



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

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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. Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.volasite.com>

Gabe Ferguson Captures 6th Grade Crown at this year's Port Huron Area School District Championship Tournament.

After a grueling 9 week marathon that resulted in a disappointing finish for **Gabe Ferguson** in the recently concluded PHCC Champs, the Fort Gratiot Middle School 6th grader made an amazing tournament turnaround by notching 5 straight wins, including victories over 2012 PHCC Junior Champ, **Adam Nowiski** and last year's 5th grade winner, **Matt Hartson**, to collect top honors in his division.



Gabe Ferguson – Grade 6 Champion

This year's event marks the 16th consecutive tournament for the Port Huron Area School District's chess players, which fielded well over 100 youngsters from 16 schools in the district.

Jeff Willard, the chief TD with his able crew of student programmers and volunteers, once again ran a nearly flawless tournament. **Jennifer Allen** and **Evone Rodriquez** dazzled observers and participants alike, with their purchase of new chess sets and boards specifically designated for this yearly event, illustrating the PHASD's commitment to continuing sponsorship.

Gabe's persistence, lessons, and tournament experiences with the PHCC finally paid off, as he played consistently, avoided major errors, and forced his opponents into making critical mistakes in each of his games. Centralized opening play, patience, and solid moves propelled him to his strong showing. With this renewed confidence, he will be a force to be reckoned with

in upcoming PHCC events!

The PHCC has always been a key supporter and as usual provided a number of volunteers that helped and provided expertise in the event. **Stew Wilkinson**, a USCF postal master relished his role by providing support and instruction with the K-2 sections, **Alan Gregg**, three time PHCC Champion, USCF expert and former MCA Senior Champion provided a simultaneous exhibition that frustrated and baffled both students and parents; **Dave Boucher**, PHCC's two-time Under 1600 Champion

worked the tables as effectively as any FIDE arbiter, and **Lon Rutkofske**, organized the literature, set up the problem board, helped monitor play, and took pictures of the event. Our thanks to all those who helped and took part in this wonderful event! Other winners were:

- Kindergarten: Luke Maher – Indian Woods
- 1st grade: Nathaniel Oriel – Indian Woods
- 2nd grade: Dylan Nicholson – Howard D. Crull
- 3rd grade: Benjamin Dedic – Howard D. Crull
- 4th grade: Danny Kennedy – Indian Woods
- 5th grade: Andy Fealko – Thomas Edison
- 6th grade: Gabriel Ferguson – Fort Gratiot
- 7th grade: Anthony Romzek – Fort Gratiot
- 8th grade: Jacob Kasik - Central
- 9th grade: no participants
- 10th grade: Matt Romzek – P.H. Northern HS
- 11th grade: no participants
- 12th Grade: John Sienkiewicz – Port Huron HS



Superintendent of Schools - H. Ron Wollen drops by to view the activities.



Tournament Director, Jeff Willard pauses to observe .



Jennifer Allen, Director of State and Federal Programs engrossed by the play at the Kindergarten table.



PHCC members -TR: Matt Hartson; TL: Gabe Ferguson



AJ Molinaro looking over his game – visits the PHCC often.



Volunteers: TR: Syeda Ferguson and John Nowiski monitor events at the Kindergarten tables



At right, Adam Nowiski, 2012 PHCC Junior Champ prepares to begin his game as volunteers Dave Boucher and Mike Larzelere look on.



Postal Master Stew Wilkinson sips his coffee as he intently supervises play.

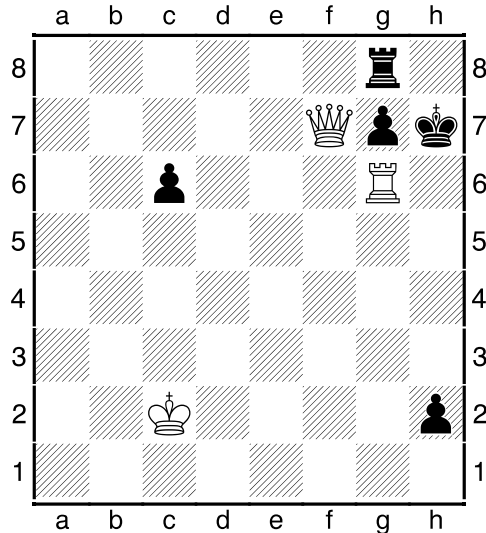


New Sets and Boards adorn the tables in the tournament hall of the Port Huron High School Cafeteria.

Chess Problem posted at the 2012 PHASD Chess Tournament – 3-17-2012 – White to play and Mate in 2

100 Years of The American Two-move

Chess Problem by Kenneth Howard -1962/65



Otto Wurzburg

1st Prize, Eighth Tourney

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times

June 10, 1917

Solution on Page 9

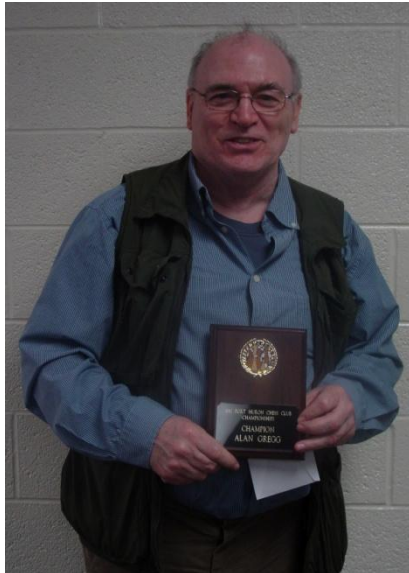
Gregg, Morabito, Rutkofske, Boucher, Nowiski come up winners as the 2012 PHCC Championships conclude.

Alan Gregg's two year reign as club champion seems to be turning into a dynasty, as he has yet to feel the sting of a defeat, sallying forth to a third consecutive championship title, yielding only 5 draws in 17 rounds of play over a three year period. **Matt Morabito** and **Lon Rutkofske** ended up tied for second with 7.5 each, but Matt won the plaque on tiebreak by virtue of his win over Lon. **Dave Boucher** recaptured his U1600 crown, as well as the biggest upset of the tournament in upending Bill Wingrove and overcoming a 322 point spread. **Adam Nowiski** managed to secure the junior championship by dropping his only rival, **Gabe Ferguson**, in their head to head meeting. This was a special occasion for the club since there has not been a Junior Championship competition since Charlie West won in 2000!

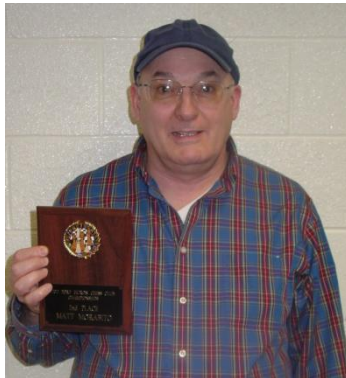
This year's tournament featured a round robin format, the first in nearly 20 years, and was soundly embraced by the club faithful. There is something

refreshing about the traditional round robin method of deciding the club champion because it enables all contestants the opportunity to play everyone in the hunt for the championship, far from the limitations of the Swiss System pairing rules.

The tournament went surprisingly smoothly, as Lon managed the tournament effectively, publishing tournament reports the day following each round, and using an email distribution list to notify participants of results, game scores, and announcements. This was particularly significant in that players had ample opportunity to download and study games of prospective opponents, as evidenced by sharper play and depth of preparation.



L: Alan Gregg-Champ



R: Lon Rutkofske-2nd

B: Matt Morabito-2nd



L: Adam Nowiski, Junior Champion

B: Dave Boucher, Under 1600 Champion



2012 PHCC Championships: PHCC Ratings - Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Rd 7	Rd8	Rd9	Tot	Prize
1	Alan Gregg	1957	1961	W10	W7	W8	W4	W6	W5	D3	D2	W9	8.0	Champion
2	Lonnie Rutkofske	1851	1861	W7	W8	W4	W6	W5	L3	W9	D1	W10	7.5	RU Champion
3	Matthew Morabito	1760	1798	D8	W4	D6	W5	W9	W2	D1	W10	W7	7.5	RU Champion
4	Noel Bedy	1603	1650	W5	L3	L2	L1	W10	W7	W8	W9	W6	6.0	
5	William Wingrove	1726	1688	L4	W6	W9	L3	L2	L1	W10	L7	W8	4.0	
6	Robert Fiedler	1725	1687	W9	L5	D3	L2	L1	W10	D7	W8	L4	4.0	
7	David Boucher	1404	1439	L2	L1	W10	W9	D8	L4	D6	W5	L3	4.0	U1600 Champ
8	G Avery Jones	1532	1507	D3	L2	L1	W10	D7	W9	L4	L6	L5	3.0	
9	Adam Nowiski	500	521	L6	W10	L5	L7	L3	L8	L2	L4	L1	1.0	Junior Champ
10	Gabriel Ferguson	500	479	L1	L9	L7	L8	L4	L6	L5	L3	L2	0.0	

Prize Winners: Club Champion: Alan Gregg – Plaque and \$100

Runner-Up Champions: Matt Morabito – Plaque + \$25; Lon Rutkofske - \$25

Top Under 1600: Dave Boucher – Plaque + \$50

Junior Champion: Adam Nowiski – Plaque +\$20

Biggest Upset: 322 Pts: Dave Boucher over Bill Wingrove - \$20

February/March USCF Rating Tournament

#	Name	USCF ID	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Tot
1	Alan Gregg	12824548	2061	2052	D3	W5	D2	W4	W6	4.0
2	Matthew Morabito	12577179	1766	1788	W6	W4	D1	W3	D5	4.0
3	Lonnie Rutkofske	10288347	1816	1817	D1	W6	W5	L2	W4	3.5
4	Noel Bedy	12626193	1412	1445	W5	L2	W6	L1	L3	2.0
5	G Avery Jones	12577178	1505	1482	L4	L1	L3	D6	D2	1.0
6	David Boucher	12412595	1277	1272	L2	L3	L4	D5	L1	0.5

For the first time in over 25 years, championship games have been USCF rated. Since the tournament was a round robin format, it was possible to have a tournament within a tournament. Players enjoyed a rated event with club level ratings, and USCF members could also have their games against other current USCF rated simultaneously.

After all was said and done, this year’s championships can boast a great many firsts and with an uptake of new junior members and an influx of former members the prospects of another record setting championship loom large in the future for the Port Huron Chess Club.

PHCC's March 24th PH Museum Presentation turns some heads!

Lon Rutkofske provided the power point and fellow club members: **Alan Gregg, Bill Wingrove** and **Stew Wilkinson** passed on some saged instruction as members of the PHCC helped cap off the Port Huron Museum's celebration of its Toy Tech program. Under the dubious moniker: "Chess for Dummies", the attending group of 16 parents and youngsters proved that the heading was farther from reality, as they enthusiastically embraced the efforts of the PHCC to offer a brief glimpse at the "Royal Game", its origins, its unique language, its educational and entertainment value, and its equalizing, yet competitive qualities. The 35 minute lecture/power point portion of the presentation was followed by an abbreviated, hands-on introductory lesson on the mechanics of the game.

Since all but two of the participants were totally unfamiliar with the "Game of Kings", the presentation seemed to hit its mark as Lon and other members of the club sought to offer a brief, cogent yet satisfying primer on the mysteries and wonders of the "Royal Game" to the eager audience.

Wilkinson to offer his "Passion for Petrosian" Fun Tournament – April 12th

Stew Wilkinson has graciously consented to direct a "fun tournament" for interested members of the PHCC on Thursday, April 12, 2012 beginning at 7:00. The **Tigran Petrosian** themed tournament, named for the former Russian World Chess Champion, will feature quizzes, problem solving, quick and blitz play as well as some consultation games, and there will be some prizes offered by the club. We hope to see you at the tournament that should be a welcomed relief from the tough grind of recent championship play. See you there!

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.

Wilkinson, Stew (1873) - Bedy, Noel (1628) [B01] Scandinavian Defense

1998 PHCC Championships (1), 26.03.1998

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Qxe2 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 e6 8.0-0 0-0-0 9.c4 Qf5 10.Nc3 a6 11.a3 Bd6 12.c5 Bf4 13.b4 Nd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.b5 Nb8 16.bxa6 Nxa6 17.c6 Bxe3 18.fxe3 Rhe8 19.cxb7+ Kxb7 20.Rab1+ Ka7 21.Ne5 Qe6 22.Rfc1 Rd6 23.Qc2 f6 24.Nc6+ Rxc6 25.Qxc6 Qxc6 26.Rxc6 Rxe3 27.Rb5 Rxa3 28.Rxd5 Kb7 29.Rc1 Kc8 30.Rd1 c6 31.Rh5 h6 32.Rh3 Rxh3 33.gxh3 Nb4 34.Kf2 Nd5 35.Kf3 Kc7 36.h4 g5 37.hxg5 hxg5 38.Ra1 Kd6 39.Rc1 Kd7 40.Ke4 Kd6 41.Rc5 Kd7 42.Kf5 Kd6 43.h3 Ne3+ 44.Kxf6 g4 45.Re5 Nd5+ 46.Rxd5+ 1-0

Morabito, Matt (1751) - Mazuchowski, Tom (2000) [E62] King's Indian Defense

2004 Lansing Open (6), 06.09.2004

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.c4 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.d4 Nc6 7.d5 Na5 8.Qd3 c5 9.Bd2 a6
 10.Rb1 e6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd2 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 e5 15.0-0 b6 16.f4 exf4
 17.Rxf4 f5 18.Rbf1 Ra7 19.e4 Re7 20.exf5 Rxf5 21.Be4 Rxf4 22.Rxf4 Rf7 23.Qf3 Qf8
 24.Bxg6 Rxf4 25.Qxf4 Qg7 26.Qe4 Bd7 27.Be8 Bxe8 28.Qxe8+ Kh7 29.Qe4+ Kg8
 30.Qe6+ Kh7 31.Ne4 Qd4+ 32.Kg2 Nxc4 33.Qf7+ Kh8 34.Nf6 1-0

Morabito, Matt (1905) - Kitts, Gary (2000) [C02] French Defense-Advanced Var.

1996 Michigan Open Championships, 23.03.1996

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 a5 9.Nbd2
 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Nb3 0-0 12.Nxc5 Qxc5 13.Re1 Ng4 14.Be3 Qd6 15.Bxh7+ Kh8
 16.Bc2 Rae8 17.Qd3 Nf6 18.Bg5 e5 19.Nh4 e4 20.Qg3 Qxg3 21.hxg3 Kg8 22.Ng6 Rf7
 23.Be3 Ne5 24.Nxe5 Rxe5 25.Bb3 Be6 26.Rad1 Kf8 27.f3 exf3 28.Bc5+ 1-0

Rutkofske, Lonnie - McLeod, Norm [C56] Two Knight's Game

PHCC, Casual Game - 30.04.1970

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.Bg5 d6 7.Re1 Bg4 8.a3 h6 9.Bh4
 0-0 10.Qd3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Ne5 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Nd2 Ng6 14.Bg3 d5 15.Bd3 Nh5 16.Kh1
 Nxg3+ 17.fxg3 Qd7 18.Qg2 Ne5 19.f4 Ng4 20.Qf3 g6 21.e5 Ne3 22.h4 Qh3+ 23.Kg1
 Nxc2 24.Bxc2 d3+ 25.Re3 dxc2 0-1

PHCC Rating List

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 Rating List as of 3/25/12

Name	Rating
Gregg, Alan	1961
Rutkofske, Lon	1861
Wilkinson, Stew	1840
Morabito, Matt	1798
Wingrove, Bill	1688
Fiedler, Bob	1687
Bedy, Noel	1650
Roome, Eric	1641
Jones, G. Avery	1507
Boucher, Dave	1439
Dickinson, Ty	1000
Nowiski, Adam	521
Kennedy, Jimmy	500
Kennedy, Danny	500
Ferguson, Gabe	479

USCF Ratings as of 3/25/12

Name	Rating
Gregg, Alan	2052
Wilkinson, Stew	1840
Rutkofske, Lon	1817
Morabito, Matt	1788
Fiedler, Robert	1769
Wingrove, Bill	1694
Roome, Eric	1546
Jones, G. Avery	1482
Bedy, Noel	1445
Boucher, Dave	1272

PHCC Speed Rating List as of 3/25/12

Name	Rating
Gregg, Alan	1971
Rutkofske, Lon	1911
Wilkinson, Stew	1865
Roome, Eric	1721
Morabito, Matt	1668
Fiedler, Robert	1640
Wingrove, Bill	1588
Bedy, Noel	1529
Jones, G. Avery	1485
Ty Dickinson	750
Ferguson, Gabe	750
Nowiski, Adam	750
Jimmy Kennedy	750
Danny Kennedy	750

Calendar of Events:

First Thursday of Each Month - Chess Clinics– 6:30 to 8:00 PM - \$7.50 per person

April 12 – Wilkinson’s Petrosian Fiesta Fun Tournament: Starts at 7PM..no entry fee.

April 19th – April Mini-Swiss: G/30 – EF: \$5.00 Adults, \$2.50 for juniors...prizes based on entries

May 10-31th – USCF rated G/90 Rd Robin/or Mini-Swiss–EF: \$10...prizes and sections based on entries – one round per evening.

Solution to Problem: 1. Rg1

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.

The following memberships will lapse this month: Tom Broyles; Jaime Chan; Jay Kaszyca; John Sienkiewicz; Matt Hartson; Cullen Wiley

2011 Turkey Gobbler Open Winner, Matt Morabito

Poses in a typical moment of heightened awareness – Zen anyone????

