

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #240

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 (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Washington Open (SeaTac, May 26-28)

Held on the American Memorial Day long weekend, the Washington Open usually attracts a number of BC players but this year only three attended - John, Joshua, and Neil Doknjas, the first two fresh from their triumphs at the Chess Challenge the previous weekend. (Other potential candidates instead chose to go further afield to Chicago - see below). Georgi Orlov won the Open Section outright with an undefeated 5.0/6, gaining some consolation for finishing out of the prizes at the Keres the week before. [USCF crosstable](#)

Chicago Open (May 24-28)

As noted above, several BC players took the opportunity to play in the Chicago Open; they included Tanraj Sohal, Severo Caluza, Alice Xiao, and six-year-old Rowan James of Victoria. However, the most successful Canadian was Mark Plotkin, who tied for second in the U2100 with 6.0/7, winning \$1850 (US). The overall winner in the GM-studded Open Section was Armenian Gabriel Sargissian. [Standings](#)

Creekside Community Recreation Centre Chess

A new place to play chess in Vancouver is at the Creekside Community Recreation Centre near Science World (1 Athletes Way, at the north foot of Ontario Street). Drop in chess, usually involving a blitz event but also casual play, takes place on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30. Drop in fee is \$2. Please bring your own set and clock (if you have one).

PAUL KERES MEMORIAL (May 19-21) by Roger Patterson

The 37th annual Keres Memorial took place at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Richmond. This year's edition drew ninety-two players, which is an eight-year high for the event. It could have easily reached one hundred but there were a rash of last-minute cancellations. With a bit more work, perhaps next year's event can compete for BC's largest tournament again.

The field in the top section featured three IMs and four FMs including IM Dietmar Kolbus from Germany who happened to be visiting BC. The locals held their own against him, defended their turf and perennial favourite Jack Yoos took first place over all. This makes his sixth repeat win of this event.

We have reserved the same venue for next year's event May 18-20, 2013. Be there!



Many thanks to those who helped out (Michael & Lara Lo, Ralph Lavallee, and others) as well as to Casey Collins who donated towards the upcoming Canadian Open.

[This [report](#) with additional photos, games, and full standings. Three games are annotated below by Dan Scoones.]

2012 CANADIAN CHESS CHALLENGE (May 20-21) by Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Team BC Captain



This year, the 2012 Canadian Chess Challenge (CCC) was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The tournament site was McNally's Theatre located at Saint Mary's University. This was one of the best CCC venues ever, if not the best! Stadium seating allowed families an excellent view of all the team members during play, as well as ample room to move around. CCC Organizers, Audrey and Blaine Gallant did an outstanding job including arranging for the pre-tournament festivities, like a fun Pizza Party and *Searching for Bobby Fischer* movie night, and the Blitz tournament (where

Tanraj Sohal was among the top winners), and where players from all ten provinces were able to simply hang out with each other.

During the opening ceremonies, all the provincial teams, which were made up of the provincial champions from Grade 1 to Grade 12, were led in team by team by a bagpiper (think Team Canada coming into the Olympic Stadium). Team BC was led by our Grade 12 player, Joshua Wild, who proudly carried the BC flag. This was Joshua's fifth CCC and he did wonderfully well, including drawing Quebec's FM Louie Jiang in round 6 and tying for third place overall in a very strong Grade 12 section.

Our Team BC this year was made up of many new faces, which injected a lot of enthusiasm and great team spirit. Most of Team BC went out together for dinner to enjoy the local lobster cuisine, as well as paired off together during the post-CCC Bughouse tournament, where the team of Lionel Han and Karl (Lizhe) Cui won second place (Lionel also picked up a nice CCC trophy, and this being his first CCC), and John Doknjas and Samuel Chen won for best team name (The Human Sasquatch).

Day one started with Team BC facing Team AB. Team BC won the match 7 to 5 games and continued winning matches against Team NB (9.5), Team PE (10.0), Team NS (9.0), and Team NL (10.5). On the final round of Day one, round six, we met up with a strong Team QC. Team BC fought valiantly, but lost 5.5 to 6.5 games. At the end of the first day, Team BC had five undefeated players: Kevin Low, Joshua Doknjas, John Doknjas, Tanraj Sohal, and Joshua Wild.

Day two continued with Team BC's winning ways beating Team MB (6.5) and Team SK (11.5). On the final round, we met up with last year's CCC Team Champions, Team ON, and unfortunately lost, leaving Team BC with third place overall after Team ON and Team QC.

It was quite an exciting tournament for our Team BC as five of our players underwent playoff games. And one BC player had to endure double playoff games in order to determine the National Champion!

Individual BC results included:

Grade 1: Kevin Low, National Champion

Grade 2: Victor Zheng, fourth place

Grade 3: Philip Chen, third place (tied)

Grade 4: Joshua Doknjas, National Champion

Grade 5: Samuel Chen, sixth place (tied)

Grade 6: Lionel Han, second place (tied)

Grade 7: John Doknjas, National Champion

Grade 8: Karl (Lizhe) Cui, sixth place

Grade 9: Andrew Quinton Lee, ninth place (tied)

Grade 10: Tanraj Sohal, National Champion

Grade 11: Farley Cannon, fourth place

Grade 12: Joshua Wild, third place (tied)

This was Kevin Low's first CCC and Kevin had a strong tournament, going undefeated to win his first National Championship. Congratulations Kevin! John Doknjas also went undefeated and won his second straight National Championship. Joshua Doknjas won his second National Championship also and with his brother, Joshua and John repeated history this year by being the

only siblings in the CCC history to win National Championships on the same year. Multi-National Championship winner, Tanraj Sohal was the only BC player to win all his nine games. This year, Team BC tied with Team ON with having the most National Champions and repeated last year's success by having four National Champions.

Special thanks goes to Vivien Lai (Co-Team BC Captain) for the many hours she put in helping to coordinate the Team, including designing and creating the wonderful Team BC shirts, organizing the BC pins, distributing the travel reimbursement cheques, arranging for the Team dinners in Halifax, encouraging Team Members during each round of play, etc. and the list goes on and on. Thanks Xichi Zheng for getting the personalized BC flags made up for each Team BC Member and taking the extra load all the way from Vancouver to Halifax for us! His help, along with Tanveer Sohal, and Kevin Chen with assistant TD-ing was greatly appreciated. And speaking of Kevin and Xichi, I have seen a preview of the photos that they have taken of our Team at the Canadian Chess Challenge and they look great! Thanks Kevin and Xichi for being our Team Photographers. Thanks to the parents for their help with BC pin collection, encouraging the kids at the tournament, photography, joining in on the Team BC dinners and many, many other tasks and details before and during the tournament. Their support and team spirit was great to see. Thanks to Ken Jensen, BC Junior Coordinator, and Wendy Jensen for making this Team BC at CCC happen. Many of Team BC Members took Ken's advice and enjoyed a very fun team dinner at Salty's, while a few others made a visit to the Citadel.

Larry Bevand continues to put on a wonderful National tournament year in and year out; and this year was no different. Tournament Director Jeff Coakley, once again conducted a seamless tournament and no matter how busy he was, he was always available to answer questions and address issues. Thank you, Larry and Jeff for another memorable chess event. Special thanks to CCC 2012 Organizers, Audrey and Blaine Gallant – great, great people putting on a great tournament – simply outstanding! Also, thanks to the Peters family (Tammy and Greg Peters & crew), who were one of the many dedicated and friendly Nova Scotian volunteers who provided airport pickup and drove and joined us at our Team BC Celebration dinner. It was a pleasure to meet and spend time with them all! Next year, the Canadian Chess Challenge will be held in Ottawa, ON.

One of the many joys for me was when our BC players came up to fist-bump me after each of their games. I was proud to stand as Team BC Captain again this year and I am proud of each of our Team BC players for all their hard work, outstanding effort, and desire to help and encourage one another as team mates. Congratulations Team BC for a tremendous performance!

More stats and results can be found at:

<http://www.chess-math.org/ccc/national/results/2012/English/index.xml>

Past BC results at the [Chess Challenge](#)

[Addendum: BC players also did well in the blitz tournament on the first day. Tanraj Sohal, Farley Canon and Andrew Lee all ended up in three-way ties for first in their respective sections (over 1750 for Tanraj, 1000-1750 for Farley and Andrew), finishing second, second, and third respectively after playoffs.]

HAMMER TIME by Dan Scoones

I was able to get over to Richmond on the May long weekend and watch some of this year's Paul Keres Memorial. Three great attacking games were played while I was at the tournament hall. Let's get right to them.

G.Orlov – L.Laceste Paul Keres Memorial 2012 Slav Defence D15

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 a6 5.g3 b5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Ne5 e6 8.Bf4 Be7 9.Bg2 0–0 10.Rc1 Bb7 11.a4 b4 12.Nb1 Ne4?!

So far Black has played reasonably, but this is almost certainly a step in the wrong direction. After exchanging his active knight for its less active colleague, Black starts to slide into a passive position. Stronger was the developing move 12...Nbd7, challenging White's centralised knight on e5.

13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 a5 15.0–0 Bd6

A further sign that things have gone a bit wrong for Black. The natural developing move 15...Nbd7? is refuted by 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Rc7, winning a piece.

16.Rc2



At this point I was half expecting Black to play 16...b3!?, disrupting White's plan of doubling rooks on the c-file. Because the pawn would become stranded, it is not clear that this is a good idea. Black's next move protects the square c6 but makes it unlikely that he will be able to oppose rooks anytime soon. Further difficulties are already looming on the horizon. **16...Ra6 17.Nd3 Nd7 18.Rfc1 Qe7 19.Bxd6 Qxd6** Another favourable exchange for White, leaving him with a solid positional advantage. Black can only defend passively and hope for the best.

20.Qf4! Qb6 21.Rc7 Nf6



22.Ne5

Natural and strong, but perhaps even stronger was 22.R1c5!? Black would have to go into contortions in order to avoid losing material: 22...Ne8 23.Re7 Ba8 24.Rc8 Nf6 25.Rcc7 Qd6 26.Qxd6 Rxd6 but now 27.Ra7 picks off the a-pawn with the b-pawn to follow shortly. However, in that event we would not get to see Orlov's wonderful attacking technique!

22...Ra7 23.R1c5 Ba6 24.R7c6 Qd8 25.Bf3 Ne8 26.Rc1 f6 27.Nd3 Bxd3 28.exd3 Re7

Black has managed to exchange off his bad bishop but the price is high: a weakness on e6, which is vulnerable to attack by several White pieces. If 28...g5 29.Qe3 Ng7 (instead of 28...Re7) then White has 30.Qe2 intending Bg4, putting the e-pawn under immediate attack.

29.Rc8 Qd7 30.R1c6



30...e5

Black has grown weary of defending his passive position and decides to make a bid for freedom. Unfortunately, the only piece that gets any activity is his queen, and otherwise he simply transfers his main weakness from e6 to d5.

31.Qe3 g6 32.Rc5! Qxa4 33.dxe5 Qa1+

If Black tries 33...fxe5 then White has 34.Bxd5+ Kg7 35.Rd8 Qa1+ 36.Rc1 Qxb2 37.Qc5 Rc7 38.Qxf8+! Kxf8 39.Rxc7, when Black has to give up his queen to avoid mate.

34.Kg2 Qxb2



While Black has been busy taking pawns, White has moved his forces into position. It is Hammer Time!

35.Qh6! Rxe5 36.R5c7 Rf7 37.Bxd5! 1-0

J.Cheng – B.Villavieja Paul Keres Memorial 2012 Sicilian Defence B92

White is outrated by almost 300 points, which makes this game all the more impressive.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5

The Opocensky variation of the Najdorf. It demands accurate play from both sides.

7.Nb3 Be6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Kh1 0-0 10.f4 Qc7

Black takes control of c4 so that his bishop can go there when it is attacked by White's f-pawn. It must be said that this is a very double-edged approach. If Black doesn't get some counterplay on the queenside, he will have to face a dangerous pawn roller on the kingside.

Another way of handling the position was 10...exf4 11.Bxf4 Nc6 12.Qe1 Nd7 13.Rd1 Nde5 and now if 14.Nd5 then 14...Bg5 with reasonable chances for Black. His backward pawn on d6 is balanced by his strong square at e5.

11.f5 Bc4 12.g4 h6

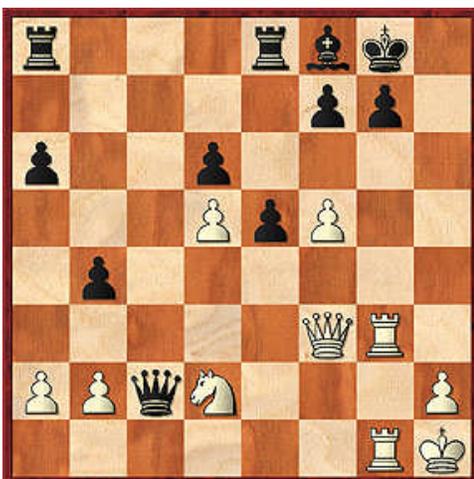
This too is a very double-edged decision because it allows the opening of the g-file. Based on hindsight, this was the right moment to unleash some counterplay in the centre with 12...d5!? White can get an edge with 13.exd5 Rd8 14.Bxc4 Qxc4 15.Nd2 Qxg4 16.Qxg4 Nxg4 17.Nde4 but it is nothing like what he gets in the game.

13.g5 hxg5 14.Bxg5 Nbd7 15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.Qf3 Rfe8 17.Rg1 Bf8 18.Rg3 b5 19.Rag1 b4 20.Nd2 Qc6



Black has relied on passive defence to hold off White's kingside pressure. Unfortunately, it is Hammer Time already.

21.Bxf6! Nxf6 22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.exd5 Qxc2



24.Qg2!

Simple, brutal, and strong. There is no escape for Black's king.

24...g6 25.Rxg6+ fxg6 26.Qxg6+ 1-0

We come now to the centrepiece of the tournament: Jack Yoos's dramatic last-round win over Dietmar Kolbus, which gave the former BC Champion clear first place. He started half a point behind his rival and had to win this game in order to collect the silverware.

J.Yoos – D.Kolbus Keres Memorial 2012 Sicilian Defence B94

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7!?

After losing the 19th game of the 1969 World Championship match to Boris Spassky in this variation, Tigran Petrosian said he could not understand why he had chosen a line that he was already afraid to play against masters. White's bishop gets to c4 and Black's position comes under pressure from all sides.

7.Bc4 b5 8.Bd5! Nxd5 9.Nxd5 Bb7 10.0–0 Nb6 11.Re1 g6 12.Qf3



Black has fallen into a difficult position. Because of his opponent's central domination he cannot finish his development normally. In particular it is not clear where his king is to go.

12...Rg8 13.Rad1 h6 14.Bh4

14.Bf6!? is clever but does not accomplish anything significant.

14...Rc8 15.c3 g5 16.Bg3 Rg6 17.Nf5 Re6?!

Black embarks on an exchanging manoeuvre, but it does not relieve the pressure because of the consequent opening of the e-file.

18.Qd3 Nxd5 19.exd5 Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 Kd7 21.Qf3 Rc5



White has reached a position where his advantage in mobility is at a relative maximum. This suggests that it is time to look for combinational motifs. Consider these possibilities:

A. 22.b4!? Rxd5 (22...Bxd5? 23.Qd1 and wins) 23.Ne3 Qa8 24.Qxf7!? (much stronger than taking the exchange because the pawn on f7 would be defended then) 24...Rd2 25.Ng4! Bd5 (25...Bxg2 26.Nf6+ Kc7 27.Rxe7+! Bxe7 28.Qxe7+ Kc8 29.Qd7+ Kb8 30.Bxd6+ Rxd6 31.Qxd6+ and White will end up one or two pawns ahead with a technical win on the horizon) 26.Nf6+ Kc7 27.Nxd5 Rxd5 28.f4! gxf4 29.Bxf4 and with every Black piece badly tied up, White must be winning;

B. 22.Nxd6!? exd6 23.Qxf7+ Be7 24.Qe6+ Kc7 (if 24...Ke8 then 25.Bxd6 wins) 25.Qxe7+ Qxe7 26.Rxe7 Kc8 27.h4! and again White has excellent winning chances. One could imagine, say, Karpov going in for this endgame.

Yoos instead plays more cautiously, which is quite reasonable in view of what is at stake. It is hard to imagine Black surviving in the long run.

22.Ne3 f6 23.a4 Kc8 24.axb5 axb5 25.Qe4 Kb8

Black might have tried 25...e5!? but that is not likely to make too much difference.

26.Qd3 Qc8 27.Rc1?!

White wants to play 28.b4, driving Black's rook from its active position. However, his own rook is now undefended and this gives Black an opportunity for some much-needed counterplay. If I had to suggest an alternative, it would likely be 28.f3.

27...b4! 28.c4 f5 29.f4 e6! 30.dxe6 Qxe6



Black's position is still inferior, but he is better off now than at any time since move 12.

31.Rd1

Immediately hitting at Black's new weakness on d6. White could also try 31.Re1, for example, 31...Qe4!? 32.Qxe4 Bxe4 33.fxg5 hxg5 34.Nxf5 Bxf5 35.Re8+ and now: a) 35...Rc8? 36.Rxf8! Rxf8 37.Bxd6+ followed by 38.Bxf8, with a winning endgame for White; b) 35...Kc7! 36.Rxf8 Kd7 37.b3 Bc2 38.Rf3 Ra5 39.Be1 Ra3 40.Bxb4 Rxb3 41.Rxb3 Bxb3 42.g4 Ke6! and Black easily holds the draw.

31...Be4?

Black can put up a much tougher defence with 31...Qe4!, for example, 32.Qxe4 Bxe4 33.fxg5 hxg5 34.Bxd6+ Bxd6 35.Rxd6 Kc7 36.Rd4 Re5. The pawn sacrifice has given him active pieces and very good chances to save the game.

32.Qd2!

Of course. Black's position now starts to deteriorate rapidly.

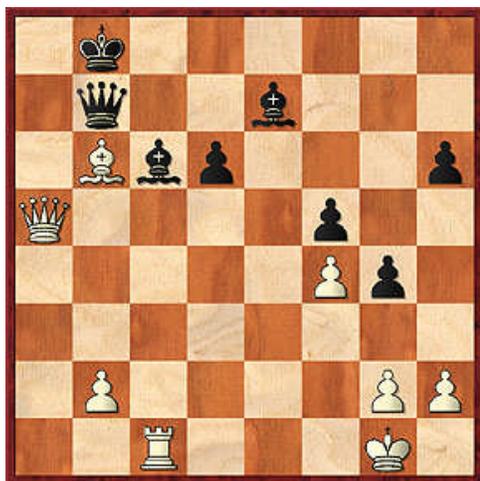
32...g4 33.Qxb4+ Bb7 34.Qd2

The alternative 34.Nd5 would probably finish the game more quickly, but you don't get extra points for speed.

34...Rxc4?!

Desperation, as we say in the trade. The exchange sacrifice gives Black some vague hope of counterplay against g2, but the reality is that he will be overrun on the queenside before he can muster anything dangerous.

35.Nxc4 Qxc4 36.Rc1 Qb5 37.Qc3 Qd7 38.Bf2 Be4 39.Qb4+ Qb7 40.Qa5 Be7 41.Bb6 Bc6



Hammer Time has arrived. Black has no defence left.

42.b4! Bf6 43.b5 Bxb5 44.Bc7+ Kc8 45.Bd8+ Kd7 46.Rc7+ 1-0

BCCF EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

The BCCF AGM took place between rounds on Sunday May 20 at the site of the Keres Memorial. Here is the new BCCF Executive for 2012-2013:

President: Roger Patterson

Past President: Stephen Wright

VP Northern BC: John Niksic

VP Lower Mainland: Luc Poitras

Secretary: Lyle Craver

Treasurer: Paul Leblanc

Junior coordinator: Ken Jensen

Webmaster: Len Molden

Bulletin editor: Stephen Wright

Chess Foundation Officers: Lynn Stringer, Paul Leblanc, Howard Wu

CFC Governors: Lyle Craver, Paul Leblanc, Mark Dutton, Ken Jensen, Alonso Campos

June Active 1

Date: Sunday, June 3

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

Rounds: 4

Time Control: G/30 + 10 sec. increments or G/35

Round Times RD1: Noon Rd2: 1:30 Lunch Rd3: 3:30 Rd4: 5:00

Type: Regular Swiss

Entry Fee: \$15

Prizes: 1st \$100 2nd \$80 BU1900 \$60 BU1500 \$50 Upset \$10 based on 30 entries. The Vancouver Active rating will be used or the CFC regular

N.B., registration: Space limited to 40 registrations (first-come basis, pre-register to guarantee your

space)

Pre-registration: <http://vancouverjuneactive1.eventbrite.com>

Space will be reserved for pre-registered players till June 3rd 11:45am (15 mins before start).

Space will be released for on-site registration thereafter. Remember to check-in and pay entry fee before 11:45am to claim your reserved space. No exceptions, no complaints please :)

On site registration: Starts at 11:30am. Depends on available space, first-come basis.

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

EAC Open 11

Date: Saturday-Sunday, June 9-10

Location: 14524-91B Avenue, Surrey

Rounds: 5

Time Control: 65 Min / 30 Sec. Delay OR Increment

[Details](#)

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 158, 1961 East Mall, University of British Columbia

entry fee \$21 adult, \$16 junior Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca

For details of the following see www.chess.bc.ca

June Active 1

June 3, Vancouver Bridge Centre

EAC Chess Arts Open 11

June 9-10, Surrey

June Active 2

June 17, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Canadian Open

July 8-13, Victoria

Bowser Builders Supply Open

August 5, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

<http://bowserchess.pbworks.com/w/page/52971772/2012%20Tournament>

U.S. Open

August 4-12, Vancouver WA

www.uschess.org/tournaments/2012/usopen