

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #193

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.

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Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Canadian Open (July 10-18)

This year's Canadian Open begins in Toronto this coming Saturday. A number of B.C. players are preregistered, led by FMs Jack Yoos and Bindi Cheng. Live coverage should be available via www.monroi.com.

CYCC (July 6-9)

The Canadian Youth Chess Championship, currently underway in Windsor, Ontario, includes some fifteen players from British Columbia. After four of seven rounds a number of them are in contention for the coveted top three spots in each section which allow qualification to the World Youth Championship. Live games and results are available through the offices of the Monroi company.

<http://www.cycc.ca/>
<http://monroi.com/2010-cycc-home.html>

Sohal, Tanraj - Itkin, David [A52] CYCC U14 Windsor (2), 06.07.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.e3 Nc6 6.a3 a5 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bd3 Ncxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.Qh5+ Kg8 12.Qxe5 d6 13.Qg3 Be6 14.b3 c6 15.Bb2 f6 16.0-0 d5 17.Rad1 Bd6 18.Qg6 Bf7 19.Qd3 Qc7 20.g3 Bh5 21.Rd2 f5 22.cxd5 f4 23.dxc6 Rad8 24.Nb5 fxc3 25.hxc3 Qc8 26.Qd5+ Bf7 27.Qd4 1-0

Xiao, Alice - Yu, Kexin [C91] CYCC U14G Windsor (3), 07.07.2010

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.d4 d6 9.c3 Bg4 10.Be3 Na5 11.Bc2 Nc4 12.Bc1 Nd7 13.h3 Bh5 14.b3 Ncb6 15.Bb2 Bg6 16.Nbd2 c5 17.Nf1 c4 18.Ne3 Rc8 19.bxc4 Nxc4 20.Nxc4 Rxc4 21.a4 Qb8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Bb3 Rc6 24.Qd2 Bf6 25.Ba3 Nb6 26.dxe5 Be7 27.Bd5 Nxd5 28.exd5 Rb6 29.Nd4 Rc8 30.Nc6 Rbxc6 31.dxc6 Rxc6 32.exd6 Bf8 33.d7 Rc8 34.dxc8 Q Qxc8 35.Bxf8 Kxf8 36.Qd5 1-0

World Open (June 29 - July 5)

Traditionally the largest Swiss on the North American continent, this year's edition took place in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and attracted over 1,200 players. There were fewer Canadians

participating than usual, and the only B.C. entrant was Paul Leblanc, who scored 4.5/9.0 in the U2000 Section. Unusually for this tournament there was an individual overall winner, Czech GM Viktor Laznicka, who took the first prize with 7.5/9, a half point ahead of the trio of Pentala Harikrishna, Ilya Smirin, and Luke McShane.

<http://www.worldopen.com/>

HSG Open (June 26 - July 4)

Sponsored by the Hilversum Chess Society, the HSG Open attracted forty-four players, ten of them titled. Among them was Leon Piasetski, who scored 5.5 points in the nine-round Swiss. The winner was Friso Nijboer with 7.0, while Hedinn Steingrimsson, Konstantin Landa, and Illya Nyzhnyk tied for second. The latter missed becoming the world's youngest grandmaster (he is currently thirteen) on a technicality - he played one too few titled players.

<http://www.chess.co.uk/twic/chessnews/events/hsg-open-2010>

Caricature of Piasetski (second from bottom): <http://www.hsgopen.nl/nieuws/index.cfm?id=77>

Mostertman, Loek - Piasetski, Leon [B06] HSG op Hilversum (3), 28.06.2010

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.f3 d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.fxe4 e5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.d5 Ne7 10.c4 c6 11.Nbc3 0-0 12.h3 Ne8 13.g4 cxd5 14.cxd5 f5 15.gxf5 gxf5 16.Ng3 f4 17.Nh5 Bh6 18.Be2 Kh8 19.Bg4 Rg8 20.Bd2 Nc6 21.dxc6 Qh4+ 22.Ke2 Rxc4 23.hxc4 Bxc4+ 24.Kd3 Qd8+ 25.Kc2 Bxd1+ 26.Raxd1 Qc8 27.cxb7 Qxb7 28.Nd5 Qa6 29.Bc3 Kg8 30.Kb1 Kf7 31.Bxe5 Qe6 32.Bxf4 Qxe4+ 33.Ka1 Bxf4 34.Nhxf4 Kg8 35.Rde1 Qc2 36.Reg1+ Kh8 37.Ne7 Nf6 38.Re1 Qc4 0-1

Lalith, Babu M.R. - Piasetski, Leon [A34] HSG op Hilversum (7), 02.07.2010

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Nf6 5.e5 Ng4 6.h3 Nh6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 g6 9.Nd5 Bg7 10.Bg5 Bxd5 11.cxd5 f6 12.Bxh6 Bxh6 13.exf6 0-0 14.Be2 e5 15.dxe6 Qxf6 16.0-0 Nc6 17.Nxc6 dxc6 18.Qd7 Rae8 19.Qxc6 Qxb2 20.Bc4 Re7 21.Rad1 Bd2 22.Bb3 Rd8 23.Rfe1 Rd4 24.Re5 Kg7 25.Rd5 Rxd5 26.Qxd5 Bb4 27.Rd4 Qc1+ 28.Rd1 Qc3 29.Qe4 Bc5 30.Qe2 a5 31.Ba4 Qf6 32.Bd7 Qf4 33.Qc2 Qe5 34.a4 h5 35.Qc4 Kh7 36.Qh4 Kh6 37.Kf1 g5 38.Qc4 Rg7 39.Be8 Qf6 40.Qe2 g4 41.Bf7 Rg5 42.hxc4 hxc4 43.Qd2 Kg7 44.Qe2 g3 45.Rd7 Qxf2+ 46.Qxf2 gxf2 47.Rd1 Re5 48.Be8 Rxe6 49.Bb5 Re4 50.Bc6 Re3 51.Bb5 Ra3 52.Ke2 Kf6 53.Kf1 Ke5 54.Ke2 Kf4 55.Kf1 Ra2 56.Rc1 Be3 57.Rd1 Kg3 58.Rb1 Rc2 59.Rd1 Rc5 60.Ke2 Kxg2 61.Kxe3 Rxb5 62.axb5 f1Q 63.Rxf1 Kxf1 64.Kd3 Ke1 65.Ke3 a4 66.Kd3 a3 67.Kc3 a2 68.Kb2 Kd2 1/2-1/2

June Actives (June 20, 27)

The last two events both resulted in ties for first place, between Butch Villavieja and Mayo Fuentebella in the first and Butch Villavieja and Joe Roback in the second. Active events will continue at the Milwaukee Market Creamery during the summer - see the coming events section.

Standings: <http://www.chessmastery.com/bcactive/>

MICHAEL YIP ANNOTATES

Yip, Michael - Fasser, Walter [D74] Zalakaros 'B' (9), 03.06.2010

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.d4 (1.29) By delaying d4, Black has been tricked into a more passive version of the Grünfeld - unless this was the way he was intending to play against the g3 variation. **8...Na6 9.e4!?** (1.28) White ambitiously grabs central space in classical fashion but is unaware of the responsibilities that go with maintaining the d4 pawn. **9...Nb6** This is a normal retreat. **9...Nxc3?!** Rather unconvincing as in this type of Grünfeld structure, Black usually counterattacks with a quick ...c5, but now Black has given up a tempo on this plan and has placed his knight poorly at a6 as well. This makes the approach of pressuring d4 seem ineffective from the get go. **10.bxc3 c5 11.h3!** To prevent ..Bg4 and reduce any prospect of pressuring d4 to nothing. **11...cxd4 12.cxd4 Be6 13.Ba3 Bc4 14.Re1 b5 15.Qd2 Qc7 16.Rac1 Rac8 17.Bf1!** Now Bc4 is a target. **17...Qb7 18.Bxc4 Rxc4 19.Rxc4 bxc4 20.Qa5!** Putting Black's queenside under pressure. **20...Rb8 21.Kg2 e6 22.Rc1+/-** Black has no compensation for the weak pawn on c4. **22...Qc6 23.d5 exd5 24.exd5 Qc8 25.d6!+-** Ends the game. **25...Rb6 26.Qd5 1-0 Christiansen,L -Sigfusson,S /Reykjavik 2000** **10.h3?!** (1.26) Preventing ...Bg4 and pressure on d4 but White can do better than this passive approach. **10.Qe2** is stronger. **10...Bxd4** The d4 pawn is protected tactically. **11.Rd1 c5 12.Bh6 Re8 13.e5+/=** White has more than enough compensation for the pawn as now the Black kingside has lost a key defender as the B/d4 is cut off. **10...Be6** This fights against White's planned d4-d5 expansion plan. Now we have arrived by transposition to Line B2 note to Black's 9th after **9...Na6 10.Nc3 Be6** p.302 of 1.d4 Vol.2-Avrukh. **10...c5** seems more active to me. **11.d5 e5?** This is a strategic blunder. Black wants to regroup a knight to d6 for a blockade but White can immediately undermine this blockade with Nc4 forcing its trade or replacement with a less effective piece. (**11...c4!?** **12.Qe2+/- Nc7 13.a4!** Black's knights are unstable. **13...Nd7 14.a5 Ne8 15.Nd2!** The start of the anti-blockader plan. **15...Nd6** Black reaches the desired blockade position but White can immediately challenge this golden knight. **16.Nc4! Qe7 17.Rd1 a6 18.Na4 Nb5 (18...f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Be3!+/- Rf7 21.Nab6 Nxc4 22.Qxc4 Nxb6 23.axb6** Black's position is crumbling.) **19.d6 Qd8+/- 20.Be3 Nd4 21.Qd3 Rb8 22.f4 f6 23.f5 Rf7 24.g4 g5 25.b4 cxb4 26.Bxd4 exd4 27.Qxd4 Ne5 28.Nxe5 fxe5 29.Qxb4 Bd7 30.Nb6 Bc6 31.Rac1 Rf8 32.Bf1 Be8 33.d7 Bf7 34.Rc8 Rxc8 35.dxc8Q Qxd1 36.Qcc3 Rd8 37.Qe7 h6 38.Nd5 Rxd5 39.exd5 Qxd5 40.Qxf7+ 1-0 Najdorf,M-Benko,F/Mar del Plata 1954** **11.Re1?** (1.23) Avrukh has a more substantive idea in his repertoire book. My move is based on superficial notions of centralization and development. White has the option now of Bf1 to fight for c4. However I had not sensed the coming problems of pressure on d4 and so did not feel any urgency in my handling of the opening. This failure to be concrete at EVERY stage/point in the game is a major flaw in my handling of this and other games in this tournament. **11.a4!?** [Avrukh-AV2] **11...h6 (11...Qd7 12.a5 Nc4 13.e5!** [Avrukh-AV2] **13...b6 14.axb6 axb6 15.Ng5 Nc7 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Nxe6 Nxe6 18.b3 Na5 19.Be3!N** [Avrukh-AV2] **19...Nc7 20.b4 Nc4 21.b5+/-** 'Black faces serious problems. [Avrukh-AV2]) **12.Ne2!N** [Avrukh-AV2] **12...Bc4 13.b3 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 c5 15.a5 Nd7 16.Rd1 Rc8 17.e5!** 'With a serious initiative.' [Avrukh-AV2]; **11.Ne2=** This obvious move should have been my first candidate but as yet I had not sensed the urgency in providing additional protection for d4 yet. This comes from not asking myself 'What's Black's threat?' on every turn and then calculating the consequences out. **11...Qd7 12.Nf4!?** This is the key idea. (**12.Kh2** is too passive and allows Black typical Grünfeld style counterplay. **12...Rad8 13.b3 f5!**) **12...Rad8 13.Nxe6 Qxe6 14.Re1 Qd7 15.Be3 Nc4 16.e5** Advancing takes the pressure off d4 but gives Black the d5 outpost. (**16.Qb3?!** **Nxe3 17.fxe3 e5!** *with the initiative*) **16...Nc7 17.Bc1 Ne6 18.b3 Nb6 19.Bb2 Nd5 20.Qd3=** **11...h6?!** Not really necessary. Better is **11...Qd7! 12.Kh2 Rad8 13.Qe2 Bc4 14.Qe3 Nb4-/+ 0-1 Renette,H-Klein,A/IECG email 2002/Corr 2008** **12.b3!?** (1.12) White prepares for Black's light square counterplay based on ...Bc4 or ...Nc4 and NOT ...Qd7/Rd8 with immediate pressure on d4. Better is **12.Ne2** This is a much easier way to guard d4. For no obvious reason, this simple defensive

measure was outside my range of vision. This represents a serious flaw in my candidate move selection process. 12...g5 To prevent Nf4. 13.h4 f6 14.b3 Qd6 15.Bb2 Rad8 16.Qd2+/- **12...Qd7 13.Kh2** (1.11) Not forced. White had an alternative that was not considered. 13.Ne5= Holds d4 by shielding the Bg7. **13...Rad8 14.Bb2?** (1.09) An unnecessary gambit. White again has a gigantic blind spot and refuses the simple path. Better is 14.Be3 Again holds d4 fairly easily. I rejected this move as illogical as I had already played b3 so Bb2 would be the logical followup. 14...c5 15.Ne2 cxd4 16.Nfxd4+/- ; 14.Qd2!? is also adequate for equality. 14...Qd6 15.Bb2 Qb4 16.Rad1 Nc7 17.Qc2= **14...Bxd4 15.Nxd4 Qxd4** White has given up his d-pawn for some rather nebulous compensation on the dark squares but now needs some serious cooperation from Black to have any survival chances. White for now can only look forwards to possible tempo gains on (1) The exposed Qd4 (2) The unguarded Ph6. **16.Qf3** (1.04) Keeping the queens on in the hopes of stirring up trouble is relatively best. Up until this point, White has played just horribly and is completely out of touch with the game. Now in the following desperation phase, it is black who loses touch with the game and allows White back into the game. 16.Qc1 was my original intention but this can be met by 16...Qd2=/+ and White has less than nothing. **16...Qf6?!** Offering a queen trade is a good concept but White is not compelled to accept. Refusing the queen trade shows Black's idea to be a time loss. 16...Nb4! immediately activating his worst piece is Black's best defence. 17.Rad1 Qc5 18.Qe2 a5=/+ Black should be fine now and have excellent chances to convert the extra pawn.; 16...Qd3 Challenging White's queen is less effective but good enough for equality. 17.Re3 Qd6 18.Rd1 Qc5 19.Red3 Rxd3 20.Rxd3 Nd7= **17.Qe2** (1.03) **17...Qg5 18.f4** (1.02) **18...Qa5**



19.f5 (0.48) I thought a long time over this as it seemed not to achieve anything against the best defence. However, White cannot just wait as Black will slowly consolidate and win with the extra queenside pawn. So the critical point is NOW and White takes the plunge. **19...Bc8?!** Black played this passive retreat quickly and so most of White's worries are over and White can start pressing for an attack and play for the win. 19...gxf5! Is the critical move that puts white's idea to the test. 20.Qe3!? This attacking move was more appealing as White controls d2 and so does not have to worry about ...Rd2. (20.Qh5 was the main move I considered. 20...Rd2 I was quite worried about this active move and so stopped analyzing here not realizing that White has an easy perpetual check. 21.Na4! The key move. 21...Nxa4 22.Qxh6 Nxb2 (22...Rxc2+ 23.Kxc2 Nxb2 24.Qg5+ is also perpetual.) 23.Qg5+ Kh7 24.Qh5+ Kg7 25.Qg5+ White has perpetual.) 20...f4! (20...Kh7? is inadequate. 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Qxe7 I calculated to here and made the wrong conclusion that the position was equal at best and Black was nearly better with ..Rde8 coming and chasing my queen. 22...Rde8 23.Qxb7 Rxe1 24.Rxe1+- Black's queenside is collapsing and White is easily winning.) 21.gxf4 Kh7 22.f5 Bc8 23.Rad1© White has some compensation for the pawn but Black should be able to hold. 23...Qe5+ (23...Rxd1 24.Nxd1 Rd8 25.Bc1 Qe5+ 26.Kh1 Qf6 27.Nf2+/-) 24.Kh1 Qf6 25.Rg1 Qg5 (25...Rxd1 26.Nxd1 Qh4 27.Bf1+/-) 26.Qe2= **20.Qe3** With compensation. (0.44)

20...g5 Not losing but quite cooperative. Again Black replied quite quickly. **20...Kh7= 21.a3!** (0.39) Strong. White pauses for prophylactic measures and plays to restrict Black's knights before trying to crack Black's king position open. **21...Qc5** Draw? **22.Qe2** (0.35) Draw refused as I thought White had enough compensation for the pawn and it would be a long time before the two knights and bishop could return to meaningful active duty. **22...Qd6??+/-** **22...e5=** Closing the centre keeps the game roughly equal. **23.Rad1** (0.33) Completing development with tempo. **23...Qc7**



24.Qh5!+/- (0.32) The queen takes to the kingside and again White is able to act with gain of tempo. Black's prospects for survival are bleak. **24...Kh7?+/-** **24...Nd7** **25.Qxh6** White has a massive attack coming. **25...f6** **26.Nb5!** **Qb6** (**26...cxb5** **27.Qg6+ Kh8** **28.e5 Nxe5** **29.Qh6+ Kg8** **30.Bxe5 fxe5** **31.Qxg5+ Kh8** **32.Qh6+ Kg8** **33.Qg6+ Kh8** **34.Re4** Forces mate.) **27.e5** **Nxe5** **28.Rxd8 Qxd8** **29.Rxe5 fxe5** **30.Qg6+ Kh8** **31.Bxe5+ Rf6** **32.Nd6!+/-** **25.h4!** (0.31) With an attack. Starting the prying process with a direct threat. **25...gxh4** **26.Qxh4** (0.29) **26...Rxd1** **26...Nd7?** loses quickly. **27.Bc1 Rh8** **28.Bf4 Qb6** **29.e5!+/-** **29...Qxb3** **30.Bxh6 Nac5** **31.Qh5!** Wins easily. **27.Nxd1?!** (0.28) This also wins. White's attack is based on the opening of the long diagonal and the transfer of the knight to the kingside. The prospect of a quicker finish had not occurred to me as so many of my supporting pieces are far away from the attacking zone. **27.Rxd1!** wins easily. However, at this critical point my poor calculation skills have a serious impact on the game. White misses a clear finish and must settle for a much longer attack. **27...Rd8?** I was worried about this move which seems to win a tempo if White wants to keep rooks on but in fact Black just loses rather easily. White is now severely hampered in the conduct of the final attack by the inability to calculate the exact finish out when called for. **28.Qh5 Rf8** (**28...Rxd1?** allows a quick mate. **29.Qxf7+ Kh8** **30.Nxd1+ e5** **31.fxe6+ Qe5** **32.Bxe5#**) **29.Bc1 Nd7** **30.Rxd7!** **Qxd7** **31.Bxh6 Nc7** (**31...Rd8** **32.Qxf7+ Kxh6** **33.Qg6#**) **32.Bxf8+ Kg8** **33.Qh4 f6** **34.Bh6+-** White should have no trouble winning with an extra piece. **27...f6** **27...Qd6** also loses. **28.Nf2 Qd2** **29.Bc1** Black is fatally weak on the dark squares. **29...Qxe1** **30.Bxh6 Qxf2** **31.Bxf8+ Kg8** **32.Bxe7 Bxf5** **33.Bf6 Bh7** **34.Qh6+-** ; **27...Nd7** **28.Ne3 Ne5** **29.Rh1 Rh8** **30.Kg1 Kg8** **31.Nc4 f6** (**31...Nxc4?** **32.Qg4+ Kf8** **33.Qg7+ Ke8** **34.Qxh8+ Kd7** **35.bxc4+-**) **32.Nxe5 fxe5** **33.Qh5 Kf8** **34.Bc1!** This key bishop move is a recurring theme in all variations of the attack. **34...Qb6+** **35.Kf1 Qxb3** **36.Bxh6+ Rxh6** **37.Qxh6+ Ke8** **38.Qh8+ Kd7** **39.Qxe5 Qd3+** **40.Kf2 Qc2+** **41.Kf3 Nc5** **42.Kg4+-** White escapes from checks and should win easily. **28.Bc1!+/-** (0.27) Black is helpless on the dark squares. **28...Rf7** **29.Rh1** (0.23) Completing mobilization for the attack. **29.Qxh6+!** is a quicker finish. **29...Kg8** **30.Qg6+ Kf8** **31.Bh6+ Ke8** **32.Qg8+ Kd7** **33.Ne3+-** **29...Kg8** **30.Bxh6** (0.22) **30...e6** **31.Ne3!?** (0.17) White cannot bring himself to complete the attack without all his pieces in play. **31.e5!** would have been more spectacular. **31...fxe5** (**31...exf5** **32.exf6+-**) **32.f6!+-** **31...exf5** **32.exf5** (0.15) Now after some unnecessary preparatory moves, White is ready to complete the attack. **32...Qe5?** **32...Qe7** Does not change matters. **33.Rd1 Nd7** **34.Rd4 Rh7** **35.Re4!** **Ne5** **36.Ng4!+-** **Bxf5** **37.Nxf6+ Kf7** **38.Nxh7**

Qxh4+ 39.Rxh4 Bxh7 40.Bf4+- wins more material. 33.Qg4+ Kh8 34.Kg1 (0.13) 34...Rh7 35.Bg7+ (0.13) 35...Kg8 1-0

B.C.'S FIRST CHESS TOURNAMENT?



Miners at Williams Creek, 1867; the gentleman third from the left is John Adair

The early history of chess in B.C. is largely undocumented. When the province's fledgling cities grew large enough, organized chess followed almost as a matter of course, e.g., the Victoria Chess Club in 1892. However, before that time chess, along with horse racing, gambling, and other more adventurous activities, served as a social outlet from the hardships of pioneer life, and thus is not often mentioned in contemporary sources. One important early account, describing what was perhaps B.C.'s first chess tournament, occurs as a letter to the editor of the Victoria newspaper *The Daily British Colonist* of March 18, 1865:

Williams Creek, 18th February 1865

To the editor of the *British Colonist*

Sir,

It may not be uninteresting to your readers, at least that portion of them who are chess players, to receive an account of a chess tournament which lately took place among the players on the creek.

A public notice was put up by some of the most enthusiastic players that a meeting for the purpose of getting up a chess tournament would be held on the 10th ult.

At this meeting twelve gentlemen gave in their names as competitors for the championship. It was decided that the players should be divided into pairs by ballot, to play five games, and the first three games won by either of the contestants to decide between them; the winners of these first games to be again paired off to play a like number of games, and so continue to pair off until only one winner remained, who should be declared the champion of the tournament.

Accordingly the players in the first ballot were as follows:

J.A. Fraser vs. D. McNaughton
J. Elliott vs. B. Bellenbur
Jas. T. Steele vs. W. Reynbow
W. Dodd vs. E. Hodgens
J.S. Thompson vs. J. McLaren
[the sixth pairing, involving John Adair, is missing from the original]

Second Ballot

J.A. Fraser vs. John Elliot [*sic*]
John Adair vs. James T. Steele
Edward Hodgens vs. J.S. Thompson

Third Ballot

The players were now reduced to three, Messrs. Thompson, Fraser and Steele. On drawing for partners the lot fell upon Messrs. Thompson and Fraser to play together and the winner to play Mr. Steele. In this match Mr. Fraser was again the winner. This gentleman had now played three matches without losing a single game, and his friends felt confident that he would come out the victor in the next, but his opponent Mr. Steele proved a tough customer, and after playing five well contested games, they stood two each the fifth one having been a drawn one; then came the deciding game of which I annex a copy, which was won in good style by Mr. Steele, who was accordingly declared the champion of the tournament.

I am, yours, &c. A Chess Player

Fraser, J.A. - Steele, J.T. [C55] Williams Creek, 10.02.1865

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Ne4 6.0-0 d5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Qxd4 Bc5
10.Qd3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Ng5 12.Nb3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Qe7 14.Bf4 Bb6 15.Qg3 Qe6 16.Kh1 d4 17.Rad1
Rad8 18.Bg5 Rd7 19.f4 Re8 20.Rfe1 Qf5 21.Bf6 g6 22.Qh4 d3 23.Qh6 Bxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qg4+
25.Kh1 Qf3# 0-1

Williams Creek was the focus of the Cariboo gold rush of the 1860s. Inundated with miners and other individuals hoping to make a fortune, the creek acquired several towns almost overnight, including Marysville, Cameronton, Richfield, and the best known, Barkerville, which claimed to be the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. [At its height, Barkerville and environs had a population of some ten thousand; by comparison, Victoria's population at the beginning of the gold rush was substantially less than a thousand.]

The site of the tournament is not given by the correspondent; the first library in Williams Creek had opened in Cameronton in 1864, so it seems likely the event was publicized via the library, if not actually played there. The format, a series of knockout matches, had been standard since London 1851, and was only gradually supplanted by the round robin in the coming decade. With a minimum of sixteen "rounds" apparently occurring on the same day as the tournament was organized (the letter specifies that the printed final game was played on February 10), the games must have been played at a pretty fast rate. One wonders about the level of play at that speed; although the published game is relatively well-played, this may just reflect on the abilities of the finalists.

And what of the players? There is no way of knowing for certain if they are the same persons, but there is a J. McLaren and J.A. Fraser buried in the Barkersville cemetery. John McLaren was a grammar school headmaster before coming to the Cariboo in 1864; for a time he edited the local newspaper, the *Cariboo Sentinel*. He was killed at age thirty-one by a slide of sand and tailings in 1869. John Alexander Fraser was the fourth son of explorer Simon Fraser; he came to Cameronton in 1864 as an engineer. Money woes over his family's mortgaged farm and an unhappy love affair led him to commit suicide on May 20, 1865 - he was thirty-two. The next day one of the companies he had invested heavily in struck a rich lead. John Adair is identified in the photo at the beginning of this article. A James Steele worked for John Cameron's company, and can be identified in a photo of the latter. There was also a Steele Claim on the creek, said to be the richest piece of ground in the area; in 1861 it was producing thirty to forty pounds of gold a day.

2010 B.C. CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The 2010 B.C. Championship will be an 8-player round robin, held on the Thanksgiving weekend in Victoria (Saanich).at the Howard Johnson at 4670 Elk Lake Drive.

2. The following players qualify for the Championship:

- a. The 2009 B.C. Champion (Jack Yoos)
- b. The 2009 B.C. Junior Champion (not applicable)
- 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. Qualifying events: Grand Pacific Open (Harry Moore), Paul Keres Memorial (Roman Jiganchine), Langley Labour Day Open (???)
- 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 2009 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."

July-August Frozen Custard Actives

When: Sunday July 11, July 25, Aug 8, Aug 22, 2010 (4 Seperate Tournaments)

Where: Milwaukee Market Creamery, 1342 Hornby, Vancouver (near Pacific St.)

Rounds: 6 rounds at 1:00/ 2:00/ 2:50 / 3:40 / 4:25/ 5:10

Type: Swiss Active with time control Game/10 +10 sec. increment (game/17 if no digital clock)

Registration: On site from 12:30 pm.

Entry Fee: \$10

Prizes: 1st \$80 2nd \$60 BU1900 \$60, Biggest upset \$20; Based on 22 entries

Misc: 15% discount on any purchases in the Cafe for chess players

Info: Henry 778-989-0580 or Joe ijr18@hotmail.com

Bring your own chess equipment. Results posted at <http://www.chessmastery.com/bcactive/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior events

Aug. 16-19 North American YCC, Montreal

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

Frozen Custard Actives

July 11, 25, August 8, 22

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

Lighthouse Country Chess Fest

August 8, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

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

Labour Day Open

September 4-6, Langley

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

September Active

September 12, Vancouver

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

Frozen Custard Active

September 19, Vancouver

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#septActive2>

October Active

October 3, Vancouver

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

B.C. Championship

October 8-11, Victoria

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