♗f6 43.♗d4 ♗d5 44.♗e4 ♗xe3 45.fxe3 ♗a1+ 46.♗f1?** [White's last chance was 46.♗f1 defending the back rank.] **46...♗f8 47.♗g2 ♗e1!** This decides the game. **48.♗e2 ♗g3+ 49.♗g2 ♗xe3+ 50.♗h1 ♗e1** White must now give up the Exchange to prevent ...♗xf1. **0-1**

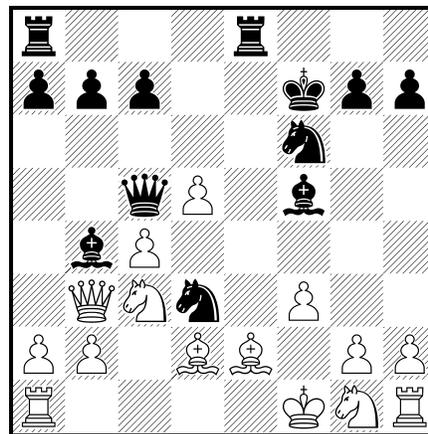
Mr. Mucerino has given us detailed notes to a loss he suffered to one of the Heimann brothers in a recent Pittsburgh tournament:

Mark Heimann – Joe Mucerino [B01]

Pittsburgh Class Championship (3), 14.09.2003

Notes by Joe Mucerino

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♗f6 3.d4 ♗g4 4.f3 ♗f5 5.c4 e6 6.dxe6 ♗c6 7.exf7? Theory says that White is lost after this move, but I do not agree with that verdict. The argument given is that White cannot survive Black's tremendous lead in development. Yes, White should make a developing move instead of capturing another pawn, because Black will get a strong attack. However, theory does not address some obvious moves that White can make to defend himself. **7...♗xf7 8.d5 ♗b4+** [Also playable is 8...♗b4 and ...♗c5.] **9.♗c3 ♗e8+ 10.♗e2 ♗e5 11.♗b3 ♗d6 12.♗d2 ♗d3+ 13.♗f1 ♗c5**



14.♗e1! [Best. If 14.♗xd3 ♗xd3+ 15.♗ge2 ♗xe2+ 16.♗xe2 ♗xd2 and Black is better.; If 14.♗h3 ♗xe2 (not 14...♗xh3 15.♗xd3 , which is solid for White.) 15.♗xe2 (again, 15.♗xe2 ♗xd2 and Black is better.) 15...♗e8+ 16.♗e4 leading to a complicated position. (16.♗d1? ♗xh3 17.gxh3 ♗f2+ wins material and gives Black a winning game; 16.♗f1?? ♗xh3 17.♗d1 ♗xd2 and there are threats everywhere.) Black should play 16...♗xe4 **A**) 17.♗xb4 ♗g3+ **A1**) 18.♗d2 ♗c3+ 19.♗c2 ♗c5+ wins the Queen, but(19...♗f2+ mates in three.) ; **A2**) 18.♗d1 18...♗xb4! 19.hxg3 ♗d4+ 20.♗c1 ♗d3+ and mate is forced in all lines.; **B**) 17.♗xd3 ♗xd2#; **C**) 17.♗e3?? ♗xc3+!! 18.♗xe3 ♗g3+ 19.♗d4 ♗e2# Wow! The enemy is surrounded!; **D**) 17.fxe4 17...♗xe4+ **D1**) 18.♗d1 ♗xd2 19.♗xd2 ♗c3+ **D1a**) 20.♗c3 ♗c5+ wins the Queen, but(20...♗d4+ mates in five.) ; **D1b**) 20.♗c2 20...♗b4+ mates in three.; **D2**) 18.♗xd3 18...♗c3#] **14...♗e5 15.a3 ♗a5**

16.♖b5 ♗xb5 I traded Queens because I did not see how to continue the attack. I felt I could regain some of the material I sacrificed and keep a good position. **17.cxb5 ♕xc3** [17...♞ac8 , doubling Rooks, may have been better.] **18.bxc3 ♜xd5** The threat is 19...♞e3# **19.♗d2 h6?** [A waste of time. I was afraid of 20.c4, ♜ moves, 21.g4 ♗g6 22.f4 ♞ moves 23.f5 trapping the Bishop. However, Black can try 19...♞b6 20.g4 ♜c4 21.gxf5 ♜xd2+] **20.g4 ♗h7 21.c4 ♜e3+?** [Relieving some of the pressure. Again, I prefer 21...♞b6 and if 22.♗c3 , so what? Let him have the Rook. If 22... ♞xc4 23.♗xe5 (better 23.♗g2 ♞xb5) 23...♞e3#] **22.♗xe3 ♞xe3 23.♗g2 ♞ae8 24.♗xd3 ♞xd3 25.♜h3 ♞e2+ 26.♗g3 g5?** [I was trying to trap the King in, but Black should instead keep up the pressure with 26...♞ee3] **27.♞hd1 ♞ee3 28.♞xd3 ♞xd3 29.♜f2 ♞c3 30.♞d1 ♞xc4 31.♞d7+ ♗g6??** Overlooking White's next move. I did not want my King to be trapped on the back rank, and I thought my Bishop could recenter the game via the g8 square. **32.♜d3 ♞c3 33.♜e5+ ♗f6 34.♞xh7 ♗xe5 35.♞xh6 ♞xa3 36.♞g6 a5 37.bxa6 ♞xa6 38.♞xg5+ ♗f6 39.♞f5+ ♗g6 40.h4 ♞d6 41.h5+ ♗h6 42.♞f7 ♞c6 43.♗h4 ♞c5 44.f4 1-0**

One of our readers, Charles Wise, has been repeatedly submitting the following gamelet for publication. Mr. Wise thinks it a good game; I think it's unsafe at any speed. Which of us is right?

Unfortunate Opponent – Charles Wise [A46]

2 minute game, Internet, 2002

Note by Charles Wise

1.d4 ♜f6 2.♜f3 c5 3.dxc5 ♜a6 4.g3 g6 5.♗g2 ♗g7 6.0-0 ♜xc5 7.b4 ♜ce4 8.♗b2 ♗b6 9.a3 a5 10.♜fd2?! ♜xf2! 11.♞xf2 ♜g4 12.♗xg7 ♗xf2+ 13.♗h1 ♞g8 14.♜e4 ♗xg2+ 15.♗xg2 ♜e3+ 16.♗f3 ♜xd1 17.♗d4 axb4 18.♜bd2 ♜c3 [Here I missed that 18...♞xa3+ was check, but this was a two minute game and what I played was good enough to win. **0-1**

We didn't get a tournament report on the PSCF Junior in Pittsburgh (why we don't know), but we do have some gamescores:

Kevin Berthoud – Bryan Joseph [B21]

PA State Junior Championships Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 27.09.2003

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.♗xd3 ♜c6 5.♜f3 e6 6.0-0 ♜f6 7.♗g5 ♗e7 8.h3 d5 9.e5 ♜d7 10.♗f4 0-0 11.♞e1 a6 12.♗c2 f6 13.exf6 ♜xf6 14.♗g3 ♗c5 15.♜bd2 b5 16.♜g5 ♞e8 17.♗h4 ♗d6 18.b4 ♗b6 19.♜de4 ♜xe4 20.♗xe4 h6 21.♗h7+ ♗f8 22.♗f3+ ♗c7 23.♗f7+ ♗d8 24.♜xc6# 1-0

Andrew Siegele – Aaron Schiff [D34]

PA State Junior Championships Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 27.09.2003

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜f3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 c5 6.♗g2 ♜c6 7.♜c3 ♗c7 8.dxc5 ♗xc5 9.♗g5 ♗c6 10.0-0 ♗d7 11.♗f4 h6 12.e3 0-0 13.♞c1 ♗b6 14.♜e5 ♜xe5 15.♗xe5 ♜g4 16.♗d4 ♗xd4 17.♗xd4 ♜f6 18.♞fd1 ♞ac8 19.♞d2 ♞fd8 20.♗xa7 ♞c7 21.♞cd1 ♗c6 22.♜xd5 ♜xd5 23.♗xd5 ♗xd5 24.♞xd5 ♞xd5 25.♞xd5 ♗c1+ 26.♗g2 ♞c2 27.♗xb7 ♞xb2 28.♞d8+ ♗h7 29.♗xf7 ♗c6+ 30.♗d5 ♗f6 31.♗c4+ g6 32.♞d7+ 1-0

Bob Waruszewski – Kevin Berthoud [B23]

PA State Junior Championships Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 27.09.2003

1.e4 c5 2.♜c3 ♜c6 3.f4 g6 4.♜f3 ♗g7 5.♗c4 d6 6.0-0 ♜h6 7.♗c1 0-0 8.a3 ♗g4 9.♜e2 ♗b6 10.♞b1 e6 11.d3 ♞ad8 12.♜c3 ♗xc3

13.♗xc3 d5 14.cxd5 exd5 15.♗a2 ♗xf3 16.♞xf3 ♜d4 17.♞e3 ♜g4 18.♞e1 c4 19.♗h1 ♜f2+ 20.♗g1 ♜e4 21.♗c3 ♜xc3 22.bxc3 ♗c6 23.♗xd4 ♞fe8 24.dxc4 dxc4 25.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 26.♞b4 b5 27.♗xa7 ♗a6 28.♗d4 ♗xa3 29.♗b1 ♗c1+ 30.♗f2 ♗d2+ 31.♗g3 g5 32.♗g4 ♗xf4+ 33.♗h5 ♗h4# 0-1

Jared Schwartz – Douglas Burgwin [E24]

PA State Junior Championships Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 28.09.2003

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜c3 ♗b4 4.a3 ♗xc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.♗g5 ♗a5 7.♗d2 ♜e4 8.♗d3 ♜xg5 9.e3 ♜e4 10.♜e2 f5 11.g3 cxd4 12.♗xd4 0-0 13.♗g2 ♜c6 14.♗d3 ♜e5 15.♗c2 ♜c5 16.e4 ♜ed3+ 17.♗f1 fxc4 0-1

Douglas Burgwin – Aaron Schiff [D59]

PA State Junior Championships Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 28.09.2003

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜f3 d5 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.♜c3 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.♗h4 b6 8.cxd5 ♜xd5 9.♗xc7 ♗xc7 10.♞c1 ♗b7 11.♗c2 ♜c6 12.0-0 ♞fd8 13.♗b5 ♗d6 14.♜e4 ♗b4 15.♗xc6 ♗xc6 16.♞xc6 ♗xb2 17.♗b3 ♗xb3 18.axb3 a5 19.♜c3 ♜xc3 20.♞xc3 ♞a7 21.♜e5 ♞c8 22.♜c6 1-0

The following four games are from a simultaneous display by US Champion Alexander Shabalov, given in Pittsburgh in May. The games are courtesy the Pittsburgh Chess Club *En Passant*.

Alexander Shabalov – Hibiki Sakai [D20]

Simul Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 31.05.2003

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 ♜f6 4.e5 ♜d5 5.♗xc4 e6 6.♜f3 ♗b4+ 7.♜bd2 ♜c6 8.0-0 0-0 9.♜e4 ♗d7 10.♗g5 ♗c7 11.a3 ♗xg5 12.♜exg5 h6 13.♜e4 ♗e7 14.♞c1 ♞ac8 15.b4 a6 16.♜c5 ♞b8 17.♗b3 ♜f4 18.♞fe1 ♞fd8 19.♞e4 ♜g6 20.a4 b5 21.axb5 axb5 22.♗f1 ♜f8 ½-½

Alexander Shabalov – Michael Healy [E38]

Simul Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 31.05.2003

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜c3 ♗b4 4.♗c2 c5 5.dxc5 ♜a6 6.a3 ♗xc3+ 7.♗xc3 ♜xc5 8.f3 a5 9.e4 d6 10.♗c3 ♗c7 11.♜h3 a4 12.♗c2 e5 13.♜f2 ♗e6 14.0-0 ♞c8 15.♞ad1 0-0 16.♗b4 ♞fd8 17.♞d2 ♗c6 18.♞fd1 h6 19.h3 ♗f8 20.g4 ♜e8 21.♗g2 g5 22.h4 f6 23.hxg5 fxg5 24.♗xc5 dxc5 25.♗c3 ♞d4 26.♞xd4 cxd4 27.♗b4+ ♗f7 28.♜d3 ♗c7 29.♗xa4 ♜f6 30.♞c1 b6 31.c5 h5 32.cxb6 ♗xb6 33.♞xc8 ♗xc8 34.♜xe5+ ♗g7 35.♜c4 ♗e6 36.♗a7+ ♗h6 37.♗xd4 hxg4 38.♗d6 gxf3+ 39.♗xf3 g4 40.♗f4+ ♗g7 41.♗c2 ♜xe4 42.♜e5 ♗b7 43.♗xg4+ ♜g5+ 44.♗f1 ♗xe5 45.♗d7+ ½-½

Don Meigs – Alexander Shabalov [B24]

Simul Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 31.05.2003

1.e4 c5 2.♜c3 ♜c6 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.♜ge2 e6 6.0-0 ♜ge7 7.♜f4 0-0 8.d3 ♞b8 9.a4 a6 10.h4 b5 11.axb5 axb5 12.h5 b4 13.♜ce2 d5 14.f3 c4 15.dxc4 ♗b6+ 16.♗h2 dxe4 17.fxe4 ♜e5 18.♜d3 ♜xc4 19.h6 ♗h8 20.♜ef4 ♜c6 21.♗c1 ♜6c5 22.♜xe5 ♜xe5 23.♗e2 ♗d7 24.♞d1 ♗b5 25.♜d3 b3 26.♗f4 bxc2 27.♗xc2 ♗xd3 28.♞xd3 ♜g4+ 29.♗h1 e5 30.♗c1 ♜f2+ 31.♗h2 ♜xd3 32.♗xd3 ♞fd8 33.♗e2 ♗f6 34.♞a6 ♗c7 35.♗c3 ♗e7 36.♗f2 ♞d7 37.♗h3 ♞d6 38.♞a7 ♞b7 39.♞a8+ ♞d8 40.♞xd8+ ♗xd8 41.♗f1 ♗g5 42.♗c4 ♗xc3 43.♗xc3 ♞xb2+ 44.♗h3 ♗c8+ 45.g4 ♗xc4 46.♗a7 ♗fl+ 47.♗h4 0-1

Art Moskowitz – Alexander Shabalov [A34]

Simul Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 31.05.2003

1.c4 ♜f6 2.♜c3 d5 3.cxd5 ♜xd5 4.g3 c5 5.♗g2 ♜c7 6.e3 g6 7.d4

cx d4 8. ex d4 ♘g7 9. ♗g c2 0-0 10. 0-0 ♗c6 11. d5 ♗c5 12. ♘g5 h6
13. ♘f4 ♘g4 14. h3 ♘d7 15. ♖c1 ♖c8 16. d6 ♗e6 17. dxe7 ♖xc7
18. ♘xb7 ♗xf4 19. ♗xf4 ♘g4 1/2-1/2

Three more games from the PSCF Junior Invitationals, East and West, held back in May.

Ryan Milisits – Mark Heimann

Western Pennsylvania Junior Invitational Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (4), 12.04.2003

1. e4 c5 2. e3 e6 3. d4 ♗f6 4. e5 ♗d5 5. ♗f3 ♗c6 6. c4 ♗b6 7. d5 ♗a5 8. ♗a3 ex d5 9. cx d5 d6 10. ♖d2 ♗d7 11. e6 fxe6 12. dxe6 ♗f6
13. ♗g5 ♖b6 14. ♘b5+ ♗c6 15. ♗f7 ♖g8 16. ♗xd6+ ♘xd6
17. ♖xd6 ♗e4 18. ♖f4 ♖a5+ 19. ♗f1 ♗f6 20. ♖d6 ♖b6 21. ♘g5 a6
22. ♘a4 h6 23. ♖d1 ♘d7 24. ♘xf6 ♖d8 25. ♘xc6 ♖b5+ 26. ♗xb5
♘xc6 27. ♗c7# 1-0

Michael Guber – Rory Wasiolek [C45]

Philadelphia Junior (4), 05.2003

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. d4 ex d4 4. ♗xd4 ♘c5 5. ♘c3 ♖f6 6. c3 ♗g7
7. ♘c4 d6 8. 0-0 ♘e6 9. ♗xe6 fxe6 10. ♘xc5 dxc5 11. ♖h5+ g6
12. ♖xc5 0-0-0 13. ♗a3 h5 14. ♖ad1 ♖f8 15. ♗b5 a6 16. ♗d4
♗xd4 17. cx d4 h4 18. h3 g5 19. d5 g4 20. d6 ♗c6 21. dxc7 gxh3
22. ♖d6 ♖e8 23. ♖d7# 1-0

Mark Heimann – Justin Papariella

Western Pennsylvania Junior Invitational Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1), 11.04.2003

1. e4 d5 2. ex d5 ♗f6 3. d4 ♗xd5 4. c4 ♗b6 5. ♗f3 g6 6. h3 ♘g7
7. ♗c3 0-0 8. ♘c2 ♖c8 9. ♘f4 ♗c6 10. ♗b5 e5 11. dxe5 ♖e7 12. ♘g5
♖b4+ 13. ♗f1 ♗xe5 14. ♗xc7 ♗xf3 15. gx f3 ♘e6 16. ♗xa8 ♖xa8
17. ♖b3 ♖c5 18. ♘e3 ♖c7 19. ♖c1 ♖c8 20. ♘xb6 axb6 21. ♖c2 ♖f4
22. b3 ♘f5 23. ♖d1 ♘b2 24. ♖c2 ♘xc2 25. ♖xc2 ♘f6 26. ♖e4 ♖d2
27. ♗g2 ♖xa2 28. ♖xb7 ♖c8 29. ♘d1 ♖d2 30. ♖c6 ♖g5+ 31. ♗f1
1/2-1/2

The Game Square by Neil Brennen

Currently there are a number of programs in the United States devoted to promoting chess for those who are serving prison time for breaking the laws that govern us. The United States Chess Federation has a prison chess program, there are individuals working to promote prison chess, and a number of state chess federations work with the incarcerated. Even on the local level individual clubs often work to put the royal game behind bars. For example, in Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Chess Club brought Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky to perform a simul in a maximum security institution in 1997, and Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary entered teams in the Philadelphia Chess League in the 1950's and 1960's.

The promotion of chess in prison has been viewed as largely a recent phenomenon. But as is often the case with what is perceived to be new in chess, the idea is actually quite old.

Situated on the California coast, its cold stone towers marking a sharp contrast to the blue ocean waters, stands San Quentin. The prison, whose cornerstone was laid back in 1852, has held the most violent of California's criminals in its nearly one hundred fifty year history. Currently it houses the men whose crimes will one day be paid for with their lives. California's gas chamber sits in this prison, waiting its next use.

In this grim fortress it is hard to imagine anything of culture flourishing, let alone chess. But chess did flourish, and word of it reached beyond San Quentin's stone walls.

Readers of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* who turned to David A. Mitchell's chess column on November 26, 1916, were greeted by the headline, "Chess Helps Men Play Square in the Great Game of Life". The lead news item in the column that long-ago morning was an account of a very unusual chess club, one with a highly restrictive membership.

As Mitchell wrote, "Out in the California State Prison, at San Quentin, the authorities are doing their best to help the unfortunate men confined within the walls of the institution "get back into the game", the game in this instance meaning "the square one". In the *Monthly Bulletin*, published under the management of the prisoners, "Getting back into the game" is the title of the leading article, and it was the subject of an address to the prisoners by Dr. L. H. Hough, reported for the *Bulletin* by prisoner No. 27154."

Mitchell further described the contents of the October issue of the *Monthly Bulletin*, noting that an inmate edited a "breezy" department on baseball. Mitchell then brought up the chess column: "...the next turn brings us to a page of interesting chess news and games, including the final standings of players in the general tournament. No. 23276 is the editor of the chess department."

Mitchell's column gave readers a taste of chess life at San Quentin by reprinting a description of the latest tournament among the inmates, taken from No. 23276's column.

"An exciting finish, such as is seldom seen in any chess club, closed our recent tournament. It was a success from the start, as enough interest was taken, so that all the players were kept busy until the last game was played. Twenty-eight members started and twenty-six were there at the finish, each one playing fifty-four games.... Another tournament will soon start with a handicap as soon as the present finals are played off between the leading fourteen players."

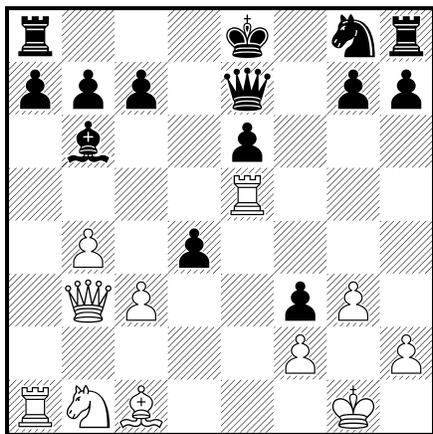
While noting that "No. 1. finished first with 50 games won and 3 lost, while he had one draw to his credit", Mitchell capped his recounting of the San Quentin club with a gentle admonishment to his readers: "Never mind the names of the winners in the tourney just concluded out in the Golden State." The readers were assured that in San Quentin it was a case of "every man playing the game square. What more do you want?"

The following two games were given by Mitchell to his readers that Sunday, taken from the *San Quentin Monthly Bulletin*. No doubt with the desire to avoid possible embarrassment to the family and friends of the inmate, Mitchell referred to A. J. Pearsall's opponent as "San Quentin". Pearsall, a resident of Chula Vista, was an experienced postalite who in later years would become one of the stronger players in the Correspondence Chess League of America. For Pearsall's unnamed opponent to beat him is a testament to the playing ability within San Quentin.

A. J. Pearsall - Inmate [C44]

Correspondence, 1916

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. d4 ex d4 4. ♘c4 ♘c5 5. 0-0 d6 6. e5 dxe5
7. ♖e2 ♖e7 8. c3 ♘g4 9. b4 ♘b6 10. a4 e4 11. ♖e1 ex f3 12. ♖d1
♘e6 13. a5 ♘a5 14. g3 ♗e5 15. ♖xe5 ♘b6 16. ♘xe6 fxe6 17. ♖b3



17...0-0-0 18.♖xe6 ♖f7 19.♙a3 ♗h6 20.♗d2 dxc3 21.♗e4 ♗f5
22.♗g5 ♙xf2+ 0-1

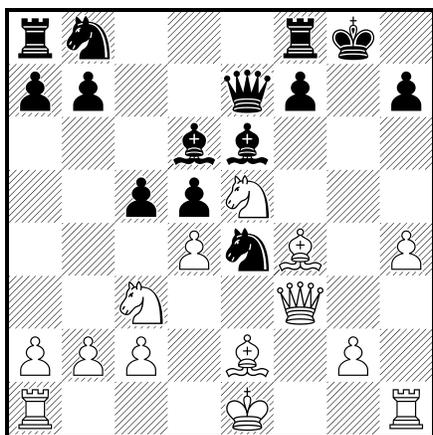
Philadelphia Public Ledger, November 26, 1916

The second game, as published in the *Public Ledger* column had a number of score errors. The following gamescore reconstruction is by USCF National Master Dan Heisman.

Inmate - A. J. Pearsall [C39]

Correspondence, 1916

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♗f3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.♗e5 ♗f6 6.d4 ♗xe4 7.♙xf4
d5 8.♗xg4 ♙d6 9.♗e5 0-0 10.♖f3 ♖e7 11.♙e2 c5 12.♗c3 ♙c6



13.♗xe4 dxe4 14.♖g3+ ♗h8 15.♗g6+ hxg6 16.♙xd6 ♖d8
17.♙xf8 ♖xf8 18.♖e3 ♗g8 19.♖xe4 ♙f5 20.♖d5 ♗c6 21.♖xc5
♖h6 22.♖c3 ♙e8 23.♖d2 ♖h5 24.♗f2 ♙g4 25.♙xg4 ♖xg4 26.c3
♗d8 27.♙ae1 ♗e6 28.♖e2 1-0

Philadelphia Public Ledger, November 26, 1916

While nothing in this story of San Quentin proves the value of chess in a prison environment, it does show us the idea of chess behind bars is not a recent one, and that chess has a history of growing in apparently barren soil. It seems that, indeed, the worst of us in the worst of circumstances is capable of playing the game square. And as of any activity, what more do you want?

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This article first appeared in *Correspondence Chess News*
<http://ccn.correspondencechess.com>

**PA Keystones "A" Win
CCLA Team Championship**

The PA Keystones "A" correspondence chess team won the finals of the Team Championship of the Correspondence Chess League of America, according to a report sent to us by team Captain John Caliguire. The CCLA Team Championships are open to state teams, and PA has an entry in each of the three divisions in the league.

John , in his report to us, stated, "I would like to add special thanks to all who played in the event and in particular to Jim Brailsford, Joe Chromik, Barry Nalepa, Gardner R Johnson Jr., and Otis Burgess on the Pa "A" team for winning their respective board prizes and in Div III to John Jankite for doing so for Pa "C"."

More information on the CCLA Team Championship is available on the CCLA's website www.chessbymail.com

Bradlow Wins PSCF Senior Championship

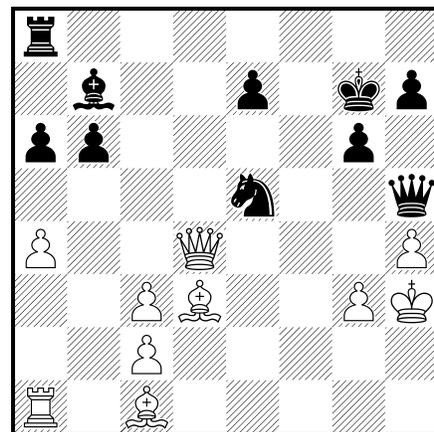
National Master Harvey Bradlow, recently returned to the Keystone State from Nevada, captured first place in the 2nd annual PSCF Senior Championship, held September 20 and 21 in Haverford, PA. Bradlow, winner of the PA Championship in 1974, scored three and a half points out of four, his half point the result of a draw with Expert Neal Oberholtzer. That half point was the deciding one, as Oberholtzer finished in second place with three points. The tournament was sponsored by Main Line Speech, who also hosted the event in their Haverford offices, and directed by Dan Heisman. A full crosstable for the event is available at the PSCF's website.

Since we haven't received any games from this tournament, we turn back the clock thirty years and examine two games from NM Bradlow's chess-spent youth.

Joe Weber – Harvey Bradlow [B93]

PA Championship (3), 01.09.1974

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.f4 ♖c7 7.a4
♗bd7 8.♙d3 g6 9.♗f3 ♙g7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♖e1 b6 12.e5 dxe5
13.fxg4 ♗g4 14.e6 ♗de5 15.♗xe5 ♙xe5 16.exf7+ ♖xf7 17.♖xf7
♗xf7 18.g3 ♖c5+ 19.♗g2 ♙xc3 20.bxc3 ♖h5 21.h4 ♙b7+
22.♗h3 ♗e5 23.♖f2+ ♗g7 24.♖d4



24...♙d8!! 25.♖xd8 ♖g4+ 26.♗h2 ♗f3+ 27.♗g2 ♗xh4+ 28.♗h2
♗f3+ 29.♗g2 ♗d4+ 30.♗h2 ♖h5+ 31.♗g1 ♖h1+ 32.♗f2 ♖f3+
33.♗e1 ♖xg3+ 34.♗d1 ♖g1+ 35.♙f1 ♖xf1+ 0-1

Harvey Bradlow (Drexel University) – Murray [B97]

Pan Am Intercollegiate, 1972

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♗b6 8.♗d2 ♗xb2 9.♗b3 ♘c6 10.♙xf6 gxf6 11.♙e2 ♗a3 12.0-0 h5 13.♙ad1 ♙d7 14.♗e3 0-0-0 15.♗b1 ♗a4 16.a3 e5 17.♗c3 exf4 18.♙xf4 ♗xa3 19.♙a1 ♗b2 20.♙a2 ♗xa2 21.♗xa2 ♙h6 22.♗f2 ♙xf4 23.♗xf4 ♙e6 24.♗c3 h4 25.♗xf6 ♗e5 26.♗d4 ♗d7 27.♗e7 ♗he8 28.♗xd6 ♗f6 29.♗c5+ 1-0

The Pennswoodpusher, February 1973**Chess After 2010 by Ross Nickel**

After calling the National Psychic Hotline numerous times regarding the status of my love life, I was surprised to discover that I had accumulated several hours of free time which had to be used before the end of the month. Having resolved my romantic problems, I decided to use the bonus time to find out about the future of my favorite game - chess. Specifically, I wanted to know the state of playing in the year 2010, when I hoped to be free enough of obligations to play again. I was unprepared for neither the magnitude nor the nature of the changes predicted, which were described to me in exacting detail.

As I expected, the impact of computers will be revolutionary:

- Chess boards will have a chip that will activate a clock, record the moves, beep when an illegal move is made, and buzz for stalemate, checkmate, draw by repetition, and the 50 move rule.
- With the discovery of selective-intermittent magnetism, chess pieces will be able to be set up automatically. The pieces are dumped onto the board and the board does the rest.
- The World Champion, and all the strongest players, will be computers. The top tournaments will consist of all these computers plugged into each other. Because of increased calculating speed, these tournaments take only a day at most.
- Oddly enough, among players with 3500 ratings, Black wins most of the time.

This is not to say that chess among humans will suffer. Quite the contrary; the popularity of the game will soar. This will be caused by an influx of corporate money from two sources:

- After tobacco smoking becomes illegal outside of government clinics, the industry will push chewing tobacco. Their advertising money will fund major tournaments throughout the US. Prizes will jump to rival those in golf and tennis. Cuspidors and free plugs of chew will be available at playing tables in Opens country-wide.
- When beer advertising is banned on US radio and television, more money is freed up for chess. Chess magazines will have beer ads nearly every other page. Tournament announcements will have the designation "ND" or "D", for Non-Drinking or Drinking.

School chess programs will continue to proliferate:

- Chess becomes part of most school curricula, from kindergarten to high school.
- In high schools, chess will become a major sport. The chess team will have cheerleaders shouting cheers like "Push that pawn!" There will be electronic scoreboards that light up as a home-town player promotes a pawn.

This interest in chess will continue to the colleges:

- Chess minors will exist in many Elementary Education, Physical Education, and History departments. Some universities will even have Chess majors, with a faculty of Grandmasters.
- College chess teams will become popular and alumni contributions will stimulate a highly competitive atmosphere. Unfortunately, scandals will erupt when payoffs lead to thrown games at the Pan-Am, and move-shaving in the Big Ten. (Move-shaving occurs when a stronger player "carries" a weaker one until so many moves have been made. Las Vegas bookmakers will publish odds on important chess games and the common betting method is the over/under in moves played.)

Prison chess will also flourish:

- In one penitentiary in Ohio, a riot ensues over a shortage of chess sets.
- A national prison chess rating system is developed.
- Many former inmates will frequent tournaments, causing an increase in petty crime at the playing site, necessitating the presence of security officers.
- A rule change will appear in prison chess, leading to a variant form of the game which appeals to many new players: checkmate is replaced by the actual capture of the King.

Drugs and drug testing will become a problem in the chess world after it is discovered that taking Viagra before a game improves tactical ability. As a response, FIDE and USCF implement urine testing for prize winners at all major tournaments. Players have to wear a collection bag for the course of the game. These become popular since now chessplayers can drink all the beer they want and never leave the board. The collection bags become a best-seller. USCF endorses one, and a leading Grandmaster appears in an ad for one and claims it will add 50 points to your rating.

As the chess-educated children get older, the game enters their social life:

- Chess clubs replace singles bars as pickup places.
- Dating services will ask for chess ratings for pairing purposes.
- Dear Abby's column will occasionally give advice on endgame positions.
- Astrology charts will suggest openings based on the horoscope.
- Psychoanalysis will include careful consideration of the client's playing style.
- Hallmark will introduce a line of chess-themed Christmas cards. The first one will show Santa Claus becoming absorbed in a chess position after coming down the chimney.
- The vast sums collected at chess tournaments will lead the mob to a highly publicized robbery. Armored car cash pickups at the end of registration will be the result.
- The spread of HDTV will lead to chess becoming popular as a spectator sport. Grandmasters will capture the public imagination, with some appearing in cameo roles in movies and on television. One GM even does an ad for pantyhose.

- *Playboy* will have a special feature on female players, with one Grandmaster in a centerfold.
- *Chess Life* will institute a gossip column about chess personalities.
- Country clubs start having on staff an master or expert, just as they employ a golf pro.
- Topps will manufacture trading cards for Grandmasters, just as they do for baseball and football players. The cards are in chewing tobacco and bubble-gum packages, and list the age, height, weight, opening preferences, tournament record and GM title date on one side, and show an action photo on the other.

Even politics will have a chess connection in the near future, when the President of the United States has a combination against the Secretary of State shown on newscasts. Chess positions will help determine political parties: radicals in the Democratic party will advocate technology be used in games, with 3-dimensional holograms used instead of pieces, while reactionaries in the Republican party will demand we return to pre-Staunton designed pieces.

Unfortunately, the psychic reading on chess was cut short at this point. Most of my accumulated free time was exhausted and several more romantic dilemmas were foreseen that took priority. However, based on what I learned from the psychic, I now bravely look forward to the future world of chess coming.

Thanks To Eric Johnson by Tom Martinak

Many of you know Eric from his fine chess activities in Allentown. But before that he was a scholastic player from Bradford and then a collegiate player in Pittsburgh. While Eric was an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, we played innumerable 5-minute games featuring the Belgrade Gambit. So Jeff made an unfortunate choice when he decided to surprise me with an obscure opening!

Jeffrey Quirke - Tom M. Martinak Pittsburgh Chess League, 12/10/2000

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.d4 exd4 5.♘d5 ♘b4
6.♙c4 ♘bxd5 7.exd5 ♙b4 8.♙d2 ♖e7 9.♖e2 ♙xd2
10.♙xd2 ♖xe2 11.♙xe2 c5 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.♘xd4 d5
14.♙d3 c5 15.♙b5 ♙d7 16.♙xd7 ♙xd7 17.♘f5 g6
18.♘e3 ♙c6 19.f3 ♖ab8 20.b3 ♖he8 21.♙d2 ♘d7
22.♖he1 f5 23.c3 ♘e5 24.♘c2 f4 25.♖e2 ♙d6 26.♖ae1
a5 27.♘d4 ♖b6 28.a4 cxd4 29.cxd4 ♘xf3 30.gxf3 ♖xe2
31.♖xe2 ♖xb3 32.♖e8 ♖xf3 33.♖a8 ♖f2 34.♙d3 ♖xh2
35.♖xa5 ♖h3 36.♙e2 ♖a3 37.♖a6 ♙e7 38.a5 g5
39.♖a8 ♙f6 40.a6 ♙f5 41.a7 ♙g4 0-1

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

December 6. PSCF-CCP Tourney 8. Room BG-13, Sections A & B, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA 19130 (SE corner of 17th & Spring Garden). 3 Sections: **Open Quads:** 3-RR. G/60. EF: \$20. \$\$ 50 to 1st in each quad. **Scholastic Octo:** 3-SS. G/60. EF: \$10. Trophies to top 3 in each octo. **Scholastic Under 700:** 5-SS. G/30. EF: \$5. Trophies to top 5. **All:** Reg: 8:30-9:30am. First Round at 10am. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com

December 20. PSCF Lemoyne Quads. 3-RR. G/60. Calvary United Methodist Church, 700 Market Street, Lemoyne PA 17043-1515. **EF:** \$20, PSCF required \$5 OSA. \$\$ 50 to 1st in each quad. Reg 9-9:45am. Rds 1 at 10am. **Info/Directions:** Marvin Wilson (h) 717-975-2895 penn Dems@aol.com (w) 717-605-3672 mwilson@daps.dla.mil **Director:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com (Note: A scholastic section will be added if entries warrant.) W.

January 24 & 25. 2004 Pennsylvania Open Team and Scholastic Team Championships - West. Lower Lounge, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Open Team Championship (Sat & Sun):** average rating U2200. 4-SS. 30/90, SD/60. EF: \$60/team by 1/16, \$80 later. Reg 10-10:30am. Rds 11am - 4:30pm, 11am - 4:30pm. \$\$: (700 /b16): 250-100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90, U1600 \$85, U1400 \$80, Trophies (4/team) for Top School, Top Scholastic Organization, Top Scholastic Club. **Scholastic Reserve (Sat only):** average rating U1400, don't have to attend same school. 5-SS. G/40. EF: \$40/team by 1/16, \$60 later. Reg 9-9:30am. Rds: 10am-11:30am-1pm-2:30pm-4pm. Trophies (4/team) for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Top U1200, Top U1000. **All:** 4-player teams, no alternates. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** <http://www.pscfchess.org/pateamwest/>, pateamwest@pscfchess.org, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PA State Team Chess. W

February 21. 2004 Pennsylvania Open Team and Scholastic Team Championships - East. Great Hall, Community College of Philadelphia, 17th St, 2nd building south of the corner with Spring Garden St., Philadelphia 19130. 3 sections: **Open Team Championship:** average rating U2200. EF: \$50/team by 2/18, \$60 at site. \$\$: (800 /b20): 300-200-100, U2000, U1800, U1600, College/Scholastic \$50 each. **Scholastic Team Championship:** must attend same school. EF: \$25/team by 2/18, \$40 at site. \$\$ Trophies to 1st-5th, 1st-2nd U1200, 1st-2nd U1000, 1st-2nd Junior High School/Middle School. **Both:** 4-SS. G/60. Rds 9:15am-11:30pm-1:30pm-3:30pm or earlier. **Scholastic Reserve:** average rating U1400, don't have to attend same school. 5-SS. G/30. EF: \$20/team by 2/18, \$30 at site. Rds: 10am-Noon-1:15pm-2:30pm-3:45pm or earlier. Plaques to members of top 4 teams. **All:** Reg 8-8:45am. 4-player teams, no alternates. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Ent/Info:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Rd., Warminster PA 18974-5208, 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com

February 27 GPP:6 (QC) Pennsylvania Quick Chess Championship. 6SS, G/10, T/D3. Clarion Hotel & Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 3 sections, EF rec'd by 2/7: **Open:** \$10. **U1600 and 6th-12th unrated:** \$9. **U1000 and K-5th unrated:** \$8. \$\$ (550 top 3 in Open guaranteed, others b/90): **Open:** 160-90-50, U1800 \$45. **U1600:** 100-50-30, U1200 \$25. **U1000:** Trophies to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Top U600, 1st Unr, 2nd Unr. **All:** EF: \$20 after 2/7, PSCF \$5 OSA. Reg: 6-6:30pm. Rd 1: 7pm. Reg. ratings used. **HR:** Mention "PA States" before 1/27 for best rate; Clarion Hotel & Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$55 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** gv07@hotmail.com W.

February 28 & 29

GPP:6

Carlisle Open & Pennsylvania Collegiate Championship. 5SS, G/90, T/D5. Clarion Hotel & Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. EF: \$29 rec'd by 2/7, \$39 after, PSCF \$5 OSA. \$\$ (1080 top 2 guaranteed, others b/60): 180-120, U2200 \$115, U2000 \$110, U1800 \$105, U1600 \$100, U1400 \$95, U1200 \$90, U1000 \$85, Unr \$80. College Trophies: 1st-4th, 1st-2nd team (4 players). Reg: 8:45-9:30pm. 10-2-5:30, 9-1. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. **HR:** Mention "PA States" before 1/27 for best rate; Clarion Hotel & Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$55 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** gv07@hotmail.com W.

A Heritage Event

February 28 & 29. 2004 Pennsylvania State Scholastic Championships. Over 130 Trophies!! (With over 100 Individual and over 30 Team Trophies). Clarion Hotel & Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 8 sections (Sat & Sun 2/28 & 29 unless indicated): EF: **K-3 Open:** (Sat 2/28 only) \$29. **K-6 U800:** (Sat 2/28 only) \$27. **K-9 U1000:** (Sun 2/29 only) \$27.25. **K-6 Open:** \$30.50. **K-8 Open:** \$31.50. **K-12 U1000:** \$28.50. **K-12 U1300:** \$29.50. **K-12 Open:** \$32.50. **All:** 5SS. EFs if rec'd by 2/7, \$10 more rec'd 2/8-2/14, \$20 more after 2/14. PSCF memb. incl. \$\$ for College scholarships (amount to be determined) for top boy and girl in K-12 Open, for Castle Camp (scholarships) & (if possible) 1st team, player in K-6, K-8 & K-12 Opens for Nationals, Denker. Reg Fri 2/27 7-10 pm at site, late entries Sat 2/28 9:30-10:15 am at site get 1st Rd 1/2 pt. bye. Send name, USCF ID & exp, section, grade, school/club, birthday, gender, address, phone, email + EF. \$5 charge for changes/refund after 2/7. Rds (Sat 2/28 1-day sections): G/40 T/D5; 10-11:45-2-3:45-5:30; (Sun 2/29 K-9 U1000): G/40, T/D5; 9-10:30-12:30-2-3:30; (2-day sections): G/90, T/D5; 10-2-5:30, 9-1. **HR:** Mention "PA States" before 1/27 for best rate; Clarion Hotel & Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$55 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** <http://www.pscfchess.org/pascholasticchamp/>, Steve McLaughlin: zugzwang1@erols.com 215-784-5938; Dan Heisman: danheisman@comcast.net 610-649-0750; Rich Barbara: rbarbara139@comcast.net 412-767-9228. W.

March 28 (QC). PA State Game/29 Championship. 5-SS. G/29. Kurtzman Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$25 postmarked by 3/20, \$35 after. \$\$ (690 b/35): 200-100, U2000 \$90, U1800 \$80, U1600 \$70, U1400 \$60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40. Trophies to Top 3 under 1400, Top 3 under 1200, and Top 3 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 3/20, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** PSCF \$5 OSA. Reg ends 10:30am. Rds 11am - 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm. **Info:** 412-908-0286. **Ent:** Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W

Watch for the latest information on PSCF tournaments on our website:

<http://www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/>

PSCF GOVERNANCE

PSCF Webpage address: <http://www.pscfchess.org/>

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Dues are \$5 for students/adults/clubs, \$100 for Life memberships.

Address Corrections & PSCF Memberships should be sent to: Tom Martinak; 549 13th Ave; New Brighton PA 15066-1208; 412-908-0286; martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN PA

ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALLENTOWN:

- (1) Center City CC; St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat, noon-6
- (2) A-B Chess Club; St. Timothy's Luth Ch, 130 S Ott St; Fri, 8-12 p.m.

BANGOR:

Robert Curley 610-588-9577

BLOOMSBURG:

Bob Ross (W) 717-389-4337, (H) 717-784-8571

BRADFORD:

U P-Bradford Commons Building, Wed, 7-11 p.m.

BRYN ATHEN:

College of New Church CC; Pendleton Hall, Theological Lounge, Tues, 7:30, Glenn Frazier 215-572-1916

CANONSBURG:

Twp. Library, 610 E McMurray Rd, Mon, 6:30-8:30, 724-941-9430

CHAMBERSBURG:

C-burg Chessman; Thurs, 7-10 p.m., 600 Miller St, 717-263-8389

CHELTENHAM:

Rowland Community Center, Elm St., Thurs, 6-10 p.m.

CLEARFIELD:

Clearfield CC; Shaw Library, Tues and Thurs, 6-9 p.m., Sat, 9-noon, Ron Williams 814-765-7788

COATESVILLE:

Coatesville Cultural Soc, 258 E Lincoln Hwy, Bob Jones 610-384-1790

DUBOIS:

Dubois CC; PSU Campus, 1st and 3rd Thurs

ERIE:

Erie CC; Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between. Peach and Sassafras, Room 118 Fri, 6 p.m., James Walczak 814-870-7763

EXETER:

Dunn Recreation Center, 4565 Prestwick Dr, Thurs 7-10, 610-374-5882

FOLSOM:

Comic Universe CC; 446 MacDade Blvd, Tues, 7-11

GLADWYNE:

Main Line CC; Waverly Hts. Ret. Comm. Game Room, 1400 Waverly Rd, Tues, 7, Dan Heisman 610-649-0750

GREENSBURG:

Courthouse Square, Wed, 6-11, 724-836-5625

GREENVILLE:

Howard Miller Center, Thiel College, Mon, 7-10

HATBORO:

Chaturanga CC; Trinity Orthodox Pres. Chur., County Line Rd. W of Blair Mill Rd., Thurs, 8, 215-794-8368

HARRISBURG:

Harrisburg East Shore Chess Club; Messiah Luth Ch, 901 N 6th St, Tues, 6-9, Sat 9-noon, 717-234-4921 or 717-236-6541 (Also see West Shore)

HAWLEY:

Paupack Pauns; Arby's, Route 6, Wed, 7, 570-296-7622

HAZLETON:

Greater Hazleton CC; Zola's Lamppost Restaurant, Route 980, Thurs, 8-midnight, Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122

HUNTINGDON VALLEY:

Hunt. Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Road, Tues, 7:30-8:30

JOHNSTOWN:

St Rochus Church, 314 8th Ave, Sun, 7:30-11, 814-266-2272

LANCASTER:

Manor Chess Club; 3577 Blue Rock Rd, Weds, 6:30-9 p.m., 717-892-6612

LANSDALE:

North Penn CC; St. John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts., Thurs and Fri, 7-1 a.m., 215-699-8418

MANSFIELD:

Wellsboro-Mansfield CC; Independence Bible Church, 33 East Ave, 1st/3rd Mon, 7-10, Don Thompson 570-376-2452

MONROEVILLE:

Monroeville Chess Club; Wed, 6:30-8:30, Delbert Tyler 412-824-5015

MURRYSVILLE:

1st Pres. Church, 3202 N Hills Rd, Wed, 7-11, Jay Griffin 724-325-2484

NEW CASTLE:

Lawrence County CC; Trinity Episcopal Church, N. Mill St. at Falls Ave, Thurs, 6:30-9

NEWTOWN SQUARE:

Marple-Newtown Scholastic CC; Robert Gauntlett Community Center, Rte 3 and Media Line Rds, Tues, 6:30-8:30

PHILADELPHIA:

(1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level, Mon - Fri 1-9 p.m., 215-496-0811, Sat & Sun 5-9 p.m., 215-496-9686

(2) U of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust, Wed, 8, 215-898-2399

(3) Masterminds CC; Anderson Hall, Temple University, Room 906, Mon, 6-10, Ernest Moore Jr. 215-235-1696

PITTSBURGH:

(1) U of Pitt CC; William Pitt Union, Tues & Thurs, 7-11 p.m., 412-908-0286

(2) PGH CC; Wightman School Bldg., 5604 Solway St, Wed, 1-10, Sat, 12-10:30, 412-421-1881

(3) Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford, 1st/3rd Sat, 9-noon, 412-922-4234

(4) East Lib. Library, 5920 Ralph Mull Mall, Tues, 3:30-6:30, 412-661-8412

(5) Hill Branch Library, 419 Dinwiddie St; Mon & Thurs, 4-8, Sat, 11-4:30, 412-361-6170

(6) CMU CC; University Center Commons, Thurs, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

(7) Mt Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd; 1st/3rd Mon Sept-May, 412-531-1912

(8) Upper St Clair Lib; 1820 McLaughlin Run Rd; Thurs 7-8:30, 412-221-2394

RIDLEY TOWNSHIP:

Tri-State Chess Club; Times Square Restaurant, McDade and Rte 420, Holmes, Tom Pike 610-328-5977

SCRANTON:

Patrick Walker 570-347-5200

SHAMOKIN:

Shamokin CC; Burger King, Rte 61, Mon, 7:30

SHIPPENSBURG:

Shippensburg CC; Shippensburg Public Library, 73 W King St, Tues, 6-9, Terry Campbell 717-486-0211

SOUTHAMPTON:

Southampton CC; Davisville Church, Sun, 7 pm, 215-675-9535

STATE COLLEGE:

PSU CC; A.S.I. Bldg, Room 16, Thurs, 6:30 p.m.

STROUDSBURG:

Stroudsburg Chess Club; YMCA, Main St., Thurs, 7-11, Eric Mark 570-476-8939 or Jim Walsh 717-992-5475

SUNBURY:

Susq. Val. CC; Oaklyn Baptist Ch, Rte 61, Sat, 6 p.m., 570-863-2383

UNIONTOWN:

K of C Hall, Old Rte 119, 724-438-9250

WEST CHESTER:

(1) West Chester CC; United Meth Ch., High and Barnard Sts, Thurs, 7

(2) West Chester Univ. CC; Sykes Student Bldg, Rm 112, Thurs, 11-2

WEST SHORE (Harrisburg):

West Shore Chess Club; Calvary United Methodist Church, 700 Market St (Rear), Mon, 7-10, Gerald Dubs 717-975-5589

WILKES-BARRE:

W-B CC; Board Rm, Oster. Lib., Wed, 6-9, George Trent 570-740-7662

WILLIAMSPORT:

Williamsport Chess Soc.; Wertz Stud. Ctr., Lycoming College, Tues

WYNCOTE:

Montgomery Youth CC; Calvary Presbyterian Ch, 217 Fernbrook Ave, Wed 7-8:30, Steve McLaughlin 215-784-5938

YORK:

(1) York Twp Community Cntr, 2500 S George, Wed, 6:30-10, 717-845-9368

(2) York Youth CC; Grace Brethren Ch, Newberry & Parkway, Wed, 2-5:30 or Light of Life Arts Cntr, 41 Cherry St, Seven Valleys, Fri, 6-9:30, 717-8