

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #218

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

EAC Open #7 (June 18-19)



Ryan Lo and Joe Roback were joint winners of the latest EAC Chess Arts tournament, organized, directed, and held at the home of Eugenio Alonso Campos. Brian McLaren was the highest-rated player in the field by a substantial margin and indeed was leading after the first day with a perfect 3.0/3. However, Sunday was not kind to the former B.C. champion as he lost both his games, allowing Lo and Roback to move into the top spots with four wins each. Joanne Foote had another strong performance in winning the U1700 prize with 3.5 points, while Clement Cheng and Luke Pulfer tied for the U1400 honours. It should be noted that Lo, Foote, and Pulfer are the current BCYCC champions in their respective age categories.

Apart from occasional weekend tournaments the EAC club meets regularly on Friday evenings - contact Eugenio Alonso Campos at 604-767-5153 or ac-777-ac-888@live.com for more information. [CFC crosstable](#)

Campos, Eugenio Alonso - Lo, Ryan [D02] EAC Tournament 7 (5), 19.06.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nd2 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.Ngf3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.Qe2 Bb7 8.Ne5 Nbd7 9.g4 c5 10.c3 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Ne4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.f3 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Qd6 15.0-0-0 e5 16.dxe5 Qxe5 17.f4 Qc7 18.Rhf1 f6 19.h4 d4 20.c4 Rae8 21.Rde1 dxe3 22.Rxe3 Qd7 23.Rg3 Be4 24.f5 Rd8 25.Rd1 Bxd3 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.h5 Bf5 28.gxf5 Qxd2+ 29.Rxd2 g5 30.h6+ Kxh6 31.Rh3+ Kg7 32.Re2 Rfe8 33.Rf2 Rh8 34.Re3 Rd7 35.Rfe2 Kf7 36.a4 Rh4 37.b3 Rf4 38.Rh2 Kg7 39.Reh3 Rh4 40.Rxh4 gxh4 41.Rxh4 Rd3 42.Kc2 Rf3 43.Rh5 Kg8 44.Kb2 Rg3 45.Rh6 Kg7 46.Rh2 Rg5 47.Rf2 Kf7 48.Kc2 Ke7 49.Re2+ Kd7 50.Rd2+ Kc6 51.Rf2 Kd6 52.Rd2+ Ke5 53.Rd7 Kxf5 54.Rxa7 Kg4 55.Rb7 f5 56.Rxb6 f4 57.Rf6 f3 58.Kd2 Kg3 59.Ke1 Kg2 60.a5 Re5+ 61.Kd2 Re2+ 62.Kd3 Rb2 63.Kc3 Ra2 64.a6 f2 65.Rg6+ Kf3 66.Rf6+ Ke2 67.Re6+ Kd1 68.Rf6 Ke1 69.Re6+ Re2 70.Rxe2+ Kxe2 71.a7 f1Q 72.a8Q Qc1# 0-1

Edmonton International Qualifier/Fundraiser (June 18-19)

This year the 6th Edmonton International will take place on the August long weekend, and as in previous year one of the spots in the main event is awarded through a qualifier, which also acts as a fundraising event. That qualifier took place last weekend and one member of the sixteen-player field was Loren Laceste, the current B.C. grade 12 champion. Loren finished on 50% as did another familiar name - Jeff Anthony De Guzman, who was B.C.'s grade 10 champion last year. The overall winner of the event and qualifier to the international was "rocket" Rob Gardner, whose 4.5/5 score included a third round half-point bye. [CFC crosstable](#)

Las Vegas Chess Festival (June 9-12)

Apart from various conjunct events the main feature of the Las Vegas Chess Festival is the annual National Open, with a guaranteed \$80,000 prize fund. Usually a number of Canadians participants travel to Sin City for the tournament, including this year four players with B.C. connections - Alexandra Botez (U2200), Hugh Long (U1800), Constantin Rotariu (U1600), and Michael Greene (U1400). Of these the highest scorer was Constantin Rotariu with 4.0/6, good for a share of the 11th-15th place prizes in his section. The overall winners were GMs Loek Van Wely and Varuzhan Akobian, who took home \$4,800 each. [Festival website](#)

B.C. Open (July 30 - August 1)

After a hiatus of a few years the B.C. Open is being held this year in Richmond on the August long weekend. One of the deadlines for early bird entry is coming up on June 24 so if you intend playing, enter now and save on your entry fee! [Tournament details](#)

BUDAPEST CHESS WEEKEND III (Budapest, May 21-22) by Michael Yip

Szlabey, Geza - Yip, Michael [B01] Curia St May Quickplay (6), 22.05.2011

1.e4 d5!? I read *The Modern Scandinavian* (Wahls/Mueller and Langrock) last month so this seemed like a good time to try the Scandinavian (again). **2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3** 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Bb5! Black has to be careful of this strong move which is an option for White if Black commits to ...Nc6 too early. **3...Qa5 4.Be2** This is about the wimpiest non-challenging way for White to continue. However, White has no readily attackable weaknesses so all Black can hope for is easy equality and a comfortable game. 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Be2 Play the Scandinavian (Ch.10 Variation B) 5...c6!?. Gives the queen a retreat square in case White comes up with b4 ideas. 6.0-0 Bg4 7.b4

Qc7 8.b5 e6 9.Rb1 Be7 10.h3 Bh5 11.d4 0-0 12.Ne5 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Nbd7 14.bxc6 bxc6 15.Bf4 Bd6 16.Nxd7 Nxd7 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Ne4 Qc7 19.Qa6 Rab8 20.Rb3 e5 21.dxe5 Nxe5= Close to equal (Bauer) 22.Rc3 h6 23.f4 Rb6 24.Qa4 Nd7 25.Qd4 c5 26.Nxc5 Nxc5 27.Rxc5 Rc6 28.Rxc6 Qxc6 29.f5 Qxc2 30.Qxa7 f6 31.a4 Rd8 32.a5 Rd2 33.Qa8+ Kh7 34.a6 Qc5+ 35.Kh1 Ra2 36.Qb7 Qc4 37.Rf3 ½-½ Areshchenko,A - Papaioannou,I /Budva 2009; 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d3 is a more aggressive version of White's wimpy d3 system. 5...Bg4 6.f3 Bf5 7.Bd2 Qb6 8.Qe2 Nc6! The reason that Black should not rush to play ...c6 is to have this aggressive option when White plays passive lines. 9.0-0-0 e6 Black has a palatable position. **4...Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6!?** Passive White play allows Black the luxury of being more active with this knight development. Now White does not really have the luxury of Bb5 which would make more sense if Black had chosen an earlier ...Nc6 **6.0-0 Bg4 7.d3** Really going conservative. **7...e6** Modest but reasonable. In the example games included common theme for Black are-...0-0-0 opposite side castling-...Nd4 central domination...Bh5-g6 but not ...Bxf3. White can also try to encourage a bishop trade with Ng5....Qf5! to exploit Bf4 7...e5 is more ambitious. 8.a3 (8.h3 Bh5 9.a3 0-0-0! 10.Qe1 Nd4 Thematic centralization. 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Ne4 Qd5 13.Nxf6 gxf6 14.Bxh5 Qxh5 15.Qd1 Qd5 16.Qf3 A very drastic measure to take away Black's mating ideas on the g-file. 16...Qxf3 17.gxf3 Bd6 18.Bd2 Kd7 19.Rfe1 Rhg8+ 20.Kh1 Rg6 21.Rg1 Rdg8 22.Rg4 f5 23.Rxg6 hxg6 24.Re1 Kc6 25.Kg2 Kd5 26.Re2 b5 27.Re1 c5 28.Ra1 Re8 29.Kf1 Rh8 30.Kg2 Rb8 31.b3 c4 32.b4 Rb6 33.dxc4+ bxc4 34.Rd1 Be5 35.Bc3 d3 36.Bxe5 Kxe5 37.cxd3 c3 38.d4+ Kd5 39.Kf1 Kc4 40.Rc1 Kd3 41.Ke1 c2 0-1 Budimir,B - Saric,S /Osijek 2008) 8...0-0-0! 9.Be3 e4 10.Ne1 h5 11.f3 exf3 12.Nxf3 Bd6 13.b4 Qf5, Swinging over to the kingside for the attack. 14.Qd2 Rhe8 15.Ng5 Qe5 16.Bxg4+ Nxg4 17.Bf4 Qd4+ 18.Kh1 Rd7 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 20.Qf4 Qxf4 21.Rxf4 Nd4 22.h3 Nxc2 23.Raf1 Nge3 24.R1f2 f6 25.Nge4 Rxd3 26.Ne2 Rxa3 27.N2g3 Nxb4 28.Nxh5 Nd3 0-1 Nunez,A - Varga,Z/Santiago de Chile 1990 **8.Bd2** This is normal but a bit late. 8.Bf4 This seems more to the point. 8...0-0-0 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Rd7 11.Nf3 Qf5! Exploiting the exposed Bf4. 12.Be5 Bc5 13.Rae1 Rhd8 14.Qd2 Nd4 Thematic centralization. 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.Qf4 Qxf4 17.Bxf4 Bxc3! The first concrete gain for Black is a weakening of White's pawns. 18.bxc3 Rd5 19.Rb1 Ra5 20.Rb2 e5 21.Be3 e4 22.Bd4 exd3 23.cxd3 Nh5 24.Re1 c5 25.Be5 f6 26.g4 fxe5 27.gxh5 Rxd3 28.Rxe5 b6 29.Re3 29...Rd7! Good technique. Black just covers his own pawns to prevent counterplay first. 30.c4 Ra4! 31.Rc2 Now Rc2 is completely tied down. 31...Rb4 32.h6 gxh6 33.f4 Rb1+ 34.Kg2 Rg7+ 35.Rg3 Rf7 36.Rf3 Rd1 37.Kg3 Rd4! Again White is tied down. 38.Kg4 Kd7 39.Kh5 Rf6 40.f5 Kd6 The king has safe passage to the center. 41.h4 a5 42.a4 Ke5 43.Re2+ Re4 44.Rxe4+ Kxe4-+ 45.Rf4+! Hoping for a stalemate. 45...Kd3 46.Kg4 Kc3 47.Re4 Rf8 48.Kf4 Kb4 49.Re6 Kxc4 50.Rxb6 Kd5 51.f6 c4 52.Kf5 c3 53.Rb1 h5 54.Rf1 c2 55.Rc1 Rc8 56.f7 Kd4 57.Ke6 Kc3 58.Kd7 Ra8 0-1 Barendregt,J - Larsen,B /Copenhagen 1960; 8.h3 Bh5 Black is not willing to part with the bishop just yet. 9.Bf4 0-0-0 10.Ng5 Trying very hard to trade off White's passive light bishop for Black's more actively placed counterpart. 10...Bg6 11.Bf3 Nd4! 12.Re1 h6 13.Nge4 Qf5! Now Black is able to cripple White's kingside pawns. 14.Bg3 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Qxf3 16.gxf3 Black has excellent chances with the bishop pair and better structure. 16...Nh5 17.Nd2 Bf5 18.Kg2 f6 19.Nc4 e5 20.Ne2 g5 21.Rad1 Rh7 22.Ne3 Bg6 23.d4 Nf4+ 24.Bxf4 exf4 25.Ng4 h5 26.Nxf6 Rf7 27.Ne4 Bxe4 28.fxe4 f3+ 29.Kg3 h4+ 30.Kg4 fxe2 31.Rxe2 Be7 32.c3 Rh8 0-1 Vdovin,D - Reprintsev,A /Moscow 1999 **8...Be7** I had a hard time coming up with a plan and had to settle for this. **9.Ne4 Qd5 10.Ng3** h3 is coming so Bg4 needs a retreat square. **10...e5 11.h3 Bd7** 11...Be6 12.Ng5 is awkward. **12.Be3** White was threatening to break open the centre with d4 so I felt compelled to prevent this plan. **12...Nd4!?** Objectively White is better but the position remains complicated. 12...0-0 Just completing development allows White to justify his modest build up and force Black to accept a bleak equality at best. 13.c4! This forces Black back and gets at least a slight advantage. (13.c3 Rad8 14.Qc2 (14.d4 White achieves nothing with this break as Black is too well placed. 14...exd4 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 c5! 17.Bf3 Qd6 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Qc2 Rfe8=) 14...Rfe8=) 13...Qd6 14.d4 exd4 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 (15...Qe5?! 16.Bf3 Rad8 (16...Rfd8?! 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Qc2+/=) 17.Bxc6 bxc6 (17...Bxc6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Qc2 Bc5

20.Rfe1+/=) 18.Qc2 Rfe8 19.Rfe1= I prefer White but Black's bishops give good chances to keep the balance.) 16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Bxd4 Rfe8 18.Bf3 c6 19.Rfe1 Be6= **13.Bxd4?!** This immediately rewards Black with a complicated game as desired. 13.c3! is more testing. 13...Nxe2+ 14.Qxe2 e4 Liquidating the e-pawn right away is correct. (14...0-0 15.c4 Qe6 16.Bd2 Bd6 17.Bc3 Rfe8 18.Rfe1+/= Black is tied down to the defence of e5.) 15.dxe4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 (16.Rad1 Nxc3 17.fxg3 Bb5 18.Rfe1! Bxe2 19.Rxd5 Bc4 20.Re5 Kd7 21.b3 Be6 22.Bd4 Rhg8=) 16...Qxe4 17.Rfe1! White's slight lead in development causes Black some problems. 17...0-0 (17...0-0-0 18.Bxa7 Qxe2 19.Rxe2 Bd6 20.Ng5 Rde8 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 (21...Bxe8 22.Bd4 f6 23.Ne6 Rg8 24.Bc5 Bf7 25.Bxd6 Bxe6=) 22.Nxf7 Bf4 23.Be3 Bxe3 24.fxe3 h6 with compensation) 18.Qd1 Bd6 19.Bc5 Qf4 20.Bxd6 cxd6 21.Qd3+/= **13...exd4 14.Nd2!? 0-0-0!?** Speeding development as well as guarding b7 in anticipation of Bf3. 14...0-0 is a less risky way to continue. 15.Bf3 Qg5 16.Nb3 (16.Bxb7 Taking the pawn opens line for Black. 16...Rab8 17.Bf3 Rxb2 18.Nc4 (18.Nb3 does not trap the rook. 18...Bd6 Black is up a pawn but Rb2 is safe and for now is inconveniently placed.) 18...Rb5 19.a4 Rbb8 20.Re1 Bd6! 21.Nxd6 cxd6= Black's suspicious pawn structure is not a factor as his pieces have plenty of activity.) 16...c6= **15.Bf3** Now Black's queen has no really convenient retreat square and the game enters a murky phase. **15...Qd6?!** Black starts to lose touch with the game and starts to play passively. 15...Qg5!? is more active. 16.Nc4 Rhe8 (16...Kb8 Black cannot spare a tempo for this normally useful precaution. 17.Re1 Rhe8 18.Re5! Qg6 19.Qe2!+/=; 16...Rde8 is the wrong rook to bring to the e-file. 17.c3!+/=) 17.c3 Be6 18.Qa4 a6 19.cxd4 Qb5 20.Qc2 Rxd4= **16.Nc4 Qa6** A bit risky but all other squares allow White to keep harassing the queen. **17.Qd2 Be6 18.Na5!?** This seems artificial but now White starts to get some pressure. **18...c6** Now the Q/a6 is out of play. 18...Nd5 19.Nb3 Qb6 20.c3! dxc3 21.bxc3+/= White will be able to use the b-file with good effect. **19.Nb3**



Now I thought it was time to get going on the kingside as opposite side castling usually implies some kind of pawn storm race. **19...h5** 19...Kb8!? 20.Qf4+ Bd6 21.Qg5 h6!? The g-pawn is offered as a gambit. 22.Qxg7 Be5 23.Nc5 Qb6 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Qf7 with compensation; 19...Rhe8= is logical too. **20.Ne2 c5?!** Now White has the upper hand despite Black's optical domination of the centre. 20...Qb6 is a much easier way for Black to defend the d-pawn. 21.Rfe1 Rhe8= **21.Nf4!** Now Black's bishop pair cannot be kept without making a large concession so Black opts to keep improving other pieces and allow White to remove one of Black's bishops. **21...Nd5 22.Nxe6 fxe6** 22...Qxe6? 23.Rfe1 Qf6 24.Qa5!± Black's pieces are in an inconvenient tangle. **23.Rfe1+/= Qd6!?** Bringing the queen back into play. Now Black has to take care of the weak

e-pawn but I could see no way for White to win the pawn. **24.Qe2 Rh6 25.Nd2** The knight needed regrouping as on b3 the knight just bites on Black's nice pawn chain. **25...g5!?** Again Black has to get rolling just to distract White who will surely be successful in a pure positional battle. 25...Nf4 26.Qe4 Qc7 27.Nc4 Rf6 28.a4+/= **26.Nc4 26...Qf4?** An error and a bluff at the same time. **27.g3?** Lucky for me my opponent believed me. 27.Bxh5 The h-pawn can be taken and Black has no follow-up. 27...Rdh8 28.Bg4+- **27...Qf5 28.Bg2** Black has made some progress on the kingside and must keep pressing to keep White from getting going on the queenside. Should Black hesitate, Bg2 will be very strong in the attack. **28...h4 29.g4?** Too cooperative. Now Black has some hope based on the weak dark squares. 29.Qe4!+/= **29...Qf6 30.Qe5=** White concedes equality. 30.Bxd5 Rxd5 31.a4= At least White has a good knight but his kingside remains awful. **30...Qxe5!** Black changes the course of the game and is willing to defend a holdable ending. 30...Nf4! = **31.Nxe5 Rf6 Nf7** must be prevented. **32.Bxd5 Rxd5=**



White can boast of the 'good' knight but the bishop is not so bad as long as there are rooks on the board. White also has a horrible kingside pawn structure to contend with. **33.Re4 Kc7 34.Rf1 Bd6** Black methodically builds his position by centralizing his pieces. **35.Rfe1 Bxe5** A well calculated exchange. **36.Rxe5 Kd6!** The key follow-up and now White can make no progress against the e6 pawn while Black can always expand on the queenside with pawn play. **37.R5e4 e5=/+** Black has taken over the game.**38.Kf1 Rf7** The rook guards the seventh rank and is well placed to swing from flank to flank as required. **39.Ke2 b6!?** Not hurrying for now as White has no real active prospects. **40.Rf1 b5** The plan is just to push forwards with the queenside pawns to create

weaknesses or open lines for an invasion. **41.f3 Rc7 ...c4** is coming. **42.Kd2 c4 43.c3??** A time trouble blunder that loses immediately. **43...dxc3+ 44.Kxc3 cxd3+** Ends all hope of resistance. **44...cxd3+ 45.Kd2 (45.Kb3 d2 46.Rd1 Rc1-+)** **45...Rc2+ 46.Kd1 (46.Ke3 Re2#; 46.Ke1 d2+ 47.Kd1 Rc1+)** **46...Rxb2-+ ; 44...Rxd3+ 45.Kc2-+ is also winning but not so quickly. 0-1**

CFC MEMBERSHIP FEES

CFC memberships are increasing to cover the cost of HST, as noted in a recent message from CFC President Bob Gillanders:

"As a consequence of the loss of our charitable tax status, we are now required to charge HST/GST on our membership dues and rating fees. This change took place effective February 1, 2011. We have absorbed this cost to date, but it is now time to adjust our dues accordingly....The effective date is June 1, 2011. To allow for an easy transition, we will accept membership renewals until June 7th at the old rates, as well as for any tournaments begun before June 1st."

Therefore, the cost of a CFC membership for a B.C. resident is now \$40 for an adult (up from \$36), \$27 for a junior (previously \$24). The cost of a CFC tournament membership covering just one event remains the same at \$16 adult/\$8 junior. As before, BCCF membership is charged per player per event, and is often included in the event entry fee. See the [BCCF](#) website for more details.

SUMMER PREVIEW

July/August is a busy time for chess events, both locally, nationally, and around the world. Here is a summary of some upcoming tournaments, including a listing of B.C. participants (where known). Some of these events will have live games broadcast over the internet - consult the webpages for details.

NAYCC, June 25-29, Tarrytown New York:

<http://www.chesseducators.com/northamericanyouth/>

Pan American Youth, July 2-9, Colombia: Dezheng Kong

<http://www.torneosajedrez.com/panamericanos/>

CYCC, July 6-9, North York: Harmony Zhu, Luke Pulfer, Neil Doknjas, Patrick Huang, Andrea Botez, Joshua Doknjas, Cassidy Fu, John Doknjas, Jason Cao, Joanne Foote, Jingzhou Lai, Alexandra Botez, Jill Ding, Nicholas Peters, Loren Laceste
<http://www.2011cycc.ca/>

Canadian Open, July 8-17, Toronto: Alexandra Botez, Jason Cao, Roger Patterson, Dezheng Kong, Jack Yoos, Tanraj Sohal, Bindi Cheng, James Chan, John Doknjas, Doug Sly, Paul Leblanc, Joshua Doknjas
<http://www.canadianchess.info/2011canadianopen>

Quebec Open, July 23-30, Montreal: Bindi Cheng (Louie Jiang)
<http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/cms/story/coq-2011-appariements>

Edmonton International, July 27 - August 1

B.C. Open, July 30 - August 1, Richmond
<http://victoriachessclub.pbworks.com/w/page/35682117/BC-Open>

Bishops of Bowser Open, August 14, Bowser
<http://bowserchess.pbworks.com/w/page/6619088/FrontPage>

Centennial Open, August 12-14, Portland, Oregon
http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/PCC_Centennial_Open_201108.pdf

CHESS IN B.C. - THE EARLY YEARS (1)

References to chess in the early history of B.C. are few and far between, and what we are left with is the occasional fleeting mention which has survived the ravages of time. Organized competitive chess had to wait until the population grew to the point that would sustain such activity, after the gold rushes and widespread colonization of the new province in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Before that time one assumes the game was only played, if at all, in domestic and social circles as a recreation and distraction from the hardships of exploration and pioneer life.

However, the very isolation of the Pacific Northwest coast did encourage the game in one aspect. Until the arrival of transcontinental railways in the 1880s the normal means of reaching British Columbia was via a long monotonous sea passage, and we have two references to chess being played on such voyages. In 1858 gold was found along the banks of the Thompson River, which led to a rapid influx of prospectors and speculators from around the world. In order to maintain order and reinforce British claims of sovereignty to the region the Colony of British Columbia was established in August of 1858, constituting what is now the mainland of B.C. (Vancouver Island had been a crown colony since 1849; the two colonies did not merge until 1866). One of those who moved to the new colony to help fill the administrative void was [Henry Pering Pellew Crease](#), a British lawyer who became Attorney-General for the colony of B.C., continued in that role after the two colonies were united in 1866, and was subsequently a B.C. Supreme Court justice for twenty-six years. However, it is his wife Sarah who interests us here. A daughter of the botanist John Lindley, Sarah had married Henry and had borne him three young daughters by the time he travelled to British Columbia. Sarah and the family remained behind in England and did not join him until the latter half of 1859. Sarah wrote of the voyage on the *Athelstan*:

“The days pass very quickly but I find it impossible to accomplish in the way of needle work any thing like what I anticipated. The general state of things is most inductive to an easy idle life—at least I feel I have not the strength for anything more—and fortunately more is not required. I hear dear Mary her lessons every day except writing and spend the rest in nursing Baby on my lap while reading or writing, playing chess or cribbage or the Concertina which I am learning in company with Capt. Lennard & his friend...” [Sarah Crease, 7 October 1859, quoted in Kathryn Bridge, *Henry & Self: The Private Life of Sarah Crease 1826 -1922*, Victoria, Sono Nis Press, 1996]

Sarah was also a talented amateur artist, and made a number of sketches of chess being played during the voyage which are now in the B.C. Archives:



One member of the military who helped administer British authority in the colonies was [Lieutenant Edmund Hope Verney](#), a young naval officer stationed at Esquimalt as commander of the gunboat *Grappler* 1862-1865; he was also a step-nephew of Florence Nightingale. On the voyage to B.C. Verney took up in chess in order to avoid talking to his fellow passengers:

Verney developed a critical view of English emigrants destined during this gold-rush period for Vancouver Island whom he encountered on shipboard. He wrote about those on the *Tamar* on April 5: “[N]early all are going out without a defined object: one has a promise of ‘some appointment’; another a letter to the governor which is to work wonders: two have left the army, and one naturally thinks ‘I wonder why they left it’.” He was troubled by their attempts to become over-familiar with him, not wishing to give offence to persons going to the same colony but on the other hand not wanting “to find myself saddled with a number of questionable friends on my arrival.” His solution to this problem was to adopt chess as his favourite game: “as it is most interesting, and does not admit of conversation.” [*Vancouver Island Letters of Edmund Hope Verney, 1862-1865*, edited by Allan Pritchard, University of British Columbia Press, 1996]

These are two specific references we have to chess being played onboard ship. One can speculate the game was also played by other maritime explorers and their crews, e.g., Captains Cook or Vancouver, the Spaniard Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, or the various Russian and American ships that traded in pelts and furs during that time period. [A handsome ivory chess set that was once owned by James Cook is in the National Maritime Museum in London, but I have

been unable to determine if Cook actually played the game; according to folklore his main recreation during his voyages was a "connect four" game he spent much time on.]

Of the land-based explorers and traders, virtually the entire European populace of New Caledonia before the discovery of gold in 1858, there is mention of chess being played at the Fort St James headquarters of [Peter Warren Dease](#), the Hudson's Bay Company chief factor who was responsible for New Caledonia 1831-1835:

Dease was popular among his men as he was "most amiable, warm hearted, sociable." He brightened life at Fort St James with feasts of "roasted bear, beaver and marmot" and games of chess, backgammon, and whist; he played remarkably well on the violin and flute "for the fort's musical soirees." [Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online]

In this connection it is worth remembering that the winner of the first recorded chess tournament in B.C., in Williams Creek in 1865, was James Alexander Fraser, the fourth son of explorer Simon Fraser (see [Bulletin #91](#)).

There is another early photograph in the B.C. Archives which shows chess being played domestically:



The players are Cerise A. Phair (1852-1933) and Arthur Martley (1855-1942), either brother and sister or step-brother and sister, I'm not sure which. Cerise was married to Caspar Phair, a Lillooet pioneer who served as government agent for the area for almost fifty years; Cerise owned the general store in Lillooet. Together they lived in Longford House, built by Caspar in the 1880s and now known as Miyazaki House. Arthur Martley was the son of Captain John Martley; the latter pre-empted 460 acres at Pavilion, where he built a home ("The Grange") and operated a road house. Father and son were both active in the freighting business, driving horse teams along the wagon road to the Cariboo. Presumably the photo was taken while Cerise was convalescing from an illness at Longford House; the B.C. Archives dates the photo in the 1940s, but the first decades of the twentieth century seems more likely. Incidentally, in his letters Lieutenant Verney describes a journey he made into the Interior, during which he travelled for a time with James Alexander Fraser and stayed with Captain Martley - perhaps Verney shared a game with one or both of them on his travels (assuming the Captain played).

July Active

Date: Sunday, July 10, 2011

Location: Vancouver Bridge Centre, 2776 East Broadway (at Kaslo), Vancouver

Rounds: 5; Round Times: RD1: 11:00 Rd2: 12:30 Lunch Rd3: 2:20 Rd4: 3:40 Rd5: 5:00

Type: Regular Swiss; Time Controls: G/25 + 10 sec. increments or G/30.

Entry Fee: \$15; Prizes: 1st \$100 2nd \$70 BU2000 \$70 BU1600 \$50 Upset \$10 based on 30 entries.

The Vancouver Active rating will be used or the CFC regular

Registration: On site at 10:30am or contact Luc Poitras at (778) 846-0496 Email: lucque@shaw.ca

Bring your chess set and clock if you have one. No membership required

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior

<http://www.bcjuniorchess.com/calendar/>

<http://victoriajuniorchess.pbworks.com/Tournament-Schedule>

UBC Thursday Night Swiss

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre room 157, 1961 East Mall, University of British Columbia. Entry fee \$20 for adults \$15 for juniors. Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca

July Active

July 10, Vancouver

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

B.C. Open

July 30 - August 1, Richmond

Details: <http://victoriachessclub.pbworks.com/w/page/35682117/BC-Open>

3rd Bishops of Bowser Tournament

August 14, Bowser, Vancouver Island

Details: <http://bowserchess.pbworks.com/w/page/40199252/2011-Tournament>

Portland Chess Club Centennial Open

August 12-14, Portland, Oregon

Details: http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/PCC_Centennial_Open_201108.pdf

Labour Day Open

September 3-5, Langley

Details: <http://www.langleychess.com/2011-Open.htm>