

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #157

Your editor welcomes any and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF webpage (<http://chess.bc.ca/>); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

[Back issues of the Bulletin are available on the above webpage.]

HERE AND THERE

Gibraltar (January 17 - February 5)



Boris Spassky, Stewart Reuben (arbiter) and The Rock; the world's highest rated cricketer, Peter Svidler

The seventh annual Gibtelecom chess festival is currently taking place at the Caleta Hotel in Gibraltar. Hikaru Nakamura is competing in the Masters event as returning champion; last year he beat 2007 Canadian Open winner Bu Xiangzhi in a playoff after both scored 8.0/10 in the regular games. At the time of writing Nakamura is tied for third with six other players on 6.0/8, a half point behind leaders Vugar Gashimov and Vadim Milov.

[Tournament website](#)



Nakamura has his own [webpage](#), including a blog.

The festival also includes two Challengers tournaments and two Amateur tournaments; one of the participants in the Amateur events is Anna Cramling-Bellon, the daughter of GMs Pia Cramling and Juan Bellon who are both playing in the Masters. Readers may remember the family from the 2004 Western Canadian Open and adjunct events.



Nakamura has been reading the Suttles books lately, with mixed results on his play; here is a successful effort:

Nemeth, Miklos - Nakamura, Hikaru [B06] 7th Gibtelecom Masters Gibraltar (7), 02.02.2009

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 a6 4.g3 b5 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.a3 Nd7 7.Nge2 e5 8.h3 Bg7 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 Ngf6
11.g4 0-0 12.Ng3 Ne8 13.Qd3 Nd6 14.0-0-0 Qh4 15.Kb1 Rfd8 16.g5 Nf8 17.Nd5 Ne6 18.Qc3 Nc4

19.Bc1 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nf4 21.Be4 Rab8 22.Qf3 Qxg5 23.h4 Qf6 24.h5 b4 25.a4 Qb6 26.hxg6 hxg6
27.Qb3 Na5 28.Qe3 b3 29.Qxb6 Rxb6 30.c3 f5 31.Bf3 Rbd6 32.Bxf4 exf4 33.Ne2 g5 34.Bg2 Re8
35.Nc1 g4 36.f3 Nc4 37.Nd3 Re2 38.Rhg1 Rxd5 39.fxg4 Rxd3 0-1

K-12 Scholastic (January 25)

The end of January has traditionally been the time for a warmup K-12 event, and this year was no exception. The seating capacity of Spratt-Shaw college in New Westminster was stretched to the limit as seventy-six players entered the competition, combined with fourteen in the New Year Open and various parents and other interested parties. Most of the grades played as individual sections, with the exception of K-1, 3-4, and 8-12, which were combined due to low numbers. The time control was sudden death/30 minutes, which allowed for the playing of five games during the day. The grade winners were as follows:

- K - Frances Anne Mcinnis
- 1 - Andrea Botez
- 2 - Jingzhi (Edwin) Xu
- 3 - Humphrey Shao, Mark Liu
- 4 - Iain Ang
- 5 - Jia Jia Zhang, Mehtaab Chandi, Filip Lozanoski
- 6 - Jack Qian
- 7 - Alice Xiao
- 8 - Kenneth Chiu, Darren Venables
- 9 - David Dong
- 10 - Anderson Yee
- 11 - David Hou

Many thanks to organizer Ken Jensen and all the other volunteers in making this event happen. [Photos](#) courtesy of Lester Yee; [results](#).

New Year Open (January 24-25)

This tournament was the third in a series of opens held in conjunction with junior events at Spratt-Shaw College in New Westminster. Each event is a five-round Swiss with a game/90 minutes time control and a guaranteed first prize of \$250. This edition attracted fourteen competitors, ranging from a D-class player to an IM, Vicente Lee Jr. It was a fair assumption that Lee would breeze through the tournament, particularly since he was over 200 points higher rated than his nearest rival, former B.C. champion Dragoljub Milicevic. And this is precisely what happened on the first day (Saturday); Lee went 3.0/3, including a third-round victory over Milicevic, to lead the field by a full point. However, Sunday did not go according to script: Lee was paired against B.C. junior champion Tanraj Sohal in round four, but overslept and was forfeited. This left three players, Lee, Milicevic, and Sohal, tied for first with 3.0 points going into the last round, and a pairing problem. Lee and Milicevic had already played so the obvious pairing was Lee versus Sohal, the same pairing as round four. One of the cardinal rules of the Swiss system is that two players may not play each other more than once in an event, but did the forfeit nullify the previous pairing? A quick consultation of the FIDE handbook revealed that pairing the same players together again was legal:

"Byes, and pairings not actually played, or lost by one of the players due to arriving late or not at all, will not be taken into account with respect to colour. Such a pairing is not considered to be illegal in future rounds."

So the Lee - Sohal matchup stood. Both players complained about the pairing, but after the FIDE article was shown to them they proceeded to play. Whether the dispute had any lasting effect on the players' mindsets is hard to say, but the game didn't vary much from equality until in a sharp major-piece ending Lee left his rook unprotected with 36.Qc4, missing or underestimating the power of 37...f4+. The victory left Sohal sharing first with Milicevic, while third was a tie between Richard Spaan and Dezheng Kong, a newly-arrived junior from Winnipeg. Also having a good tournament was Matthew Herdin, who defeated some of his higher-rated peers. Ken Jensen was the organizer, Ben Daswani the TD. [Crosstable](#)

Lee, Vicente - Sohal, Tanraj [B33] New Year op (5), 25.01.2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 a6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 Be7 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.c3 Ne7 13.Nxe7 Bxe7 14.Be2 Bb7 15.Bf3 0-0 16.Nc2 Rc8 17.Nb4 Rc4 18.Nd5 Rc5 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.0-0 Rd8 21.a4 d5 22.exd5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Rcxd5 24.Qb3 Qd7 25.h3 h6 26.axb5 axb5 27.Ra5 e4 28.Qb4 Qf5 29.Raa1 Rd2 30.Rae1 R8d5 31.Rxe4 Rxf2 32.Rxf2 Rd1+ 33.Kh2 Qxf2 34.Qxb5 f5 35.Re8+ Kh7 36.Qc4 Qg1+ 37.Kg3 f4+ 38.Qxf4 Rd3+ 39.Qf3 Rxf3+ 40.Kxf3 Qb6 41.Re2 Qc5 42.Ke4 Qc4+ 43.Ke3 Kg6 44.Rd2 Kf5 45.Rd4 Qe6+ 46.Kd3 Qb3 47.Rb4 Qd1+ 48.Kc4 Qe2+ 49.Kc5 Qxg2 50.c4 Qxh3 51.Kb6 Qe3+ 52.c5 g5 53.Kb7 Qxc5 0-1

Victoria City Junior Championships (January 18)

More media [coverage](#).

CFC TOURNAMENT MEMBERSHIPS

The payment of a fee to cover the CFC membership requirements for a single tournament has been around for a quite some time, but the new BCCF membership structure changes the amount of a tournament membership purchased in B.C. Previously such a membership was either \$10 for adults or \$5 for juniors, with 60% of the total going to the CFC and the remaining 40% being the provincial component. The BCCF membership does not contain an allowance for a reduced rate, and is thus \$4 for a multi-day event or \$2 for a single-day event across the board. This has the following effect on tournament memberships:

For a multi-day event:

\$6 (CFC component) + \$4 (BCCF) = \$10 for an adult (as it has been), or
\$3 (CFC component) + \$4 (BCCF) = \$7 for a junior (\$2 more than previously)

For a single-day event:

\$6 (CFC component) + \$2 (BCCF) = \$8 for an adult (\$2 less than previously), or
\$3 (CFC component) + \$2 (BCCF) = \$5 for a junior (the same as before)

Tournament directors and organizers should be aware of these changes, as should any player who normally fulfills the membership requirements for the tournaments they enter by paying such a fee.

NELSON - SPOKANE TELEGRAPH MATCH, 1910

Chess players have always been quick to make use of the latest technology in the pursuit of their favourite pastime. Such was the case with the electric telegraph; a chess game was played over the wires soon after the first line was opened between Baltimore and Washington in 1844. Many such matches were played in the nineteenth century (the linked article by [John Hilbert](#) includes some Canadian examples), but the golden age for telegraph chess was the beginning of the twentieth century, epitomized by the great series of annual matches between Great Britain and America that took place in the years 1895-1911. Telegraph games involving B.C. cities have already been discussed in these pages, most notably the 1895/97 matches between Victoria, Vancouver, and San Francisco (see Bulletins #51 and #93). However, it was not just major centres that engaged in these competitions; the following passage from the October 1927 issue of the *Canadian Chess Review* has intrigued me for a number of years:

"Chess in Kootenay is not what it was twenty years ago. At that time there were clubs in Nelson, Rossland, and Trail, and intercity matches were common. Several matches were played by telegraph with the Spokane Chess Club. James R. Hunnex of Erie, B.C., a former member of the London Chess Club, England, is always ready to take an opponent. He is one of the strongest players in the West. W.H. Aldridge, general manager of the smelter at Trail at that time, and now a power in Wall Street, was a strong player and a big help to the local clubs. The matches with Spokane were all-night affairs with sides of twenty players each."

The details of one such match have come to light, held between Nelson and Spokane on the night of March 12/13, 1910. Unlike the large affairs mentioned in the quote this event was modest in scale, on six boards; the result was a 3.0-3.0 tie.

Board	Nelson	3	3	Spokane
1	J.R. Hunnex	1	0	McLeod
2	R.C. Dickson	1	0	J.C. Bird Sr.
3	A. Pasch	0	1	A. Coolidge
4	J.D. Anderson	0	1	John Odson
5	H.W. Rust	0	1	John Orr
6	E.G. Smyth	1	0	A.M. Craven

The match began at 8 pm on the evening of Saturday, March 12, and lasted until 4 am the following morning, at which point there were three unfinished games which were submitted for adjudication. It

should be noted that Anderson was in Spokane and played his opponent face to face - his was the first game to end, at 9:10 pm. None of the game scores were published (the match was reported in the Nelson *Daily News*), although descriptions of the individual games were given.

The players: one has to be cautious in determining identities from census records and city directories, but it appears J.D. Anderson was a civil engineer and provincial land surveyor based in Trail, Harold W. Rust was an accountant from Nelson, and Dr. Edwin G. Smyth was a Nelson dentist. Nothing has come to light on A. Pasch. The other two Nelson players are better known: James R. Hunnex (1854-1938), druggist and postmaster in Erie, had emigrated to Victoria in 1894 and played in the Victoria - San Francisco cable match in 1895. He subsequently moved to the Interior, and was honorary Vice-President of the BCCF in 1916. It is reported he made a special study of the Evan's Gambit. Dickson is dealt with below, as is Hunnex's opponent MacLeod, a former Canadian champion (the above spelling is taken directly from the *Daily News*).

Robert Casimir Dickson (1863-1936)

R. Casimir Dickson was born into one of Canada's best-known families (his grandfather was a senator), yet his life presents a strange mix of patriotism and unfulfilled potential. Born in Toronto, Dickson was educated at Upper Canada College and a German university; he entered but did not complete law studies. He joined the Governor-General's Body Guard cavalry regiment, one of the new military units formed as the British Army withdrew from Canada, and rose to the rank of lieutenant. In 1894 he joined the North-West Mounted Police, but was dismissed in 1895; the First Nations prisoner [Almighty Voice](#) escaped while Dickson was on duty and subsequently shot and killed NWMP Sergeant Colin Colebrook. Dickson then became involved in the construction of the CPR branch line from Crowsnest Pass to Nelson; he moved to Vancouver around 1911 and worked with the crown prosecutor's department at the court house. In December 1916 he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in France. Dickson must have had strong feelings about the war - the maximum age for men to volunteer was 45, yet his attestation papers show he lied about his age to be accepted (he gave his birth year as 1872). Not much is known of Dickson as a chessplayer, but he was a member of the Vancouver Chess Club at the beginning of the Great War and was regarded as one of the stronger players.

Nicholas Menelaus MacLeod (1870-1965)

Born in Quebec of Scottish ancestry, MacLeod matured early as a chessplayer: he won the Canadian championship in 1886 and 1888 and tied for first in 1887, only to lose the playoff to George Barry. The MacLeods were a chess playing family: Nicholas' father and brother also competed in the national championship. In 1889 he played in the New York International and finished last, but in his defence this was a twenty player double-round robin in which drawn games in the second cycle were replayed - some competitors ended up playing over forty games. The eventual top finishers were Chigorin, Weiss, Gunsberg, Blackburne, and Burn. At the end of the century MacLeod moved to Minnesota; he became state champion in 1899 and in 1901 won the 2nd Western Chess Association tournament, later renamed as the U.S. Open. He married in 1902 and the next year intended emigrating to Australia, but instead settled in Spokane where he ran a credit bureau. According to Jeremy Gaige (*Northwest Chess*, February 1983), "After 1901, MacLeod devoted less

time to chess and more time to family and business," but at the least he was willing to play in this match with Nelson. My identification of McLeod [*sic*] with Nicholas MacLeod stems from his known residence in Spokane, his playing on board one, and the fact that the opening in the game was a double fianchetto. This, an early form of what we now call the hippopotamus, was Nicholas MacLeod's signature defence, and is named after MacLeod in contemporary chess columns (see *Canadian Chess Chat*, November 1966).

Examples of play by three of the combatants:

Hunnex, James R. - Davis, A.F [C51] (corres)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.0-0 d6 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Bg5 Ne7 11.Nd5 f6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxf6+ Kf8 14.Ng5 Nxc4 15.Qf3 Nf5 16.Ngxh7+ Rxh7 17.Nxh7+ Kg8 18.exf5 Kxh7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.Rae1 Bxf5 22.Qxf5 Bxd4 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Qd5+ Kf8 25.Qxd4 Ne5 26.f4 Nf7 27.Re6 c6 28.Qe4 Qb6+ 29.Kh1 d5 30.Qg6 Re8 31.Rxe8+ Kxe8 32.Qg8+ Ke7 33.Re1+ Kf6 34.f5 1-0

Dickson, R. Casimir - Yates, Bertram A. [B01] VCC Vancouver, 1913

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d4 c6 6.Nge2 Bf5 7.Be3 e6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Ng3 Nb6 10.Bb3 Bg6 11.Re1 Bb4 12.Bg5 Nbd5 13.Nxd5 Bxe1 14.Nxf6+ gxf6 15.Qxe1 ffg5 16.Qe5 0-0 17.Re1 Re8 18.Ne4 Bxe4 19.Rxe4 Qe7 20.h4 h6 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.Qg3 Qf6 23.Re5 Kf8 24.c3 Ke7 25.Rxg5 Kd7 26.Bc2 Rh8 27.f4 Qh6 28.Rg7 Raf8 29.b4 Qh1+ 30.Kf2 Qc1 31.Bb3 Qd2+ 32.Kg1 Rh1+ 33.Kxh1 Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Rh8+ 35.Qh3 Qxf4+ 36.Rg3 Rxh3+ 37.Kxh3 Qh6+ 38.Kg4 f5+ 39.Kf3 Qd2 40.Rg7+ Kd6 41.Rxb7 Qxc3+ 42.Ke2 Qxd4 43.Rb8 Qe5+ 44.Kf3 Qe4+ 45.Kf2 e5 46.Rd8+ Kc7 47.Rf8 f4 48.Re8 Qxb4 49.g4 Qd2+ 50.Kf3 e4+ 51.Rxe4 Qh2 52.Rxf4 "and after fifty more moves was given up as a draw." 1/2-1/2

Hill, W.E. - MacLeod, Nicholas M. [B00] Minnesota ch, 11.1899

1.e4 e6 2.d4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 d6 5.0-0 Nd7 6.Nc3 g6 7.Ne2 Bg7 8.c3 Qe7 9.a4 Ngf6 10.Ng3 h5 11.Bg5 Bh6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Re1 h4 14.Nf1 g5 15.Ne3 Qf4 16.Nd2 g4 17.Qe2 Nf6 18.Nef1 Qg5 19.d5 Nh5 20.g3 hxg3 21.fxg3 Nxg3 22.hxg3 Qh5 23.Qg2 0-0-0 24.c4 Qe5 25.Nb3 Bg7 26.Re2 Rh3 27.Kf2 Rdh8 28.Ke1 Rh1 29.Kd2 Qxb2+ 30.Bc2 Qc3+ 31.Kd1 R8h2 32.Qf2 Rxf2 33.Rxf2 Qxg3 0-1

CYCC Active Fundraiser

In support of the Canadian Youth Chess Championships, to be held in Victoria in July

Date: February 21

Location: 1521 Church Street (between Shelbourne and Cedar Hill Road just south of McKenzie),
Victoria

Entry Fee: \$10 before 7 February. \$15 afterwards. Pre-register and pay by contacting Paul Leblanc
by e-mail at pc-leblanc@shaw.ca or telephone 250-388-5187. Registration/payment also available

Monday evenings at the Victoria Chess Club. Contact Paul Leblanc, Roger Patterson or Lynn Stringer. Juniors may also register at the City Championships on Sunday January 18th
Prizes: Trophy for 1st place and 1st under 1700. All entry fees will be donated to Victoria Junior Chess in support of the 2009 CYCC to be held in Victoria in July

Registration: 9:00 to 9:30 AM

Rounds: 10:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 1:30 PM, 2:45 PM, 4:00 PM

Time Control: Game in 25 minutes plus 5 second increment

Other Information: All equipment will be provided. This event will be Victoria Chess Club rated but not CFC rated. Car pooling available if requested with entry

Special Event: On completion of the tournament, Lynn Stringer will be hosting a house warming party at the tournament site which is in her new condo building.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior events

February 8 Island Junior Open #4

February 14 Elementary School Team Championship

February 21 Chess Challenge Vancouver Regional, BCIT

February 22 Chess Challenge Fraser Valley Regional

February 22 Chess Challenge Victoria Regional

March 8 Island Junior Open #5

March 29 CYCC Victoria Regional

April 4 Chess Challenge Finals, BCIT

April 10 Grand Pacific Scholastic

UBC Thursday Night Swiss

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre room 191, 1961 East Mall, University of British Columbia

Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca

CYCC Active Fundraiser

February 21, Victoria

Details: <http://victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/CYCC-Active-Fundraiser>

March Active

March 8, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#MarchActive>

March Active (2)

March 29, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#AprilActive>

Victoria Chess Festival

April 10-13, Victoria

Details: <http://victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria+Chess+Festival+2009>

May Active

May 9, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#MayActive>

34th Paul Keres Memorial

May 15-18, TBA

Details: TBA

June Active

June 13, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#JuneActive>

Summer Chess Fest, including BC Open

July 20-26, Victoria

Details: <http://cycc2009.pbwiki.com/Schedule+of+Events>

2009 Langley Chess Club Open

September 5-7 (Labour Day long weekend), Langley

Details: <http://www.langleychess.com/>