

## **2016 Golden Buckeye Senior and Adult Tournament Report**

By Grant Neilley

As the organizer of the 2015 Cardinal Open, I experimented with offering a parallel Junior Cardinal tournament for scholastic players, with shorter but still respectable G/75 time controls. Someone made an off-hand comment that we needed a Senior section as well, for all the “old guys” who tended to fall asleep during the regular Cardinal’s 6-hour games. Though made in jest, the idea actually took root and sprouted that fall as the 2015 Ohio Senior Championship, attended by 17 players from five states and won by Grant Perks.

For 2016, the event took a new name as the Golden Buckeye, but returned once again on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to the same venue at Salt Fork State Park Lodge, near Cambridge. The five-round event featured a relaxed schedule of G/75 and G/90 time controls with plenty of time between rounds to dine, relax, visit with friends and family, and take in nature or the other amenities at Ohio’s largest state park. As added bonuses, the Vocal Freedom barbershop quartet provided entertainment before the first round, and a side trip was offered on Saturday for spouses to the Warther Carving Museum followed by lunch in Amish country. Many thanks go to Gary Markette for helping arrange the quartet, and to my wife Sue for playing tour guide.

This year’s edition more than doubled to 37 players from six states, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia and Georgia. Chuck Diebert won the Senior section with 4.5 points, making him Ohio’s official 2016 Senior Champion. His accomplishment was all the more remarkable considering he suffered a major heart attack on July 17<sup>th</sup>, had to be hit with a defibrillator numerous times to get him back, was in an induced coma for 10 days, and had just been released from the hospital a mere two weeks before the tournament. (One of Chuck’s older opponents quipped that maybe *he* should go get some of those jolts to improve his own play, too.) John Dowling followed close behind in second place with 4 points. There was a 5-way tie for third at 3.5 points, with Bruce Lindman taking home the third place trophy on tie breaks.

As suggested by players last year, for 2016 we added a U1600 section which was won by Richard Hayes, also with 4.5 points. Second place went to Bob Challan with 4. The sole entrant in the Young’uns section for ages 18-49 was Matthew Campbell of West Virginia. Although he won his section trophy by default, he did earn 3 points while “playing up” (in this case by age, not rating) in the Senior section.

The award for Eldest Player went to Carola Sprague of Kentucky, who also held the distinction of being the only female entered in the event. Carola played chess socially years ago with her late husband, and recently decided to join USCF and take up the game again. It is imprudent to publicly announce a lady’s age, but suffice it to say she had several years on the next oldest

participant. Carola said with a smile she might share her age once she starts winning more games.

Other age-based trophies went to the top finishers not winning place trophies: the Septuagenarian (for 70-year olds) went to Sergey Berchenko, Sexagenarian (60's, the sexy trophy!) to Mike Schwind, and the Quinquagenarian (yes, that really is the word for someone in their 50's) to Peter Galupo on tie breaks.

As was the case last year, the format and venue drew enthusiastic reviews from nearly every participant, and planning for the 2017 event is already under way. Watch the OCA tournament calendar at [ohchess.org](http://ohchess.org) for the date and other details as they become available. See you there!