



Fall 2011

The PENNSWOODPUSHER

A Quarterly Publication of the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation



FROM Joseph Mucerino

The *Pennswoodpusher* is back! Hooray! After a three year hiatus, your favorite state chess publication has returned with a brand new editor. Let's welcome aboard Joshua Anderson! [Pretend you are hearing deafening applause from all of your fellow readers statewide.] Josh and I both attended Daniel Boone High School in Birdsboro (he was class of '92, I graduated in '96), where, in his senior year, we both played on the chess team (he was on board one while I did not even have a USCF rating yet!). He will be taking the reigns from President Tom Martinak, who is quite busy these days at the University of Pittsburgh. For the more fanatical readers who cherish this publication and will simply go bananas if you do not own every single issue, please note that this is the first *Pennswoodpusher* published since December 2008 edition.

I had already written some PA Today articles for events occurring in late 2008 and early 2009 prior to the break in publication. If space allows and Josh is willing, those will be published and used as filler if submissions are light for a particular issue. Updates are included at the end of most of them to keep them current. I will begin writing new articles beginning with this year's state championship, that was won by yet another Berks County native (and 1995 graduate of Daniel Boone's archrival Wyomissing High School) Peter Minear! [More cheers.] From time to time you will also find some Mucerino Mindbender puzzles.

It's great to write for the *Pennswoodpusher* again! I would like to thank everyone for their nice comments to me over the years. Please enjoy the issue.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Greetings and Salutations

By Joshua M. Anderson

Thank you, Joe, for that kind introduction. I am very excited to be taking over as editor for the *Pennswoodpusher*. Since Joe was kind enough to tell you about my past, let me lay out my plan and hope for the *Pennswoodpusher*. As editor, it is my responsibility to take all the various articles from our writers, myself included, and fit them into 16 pages. Fortunately for me, I have the pleasure of knowing several strong players who are kind enough to write a few words, and help me get this first issue out without having to stray much beyond my circle of friends.

While I am greatly appreciative of this help, I hope in the future, not only to use their great writing, but also that of many people I don't know. If you would like to write for us, please contact me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com. Even if you just have an idea for an article, feel free to let me know and I will try to take it from there. Reports from tournaments are always great, especially when they include educational games. If you don't feel comfortable annotating a game, no problem, we have several people who might be willing to do it and Fritz 13 is sitting on my computer, ready to earn its keep. Also, I am especially interested in articles concerning the middle and western part of the state, with so many of our current writers coming from the southeast corner of Pennsylvania.

Undoubtedly, things will go awry and mistakes will be made, but with a little patience, a little luck, and lots of hard work, I am sure the *Pennswoodpusher* can be an educational and enjoyable read for everyone.

Now on to the good stuff!

2011 Holly Heisman Memorial

By Joshua M. Anderson

Three years ago, Ira Lee Riddle passed away (see obituary at the end of this issue) and I was given the opportunity to run the Holly Heisman Memorial. In an effort to test my mettle, or perhaps just have a little fun, the Tournament Directing Gods decided to throw me a curve and gave me a tournament where the playing hall flooded! Fortunately, the event went well anyway, and I have had the pleasure of directing the last two events as well.

The 2011 events had several titled players, and players from as far away as Poland and India! More importantly, this event once again raised money for the Holly Heisman Fund. This fund, part of the Philadelphia Fund, raises money to help abused and battered women. A donation may be made at anytime by visiting the link [http://danheisman.home.comcast.net/~danheisman/Main_Chess/donations.htm#Holly Heisman Fund](http://danheisman.home.comcast.net/~danheisman/Main_Chess/donations.htm#Holly%20Heisman%20Fund).

This event has three sections: K-8 U900, an U1500, and an Open section. Every year, a few kids start their tournament careers in this event and we wish them the best. It was the more experienced kids who mostly did well with Tanishq Iyer scoring a perfect 4.0-0.0 and Adam Giovanetti earning second with a 3.0-1.0 result.

In the U1500 section, youth and great experience dominated. Tommy Guo, a high school student, edged out 27 other players with a 4.5 score. The 4 players with 4.0, were another high school student, Dwayne Darby, two elementary school students, Adam Serota and Praneeth Ramesh. Retired doctor and generous chess benefactor, Dr. John F. Bayley, demonstrated that it wasn't just children who could score well, as he rounded out the group of 4.0-1.0 players.

In the Open section, *Pennswoodpusher* ace reporter Joe Mucerino, who has played in every Holly

Heisman Memorial, took clear first with a 4.5-0.5 score. Two masters, Peter Minear and Andrew Ng, both scored 4.0-1.0, as did Class A/Experts David Miller and Larry Saxby.

In case you are wondering what everyone won in this fine event, all prizes are donated and I encourage anyone to donate prizes for next year.

2011 Philadelphia Junior Invitational

By Joshua M. Anderson

By this past August, the Tournament Directing Gods had apparently decided that I had paid my dues as I was given the great pleasure of directing the Philadelphia Junior Invitational, sponsored by the Chestnut Hill Business Association.

This event is an 8 player round robin is made up of some of the highest rated juniors in the Philadelphia area. This year, the players could be broken up into three groups, the Masters (William Fisher, Andrew Shvartsman, and Andrew Ng), the high experts (Kavinayan Sivakumar and Rahul Swaminathan), and the three youngest players (Yuhao Xu, Chris Yang, and Mariya Oreshko.) The pairings were such that many players played the 3 youngest players in succession, but this didn't lead anyone to three easy victories. The games were all hard fought and the younger players routinely scored draws against their higher rated opponents, with each of the young players finishing with 1.5 points.

Of the other 5 players, someone had to finish outside the money, and in this case that was Swaminathan. He played well throughout the tournament, drawing the three highest rated players, but was unable to get quite enough points and finished with 4 points.

The three players who tied for 2nd place, got their in very different ways. Ng started slowly, losing to Shvartsman in the first round, but after that could only be defeated by Fisher. Still, Ng needed a win in his last round game, which he got by eventually winning

an opposite colored bishop ending. This allowed him to join the group for 2nd place. Sivakumar, having lost, fell into the 2nd to 4th group as well, though he could have tied for as high as first if he had won and Shvartsman had been able to draw against Fisher.

Shvartsman had his own shot at first place. Being a half point back of Fisher, if he could win in the last round he would at least tie for first. That game unfolded as follows:

[Event "Philadelphia Junior Invitational"] [Site "Chestnut Hill"] [Date "2011.08.14"] [Round "7"] [White "Fisher, William"] [Black "Shvartsman, Andrew"] [Result "1-0"] [ECO "B07"] [WhiteElo "2369"] [BlackElo "2293"] [Annotator "Fisher,William"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Nbd2

Entering the round, I only needed a draw to secure first place. This line of the King's Indian Defense seemed to be a fitting choice. White does not need to defend against classical kingside piece bombardment typical of the KID. It's sole Super-GM practitioner, albeit only in blitz, is Carlsen.

... Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. c3 O-O 6. Bd3 Nh5

This martial Knight reposition has been tried by none other than Grand Masters Joer Hickl and Joe Gallagher. If 6... Nc6 7. O-O e5 8. dxe5 Nxe5 9. Nxe5 dxe5 10. Nc4 Qe7 Fontaine,R (2546)-Nakamura,H (2701) Le Port Marly 2009.

7. Nb3 e5

Black, vying for a win, is playing much too aggressively.

8. O-O Nc6 9. Be3 Nf6 10. Qc2

Limiting Black's counterplay with 10. d5 is more accurate.

10... exd4 11. Nbx d4 Ne5 12. Nxe5 dxe5 13. Nf3 Qe7 14. Rfd1 Ng4

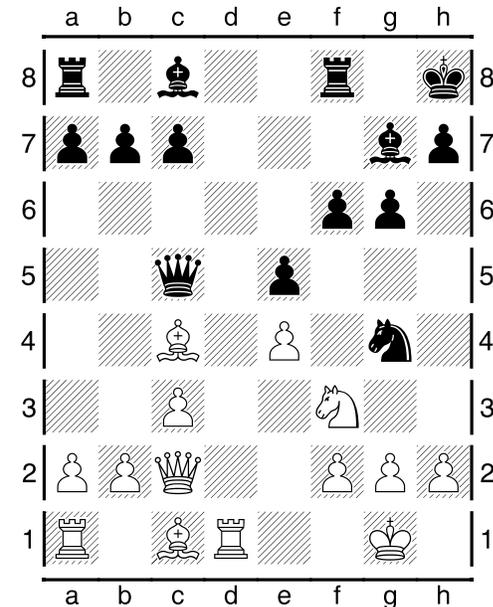
14... b6 and Black is on the road to equality.

15. Bg5 f6

Here, 15... Nf6 was imperative.

16. Bc4+ Kh8 17. Bc1 Qc5?

A crucial mistake, Black's focus should have been developing his c8-bishop.



18. b3

White defends his loose bishop on c4, but also has intentions of landing his dark-squared bishop on the a3-f8 diagonal.

... b5

Again, Black is playing for too much. The simple retreat Qe7 needs to be played.

19. Bd3 Be6 20. h3 Nh6 21. a4

White demolishes Black's queenside.

...bxa4 22. b4 Qe7 23. Qxa4 Qf7 24. Qc6 Ng8 25. Ba6

White constricts Black's pieces on the kingside and queenside.

... f5

In time pressure, and unable to find a way to alleviate the pressure White has generated, Black blunders badly.

1-0

Thus, William Fisher was able to earn first place with a 6-1 score. Andrew Shvartsman, Andrew Ng, and Kavinayan Sivakumar finished with prizes for their 4.5-2.5 score.

This sort of tournament can be difficult to put together, even with considerable backing, such as that we received from the Chestnut Hill Business Association and the Dan Heisman Fund. That being said, I highly recommend that other areas try this sort of event. I know the kids not only had a great time, but were able to learn a great deal that they can apply when they play in other strong events.

115th Pennsylvania State Championship (Dr. Ira Lee Riddle Memorial), September 24-25

By Joseph Mucerino

HARRISBURG – After visiting Warminster for the first time last year, the state championship rotated to central Pennsylvania and the state capital hosted for only the second time. The turnout was quite disappointing, with only twenty-five players spread out in the top three sections, and only four in the one day scholastic tournament on Sunday. Three years ago, when the tournament was at a different venue in Harrisburg, there were ninety-four participants.

Peter Minear took the title home for the second time in his career, winning both editions held at the state capital. He made it look easy, like he always does, sweeping to a 4-0 lead including wins over your author, who was the second seed, and the third highest

rated player, Chris Pumarejo. Heading into the final round, if Pumarejo won and Minear lost, they would share the title, otherwise, Minear would get clear first. Minear, with black, could have offered Ed Chong a quick draw, but instead played the game out, most likely because he did not want to concede any rating points at all. When Mucerino-Pumarejo was drawn, Minear was assured of clear first, but kept playing on because he felt he had a “miniscule” advantage, but, in time pressure, he blundered and lost the game. Chong’s upset gave him a share of second with Pumarejo. Chris Yang, who bested me in the first round, shared fourth place with me.

The U1800 section was the largest, with twelve players. Veteran player Eric Brandt also scored 4/5 to claim clear first. After drawing the fast rising Torin Kuehnle in the first round (Kuehnle had a wonderful tournament, scoring 3/5 with two draws and gaining sixty-three rating points!), Brandt won three in a row, and drew Austin Henninger in the final round. The draw also gave Henninger clear second. Kuehnle, Jeffry Hoskavich, Sam Lamonto, and Virginia’s Paul Mattione tied for third.

The six-player U1400 was a round robin. The provisionally rated Nolan Fisher was the only person to win all of his games over the weekend, and he picked up a massive 167 rating points! Watch out for him in the future. Michael Fischer lost only to the winner and finished second. The Sunday scholastic (U1000) section had only four players, and the victor was Graeme McNulty, who scored 3.5/5.

Because of the poor turnout, it has been decided that once every three years, when the state championship is held in central Pennsylvania, the Carlisle Open (which is held on the same weekend as the state scholastic championships) will be the state championship. This will begin in 2014. Over the years this has been frowned upon, because students will have to decide if they want to try to win a scholastic state title or *the* state title. But since the Carlisle Open draws well, and because very few

scholastic players took part in this years state championship, this appears to be a good idea.

NM Peter Minear (2295) – Joseph Mucerino (2108)

{**Editor's Note: A book on the Second Piatigorsky Cup had the unique feature of a game being annotated by both players. This allowed readers to see how both players viewed the positions and what each found important and why. JM: means that it is Joe's annotation and PM: means that it is Peter's annotation:**

JM: Round 4, 9-25-11

This was my sixty-fifth game against Peter (and the thirty-fifth where he was white), which is far more encounters than with anyone else. My record against him heading into this crucial game was +8 -43 =13, not too good. But I had a surprise up my sleeve.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3

PM: Alternatively, after 3. c4 c6, holding onto the extra pawn with 4. dxc6 Nxc6 5. Nf3 e5 cannot be recommended due to black's nice development and white's weaknesses on d3 and d4. Instead, 4. d4 cxd5 transposes into the Caro-Kann defense, Panov-Botvinnik Attack. Another interesting line is 3. Bb5+.

Qxd5

JM: This is the surprise. In previous games against Minear, I had played 3...Nxd5. Upon seeing the new move, Minear broke open his bottled water, and took two big gulps before hunkering down to begin to think.

PM: This was a surprise. Many previous Minear-Mucerino games had continued 3...Nxd5 4. d4 Bg4 5. Be2 with a slight edge to white.

4.d4

PM: Also possible was 4. Nc3, transposing into main lines of the Scandinavian Defense: 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3. Delaying Nc3 is not necessarily an

improvement, although it does allow white the option to play c2-c4 before Nc3.

Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6 6.h3

PM: 6. c4 or 6. O-O are quite playable here, although I decided to kick the bishop before castling to prevent black's attack on the h file after h3 h5 hxg4 hxg4. An example of what could happen if white gets careless: 6. O-O e6 7. h3 h5 8. hxg4? hxg4 and black is winning after 9. Ne5 Nxe5 10. dxe5 Qxe5 threatening Qh2+ or 9. Ng5 Bd6 10. f4 is the only way to close the d6-h2 diagonal, since 10. g3 allows Qh1 mate, but it fatally opens the c5-g1 diagonal after 10. ...Qxd4+ 11. Qxd4 Nxd4, followed by Bc5. Instead of 8. hxg4?, white should chase black's queen with 8. Nc3, so that the variation ending with g3 Qh1 mate is no longer possible, so white can safely gain an advantage with 9. hxg4.

Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Qd6

PM: 7. ...Qxd4?? would be a major blunder due to the removal-of-the-guard tactic 8. Bxc6+ bxc6 9. Qxd4 winning black's queen.

8.c3

PM: Now white can no longer play c4, due to black's attack on d4. If white defends with 8. Be3 O-O-O, 9. c3 will be necessary anyway. I decided to play c3 immediately to start a queenside initiative as fast as possible.

0-0-0

JM: Perhaps a bit better was the immediate 8...e5.

9.Qa4

PM: With attacking ideas such as Bxc6 and Qxa7, Na3-b5 or Na3-c4, and b4-b5. Making threats on the queenside is necessary if white wants any opening advantage. Otherwise black will obtain a comfortable game with e5.

Nd5 10.0-0

JM: Whenever he is caught with a surprise, Minear typically plays solidly and castles quickly, and then finds a stronger continuation at home for the next encounter.

10...e5 11.Na3 Qg6?

JM: Trying to avoid white from gaining a tempo with either 12.Nc4 or 12.Nb5, but 11...Nb6 was a better option.

PM: If 11. ...exd4 12. Nb5 regains the pawn.

12.dxe5 Bc5?

JM: On my previous move, I had missed that I cannot recapture the pawn after 12...Nxe5 13.Bxd5 Rxd5 14.Qe8+ winning the knight because the rook must come back to block the check. Houdini also did not like my twelfth move and preferred 12...Nb6.

PM: If 12. ...Nxe5 13. Bxd5 Rxd5?? 14. Qe8+ Rd8 15. Qxe5 wins a piece. Instead, black could try the zwischenzug 13. ...Bxa3, but white retains his extra pawn 14. Bxb7+ followed by recapturing a3. Also possible is 12. ...Bxa3. Prior to my 12th move I analyzed 12. ...Bxa3 13. Qxa3 Nxe5 14. Bxd5 Rxd5 15. Qxa7 Nf3+ 16. Kh1. Here black has some attacking moves which look frightening but don't quite work: a) 16. ...Nh4 threatens Qg2 mate, but the knight falls after 17. Qa8+ Kd7 18. Qa4+ and 19. Qxh4. b) 16. ...Rh5 17. Qa8+ Kd7 18. Qxh8? Qe6! and white has no defense to the threat of 19. ...Rxh3+ 20. gxf3 Qxh3 mate. (If 19. gxf3 Qxh3+ mates.) But 18. Qxb7 (instead of the greedy 18. Qxh8?) attacks black's knight, so there is no time for Qe6 and Rxh3. After the knight moves, White can start king-hunting with 19. Rd1+. I did not see all of this during the game, and consequently had planned to answer 12. ...Bxa3 with the zwischenzug 13. Be4, maintaining a small but safe advantage due to the white's bishops and slightly safer king.

13.Re1 Rhe8 14.Qg4+

JM: I thought this was good at the time, but the computer thinks white loses about half of his advantage, and prefers 14.Nc4 instead.

PM: Following the well known rule: "Trade when you are ahead!"

14...Qxg4 15.Bxg4+ Kb8 16.Bg5 f6

PM: If 16. ...Bxa3, white would respond with the recapture 17. bxa3, not 17. Bxd8? Bxb2 when black comes out ahead in the complications. After 17. bxa3, white's bishop pair is quite strong and black cannot easily attack white's doubled pawns.

17.exf6 Nxf6?

JM: Capturing with the pawn was better, because it reduces trades, and white's dark squared bishop does not really have a good square to go to.

18.Rxe8 Rxe8 19.Bxf6 gxf6

PM: White's last two moves have further simplified the position and weakened black's pawn structure, but at the cost of surrendering the bishop pair.

20.Nc2 Rd8

PM: Threatening the unpleasant Rd2.

21.Rd1 Rxd1+

JM: I realize that trading while down material is bad, but I did so to deflect the bishop so I could run my king to the kingside. I was hoping that I might have some drawing chances with the bishops of opposite colors.

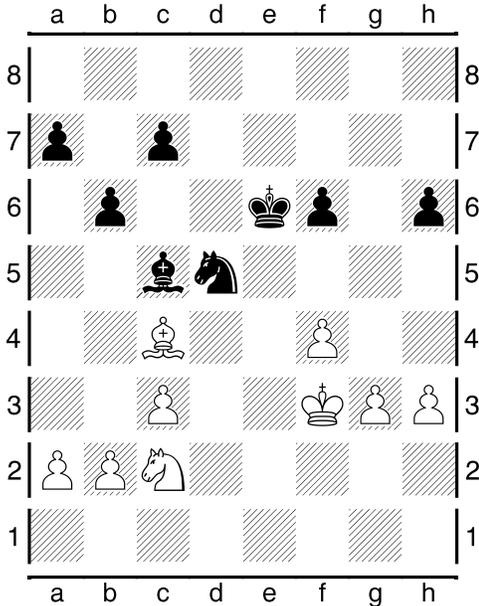
22.Bxd1

PM: Endgames involving bishops of opposite color are known to be highly drawish. However the presence of knights allows extra tactical possibilities, as well as transitions into possible B vs. N, N vs. B, and N vs. N endings where the extra pawn should be decisive.

Kc8 23.g3 Kd7 24.Kg2 Ke6

PM: In the endgame, both kings belong in the center. White's next move keeps black's knight out of the center.

25.f4 b6 26.Kf3 Ne7 27.Be2 h6 28.Bc4+ Nd5?



JM: 28...Kd7 was necessary, but that loses too.

PM: A blunder which loses the game immediately. After 28. ...Kd7 (not Kd6, when 29. b4 followed by Kg2 traps the bishop) white would carefully advance his kingside pawns, where he has a 3 to 2 majority, and eventually force black to sacrifice his bishop or knight to prevent a pawn promotion.

29.b4 1-0

JM: White will win another pawn after 29...Bf8 30.Nd4+ Kd6 31.Nb5+.

PM: Black loses material in all variations: 29. ... Bg1 30. Kg2 traps the bishop. 29. ...Bd6 30. Nd4+ picks up the knight. 29. ...Be7 30. Nd4+ Kd6 31. Nf5+ wins a piece after 31. ... Kc6 32. Bxd5+ or 31. ...Ke6 32. Nxe7. Relatively best is 29. ...Bf8 30. Nd4+ Kd6 31. Nb5+ Kc6 32. Nxa7+ Kb7 33. Nb5 (or even 33. Bxd5, as the opposite-colored bishop

endgame should be winning with two extra pawns, but it is easier to avoid this) with an easy endgame win.

Chaturanga Chess Club Championship (September 8-October 6)

HATBORO – By tradition, this event begins on the first Thursday after Labor Day and runs for five weeks. Twenty players took part, down by six from last year, and some of the missing names included such heavyweights as James Larsen, Brian Polka, and Jorge Amador (who directed). Your author was the defending champion.

The only surprise in the first round was Gregory Sulat's draw of veteran player Robert Leonards. Then some of the big boys got nicked in the second round. Top rated FM Karl Dehmelt could not beat Ed McKenney, and I was lucky to escape with a draw after being a pawn down against Ronald Stokes. Luiz Rodriguez was the only player to win both his games, but that changed at the halfway mark when he lost to Dehmelt. I was paired with Adrian Benton (who I have a minus score against), but he did not show. It transpired that he did call one of the directors, but word did not reach Jorge Amador in time, and so the pairing was made. Instead of a forfeit win, I was given a full point bye, and Benton received his requested half point. McKenney took a bye to attend the Phillies game, and Stokes drew Alan Lindy.

The penultimate round's Mucerino-Dehmelt pairing is what everyone was waiting for. After winning the exchange, I was forced to give it back, but I did it in the wrong way, and wound up a pawn down in a rook ending and lost. Most of the other games involving the top contenders ended as draws. The final round saw Dehmelt as white play class C player Robert Pisciotta. After losing his first, Pisciotta won his next two, and then benefited from a forfeit win over Benton, who did not call in advance this time. Pisciotta tried his best but was no match for the former state champion, who won the game and the tournament. Rodriguez drew me to enter into a four

way tie for second, which included McKenney, Lindy, and Don Clark, who upset Stokes in the final round.

North Penn Chess Club Membership Drive

(September 9-October 7, 2011)

LANSDALE – Just like the Chaturanga club championship, this event runs for five weeks after Labor Day, except that Friday nights are when the games are held, not Thursday. Although called the “Membership Drive” this event crowns the club champion. Fourteen attended, down three from last year, and we were missing two big names in Nigel Mitchell and Christopher Yang, who both posted plus scores a year ago. Also, two new, strong club members Dennis Baluk and Edmund Kline did not show. Your author was the defending champion.

Not surprisingly, the two experts, director Eric Funk and your author, dominated the event. Round three’s Funk-Mucerino game effectively decided the winner. It looked like I was in bad shape with an exposed king and Funk’s queen and two knights marauding nearby, but Funk advanced the pawns in front of his own king. He allowed a rook check on the back rank, and then I started to get the ball rolling. Funk wound up losing on time just when I was about to trade down into a winning ending. I posted a perfect score, and Funk’s four points were good for a clear second place.

Will Moyer had a fantastic result to finish in clear third with 3.5 points. After opening with an upset draw over Robert Kampia, he lost to Don Funk, but then swept his final three to finish in the bronze medal position.

Amity Chess Club Tournament (October 21, 2011)

DOUGLASSVILLE - The Amity Chess Club holds monthly Friday night tournaments. There is a USCF rated section, a nonrated section that anyone can play in, and, if possible, a scholastic section. There is absolutely no entry fee (except the rated section has to pay fifty cents to pay the rating fee) and no prizes either. We play strictly for fun! State Champion

Peter Minear did his thing by sweeping the rated section 3-0, with your author and director Ernesto Cachuela tying for second place one point back. The nonrated section was won by Richard Jokiel.

Main Line Chess Club Championship (October 4-November 1, 2011)

GLADWYNE – This extremely popular club once again held its championship event in the fall. Forty-five players played at least one round, and five of those had a pre-rating of 2000 or more! Your author was the defending champion.

The sensation of the first round was strong expert Stanislav Busygin succumbing to rising scholastic player Adam Serota. There was a round of applause for Serota (Busygin also joined in!) after his monumental victory. Class A player Luis Rodriguez was nicked for a draw by Al Pearson, who can be dangerous if you are not careful. The pairings got tougher in round two, although in most cases the higher rated player found a way to win. William Chen played his cards right and managed to hold expert Alex Graeffe to a half point. I bested Larry Saxby in the middle round to take sole possession of the lead. Mark Schwarcz-Vinko Rutar was quickly drawn, putting them a half point back. They were joined by Ernest Cronin who began with a half point bye but won his next two. Miles Rich lost his one game of the tournament to Graeffe, and they were tied with many players with two points.

Round four was the crunch. I was black against Rutar, against whom I had a poor record of +3 -18 =10 (including speed games) going into this critical game. Rutar played his favorite English Opening, and gained a slight advantage. Things became complicated in the middlegame, and I missed a promising sacrifice. Then I sacrificed a knight for two pawns, but did it in the wrong way, and Rutar could have been up a decisive amount of material, but he missed the winning move! A few moves later, Rutar

blundered a full rook, and I was super determined not to let the win slip away. I didn't and went up 4-0. Cronin beat Rodriguez to take clear second place a half point back, with a logjam of players at three.

I thought I would be white against Cronin in the final round because that was the color I was due, but since he already had two blacks in the three games he played (remember, he began with a bye), he would have the beginning move. He was telling everyone prior to the game that he would not mind finishing in second place and a draw would make him an expert for the first time. So, after eight moves of Queen's Gambit Declined theory, I offered the draw I needed to clinch the title, which was accepted. Rich beat Lucien Crowder to finish with four points and get second place on tiebreaks. Cronin finished in third on tiebreaks, and his postrating was 1997, just short of the expert title. Busygin won his last four games, but did not win one of the silver bowls that was handed out as prizes. Rodriguez was top U2000, Chen best U1800, Pearson top U1500, Jerry Creed best U1200, and Alara Balasaygun's three points won her the junior prize.

White Rose Open (November 5)

SEVEN VALLEYS – This was the second time this event was held, and attendance was nearly double from last year, outdrawing this year's state championship! There was an open and a scholastic section (held in separate rooms) to play in, a game room to relax between games, and free food, so everyone had a great time.

The biggest shock was in round one, when I was upset by Pancho Cadawas, who had not played in a rated event in eight years, although he has been playing skittles recently with the Reverend Dr. Michael Koplitz. Also going down was the second seed Darryl Hartman, who promptly withdrew after losing to Nate Carabello. In round two, Cadawas claimed a second big scalp by defeating Eric Brant, who recently won the U1800 section at the state championship. All of the other top players galloped along and were 2-0.

The four players with two points met in round three, and both Robert Graham-Edmund Chong and Ron Gross-Pancho Cadawas were drawn. I won my second straight to crawl to a half point behind. The top four again played among themselves in the final. Graham-Gross was drawn, but black managed to eke out a win in Cadawas-Chong, giving Chong the tournament victory. Gross, Graham, Austin Henninger, and myself tied for second a half point back. James McAllister, with a prerating of 319, upset two players higher rated than he was and swept the fourteen player scholastic section 4-0.

2011 Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Chess Championships

By Joshua M. Anderson

On November 13, 2011, I once again had the privilege of directing the Greater Philadelphia area Scholastic Championships. This event crowns the area K-1, K-3, K-6, K-8, and K-12 champions, and the K-12 champion is seeded into the 2012 Philadelphia Junior Invitational. (The 2011 event is discussed earlier in this issue.)

In scholastic events it is common to have a great many upsets, but here we had few. The K-12 championship went to an undefeated Kimberly Ding, a strong expert, who was the top rated player. The K-8 section went to Daniel Tartaglione, also the top rated player in his section. The K-6 saw a tense final round game blitzed out between the two highest rated players in the section, Kieran Rebholz and Adam Serota, with Serota winning in the final moments. Even the K-3 and K-1 sections, held largely true to form. In K-3, Collin McDonald, the third seed, scored a perfect 5-0 score. In K-1, second seed, Scotty Jordan replicated Collin's 5-0 score.

Full results can be found at:

<http://main.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201111138891.0-12537604>

(Editor's Note: We hope to have several examples of the games with notes for the next issue of the magazine.)

Friday Night Action #1 (January 23, 2009)

BRYN MAWR – Adam Weissbarth and the Silver Knights affiliate has begun a Friday night G/30 tournament open to all, not just scholastic players. The first of these was a success with eighteen entrants. FM Rodion Rubenchik was the highest rated player, followed by State Champion Peter Minear, playing in his second tournament since winning the state title in November, and then your roving reporter. There were many class A and B players, including Christopher Yang, the strongest scholastic entrant, as well as Kevin Zhou, the Co-National Second Grade Champion, who is taking part in his first event since capturing that crown in December in Orlando, FL.

There were no upsets at all in the first round. Rubenchik-Zhou was probably a great learning experience for the younger player. Rubenchik also had a fairly easy game in round two against Frank Jackson, but something very curious happened on boards two through four. Minear, myself, and fourth seed Daniel Weissbarth all had losing positions against Larry Saxby, Michael Newman, and Richard Neal, respectively, but all three escaped with draws. Yang, the lowest rated player with one point, was paired with the highest rated player with zero points, Zhou, and won, which set up Rubenchik-Yang in round three. Experience also prevailed in that game. This time around, Minear, myself, and Weissbarth all won our games.

The top board in the final round was a heavyweight affair, as it should be, with the confrontation between Pennsylvania State Champion Peter Minear, and FIDE Master Rodion Rubenchik. This was their first meeting since the state championship, where, in a wild time scramble, Minear defeated Rubenchik while a piece down when his passed pawn could not be stopped from queening. This time around, Minear was clearly winning. Both players had a queen and a

rook, but Minear had a far advanced passed pawn. Again both were in mutual time pressure, but this time Rubenchik was able to create mating chances and emerge victorious. Rubenchik pocketed the \$100 first place prize.

On board two, Daniel Weissbarth tried 1.a3 against me. At the time, I thought that this was the first time that I had ever encountered this move, but at home I found a 2003 game where I had to defend against it. I tried to play a reverse Colle System but it was not long before we were out of book. I won a pawn early, then in the double rook ending I tactically won a second pawn before cashing in my point for a clear second place. Frank Jackson won his final two games for clear third. Minear joined Saxby, Weissbarth, and Neal with 2.5 points, and several juniors scored two points.

Tournaments have already been scheduled for February and March, and I hope there will be many more after that.

Update: Since this article was written, the Friday Night Action tournaments moved to King of Prussia and then back to their original home in Bryn Mawr. Christopher Yang and Kevin Zhou are now both extremely strong scholastic players.

Friday Night Action #36 (December 9)

By Joshua M. Anderson and Joseph Mucerino

BRYN MAWR – After three years this monthly four round G/30 event is still being run by Silver Knights. Attendance can fluctuate wildly month to month. One month eight players may show, and the next month there may be closer to thirty! This month there was 15 players. No surprise, state champion Peter Minear went 4-0 to win the \$100 first place prize. His performance was particularly impressive when it is considered that he had play Mucerino (certainly not for the first time) in the first round (which was a first) and follow that up with wins against fellow master's Rodion Rubenchik and Karl Dehmelt.

Upcoming Friday Night Actions can be found at the following site:
<https://www.silverknightschesspa.com> under the tournament tab.

News for Eastern PA

By: Leteef Street

Vice President for East Region

Greater Philadelphia Chess League 2011 – 6th Season

Final Bulletin – 5/16/2011

Team Standings

Team	W	L	D	Pts	Ind. Pts
MasterMinds A	9	0	1	9.5	32.5
MasterMinds B (U1400)	8	1	1	8.5	26.0
Chesster's Finest	7	3	0	7.0	24.5
PaigeMasters	5	3	2	6.0	26.0
Dynamix	6	4	0	6.0	21.0
The Untouchables	3	3	4	5.0	23.0
J.R. Masterman B (U1400)	5	5	0	5.0	22.0
J.R. Masterman C (U1400)	4	5	1	4.5	20.5
MasterMinds E (U1400)	4	5	1	4.5	20.0
MasterMinds C (U1400)	3	5	2	4.0	17.5
MasterMinds D (U1400)	2	5	3	3.5	16.5
Tacticians of the Round Table 2	2	5	3	3.5	15.0
Paul Robeson Chess Club (U1400)	1	7	2	2.0	10.0
J.R. Masterman A	0	1	4	2.0	8.5
Main Line Chess Club (U1400)	0	2	3	1.5	7.0

Individual Awards

MVP (Most Valuable Player)

Kenneth Horan	(MasterMinds A)	9.5 pts
Jeffrey Johnson	(Chesster's Finest)	9.0 pts
David Miller	(MasterMinds A)	9.0 pts
Leteef Street	(MasterMinds A)	8.5 pts

Top Scholastic (grades K-12)

Alexander Wlezien (MasterMinds B) 7.5 pts

Torin Kuehnle (MasterMinds B) 7.5 pts

Ryan Schiller (MasterMinds B) 6.5 pts

Ben Kenney (MasterMinds C) 6.5 pts

Top Elementary (grades K-6)

Alexander Wlezien (MasterMinds B) 7.5 pts

Torin Kuehnle (MasterMinds B) 7.5 pts

Ryan Schiller (MasterMinds B) 6.5 pts

Ben Kenney (MasterMinds C) 6.5 pts

Top College (undergrad / grad students)

Kenneth Horan (MasterMinds A) 9.5 pts

Tim Alles (Tacticians...) 3.5 pts

Top Senior (Ages 50 years old and up)

Jonathan Phillips (Dynamix) 6.5 pts

Louis Alston (The Untouchables) 6.5 pts

Bruce Cox (The Untouchables) 6.0 pts

Raymond Robinson (The Untouchables) 5.5 pts

Biggest Upset

Marquise Edge (Paul Robeson) with a win over a player 671 points high rated!

The 7th season of the Greater Philadelphia Chess League will open on **Greater Philadelphia Chess League (GPCL) entering its 7th season:** The GPCL is open to teams of 4 players with an average rating Under 2000 (up from Under 1800 last season).

The GPCL meets one Sunday a month: January 29th, February 26th, March 25th, April 22nd & May 20th.

Schedule/Time Control: 2 rounds each day at 85 minutes & 5 second delay for each round. Rounds scheduled for 10am and 2pm.

Entry fee: \$80 per team

For more information contact: leteefs@yahoo.com or 267-237-6212.

Inventors make a playoff run: The Philadelphia Inventors chess team finished the 2011 season in the US Chess League with an 8/10 record and advanced to the league Quarterfinals before losing to Manhattan. NM William Fisher finished 3rd in the MVP race. Fisher won 9 games and drew 1 over the course of the regular season and playoffs. **(Editor's note:** We very much hope to have a brief article and an annotated game or two from the Inventors fine season in the next issue.)

More information on the US Chess League can be found at www.uschessleague.com.

Queens Academy: A free all-girls chess class in Philadelphia. Sponsored by After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) and 9 Queens. The Queens academy meets during the school year at the Free Library of Philadelphia at 19th and Vine streets. Joining myself as instructors are 2 time U.S. Women's Champion Jennifer Shahade and FIDE Master Alisa Melekhina.

Upcoming dates: December 10th, February 11th, March 24th

More information / RSVP: Ben Cooper, Director for Chess Activities (ASAP) 215-545-2727 or bcooper@phillyasap.org

Philly Plays Chess - Want more information on tournaments and other chess events in the Philadelphia area? Are you on facebook? Join my group, "Philly Plays Chess". Each month I list tournaments and other chess events scheduled in the Philadelphia area (including the suburbs and south jersey.) **(Editor's note:** Information on Philadelphia and PA events can be found at http://danheisman.home.comcast.net/~danheisman/Events_Books/tournaments.html#submit)

Ron Gross`

Vice President of Central Region

We've had two tournaments in the last three weeks in this area. The first, the White Rose Open, was won by Ed Chong after the top two players were both knocked off in the first round. I'm going to recommend that you e-mail the tournament director, Sam Lamonto, for the other results, especially since there was a kid's section, and I don't know any of the results as they played in a separate room.

The 2nd tournament was the Lancaster County Championship, which is the only county championship remaining in PA. Marty Frank won for a record 11th time, after defeating arch-rivals Ron Raush and Gary Rubright in consecutive rounds, and drawing Joe Mucerino in grandmasterly fashion in the final round. Ed Chong defeated me (Ron Gross), to take 2nd place in the Open Section. If you contact Sam, he has the other results for the remaining sections, or I can get them to you tomorrow (they're with my chess stuff, which I don't have with me right now.) Also, Sam is conducting a free tournament in Harrisburg on December 8th.

Editor's note: Communication difficulties at my end led to not having anything from the Vice President of

the West Region. I look forward to rectifying this problem in the next issue.

Master Games:

In Pennsylvania, we are fortunate enough to have many strong players. I hope to have one or two of the masters/experts provide an annotated example of their play. Here is a game that William Fisher played against Thomas Bartell just this past month.

[Date "2011.11.19"] [Round "3"] [White "Bartell, Thomas"] [Black "Fisher, William"] [Result "0-1"] [ECO "D38"] [WhiteElo "2403"] [BlackElo "2339"] [Annotator "Fisher, William"]

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 d5

Transposing into the topical Ragozin variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined.

5. cxd5 exd5 6. Qa4+ Nc6 7. Bf4 Ne4 8. Rc1 O-O 9. h3

We have been following Mirzoev,A (2559)-Capellades Subirana, M (2210) La Pobla de Lillet 2009}

...Bxc3+ 10. bxc3 Ne7

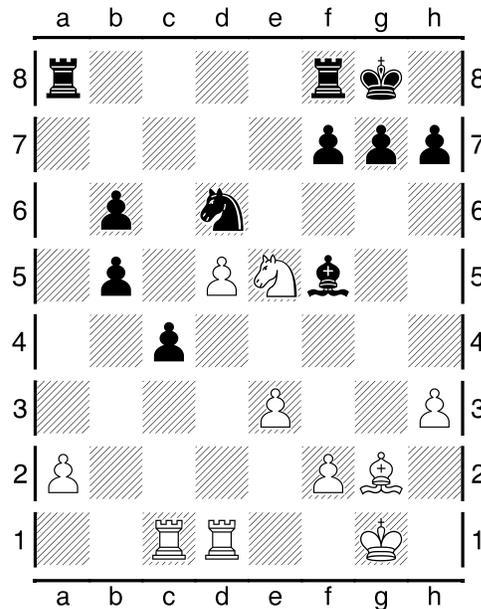
Black's idea is to embarrass White's misplaced bishop on f4.

11. e3 Ng6 12. Bh2 Nh4 13. Bxc7 Nxc2+ 14. Bxc2 Qxc7 15. O-O

15. Ne5 is necessary, as White must prepare c4 posthaste. With the text move, Black is able to prevent the c3-pawn's safe advance.

15... Be6 16. c4 dxc4 17. Ne5 Nd6 18. d5 b5 19. Qa6 Bf5 20. Rfd1 Qb6 21. Qxb6 axb6

White panics and enters a clearly lost endgame. The rest is basic technique.



22. Nc6 Rfe8 23. Rd2 Ra3 24. Rb2 Bd7 25. Nd4 Rea8 26. Rcc2 R8a4 27. e4 c3 28. Rb3 Rxb3 29. Nxb3 Nxe4 30. Bxe4 Rxe4 31. Rxc3 Re1+ 32. Kh2 Rd1 33. h4 Kf8 34. Kg3 Rxd5 35. a3 Rd1 36. Nc1 Rh1 37. Rc7 Ke7 0-1

Heisman's Helpful Hints

Dan Heisman is a national award winning master who has written numerous books and articles as well as giving lectures on Internet Chess Club (ICC.) Once upon a time, he even wrote an article for the *Pennswoodpusher*. Though too busy to be a regular columnist, he has suggested that we take some of his tweets and make them into a helpful hints column.

Helpful Heisman Hints

Don't worry about your rating, work to improve your playing strength. Your rating will always follow your strength in the long run

If there are 100 ways to win and only 4 ways to lose, it makes sense to stop the 4 first, & then one of the 100 will surely be found

Not just in chess: Becoming aware of a problem (and, if possible, some solutions) is often the first step toward aiding it.

Evaluation: "Determining which side stands better, how much better & why" - it's the 2nd most important chess skill behind analysis

If you're trying to improve, the real fear in a game is that you won't learn something, not that you will lose or make mistakes.

A very good way to study is with a "study partner" - this doesn't have to be a stronger player but someone to bounce ideas off

I'm surprised that many think you can get really good without playing in lots of tournaments. They're necessary but not sufficient

Good players are usually wise enough to question what they know. Weaker players often are dogmatic in their beliefs, right or wrong.

If you make an unstoppable threat on A & your opponent counterattacks B, it is almost always correct to save B, then win A next move

Think of reviewing an annotated game like reading a mystery, e.g. How will Carlsen take advantage of more pieces on the kingside?

Mobility is objective and Activity subjective. You can count a piece's moves, but have to determine how much it can do

If your piece is blocked by one of your own pieces but the blocking piece is mobile, then that's hardly being blocked at all.

No matter how much you improve, if you keep playing your peers (a "swiss" goal) you usually win about 50%, so get used to losing!

If you are a weak player who wants to improve, choosing an opening that fits your "style" often avoids working on your weaknesses.

Try not to develop pieces to squares where they can be easily attacked by developing pieces of lesser value & thus lose time.

"Counting" is the tactic that determines if any series of exchanges wins or loses material on any square; it precedes other motifs

There are many excellent books written "for kids" that would greatly benefit most adult players. Latest: Herten's Power Chess for Kids

When students lose, it's rarely because "I did not know this" - it's usually because "I failed to see his [easy] tactic"

Slowing down only after you get into serious trouble is like being careful only after you break a leg; take time to avoid trouble

Missing a tactic can be due to: 1) Didn't ask "Is it safe?" or asked but 2) Didn't recognize it or 3) Couldn't figure it out. Usually #1

A benefit of reading LOTS of annotated games: you have an idea & think "I've never seen a GM do something like this" so you don't

One of the 1st things to ask after "Is it safe?" is "Can this piece just be profitably attacked by a piece of lesser value?"

The most important aspect of strategy is to maximize the activity of your forces and minimize that of your opponents'

From J. Mucerino

Anthony Koppany (1918-2011).

Pennsylvania lost a longtime player on October 17 when Anthony Koppany passed away at the age of 93. According to his philly.com obituary by Sally Downey, he was born in Hungary and learned to play chess at the age of ten. In 1949, he emigrated to Philadelphia and joined the North City Chess Club. Later, Koppany became the director of the famous Franklin Mercantile Chess Club, and he played at that club until 1996. In 1997, he moved to Lansdale and became a member of the North Penn Chess Club. Koppany played there regularly through 2005, and then entered one event in 2006 and 2008. During the

latter years of his life, he was the oldest active player in Pennsylvania.

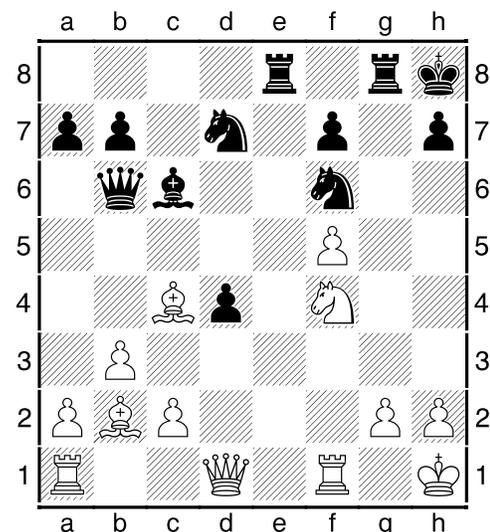
On May 3, 1964, he played against Bobby Fischer at the Cheltenham Township Art Center during Fischer's 1964 nationwide simul tour. In A Legend on the Road by IM John Donaldson, Koppany recollected that Fischer "...scored 70 wins, 2 losses, and one draw. My game was the last one – taking 7 ½ hours." Koppany also talks about his game with Fischer on the Youtube video Playing Bobby Fischer to a Draw.

Bobby Fischer – Anthony Koppany

Fischer tour simul, Cheltenham, PA, May 3, 1964

(Editors Note: The analysis was provided by Fritz 13.)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.dxc5 last book move 7...Bd7 [7...dxc5 8.e5 Nd5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Qe2±] 8.cxd6 [8.Qe2 Nc6 9.cxd6 exd6±] 8...exd6 9.0-0 Bc6 [9...Qb6+ 10.Kh1 Na6 11.a4±] 10.f5 [10.Nd4 Qb6 11.Be3 Nbd7±] 10...gxf5 [10...Nbd7 11.Qe1±] 11.exf5 Nbd7 [11...Qb6+ 12.Kh1 Re8 13.a4±] 12.Kh1 [12.Qe1 Re8 13.Qg3 Nh5±] 12...d5 [12...Re8 13.Nd4±] 13.Ne2 [13.Be3 Re8 14.Bd4 Ng4+-] 13...Kh8 [13...Qb6 14.Nfd4±] 14.Ng3 [14.Ned4!? Ne4+-] 14...Qb6± 15.Ng5 Rae8 [15...h6 16.Nh3 d4 17.Nf4±] 16.Nh5 Bb5 [16...d4!?±] 17.Nxg7+- Kxg7 18.Nh3 [18.Bxb5 Qxb5 19.b3 h6+-] 18...Rg8 [18...Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Ne5 20.Qg3+ Kh8 21.Bf4±] 19.Nf4 [19.Bxb5 Qxb5 20.Nf4 Qc6±] 19...Kh8 [19...Bxd3 20.Nxd3 d4 21.Bf4±] 20.b3 [20.Bxb5 Qxb5 21.b3 h6+-] 20...Bc6 [20...Bxd3!? 21.cxd3 d4+-] 21.Bb2+- d4 22.Bc4??



White threatens to win material: Bc4xf7. forfeits the advantage [␣22.Re1 and the scales tip in favour of White 22...Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1+-] 22...Re4= 23.Bxf7 [23.Qd2!? Ne5 24.Bd3 Rxf4 25.Rxf4 Bxg2+ 26.Qxg2 Rxg2 27.Kxg2 Qc6+ 28.Kg1 Nf3+ 29.Kf2±] 23...Rg4± 24.Qd2 Rxf4 25.Rxf4 Increasing the pressure on the isolated pawn on d4 25...Rxg2 26.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Qc6+ [27...Ne5!? should be examined more closely 28.Re1 Qc6+ (28...Nxf7? catches the eye, but 29.Re6 Qc7 30.Bxd4+- (30.Rxf6?? White must leave the knight standing 30...Qxf4 31.Rxf7 Kg8 32.Rxb7 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Qxb7 34.Bxd4 Qe4 35.Bxa7 Qg4+ 36.Kf1 Qxf5+ 37.Bf2 Qxc2-+) 29.Kg3 Nxf7±] 28.Kg1= Kg7? [28...Ne5 29.Bc4 Nf3+ 30.Kf2=] 29.Bc4 [29.Be6!? Ne5 30.Raf1 Qxc2 31.Bxd4 Qd3±] 29...b5 [29...Ne5 30.Bd3=] 30.Bd3 [30.Be6 Ne5 31.Raf1 Qxc2 32.Bxd4 Qd2±] 30...Ne5 31.Raf1 [31.a4 b4± (≤31...Nxd3 32.cxd3 bxa4 33.Rxa4±) 32.Bxd4 Nf3+ 0.00/20 14 33.Kf2 (Rxf3) 33...Nxd4 -0.09/19 7 34.Rxd4 (Rg1+) 34...Qc5 0.00/19 27 35.Rg1+ Kh6 0.00/18 10 36.Ke3 Nd5+ 0.00/19 3 37.Ke4 Nf6+ 0.00/20 0 38.Ke3 Nd5+ 0.00/21 8 39.Ke4 Nf6+ 0.00/21 4 40.Ke3] 31...Kf7± 32.Bxd4 Nxd3 33.cxd3 Qc2 Black threatens to win material: Qc2xd3 34.R4f3 Ng4 Black has a mate threat [34...Qxa2? is no good 35.Ra1 Qc2 36.Rxa7+ Kf8 37.Ra8+ (37.Bxf6?! Qc5+ 38.d4 Qxa7=) 37...Kf7 38.h3 Qc1+ 39.Kg2 Qg5+ 40.Kh2 Qd2+ 41.Bf2+-] 35.Rh3 h6 36.Rh4 White threatens to win material: Rh4xg4 [36.a3 Qxb3 37.Rh4 h5 38.Rxh5 Qxd3 39.Rh7+ Kf8 40.Bxa7 Ne5=] 36...Qe2 37.Bxa7 Ne5 Black threatens to win material: Ne5xd3 38.Rh3 Ng4 [38...Qxa2!? is worth consideration 39.Bd4 Nc6±] 39.a4 [39.a3 Qb2±] 39...bxa4 [39...Qa2 40.Bf2±] 40.bxa4+- Qa2 41.Rh4 Qxa4 42.Be3! Deflection: g4 42...Qe8 [42...Nxe3 43.Re4 Decoy Double attack(43.Rxa4 Deflection Pinning)] 43.Rxg4 White has a king attack [43.Bf4 Ne3 44.Rf3± (44.Bxh6?! Qg8+ 45.Kf2 Qg2+ 46.Kxe3 Qxf1=)] 43...Qxe3± 44.Kh1 Qxd3 [44...Qxd3 45.Rgf4 Qd5+ 46.Kg1 Kf6±] ½-½

Dr. Ira Lee Riddle (1946-2009)

As many of you know by now, one of the most important men in the history of Pennsylvania chess has passed away. International Arbiter Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, PSCF President 1978-2002, PSCF Vice President East 2002-2009, *Pennswoodpusher* editor 1980-2001, USCF and PSCF life member, passed away suddenly while on a European cruise. He was 62.

Although he did not attend the 1978 state championship in Pittsburgh, Dr. Riddle became PSCF President in 1978 when there were only five (yes, just five) PSCF members. Over nearly the next quarter

century PSCF grew by hundreds and hundreds of members. In 1986 FIDE awarded him the International Arbiter (IA) title. To put that in perspective, according to the 2008 USCF Yearbook (April 2009 *Chess Life*, page 39), the United States currently boasts sixty-five grandmasters, but only thirty International Arbiters.

Being an International Arbiter basically means that you are qualified to run any chess event – including a World Championship match. And while Dr. Riddle did fly across the county to direct many national events, he was also a prolific TD in the Delaware Valley. If an organizer had a site but was lacking a TD, they could count on Ira. The two Beaumont Chess Tournaments in Devon, one in 2005 and the other in 2006, the Gettysburg Chess Tournament in 2005, and last year's 2nd Annual October Gallery Tournament in Philadelphia were all possible because he stepped in to fill the void. And there must be scores more.

I have recently heard many people say that Dr. Riddle was the director at their first tournament. Add my name to the list, because he ran my first USCF event, the 1993 PA Team Tournament in Philadelphia. He, and his wife of thirty-seven years, Polly, sold chess books at many of these events. I, and many others, would help carry the boxes of books from his car to the playing event in the morning, and back out to his car when the event was over. He once offered to pay me for my help, but I refused. Ira did not understand that I was paying him back for his decades of service to our state. One time, though, he put his foot down and insisted that he repay me somehow. He offered to run a tournament for me. I heard that there was a spacious site in Danville, and that is how the 2007 Danville Open came to be. When I arrived in the morning, Dr. Riddle told me that he and his wife traveled up the night before and lodged at a nearby hotel. He did not have to do that. He could have said, "Joe, I would love to direct a tournament in Danville, but it is simply too far away," and I would not have thought any lesser of him. Driving up the night before

just shows the passion he had in directing and promoting chess.

But Ira had diversified interests inside and outside of chess. His plethora of chess experiences helped him co-write the fourth edition of the *U.S. Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess*. He was active with the Chess Journalists of America from 1989-2009. He was a math teacher, he coached many sports, enjoyed to read, loved to travel, completed the daily Sudoku in the paper, collected star notes (currency with an asterisk in the serial number) and had many other pastimes.

He loved his middle name. Once, he read a draft of one of my *Pennswoodpusher* articles. I mentioned him as "Dr. Ira Riddle". He corrected me and his name was published as "Dr. Ira Lee Riddle". But of course, he was simply "Ira" to most of us.

At his memorial service, there were about 125-150 people present. I counted ten from the chess community, and it did not appear that there were too many family members, so he had numerous friends from all walks of life. Four people (including Steve Shutt and Peter Tamburro from the chess delegation) gave wonderful and enlightening testimonials to the delight of those present.

One of my favorite memories was at the 2002 U.S. Open in Cherry Hill, NJ. I had mailed by advance entry fee for the main event, but I wanted to play in some side events too. Dr. Riddle sat at the front table entering people, and I noticed that he was wearing a red cape. I chided him and said, "Are you wearing your Superman cape today, Ira?" He laughed.

That's what he was, super. And he has already been missed by more people than he can imagine.

These kind words bring to a close the return of the *Pennswoodpusher*. I hope you have enjoyed reading this issue as much as we all enjoyed putting it together for you.