

The PENNSWOODPUSHER

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The World Comes to the Wyndham

World Open Finds New Home

by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

After twenty years of hosting chess tournaments, Adams Mark Hotel in Philadelphia closed its doors for good after being purchased by retail giant Target. The Continental Chess Association wanted to remain in the area, and the Wyndham Hotel in Center City was selected to be the new venue.

Directions to the Wyndham

Yes, like everyone else, I moaned and groaned when I learned that the World Open was moved to Center City. Driving in a major city is unusually dangerous, difficult, and frustrating. However, a few weeks before the tournament, I was in the area and decided to find out where it was. On my first try, I got lost in Logan Square, but I was successful in the second attempt. It was not difficult at all! So, for those who shied away from the tournament because of its location, follow these simple (at least I hope they are!) directions.

First, the address of the hotel is 17th and Race Street. Forget about 17th Street, it's 16th Street you want. Now, with that in mind, do this: take the Schuylkill Express (that's Route 76 for you out-of-towners) East to Route 676 East. Note: in order to exit onto Route 676 East, you must be in one of the two LEFT hand lanes. Once on 676 East, get into the farthest right-hand lane, because you will need to exit again in about 4/10 of a mile. The exit sign you are looking for says "Broad Street" on the top line and "Central Phila" on the next line. Take that exit, and keep to your right. At the end of the exit ramp is a traffic light. Turn right (you will be on 15th Street), and remain in the right hand lane. Turn right at the very first street you come to, Spring Street (a small side street). On this street is a parking garage if there is no parking at the Wyndham. At the end of the street is a stop sign. The building you are looking at straight ahead is the Wyndham. What you want to do is turn right, and quickly get in the left lane, because the entrance is not far at all after the turn. The parking garage is underground.

When exiting, getting onto 676 West is even easier. Turn left to get back on 16th Street, and, in just a few blocks, you will see huge exit signs for 676 West.

Parking problems

The parking garage is located two levels beneath the hotel. It seemed to me that it had fewer spaces than Adams Mark. Parking was somewhat of a struggle, but keep in mind that the Live 8 concert was in town during the tournament. Cars were parked in places not meant to be parking spaces, even if it meant blocking someone else in! People parked in handicapped spaces without the proper tags or plates, one car was parked in front of a "no parking sign", and on and on. Clearance in some places was 6'4", so I would recommend taking a smaller vehicle. There was a Station wagon in the lot, and it took up tons of space. If

you can come using public transportation or a motorcycle, you should probably do so. Remember, there is that garage on Spring Street I wrote about earlier, but you will have to pay \$20+ per day.

The Wyndham Hotel vs. Adams Mark

Upon entry into the lobby, the Wyndham appears to be much more upscale than the Adams Mark. The playing hall, just like at Adams Mark, was on two floors. At Adams Mark, the lower sections up until about the U1200 section were on the higher floor, the Open Section was in the Ballroom on the lower floor, and the remaining sections were in the Exhibition Center across the hallway. At the Wyndham, the Open, U2200, and U2000 sections were on the Mezzanine level (the higher of the floors) and the other sections were in the Ballroom on the lower floor.

The lighting was very good, definitely better than the Ballroom at Adams Mark Hotel, but perhaps not quite as good as the Exhibition Center. Restrooms, on the other hand, were a problem. There were about six urinals and four stalls on each floor. Once I went in, and everything was being used! They were also very humid with poor lighting.

Normally, to save money for other chess adventures, I commute every day between Douglassville and Philadelphia. However, the police decided to close the roads around the hotel at 6:00 a.m. on July 2, the day of the Live 8 concert, and keep them close virtually the whole day. That could cause a problem for me if my game on Friday night went fairly long. One of my friends intended to leave home early to be at the Wyndham by 6:00 a.m., but his game did go long, and by the time he made it home, he would have to leave again. There was a vacant room at the Wyndham, but he had to pay \$200 for it!

The Lancaster contingent of Ron Gross, Andrew Spore and Max Blumenthal were kind enough to let me crash with them. Since I stayed at the Adams Mark a few years back because of inclement weather during the Liberty Bell Open, I could compare the guest rooms. I believe that the ones at Adams Mark were much better. The Wyndham had no microwave or microwaves; just the bare essentials. They are not up to par with the luxury of the lobby, and they certainly not \$200 rooms.

Chess, anyone?

Yes, a few chess games were played over the seven days (no two weekend schedule was available). There was a rumor that this year's attendance was going to be down because players would choose to try to win a share of the \$500,000 prize fund at the HB Global Chess Challenge and miss this event. That may have been true, because, including re-entries, there were 1,128 players this year, compared with 1,328 from last year, a 200 player drop off.

Surprising, there were very few short draws on the top boards of the open section. Why? Did they forget to read my article on short draws in the last issue? No. U.S. Champ Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky played on the top boards for most of the rounds, and they very rarely take short draws. Players on the other top boards may have felt that agreeing to a short draw was the equivalent of conceding a half point to these to greats. The only short draw was John Fedorwicz-Jaan Ehlvest in round 4, but even they played an opening at least. In the final round, all top four boards were still going on after one hour of play.

GM Kamil Miton and IM Magesh Panchanathan tied for first with 7½/9. Milton won the playoff for a clear first. They were both surprise winners, because they did not play many games on the top boards. Miton started off 4-0, but then cooled with two draws, but then beat GMs Joel Benjamin and Ildar Ibragimov and, with black, drew Nakamura in the final round. Panchanathan lost in the third round and drew in the fifth, but finished strongly with four straight wins (including a final round win against our own GM Alexander Shabalov) to tie with Miton.

Nakamura, Sanipan Chanda, Ibragimov, and '04 winner Varuzhan Akobian tied for third with three points. Nakamura started strongly, scoring 5½/6 (he drew Irina Krush in round 2), but then lost to Ibragimov in round 7 and drew Miton in the final round. Many people also had their eyes on Akobian. He started with 4½/5, but then drew three games, to Miton, GM Alexander Stripunsky, and Kamsky. This is the first time I saw Kamsky in person. He looks very different than he did when he represented the U.S. abroad in the early 1990s. He is married now, and like a true married man, he has put on some weight. He is much fuller in the face, and no longer wears glasses. He started off 3-0 against weaker opposition, but, like in many of his recent tournaments, he was held to draws against the stronger opposition. He drew four of his next five games, before losing to Chanda in the final round.

I finished with three points, but it was nothing to brag about. I played one 2300 and everyone else was lower. Other Pennsylvania scores were Alexander Shabalov (6½ points), Lorand Bela Kis (5½; he shared part of the 2300-2449 prize), GM Gennady Zaitchik, FM Bryan Smith, FM Norman Rogers, NM Mark Eidemiller, NM Michael Styler (5 points each); FM Matthew Bengtson (4), NM Zakhar Fayvinov (3½), IM Edward Formanek, NM Stanislav Ritvin, Glenn Bady, Michael Guber (3 each), Jorge Amador (2½), NM Roland Yakobashvili (2), Charles Leach drew a filler game, and FM Alex Dunne withdrew after losing his first game against Ibragimov, and Peter Moss lost a filler game.

In other sections:

- U2200:** Lawyer Times, Felix Radutman, Alexandre Mirtchouk, 7½
Top PA: Gregory Nolan, 6½
- U2000:** Chris Bush, Nakibul Haque, 8
Top PA: Paul Grow, Luan Elezi, 7
- U1800:** Kristopher Meekins, 8. He was the only \$10,000 winner!
Top PA: Michael Benz, 7
- U1600:** Eddie Briones, Raynard Simmons, 8
Top PA: R Andrew Spore, 6½
- U1400:** Gannaidy Malyuta, Rommel Tacorda, 7½
Top PA: Dale Tippet, 6. Provisionally rated 827 going in, now rated 1221!
- U1200:** Ashkfak Uddin, 8
Top PA: Reese Brown IV, 7

Unrated: Mar Barruel III, 8

Top PA: Gordon Huston Jr., Colin Brown, 5

On the final day of the event, Independence Day, the Continental Chess Association had a survey for the players to fill out. Basically, it was "How do you like the Wyndham compared to the Adams Mark?" But, one question asked where would you like next year's World Open to be held. The five options (you could vote for up to three) were Valley Forge, downtown Philadelphia, New York City, downtown Washington, D.C., or suburban Washington, D.C. Naturally, I checked off the two Pennsylvania sites (I prefer Valley Forge). I hope all of you who were there filled out the survey, because I really believe Continental Chess wants to hold the event somewhere else. New York City players are always complaining about having to come to Philly by the dozens in order to play in a large event. They do not care about high hotel fees; they can commute back and forth. And, with the New York Open now defunct, having the tournament in the Big Apple (or in nearby New Jersey) just might fill a void that area has. We will wait and see.

I will keep you posted with the location of the 2006 World Open. It appears that that 2005 National Chess Congress and the 2006 Liberty Bell Open will both be at the Wyndham.

2004-2005 Mason Dixon Chess League

By Vince Kowalski

Some new faces earned the right to compete for the League Championship for 2004-2005. From the South, James Wood survived a very competitive race with the defending champs, Sherando, and an up an' coming Handley team to win the Southern Division Championship.

Bermudian Springs, runner-up to Gettysburg last year, fought off a very good New Oxford squad to finish unbeaten and untied for the first time since 1987-1988. The team took the Northern Division crown by surviving many close 3-2 decisions.

Bermudian made the journey south to Winchester, VA on Thursday, March 10, to take on the Southern champs, James Wood. And it may be a cliché, but this was one match that no one should have lost. In a tense and hotly contested match, Bermudian and James Wood played to a 2½ - 2½ tie. Being the championship match, we had to go to tiebreak (and yes, I had to go back to the 1995 minutes to look it up). On a narrow tiebreak margin of 15 - 11, Bermudian took home the League title for the first time since 1993.

Congratulations are in order to Mark Lemieux and his terrific James Wood squad for their great season and championship match. Congratulations also go out to Bermudian Springs for their

CHAMPIONS

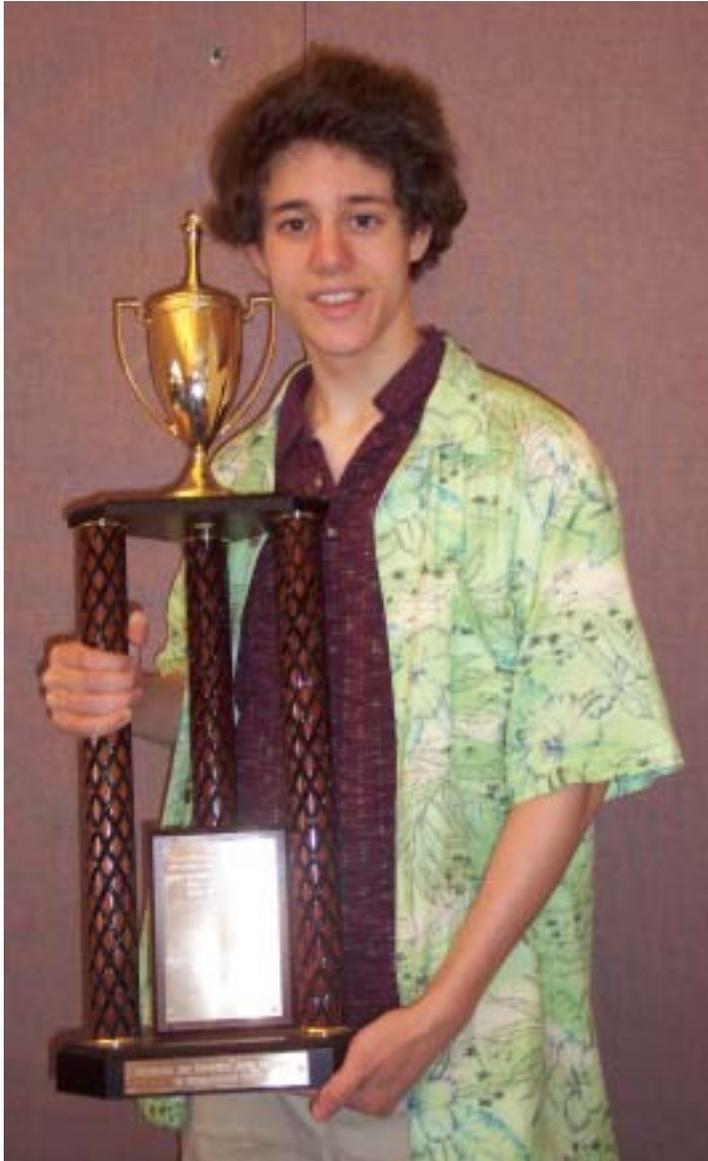
- 1973 - Shippensburg
- 1974 - Shippensburg
- 1975 - Shippensburg
- 1976 - Waynesboro
- 1977 - Bermudian, Chambersburg (tie)
- 1978 - Bermudian
- 1979 - Shippensburg
- 1980 - Chambersburg
- 1981 - Gettysburg
- 1982 - New Oxford
- 1983 - New Oxford
- 1984 - New Oxford
- 1985 - Smithsburg
- 1986 - Smithsburg
- 1987 - Bermudian
- 1988 - Bermudian
- 1989 - Bermudian
- 1990 - Waynesboro
- 1991 - Smithsburg
- 1992 - Waynesboro
- 1993 - Bermudian
- 1994 - Waynesboro
- 1995 - Waynesboro
- 1996 - Gettysburg
- 1997 - Jefferson
- 1998 - Waynesboro
- 1999 - Waynesboro
- 2000 - Jefferson
- 2001 - CVCS
- 2002 - CVCS
- 2003 - Jefferson
- 2004 - Sherando
- 2005 - Bermudian

unbeaten season, capped by a fantastic championship match:

Bermudian	2½	James Wood	2½
1. John Fentiman	0	Dan Truelov	1
2. Cory Ruck	1	Matt Reges	0
3. Zac Hoffman	1	Jose Bonilla	0
4. Andrew Pritt	½	Mike Gannon	½
5. Angie Nagy	0	Conner Gannon	1

Kurt Schneider wins Greater Philadelphia Junior Invitational Chess Championship

By Dan Heisman



National Master Kurt Schneider (pictured above) of Blue Bell, who will be a senior at Wissahickon High School, took home clear first and a first prize of \$800 at the 4th annual Greater Philadelphia Junior Invitational Chess Championship held June 16-19 at Haverford College in Haverford, PA. Schneider, the highest rated scholastic player in Pennsylvania, scored 6½ points against seven other strong All-Star opponents and will have his name inscribed on the permanent Heisman-Shahade Trophy.

The other seven participants and their final scores were Chris Bechis (of Pennsbury HS and, in the fall, Univ. of Maryland

Baltimore County) 4½, Rory Wasiolek (Devon Prep and Duke) 4, Dan Yeager (Keith Valley MS) 4, Tommy Hsiao (Allentown) 3, Mike Guber (Masterman and Wharton) 3, Rahul Swaminathan (Princeton Landing CC) 2, and Josh Bowman (Stony Creek MS) 1.

The strength of this championship was shown by the excellence displayed by these players in other recent events. For example, Dan Yeager recently won the US Amateur East title, a national event open to all experts and below (non-masters). Rahul Swaminathan tied for 2nd in the K-5 section of the National Elementary Championship. Mike Guber is the 2005 Pennsylvania State High School Champion; Hsiao tied for second there – and none of these finished in the top two at Haverford!

Two special prizes were donated by International Master Igor Khmelnsky of King of Prussia. They were \$100 for most wins in a row (Schneider) and a copy of his book *Chess Exam and Training Guide* (Hsiao).

The Greater Philadelphia Junior Invitational Championship invites the top six rated players age 18 and under in the Philadelphia area, plus the Greater Philadelphia High School Champion and the top eligible junior at the Philadelphia Championship. Dr. John F. Bayley, the President of sponsor Main Line Chess Club (<http://www.mainlinechessclub.com>), was the principal organizer and raised the \$1,500 prize fund through private donations (note: the tournament is always looking for corporate sponsorship). Main Line Chess Club Vice President Dan Heisman was the tournament director. He was assisted by MLCC members Richard Pariseau, James Blakey, and Paul Petrillo. Special thanks go to host Haverford College and Haverford Professor Paul Jefferson for arranging for the facilities.

PA TODAY: Tournament and Club News
from around the Keystone State
 By Joe Mucerino, Roving Reporter
patzerpounder@hotmail.com

26th Allegheny Chess Congress

PITTSBURGH - Due to scheduling problems, this was my first event in the Steel City this year. And, believe it or not, this was my first ever visit to the Pittsburgh Chess Club! The club has its own room in the Wightman Building on Solway Street, and it is decorated to the hilt with pictures, trophies, newspaper clippings, crosstables of recent events or weekly club events in progress, etc. The club also has a huge library of literally thousands of chess books and other periodicals! I was highly impressed and I am eager to return.

Twenty-four people took part in this event, and they were evenly split between the open and reserve (U1600) section. In the open section, the co-winner from this year's U.S. Junior Open, Benjamin Coraretti, tied the unrated Jens Madsen, formally from Denmark, and now from Morgantown, WV, with 3½ points. They both drew me, which meant that I finished in third place with three points. Michael Black and Steve Haskins shared the reserve section with 3½ points each.

One sad note is that Clyde Kapinos was briefly hospitalized during the event. I hope he gets well soon.

West Chester Saturday Quads

WEST CHESTER - These quads, normally held on the first

Saturday of the month, are always pushed back a week because of the World Open. Six quads, slightly below normal, were held. There was a new twist in the prize fund. A perfect score would win \$50 instead of the normal \$40 (the entry fee was \$20). While having a bonus for a sweep is not new, what is, to the best of my knowledge, is the fact that anyone, even someone with a 0-2 score, can win \$5 by winning their final round game. So, if you come in clear first, you can win one of three prizes. For example: win-win-draw \$40 (the normal first place prize) win-draw-win \$45 (the first place prize plus the \$5 bonus) win-win-win \$50 (for a perfect score). This bonus is in effect for the rest of this year.

TD Jim White was complaining that he could not hand out any five dollar bills! Oh, well. In quad 1, Tom Clauson-Larry Dulany would have come down to king vs. king, and I agreed to a draw with Keith Thompson in a position where I think I was a bit better, but with between 15-20 minutes on the clock, I did not feel I had enough time to win.

Quad winners: (1) Joe Mucerino 2½; (2) Eric Brandt, Charles Shaw, Steve Pavolic, 2; (3) Albert Starner, 2; (4) Joseph Casey 2½, (5) Jonathan Martin 3; (6) Richard Martin, 3.

Gettysburg Chess Tournament

GETTYSBURG - Dr. Ira Riddle directed another new event, this time in the historic city of Gettysburg. I overheard someone say that this was the first tournament here in thirty years. Hopefully, it will not be another thirty years before another tournament is played here.

Your roving reporter could not resist the temptation of playing in a new location in Pennsylvania, and I decided to top the wallchart. Arut Baluyan, who only moved to this country from Russia a few months ago, provided the chief competition. I won my first three games fairly easily, the first one against Joseph Hall, who I'm sure would love to see his name in print. Baluyan was struggling, especially in the first two rounds, and was only squeaking out his victories. We met in the penultimate round, and I was black. I defeated Baluyan with black only a few weeks prior in the Lancaster County Championship, and he appeared to be very nervous. The Icelandic Gambit of the Center Counter appeared on the board, and we castled on opposite sides. He began to pawn storm me, but I did not have time to pawn storm him. I did, however, have good control of the center and good development. He offered an exchange of queens. I had three options: take his queen and play on a pawn down, not trade but play a pawn down and defend against the pawn storm, or allow him to take my queen which would lead to a forced draw. Tamara Corey had just checkmated Bob Graham on h7 on board 2, and she would play me if I did not lose. I decided to take the latter option, and the game was drawn. I beat Corey in the final round although I almost walked into a mate, and Baluyan defeated Henry Seim quite easily. Baluyan and I tied for first, and I won the first place trophy (barely) on tiebreaks. Unrated Jeff Santiago had a great tournament, finishing with 3½/5, and he took the third place trophy on tiebreaks over William Sensenderfer. Jacob Kemper swept the U1000 section 5-0, and Ivan Stockman had a perfect score in the non-rated section. Six teams took part, with CVCS winning, followed by Waynesboro, Bethel Christian Academy, Chambersburg Chess Men, Penn Township Chess Club, and York Chess Nuts.

West Shore Chess Club Championship

LEMOYNE - Right after successfully defending my West Chester club title, it was time to defend the second club title I won last year, the WSCC (now the Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club) championship.

What they say is true: it is more difficult to stay on top than to make it to the top. Retaining the title at West Chester was more difficult than winning it last year, and the same went for this event. Although many of the club's strongest players were missing (including Brian Sheinfeld, Vincent Waters, and Dave Brogan), I had a very difficult time this year.

In the opening round, solid John Bylander (a provisionally rated 1273 adult) was a tough nut to crack. He had a draw, but then thought he had blundered an exchange when he could have defended. The result: I won the exchange and the game. There were more problems when I was black against Michael Liebner, Sr. in the next round. Again, my opponent played well (and I also was not at my best) and may have been winning at some point. I wound up slightly better in the ending, but Liebner blundered a pawn, which allowed me to win easily. Class A rated Edmund Chong is the new strong member of the club, and he was considered to be my main competition. He, apparently, also had difficulty in the first round against John Eshleman. After beating Sam Lamonto reasonably easily, he and I were paired, and the result was a steadily played draw. With my poor form, I was relieved to have that game behind me. Chong beat the third highest rated player, Natal Carabello in the penultimate round, and I won against Lamonto. That game did not take place in Lemoyne; instead, it was played some 70 miles away in West Hazleton. I shared a room with Sam during the PA Amateur Championship, and we played in our hotel room after the third round of that tournament. There was only one chair in the room, so Sam sat in it while I sat on the edge of the bed! In the money round, I beat Carabello, and Chong defeated Liebner, Sr. to make us co-champions. There was a logjam of players tied for third: Carabello, Libener, Sr., Ace Reddy, Lamonto, Thomas Smith, and Sunny Guest. They all scored three points, one and a half points behind the winners.

This game was not played in Lemoyne but in West Hazleton, after Round 3 of the PA Amateur Championship. Sam and I shared a room. He knew (since he was directing the club championship) that we were paired, and was kind enough to play this game in West Hazelton in order to save me a trip. (JM)

Sam Lamonto - Joe Mucerino

West Shore Chess Club Championship

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bf4 g6 4. e3 Bg7 5. Be2 O-O 6. O-O c5 7. c3 Nc6 8. Nbd2 Nd7 9.Re1 e5 10. Bg3 (10. dxe5 and White hangs on 10... Ndxex5 11. Qb3 +=) **10... e4 -+ 11. Bh4** (11. Bd6 exf3 12.Nxf3 Re8 13. dxc5 Nf6 -+) **11... f6** (11... Qb6 12. dxc5 Qxb2 13. Nd4 Nxc5 14.Rb1 Qxa2 15. Qc1 Nxd4 16. cxd4 -+) **12. Ne5 Ndxex5 13. dxe5 Nxe5 14. Nb3 b6 15. Qc2 Nd3 16. Bxd3 exd3 17. Qd2 Re8 18. Rad1 Ba6 19. a4 Qd7 20. Ra1 Re4 21. Bg3 Rxa4 22. Qd1** (22. Rad1 Qb5 23. Nc1 c4 -+) **22... Rxa1 23.Qxa1 Bc4** (23... Bb7 makes it even easier for Black 24. Nd2 -+) **24. Nd2 f5 25. f3 Bb5 26. Qa2 c4 27. e4 Bh6 28. b3 fxe4** (28...cxb3 keeps an even firmer grip 29. Qb2 -+) I did not like the isolated d pawns for black (JM). **29. bxc4 dxc4 30. Nxe4 Rf8 31. Be5 Bg7** (31... Bc6 and Black can already relax 32.Bd4 Bxe4 33. fxe4 b5 -+ I've been "relaxed" since I was a pawn up (JM). **32. Nd6??** (But even a better move would not have saved the game 32. Bxg7 Qxg7 33. Rd1 -+) **32... Bxe5 33. Nxc4** (33. Rxe5 doesn't change anything anymore Qxd6 34.Rxb5 d2 35. Qxc4+ Kh8 -+) And if 36.Rd5 d1=Q (JM) **33... Qf7 34. Rxe5 Bxc4 0-1**

West Shore Chess Club Quick Championship

LEMOYNE - Two weeks after the completion of the club championship, the club's quick title was up for grabs. Many of the

club's stronger players were able to play in this one night, five round G/10 event. The stronger players dominated, naturally, but between them it was pretty much a lottery, because many of the games ended in extreme time pressure. Top rated Chris Pumarejo and Edmund Chong had some problems defeating Michael Liebner, Sr. and Michael Liebner II, respectively. The top players began clashing in the second round. I had a horrible position with black against Chong, but somehow managed to win. Pumarejo made the mistake of playing a tactical game against Vincent Waters, and Waters showed why he is the club's best tactician. In the third round, I had my second black in a row, this time against Waters, the only other player with 2-0. I had a shaky start, but after settling down, I capitalized on Waters' mistakes to go 3-0. I was now in clear first by a point, and I had white against the last remaining threat, Pumarejo. Pumarejo thought for a long time in the opening, but then sped up, while I slowed down. He eventually exposed my king and won a pawn. I put up a stubborn defense, but with both flags ready to fall, I made some errors, and wound up losing my queen for a rook. Shortly after that, my flag fell with only seconds left for Pumarejo. Waters lost again, this time to Chong. In the final round, I won easily against Liebner, Sr., and Pumarejo won Chong's queen. Pumarejo and I are now co-champions, and Waters and Chong tied for third.

Allentown G/40 Swiss

ALLENTOWN - There is always a chess tournament on Saturday in Allentown! I had a hole in my schedule, and I decided to stop in. Dan Yeager and I tied for first with perfect scores. I took out Jim Strobel, Lee Stanley, and Michael Glick after Glick touched his king which led to a forced mate. Yeager defeated Daniel O'Brien, Bruce David II, and Jack Mongilutz. For Allentown's complete tournament schedule, go to:

<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/8567/>

Hazleton Open

HAZELTON - One month after hosting the successful PA State Amateur Championship, the Greater Hazleton Area Chess Club hosted their annual event at Checker's Pizza. Twenty-nine players turned out to make this tournament another success. Again, the top boards had trouble in the first round. NM Gerald Bailleau had a tough time against Michael Harbold, and I survived a blistering attack against Howard Meiser, and won on time in a position which was still inferior. Round two was easier: Bailleau won quickly against James Joline, who had a great tournament at the amateur championship, and David Parsons "defended" his knight in the wrong way. His knight was on g4, I played h3, and he "protected" the knight with h5. Thank you very much. The third rated Robert Feldstein had problems defeating Jeffrey Hoskavich, and Joseph Gaiteri drew Phil Rizzo. There was an error in the third round pairings that no one noticed (or minded) until the games were underway: all of the colors were reversed! Bailleau defeated Jim Drasher, I dismantled Feldstein, Rizzo beat Michael Kagel, and Bernard DeLuca beat Gaiteri to raise himself in the standings. In the final round, Rizzo drew DeLuca quickly. I was black against Bailleau, and essayed the Benko Gambit. Bailleau followed a game Gata Kamsky played, and sacrificed a pawn. I took it, and was up a pawn with queens off, although my pawn structure was compromised. Later, I blundered it back, but I was still defending pretty well. We wound up in a king and pawn ending, where Bailleau was up a pawn. In time pressure, I blundered in what really was a drawn ending, and Bailleau won the tournament with a perfect score. I tied for second with Rizzo, DeLuca, Frank Biskupics, Harbold, and Parsons.

Bill Gates - Ron Woznock

Hazleton Open, Round Three

Notes by Joe Mucerino

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. O-O Nxe4 6. Re1 d5 7. Bxd5 Qxd5 8. Nc3 Qf5 9. Nxe4 Qg4?? (Black must block the e file with one of his bishops) 10. Nf6+ Kd8 11. Re8# 1-0

Beaumont Quads and Scholastic

DEVON - The traveling Dr. Ira Riddle directed this new event in Devon, which is near Malvern, where I work as a paralegal. In tournaments of this type in Southeastern Pennsylvania, the scholastic section(s) are usually a big success, but the open section only has a handful of players. This tournament fit the mold, with only six players in the open section. I won it 4-0, with the only opposition coming from Chris Yaure, who had a draw until blundering a knight. The scholastic open section was split between Christopher Cattie and Steven Fox, with 3/4 scores, and the scholastic U750 section was swept by Kanishka Rao 4-0.

Coatesville Spring Open

COATESVILLE - A disappointing 10 players attended this event, directed by Rodion Rubenchik. The event, originally scheduled as a two day, five round event, was changed into a one day, four round event. Peter Minear entered late, took a half-point bye in round one, and won his remaining three games to come in clear first. Again, I had problems in the first round, this time against Kyle Botkin, but hung in there, and emerged the winner. I beat Coatesville's strongest player, Robert Jones, in the next round, lost to Minear in the third, and beat Hasan Abdul-Majid in the final round. Jones won his last two rounds to tie with me for second.

Rubenchik is planning to hold two one-day events at the end of August. Contact him if you are interested.

Huntingdon Valley Tournament

HUNTINGDON VALLEY - Jonathan Rumpf, a member of the North Penn Chess Club in Lansdale, decided to host an unrated event at New Life Community Church. Only eight players, five of them members of the church, attended this under-advertised event. The five church members were either novices (one lady said she had only played one game of chess before in her life!), or people who had played the game in many years. Joseph Kennedy joined Rumpf and myself as the only active USCF members in the tournament. Because of that, the competition turned into a very informal affair. TD Eric Funk made some irregular pairings in the second round so the novices could get some additional practice against the "professionals". I beat Kennedy in the final round to win the event 3-0, and he finished in second. We were both given a set and a board as prizes.

Warminster Delaware Valley Grand Prix

WARMINSTER - Steve McLaughlin's popular tournament circuit made a stop in Warminster. He cranked up the air conditioning to relieve the players from the heat wave outside. The open octos turned into a single quad, and I won it, defeating Odette Moolten, Erica McLaughlin (who had a draw until the ending) and Joseph Cianfarra. Dan Yeager, coming off his recent tournament triumph at the U.S. Amateur East in Parsippany, NJ, won the scholastic open section once again with a perfect score. Steve McLaughlin, Jr. was the best of the rest, losing only to Yeager. Philip Repisky swept the U1100 section, William Holl and Joshua Rahn tied for first in the K-3 U500, and Joseph Cericola won the K-6 U750

section. McLaughlin is planning to have another Grand Prix beginning with the new school year.

3rd Annual Holly Heisman Memorial

WYNEWOOD - For the third straight year, this charitable event raised money for women in need. Ninety-one players took part in three sections (open, U1400, and U800) in this 5 round G/30 tournament, and contested for prizes that were all donated to the event. The open section was very strong with two FIDE masters in attendance. FM Rodion Rubenchik won with a score of 4½/5, and took home a Bookup chess program (it is a very large database). He held fellow FM Boris Baczynskij, who had drawn U.S. Amateur East champion Dan Yeager in round 3, to a draw in the final round to clinch the victory. Baczynskij tied for second with PA Amateur State Champion Greg Nolan, but won the second place prize, a four inch Ebony Boxwood Set from the House of Staunton, on tiebreaks. Calvin Mei swept the U1400 section 5-0 and won a Chess Timer II Chess Clock. Michael Pergeorelis also scored 5-0 in the U800 section, and was awarded John Bain's *Chess Tactics For Students*.

23rd Annual Tullah Hanley Grand Prix & Pennsylvania State Championship

STATE COLLEGE - GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz won the Tullah Hanley Grand Prix with 4½/5. He drew IM Ron Burnett (who started the tournament with a half point bye) in the final round. The tournament also doubled as the state championship. Tying for the title were defending champion IM Ed Formanek, along with masters Bryan Norman and Mark Eidemiller (Norman was first on tiebreaks). Your roving reporter won the Castle Quick Chess Championship with a perfect score. We hope to have a full report in the next issue.

The minutes of the PSCF annual meeting as below:

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m., July 16, 2005, at Penn State University in State College.

1. The PSCF is doing well financially. However, the rates for printing four issues of the *Pennswoodpusher* and one *PSCF Annual* have risen. In previous years, about \$5,000 a year was collected from dues, and \$3,000 a year was spent on the publications. Now, the cost has risen to \$4,000 a year. This additional cost will be taken out of profits; no raise in dues is planned.

2. President Martinak announced that the new PA Amateur Championship, which took place in Hazleton in April, was a huge success. The profit made from this tournament will be used to help the Greater Hazleton Area Chess Club (GHACC) with future PSCF events. The president also noted that the GHACC came up with the idea for this tournament, and he encouraged other clubs to create other tournaments of their own.

3. Although this was not an election year, there was already talk of next year's elections. Central PA Vice-President Greg Vaserstein has apparently moved to Virginia (he may have dual residency at the time of this writing, but, according the USCF website, his *Chess Life* magazine is being mailed to Virginia). A new vice-president will need to be found, and he encouraged everyone to try to find a worthy candidate.

Although not an elected position, *Pennswoodpusher* editor Neil Brennen has indicated that he would like to step down from that

post in the next year or so. President Martinak also encouraged anyone who was interested, or knew someone who maybe, to contact the PSCF. The president indicated that he was willing to become the editor, but did not want be both editor and president at the same time. The secretary is quite content with his current duties.

4. Next year's state championship will be held at the University of Pittsburgh. The president said that he did not want the state championship to conflict with the US Open or the Castle Chess Camp.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.
PSCF Secretary

Short Draws: Are The Cures Worse Than The Disease? by Jorge Amador

(Our recent articles on short draws have generated a number of responses; Jorge Amador and Joe Mucerino have been corresponding on the subject, and both consented to have their exchange published. –editor)

Joe Mucerino makes an excellent case against fiddling with the draw rules in his insightful May 2005 essay, "Quick on the Draw?"

I skipped Maurice Ashley's "HB Global Chess Challenge" this spring because, among other things, I found it offensive to be paying THEM so that they could dictate to ME how I should play my games. If the organizers or the sponsors were paying the participants to show up, there might be a legitimate argument for this policy (he who pays the piper calls the tune), but frankly it is an insult to be asked to fork over more than \$300 for the opportunity to be told what openings and strategies you can't employ.

Thus I agree with the main thrust of Joe's article. The essay skates on thinner ice, however, when it suggests alternative approaches to the issue, such as imposing a financial penalty on players for agreeing to a draw before a specified amount of time or number of moves; or amending the laws of chess to prohibit agreed draws before a certain number of moves.

Joe proposes that if "spectators have to pay an admission fee in order to watch, then they should be guaranteed a certain amount of entertainment," with players refunding the spectators "out of their own pocket" if they agree to a short draw. I believe that this policy would be bound to lead to games which are even less entertaining than short draws. Although he briefly mentions and then dismisses the scenario, the logic of guaranteeing a certain amount of entertainment to paying spectators in exchange for their admission money would in fact easily lead to penalizing players for quick wins in addition to short draws.

Suppose that Mr. Average Fan has made, say, a 2-hour drive to witness the decisive Nakamura-Wojtkiewicz encounter in the last round -- and Wojo suffers a blackout on Move 6 which allows a mate in two after all of 7 minutes of play. (Perhaps from exhaustion because he was obliged to play out the previous round instead of taking a short draw; see discussion below.) So Mr. Fan will end up driving 4 hours (plus paying an admission fee) for 7 minutes of "entertainment." I doubt that, walking out the door, our fan is going to feel any more entertained than if the GMs had agreed to a draw after 7 minutes. (Boxing events generally feature

several matches on the same card so that no spectators can leave feeling cheated, even if the main bout ends in an early knockout.)

Or suppose that Hikaru misses a tactic on Move 9 and drops a piece without compensation, providing a serious contest lasting a grand total of 15 minutes. By the logic of the policy of guaranteeing a certain amount of entertainment, sooner or later the players could be forced either to refund the spectators' tickets, or to play out a hopeless position to a specified number of moves (30? 40?) for the sake of the guaranteed entertainment requirement. Alternatively, in light of these considerations, Wojo might decide to ignore his opponent's blunder and skip winning the piece, so that the entertainment might continue.

Any of these scenarios would be silly, of course, but they are the logical outcome of artificially decreeing the length of a chess game for the sake of third parties -- be they spectators, organizers, or sponsors.

The approach Joe suggests in his next paragraph is much more like it. As he points out, in big Swisses one can still find plenty of entertainment on Board 3, or 33, or 333. Whether spectators pay to watch, and whether one or a few games end in short draws (or quick wins), are hardly relevant then - leaving GM Ashley making much ado about almost nothing.

There is an additional factor involved in the genesis of short draws, which hasn't entered the discussion yet. Chess tournaments (particularly those lasting 7 or 9 rounds) are grueling trials, and we are only human: sometimes we need to take it easy in earlier rounds in order to conserve mental energy for later rounds. Or we'll take a draw in tonight's round so that we can go to bed early and be fresh for tomorrow morning's game. Prohibiting short draws forces players to go all-out in every game, increasing the risk that they will burn out before the end of the tournament and make later rounds much less "exciting" than they would be otherwise.

I suggest that the proposed medicines may be worse than the ostensible disease, and that the solution is to leave things just as they are. Attempts to improve them threaten the integrity of our art.

(Jorge Amador is vice-president of the Chaturanga Chess Club in Hatboro. -editor)

Dear Jorge,

You make several good points in your letter. But as far your point regarding "guaranteed entertainment", let me just emphasize the fact that this is to protect them from short draws only. You wrote about Nakamura dropping a piece in a game that lasts fifteen minutes, and then the players would possibly have to refund the money. Not so. I wrote, "Of course, spectators would not be refunded for a short decisive encounter, such as game 6 of the 1996 [sic, it was in 1997] Kasparov-Deep Blue match". True, the spectators would be disappointed with a very quick, decisive result, but the odds of a GM having a breakdown that early into a game is so low that I do not think that we need to worry about it. How many GM games can you cite where one player "has a blackout on move 6 which allows a mate in two?" Not many I bet.

The idea of having "guaranteed entertainment" was inspired from the several short draws in the 2000 World Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik. In a longer match such as that one, if short draws are allowed and if they occur frequently, then the spectators will not be encouraged to come

back and watch the next game. That would hurt ticket sales, which would not please the organizers!

Your comment about a long tournament being grueling is also a very good one, and I do believe I quickly touched on it, but I phrased it differently. Early on page 2, I write players "pick their battles, and use their energy against the weaker players that they know they can beat." Of course, each player has his or her own strategy, and only they can decide which battles they want to contest, but the most common method has to be play against the weaker players and, perhaps, make a quick draw with the stronger players. This, of course, is to make the event less "grueling".

Thank you once again for a great letter!
Joe Mucerino

Crossing the Bar

Masterman High School chess team member John H. Smyth, age 16, was killed June 7 in an accident. Details of the tragedy can be found in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of June 10. We quote from that paper a few remarks by Masterman's Steve Shutt: At Masterman, "everybody is taking this very hard, and everyone is in shock," said Steve Shutt, a Masterman teacher and coach of the chess team.

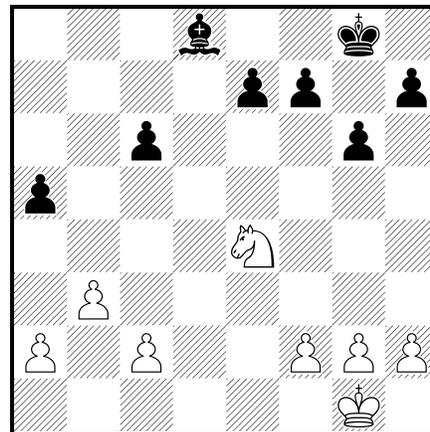
"He related well with kids of all ages. He had a lot of friends. He helped start a group of kids who were bicycling together," Shutt said. "He had a heart of gold. If he was ever in a bad mood, you never knew it."

Ross Nickel has informed us that long-time Franklin-Mercantile member Al Neff has passed away. Neff had been active in Philadelphia chess since the 1940s. From our slim file of Neff games we present a draw he made with future USCF Master Joe Weber.

Al Neff - Joe Weber [B53]

Valley Forge Open (3), 24.03.1973

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3 g6 9.e5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Nxe5 Bg7 12.Be3 a6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Rad1 Rb8 15.b3 0-0 16.Bd4 Rfd8 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Ne4 Bd4 19.Rd3 a5 20.Rfd1 Bb6 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rxd8+ Bxd8



23.Kf1 f5 24.Nd2 Kf7 25.Nc4 Bc7 26.h3 Ke6 27.Ke2 Kd5 28.Kd3 e5 29.Ne3+ Kc5 30.f3 Clock times: 0:32-1:14 Weber Notebooks 1/2-1/2

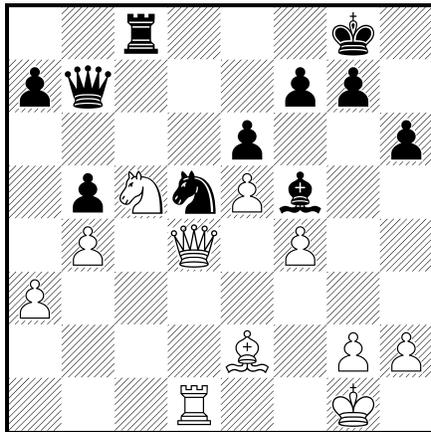
ALEX'S COLUMN By FIDE-Master Alex Dunne

THE THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SUCCESSFUL CHESS

Dunne, A - Lage, A [B12]

16 USCCC, 2003

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Be3 e6 5.Nd2 Nd7 6.c3 c5 7.Ngf3
PRINCIPLE #1: Concentrate on dominating the center, especially in the opening. White stands slightly better here with more space in the center and kingside. **7...cxd4 8.Nxd4!?** Offering a Pawn in the center for pressure: **8...Nxe5 9. Qa4+ Nd7 10. Nxf5 exf5 11. Bd3 Qf6 12. 00** gives White a major lead in development and center play. **8...Bg6 [8...Nxe5 9.Qa4+ Nd7 10.Nxf5 exf5 11.Bd3 Qf6 12.0-0] 9.f4 Ne7 10.Be2 Nf5 11.Nxf5 Bxf5 12.Qb3 b6 13.Bb5 Rc8 14.c4** White must act while his pieces are active, striking at Black's center. **14...Bc5 15.Bxc5 Rxc5 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rac1 Nb8 18.Qe3 h6** Black misses a chance to simplify the position by **18...dxc4** though White keeps a slight edge. **19.b4 Rc8 20.cxd5 Qxd5 21.Be4 Qb7 22.a3 Rfd8 23.Be2 b5?!** This is a dangerous over-play, weakening his c5 square, but Black was concerned about Nd2-c4-d6. **24.Nb3 Nc6 25.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Ne7 27.Nc5 Nd5 28.Qd4**



PRINCIPLE #2: Concentrate on dominating the center, especially in the middlegame. White has continued to improve his position with his pieces having better squares than Black's. **28...Qb6 29.g4** Preparing to undermine the d5 Knight by f5. **29...Bh7 30.Bf3 Re8** Preparing the defense of **31. Bxd5? Rd8! 31.f5 Kh8** White breaks through the center after **31...Nc7 32. Qd7 exf5 33. e6! Rxe6 34. Qc8+ Re8 35. Rd8 Kf8 36. Rxe8+ Nxe8 37. Bc6** and wins. **32.Bxd5 Rd8 33.Qe4 exd5 34.Rxd5 Rxd5 35.Qxd5 Qb8 36.Qd6 Qc8 37.e6!** **PRINCIPLE #3:** Concentrate on dominating the center, even in the endgame. White breaks through with a passed e-Pawn. **37...fxe6 38.fxe6 Bg6 39.Kf2** White keeps the Black Queen from escaping its cage with check. **39...Qa8 40.Nd7 1-0**

Games By PSCF Members

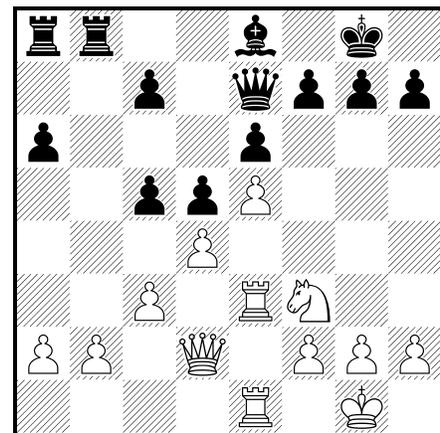
Our first game comes from Peter Minear, a win over Ed Formanek in the recent PSCF Championship. Romanian master and chess historian Olimpiu Urcan provides annotations to the struggle; it was the least he could do for beating out the editor for the 2005 CJA Award for Best Historical Article. After you play through the games, you may read Mr. Urcan's fascinating article at: <http://www.chesscafe.com/text/skittles254.pdf>

Peter Minear - Ed Formanek [C04]

PSCF Championship, Round Three

Annotations by Olimpiu Urcan

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 6.Bb5!? 6.Be2 and 6.Nb3 are the main moves in the French Guimard Variation. In Lev Psakhis's recent work *French Nd2*, he noted: " For a long time, this move was considered strongest, but now that verdict has been revised-perhaps without full justification!" **6...a6 7.Bxc6 [7.Ba4!?** b5 (7...Nb6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Nb3 Black's knight on b6 looks considerably stupid when compared to White's b3 steed.) 8.Bb3 f6 (8...Nxd4!? 9.Nxd4 c5 Fritz 8. Black seems to equalize with this little tactic.) 9.exf6 Qxf6 10.c3 Bd6 11.Nf1 h6 12.Ne3?] **7...bxc6 8.Nb3 c5 [8...a5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.h4 h6 11.Be3 a4 12.Nc5 Nxc5 13.dxc5 Ba6 14.Qd4 Qb8! Potkin-Riazantsev, Moscow 1999 15.Qxa4 Bc4 16.Qxc6+ Kd8 17.Nd4 Qc8 18.b3 Ra6 19.bxc4 Rxc6 20.Nxc6+ Kd7 21.cxd5 exd5 22.Nxe7 Kxe7 23.0-0 Qf5!]** **9.Bg5 [9.dxc5?! Nxc5 10.0-0 Be7=; 9.Na5!?** c6 10.Bd2 (10.Nxc6 Qb6 is the whole idea) 10...Qc7 and Whites knight is misplaced on a5.] **9...Be7 10.Na5 [10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.c3 0-0 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Nxc5 Qxc5 14.Qd4 Qb5 15.b4 Bd7 (15...a5 16.a4 axb4 17.axb5 Rxa1+ 18.Kd2 Rxb1 19.Qxb4± White's Queen and Knight are much better than Black's rooks and a miserable light squared bishop.) 16.a4 Qb6 17.Qxb6 cxb6 18.a5 b5 19.Kd2± Franco-Guimard, Buenos Aires 1977] 10...Nb8 [10...Nxe5!?** 11.dxe5 Bxg5 12.Nc6 Qd7 13.Nxg5 h6 (13...Qxc6 14.Qh5 Qd7 15.Nxh7 Qd8™ 16.0-0-0÷ White has a slight initiative but it is difficult to see how he can extract his h7 knight.)] **11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.c3 0-0 13.0-0 Bd7?!** [13...c4 14.b4 cxb3 15.axb3 c5 16.Qc1! Ra7 17.Qe3 Rc7 18.Rfe1²; 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 c5 15.dxc5 Qxc5 16.Qd2²] **14.Qd2 Nc6** The exchange of knights condemn Black to passivity but it is hard to suggest something constructive for him. [14...Bb5 15.Rfe1 Nd7?? 16.a4] **15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Rfe1 Rfb8 17.Re3 Be8 18.Rae1**



...cxd4? Black should sit tight with 18..h6. Now White has the c-file and a c5 outpost for his knight. **19.cxd4 Qb4 20.Rb3 Qxd2 21.Nxd2 Ba4 22.Rxb8+ Rxb8 23.b3 Be8 24.Rc1±** A classic " Good Knight against Bad Bishop" In contemporary times, no GMs would allow themselves to fall into Black's situation here. **24...Rb7 25.Rc5 Kf8 26.f4 Ke7 27.Kf2 f6 28.Ke3 Kd7 29.exf6?** [29.g4 seems to be more accurate.] **29...gxf6 30.g4 Bg6 [30...Kd6 31.Nf3 Rb5 32.Rxb5 axb5 33.b4 Bg6** and Black should be able to defend this unpleasant endgame.] **31.h4 h6?** [31...Kd6!] **32.g5! hxg5 33.fxg5 fxg5 34.hxg5 Bh5 35.Nf3 [35.a3** It is more technically sound to keep the knight to exploit the many weak squares in Black's camp. However, White should still be winning in the resulting rook endgame. However, as the old adage goes,

"All Rook endgames are drawn" and White has to be more careful not to fall into a drawn position. 35...Kd6 36.b4 e5 37.dxe5+ Kxe5 38.Nc4+ Ke6 39.Na5 Ra7 40.Nc6+- is just a sample variation.] 35...Bxf3 36.Kxf3 Kd6 37.Ra5! Rb6 38.Kf4 Ke7 39.Ke5 Kf7 40.Rc5!+- Kg6 41.Rxc7 a5 42.Ra7 Kxg5 43.Rxa5 Kg4 44.Ra8 Kf3 45.Re8 Ke3 46.Rh8 Kd3 47.Rh3+ Kc2 48.a4 Kb2 49.a5 Rb5 50.a6 Rb6 51.a7 Ra6 52.b4 1-0

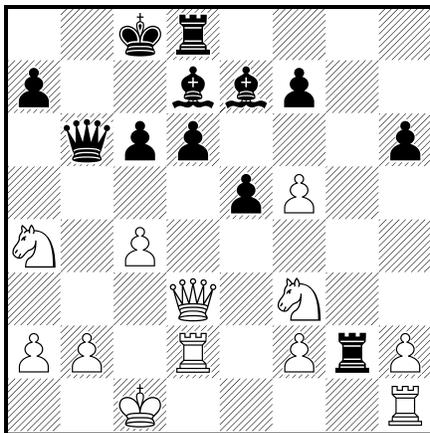
An interesting struggle from the recent Philadelphia Junior Invitational:

Tommy Hsiao - Chris Bechis

2005 Greater Philadelphia Junior Invitational

Annotations by Tommy Hsiao

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Qxd4 Nc6 5. Bb5 Bd7 6. Bxc6 bxc6?! 7. c4 e5?! This is supposed to be bad because it creates weaknesses on f5 8. Qd3 Nf6 9. Nc3 Be7 10. Bg5?! (10. Be3 0-0 11. Rd1 might have been good because white is exerting pressure on the d-file) h6 11. Bxf6 gxf6 12. Nh4 Rg8 13. 0-0-0!? I think I should have though more on this move because it seems to be rather risky (13. Nf5 Bxf5 14. exf5 Rxg2 15. Qe4 Rg5 16. Qxc6+ Kf8 Nd5 is interesting) Qb6 14. Rd2 f5 when I castled I thought after 13. ...Qb6 14. Rd2 f5- I would be able to play Nxf5, but after 15. Nxf5 Bg5 my rook is pinned to my king. 15. Nf3 I hated retreating my knight but I found no other choice Rxg2 16. exf5 0-0-0 17. Na4



17. f6? loses after (17. f6 Bxf6 18. Qxd6 Be6 19. Qa3 Rxd2 20. Kxd2 Qxf2, or 20. Nxd2 Bg5 21. Nce4 Bxd2+ 22. Kxd2 Qd4+ 23. Qd3 Qxb2+) 17. Ne4? seems unpleasant after (17. Ne4 d5! 18. cxd5 Bxf5) So I finally decided to try to remove the Queen from the a7-g1 diagonal with 17. Na4 because of the pressure on my f2 pawn, and then followed with a timely c5 to try to break up his pawn chain Qb4 18. Nc3 I was worried that 18. b3 would weaken my king so I retreated my Knight to c3 hoping that he wouldn't play his Queen back to b6. Qb6 But he did, and I could find no other way to continue so we agreed on a draw. 1/2-1/2

Next, Federico Garcia reminds us all of an all-too common happening in chess:

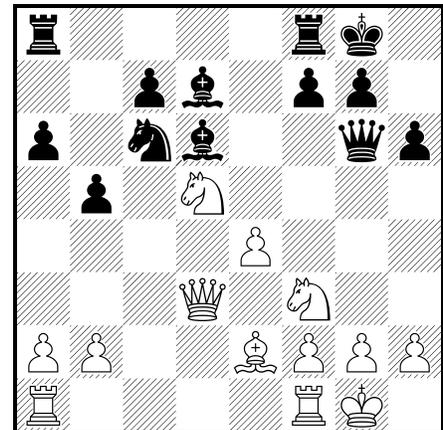
Federico Garcia (1562) – Ernesto Labate (1829)

US Amateur Team East ch., 02.21.2005 [D31]

Notes by Federico Garcia

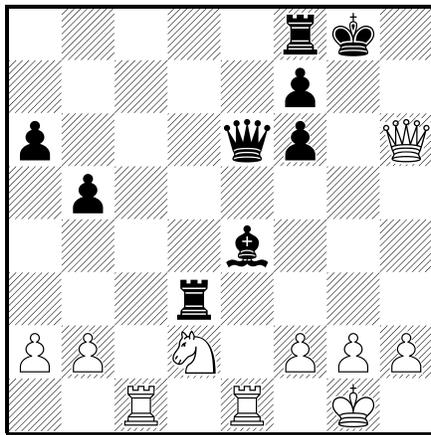
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 The Ragozin System, a hybrid between the Orthodox Queen's Gambit and the Nimzoindian. With the next move, White forces the Black Knight to c6, an unusual position in closed openings when Black has not played c5. The opening thus shares some themes with Chigorin's Defense (1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6). Chigorin, a fan of Knights, was

willing to trade early at c3 early, in exchange for advantage in development. 4.Qa4+ Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 Quickly taking the chance to molest the White Queen. But the Black pieces are not cooperating. Chigorin used to develop his Queen Bishop to g4 (and trade it at f3). 6.Qb3 Nf6 7.Bg5 dxc4 8.Qxc4 The Queen wanders around. This resembles those sharp lines of the Grünfeld Defense, but of course there the Black Bishop is fianchettoed at g7. 8...h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.e4 Now a trade at c3 would be wonderful for White, and the point of the early ...Bb4 is hard to see. White's only problem (not an easy one) is development, and Black tries to hinder it. 10...b5?! A reasonable idea. But there is no clear short-term way to take advantage of the delay in White's development, and the text move in fact creates longer-lasting problems: Black has more or less given up Queen-side castling, so the Bd7 is bound to hang after ...0-0; the Nc6 is also hanging, as is the c7, and, of course, the b5 itself is unprotected. 11.Qd3 Naturally not 11.Qxb5? Nxd4 12.Qxb4? Nc2. 11...0-0 12.Be2 a6 Passive. Called for was 12...Rad8. 13.0-0 Qg6? Again, 13...Rad8 was necessary. The White pieces are quite prepared to repel any attack that Black might be thinking of, and the attacking Queen move is premature. 14. d5! Classic: a premature attack on a flank must be met by a counter-attack in the center. With the Queen gone, the Black Knight cannot hold the center (14...Ne5 is not possible), and Black has to give it up. 14...exd5 15.Nxd5 Bd6

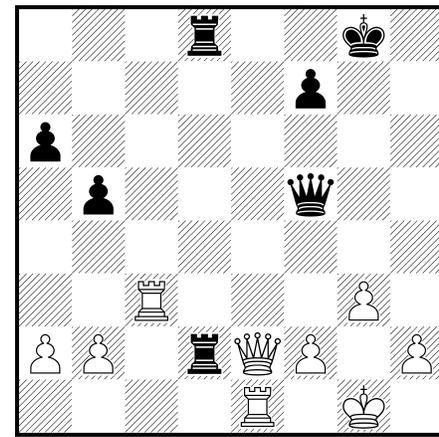


16.Nxc7!? The Bd7 is hanging, as was announced at move 10. (There is, however, a response available for Black that I and Ernesto overlooked.) 16...Rad8? With 16...Nb4! 17.Qd2 Rad8 18.e5 Bxc7 19.Qxb4 White's advantage vanishes. 17.Nd5 Qh5? 18.Nf6+! The Bd6 is hanging too! 18...gxf6 19.Qxd6 Qg6 20.Rac1! Qxe4 21.Bd3 It is sad that after 21.Qxf6 Qxe2 22.Rfe1 the Black Queen has still one (and only one) place to go. But, in any case, White's attack is promising. 21...Qe6 22.Qf4 Ne5 23.Bb1 Not the strongest. I thought long for this move: on the one hand, I wanted to keep my attacking Bishop. On the other, I did like the prospect of an opening g-column if Black traded Knights at f3. Could it prove too dangerous for my own King? I decided I would try it, so I retreated my Bishop, at the same time defending a2. Correct, however, was 23. Be4!, as will be clear in the next move. 23...Bc6? Ernesto also overlooked the easy way: 23...Qg4 was enough to equalize, because the White Queen cannot leave the Nf3 (this is why 23.Be4! was better: 23...Qg4 would be met by 24.Qxf6). 24.Qxh6 The threat at h7 is decisive. 24...Nd3! The best possible move. The Black Queen is defending one-too-many pieces, so 24...f5 loses to 25.Qxe6. And after 24...Ng6 25.Bxg6 fxg6 26.Qxg6+ Kh8 27.Ng5 wins for White (27...Qd7 28.Rxc6 fxg5 29.Qh5+ Qh7 30.Rh6). 25.Rfe1!? This move is correct, but, in the

circumstances, it is a blunder. Easiest, and obvious, was 25.Rxc6! (with the idea that 25...Qxc6 loses to 26.Ng5). I must admit that Ernesto's last move had surprised me, so maybe it's like I had to prove (to myself, to my pride) that there were still impressive resources. After having played this move, I realized what I had missed ("the right move was so terribly near, so glaring in its urgent obviousness," as George Steiner wrote in *Fields of Force*)... I cannot really tell how much this weighed on me for the rest of the game. **25...Be4!** Black is still lost, but I was surprised again. My nerves are starting to crumble, since in addition I am facing a terrible time trouble: I have 20 minutes for the next 15 moves, in this not-quite-simple position. **26.Bxd3 Rxd3 27.Nd2?!** The idea, making f3 available to win the pinned Bishop, is right. But the move order is wrong. Correct was 27.Qf4!, because 27...f5 would be followed by 28.Ne5! (which both attacks the Rd3, thus winning a decisive tempo, and prevents the Queen from blocking at g6; the likely continuation is 28...Rdd8 29.Qg5+ Kh7 30.Rc3!, winning). To my credit, I think this Knight move was hard to find. (For completeness: after 27.Qf4! Re8 is forced, and then 28.Nd2 and 29.f3 win the Bishop.)



27...f5 Maybe this is the time for a re-assessment of the position. White could now cash the results of his attack: apparently two extra pawns after 28.Qxe6 fxe6 29.Nxe4 fxe4 30.Rxe4. But, of course, 30...Rd2 deprives White of the initiative for a long time. The *idée fixée* of reaching a more solid endgame led me to the complications that ultimately cost me the game. It was good thinking, of course, but at the moment I am very short on time, very distressed by having missed my win at move 25, and very—very—inexperienced in the issue of time trouble. I literally asked to much of myself. **28.Qf4 Rfd8 29.Nb3!** Interesting was 29.Nf3 (restoring the possibility of Ne5). But my way is ingenious. **29...Qg6 30.g3 Qh5 31.Nc5!** This is the point: all the prospects of a g2-mating net are dispelled. I am in fact managing to win a second point without falling into a passive endgame—but the game is not going to be clear (or to *feel* clear to me) until the Queens are gone. **31...Rf3 32.Nxe4!** Literally, I had no time to assess the potential of 32.Qc7. My choice turns out to be best, but I had the discomfoting feeling of 'conceding' because of lack of time. **32...fxe4** Of course not 32...Rxf4 33.Nf6+ **33.Qxe4 Rfd3 34.Qe2** What to do now? How to trade Queens without letting Black into the seventh rank? **34...Qf5 35.Rc3?** The solution is 35.Rcd1, but the prospect of a Queens-endgame did not appeal to me (with or without time). I could not even try 35.Qe4 (with the idea that Ernesto would try a repetition with 35...Qh4), because a Queen trade at e4 leaves me in the endgame I have been so busy in avoiding. I have 10 minutes for 5 potentially complicated moves. **35...Rd2**



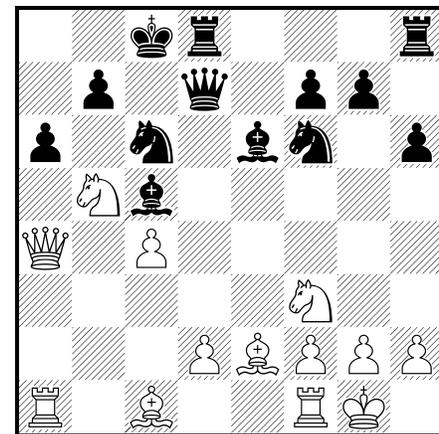
36. Qe7?? "Mate in two?" announced/asked Ernesto. "Yes, it is," I realized/answered. What can I say? It was a very interesting game, and one of the most intense experiences that I have lived through chess. For the first time, in addition, I was not angry at my blunders. Amazingly, I do feel proud of this game. But it's being able to feel proud that most makes me happy. **0-1**

Joe Mucerino, a player we do not hear much of these days, sends us two games from the recent Lancaster County Championship.

Ron Gross - Joe Mucerino

Lancaster County Championship

I have to be more careful with what I write. In the last issue, I teased Ron for gambiting his king instead of a pawn in the King's Gambit. He got even with those comments (and avenged a few prior losses to me) here. **1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. dxe6 Bxe6 5. Nf3 c5 6. Be2 Nc6 7. O-O Qd7 8. Nc3 O-O-O 9. a3 h6 (9... Nd4!? +=) 10. b4 ± cxb4 11. axb4 Bxb4 12. Nb5 a6 += 13. Qa4 Bc5??**



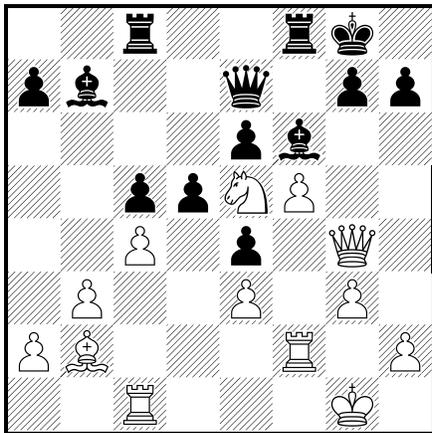
Throwing away the advantage. (Fritz) But Fritz, you gave white the advantage after my last move! (JM) (13... axb5 had to be tried to avoid defeat 14. Qxb5 Ne8 15. Ra8+ Kc7 16. Rxd8 Kxd8 =) I was afraid of the move 14.cxb5, but Fritz did not mention it. I had it analyze this move, and it found 14...Nd4, hitting the loose bishop on e2 (JM) **14. d4!** (JM) +- **axb5??** The final mistake, not that it matters anymore. 14... Be7 15. Bf4 Nh5 +- **15.cxb5 Bd6** (15... Nb8 praying for a miracle 16. dxc5 Nd5 +-) **16. bxc6 Qxc6 17.Bb5 Qc7** (17... Qc3 is no salvation 18. Bd2 Bb3 19. Qa7 +-) **18. Bd2 Qb8** (18... Nd5 19. Rfc1 Qxc1+ 20. Rxc1+ Kb8 +-) **19.**

Rfc1+ Bc7 20. Rxc7+! Annihilates a defender (Fritz). I missed this move when I played 14...axb5. **20...Qxc7** (20... Kxc7 21. Qc2+ and black's king will take a journey into mate) (JM) **21. Qa8+** A beautiful mate combination (Fritz). I'll second that (JM) **1-0** 21. Qa8+ Qb8 22. Rc1+ Bc4 23. Rxc4#

Arut Baluyan - Joe Mucerino

Lancaster County Championship, R4

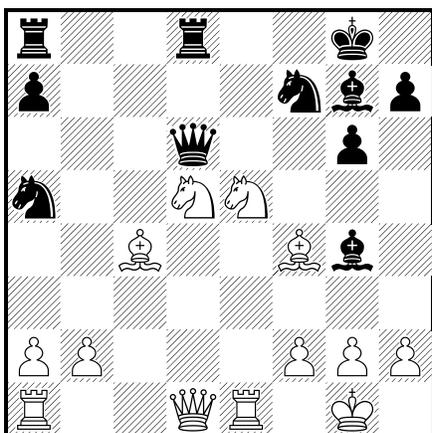
1. Nf3 d5 2. c4 e6 3. b3 Nf6 4. Bb2 c5 5. e3 Be7 6. Be2 O-O 7. O-O b6 8. Ne5 Bb7 9. d4 Nc6 10. f4 Ne4 11.Nd2 f5 12. Ndf3 Nxe5 13. Nxe5 Bh4 14. Bf3 Rc8 15. Rc1 Ba6 16. g3 Bf6 17. dxc5 bxc5 18.Bxe4 fxe4 19. Rf2 Bb7 20. Qg4 Qe7 21. f5??



White spent more than 20 minutes on this blunder. **21... Bxe5 22.Bxe5 exf5 23. Qf4 g5!** I believe Baluyan missed this when he played his 21st move. **24. Bd6 gxf4 25. Bxe7 fxe3 26. Re2 Rf7 27. Bd6 d4 28. Bf4 Bc6 29. Kf1** White was now in time pressure. **29... Be8 30. Ke1 Rd7 31. Rb2 a5 32. Ke2 Bh5+ 33. Ke1 Re8 34. h4 e2 35. a3 e3 36. Bg5 d3** White lost on time. 0-1

NM Don Conner recently spent some time in Colorado. He writes, "I've been to the Denver CC three times so far. On two occasions I played in Blitz tournaments of which I won both. I don't know the names of the people or ratings yet, but one player was pointed out to me as being 2250. Their club web site lists 6 players 2200 or above and 21 experts. The highest is about 2250. No international titles."

"One game from the first tournament I'm very proud of and I have attached a position from it - against the 2250 player. (Don Conner - Unknown, Blitz game, Denver, 2005)



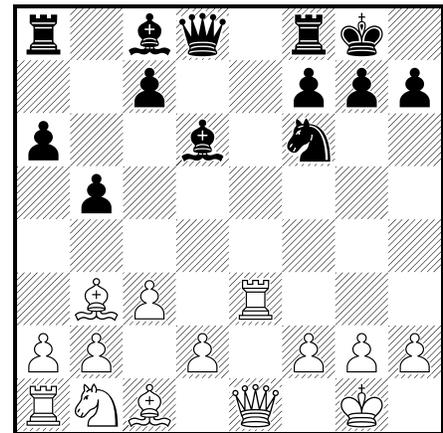
White played **Ne5** and black responded **Bd1**. White did not take the bishop and won. A post mortem analysis seemed to show the sacrifice was sound though it may be otherwise. There were some very nice mates in the analysis though I ended up 2 pawns and the exchange ahead in the actual game."

Bill Gates, the real one, not to be confused with the evil man who created the software that drives the *PWP* editor crazy, played an interesting game in the latest US Amateur East Tournament. Joe Mucerino and his new little German friend provide the notes:

Ilya Krasnovsky - Bill Gates

63rd U.S. Amateur Championship East, Round 3

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O b5 6. Bb3 Be7 7. Re1 O-O 8. c3 d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 Nf6 12. Qe1 Bd6 13. Re3?



White wants to transfer his rook to the kingside and attack the black king, which makes sense, but in this position, the rook is too exposed and gets attacked itself. (JM) **13... Ng4** (-/+ Fritz) **14. Rh3 Re8 15. Qf1 Be6** Fritz felt that 15...Bf5 was a bit better. **16. Bxe6 Rxe6 17. g3??** (Fritz and JM) Restricting the rook's movement will not help white's cause. 17.d4 is much better. (JM) **17...Qe7** Fritz suggested 17...Qe8, and I agree. The idea is to place the queen on c6 to get on the long diagonal, and then to double rooks on the e file. **18. Qd3 g6 19. Rh4 Ne5** 19...Re1+ first, then either 20...Ne5 or 20...Rxc1 21.Rxg4 Qe1 22.Kh3 -+ (Fritz) **20. Qe4 Re8 21. d4??** (Fritz) **Nc4 22.Qc2 Qf6** Fritz liked 22...Re1+ first, but any reasonable move wins for black. (JM) **23. Nd2 Re2** Again, Fritz suggested 23...Re1+, and I agree. If 24.Nf1, 24...Qf3 threatening 25...Rxf1+ 26.Kxf1 Qh1 mate. A move such as 25.Be3 loses to 25...Nxe3 26.fxe3 and Qxf1 mate. Or, if 23...Re1+ 24.Kg2, 24...R8e2, threatening the f2 pawn and 25...Ne3+, forking the king and queen, wins. (JM) **24. f4 Re1+ 25. Nf1 R8e2 26. Qd3 Qe7** The computer found the brilliant and beautiful move 26... Ne5!! If 27.fxe5 Qxf1 mate, or if 27.dxe5 Bc5+ 28.Be3 (28.Kh1 Rxf1 mate) Bxe3+ 29.Qxe3 Rxe3 and black wins. (JM) **27. Rb1?** (Fritz and JM) **Ne3??!** (JM) I do not like this move. This move liquidates many of the attacking pieces, and turns black's big advantage into a small one. A move like 27...Qe8, with the idea of 28...Qc6, would have been better. **28. Bxe3 Rxe3 29. Rxe1 Rxe1 30. f5 Qe2 31.Qxe2 Rxe2 32. fxe6 fxe6** (-/+ Fritz) **33. b4 Rxa2??!** Another inaccuracy. 33...Rc2 first, attacking the important c3 pawn, is better because once that pawn goes, the d pawn becomes isolated. The a pawn is weak and can be won at anytime. Fritz says black's advantage went from -/+ to =/+. (JM) **34. Re4 Rc2 35. Re3** White has achieved equality!

(Fritz and JM) 35...Ra2 36.Rd3 Ra3 37. Kf2?? 37.Ne3, with the idea of 37...Bxb4 38.Nc2, is "the best chance". (Fritz) 37... Bxb4 38. d5 Rxc3 39. Rxc3 Bxc3 40. Ne3 Bd4 41. Ke2 Bxe3 42. Kxe3 Kf7 43. Kd3 Ke7 44. Kd4 Kd6 45. h3 b4 46. Kc4 a5 47. g4 g5 48. Kb3 Kxd5 49. Kb2 c5 50. Kc2 a4 51. Kb2 a3+ 52. Kc2 Kd4 53.Kb3 Ke3 0-1

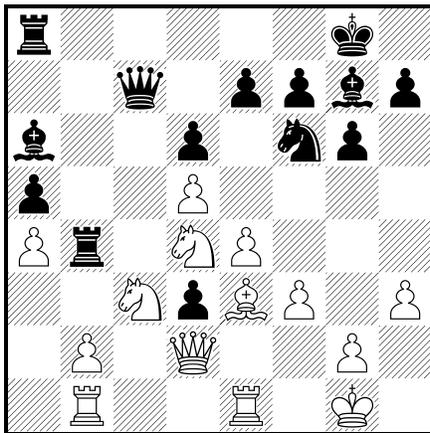
Two more games from the Damiano of Douglassville:

Arnold Shafritz - Joe Mucerino

Main Line Chess Club Swiss May 17 2005

Notes by Joe Mucerino

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. b6 Qxb6 6.Nc3 g6 7. e4 d6 8. Be2 Bg7 9. h3 O-O 10. Nf3 Nbd7 11. O-O a5 12. Qc2 Ba6 13. Re1 Rfb8 14. Rb1 c4 15. Be3 ± Qc7 16. Nd4 Ne5 17. a4 Nd3 += 18. Bxd3 cxd3 19. Qd2 Rb4 (19... Nxe4 20. Nxe4 Rb4=) 20. f3? (JM)



(20. Nc6!?) and White can hope to survive Nxe4 21. Nxe4 Rxe4 22. b3=) Fritz. 20... Nxe4! 21. fxe4 (21. Nxe4 Bxd4) 21... Bxd4 22. Bxd4 Rxd4 23. Rf1 Qb6 24. Kh1 Rb4 25. Rf2 Rb8 26. Qf4 f6 27. h4? Qd4 (27... Rc8 might be the shorter path 28. Rb1 Rxb2 29. Nd1 Rxf2 30. Nxf2 -+) 28. h5 Qe5 29.Qxe5 dxe5 30. hxc6 hxc6 31. Rd2 Rc8 32. Rbd1 Rxc3 Fritz says 32... Bc4!+ "seems even better" but does not elaborate. I prefer my move which weakens white's pawns (JM). 33. bxc3 Rxe4 34. Rb2? (34. Ra1 -+) 34... Rxa4 35. Rb6 Rh4+ 36. Kg1 Bc4 37. d6 exd6 38.Rxd6 Kf7 39. Rb1 g5 40. g3 Rh6 41. Rb7+ Kg6 42. Rc7 Bb3 43. Rxd3 Kf5 44. c4 -/+ a4 45. c5 Ke4 46. Rcd7 -+ Rh8?? There were better ways to keep up the pressure (46... f5 47. R7d6 Re6 48. Kf2 ± 47. R3d6? (47. c6 and White has air to breathe Be6 48. Rd8 =) 47... a3 -+ 48. Ra7 a2 49. c6 (49. Rxf6 Rc8 50. c6 -+) 49... Rc8 and white lost on time 0-1 (49...Rc8 50. Rxf6 Kd5 51. Ra5+ Kd4 -+) (49... f5!?) keeps an even firmer grip 50. c7 Rc8 51. Rc6 -+

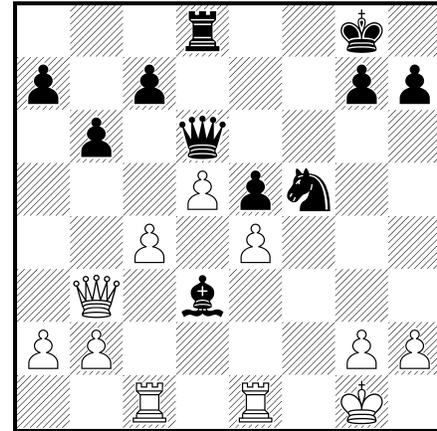
Joe Brightman - Joe Mucerino

North Penn Chess Club Double Quad, June 2005

Notes by Joe Mucerino

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 e6 3. Nd2 d5 4. e4 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Be7 6. Nxf6+ Bxf6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Nf3 O-O 9. Bd3 Nc6 10. c3 I would castle. The pawn is defended tactically with 10...Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Bxh7+, winning the queen. 10... e5 11. d5 Ne7 12. O-O Bg4 += 13. Be4 Rad8 14. Qb3 = Qd6 15. Ng5 I do not like this move because I think it gives black the initiative. (JM) 15... f5 16. Ne6 (16. Bd3 is the best option White has +=) 16... fxe4 -+ 17. Nxd8 The wrong rook, in my opinion. If the rook on f8 is captured,

17...Rxf8 get the rook off the d file (although it is on the nice file), and 17...Kxf8 exposes the king. 17... Rxd8 18. c4 Be2 19. Rfe1 Bd3 20. Rac1 (20. Qxb7 Bxc4 21.Rac1 Bxa2 22. Qxa7 Bxd5 23. Rxc7 Ra8 -+) 20... b6 21. f3 Nf5 (! JM) 22. fxe4 (?? JM) (22. Kh1 what else? Qc5 23. Rxe4 Bxe4 24. fxe4 -+)



Black to play and mate. 22... Qc5+ 23. Kh1 Ng3+ 0-1 In view of 24. hxc3 Rd6 25. Re3 Rh6+ 26. Kg1 Qxe3#

Ad Rates for *The Pennswoodpusher*: Back Cover: \$150; 1 page: \$120; ½ page: \$80; ¼ page: \$50. Ads scheduled for 4 consecutive issues receive a 25% discount on the above prices. Contact Randi Malcuit, PO Box 453, Epping NH 03042-0453, 603-679-8164, statlinechess@yahoo.com

Dowd's Dungeon By Steven B. Dowd



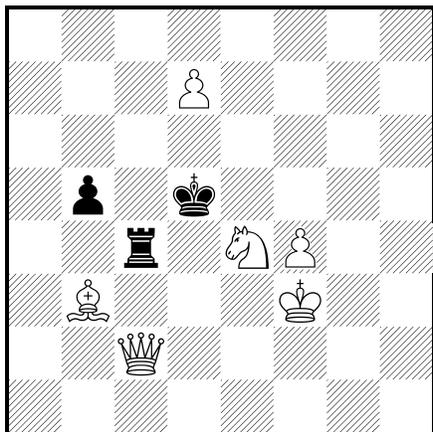
(The photo above shows Dr. Dowd composing –editor)

For our first problem, I will present a simple miniature as a warm-up. Then, a nice, simple, and sort of "OTBish" looking problem by Charles Sheppard (1886-1963), born in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Sheppard was active as a member of the Good Companions Club, the leading group of problemists in its day. Various professions have been given for him, including high school principal, and like many problemists, he seems to have composed the most in his youth and old age.

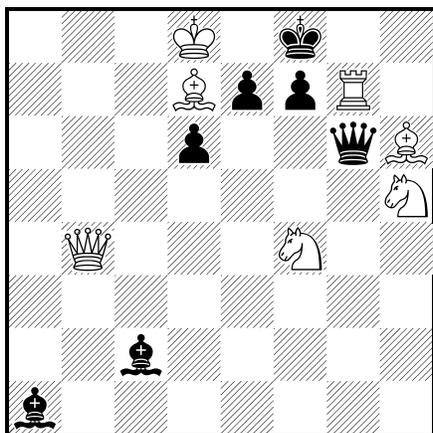
Steven Dowd - Mate in Two

2005, First Publication

This should, as noted before, be an easy warm-up... Take your time....

**Charles Sheppard – Mate in Two**

From the Good Companions Folder, 1919



Solutions – see page 14.

Scholastic Corner

By PSCF SE Scholastic Coordinator Dan Heisman

Scholastic corner is aimed for players K-12, their parents, and scholastic sponsors/coaches. We like to address one column each year 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 available on-line at <http://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 <http://www.chesscafe.com> and elsewhere.

Secondly, I have started a new tax-deductible scholarship fund at the Philadelphia Foundation (<http://www.philafound.org>) for scholastic chess in the Philadelphia area. If you are interesting in making a donation, go to:

<http://www.philafound.org/page22267.cfm>

and specify the "Dan Heisman Chess Scholarship Fund".

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: <http://www.uschess.org>
- PA State Chess Federation: <http://www.pscfchess.org>
- PA Scholastic Chess Coordinator: Steve McLaughlin <http://www.delvalchess.com> - includes the excellent Delaware Valley Scholastic Grand Prix (DVGP) events
- SE PA Scholastic Chess Coordinator: <http://www.danheisman.com> - a clearinghouse site for chess near Philadelphia

Important Dates for PA Scholastic Chess in 2005-2006:

- November 13 - Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Championship – 2004 had over 209 entries
- November 19-20 - PA Junior Championship - Pittsburgh
- March 3-5, 2006 - PA Scholastic Chess Championship - Carlisle, PA - 120+ trophies!
- April 7-9, 2006 - National Junior High (K-9) Championship - Louisville, KY
- April 21-23, 2006 - National High School (K-12) Championship - Milwaukee, WI
- May 12-14, 2006 - National Elementary (K-6) Championship - Denver, CO
- June 2006 – Greater Philadelphia Junior Invitational (\$1500 in prizes in 2005)
- Summer 2006 - PA State Chess Championship (all ages but includes a Scholastic section)

More detail on all of these events is available at the above web sites. A primary site for PA State Championship events is <http://www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/>. Alternately, you can go to the USCF web site and click on "tournaments" – you get to <http://www.uschess.org/tla>, and then click on "Listings by State" and "PA", etc. Or for SE PA events, you can go to <http://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 again at the (formerly) 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 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

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 on events with team trophies: Most individually-paired scholastic chess tournaments (as almost all are) also offer team trophies. In general, the more players you bring to these events from your school, the better chance you have of winning a team trophy. And you do NOT have to be on your school’s official chess team (if there is one) to play on your school team at most scholastic chess events since there is no upper limit on how many of your school can attend. The more the merrier! So everyone come on out and represent your school (or club).

PA State Scholastic Championships
March 3-5, 2006 - Carlisle PA

Dowd’s Dungeon Solutions:

1. Dowd: **1. d8N!** 1... b4 and 1... Kd4 being Black’s only possibilities, not too hard to find, right? After 1... b4 2. Qxc4# and after 1... Kd4 2. Qd2#
2. Sheppard: **1. Qb8!** – idea 2. Kc7#
 1... e6 2. Qxd6# 1... e5 2. Rxc6#
 1... f6 2. Ne6# 1... f5 2. Nxc6#

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

September 10 & 11. 2005 Pennsylvania State Senior Championship. 4-SS. G/120. Main Line Speech, 626 Haverford Rd., Haverford PA 19041. Additional parking available at Rt. 100 Train Station, 50 yards south. **Open to ages 50 & Up.** \$\$ (750 b/30): 250-150-100, U1800 \$50, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/Unrated \$50 Ages 65 & Up \$50. **EF:** \$25 postmarked by 9/1, \$35 after, PSCF required \$5 OSA. Reg 9:15 - 10am. Rds 10:30am - 3:30pm, 10am - 2:45pm. **HR:** Hotel Radner 610-688-5800. **Info:** 610-649-0750, danheisman@comcast.net, http://mywebpages.comcast.net/danheisman/Events_Books/PA_Senior_Champ05.htm **Ent:** Dan Heisman, 1359 Garden Rd., Wynnewood PA 19096-3626.

October 23 GPP:6 Pennsylvania 2005 PA State Action Chess Championship. 5-SS. G/30. Assembly 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 10/15, \$35 after. \$\$ (690G): 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 10/15, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** PSCF \$5 OSA. Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from both sections. Reg ends 10:30am. Rds 11am - 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. *W. Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

November 13. 2005 Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Middle School & High School Open Championships. 40 Trophies!! (30 Individual and 10 Team Trophies). All K-12 regardless of location may enter. All entrants may represent their school or club! Cafeteria, Lower Merion High School, 245 E. Montgomery Ave., Ardmore PA 19003. Parking in rear. 3 Sections: **High School Championship:** Open to grades K to 12. 4-SS. G/60. Rds 10am - 12:30pm - 2:30pm - 4:30pm. Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U1600, Top U1400, Top U1200, Top Unr, 1st-3rd School, Top Club. Winner seeded into 2006 Philadelphia Junior Invitational. **High School U1100:** Open to grades K to 12 rated under 1100 or unrated. 4-SS. G/60. Rds 10am - 12:30pm - 2:30pm - 4:30pm. Trophies to 1st-3rd, Top U1000, Top U800, 1st-2nd Unr, 1st-2nd School. **Middle School Championship:** Open to grades K to 8. 5-SS. G/40. Rds 10am - Noon - 1:30pm - 3pm - 4:30pm. Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U1200, Top U1000, Top U800, Top U600, 1st-2nd Unr, Top Grade 8, Top Grade 7, Top Grade 6, 1st-3rd School, Top Club. **All:** EF: \$12 postmarked by 11/3 along with all necessary info, \$25 after or if info incorrect/missing (NO exceptions), PSCF required \$5 OSA. Reg 9 - 9:30am at door

receive rd 1 ½-by. Rounds after lunch may begin earlier. **Info:** 610-649-0750, danheisman@comcast.net, http://mywebpages.comcast.net/danheisman/Events_Books/Phila_Schol_Champ_05.htm **Ent:** Send checks including all necessary info (Name as it appears on USCF card, USCF ID #, USCF Expiration Date, Section, Phone #, Email Address, Grade, School/Club) to Dan Heisman, 1359 Garden Rd., Wynnewood PA 19096-3626. Please make out separate checks for Entry Fee (to Dan Heisman), USCF memberships (to Dan Heisman) and PSCF memberships (to PSCF). W.

November 13. 2005 Greater Philadelphia Elementary Open Championship. 49 Trophies!! (43 Individual and 6 Team Trophies). All K-5 regardless of location may enter. All entrants may represent their school or club! Cafeteria, Lower Merion High School, 245 E. Montgomery Ave., Ardmore PA 19003. Parking in rear. 3 Sections: **Elementary Championship:** Open to grades K to 5. 5-SS. G/30. Rds 10am - 11am - 12:30pm - 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U1100, Top U900, Top U700, 1st-2nd Unr, 1st-3rd Grade 5, 1st-3rd Grade 4, 1st-3rd Grade 3, 1st-3rd Grade 2, 1st-3rd Grade 1 & Under, 1st-2nd School, Top Club. **Elementary U700:** Open to grades K to 5 rated under 700 or unrated. 4-SS. G/30. Rds 10am - 11am - 12:30pm - 1:30pm. Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U500, 1st-3rd Unr, Top School, Top Club. **Primary Championship:** Open to grades K to 3. 4-SS. G/30. Rds 10am - 11am - 12:30pm - 1:30pm. Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U400, 1st-3rd Unr, Top School. **All:** EF: \$12 postmarked by 11/3 along with all necessary info, \$25 after or if info incorrect/missing (NO exceptions), PSCF required \$5 OSA. Reg 9 - 9:30am at door receive rd 1 ½-by. Rounds after lunch may begin earlier. Ribbons to all players not winning a trophy. **Info:** zugzwang1@erols.com, <http://www.delvalchess.com> **Ent:** Send checks including all necessary info (Name as it appears on USCF card, USCF ID #, USCF Expiration Date, Section, Phone #, Email Address, Grade, School/Club) to Steve McLaughlin, 2745 Pershing Avenue, Roslyn PA 19001-2202. Checks payable to Steve McLaughlin. W.

November 19 & 20. 2005 Pennsylvania State Junior Championships. 5-SS. 55 Trophies! (49 Individual, 6 Team) Ballroom, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 7 sections: **2-day (Sat & Sun):** Ages 16 to 20 Open, Ages 12 to 15 Open, Ages 9 to 11 Open. **EF:** \$18 postmarked by 11/11, \$28 later. Time Control: Game/90. Reg ends 9:30am. Rds: 10am-2pm-5:30pm, 10am-2pm. **1-day (Sun only):** Ages 8 & Under Open, Ages 9 to 20 Rated U900, Ages 9 to 20 Rated U600 or Unrated, 8 & Under Rated U600 or Unrated. **EF:** \$15 postmarked by 11/11, \$25 later. Time Control: Game/40. Reg ends 9:30am. Rds: 10am-11:30am-1pm-2:30pm-4pm. **All:** Trophies to top 7 in each section, additional medallions. State Champion Title for each age in an Open Section. Teams of 4 to 7 players combined from all sections, Trophies to top 2 schools, top 2 scholastic organizations & top 2 clubs. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** 412-908-0286, martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, <http://www.pscfchess.org/pajuniorchamp/>. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W. *Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation, University of Pittsburgh Chess Club, Monroeville Chess Club & North Pittsburgh Homeschool Chess Club.*

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

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

PSCF GOVERNANCE

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

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Western PA Scholastic: Robert C. Ferguson, Jr.; 140 School Street, Bradford PA 16701; 814-368-4974; amchess@amchess.org
SouthEastern PA Scholastic: Daniel E. Heisman; 1359 Garden Road, Wynnewood 19096; 610-649-0750; danheisman@comcast.net
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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:

Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm

ALTOONA:

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-2310

BLOOMSBURG:

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

BRADFORD:

(1) Univ of Pitt-Bradford Commons Building; Tues 8-11 pm

(2) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm

BRIDGEWATER:

The Copper Dog, 234 Bridge St; Tues 7-9 pm, Jim Scibilia 724-728-8044

CHAMBERSBURG:

Chessman; 600 Miller St; Thurs 7-10 pm, 717-261-9132, 717-263-2836

CHESTER:

J Lewis Crozer Library, 620 Engle Street; Tues 5:30-7:30 pm, 610-364-1212

CLEARFIELD:

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

COATESVILLE:

Cultural Soc, 258 E Lincoln Hwy; Thurs 5-10 pm, Bob Jones 610-384-1790

COUDERSPORT:

High School, 698 Dwight St; Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

ERIE:

Erie CC; Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafras, Room 341; Fri 6:30-10 pm, James Walczak 814-870-7763

EXETER:

Dunn Recreation Center, 4565 Prestwick Dr; Thurs 7:30-10 pm, 610-374-5882

GLADWYNE:

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

GREENSBURG:

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

HARRISBURG:

Calvary United Methodist Church, 700 Market St (Rear), Lemoyne; Mon 7-10 pm, Gerald Dubs 717-975-5589

HATBORO:

Chaturanga CC; Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, County Line Rd W of Blair Mill Rd; Thurs 8 pm, 215-794-8368

HAVERFORD

Main Line Speech, 626 Haverford Rd; Some Sundays Noon-3pm, 610-649-0750

HAZLETON:

Greater Hazleton CC; Zola's Lamp Post, Rt 940; Thurs 8-11 pm, Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122; Also Checkers Pizza, Rt 309 & 28th St; Tues 8-11 pm

HUNTINGDON VALLEY:

Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Rd; Tues 7:30-8:30 pm

JOHNSTOWN:

7th Ward Civic Assoc, Cedar St; Irregular Sun 7 pm, 814-266-2272

LANCASTER:

Rodney Park, Crystal & Rodney St; Wed 6:30-9 pm, 717-892-6612

LANSDALE:

(1) North Penn CC; St John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts; Thurs and Fri 7 pm - 1 am, 215-699-8418

(2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10am

LOWER BURRELL:

Vol Fire Co 3, 3255 Leechburg Rd; 2nd Sat 11 am - 1 pm, 724-448-7521

MANSFIELD:

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

MONROEVILLE:

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

MURRYSVILLE:

1st Presbyterian Ch, 3202 N Hills Rd; Wed 7-11 pm, Jay Griffin 724-325-2484

NEW CASTLE:

Lawrence County CC; Trinity Episcopal Ch, N Mill & Falls; Thurs 6:30-9 pm

PHILADELPHIA:

(1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Thurs Noon-9 pm, Fri & Sat Noon-Midnight, 215-496-0811

(2) Univ of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust; Wed 8 pm

(3) Masterminds CC; Fountains @ Logan Square East, 2 Franklin Town Blvd; Wed & Fri 7-10 pm, Steve Slocum 215-455-6285

(4) Jardel Recreation Center, 1400 Cottman Ave, Thurs 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat Noon-4 pm.

(5) Inglis House, 2600 Belmont Ave, Mon 6 pm

PITTSBURGH:

(1) Univ of Pitt CC; William Pitt Union; Tues & Thurs 7-11 pm, 412-908-0286

(2) Pittsburgh CC; Wightman School Community Center, 5604 Solway St; Wed 1-9 pm, Sat Noon-10 pm, 412-421-1881

(3) Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford; Sat 9 - Noon, 412-922-4234

(4) Hill Lib, 419 Dinwiddie; Mon & Thurs 3-7 pm, Sat 1-5 pm, 412-361-6170

(5) CMU CC; University Center Commons; Thurs 6-8 pm

(6) Mt Lebanon Lib, 16 Castle Shannon; Scholastics:1st/3rd Mon Sept-May, Adults/Older Scholastics: Thurs 7-8:30 pm; 412-531-1912

PETERS TOWNSHIP:

CRC, Peterswood Park, 700 Meredith Dr; Wed 6-7 pm, Eric 412-221-2394

POTTSTOWN:

YMCA, 724 N Adams St; Fri 6:30-8:30 pm, Michael Mullin 610-323-7300

READING:

Million Youth Chess Club; Olivets Boys & Girls Clubs; 677 Clinton, Mon 5-7; 1161 Pershing, Fri 6:30-8:30; Mike 610-373-3061

RIDLEY PARK:

Tri-State Chess Club; Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 East Dupont Street; Mon 6:15 - 11 pm, 610-586-8205

SCRANTON:

Redman's, Main & Elm; Sun 2 pm, Patrick Walker 570-347-5200

SHAMOKIN:

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

SHIPPENSBURG:

Health Care Ctr, 121 Walnut Bottom Rd; Wed 6-9:30 pm, 717-477-0645

STATE COLLEGE:

PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 6:30 pm

STROUDSBURG:

YMCA, Main St; Thurs 7-11 pm, Eric 570-420-4353 or Jim 717-992-5475; & Loder Senior Center, 62 Analomink St, East Stroudsburg; Tues 7-11 pm

WARMINSTER:

WREN, 1101 Little Ln, Tues 6:30-8, 215-443-5428

WARREN:

Warren Library, 205 Market St; 1st & 3rd Sat 9am - 1pm

WEST CHESTER:

(1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Ch, High & Barnard Sts; Thurs 7 pm

(2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Room 112; Thurs 11 am - 2 pm

WILKES-BARRE:

199 S Main St; Fri, 8:30-Midnight, George Trent 570-740-7662

WYNCOTE:

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

YORK:

(1) Trinity Un Methodist Ch, 241 E King St Rear; Wed 6-9 pm, 717-845-9368

(2) Youth CC; Grace Brethren Ch, Newberry & Parkway; Wed, 2-5:30 pm; & Light of Life Arts, 41 Cherry, Seven Valleys; Fri 6-9:30 pm, 717-852-8434