



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

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November 2009

PHCC is certified and qualified

Effective October 1, 2009, the PHCC was granted affiliate status with the USCF and Michigan Chess Association, thanks to the wonderful support of **Betty Dunn**, City Recreation Director. This means that the club can now host rated tournaments. Beginning in January, we will be setting up our club championship calendar. These tournaments will feature 5 round tournaments with a 40 in 90 minute time control. One game will be played each evening over a 6 week period. If enough players want to participate, we can have these events USCF rated as well. No matter what the decision, we will offer a few local USCF rated events, even if they are one day affairs. We hope to have a variety of tournament directors as well. **Bill Wingrove** has volunteered to TD the November Mini Swiss, and we are hoping that perhaps **Tom Broyles** or **Jaime Chan** from the St. Clair club may step in for a guest TD appearance.

How can I improve my chess?

This has to be the most familiar query of those seeking guidance for improving their game. There are a myriad of philosophies out there on where best to put one's energies. Some say master the openings; others champion diligent study of tactics. "It's all about the positional game!" tout another host of mentors. Those driven to improve their play possess a wealth of learning options seldom enjoyed by enthusiasts of bygone eras. In fact, with the advent of the Internet, the issue seems to be one of "information overload" (TMI – too much information). Computers provide authors with the means of producing quality books on every aspect of play. Sophisticated chess programs and massive data bases offer players of all strengths powerful tools for analysis. Online gaming has enabled unparalleled access to real time experiences and interaction with a plethora of strong players. And yet, the ever-familiar question is still as common as it ever was: "What is the best way for me to improve my chess?"

As a player and teacher for over 50 years, I suspect that there is no one single response, no silver bullet. Stephen Covey suggests in his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, that one must "Begin with the end in mind!" In my view, this is the only way to begin one's journey to self-improvement. If the desired outcome is to improve rapidly, then the best bet is to study tactics. The drawback in this approach is that tactical expertise is only a piece of the complex puzzle that is chess, and can take one only so far. Positional chess, without an adequate understanding of tactics and strategy, is pointless, as is devoting one's time exclusively to a single phase of the

game (opening, middle and endgame). I suggest to my students, that lasting improvement in chess is a matter of balance. “Nothing to Excess” was the advice the Greeks gave to their youth about how to live a meaningful life, and this philosophy has application in chess as well. Each phase of the game, although very much interrelated, have a set of principles(tactics, strategy, positional considerations, psychological implications) distinctly its own that need to be understood and mastered to permit sustained improvement. The critical element to improving one’s performance lies from within. Take the time to analyze your games. Write them down, and review them, especially with others. Without careful, persistent study of your own play, you will never expose the weaknesses in your game to the only person that can correct them. “Know Thyself”...was the charge of the ancient Greeks. In nearly 3,000 years, this familiar maxim has never been more applicable

October Mini-Swiss

Lon Rutkofske took home first place honors for the second consecutive month in the series of PHCC monthly Mini-Swiss tourneys. **Bill Wingrove, Cody Trombley** and **Dave Boucher** tied for a second place split of the prize money. Cody pulled a stunning upset of Bill Wingrove in round one, but fell to Lon in a trappy queen pawn opening in the concluding round. Bill has agreed to direct the November 12th fete, and we have heard through the grapevine that Cody plans to make application for his TD certification, which could be a boon for Blue Water Area chess enthusiasts.

Port Huron Chess Club October Mini Swiss 10-8-09						
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
		Pre/Post				
1	Lon Rutkofske	1923/1928	W4	W6	W3	3.0
2	Bill Wingrove	1707/1688	L3	W7	W6	2.0
3	Cody Trombley	1366/1417	W2	W5	L1	2.0
4	Dave Boucher	1277/1303	L1	W8	W5	2.0
5	Chris Scholfield	1552/1503	W7	L3	L4	1.0
6	Phil Willard	1525/1514	W8	L1	L2	1.0
7	Nathan Mireau	1048/1047	L5	L2	W8	1.0
8	Aaron Tuttle	500*/498	L6	L4	L7	0.0

*Initial ratings assigned by tournament director, all others are club ratings.
(W= White ;B= Black...W4 means the player had White against player 4.)

PHCC Rating List

The following list represents a realignment and update after the October Mini-Swiss. It identifies only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, to construct the initial list. Members that had no USCF ratings were given a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members who had USCF ratings. From this point forward, club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

New PHCC Rating List as of 10/8/09

Name	Rating
Gregg, Alan	1981
Rutkofske, Lon	1928
Wingrove, Bill	1688
Berthen, Dale	1540
Roome, Eric	1523
Willard, Phil	1514
Scholfield, Chris	1503
Tuttle, Aaron	498

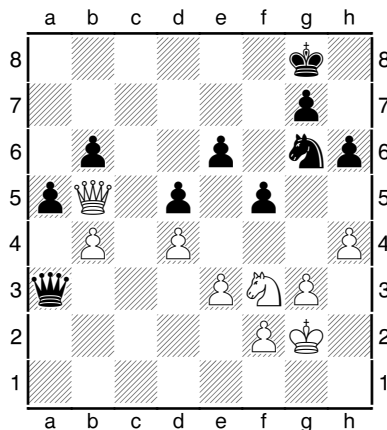
USCF Ratings as of 10/8/09

Name	Rating
Gregg, Alan	1981
Rutkofske, Lon	1912
Morabito, Matt	1725
Wingrove, Bill	1694
Willard, Phil	1551
Roome, Eric	1523
Trombley, Cody	1349
Boucher, Dave	1277
Mireau, Nathan	1050

Nathan's Dilemma – from the September 2009 Newsletter

This is a crucial position that took place in Round 2 of the September Mini Swiss tournament. Nathan had all the winning chances. There are several solutions. White to play and win

Rutkofske, Lon



Mireau, Nathan

White to move and win!

Dave Boucher was the only one that emailed me with the solution to this problem. Here is his analysis in (mostly)his own words: *Lon, I'll give a try at this,*

1.Qb6, ab (if 1..., Qxb4 it just takes one more move to Queen) 2.Qe6+ , Kh7 (Must protect his N) 3.Qf5(Now the knight is pinned solid)3....,b3(What else?) 4. Ne5! (Now if 4...,b2 5.Ng6 What can Black do?) If 4....,Qb4? (He has no time.)5.Ne5, b2 6.Ne7dis check,Kh8 7.Qf8+,Kh7 and mate to follow.(If 5...Qd6 to help in the defense,6.a5 wins.)Wow! White did have the upper hand!

David Boucher

Fritz 11 gives the following analysis: 1.Qb6, Qb4; 2.Qe6+, Kh7; 3. Qf5, Qf8; 4.Qc2,Qe8; 5.Ne5,Kg8; 6. Qg6, Qg6 7.Ng6, a4; 8.Ne7+,Kf8 9.Nd5, a3; 10.Nc3, Kf7; 11.Kf3, g5; 12. h5, Kg7 13. g4, Kf7; 14.Ke4, Ke6; 15. Kd3, Kd7; 16.Kc2, Kc6; 17. Kb3, Kc7; 18.Ka3, 1-0

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.

OOPS!

This first game proved to be an astonishing upset win for Cody Trombly in the first round of the October Mini-Swiss. Even Bill was left scratching his head, after capitalizing on Cody's opening error.

Wingrove,Bill 1707

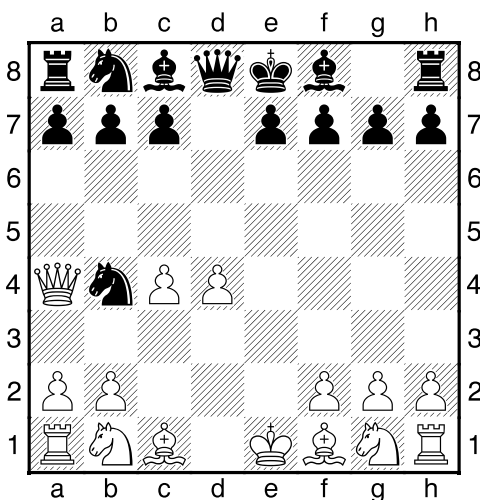
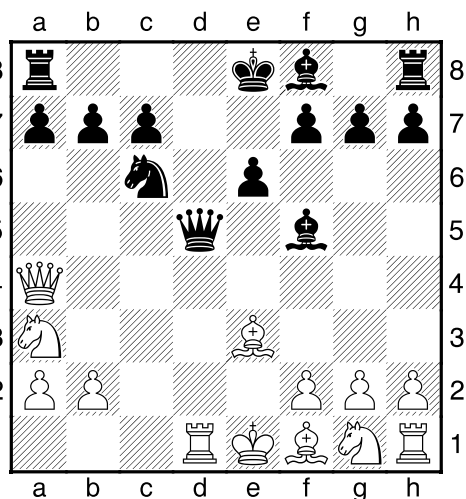
Trombly,Cody 1366

[B01]Scandinavian Defense

PHCC October Mini Swiss Port Huron (1),
08.10.2009

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb4

5.Qa4+ Diagram



5...N8c6 6.d5 Bf5 7.Na3 Nxd5 8.cxd5 Qxd5
9.Be3 e6 10.Rd1 Diagram

10...Bb4+ 11.Bd2?? Qe4+ 12.Ne2 Bxd2+ 0-1

The Perils of Not Keeping Score!

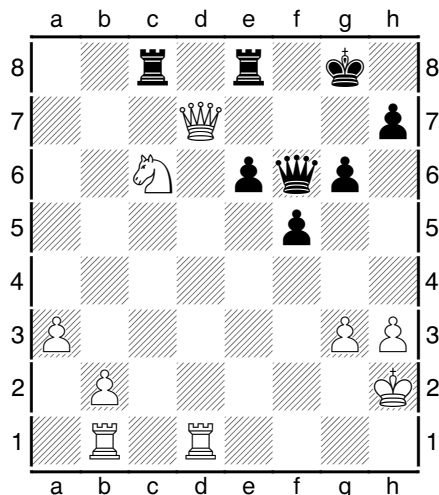
Most of you have no doubt heard of the Hail Mary Pass as a part of football lore. This game is particularly humorous because of the fact that Phil made one of the most miraculous game- saving moves on record. After my move 32.Nc6 I felt I had things well in hand, blocking the potential rook check on c2, and preparing for the b4 push. But out of the blue, Phil replied 32..., Qc2+!!! Needless to say, I was stunned and played 33.Rd2, my mind reeling from a move that I had never considered. Phil won back his N, with 33..., Qxc6, and now it once again becomes a

contest. The game eventually ended in my favor with the queening of my b-pawn. I did not record the game, but had the position as of move 30 ingrained in my mind. After taking this position and reconstructing the game, playing every conceivable variation, I discovered, as did Phil in our analysis of the position the following Saturday, that there was just no way that his Q could ever get to c2!!! This once again illustrates the benefit of keeping score. It also reinforces the mystique of PHCC's elder statesman... "just one more move!" Phil. Beware of that statement, beware if he ever uses it on you...it can prove fatal!!!!

Rutkofske,Lon 1923
Willard,Phil 1525
English Opening

Rd 1 PHCC October Mini Swiss Port Huron,
 08.10.2009

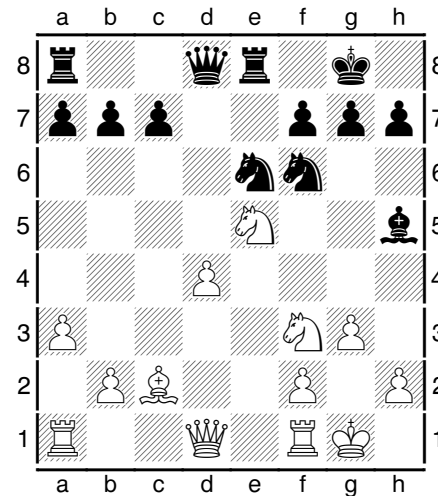
1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Nge2 Nc6
 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 d6 9.f4 Bd7 10.Rb1
 a6 11.Be3 f5 12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4
 14.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 15.Qxd4 Qc7 16.h3 Bc6
 17.Rfd1 Nc8 18.Kh2 Qe7 19.a3 Qf6 20.e5 dxe5
 21.fxe5 Qe7 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Na4 Rb8 24.Nc5
 Nb6 25.Nxa6 Rb7 26.Nc5 Rbb8 27.Qd6 Rfe8
 28.Qxc6 Nxc4 29.Nd7 Nxe5?? 30.Nxe5 Rbc8
 31.Qd7 Qf6 32.Nc6 Diagram 1-0



Boucher,Dave 1277
Rutkofske,Lon 1923
[C05] French - Advance Variation

Rd 2 PHCC October Mini Swiss Port Huron,
 08.10.2009

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.exd5 exd5 5.c4
 dxc4 6.Nxc4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Nc6 8.Bxb4 Nxb4
 9.Nf3 0-0 10.a3 Re8+ 11.Be2 Nbd5 12.0-0 Bg4
 13.Bd3 Nf4 14.Nce5 Bh5 15.g3 Ne6 16.Bc2
 Diagram



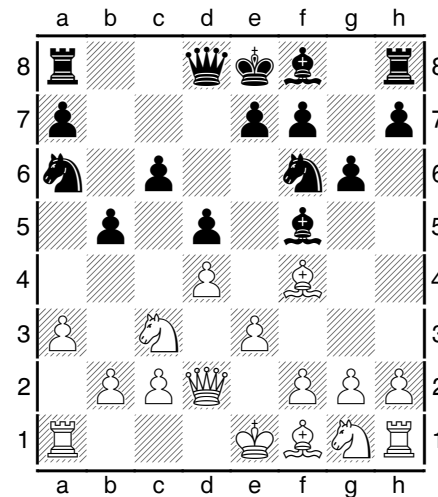
16...Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Qxd4 18.Nxd4 Rxe5
 19.Rfe1 Rae8 20.Rxe5 Rxe5 21.f4 Rd5 22.Nf5
 Rd2 23.Rc1 c6 24.b4 Bf3 25.Nh4 Be4 26.Bd1
 Nd5 27.Bg4 Ne3 28.Bh3 Nc2 29.Bg4 Nxa3
 30.Rd1 Rxd1+ 31.Bxd1 Bd3 32.Nf3 Nc4 33.b5
 Ne3 34.Ne1 Bxb5 35.Bf3 g6 36.Kf2 Nf5 37.Be2
 Bxe2 38.Kxe2 Nd4+ 39.Ke3 c5 40.Nf3 Nxf3
 41.Kxf3 f5 42.h3 h5 43.Ke3 Kf7 44.Kd3 Ke6
 45.g4 hxg4 46.hxg4 fxg4 0-1

Trombley,Cody 1366
Rutkofske,Lon 1923

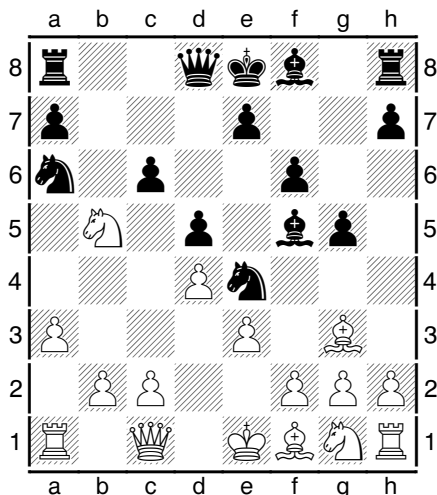
[D00] Q-Pawn Opening

Rd. 3 PHCC October Mini Swiss Port Huron,
 08.10.2009

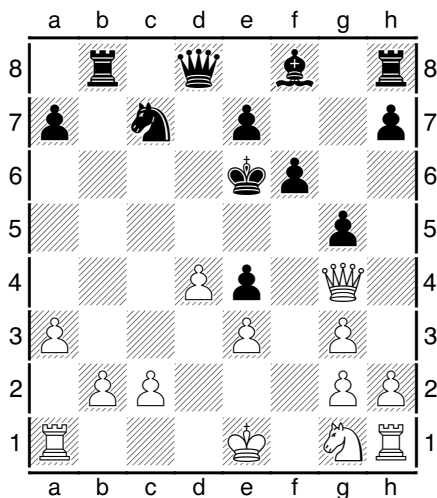
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 c6 4.Qd3 g6 5.e3 Bf5
 6.Qd2 Na6 7.a3 b5 Diagram



8.Nxb5 Ne4 [Fritz 11: 1) 8...Qb6 9.Nc3 Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qxa3 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.cxd3 Nb4 13.Be5 Bg7 14.Nf3 0-0 15.0-0 a5 16.h3 a4 17.e4 dxe4 18.dxe4 0.28/17 ; Fritz 11: 2) 8...Ne4 9.Qe2 Qa5+ 10.Nc3 Nb4 11.Qd1 Nxc3 12.axb4 Nxd1 13.bxa5 Nxb2 14.Nf3 e6 15.Kd2 Bb4+ 16.c3 Be7 17.Ne5 Rc8 0.31/16] **9.Qc1 g5 10.Be5** [Fritz 11: 1) 10.Be5 f6 11.f3 cxb5 12.fxe4 Bxe4 13.Bg3 Rc8 14.c3 Qb6 15.Nf3 Bg7 16.a4 b4 17.Bb5+ -0.50/15 ; Fritz 11: 2) 10.Nc3 gxf4 11.Bxa6 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bd3 Qxc3+ 14.Kf1 Bxd3+ 15.cxd3 Qxd3+ 16.Ne2 Rc8 17.exf4 c5 18.dxc5 Rg8 -0.55/14] **10...f6 11.Bg3** Diagram

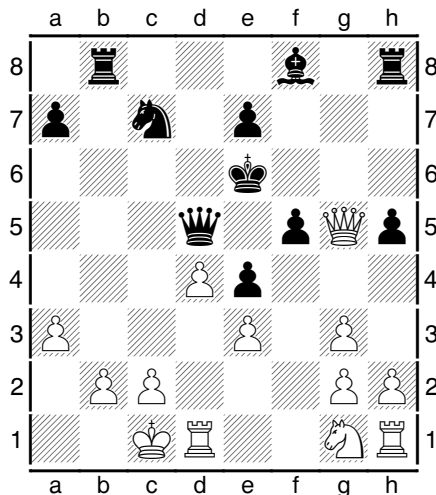


11...Nxc3 12.fxc3 cxb5 13.Bxb5+ Kf7 14.Qd2 Nc7 15.Bd3 Be4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qe2 Rb8 18.Qh5+ Ke6 19.Qg4+ Diagram



19...f5 [Fritz 11: 1) 19...Kd6 20.b4 Qc8 21.Qxe4 Nd5 22.Qd3 Qc3+ 23.Qxc3 Nxc3 24.Ne2 Ne4

25.c4 Bh6 26.c5+ Kc7 27.d5 g4 28.Nf4 Bxf4 - 0.87/13 ; Fritz 11: 2) 19...Kd5 20.c4+ Kxc4 21.Qxe4 Kb5 22.Ne2 Ka6 23.Qd3+ Kb7 24.0-0 Qd7 25.Rf5 Nd5 26.Qb3+ Nb6 27.Rc5 Ka8 - 0.28/14] **20.Qxg5 h5 21.0-0-0** [Fritz 11: 1) 21.Ne2 Bh6 22.Nf4+ Kd6 23.Qxf5 Rxb2 24.0-0 Rg8 25.c4 Bxf4 26.Qxf4+ Kd7 27.Qxe4 Rf8 28.Rf5 Qe8 29.Rb1 Rxf5 0.91/14 ; Fritz 11: 2) 21.Nh3 Bh6 22.Nf4+ Kd6 23.Qxf5 Rxb2 24.0-0 Rg8 25.c4 Bxf4 26.Qxf4+ Kd7 27.Qxe4 Rf8 28.Rf5 Qe8 29.Rb1 Rxf5 0.91/14] **21...Qd5** Diagram



22.Qf4 Bh6 23.Qf2 Kd7 24.Ne2 Qf7 25.Nc3 Nd5 26.Nxd5 Qxd5 27.Rhf1 e6 0-1

Groov'in on a Saturday Afternoon

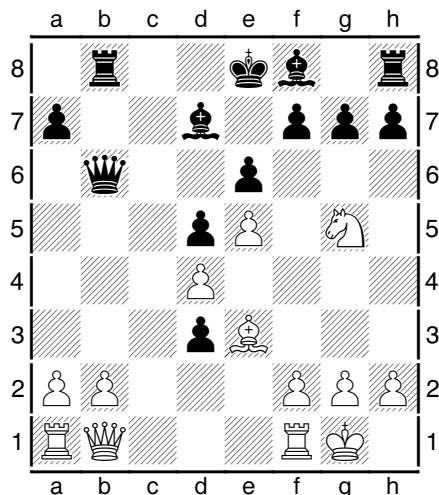
The following game was particularly satisfying for me, not just because Tom had been justifiably punishing me consistently for my over-ambitious, flawed and at times, arrogant play over the past few Saturdays, but because it represents some solid, consistent play on my part for a change. Tom, a strong, tactically astute player, sports a near A rating in normal chess and an A rating in quick chess. He is a formidable foe to say the least. His illusive, never give-up style makes him an especially worthy and dangerous adversary.

Broyles, Tom 1737

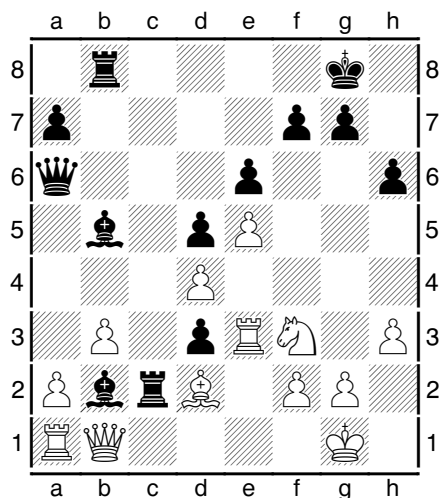
Rutkofske, Lon 1912

**[C02] French Defense, Advance Variation
Casual Game St Clair, 26.09.2009**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6
 6.Qb3 Qc7 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 cxd4
 10.cxd4 c5 11.Nc3 Rb8 12.Qc2 Ne7 13.Be3 c4
 14.Ne2 Nc6 15.Nf4 Nb4 16.Qb1 Qb6 17.Ng5
 Nd3 18.Nxd3 cxd3 Diagram

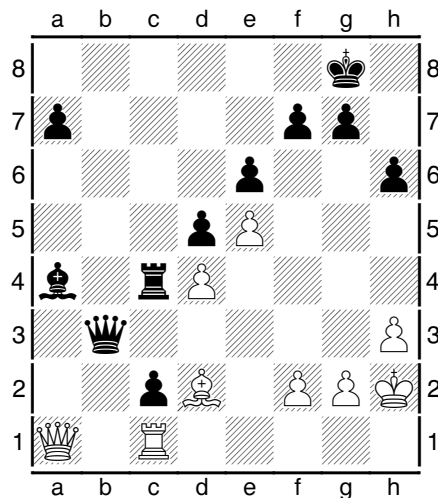


19.b3 [Fritz 11: 2) 19.Nh3 Be7 20.Nf4 Qxb2
 21.Nxd3 Qxb1 22.Raxb1 0-0 23.Nc5 Bb5
 24.Rfc1 Bc4 25.a3 Rfc8 26.Bd2 h6 27.f3 -
 0.38/16 ; Fritz 11: 1) 19.Rd1 h6 20.Nf3 Qxb2
 21.Qxd3 Bb5 22.Qb3 Be2 23.Qxb2 Rxb2
 24.Rd2 Rxd2 25.Bxd2 Kd7 26.Rb1 Kc6 27.Rb8
 Bd3 -0.29/16] 19...Ba3 20.Re1 h6 21.Nf3 Bb5
 22.Bd2 0-0 23.Qd1 Rfc8 24.Re3 Rc2 25.Qb1
 Qa6 26.h3 Bb2 Diagram

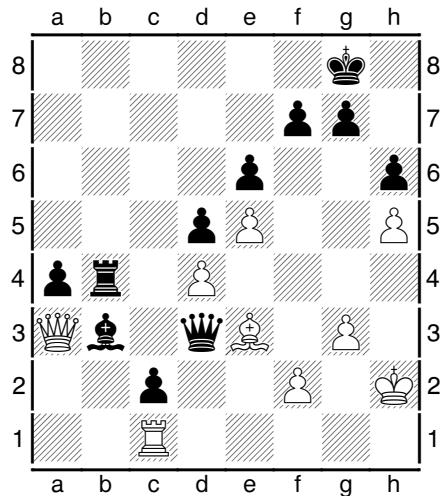


27.a4 Bxa1 [Fritz 11: 1) 27...Bd7 28.Ra2 Rxb3
 29.Qxc2 dxc2 30.Rxb3 c1Q+ 31.Bxc1 Bxc1
 32.Rc2 Bg5 33.Nxg5 hxg5 34.Rb8+ Kh7 35.Rc7
 Qxa4 36.Rbb7 Bc6 37.Rxa7 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qxd4
 -3.42/15 ; Fritz 11: 2) 27...Bc6 28.Ra2 Rxb3

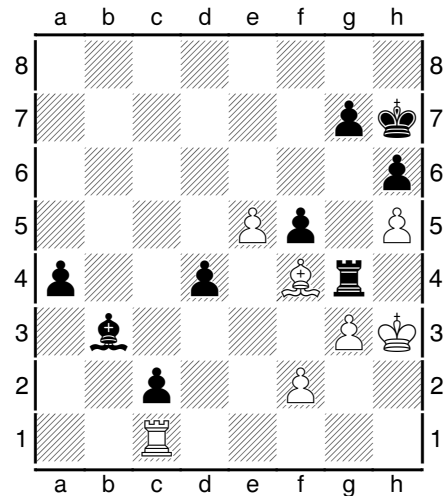
29.Qxc2 dxc2 30.Rxb3 c1Q+ 31.Bxc1 Bxc1
 32.Rc2 Bg5 33.Nxg5 hxg5 34.a5 Kh7 35.Rb8
 Kg6 36.Rc5 Ba4 37.Rb4 Bc6 -3.23/18]
 28.Qxa1 Rbc8 29.Re1 Be8 30.Rd1 Qb7 31.Ne1
 Fritz 11: 1) 31...Qxb3 [Fritz 11: 2) 31...Qb6
 32.b4 R2c4 33.Nxd3 Qxd4 34.Nc5 Qxa1
 35.Rxa1 Bc6 36.a5 d4 37.Ra3 Kh7 38.Kh2 h5
 39.Rd3 h4 40.Kg1 -2.49/17] 32.Nxc2 dxc2
 33.Rc1 Bxa4 34.Kh2 [Fritz 11: 1) 34.g3 Rc4
 35.Kg2 Qd3 36.Be3 Rb4 37.g4 g5 38.Kg1 a5
 39.Qa2 Kg7 40.Kg2 Kg6 41.Kg1 h5 42.Kg2
 Qe4+ -4.00/18 ; Fritz 11: 2) 34.Kh2 Rc4 35.g3
 Qd3 36.Be3 Rb4 37.g4 g5 38.Kg1 a5 39.Qa2
 Kg7 40.Kg2 Kg6 41.Kg1 h5 42.Kg2 Qe4+ -
 4.00/18 ; Fritz 11: 1) 34.Kh2 Rc4 35.g3 Qd3
 36.Be3 Rb4 37.g4 g5 38.Kg1 a5 39.Qa2 Kg7
 40.Kg2 Kg6 41.Kg1 h5 42.gxh5+ Kxh5 43.Kg2
 Qe4+ -4.03/17 ; Fritz 11: 2) 34.Kh1 Rc4 35.Kh2
 Qd3 36.Be3 Rb4 37.Qa2 Kh7 38.Kg1 Kg6
 39.Kh2 a5 40.Kg1 Kh7 41.Kh2 h5 42.g3 Kg6
 43.Kg1 Kf5 44.Kg2 Qe4+ -4.04/17] 34...Rc4
 Diagram



35.Be3 [Fritz 11: 1) 35.Re1 Kh7 36.Rg1 Qd3
 37.Be3 a5 38.Qa2 Qd1 39.Qa3 Kg6 40.Qe7 Rb4
 41.Qh4 Bc6 42.Qe7 Rb8 -4.03/16 ; Fritz 11: 2)
 35.Kg1 Qd3 36.Be3 Rb4 37.Kh2 Kh7 38.Qa2 a5
 39.Qa1 Kg6 40.g3 Kf5 41.Kg1 h5 42.Qa2 Kg6
 43.Kh2 Qe4 44.Qa3 Kf5 45.Kg1 h4 46.Qc3 hxg3
 47.fxg3 -4.03/16] 35...a6 36.h4 Qb5 37.Qa2
 Bb3 38.Qa1 a5 39.Qb2 Rb4 40.h5 a4 41.g3
 Qd3 42.Qa3 Diagram



Kh7 47.Qh4 Qe4+ 48.Qxe4+ dxe4 49.Ra1 Kg6
 50.f3 Rc3 51.Kf2 Bd5 -4.63/16] 43.Qe7 Rg4
 44.Qe8+ Kh7 45.Qxf7 Qf5 46.Qxf5+ exf5
 47.Bf4 d4 48.Kh3 Diagram 0-1



42...Rxd4 [Fritz 11: 1) 42...Rxd4 43.Qe7 Re4
 44.Qe8+ Kh7 45.Qxf7 Rxe5 46.Bc5 Re2 47.Bf8
 Qd4 48.Kg2 Bc4 49.Rxc2 Rxc2 50.Qg6+ Kg8
 51.Qxc2 Kxf8 -4.92/17 ; Fritz 11: 2) 42...Rc4
 43.Qe7 Qf5 44.Kg2 Qxh5 45.Rh1 Qf5 46.Qd8+

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.

