

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #158

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

First Saturday (February 7 - 17)



Michael Yip, formerly a resident of Vancouver and latterly of China, has just finished playing in the FM A section of the latest First Saturday tournament in Budapest, Hungary. His final result of +3 =4 -4 left him in eighth place in the twelve-player round robin.

<http://www.firstsaturday.hu/>

Bolvary, Tamara - Yip, Michael [D42] First Saturday 2009 february FM-A Budapest (3), 09.02.2009

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.d4 e6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 g6 11.Bh6 Re8 12.a3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bf6 14.Qd2 b6 15.Ng5 Bb7 16.Bc4 Na5 17.Ba2 Bd5 18.Qf4 Rc8 19.Re3 Bxa2 20.Ne4 Bh8 21.Nd6 e5 22.dxe5 Be6 23.Nxc8 Qxc8 24.Rd1 Nc4 25.Re4 Qc7 26.Qh4 Bxe5 27.f4 f5 28.Rxc4 Bxc4 29.fxe5 Qc5+ 30.Kh1 b5 31.e6 Qe5 32.Qe7 Qe1+ 33.Rxe1 Rxe7 34.Bg5 Rxe6 35.Rxe6 Bxe6 36.Kg1 Bd5 37.Kf2 Kf7 38.g3 Ke6 39.Ke3 a5 40.Kd4 a4 41.h4 Bf3 42.Bf4 Be2 43.Bg5 Bg4 1/2-1/2

Yip, Michael - Zilahi, Gabor [D15] First Saturday 2009 february FM-A Budapest (4), 10.02.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 a5 6.Bg5 Na6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Be2 Nb4 9.0-0 e6 10.Ne5 Be7 11.h3 Nd7 12.Bf4 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 0-0 14.Qd2 Qd7 15.Rac1 Rad8 16.Rfd1 Bg6 17.Bg3 Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Bf1 f6 20.cxd5 exd5 21.Ne2 Rfe8 22.Nf4 Bf7 23.Rc3 Re7 24.h4 g5 25.hxg5 fxg5 26.Nd3 Re4 27.Ne5 Qh6 28.g3 Bh5 29.Bg2 Rxe5 30.dxe5 Bxd1 31.Qxd1 Qe6 32.Qd4 Re8 33.f4 Qf5 34.e4 dxe4 35.Bxe4 Qg4 36.f5 Qe2 37.Re3 Nc2 38.Bxc2 Qxc2 39.g4 c5 40.Qd5+ Kh8 41.e6 Qc1+ 42.Kf2 Qxb2+ 43.Kg3 Qb4 44.Qe5+ Kg8 45.f6 Rc8 46.Qxg5+ 1-0

Elementary School Team Championship (February 14)

St. George's school won both sections of this annual event, twenty-four teams participated.

<http://wcjc.blogspot.com/2009/01/bc-junior-chess-teams-2009.html>

Gibraltar (January 17 - February 5)

Peter Svidler took home the first prize after a playoff match with Vadim Milov, both scored 8.0/10; Hikaru Nakamura tied for third a half point back with fellow GMs Vugar Gashimov, Emanuel Berg, and Varuzhan Akobian.

[Tournament website](#) (games, photos, videos, commentary - a great site)

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

Nakamura, Hikaru - Golod, Vitali [C95] Gibtelecom Masters Gibraltar (8.5), 03.02.2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Bc2 Re8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.Ng3 g6 15.b3 Bg7 16.d5 Rc8 17.Be3 c6 18.c4 Nb6 19.Qe2 cxd5 20.cxd5 Nbx5 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Rac1 Nc3 23.Qd2 Nxa2 24.Ra1 Nc3 25.b4 d5 26.Bb3 Qe7 27.Bh6 Bh8 28.Nxe5 Bxe5 29.f4 Ne4 30.Rxe4 dxe4 31.fxe5 Qxe5 32.Rf1 Re7 33.Rxf7 Rxf7 34.Qd7 Qe8 35.Qxb7 Rc4 36.Bxc4 bxc4 37.Qxa6 Rc7 38.Qd6 Rd7 39.Qc5 c3 40.Qc4+ Rf7 41.Nxe4 Qd8 42.Qxc3 Qb6+ 43.Qc5 Qxc5+ 44.bxc5 Re7 45.Nd6 Re5 46.c6 Rc5 47.Nc8 Kf7 48.Na7 1-0

**Nakamura, Hikaru - Gashimov, Vugar [A61] Gibtelecom Masters Gibraltar (10.1),
05.02.2009**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Nd2 Bg7 8.Nc4 0-0 9.g3 Ne8
10.Bg2 Nd7 11.a4 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Bh6 Ng7 14.0-0 Re8 15.e4 Bd7 16.Qd2 Qa5
17.Rfe1 Re7 18.f4 Bd4+ 19.Kh1 f6 20.h3 Rae8 21.g4 Kh8 22.f5 Qb4 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Bf4 Be5
25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Re2 Rg5 28.Rf1 Qd4 29.Ref2 Rf8 30.Qxg5 Qxf2 31.Qxg6
Qxb2 32.e5 Qxc3 33.exf6 Rf7 34.fxg7 Rxf1+ 35.Bxf1 Qf3+ 36.Bg2 Qf4 37.Be4 Qf1+ 1/2-1/2

B.C. CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS 2009

1. The 2009 B.C. Championship will be an 8-player round robin, held on the Thanksgiving weekend.
2. The following players qualify for the Championship:
 - a. The 2008 B.C. Champion.
 - b. The 2008 B.C. Junior Champion.
 - c. The highest finisher in each qualifying tournament who has not already qualified for the Championship and who has held a regular CFC rating of 2000 or higher at some point.
 - d. The remaining qualifying spots will be filled from the last CFC rating list to be published at least six weeks before the Championship. To qualify by rating, a player must have played in at least one regular-rated tournament since the 2008 Championship.
 - e. If a player who has qualified through criteria 2.a.-d. is unable or unwilling to play in the Championship, additional players would be taken from the rating list as set out in 2.d.
3. All participants in the Championship must have resided in B.C. for at least six months prior to the start of the Championship.

4. The following prizes will be provided by the BCCF:
 - a. First place: \$300.
 - b. Second place: \$200.

"Participants in the BC Closed must be members of the CFC. A tournament membership is not allowed for this tournament."

MR. PIPER'S CHALLENGE

We are currently in the midst of a match between Veselin Topalov and Gata Kamsky to decide the next challenger for Viswanathan Anand's world championship. Readers who have followed the preparations for this event will know of the various spurious bids and arguments over location that were part and parcel of the match being organized. This brings to mind the 'negotiations' surrounding an abortive match between Thomas Piper and Magnus Smith at the turn of the last century.

In April 1899 the Canadian championship was held in Montreal and was won by [Magnus Magnusson Smith](#) (1869-1934) of Winnipeg, the first Westerner to hold the title. On announcing this news the *Victoria Daily Colonist* suggested that "it is now in order for a match

game by telegraph to be arranged between Mr. Smith and Mr. Thomas H. Piper, of this city, who has heretofore outclassed every player of pretension in the Dominion." [Thomas Henry Piper](#) (1857-1938), formerly of England, Australia, California, and Seattle, was Victoria's chess celebrity and arguably the strongest player on the West Coast. Two days later the paper issued a correction (it had given Smith's first name as Marcus) and noted "he was for some time a resident of Vancouver. Mr. Piper of this city never measured his strength against him, for the reason that in the battle with San Francisco, Mr. Smith made so poor a showing that it was evident he was not in the same class as the Victoria expert." The battle referred to was the [1895 cable matches](#) between Victoria, Vancouver, and San Francisco; played by consulting teams, the match between Victoria and the California city was tied 1-1, Victoria's win coming on the black side of a French Defence led by Piper, whereas the Vancouver - San Francisco contest resulted in an easy 2-0 rout by the Americans - Magnus Smith was a member of the Vancouver teams.

There does not seem to have been a formal response to this suggestion, but a few weeks later a letter was published in the *Manitoba Free Press*, pseudonymously signed by "SPORT":

The *Victoria Colonist*, commenting, in a recent article, upon the chess championship of Canada won by Mr. Magnus Smith, of this city, concludes by saying that it would be in order for Mr. Smith to have a match with Mr. Piper, of Victoria, who lays claim to being an expert of no mean caliber, in the game. When a resident of Vancouver Mr. Smith challenged Mr. Piper to a friendly game by telegraph, but the latter would not accept the challenge in that way, and somehow or other another meeting could not be arranged between the two. It is understood that Mr. Smith is not at all averse to playing Mr. Piper providing a match can be arranged to take place here. Now that preparations for the summer exhibition will soon be in order, might not a match between the two be arranged to take place in this city during exhibition week? A money prize might be played for. There surely would be no difficulty in getting together a purse of say \$200. A series of exhibition game between the two experts would be no mean attraction at fair time. The chess champion of this city would, it is understood, do everything in his power to facilitate matters in order to bring about a match between himself and Mr. Piper. If the chess enthusiasts of Winnipeg were to take the matter up seriously, arrangements might very easily be made to bring about the meeting at the time I suggested.

Two weeks later a counteroffer came via the *Daily Colonist* which considerably raised the stakes:

One of Victoria's chess enthusiasts has made an offer to match Mr. Thomas H. Piper, the local exponent of the game, against Mr. Magnus Smith of Toronto [*sic*], who recently won the Canadian championship. The gentleman in question will allow Mr. Smith \$150 as expenses to come to Victoria and play, but wishes the promise that the match must not be for less than \$1,000 a side. The offer was telegraphed East last evening, through the press. A deposit, to show good faith, will be made with the *Colonist*, should Mr. Smith express his willingness to come to Victoria to meet Mr. Piper.

The 'gentleman' was not identified at the time, but is now known to be the Hon. Charles Edward Pooley, K.C., who served as President of the Council Cabinet for almost ten years under the premierships of Robson, Davie, and Turner. In those days \$1,000 was a substantial sum of money, equivalent to three years' wages at an average salary; by comparison, Magnus Smith won \$100 for winning the championship, and Emanuel Lasker earned \$2,000 when he became world champion in 1894. Why Piper/Pooley felt such a large stake was necessary is not known, but the challenge drew a quick response from SPORT:

The announcement is made in a telegraphic dispatch in your columns that Mr. Thomas H. Piper, of Victoria, has challenged Magnus Smith of this city, Canadian chess champion, to play a match for \$1,000 a side and the championship. The challenge is, I consider, a mere "bluff." Any one can see that it is hedged around with conditions incapable of being performed. Mr. Piper knows perfectly well that Mr. Smith is too much a lover of the game, of which he is so able an exponent, to reduce it to the level of a gambling speculation which he would do were he to accept such a challenge. Besides it is utterly impossible for him to play for the championship. That can only be played for at the annual meeting of the C.C.A., when an opportunity is given any Canadian player of any reputation to compete. The association would not permit the championship of Canada to be hawked about, even to please so renowned (?) a player as Mr. Piper. That gentleman must surely recognize the fact. He knows perfectly well that the conditions attached to his challenge cannot possibly be complied with. If he is really anxious to measure his skill with that of the champion, let him come to Winnipeg and play for a prize. That would be a sportsmanlike act on his part. Let him play the part of a true sportsman and a genuine lover of chess, rather than that of a braggart, who only displays a spirit of braggadocio in sending a challenge in such a way that it could not under any circumstances be accepted.

There was also a lengthy rebuttal from Montreal, raising what was for the nineteenth century the important issue of amateurism versus professionalism (for the record Smith was a shoemaker, Piper a ship's carpenter); the third sentence from the end is as applicable now as then:

The challenge seems to have been issued in ignorance of the conditions on which Mr. Smith holds the championship, and of his status as an amateur. In the first place, the title of champion is not open to competition. Mr. Smith won it at the last tournament, and it is his until the next tournament is held. He cannot part with it to anyone else if he wanted to, for the title is not his to give. If he plays a match for \$1,000 a side with Mr. Piper, he will forfeit his amateur status, and be ineligible to compete for the championship at the next tournament, but if Mr. Piper won he would not be champion of Canada. The reasons for this are obvious, when the circumstances are considered. Mr. Smith won his title fairly and honorably, because he was the strongest player who entered for the tournament, but it by no means follows that he is absolutely the strongest player in the Dominion. Mr. J.E. Narraway, the winner of the last two tournaments, and of several before, was unable to come to Montreal, and there are other players in the same position, who have prior claims to Mr. Piper to contest the championship with Mr. Smith, if it were put up for competition. But to bandy the title

around on conditions to be arranged by the competitors among themselves would be a very undignified proceeding, and likely lead to serious irregularities. Mr. Piper's challenge is, in itself, a glaring instance. Although he is presumably not a professional, he calmly proposes to play for a large money stake. Mr. Smith is not a professional, but simply plays chess for recreation, earning his living in other ways. He has certainly not \$1,000 to lose, and if he were to accept Mr. Piper's challenge, he would have to have backers, and all the nauseous machinery of professionalism. There is no game where it would be more unwelcome. We do not want to have chess players sneering at each other like pugilists, and clamoring for higher stakes. The chess professional in Canada is not much in evidence, for the very good reason that he is not wanted. An occasional visit from the leading exponents of the game is appreciated, but it has been made very clear that the hangers-on at the clubs, on the lookout for quarter or half-dollar games, is not welcome.... Altogether, Canada is a most unpromising field for the chess professional, and there is no use disguising the fact. It is no cause for shame, or even for regret. When chess becomes a business, it ceases to be a recreation, so far as the players of Canada are concerned.

Piper responded by challenging the authority of the C.C.A. to award the title based on a tournament rather than a match (shades of recent world championship discussions); realizing that the \$1,000 stake was a major stumbling block, he also withdrew that provision of his original challenge:

Now, sir, I purpose to dispute the right of the Canadian Chess Association to confer the title of champion of this broad Dominion upon the winner of a tournament and especially when that tournament is played thousands of miles from players over whom such superiority is asserted. In the first place I affirm that for two hundred years nearly ever since the Sieur de Legal won the championship of France down to the recent victory of Lasker over Steinitz in 1894 the question of championship has always been settled by a match between two players and never a tournament. Moreover, the recognized *de facto* and *de jure* champion has often been outscored in a tournament and remained champion. This has obtained conventional currency over the whole of Europe, Australia and the United States, for did not Pillsbury challenge Showalter, the victor over Lipschutz, to a set match for the United States championship, notwithstanding the lowering tournamental superiority of the victor of Hastings? ... It may be said, however, that my contentions refer only to professionals and not to amateurs. To this let me say that in the world's tournament of 1883 wherein competed representatives of about twenty nations there were German barons, clergymen, high Indian officials, lawyers, doctors, bankers, artists, mechanics and also men who gain a livelihood playing and teaching chess all played together and no word was ever spoken about "status," amateur or professional." Of this I speak from personal experience, and the same state of affairs will prevail at the great meeting now being convened in London to play a similar tournament. Ability will determine "status," and a solid monetary consideration will be awarded the victor. I do not think it necessary to do more than briefly refer to the assertion that "the championship is not open to competition." Does not the word champion contain a note of defiance, an assertion of superiority, and yet we are told the holder cannot part with it by a defender of the

Canadian Chess Association which claims the right to confer the chess championship of the Dominion. In conclusion I desire to express my willingness to play a match – without stake preferred – with any player in the Dominion, and to say that I have no desire to tempt the Easterner to offer chessist incense on the altar of Mammon. I am glad to hear that to him "No temple stood, or altar smoked."

(The last quote is from Milton's *Paradise Lost* - Piper was well-read and erudite, judging by the sources of the quotations he liked to sprinkle through his writings.)

Finally Magnus Smith sent a letter to the editor, stating that he had not formally received the challenge(!) and giving his opinion on the matter:

In your issue of the 15th inst. there appeared a telegraphic dispatch from Victoria, B.C., stating that Mr. T.H. Piper, of that place, had challenged me to play a match for \$1,000 and the championship of Canada, and later, you copied an article from the *Victoria Times* on which this dispatch was founded. This article states that I had been sent a challenge by an admirer of Mr. Piper, who was willing to wager \$1,000 on the latter, allowing me \$150 for expenses. After reading this, I waited, if not with fear and trembling, at least with apprehensive curiosity, for this dreadful, though well advertised challenge, which never came. For I wish to let it be known that I have received no challenge or communication whatever from Mr. Piper, or any of his admirers, and have therefore had no opportunity of either accepting or refusing this much talked of challenge. In conclusion, I would suggest that Mr. Piper's admirer use a portion of his \$1,000 to send Mr. Piper east to the C.C.A. tournament next spring, so that he may bring the championship back to Victoria; for Mr. Piper and his admirer must know that that is the only way to get it, for I have no power to play for it except at the annual C.C.A. tournament; but even if I had, I would not feel it my duty to travel all over Canada, at the beck and call of every Tom, Dick and Harry, to defend it. My advice to Mr. Piper is therefore (with apologies), 'Come east, young man, come east.'

And there the matter sat, there being no further communications from either party. Leaving aside the \$1,000 stake, the match foundered on the fact the title could only be won at a C.C.A. tournament. Even a non-championship exhibition match, as originally suggested, would have been an interesting contest but it appears neither party was willing to travel to the location of the other; Smith was reluctant to travel to Montreal for the 1899 championship, and there is no record of Piper visiting the mainland, let alone anywhere else in Canada. It is hard to judge at this distance, but there seems to have been something of a history between the two men stemming from the 1895 cable matches. There were definitely attempts made for the two of them to play while Smith lived in Vancouver. As noted above, telegraph was ruled out as an option, and according to a later letter from Piper "Mr. Smith did challenge and I accepted and attended three evenings a week at the Victoria Chess club according to my written promise, but my opponent failed to appear, or even answer my letter." Again, neither player would make the trip to the other's location. Based on the 1895 matches Piper viewed Smith as a player of lesser class and was galled to find he had become Canadian champion while his own talents were not much recognized beyond Victoria:

During the last ten years I have eagerly met and decisively defeated all visitors to this city, one of whom, Mr. H.B. Lund, a Lancashire county player, was more than a match for Mr. Smith. Moreover, in the Westminster vs. Vancouver match, Dr. Boddington won two to one of the "championship of Vancouver" as you style Mr. Smith, whilst I am only Mr. T. Piper, the local chess player. Nevertheless I hereby challenge those members of the Victoria Chess club who won the prizes in the late Robins tournament and will give the odds which first class give to fifth class players [i.e., a rook].

The latter boast seems a trifle unrealistic. What Piper did not realize in 1895 was that Magnus Smith had only just started playing again after a long period of inactivity, and that he had become a much stronger player by the time he won the championship four years later. A match between the two would have been a fascinating contest, but given the opposing viewpoints expressed it was not to be. Of course the lack of a match gave rise to some misleading statements in future years; Piper student C.F. Davie, writing in 1915, noted that his teacher "is a past member of the City of London Chess Club and a player of great strength - no one would ever meet him for the championship of Canada."

Postscript: as far as I am aware, apart from playoff matches following a tournament there has only been one formal match for the Canadian championship. Early in 1921 titleholder Sidney E. Gale commenced a match with Dr. Stephen F. Smith, but after each player had scored one victory Gale had to withdraw due to business pressures.

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 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/>