



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske October 2010 Vol.29. Number 10

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/>

Prodigal Patzers Parade Past PHCC's Palmer Park Portals

The hallowed halls of the PHCC have been graced of late with the "**Return of the Native(s)**"...er uh...by that I mean former members that were previously regulars. **Noel Bedy, Joel Dean, Tom Brolyes, Bob Duncan, Eric Roome, G. Avery Jones** have all put in an appearance within the past two months, and have even renewed their memberships...imagine that! Now whether they were just "slumming", had a ton of time to kill, or perhaps were in need of companionship, whatever their motivation, it was marvelous to have them back in the fold and participating at the club again!

Fiedler Climbs to Greater Heights...apart from chess!

It's not often that we have a chance to dish out some praise for club members who excel in arenas apart from chess, but the article below appeared in the Thursday, August 19, 2010 edition of the **Port Huron Times Herald** and is being reprinted with permission of **Jim Wymer**, Sport Editor. Bob's relentless training in a sport that has taken over his passion for chess, is another feature common to many chess enthusiasts and this competitive drive has propelled Bob to yet another venue in search of excellence. Many thanks to **Jim Wymer** and the photographers that have permitted **Chess Chatter** to showcase a fellow club member.

"Riding High – Mountain biker enjoys view from the air" – Jim Wymer

On most rides, Bob Fiedler likes to have the wheels of his mountain bike securely on the ground.

But the Fort Gratiot resident has discovered the more time in the air, the faster you go.

"I'm a lot faster than I was a couple of years ago because I trained harder," said Fiedler, 61, who has worked at the Port Huron post office for 42 years. "I also have found out when you're off the ground, you can move faster.

"I'm learning the little techniques to the sport, like when to brake and how to handle turns."

Fiedler competed last month in the USA Cycling 2010 Mountain Bike Nationals in Granby, Colorado.

A member of the Team Last Days Racing, Fiedler finished fifth in the Men's Masters 60-64 Division with a time of 2 hours, 59 minutes.

"It was a very difficult course," Fiedler, who got into the sport because of his sons, Mark and Seth, were involved. "Some of the riders in my division were professionals, who spent a week training on the course.

"I never saw the course until the day of the race. My schedule just wouldn't allow me to do a practice run. It makes a big difference knowing the course, especially where the turns are."

Fiedler left the nationals and returned to Fort Collins not sure how he placed. He later found out he had earned a medal for his fifth. He missed his opportunity to be on the podium for the medal presentation, but race officials sent him the medal.

It was the second nationals for Fiedler in the past three years. He competed with Mark and Seth in 2008 at Snow Mountain, Vt.

Bob finished 12th in the Men's Beginner 50-Plus Division. Seth took fourth in the Men's Beginner 30-34 and Mark came in 22nd in the Sport Men's 35-39 division.

Mark was unable to make the trip to Colorado because of previous commitments, while Seth, who lives in Fort Collins, CO., is taking pre-med classes and has not been training as much.

"Seth was at the race and encouraging me along the sidelines," Fiedler said. "This course was different from Vermont. They didn't allow spectators up in the course area.

"The riders have to sign waivers. They probably didn't want other people on the course for safety reasons."

Also cheering Fiedler was his wife, Kathy, who also attended the nationals in Vermont.

Fiedler said the 10-mile course consisted of a 7 ½-mile climb and a drop of 2 ½ miles.

"I'm very happy with how I did considering the division I was in," said Fiedler, who is ranked No. 1 in Michigan and eighth nationally in the 60-64 division. "I was out of air at the end because of the elevation.

"It was just beautiful country out there."

Mark competed last weekend in the Ore to Shore race. The 30-mile event goes from Negaunee to Marquette.

Bob Fiedler plans to train and compete for the second year in the Ice Man Race in Kalkaska, which is set for the second week in November. The race runs 28 miles from Kalkaska to Traverse City.

"The Ice Man Race is a real cool race," Fiedler said. "It's a good time."

By JIM WHYMER



Contact Jim Whymer at (810) 989-6267 or jwhymer@gannett.com. View his blog at www.thetimesherald.com/sports.

Gregg takes a powder!

Alan Gregg, has “flown the coop”, returning to his native British Isles until November as he takes care of some personal business regarding retirement, pensions, and all that stuff with which us “old guys” have to contend. There are a few cynics among us that have even posited that his absence has been directly proportional to the increase in our membership of late! Now whether Bill Wingrove’s observation is real or imagined, the fact is, that there has been a surprising surge in attendance lately.

Levity aside, Alan has been extremely active in promoting chess in the area, and for the PHCC in particular. He has been instrumental in posting flyers at libraries, restaurants and all other venues that would permit it, providing analysis and instruction at club meetings, giving a simul at the March PHASD School Championship tournament, designing and administering our website, which he proposed some time ago, and making numerous contacts throughout the state and even internationally, providing the PHCC notoriety and name recognition. He has represented us in international competition in Guernsey, Toronto, and London, not to mention his most recent **crowning** achievement as 2010 Michigan Senior Champion!



While I couldn't resist a chance to print this rare photo of our beloved club champion playing at the St. Clair Chess Club hosted at Burger King, I would be remiss if I failed to mention that his affable presence, expertise and British wit (*He is always quick to remind us Yanks that as a London cabbie, he is part of a fraternity credited expertise in just about everything!*) is sorely missed at the PHCC, and we look forward to his return. Hail to the King!

Blunders Key Speed Championship Play in Double RR Event

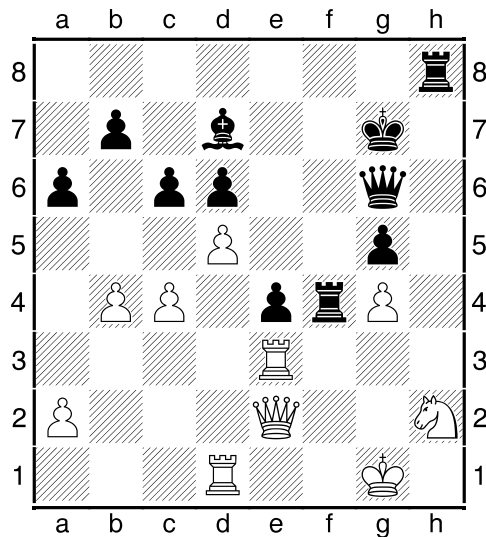
Phil Willard generously returned the favor that **Lon Rutkofske** gave him in the first game to steal the speed champion crown. **Phil "the Willador"** coughed up his queen in their second game to ensure **Lon's** win! (See the positions that follow). Although it wasn't pretty, nor well-attended, the tournament, postponed once already, had to go on! Those that did attend seemed to enjoy the competition, and hopefully plan to put in an appearance at next month's Halloween Mini-Swiss. **Bill Wingrove** came late in the evening due to a meeting conflict, but was quickly upended by Phil in a 10 minute game. It seems this was Phil's night to knock off the big boys...but "I coulda been a contendah" Willard let one slip away this evening! **Avery Jones**, who braved the Blue Water Bridge traffic from Sarnia, and **Mark Fritchett** rounded out the field of four!

One of the issues that consistently surface at speed and blitz events is the view that the club hosts too much rapid chess. Many members favor longer time controls. Since being run roughshod at this year's Michigan Senior and Michigan Open, I can concur with such an assessment. As a result, next year, we will be planning some slower time controls, which might feature two rounds a week with time controls of G/90 or perhaps G/45. If members wish to wade in on such a proposal, don't hesitate to contact Lon with your preferences and suggestions!

#	Name	Rtng(Pre/Post)	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	Rutkofske, Lon	1964/1949	X	1	2	2	5.0
2	Willard, Phil	1364/1379	1	X	1	1.5	3.5
3	Jones, G. Avery	1469/1485	0	1	X	2	3.0
4.	Fritchett, Mark	1460/1444	0	.5	0	X	0.5

Game 1 - 2010 Speed Champs – Black to Play

Phil Willard

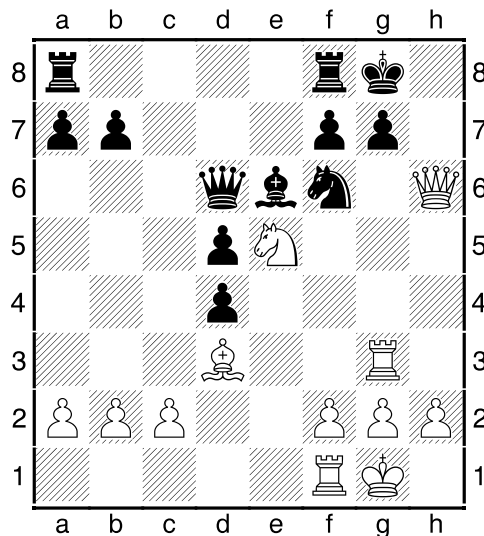


Lon Rutkofske

Here is what happened: 1... Rxh2 2. Qxh2, Bxg4 3.Rd2, Bf3 4.Rxf3, Rxf3 5. Re2, g4 6.Qf4???, Rxf4 (At this point I had 1:35 left and Phil had :38 on our clocks...so I was hoping to stall for time!) 7. Rd2, g3 8. Kg2, Qh5 9.Kg1, Qh3 10.Re1, Qh2 mate with 2 seconds to spare!

Game 2 - 2010 Speed Champs – Black to Play

Lon Rutkofske



Phil Willard

In this desperate position, I played, 1...,Bg4??? Hoping to swindle the master swindler....2. Nxc4??? (**The simple 2.Rxc4 wins instantly!!! And Phil was ahead on time to boot!!!**), gxh6! (Still not out of the woods yet!!)3.Nh6+,Kh8 4.Rh3, Qf5! 5. Ng4+, Kg8 6.Bh7+, Kg7 7.Nxf6, Qxf6 8.f4, Rfe8 9.Rff3, Kf8 10.Rfg3, Ke7 and White lost on time.

Youngsters Pound Former Club Champ in 2010 Michigan Open

Well, to say it wasn't pretty would be an understatement! It wasn't even good looking, as an uninspired, and unprepared **Lon Rutkofske** faced off and got cross-checked by some of the state's up and coming junior players (The same bitter pill experienced by Alan Gregg in Canadian Open tournament!) in this year's Michigan Open Chess Championships held at the Lexington Hotel in Lansing over the Labor Day weekend.

In fact, Lon didn't even make it to the finish line, packing it in early on Monday morning withdrawing before the final two rounds in a vain attempt at salvaging some pride and the better part of Labor Day. The only consolation seemed to be that fellow competitor and multi-Senior Open Champ, **Greg Bailey** shared similar frustration and pain, garnering only a single point before reentering for the final two days of the tournament.

Jeff Aldrich ran his usual silky smooth tournament, and there was even time to attend the Michigan Chess Association annual meeting and festivities as long time promoters and MCA standard bearers **Stan Beckwith** and **Pete Nixon** were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Meeting **Andy Catlin** and **Tony Palmer** was a treat as we laid some superficial plans for an internet match between West Michigan Chess and the PHCC later this in the year, in addition to increasing our relationship and

communications via our mutual websites. Lon hopes to become more active in support of MCA in terms of attending tournaments, making positive contributions to the magazine and corresponding on a regularly with the board on issues important to local clubs like the PHCC.

The MCA and West Michigan Chess have links built into our webstie, so if you get a chance, check out the activities, tournaments and events that these two organizations have to offer. The Members' Game section of CC will permit you to review Lon's less-than-spectacular tournament results.

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 9/15/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	1939
Rutkofske, Lon	1905
Morabito, Matt	1760
Petty, Michael	1740
Broyles, Tom	1736
Fiedler, Robert	1725
Wingrove, Bill	1707
Bedy, Noel	1628
Duncan, Bob	1595
Dean, Joel	1560
Berthen, Dale	1537
Scholfield, Chris	1503
Willard, Mark	1500
Willard, Phil	1486
Jones, G. Avery	1469
Mark Fitchett	1460
Chan, Jaime	1452
Boucher, Dave	1322
Jachcinski, Michael	1016
Tuttle, Aaron	498

PHCC Speed Rating List as of 9/15/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Rutkofske, Lon	1949
Petty, Michael	1763
Broyles, Tom	1708
Duncan, Bob	1693
Morabito, Matt	1668
Fiedler, Robert	1640
Wingrove, Bill	1625
Dean, Joel	1592
Jones, G. Avery	1485
Mark Fitchett	1444
Bedy, Noel	1440
Willard, Phil	1379

USCF Ratings as of 9/15/10

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Gregg, Alan	2000
Rutkofske, Lon	1897
Fiedler, Robert	1769
Broyles, Tom	1737
Morabito, Matt	1725
Petty, Michael	1703
Wingrove, Bill	1694
Jones, G. Avery	1671
Deal, Joel	1615
Willard, Phil	1551
Bedy, Noel	1517
Duncan, Bob	1497
Chan, Jaime	1447
Trombley, Cody	1278

Boucher, Dave	1277
Mireau, Nathan	1050
Jachcinski, Michael	987

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 analysis done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated.

The following games represent only a small fraction of games played by St Clair CC and PHCC members. I hope that other members will begin to send us some of their favorite games to showcase, because it gets awful boring just showing games played by Alan or myself!!!

Rutkofske,Lon (1897) - Broyles,Tom (1737)

Casual Game St. Clair (1), 19.06.2010 [A02] **Bird's Opening**

1.f4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.fxe5 Nxe5 4.e3 Bd6 5.Nxe5 Qh4+ 6.g3 Qe4 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Bg2 Qg4 9.0-0 Bxg3 10.hxg3 Qxg3 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Nh2 d5 13.Qf3 Qg5 14.Nc3 Re8 15.Nxd5 1-0

Rutkofske,Lon (1897) - Broyles,Tom (1737)

Casual Game St. Clair (2), 19.06.2010 [A03] **Bird's Opening**

1.f4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Bg4 4.Be2 Nf6 5.0-0 e6 6.Qe1 Bd6 7.d3 0-0 8.Nbd2 e5 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bxg4 11.hxg4 Nxg4 12.Nb3 Qf6 13.Qh4 Qg6 14.f5 Qxf5 15.Nh2 Qg6 16.Qxg4 e4 17.Qxg6 fxe6 18.dxe4 Bxh2+ 19.Kxh2 Rxf1 20.Bxf1 Rf8 21.Bd2 dxe4 22.Bc4+ Kh8 23.Rf1 Rd8 24.Nd4 Ne5 25.Be2 h5 26.Bc3 1-0

Broyles,Tom (1737) - Rutkofske,Lon (1897)

Casual Game St. Clair (3), 19.06.2010 [B12] **Caro-Kann Advance Variation**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e5 c5 5.c3 Qb6 6.Be2 Bd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Qb3 Qc7 9.Be3 f6 10.dxc5 fxe5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Qc2 h6 13.Qg6+ Kd8 14.Nf7+ Kc8 15.Nxh8 Be8 16.Qc2 d4 17.Bd2 e4 18.Bb5 Ng4 19.g3 e3 20.fxe3 dxe3 21.Rxf8 Qe7 22.Ng6 Qxc5 23.Rxe8+ Kc7 24.Rxa8 exd2+ 25.Kg2 Ne3+ 26.Kh3 Qh5+ 27.Nh4 Qg4# 0-1

Atulya, Shetty (2199) - Rutkofske, Lonnie (1897)

Michigan Open (1), 3.9.2010 [C02] **French Advanced**

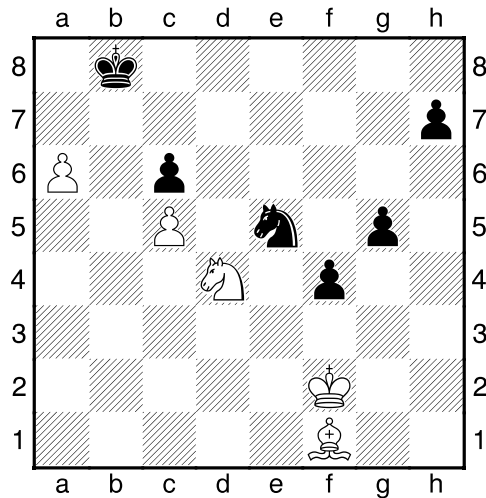
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 a5 7.Bd3 Bd7 8.0-0 a4 9.Re1 Be7 10.Bc2 Qa7 11.Be3 b6 12.Nbd2 c4 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.Bxg5 Nce7 15.Qg4 Ng6 16.h4 Nf8 17.Bf6 Nxf6 18.Qxg7 Rg8 19.Qxf6 Bc6 20.Qf3 Qd7 21.Nf1 Qe7 22.Ne3 Kd7 23.Ng4 Kc7 24.Nf6 Rg7 25.Qe3 Ng6 26.h5 Nh4 27.g3 h6 28.Kf1 Nf5 29.Bxf5 exf5 30.Qxh6 Qf8 31.Qf4 Kb7 32.Qxf5 Qh8 33.e6 fxe6 34.Rxe6 Rd8 35.Rae1 Qf8 36.Qe5 Rc7 37.Re7 Rdc8 38.Qd6 Qh6 39.Ne8 1-0

I took a bye in Round 2 to attend the MSU-WMU football game.

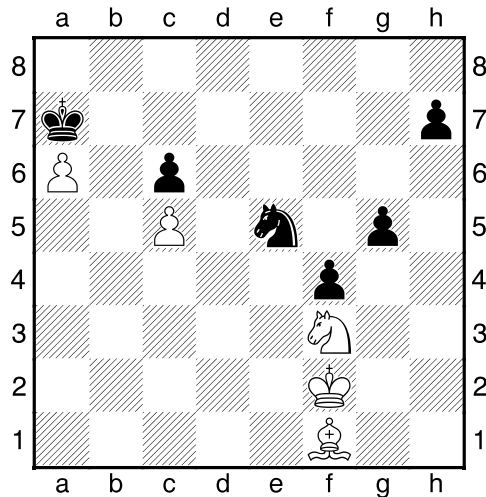
Rutkofske,Lonnie (1897) - Bailey,Greg (1912)

Michigan Open (3), 04.09.2010 [A16] **English Opening**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Nb6 6.d3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 e5 9.Be3 N8d7 10.Qc1 c6 11.Bh6 Nd5 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Rd1 Qe7 14.a3 Re8 15.Nd2 N5f6 16.b4 a6 17.Qb2 Nf8 18.Na4 Bg4 19.Re1 Rad8 20.Rac1 Kg8 21.Nc5 Bc8 22.Nc4 Nd5 23.e4 Nf6 24.Nb6 Bg4 25.f4 exf4 26.gxf4 Nh5 27.Qf2 Ne6 28.h3 Nxc5 29.bxc5 Bxh3 30.Bxh3 Rxd3 31.Re3 Rxe3 32.Qxe3 Qxe4 33.Qxe4 Rxe4 34.Rc4 Rxc4 35.Nxc4 f5 36.Nd6 Nxf4 37.Bf1 Kf8 38.Nxb7 Ne6 39.Bxa6 Ke7 40.Bc4 Nd4 41.a4 Kd7 42.a5 Kc7 43.a6 f4 44.Na5 Kb8 45.Nb3 Nf3+ 46.Kf2 Ne5 47.Bf1 g5 48.Nd4 Diagram



48...Ka7 49.Nf3 Diagram



Draw Agreed

Lonnie Rutkofske (1897) - Kyle Webster (1770)

Michigan Open (4), 0009 [A10] English

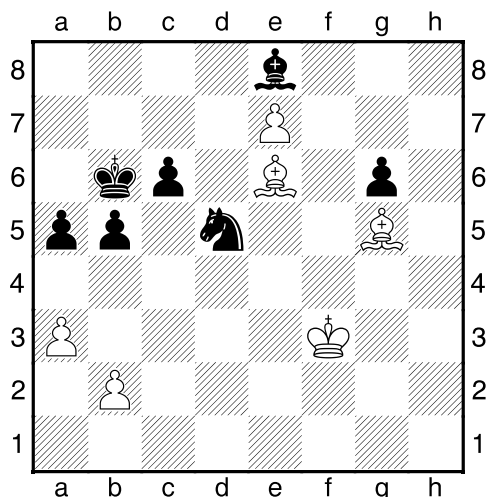
1.c4 f5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Nh3 e5 7.Nd5 0-0 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Qb3 c6 10.Bh6 Bg7 11.Bxg7 Qa5+ 12.Qc3 Qxc3+ 13.bxc3 Kxg7 14.f4 Nd7 15.Kd2 Nf6 16.Rab1 Rf7 17.e3 Re7 18.Nf2 Be6 19.Rb2 Rd8 20.Rhb1 Rdd7 21.a4 Bf7 22.c5 exf4 23.gxf4 dxc5 24.Bf3 Bd5 25.Be2 b6 26.Rg1 Be4 27.Kc2 Bd5 28.Rg3 Rb7 29.c4 Bf7 30.Kc3 b5 31.axb5 cxb5 32.cxb5 Nd5+ 33.Kd2 a6 34.Bf3 Rxb5 35.Rxb5 axb5 36.Bxd5 Bxd5 37.Nd1 b4 38.e4 fxe4 39.Ne3 Be6 40.dxe4 Ra7 41.h4 c4 42.h5 c3+ 43.Kd3 Rd7+ 44.Kc2 Rd2+ 45.Kc1 b3 46.hxg6 Ra2 47.Nf5+ Bxf5 48.gxh7+ Kxh7 49.Rxc3 b2+ 0-1

Dang,Michael (1752) - Rutkofske,Lonnie (1897)

Michigan Open (5), 05.09.2010 [C10] French Defense

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 c6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.c3 Qb6 8.Qe2 Qc7 9.0-0 Nd5 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qxe5 12.f4 Qc7 13.f5 e5 14.f6 g6 15.Ng5 Bd6 16.Ne4 Be6 17.Re1 0-0-0 18.Bc4 Rhe8 19.Nxd6+ Qxd6 20.Qxe5 Qc5+ 21.Qd4 Qxd4+ 22.cxd4 Nc7 23.Bf1 Bd5 24.Re5 Rd6 25.Bg5 Ne6 26.Rae1 Red8 27.Bh4 b5 28.Rc1 Kb7 29.a3 Nxd4 30.Re7+ R6d7 31.Bf2 Nf5 32.Rxd7+ Rxd7 33.g4 Nd6 34.Re1 Ne4 35.Bd4 a5 36.Bg2 Ng5 37.Re7 Be6 38.Be3 h6 39.h4

Nh7 40.g5 hxg5 41.hxg5 Rxe7 42.fxe7 Bd7 43.Bh3 Be8 44.Kf2 f6 45.gxf6 Nxf6 46.Kf3 Kc7
47.Bf4+ Kb6 48.Bg5 Nd5 49.Be6 Diagram



49...Kc5 50.Ke4 Kd6 51.Bxd5 cxd5+ 52.Kd4 a4 53.Bf6 ½-½

This contest was interesting because Phil was the defending club champion from 1988, and the Philidor has always been one of his favorite openings with Black, hence the name we gave it afterward: “the Willardor”!

Wilkinson,Stew (1825) - Willard,Phil (1725)

1989 PHCC Championships (2), 26.01.1989 [C41] Philidor

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.dxe5 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 dxe5 6.Bc4 Qd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Nc3 Be7
10.Rfd1 Qg4 11.Qxg4 Nxg4 12.Nd5 Bd6 13.c3 Na5 14.Be2 Nxe3 15.Nxe3 a6 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Rd2
g6 18.Ne3 Bh6 19.Rd5 Nc6 20.Nc4 f6 21.Rad1 Rd8 22.Rxd8+ Nxd8 23.Bg4 0-0 24.Rd7 b5
25.Ne3 Bxe3 26.fxe3 h5 27.Be2 Ne6 28.a4 Nc5 29.Rxc7 Nxe4 30.Bf3 Nd6 31.Bd5+ Kh8 32.Rd7
Nc4 33.axb5 axb5 34.Bxc4 bxc4 35.Rc7 Rb8 36.Rxc4 Rxb2 37.Kf1 Kg7 38.Rc7+ Kh6 39.c4 Kg5
40.c5 Rc2 41.c6 Kf5 42.Ke1 Ke4 43.Kd1 Rc5 44.Kd2 h4 45.Rg7 Rxc6 46.Rxg6 Kf5 47.Rh6 Kg5
48.Rh8 Ra6 49.Rg8+ Kf5 50.h3 Ra7 51.Rg4 Rh7 52.e4+ Ke6 53.Ke3 Kf7 54.Kf3 Ke6 55.Rg8 Kf7
56.Ra8 Rh5 57.Ra7+ Kg6 58.Ra8 f5 59.Ra6+ Kf7 60.exf5 Rxf5+ 61.Ke4 Rf2 62.Kxe5 Rxg2
63.Rh6 Re2+ 64.Kf4 Rb2 65.Rxh4 Rb4+ 66.Kg3 Rxh4 67.Kxh4 Kg6 68.Kg4 ½-½

Calendar of Coming Events:

Registration for all events begins at 6:30 PM or via email, first round begins at 7:00 PM.

- Oct. 7th G/30 Boo-dacious Halloween Mini-Swiss - EF: A: \$2.00, Under19:\$1.00
- Nov. 11th Duncan Turkey Gobbler Tournament - EF: A: \$2.00, Under19:\$1.00
- Dec. 9th G/5 -Jingle Bells Double Round Robin - EF: A: \$2.00, Under19:\$1.00

Blasts from the Past Taken from a June 23, 1974 *Port Huron Times Herald* article
by club member Ron Bonnett.

JUNE 23, 1974
**Port Huron Chess Club: an evening
of entertainment plus 'friendliness'**

★ ★ ★
'Chess, like love, like music, has
the power to make men happy.'

—Tarrasch

★ ★ ★
BY RON BONNETT
Times Herald Reporter

Friendliness, low-keyed, no pressure competition for those who want it; and a good time for everyone, regardless of age.

Those are the keynotes of the Port Huron Chess Club.

Less than five years old but ranked in the top three in membership and first in abundance in the state, the club emphasizes congenial atmosphere for players of all levels.

With nearly 100 members, of which about 30 show up any given Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Adult Activities Center, 821 Seventh, the club's membership ages run from five to nearly 70 years old.

Because members come in various playing strengths, any chess player can find a willing opponent for either a "skittles" game or a full-blown "clock" match for points in the club's rating ladder — a totally voluntary ongoing tournament.

The theme of the club, and probably what has attributed to its success while other clubs have failed, remains the same, however: Friendliness — with a capital "F."

Persons walking in the door of the club for the first time will not see a stereotyped chess club, such as in New York or Chicago.

Although some of the members have beards and a few are up in years (the "typical" chess player of yesteryear, bent over, graying, and always hushing everyone while he concentrates), is not present.

Instead the visitor, who will cordially be invited to participate if he or she wishes, is welcomed by a smiling bunch of "wood pushers" who love the game (most of the time) and are willingly take time with a beginner.

If the visitor does not know how to play, he or she will be taught — slowly and with no pressure to hurry past the elementary aspects of the game.

Every player remembers how difficult it was to start off (although it only seems that way in the beginning), and no one is laughed at — at least until he or she laughs at themselves (believe it or not, but chess is an awful lot of fun).

If the visitor already knows how to play but wants to learn more, the club includes several players with high ratings in state and national tournaments who can and are willing to teach more complicated openings and variations.

The club has a vast library of chess books on a myriad of subjects that may be borrowed by members. Memberships are a nominal \$1 per year for adults and 50 cents for juniors.

The club had its origin in 1969 when Lonnie W. Rutkofske, now a Port Huron Central High School teacher and coach,

came to Port Huron from California (before that time, several attempts were made by others to start clubs; but for some reason, usually competitive egos, they failed).

Rutkofske approached the City Recreation Department in the fall of 1969 and asked for assistance in forming a club. He had been a member of a chess club in California and was eager to continue play here.

"The recreation department really went to bat for me," he said. "Matt Urban found a place to play, and the department later bought sets, clocks, and books. Without them we could never have made it."

An advertisement was placed in The Times Herald specifying formation of the club and that members would begin meeting on Thursday nights in the Washington Intermediate School.

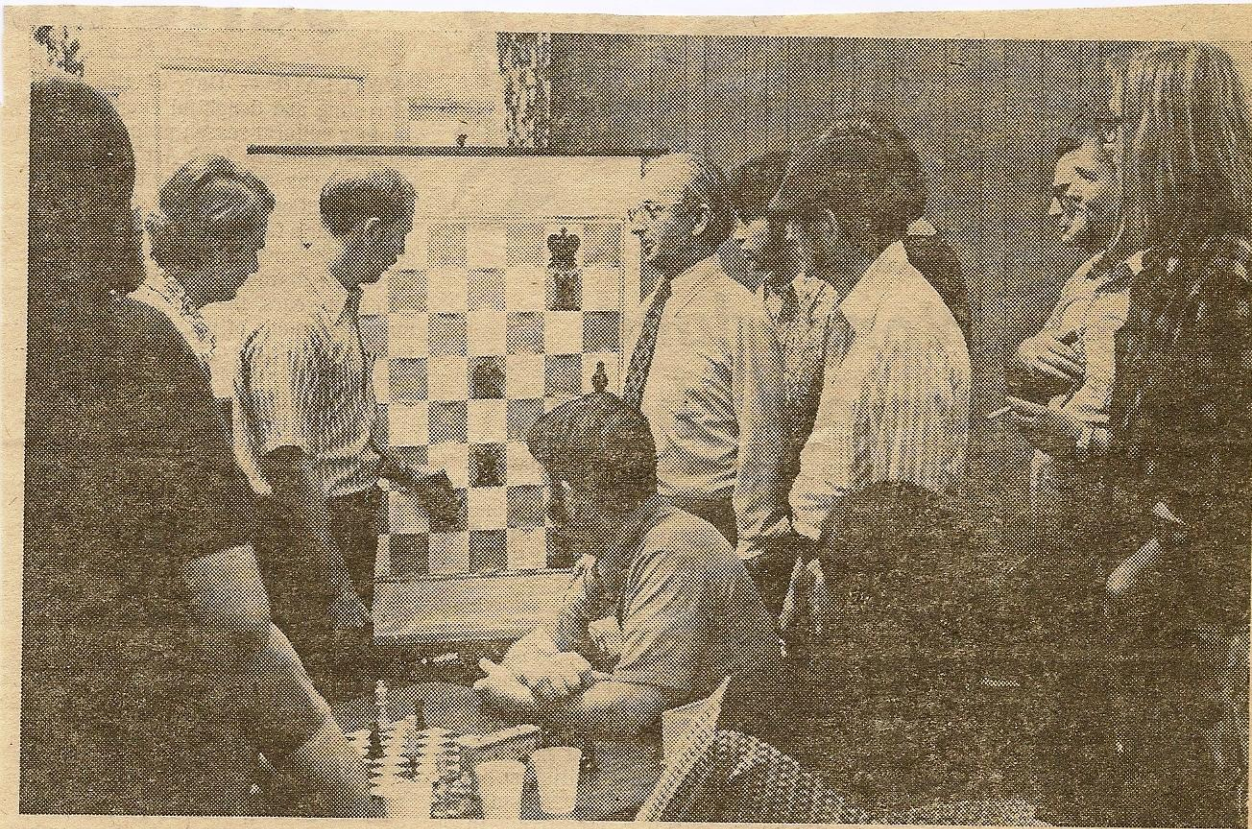
The first Thursday only four persons showed up — and to this date, those four still form the nucleus of the ever-expanding organization.

The four were Rutkofske; Bob Duncan, also a teacher; John Haacke, the club's senior member; and Norm McLeod, a cost estimator at the Mueller Brass Company who is "Mr. Congeniality" among club members.

McLeod is usually the first to greet visitors, offer help, or play someone of unknown strength.

After a year at Washington, the club moved to Peru Village for about two years and then found a home in the Adult Activities Center through the generosity of the St. Clair County Council on Aging.

Although the club collects dues from those wishing to participate in tournaments (the money goes toward refreshments and a club picnic), operational expenses of the club come



Lonnie W. Rutkofske explains variations to Port Huron Chess Club members

from the City Recreation Department.

The "Rec" Department not only purchases books, clocks, and chess sets for the club, but it also buys trophies and other prizes for the many voluntary tournaments the club holds and mimeographs the club's newsletter "Chess Chatter" whenever the irregular publication comes out.

Edited by staunch chess enthusiast Fred Johnsick, "Chess Chatter" is the club newsletter.

The club has brought in a nationally-ranked chess master, Jude Acres, of San Francisco, twice to play simultaneous matches (Acres has played more than 100 persons at a time and has won all matches) and is planning to sponsoring a team to enter in state competition.

In addition to promoting their own club, members have helped other com-

munities around the state, including Birmingham, Waterford, and Selfridge Air Force Base, form chess clubs.

A large number of club members come from Sarnia and various cities in the Thumb Area, making the club a truly international organization (in fact, the present champions of several of the club's classes --for competition only -- are from across the St. Clair River).

Dues News The Port Huron Chess Club will begin to collect dues for the coming year. 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 \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for those under 19. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department.