



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske August-September 2025 Vol. 44 Number 5

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: **Under Renovation**

New PHCC website is under construction!

Alan Gregg and Lon Rutkofske will be in the process of reconstructing and freshening up the previous club website on Yola and will result in a rebuild of the previous site and a renaming that might cause some inconvenience to new searchers and veteran users seeking information about the PHCC, its events and activities for the near future. The goal would be to have at least a temporary site within a few weeks in the hopes of a complete makeover before the end of the year. Should you need more immediate information please contact the Palmer Park recreation department or email the club at the address given above.

Avdic claims September Thematic event crown.

Club Co-Champion, Huso Avdic cruised effortlessly through a host of challengers on his way to an undefeated 6-0 score in the three round-double mini-swiss hosted in this September's club event pocketing the \$20 first place prize cash. Lon Rutkofske and Alan Gregg split the second prize \$10 award. The tournament was intended to be a four-round event, but time constraints and clock issues forced the TD to cut the event short as an unanticipated withdrawal ultimately doomed a 4th round. Thematic events feature predetermined positions that players are given for each round with opening positions that are considered materially and positionally "even", relying on opponents to create winning chances that are more in tune with their style of play and are unusual enough to allow for creativity and experience to influence the outcome.

September 2025 - Thematic Mini-Swiss 9-18-25 (game/10 minutes time control)

#	Name	Ratings: Pre/Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	Huso Avdic	2035/2079	WW4	WW3	WW2	6
2	Alan Gregg	1951/1938	WW5	WW7	LL1	4
4	Lon Rutkofske	1631/1738	LL1	WW5	WW3	4
6	Bill Wingrove	1519/1522	LL3	B---	WD5	3½
3	Matt Morabito	1804/1763	WW6	LL1	LL4	2
7	Mugil Muruganandam	1258/1256	B---	LL2	U---	2
5	LaFonce Jackson	1520/1476	LL2	LL4	DL6	½

Morabito shepherds yet another new member into the club!



One of the most ingratiating qualities of long-time club-member and educator Matt Morabito has exhibited throughout his tenure at the Port Huron Chess Club is his incredible generosity. On numerous occasions the former SC4 teacher and world traveler determined to master the Italian language, has opened up his wallet to assist players short on entry fee cash, contribute to support tournament prize funds, or provide supplies for club activities and events.

No example of this capacity was more clearly demonstrated than his volunteering to pay for LaFonce Jackson's club dues/entry fees for Thursday's Thematic event. This whole situation arose at a happenstance meeting between LaFonce and Matt while conducting business at a local bank. LaFonce has attended our club on a number of occasions, but this is the first instance in which he was personally invited to participate in a club event. As a teacher, Lon knew LaFonce as a student at Port Huron Central High School, and Matt when he attended SC4 both knowing his passion for the "royal game" and encouraged him to drop by the club on a more regular basis.

This was LaFonce's inaugural PHCC tournament and naturally, he had some trepidation about his performance, but knowing him like we both do, we are certain that he will shake off his shortcomings in this particular event and chalk it up to experience, hoping to see him at coming event, such as the upcoming Club Speed Championships in mid-October! Thanks Matt, for helping build a stronger PHCC!

One of Doboј's finest, Huso sweeps the field in August 21st spontaneous simul!



L-R Huso Avdic, Gerrit Beneker, Ryan Urick, Bill Wingrove, Mugil Muruganandam, Christine Chen, & Alana Burke

Our own Bosnian chess wizard and 4-time club champion, **Huso Avdic** challenged a bevy of avid PHCC players to a simultaneous exhibition the evening of August 21st during the willing to gang up on him in a mass chess frenzy hoping to upend the champ by overwhelming him with sheer force of numbers. Unfortunately, not a single one of the PHCC hopefuls were able to notch a single point, as our resident expert exited the challenge flawlessly unscathed without even a single draw. Thanks for keeping us humble, Huso!!!



L-R: Huso, Bill, Mugil, and Daniel Chen.



L-R:Huso, Christine & Alana.

Stephen Bussone captures September Junior Championship Unchallenged!



Yale's **Stephen Bussone** was without peer as he navigated a tough field as the sole competitor in the September Junior Tournament. Securing his second first place trophy, Stephen has the opportunity to surpass Sarnia's **Mugil Muruganandam** as a thrice-crowned champion, which should lead to a major duel in the final Club Junior Tournament on October 9th.

We are expecting a monumental struggle as both Stephen and Mugil have to bring their A-games to claim ownership of this Junior Championship Series.

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 were available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally if you wish. The 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 by a lower rated player only.
 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. A 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 (I.E: 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. 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.
15. Changes will also be posted on the club website. 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.

Huso Avdic's Games from Monthly Canton Chess Tournament:

Miah,Guo (1595) - Avdic,Huso (1999) [B56] Classical Sicilian

Canton Chess Tournament Canton (1), 13.09.2025

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Be3 g6 8.f3 Bg7 9.Qd2 0-0 10.g4 Rc8 11.h4 h5 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.gxh5 Nxh5 14.Bh6 Qb6 15.Nb3 a5 16.a4 Be6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Ra3 Rb8 19.Ne2 Bxb3 20.Qc3+ e5 21.Rxb3 Qc7 22.f4 Rxb3 23.cxb3 Kh7 24.f5 Qb6 25.Qf3 Qb4+ 26.Kd1 d5 27.Rf1 Qxe4 28.fxg6+ Qxg6 29.Rg1 Qb1+ 30.Nc1 Nf4 31.Qg3 Qxc1+ 32.Kxc1 Ne2+ 33.Kd2 Nxc3 34.Rxc3 d4 35.Kd3 f5 36.Rg5 c5 37.Kc4 e4 38.Kxc5 d3 39.Kc4 d2 40.Rg1 Rd8 41.Rd1 e3 42.Kc3 e2 43.Rxd2 e1Q 0-1

Avdic,Huso (1999) - Bail,Mogal (1749) [A04] K-I Attack

Canton Chess Tournament Canton (2), 13.09.2025

1.Nf3 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.e3 e5 4.d4 cxd4 5.exd4 e4 6.Ng5 d5 7.h4 h6 8.Nh3 Bd6 9.Be3 Nge7 10.c4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bb4+ 12.Kf1 Nf5 13.a3 Bd6 14.Nc3 Qxh4 15.Qc2 Nxe3+ 16.fxe3 Bf5 17.Nf2 Qe7 18.Ncxe4 0-0 19.g4 Bg6 20.Bd3 Bxa3 21.g5 Nb4 22.Qc5 Nxd3 23.Qxa3 Qxa3 24.Rxa3 Nxf2 25.Nxf2 hxg5 26.Kg2 a6 27.Ra5 Rfe8 28.Kf3 g4+ 29.Ke2 g3 30.Nd3 Rac8 31.Rc5 b6 32.Rc4 Be4 33.Rg1 Bd5 34.Rxc8 Rxc8 35.Rxc3 Bxb3 36.Ne5 a5 37.e4 Bc2 38.Nd7 b5 39.d5 Rc4 40.e5 Bf5 41.Nf6+ Kf8 42.Rg5 gxf6 43.Rxf5 Re4+ 44.Kd3 Rxe5 45.Rxf6 Rxd5+ 46.Ke4 Rh5 47.Ra6 b4 48.Kf4 Rb5 0-1

Yan,Gracie Ge (1531) - Avdic,Huso (1999) [E61] K-I Defense-Smyslov

Canton Chess Tournament Canton (3), 13.09.2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.e3 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 d6 7.0-0 a6 8.a3 Nbd7 9.Qc2 b6 10.h3 Bb7 11.Rd1 cxd4 12.exd4 Rc8 13.Qd3 Rc7 14.d5 b5 15.cxb5 Nc5 16.Qe3 Qa8 17.bxa6 Bxa6 18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Nd4 Na4 20.Nde2 Rfc8 21.Rb1 Nd7 22.Nxa4 Qxa4 23.Bd2 Ne5 24.Bc3 Qa6 25.Bxe5 Bxe5 26.Nd4 Bf6 27.Nf3 Qb5 28.Qd3 Qa4 29.Qf1 Rb8 30.Rdc1 Rcb7 31.Qc4 Qxc4 32.Rxc4 Rxb2 33.Rxb2 Rxb2 34.a4 Ra2 35.Kf1 Kg7 36.Ke1 h6 37.Nd4 Be5 38.Nc2 e6 39.dxe6 fxe6 40.Kd2 d5 41.Rc6 Kf7 42.Ra6 Bf6 43.Kd3 e5 44.f3 e4+ 45.fxe4 dxe4+ 46.Kd2 e3+ 47.Kd3 e2 48.Kxe2 Rxc2+ 49.Kf3 Rc7 50.Ra8 Bd4 51.a5 Ra7 52.Rxa7+ Bxa7 53.Ke4 Ke6 54.a6 Bb8 55.g4 Ba7 56.Kf3 Ke5 57.h4 g5 58.h5 Kd4 59.Kg2 Ke3 60.Kg3 Bb6 61.Kg2 Kf4 62.Kh3 Ba7 63.Kh2 Kxg4 0-1

Avdic,Huso (1999) - Fleming,William (1789) [D79] Fianchetto Grunfeld

Canton Chess Tournament Canton (4), 13.09.2025 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 c6 6.0-0 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.d4 Bg4 9.Ne5 Be6 10.Qb3 Nc6 11.Rd1 Nxe5 12.dxe5 d4 13.Qa4 Ng4 14.Rxd4 Qb6 15.Rxc4 Bxc4 16.Qxc4 Bxe5 17.Nd5 Qd6 18.Bh6 Rfd8 19.Rd1 Qc5 20.b4 Qd6 21.Bg5 f5 22.Qh4 Qe6 23.e4 Bf6 24.Bxf6 exf6 25.exf5 Qxf5 26.Ne7+ 1-0

Calendar of Events:

First Thursday of Each Month: Free Chess Clinics – 6:30 to 7:00 PM; **Private Lessons** can be arranged @ \$15/person per hour; **Open play:** 7:00 until 10:00 PM. 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 they 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!

October 9th - Junior Tournament 6:30-8:30 pm

October 16th PHCC Speed Championships - The Port Huron Chess Club's 41st Annual Speed Championship Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 16th beginning at 7:00 PM. Registrations will determine the number of rounds and prizes. PHCC membership required. Please contact Lon if you plan to play. There will be no registrations on-site. If you intend to play, contact Lon before October 14th. Will be USCF rated if all entrants are USCF members.)

November 20th - **PHCC Rated Quick Tournament DRR Game/15 PHCC Rated Action Quads** (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration; 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. 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.)

Ahhhhhhh!!! the good "Old Days" - PHCC Amigos at 2019 Michigan -Masters, Experts Tournament.



L-R: Bill Wingrove, Avery Jones; Josh Muir; Lon Rutkofske, Alan Gregg

Play at the PHCC – March 10, 2016



L-R Lon Rutkofske, Bill Wingrove, Rob Brown, Gerrit Beneker, LaFonce Jackson, Dave Boucher, Tony West.

Ratings:

The following lists represent only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, 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 assigned a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members with USCF ratings. Club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

PHCC Ratings as of 9/19/25

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andrew	2267
Avdic, Huso	2104
Gregg, Alan	1952
Seth, Samarth	1832
Morabito, Matt	1830
Urick, Ryan	1802
Rutkofske, Lon	1728
Jackson, LaFonce	1500
Wingrove, Bill	1499
Ledsworth, Brian	1400
Mang, Johnny	1000
Chen, Christine	800
Muruganandam, Mugil	638
Bussone, Stephen	630
Chen, Daniel	600

PHCC Blitz Ratings as of 9/19/25

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andrew	2152
Avdic, Huso	2079
Gregg, Alan	1938
Urick, Ryan	1900
Seth, Samarth	1881
Morabito, Matt	1763
Rutkofske, Lon	1738
Wingrove, Bill	1522
Jackson, LaFonce	1476
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Muruganandam, Mugil	1256
Bussone, Stephen	1083
Chen, Christine	1053
Mang, Johnny	988
Chen, Daniel	914

USCF Ratings as of 9/19/25

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andrew	2054
Avdic, Huso	1965
Alan Gregg	1893
Rutkofske, Lon	1800
Morabito, Matt	1780
Urick, Ryan	1712
Wingrove, Bill	1520
Ledsworth, Brian	1314
Willard, Parker	823
Muruganandam, Mugil	779

USCF Quick/Action Ratings as of 9/19/25

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andrew	2027
Avdic, Huso	1923
Morabito, Matt	1908
Gregg, Alan	1852
Rutkofske, Lon	1720
Wingrove, Bill	1510
Ledsworth, Brian	1087
Muruganandam, Mugil	734

USCF Blitz Ratings as of 9/19/25

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruzewicz, Andrew	2152
Avdic, Huso	1997
Gregg, Alan	1837
Morabito, Matt	1732
Rutkofske, Lon	1602
Ledsworth, Brian	1317

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 \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for those under 19. Dues will cover the yearly entry fees for any club-rated event. Family rates available upon request. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department. United States Chess Federation memberships are available through the club. **Memberships expiring as of July 2025 and have been removed from the rating lists: Braeden Klaty; Brad Klaty; Trenton KLaty; Drew Malburg; Sandi Fisher.**