



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske March 2019 Vol. 38 Number 3

The **Port Huron Chess Club** meets Thursdays, except holidays, from 6:30-10:00 PM, at Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour Street, (NE corner of Garfield Street and Gratiot Ave...1 mile North of the Blue Water Bridge) Port Huron, Michigan. Everyone is welcome. All equipment provided. Email: PtHuronChessClub@aol.com or Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.volasite.com>

Temporary PHCC Entrance Protocol – March 28 thru May 2, 2019

Natacha Hayden, acting Palmer Park Director has indicated that due to School State Testing, that our meeting room will be unavailable from Thursday, March 28th, through Thursday, May 2, 2019 to maintain security of the testing site at Palmer Park. As a result, club members will be asked to enter at the southern basement door, closest to the secondary parking area to the southeast. As a result, our meeting site will be in this downstairs general meeting area (basement) during this time. Natacha assured me that we will have a secure storage area on this floor available during the duration of the testing. As a result, all entries and exits must occur at the door on the basement level, as the lobby will be closed. We will return to our regular meeting room as of Thursday, May 9, 2019.

Gregg edges Rutkofske for First Place in February's PHCC G/10 Event

Alan Gregg managed to claw his way past **Lon Rutkofske** after falling behind early at the hands of **Noel Bedy**, who managed to secure a draw from a won position in their round 3 contests. Gregg took top honors by winning the second game in his head to head match versus Lon, as it appears Black seemed to be the color of victory in many of the matches.

An examination of the crosstable illustrates the power of ratings in predicting outcomes, as results mimicked the order of pre-tournament pairings in every case.

Competition was fierce with no one being shut out as the final standing can attest.

The only really unfortunate thing about these rapid events is the absence of game scores which tend to be rife with drama and a bit of tension due to the short time controls.

Perhaps one of the best things to emerge from this year's inaugural quick tournaments was the participation of newly minted members, **Brandon Byrne** and **Robin Diachinsky** who both drew some blood from their higher rated foes!

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Alan Gregg	1918	WW3	WW5	WD4	WW6	WD2	9.0
2	Lonnie Rutkofske	1911	WW4	WW3	WW6	WW5	DL1	8.5
3	Joshua Muir	1671	LL1	LL2	WD5	WW4	WW6	5.5
4	Noel Bedy	1643	LL2	WD6	DL1	LL3	WL5	3.0
5	Brandon Byrne	1300	WL6	LL1	DL3	LL2	WL4	2.5
6	Robin Diachinsky	1300	WL5	DL4	LL2	LL1	LL3	1.5

PHCC once again lends its support to the PHASD in the 2019 version of the Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tnmt

For the 23 consecutive year the PHCC was on hand to help support the Port Huron Area School District, Tournament Director Jeff Willard and a host of volunteers to help ensure the success of the tournament named after one of its fellow members and premier chess enthusiasts, the late **Phil Willard**. **Bill Wingrove**, **Alan Gregg**, **Stew Wilkinson**, **Avery Jones** and **Lon Rutkofske** acted as referees and arbiters patrolling the aisles of the throng of 71 youngsters participating in this year's event putting yet another successful campaign in the PW Memorial Tournament record book! Many thanks to **Jeff Willard**, **Evone Rodrigues**, **Mark Hanton**, **Debra Barr**, **Mark Maher**, **Angie Twitchell** and **Rayna Palmer** for assisting in making this event a success each year.



L-R: Arbiters: Bill Wingrove, Stu Wilkinson, Avery Jones and Lon Rutkofske



Alan Gregg playing a simul.

2019 CHESS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Port Huron Schools Phil Willard Memorial Chess Tournament was held on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Port Huron High School. Seventy-one (71) students participated in the tournament. Each student will receive a certificate of participation.

The 1st place winners are as follows:

Kindergarten: no students participated from this grade level

1st grade: Alexander Markovic - Indian Woods

2nd grade: Josiah Haufschild - Indian Woods

3rd grade: Jamison Tallmadge - Michigamme

4th grade: Ben Hartman – Thomas Edison

5th grade: **Tie:** Quenton Pasia - Thomas Edison &
Jonathan Haufschild - Indian Woods

6th grade: Nate DePuey – Fort Gratiot

7th grade: Luke Maher - Fort Gratiot

8th grade: Nathaniel Oriel - Central

9th grade: no students participated from this grade level

10th grade: Zachary Allen - Port Huron High School

11th grade: Jack Hollingsworth – Port Huron Northern High School

12th grade: no students participated from this grade level

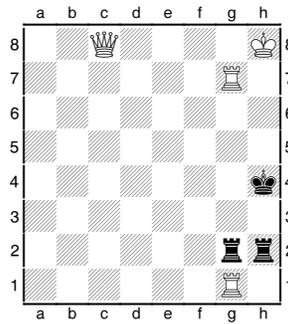
Congratulations to all of the students that participated!

A huge thank you to parents, chess club coordinators, Port Huron Chess Club members, and other volunteers that made the event very successful.

A special thank you to Mr. Jeff Willard for coordinating the tournament.

Submitted by: Evone Rodrigues on 3/11/19

Problem from the 2019 Phil Willard Tournament



White to play and mate in 2 moves

Eric M. Hassberg

New York Post

April 21, 1945

The American Two-Move Chess Problem

Kenneth S. Howard

No. 179

Solution on page 7

Members' Games



Please send me what you consider your best games, annotated or not, so that I might be able to showcase them. The following games represent contests that have been available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally, if you wish. Majority of analyses is done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated. [This a reminder of the change in policy in the PHCC Challenge rules: # 14 - Games can be rated by the USCF, provided both players are members in good standing with the USCF and agree to have it rated by paying in advance to the TD (Lon Rutkofske, or other club official with a valid TD certification card.) of \$1.50@ to cover rating costs.] Updated Challenge rules will follow below:

Format and rules for PHCC Challenge System

- I. Purpose: to provide club members the opportunity to challenge higher rated players on a regular basis to improve and test their skills in over the board non-tournament competition.
- II. Regulations: (Effective 11-8-2018)
 - a. Challenges may be made by any club member on the PHCC rating list under the following circumstances:
 1. Can only be made only by a lower rated player.
 2. Can only be made during club hours and cannot be made after 8:00PM.
 3. Must be played on the same day as the challenge was made, so there can be no advanced challenges.
 4. Both players must be present.
 5. Only one challenge may be made per meeting.
 6. Challenger can only challenge a player that is rated less than 400 points above him on the rating list.
 7. All challenges must be accepted.
 8. No challenge may be made while a participant is involved in a tournament or challenge game.

9. A clock must be used with the time control of G/60 with 5 second delay; must be recorded by both players and submitted to the rating director upon completion of the game. (*See Sample Score Sheet on page 2*)
10. All challenge games must comply with current tournament rules of chess as established by the US Chess Federation.
11. No challenge game may be adjourned, but if an unusual circumstance arises, the club rating director may adjudicate.
12. No member may be challenged more than one consecutive time by the same challenger. This means that the lower rated player cannot challenge the same player two times in a row. He/she must play another match before this can take place, but this also means that the higher rated player may be challenged by the same rated player consecutively if he has not participated in a match in between challenges within a six week period. Abuse (ie: Constant challenges and re-challenges or other annoying or inconsiderate behavior) must be reported to the Director and he has the option of suspending the violator indefinitely from participation in the Challenge system. Disputes will be adjudicated by the ratings director, with the advice of other players as he so wishes.
13. Challenges can take place on the first Thursday of each month, or at any time there is no other tournament or event scheduled.
14. **Games can be rated by the USCF**, provided both players are members in good standing with the USCF and agree to have it rated by paying in advance to the TD (*Lon Rutkofske, or other club official with a valid TD certification card.*) of \$1.50@ to cover rating costs.
15. Results will be rated by the PHCC (*Using the USCF rating system.*) using current PHCC ratings posted at the club and will be adjusted as necessary by the club rating director. Changes will also be posted on the club website.

Byrne,Brandon (1300) - Diachinsky,Robin (1300) [C40] Latvian Gambit

2019 PHCC Rated Feb G/10 Tournament Port Huron, 21.02.2019 [B.Byrne]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6? [2. ...d6, 2. ...Nc6 and 2. ...Nf6 are the best ways to counter the attack of the e5 pawn. The text move exposes the black king to many tactical threats such as 3. Nxe5! fxe5 4. Qh5+ g6? If Ke7, Qxe5+ Kf7] **3.Bc4 d5 4.Bxd5** [Qxe5+ Qe7 Qxh8 Qxe4+ Kd1! Not allowing black to steal the g2 pawn with Be2?! Qxg2 White went on to win; Robin would then win our second game.] **1-0**

Byrne,Brandon (1340) - Gregg,Alan (1936) [C36] King's Gambit Accepted

Skittles g/15 PHCC, 07.03.2019 [B. Byrne]

1.f4 e5 2.e4 exf4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.d4 Bd6 8.c4 Qe4+ 9.Qe2 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 Qxe2+ 12.Bxe2 Nc6 13.Nf3 Bg4 14.0-0-0 0-0-0 [The game was later drawn.] ½-½

Gregg,Alan (1936) - Byrne,Brandon (1340) [C42] Petroff's Defense

Skittles g/15 PHCC, 07.03.2019 [B. Byrne]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 Be7 5. Nc3 O-O 6. O-O Be6 (In this game I was pleased to exchange my inferior bishops for my opponent's superior ones. 7. Bxe6 fxe6 would have left me with a mass central pawns.) **7. Bb3 Bxb3 8. axb3 Nc6 9. Be3 d5 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxd5 Qxd5 12. c3 Bc5 13. Bxc5 Qxc5 14. Qe2 Qd5 15. b4 a6** (A draw was agreed, resulting in my first favorable outing against Alan.) 1/2-1/2

Calendar of Events:

First Thursday of Each Month - Chess Clinics- 6:30 to 7:00 PM - \$7.50 per person. From 7:00 until 10:00. Players wishing to play Challenge matches with longer time controls of G/60 with 5 sec delay can choose to play match games if they so desire. Participants will be required to follow the rules and regulations for **Challenge Play** (As outlined in Chess Chatter, our website under "Club Member Ratings Lists", or posted at the club.) and colors will be selected by lot. PHCC club ratings will be used. Players should turn their game scores into Lon, so he can adjust ratings appropriately and showcase the games

in *Chess Chatter*. **Monthly Tournaments** will be held, usually on the third Thursday of the month, See the events schedule below for specifics!

2019 Events Schedule:

March 21st - PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

April, 18th; May, 16th; June, 20th - USCF/PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/25 with 3 sec. delay (*Each tournament during these three months is separate.*) EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

July 18th - USCF/PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/25 with 3 sec. delay EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

August 8, 15, 22 – USCF/PHCC Rated Mini-Swiss (or Quads based on entries) 3 Round- USCF Rated Mini-Swiss. Game/90 minutes with/5 sec. delay. USCF and PHCC membership required. One game per night (August 8, 15 & 22)! Play will begin at 7:00PM. EF: \$5.00 Play will begin at 7:00PM. A minimum of 4 participants are required. Prizes: based on entries. Please register in advance by contacting Lon Rutkofske by August 7th so he can determine if there are enough entries to hold the event.

September 19th – PHCC rated Thematic tournament: G/25 with 3 sec. delay EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.) Players with the white pieces will be playing a game with a predetermined opening sequence such as the Ruy Lopez, or KI Attack based on one of the openings drawn at random by the TD. The game will begin from that opening position.

October 17th PHCC Speed Championships - The Port Huron Chess Club's 38th Annual Speed Championship Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 17th beginning at 7:00 PM. Registrations will determine the number of rounds and prizes. PHCC membership required. Entry fee will be \$5.00. Please contact Lon if you plan to play. There will be no registrations on-site. If you intend to play, contact Lon before October 17th. (*Will be USCF rated if all entrants are USCF members.*)

November 21st – Duncan's 18th Turkey Gobbler Tournament "fun tournament": 6 rounds – featuring handicap speed, fixed positions, pre-selected openings, problem solving, G/15 events. EF\$ 5.00, prizes based on entries; Plaque for over-all champion: class prizes for each section (A fun event created by Bob Duncan in 1980.) ! A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Play begins at 7:00 PM.

December – NO TOURNAMENT

Dues News:

While dues are not required for anyone interested in playing at the club, they are required for those competing in tournament play. Annual Dues are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for those under 19. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department. United States Chess Federation memberships are available through the club.

PHCC Rating Lists

The following list represents only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, in order to establish the initial club rating list. The USCF rating format is used as the basis for calculating our club rating list. Members that had no USCF ratings are given a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members who had USCF ratings. Club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

PHCC Ratings as of 3/11/19

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andy	2118
Gregg, Alan	1990
Rutkofske, Lon	1910
Morabito, Matt	1849
Wilkinson, Stu	1852
Jones, G. Avery	1743
Broyles, Tom	1692
Wingrove, Bill	1633
Muir, Josh	1633
Boucher, Dave	1565
Bedy, Noel	1580
Scholfield, Chris	1503
Claunch, Jackson	1325
Diachinsky, Robin	1300
Byrne, Brandon	1294
Carey, Jay	1000
Kovatch, Eric	1000
Kovatch, Daniela	1000
Pirouz, Niko	997
DeFoy, Jay	750

PHCC Blitz Ratings as of 3/11/19

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andy	2249
Gregg, Alan	1936
Wilkinson, Stu	1929
Rutkofske, Lon	1919
Morabito, Matt	1755
Broyles, Tom	1708
Muir, Josh	1672
Bedy, Noel	1585
Scholfield, Chris	1552
Wingrove, Bill	1531
Jones, G. Avery	1408
Claunch, Jackson	1312
Byrne, Brandon	1340
Diachinsky, Robin	1298
Carey, Jay	1000
Pirouz, Niko	827
DeFoy, Jay	750
Kovatch, Eric	700
Kovatch, Daniela	500

USCF Ratings as of 3/11/19

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andy	2121
Gregg, Alan	1969
Rutkofske, Lon	1834
Wilkinson, Stu	1830
Morabito, Matt	1780
Broyles, Tom	1699
Jones, G. Avery	1608
Wingrove, Bill	1613
Muir, Joshua	1577
Bedy, Noel	1511
Claunch, Jackson	1430
Boucher, Dave	1406
Byrne, Brandon	1283P4
DeFoy, Jay	1111P3
Pirouz, Niko	974
Kovatch, Eric	Unr
Kovatch, Daniela	Unr

USCF Quick/Action Ratings as of 3/11/19

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Morabito, Matt	1898/P14
Gregg, Alan	1886
Broyles, Tom	1801/23
Rutkofske, Lon	1797/P24
Wilkinson, Stu	1782/P16
Muir, Josh	1655/P22
Bedy, Noel	1511/P19
Jones, Avery	1522
Wingrove, Bill	1475/P22
Claunch, Jackson	1403
Byrne, Brandon	1245P4
Pirouz, Niko	806
Kovatch, Eric	508/P8
Kovatch, Daniela	Unr

USCF Blitz Ratings as of 3/11/19

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1935
Rutkofske, Lon	1932
Morabito, Matt	1727
Muir, Josh	1617
Bedy, Noel	1606
Jones, G. Avery	1200
Pirouz, Niko	827

Problem Solution: 1. Qc2