

# WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER



SEPT. 1949

# • EDITORIAL •

Us editors ain't so dumb! Once in a while when we get lazy, tired or pressed for time we work an angle, the old standby of having a "guest editor" do the chores. So this month we have none other than Jack Nourse, President of the W. C. F., taking over the job. Jack has a couple of good ideas to expound so without further ado here he is:

In the June issue of the CHESS LETTER is an interesting letter from Mr. Amsden of Bellingham in which he deploras the time lag in Puget Sound Chess League matches and winds up by suggesting a time limit of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours per player per game.

The element of time in league games is a cause of much dissatisfaction; many players would like to know what time they will be thru, particularly the married ones. As at present, played with 40 moves per hour per player, an 80 move match could take 8 hours. This, of course, is extreme but useful to show the point. The worst feature now is that a team of five players who drive by automobile 40 miles or so in one car are all held up until the slowest player finishes.

Mr. Amsden's proposal limits the slower players to a total of 5 hours play. This again is PLENTY. Wouldn't 4 hours of play be more satisfactory?

An analysis of all games published in the CHESS LETTER from March thru August including masters games discloses an average of 34 moves per game and at the present rate of 40 moves per hour this would indicate that 45 minutes per player per game would be most satisfactory.

Hence we come inevitably to the \$64 question: How fast - or slow do the MAJORITY of the players in this league wish to play? Admittedly the masters are deliberate, but how many masters play in our league? This time limit system will eliminate adjudication and do not forget also that you can be analysing your game while your opponents clock is running. What we need is a poll of all the active players in each club. We should have a decision on this before the next season of play commences. Therefore, as President of the W. C. F., I request each Club Secretary to poll their 7 most active players on the proposals printed on the form at the bottom of this page. Fill it in and mail it to the Secretary of the League. For your votes to count they must be in the mail by Sept. 20th and signed by your Club President. Your ballot should look something like this: Proposal #1: 2, Proposal #2: 1, Proposal #3: 4 (total 7 votes). (Editorial continued on next page).

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## TIME LIMIT BALLOT

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal #1: No change - \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal #2:  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. per player per game - \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal #3: 1 hr. per player per game - \_\_\_\_\_

Club President \_\_\_\_\_

THE WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER  
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EDITORIAL (continued)

I wish to make a suggestion that the Chess Federation conduct a Guessing Contest on the final standings of the coming season's Chess League Tournament. The contest to be run as follows:

Each Club Secretary furnish a list of the ten most likely players to turn out for his club's matches, this information to be published in the CHESS LETTER.

Each contestant must send in his guess as to the final standings of all teams entered, also his guess as to the number of points each team will garner. In case of a tie the winner will be the contestant with the best point score. Entry fee: \$1.00. Winners share: 50% of the entry fees; Runner-up: one-third; Federation: one-sixth.

This will have to be pushed as the time is getting short. I will volunteer to handle this if no one else is willing.

Considering the fact that the origins of chess are shrouded in the mists of antiquity, and that the origins of Washington State chess are in approximately the same lamentable condition (an exhaustive search reveals no complete record of pre-Nourse chess), I am therefore considering compiling a record of the origins of chess in this state. (Assuming I can get the old timers of Chess to send in their recollections of past events). There are many old time experts like Otto Case (State Champion), R. H. Kendrick, Leonard Sheets, Enochsen, Erickson (the problem fiend), Henion, Frederickson and many others who doubtless have a fund of memories of contests, tournaments, etc. We should be able to print the facts about who started the first Seattle Chess Club, where they met, what contests they had, who entered and who won.

We should have character studios of interesting chess personalities who will long be remembered. (I know a few characters myself who'd be good reading but unfortunately they are still alive and my wind isn't as good as it used to be so I'll just skip it). What we want are the pre-war goods.

I suggest that the Editor consider compiling an anniversary issue of the CHESS LETTER giving a resume of the progress of chess in the last few years, and mail one copy each to every old chess player who would be likely to contribute his recollections, asking them to help out with all the data they can. After compilation this could be printed in the CHESS LETTER for a permanent record so that in later years, after this state is a bomb wrecked wilderness, some members of the Smithsonian Institute may discover that there was some form of culture among the upper vertebrates.

Maybe some other chess fan can further this idea so I leave it with you for promotion.

Jack Nourse

**JOACHIM, SCHAIN, NEALE LEAD  
SEATTLE CITY TOURNAMENT**

Near the half-way point three players have unmarred records in the Seattle City Chess Championship Tournament. They are: State Champ Charles Joachim in Section 1, and Gerald Schain and Robert Neale in Section two. It is still a close race, however, as Glenn Muller is pressing the leader in his section and Tony Walloch and Dick Allen are still very much in the running in Section two. The entry was divided into two sections in order to speed up the double round robin. Winners of the two sections will tangle in a play-off for the crown. The standings:

Section 1

	W	L	D
Joachim .....	6	0	0
Muller .....	8	1	0
Daidsen .....	7	6	0
Bussy .....	4	3	1
Sheppard .....	3	3	2
Sego .....	4	5	1
Bushnell .....	6	10	0
Weaver .....	3	5	1
Laizure .....	3	5	0
Edberg .....	1	5	1

Section 2

	W	L	D
Schain .....	10	0	0
Neale .....	6	0	0
Walloch .....	7	1	0
Allen .....	6	2	0
Metzger .....	3	2	0
Ring .....	7	7	1
Corbett .....	3	4	0
Enz .....	5	7	1
Carson .....	0	9	0
Knudsen .....	0	11	0

**KITSAP PLANS TOURNAMENT**

The Kitsap County Chess Club is preparing for its 1949 Championship Tournament. John Nourse will risk his title in the Class "A" tournament (and there seems to be several players who think they can trip up the Champ this year). Class "B" and "C" tournaments will also be run for those not aspiring to John's crown.

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**SOUTH TACOMA CHESS NEWS  
by Ray Hiscox**

We of the South Tacoma Chess Club are sorry to be losing two of our Charter members, our top player, Sgt. C. A. Williamson and Mrs. Williamson. Early in September they expect to be leaving for Germany. Their baby daughter Kathleen, now about two months old, has been a regular visitor at the Chess Club the last several weeks. We'll miss all three but wish them a pleasant so-journ.

A new, six-man round robin has been formed, and is now in progress. Competing are: Paul R. Moore, John R. MacKenzie, W. D. Hayes, Gilbert Prendergast, Willard Norman, and Owen J. Traynor.

We hope to start another of these round robins early in September when we expect a notable increase in attendance. Small group matches seem preferred to a larger tournament that would involve most of the membership.

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**ATTENTION COLLECTORS!**

Very rare exquisitely carved ivory Chinese chess set for sale. Family heirloom, imported during the Civil War. Colors are red and white; 7½" King. Offers accepted. Write or phone:

Frances M. Purington  
12513 39th Ave. N. E.  
Seattle 55, Wash.  
Phone: SH 8955

Ed. note: Having seen the chess set, I feel that the description given above is very inadequate. A very interesting feature is the intricate carving of the base of each piece. The King and Queen stand upon sort of lattice-work spheres, inside of which is another carved ivory sphere and inside of this there is a third even smaller ball. The smaller pieces are of similar design. It certainly must have consumed a lot of time, energy, patience, and probably more than one Chinaman to produce this masterpiece.

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# CORBETT'S CHATTER

by T. Patrick Corbett

I like to play chess. This may sound like a simple statement but it carries a great deal of meaning, particularly in the case of such wierd variations as "put 'em back chess", "crowd 'em" and the like. I am not a good chess player by any means, but I do know the moves and I try to improve occasionally. To me it is sacrilege when the chess board and men are used for perverted purposes. The only thing that I can attribute the heresy to is the frustrated desire to become a better chess player; why else would a normally sane player go on a tangent with "Blxv@cspiel"?

All the recent publicity on the "brilliant" (???) game of "put 'em back chess" (?) might be an indication that our noble ed. is a fan of the (ugh) game. With due respect to him (if I get past the censors with this article) I would like to make my stand clear.

If all the time that is wasted on the gruesome mutations were put to serious chess study we might see more good chess in the club rooms. To some the insipid "creations" may be fun, but they are not chess. If a person does wish to play such things, let him take himself to the dens of iniquity where such things are practiced. I walk into the club room expecting a good game of chess and find myself in the midst of "rifle chess". Next thing you know they will have degenerated to checkers.

Everything in its place, and the club room is not where you should see the insalubrious spawn of a frustrated mind. I say "let 'em play chess!"

By the way, I am the "Kriegspiel" expert of the Seattle Chess Club.

## ALBERT SANDRIN WINS U. S. OPEN

Albert Sandrin, of Chicago, Illinois, won the 50th Annual U. S. Open Championship played at Omaha, Nebraska. Sandrin's score was 10-2, just ahead of Anthony E. Santasiere of New York who had 9½-2½. There were 70 entrants in the tournament.

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## ARTHUR BISQUIER COPS JUNIOR TITLE

Arthur Bisguier, Larry Evans, and Jim Cross all finished with scores of 8-2 in the 4th Annual U. S. Junior Championship recently played at Fort Worth, Texas. Under the tie breaking S-B system, however, Bisguier came out on top, thereby successfully defending his title as U. S. Junior Champion. Bisguier hails from New York as does Evans, champion of the Marshall Chess Club. Jim Cross is the California Junior Champion.

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## UNITED STATES TOPS CANADA IN INTERNATIONAL CHESS MATCH

When all the results finally came in, tabulation proved that the United States Chess team outpointed their Canadian rivals 118½ to 86½ in the cross-continent chess match held July 3rd.

Of the ten separate matches held, the U. S. team won 6, lost 2, and drew 2. Team scores are as follows:

CANADA	Where played:	U. S. A.
15½	Bangor, Maine	4½
5	Berlin, N. H.	4
0	Vergennes, Vt.	4
2	Elizabethtown, N. Y.	7
23½	Buffalo, N. Y.	29½
2½	Port Huron, Mich.	2½
9½	Detroit Lakes, Minn.	15½
1	Regina, Sask.	1
10	Waterton, L., Alta.	14
17½	Seattle, Wash.	36½
86½	..... Totals .....	118½

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# GAMES

The following game, played in Warsaw, Poland in 1935, is an excellent example of the precise play which enabled Mr. Dake to win top place in that tournament against the cream of Europe's masters with a score of thirteen wins, five draws, and no losses! One is aware of the slow deterioration of Black's game, but it is hard to find the move which might have equalized against such unremitting pressure.

-- Glenn Muller.

ARTHUR DAKE                      C. H. ALEXANDER  
White                                      Black

(Notes by Muller)

1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-KN3
3 N-QB3	P-Q4
4 B-B4	B-N2
5 P-K3	P-B3
6 P-KR3	O-O

White's move saves his Bishop from the threat N-R4 made possible by the guarding of the black Queen Pawn.

7 N-B3	P-K3
8 Q-N3	Q-K2
9 B-Q3	QN-Q2
10 PXP	KPxP
11 O-O	K-R
12 QR-Q	N-R4
13 B-R2	P-KB4
14 Q-B2	N(R4)-B3
15 N-K5	NxN
16 BxN	N-Q2
17 B-R2	N-N3
18 N-N!	B-K3

White's Knight is on a long road to his strong point at K5.

19 N-Q2	QR-K
20 N-B3	B-B
21 N-K5	N-Q2
22 P-B4	NxN
23 BPxN	P-QR3
24 R-B	B-R3
25 Q-K2	Q-K3
26 P-KR4	R-B2
27 B-KB4	B-B

28 Q-K	P-R3
29 R-QB2	K-N2
30 P-R5	K-R?

P-KN4 looks better for Black here and is more in keeping with his previous play. No doubt Black expected more of the following moves which unblock his Bishop as well as expose White's King on the Knight file.

31 PXP	QxNP
32 Q-R4	R-R2
33 QR-B2	B-K2
34 Q-R3	R-B
35 B-N3	B-N4
36 B-R4!	R(R2)-KB2
37 BxB	QxB
38 R-B4	Q-N3
39 R-R4	K-N2
40 R-B3	Q-K3
41 R-N3ch	K-R2
42 Q-N4	Resigns.

For a minute I thought only a master could resign here, but Black is helpless against the threat: BxPch. If the R takes, White mates at N7, while if the Queen takes, RXPch, KxR, R-R3ch, and all is over.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA vs. WASHINGTON  
John Nourse,                      Dave Croomer  
Seattle, Wash.                      Vancouver, B.C.  
White                                      Black

1 P-K4	N-QB3
2 P-Q4	P-K4
3 N-KB3	N-KB3
4 B-KN5	P-KR3
5 B-R4	PxP
6 NxP	N-K4
7 N-QB3	B-N5
8 N-B5	O-O
9 P-KB4	N-N3!
10 Q-Q4	BxNch
11 PxB	NxB
12 NxN	NxP
13 N-B5	N-B3
14 O-O-O	P-Q3
15 B-Q3	BxN
16 BxB	R-K

----- (continued next page)

GAMES (continued)  
Nourse vs. Greener

17	P-N4	P-KN3
18	P-N5	PxP
19	PxP	N-R2
20	QR-N	R-K4
21	B-Q3	NxP
22	R-N3	Q-K2
23	K-N2	N-K5
24	R-N2	K-N2
25	KR-KN	P-QB4
26	Q-K3	P-Q4
27	P-B4	PxP
28	BxP	N-Q3
29	Q-Q3	NxBch
30	QxN	R-K5
31	Q-Q3	R-Q
32	Q-KR3	Q-K4ch
33	P-B3	R-K6

White resigns.

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PORTLAND CLUB TOURNEY

SICILIAN DEFENCE

Jim Schmitt  
 White

F. Aiken  
 Black

1	P-K4	P-QB4
2	N-KB3	N-QB3
3	P-Q4	PxP
4	NxP	N-KB3
5	N-QB3	P-K4
6	N(4)-N5	P-Q3
7	B-N5	P-QR3
8	BxN	PxB
9	N-R3	B-K3
10	B-B4	Q-B2
11	N-K2	BxB
12	MxB	R-B
13	P-QB3	P-N4
14	N-K3	N-K2
15	N-N3	R-KN
16	N-R5	R-N3
17	Q-B3	N-N
18	O-O	Q-Q
19	KR-Q	N-R3
20	R-Q2	R-B2
21	N-Q5	Resigns.

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Tacoma, April 3, 1949

FRENCH DEFENCE

C. Crain  
 White

C. Joachim  
 Black

1	P-K4	P-K3
2	P-Q4	P-Q4
3	N-QB3	B-N5
4	P-K5	N-Q2
5	Q-N4	B-B
6	N-B3	P-KR3
7	B-K3	P-QB4
8	PxP	Q-B2
9	B-QN5	N-K2
10	O-O	N-N3
11	Q-N3	P-QR3
12	BxNch	BxB
13	P-QN4	P-QN3
14	P-KR4	PxP
15	P-R5	N-K2
16	BxP	N-B4
17	Q-B4	BxB
18	PxB	QxP
19	N-K2	QxP
20	N(2)-Q4	NxN
21	NxN	Q-B2
22	KR-QB	Q-Q
23	R-B3	Q-N4
24	QxQ	PxQ
25	P-N4	K-K2
26	N-B6ch	BxN
27	RxB	KR-QB
28	QR-QB	RxR
29	RxR	K-Q2
30	R-N6	K-B2
31	R-N3	P-Q5
32	R-KB3	R-KB
33	K-B	K-B3
34	R-QR3	R-QR
35	K-K2	K-Q4
36	R-R5ch	K-K5
37	P-B3ch	K-B5
38	R-R4	KxP
39	K-Q3	K-B5
40	KxP	KxP
41	K-K5	R-Q
42	R-R3ch	KxP
43	RxP	R-Q4ch
44	K-K4	P-B4ch
45	K-K3	R-K4ch

White resigns.

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# EN PASSANT

by Dick Allen

First of all, I'm going to tell Finnigan off for his inaccurate editorial concerning the "smoke-filled-room" at the International Match. Now it can be told--here is what actually happened:

My opponent was a very pleasant appearing old gentleman with a pronounced British accent in tweeds. Just after I stole a pawn in the opening, he pulled out a beat-up, brown-stained old pipe and proceeded to stuff it with what appeared to be a mixture of Old Granger and something else--you know what.

Whereupon, I said, with a disarming smile, "Well, going to lay down a smoke-screen, eh?"

He smiled back, asking if I would mind. And then I made my first mistake--I said, "Oh no--go right ahead--have a good time."

From then on, it was a series of smoke barrages right in my face. It still wouldn't have been so bad, had he not eaten a lunch heavily seasoned with garlic.

As the afternoon wore heavily on I still had my pawn advantage, but the pieces now and then became indistinct as though seen thru a smoke-screen. I tried waving it away and back over the enemy sector with my hand but without much success. I mentioned the possibility of his exhaling to the side, but the suggestion was ignored as the pipe was reloaded and the gas attack was resumed. This time I detected the presence of sulfur or perhaps burning rubber in the smoke, and I could see him as tho from afar, blowing across the top of the bowl--not drawing any into his mouth. I recall that this seemed a little strange at the time, but the battle was raging back and forth with billow after billow, wave upon wave of thick, oily, clinging smoke rolling over the field. As commander-in-chief, I believed that it would take something more substantial than this to be effective against my position in spite of misgivings at GHQ about supply lines to the front.

Finally, I got out my handkerchief and started waving it like a flag, hoping to banish the smoke and fumes. My opponent, taking this gesture as the sign of surrender, offered his hand in consolation, and I, seeing the door open, rose and staggered to the nearest exit. Mr. Naas, of Everett, tried to stop me, saying frantically, "NO! No! Allen, you had a draw! Too late, I saw the maneuver which would have forced a draw..."

o o o o o o

A considerable amount of the contemporary research in chess is being conducted in the library of the Scientific Chess Institute and in the laboratories of the National Chess Foundation.

With the aid of modern I.B.M. machines they are able to perform statistical operations in the chess field equivalent to the Harvard work in the field of quantum theory and relativity. Although my harmless little chess-clock converter has been mistaken for a chess computer, e.g., letter from Mr. Joseph P. Gerritelli to Mr. Jack Finnigan, August '49 WCL, I want to take this opportunity to deny all such allegations. However, a paper has recently been presented at the SCI on this subject, and in the very near future, it may be possible to reprint extracts from same.



P O S T A L C H E S S

Postal Chess Ratings

Neil F. Power  
Postal Chess Editor

Big A's

Send your entry TODAY to:

Neil F. Power  
429 Cedar  
Snohomish, Wash.

Include your name, address, starting class, and the entry fee of 50¢ per section of seven players. Each section is an individual round robin.

Naas	1502
Ballantine	1444
Hazen	1374
Miss Grey	1372
Power	1362
Coubrough	1352
Cerretelli	1333
Tweedale	1324
Magerkurth	1322
Blakefield	1301

<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>
Ballantine .....	Allen .....	Anderson .....
Blakefield .....	Amsden .....	Beal .....
Bushnell .....	Arntzon .....	Birks .....
Cerretelli .....	Bever .....	Corbett .....
Christey .....	Cairncross .....	Hiscox .....
Coubrough .....	Dahlquist .....	Jones .....
Gordon .....	Dolle .....	Marshall .....
Greene .....	Emerson .....	McCownell .....
Grey .....	Howard .....	Mrs. Moss .....
Harmeson .....	Husby .....	Neilson .....
Hazen .....	Landenberger .....	Plume .....
Hellums .....	McCarthy .....	Raleigh .....
Kaffenberger ...	McMartin .....	Sams .....
Magerkurth .....	Merk .....	Sanford .....
Moore .....	Mulder .....	
Naas .....	Orme .....	
Power .....	Rich .....	
Tweedale .....	Roberts .....	
	Running .....	
	Taylor .....	
	Yocum, C. ....	
	Yocum, H. ....	

GAME RESULTS

49-A-7: Ballantine 1, Cerretelli 0; Coubrough 1, Hellums 0; Hellums 1, Cerretelli 0.

47-B-1: Kaffenberger  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Hazen  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

48-B-5: Bushnell 1, Merk 0; Cairncross 1, Yocum 0; Yocum 1, Harmeson 0.

49-B-6: Dolle 1, Rich 0; Dolle  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Taylor  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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