



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>

Tony West Claims 2014 PHCC Championships Crown



Tony West

Once again, the “Old Order changeth” succumbing to the “New” via a combination of stamina and plain old good fortune. Newcomer **Tony West** eked out a half-point edge over 4-time champion, **Alan Gregg** thereby staking his claim to the 2014 Club Champion’s Laurels. Tony himself admits that his chess prowess alone was less than stellar in securing this year’s crown, but it turned out to be his survival skills that manifested themselves on more than one occasion throughout the 7 round event. As the chess adage goes...“victory generally goes to the player making the second to last mistake!” It takes but a quick review of play in the crucial games between Tony and his three closest rivals to discover, as he so humbly admits in his own blog, that a single miscalculation by his opponent in each of these three crucial games permitted the slippery Grosse Point Woods native to sidestep certain defeat and coast into the winner’s circle for his first club championship title. As for **Stew Wilkinson**, the USCF Correspondence master suggested that he could have used the extra three days per move toward the end of each of his games. By his own admission, he just seemed to, as he put it - “run out of gas” as the evenings of tournament play progressed – a lament embraced by well over 50% of this year’s field.

It seemed as if every time he sat down behind his White army, **Avery Jones** claimed yet another higher rated scalp: upending Lon, drawing Alan and Matt, thereby padding his USCF rating by some 46+points. Probably the most entertaining games of the competition, and as it turned out, the most crucial to the title race, came from the play of **Matt Morabito**. He had sure wins on time against both Tony and Avery, but was unable to convert them to full points. Despite some teasing as a result of his black eye, **Dave Boucher** cashed in on the upset prize as well by taking down **Noel Bedy** and improving his USCF rating to boot.

The most disappointment had to come from the less than dynamic duo of **Lon Rutkofske** and **Noel Bedy** who between them could only muster 5 of 14 points. While **Adam Nowiski** was unable to garner a single score in this year’s

competitor, his persistence was both admirable and productive, as he won a USCF membership scholarship from the **Matt Morabito Scholarship Fund** and the experience that certainly helped to catapult him to the 8th grade championship trophy in the **Phil Willard Memorial/PHAS District Chess Tournament** held on March 22, 2014. Adam's opening play has improved markedly, and if he puts more effort into his study of combinations and endgames, he should fair well in the upcoming PHCC Junior Championship slated for this August.

While this year's weather played havoc with tournament play, the will to compete was strong, and now title hopefuls have a new target in their sights for 2015 – **Congratulations to our new champion – Tony West!**

Final Standings & USCF Ratings:

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot	Prize
1	Tony West	1898	1912	X7	W3	D2	D4	W8	W6	W9	6.0	50.00/Plaque	
2	Alan Gregg	1985	1984	W6	W5	D1	D7	W4	D3	W8	5.5	35.00/Plaque	
3	Stewart Wilkinson	1840	1850	W9	L1	D4	W5	W7	D2	W10	5.0	25.00/Plaque	
4	Matthew Morabito	1794	1798	W10	W6	D3	D1	L2	W8	D7	4.5	25.00/Plaque	
5	Lonnie Rutkofske	1816	1786	W8	L2	L7	L3	W9	W10	D6	3.5		
6	William Wingrove	1692	1687	L2	L4	W8	W9	W10	L1	D5	3.5		
7	G. Avery Jones	1589	1635	F1	W10	W5	D2	L3	D9	D4	3.5		
8	David Boucher	1313	1332	L5	W9	L6	W10	L1	L4	L2	2.0	/Upset1	
9	Noel Bedy	1557	1516	L3	L8	W10	L6	L5	D7	L1	1.5		
10	Adam Nowiski	unr.	750	L4	L7	L9	L8	L6	L5	L3	0.0		

- Champion: Tony West = Plaque/\$50
- Second Place: Alan Gregg = Plaque/\$35
- Top A: Stew Wilkinson = Plaque/\$25
- Top B: Matt Morabito = Plaque/\$25
- Junior USCF Scholarship: Adam Nowiski
- Biggest Upset: USCF: Dave Boucher over Noel Bedy = \$10
PHCC: Avery Jones over Lon Rutkofske =\$10

Adam Nowiski, Danny Kennedy are Phil Willard Memorial/PHAS District Chess Tournament champions

The Central Middle School duo of **Adam Nowiski**, who captured the 8th grade crown, and **Danny Kennedy**, who won the 6th grade trophy matched wits and skill with 83 other Port Huron Area School District students in the annual **Phil Willard Memorial/ Port Huron Area School District Chess Tournament** held at Port Huron High School on Saturday, March 22nd. Both have been known to frequent the hallowed halls of the Port Huron Chess Club from time to time!

The event, named in memory of long time Port Huron Chess Club member, avid chess enthusiast and benefactor, **Phil Willard** was started in 1996 by Lon Rutkofske when he was district Director of Secondary Curriculum. Now under the umbrella of the district's Gifted and Talented Program ably administered by

Evone Rodrigues, this 18th annual fete was once again admirably directed by Phil's son, **Jeff Willard**, with his son assisting!

Members of the Port Huron Chess Club (**Dave Boucher, Stew Wilkinson, Alan Gregg, Bill Wingrove and Lon**) were on hand to help monitor the play, educate and encourage participants and arbitrate any chess related disputes that might arise. Additionally, the club puts on a simultaneous exhibition by the stronger players in the club and offers all attendees a year's complimentary membership to the PHCC for anyone solving a two-move chess problem.



Nathan Allen

Reigning PHCC JR. Champ



Danny Kennedy

6th Grade Champ



Adam Nowiski

8th Grade Champ



Dave Boucher arranges some chess literature at the PHCC table during the Tournament.



The Nowiski family believes in starting them young!



Stew Wilkinson gives some handy tips to a youngster interested in the chess problem.

Members' Games

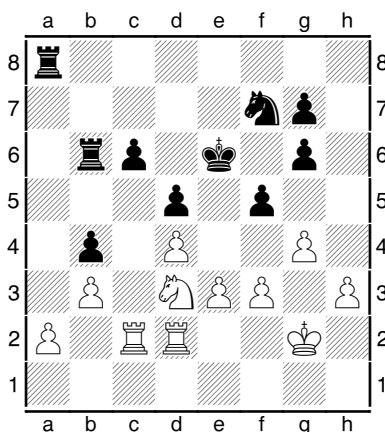


Please send me what you consider your best games, annotated or not, so that I might be able to showcase them. The following games represent contests that have been available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally, if you wish. Majority of analyses is done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated.

Gregg, Alan (1951) - Wilkinson, Stewart (1879) [D00] Queen Pawn Game

2014 PHCC Championships Port Huron (6), 13.03.2014

**1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.d4 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 c6 6.Qb3 Qb6
7.Qxb6 axb6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd2 Bd6 10.e3 0-0 11.Nge2
Nbd7 12.0-0 b5 13.b3 b4 14.Na4 Bd3 15.Rfe1 Ne4
16.Bxe4 Bxe4 17.Nb2 Ra6 18.Nc1 Rfa8 19.Rf1 Bf3
20.Nbd3 Nf6 21.Bxb4 Bxb4 22.Nxb4 Rb6 23.Nbd3 Ne4 24.Ne5 Bh5 25.g4 Bg6
26.Nxg6 hxg6 27.Rd1 Rba6 28.Rd3 f5 29.h3 Kf7 30.Kg2 Ke6 31.f3 Nd6 32.Rb1
b5 33.Rb2 b4 34.Rdd2 Rb6 35.Nd3 Nf7 36.Rbc2 Diagram**



**36...Kd6 37.Rd1 Re8 38.Re1 Ng5 39.Ne5 f4 40.exf4 Ne6 41.Nxg6 Nxf4+ 42.Nxf4
Rxe1 [Draw Agreed] ½-½**

Boucher,Dave (1463) - Gregg,Alan (1951) [B21] Sicilian Defense

2014 PHCC Championships Port Huron (7), 20.03.2014

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Qe2 d6 8.Rd1 Qc7 9.Na3 a6 10.Be3 b5 11.Qd2 Nf6 12.h3 0-0 13.Bh6 Bb7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Rac1 Nd7 16.Nc2 Nc5 17.Qe2 Ne5 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Ne1 Rad8 20.Bc2 Qc6 21.f3 Qc7 22.Nd3 Nd7 23.Rd2 Nb6 24.Nb4 Rxd2 25.Qxd2 Nc4 26.Qe2 Nxb2 27.Bb3 Nc4 28.Rd1 e6 29.Bxc4 bxc4 30.Qd2 a5 31.Nc2 Qb6+ 32.Ne3 Bc6 33.Kf1 Ba4 34.Qd6 Qxe3 35.Qxe5+ Kg8 36.Rd6 Bc2 0-1

Wingrove,William (1695) - Rutkofske,Lonnie (1836) [B07] Pirc Defense

2014 PHCC Championships Port Huron (7), 20.03.2014

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.f3 0-0 6.Qd2 Re8 7.0-0-0 c6 8.h4 Qa5 9.Kb1 Be6 10.g4 b5 [Draw Agreed] ½-½

Nowiski,Adam (919) - Wilkinson,Stewart (1879) [C15] French Defense

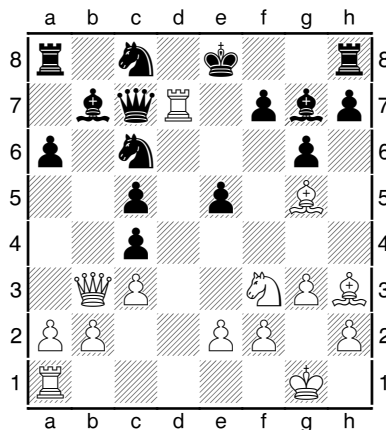
2014 PHCC Championships Port Huron (7), 20.03.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 dxe4 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nge2 0-0 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 b6 9.Nf4 Bb7 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.Bc4 Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Bb3 f5 14.c4 f4 15.Bd2 c6 16.Bb4 Re8 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.c3 Qg5 19.g3 e3 20.fxe3 Rxe3+ 21.Kd2 fxg3 22.Kc2 g2 23.Rg1 Qf5+ 24.Kb2 Qf2+ 25.Bc2 a5 0-1

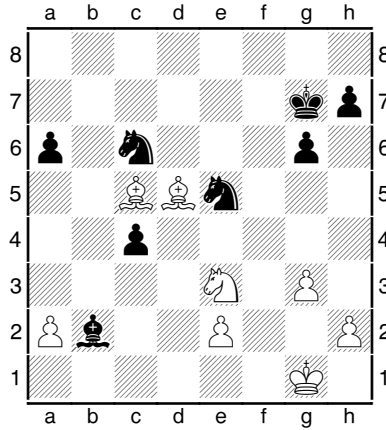
Jones,G. Avery (1684) - Morabito,Matthew (1780) [A40] Irregular Q-Pawn Opening

2014 PHCC Championships Port Huron (7), 20.03.2014 [L. Rutkofske]

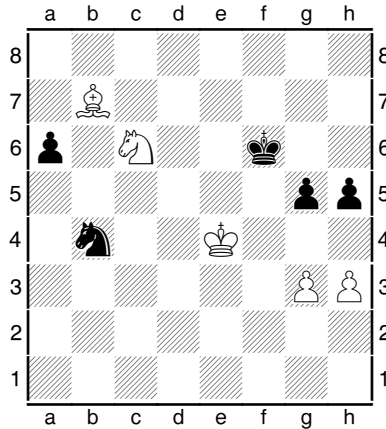
1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.c3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 d6 7.Qb3 Nc6 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Bf4 e5 11.Bg5 Nge7 12.Na3 a6 13.Nc4 Nc8 14.Bh3 b5 15.Rd7 bxc4
Diagram



[16. Qc4! looks like a win by force. If 16...Nd6 17. Qc5! keeps the pressure on ...] **16.Qxb7 Qxb7 17.Rxb7 0-0 18.Rc7 N8a7 19.Bd7 e4 20.Ne1?** [The Knight seems better placed at d2!] **20...Ne5 21.Bh3** [This Bishop was far better placed at a4 to prevent the text move as well as continue pressure against c6 and e8.] **21...Nac6 22.Bf4 Rab8 23.Rb1** [Black is centralizing his pieces and begins attacking, while the White pieces are in disarray and on very poor squares for both offense and defensive purposes.] **23...Rb5** [Had White moved Ba4 on move 21, this sally would be out of the question.] **24.Bg2 f5 25.Nc2 Rfb8 26.Bc1 R5b7 27.Rxb7 Rxb7 28.Be3 Nd7 29.f3 Bxc3 30.fxe4 fxe4 31.Bxe4 Nde5 32.Bxc5 Rxb2 33.Rxb2 Bxb2 34.Bd5+ Kg7 35.Ne3** Diagram



[35...c3 looks very provocative and could create some problems for white.] **35...Bd4 36.Bxd4 Nxd4 37.Nxc4 Nxe2+ 38.Kf2 Nc3 39.Be6 Nxa2?? 40.Nxe5** [Oops! Another fine mess Matt has gotten himself into! Just the simple Kf6 looks like the equalizer, but Matt wanted to create some difficulties for Avery who was in time trouble, and he was once again trying to run Avery out of time and miscalculated ...hummm shades of West-Morabito in Round 4.] **40...Nb4 41.Nc4 Kf6 42.Bc8 g5 43.Kf3 h5 44.h3 Ke7 45.Ke4 Kf6 46.Bb7 Ke6 47.Na5 Kf6 48.Nc6** Diagram



[A nifty maneuver with less than 5 minutes left!] **48...Na2 49.Bxa6 Nc3+ 50.Kf3 Nd5 51.Ke4 Nc3+ 52.Kd4 Nd1 53.Bf1 Nf2 54.Ke3** [54.Bg2?] **54...Nd1+ 55.Ke2 Nc3+ 56.Kf2 Ne4+ 57.Kg2** [Draw agreed, since Avery had less than 2 minutes on his clock, and if Matt could trade of the pawns, then a draw would be the likely result anyway.] $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Bedy,Noel (1621) - West,Tony (1898) [A80] Dutch Defense

2014 PHCC Championships Port Huron (7), 20.03.2014

1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 d6 5.c4 Nbd7 6.Be2 Be7 7.Nc3 c5 8.Qc2 0-0 9.h3 Qa5 10.0-0 cxd4 11.exd4 e5 12.Bd2 Qd8 13.Rad1 e4 14.Nh2 Qe8 15.f3 Qg6 16.fxe4 fxe4 17.Ng4 h5 18.Nf2 Nb8 19.Kh1 Nc6 20.Nfxe4 Bf5 21.Bd3 Kh8 22.Be3 Nb4 23.Qe2 Nxd3 24.Rxf5 Qxf5 25.Qxd3 Nxe4 26.Nd5 Bh4 27.Qb3 Bg3 28.Ne7 Qf1+ 0-1

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 Rating List as of 4/05/14

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1958
West, Tony	1914
Wilkinson, Stew	1886
Rutkofske, Lon	1809
Morabito, Matt	1791
Jones, G. Avery	1706
Wingrove, Bill	1694
Broyles, Tom	1692
Hartwig, Nathan	1683
Fiedler, Bob	1646
Bedy, Noel	1581
Beneker, Gerrit	1545
Scholfield, Chris	1503
Boucher, Dave	1467
Rob Brown	1300
Cody Trombley	1278
Archer, Kraig	1200
Carey, Jay	1000
Allen, Nathan	984
Nowiski, Adam	915

USCF Ratings as of 4/05/14

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1984
West, Tony	1912
Wilkinson, Stew	1850
Rutkofske, Lon	1800
Morabito, Matt	1798
Hartwig, Nathan	1786
Fiedler, Robert	1713
Broyles, Tom	1699
Wingrove, Bill	1687
Jones, G.Avery	1635
Bedy, Noel	1516
Boucher, Dave	1332
Trombley, Cody	1278
Nowiski, Adam	750P

PHCC Speed Rating List as of 4/05/14

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1960
Wilkinson, Stew	1909
Rutkofske, Lon	1864
West, Tony	1826
Hartwig, Nathan	1784
Broyles, Tom	1708
Morabito, Matt	1701
Fiedler, Robert	1608
Jones, G. Avery	1590
Wingrove, Bill	1561
Scholfield, Chris	1552
Bedy, Noel	1519
Beneker, Gerrit	1500
Nowiski, Adam	1364
Trombley, Cody	1292
Carey, Jay	1000
Allen, Nathan	984
Archer, Kraig	750

Calendar of Events: Note the change for the First Thursday of Each Month.

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 games with longer time controls up to G/90 can choose to play match games if they so desire. Participants will be paired randomly and colors will be

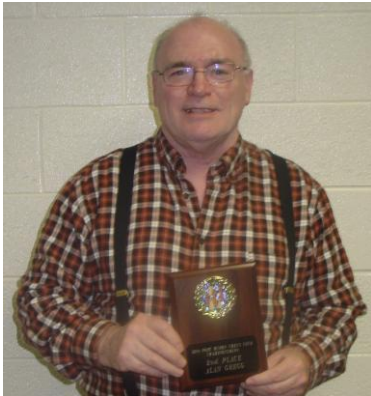
selected by lot. PHCC club ratings will be used. Players should turn their game scores into Lon, so he can adjust ratings appropriately and showcase the games in *Chess Chatter*.

April 10 thru 24th - UNDER 1700 PHCC MINI-SWISS - Open to club members whose PHCC rating is under 1700. EF: \$5.00 /under-19 = \$2.50. Time controls: G/90; Rounds begin at 7:00 PM on April 10, 17, and 24th. Registration on site ends at 7:00 on 4/10, but please email Lon before 4/10 if you intend to play. Prizes: \$20 and Plaque to overall winner; \$10 for top scores in each category of U1500; U1300; U1100 if there are two or more in each section.(USCF members can ask to have their games rated as well if both players desire at a rating fee of \$1/game.)

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.

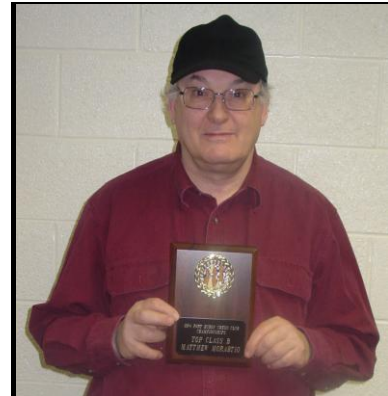
Other 2014 PHCC Championship Winners



Alan Gregg-Runner-Up



Stew Wilkinson: Top A



Matt Morabito: Top B