

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #244

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

CANADIAN OPEN (July 8-13)



Hansen versus Perelshteyn, round 6

This year's Canadian Open was held in Victoria at the Grand Pacific Hotel, the now familiar location of the Grand Pacific Open each Easter. The tournament has previously been held in B.C. on three occasions (1971 at UBC, 1982 at UBC, and 1999 in Richmond), but this was the first time the Open has been hosted by the provincial capital. Organized by the experienced team of Brian Raymer, Roger Patterson, and Paul Leblanc, the nine-round event was run this year over six days; the compressed schedule was necessitated by the busy summer wedding season - the hotel ballroom was unavailable on Saturdays. The other major organizational debate surrounding the tournament is single versus multiple sections: one large section where everyone has a chance to play a top player but with large ratings mismatches, or smaller sections where the games will be comparatively more competitive from the beginning. The organizers chose to go with three sections (Open, U2000, U1600) but also gave entrants the novel option of bidding to play a titled player in the first round, even if in another section. Apparently the players were happy with the multi-section

approach, or felt that the chance to play Hikaru Nakamura in a simultaneous exhibition was sufficient, because no one went for the non-standard pairing option.

In recent years we have been spoilt by the increasingly large number of elite players who have appeared at the Canadian Open. This year's event was more modest in this regard, but still included three GMs, five IMs and a WGM; unfortunately GM Ernst, IMs Orlov and Perez and WGM Foisor had to withdraw from the tournament at the last minute. The top seed was Israeli GM Victor Mikhalevski, who is no stranger to Canadian events - he tied for first in the 2008 Canadian Open. He also participated in last year's Open, as did the other two GMs in this year's field, Boston's Eugene Perelshteyn and New York's John Fedorowicz. IM Steven Zierk, the 2010 World U18 Champion, was the other foreign player rated above 2400, while the Canadian contenders included IM Eric Hansen (current Canadian co-Champion), IM Edward Porper (tied for first in the 2009 Canadian Open), and FM Richard Wang (the 13 year-old Alberta Champion).

After four rounds the only players left with a perfect score were Hansen and Wang; Mikhalevski found that his small advantage on the Black side of a Berlin Ruy Lopez was insufficient to win against FM Michael Barron in round 2, while Perelshteyn drew a lost position in a wild game against WGM Kateryna Rohonyan in round 3. Fedorowicz and Porper had slow starts - Porper drew his first three games, while Fedorowicz had an inordinate number of relatively short draws (plus a half-point bye). Zierk gave up a full point in round 3 to a rejuvenated Howard Wu. Wang and Hansen met in round 5 with Wang emerging the winner, and thus led the tournament with a perfect score, while Perelshteyn took an important point from Zierk to move to 4.5 with Mikhalevski. Wang's reward was to play Mikhalevski in round 6; Mikhalevski won and took over the lead with 5.5/6, closely followed by Hansen who defeated Perelshteyn. The two leaders met in round 7 with Hansen taking his second GM scalp in a row and moving into sole possession of first place with 6.0/7; Perelshteyn also won to remain a half-point back. Both Hansen and Perelshteyn won in round 8 to maintain their relative positions. Perelshteyn's victory was at the expense of Mikhalevski, his second loss in a row. One would assume this is a very rare occurrence, but in fact Mikhalevski had lost two in a row the previous week at the Edmonton International, coincidentally also in rounds 7 and 8. In the last round Perelshteyn saw no reason to risk clear second place and drew in four moves with Fedorowicz; Hansen drew with Zierk shortly thereafter to emerge as clear winner of the 49th Canadian Open. Wang, Mikhalevski, Fedorowicz, Zierk, and Porper tied for third place, Yoos and Lacoste split the U2400 prizes, while Wu was first U2200 with Jason Kenney second. Apart from the prizes, Richard Wang was in the running for an IM norm for much of the event, but a loss to Zierk in round 8 and an unhelpful last-round pairing ended that quest. Other players with significant rating gains included Howard Wu, Jason Kenney, Janak Awatramani, Jason Cao, Ray Wu, Charlie Ozkan, Ian Finlay, Elliot Raymer, Len Molden and Constantin Rotariu.

In the U2000 Section the lead changed several times but in the end first place was shared between Robert North, Paul Leblanc, and Yifei Han, Darren Bates took the top U1800 and the second U1800 was split between George Kosinski and Joshua Doknjas. Kajan Thanabalachandran, Kristijan Gjorgjevik, Jamie Campbell, and Kai Richardson all won prizes in the U1600 and the top unrated was Emanuel Pantazi. In all one hundred and fifty-five players participated; the arbiters were Mark Dutton, Stephen Wright, and Greg Churchill. Next year's Canadian Open will be in Ottawa, but there are plans afoot to put in another Victoria bid for the tournament in 2015 - stay tuned for developments.

Standings, photos, videos, and games at the [Monroi](#) site
[PGN file](#) of available games

Perelshteyn ,Eugene – Rohonyan, Kateryna [B56] CAN op 49th Victoria (3.2), 09.07.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.h3 Nc6 7.g4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 e5 9.Qd3 Bc6
10.g5 Nd7 11.Be3 Be7 12.h4 Nc5 13.Bxc5 dxc5 14.Qg3 0–0 15.Rd1 Qa5 16.Bg2 Qa6 17.Qxe5
Rfe8 18.Qg3 Bd8 19.Qd3 c4 20.Qe2 Ba5 21.0–0 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Qa5 23.Qe3 Qxa2 24.h5 Qxc2
25.Rd2 Qb3 26.h6 Qb6 27.Rd4 a5 28.hxg7 a4 29.Bh3 Ra5 30.Qf4 Qc5 31.Bf5 Qe5 32.Qh4 Qxg7
33.f3 a3 34.Kf2 a2 35.Rdd1 Rea8 36.Ra1 Ra3 37.Rh1 Rxc3 38.Bxh7+ Kf8 39.Bf5 Rc2+ 40.Kg3
Qe5+ 41.Kg4 Ra3 42.Qh8+ Qxh8 43.Rxh8+ Ke7 44.Rh7 Rb2 45.g6 Rb1 46.Rxf7+ Ke8 47.Rxa2
Rxa2 48.Kg5 Ra6 49.Rc7 Rg1+ 50.Bg4 Rxg4+ 51.Kxg4 Bd7+ 52.Kg5 Rc6 53.Rxb7 c3 54.Rb1 c2
55.Rc1 Ke7 56.f4 Rc5+ 57.f5 Ba4 58.Kf4 Kf6 59.Ke3 Rc7 60.Kd4 Bb3 61.Kd3 Ke5 62.Kd2 Rc6
63.Kd3 Rc8 64.Kd2 Rc7 65.Kd3 Rc6 66.Kd2 Kxe4 67.g7 Rd6+ 68.Kc3 Rd3+ 69.Kb2 Rg3 70.f6
Ke5 71.Rxc2 Kxf6 72.Rc3 ½–½

Wu, Howard - Zierk, Steven [C06] CAN op 49th Victoria (3.3), 09.07.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nf3
Bd6 11.0–0 0–0 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Ne4 14.Qc1 Qf6 15.Nh5 Qg6 16.Nf4 Qg4 17.g3 g5 18.Ne5
Nxe5 19.dxe5 Rxf4 20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.h3 Qxh3 22.gxf4 Qg4+ 23.Kh2 Qh4+ 24.Kg2 Bd7 25.Qe3
gxf4 26.Qh3 Qg5+ 27.Kh2 Qxe5 28.Rg1+ Kh8 29.Rad1 Bc6 30.Qh4 f3+ 31.Kh3 Rf8 32.Rg5 Qf6
33.Rdg1 Qf7 34.Qg3 h6 35.Qe5+ Qf6 36.Rg8+ Kh7 37.R1g7+ 1–0

Hansen, Eric - Wu, Howard [A34] CAN op 49th Victoria (4.1), 09.07.2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.a3 0-0 6.b4 cxb4 7.axb4 d6 8.Rb1 Qc7 9.d3 Be6 10.e4
Nc6 11.Nge2 Ng4 12.0-0 Nd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Nb5 Qb6 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Bb2 Qb6 17.Qd2 Ne5
18.Kh1 f6 19.f4 Nc6 20.b5 Nb8 21.f5 Bf7 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.Qh6 Nd7 24.Bh3 Ne5 25.Rf4 Qe3
26.Rbf1 Nxd3 27.Bc1 Nxc1 28.Be6 g5 29.Rh4 1-0

Wang, Richard - Hansen, Eric [A47] CAN op 49th Victoria (5.1), 10.07.2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.0–0 Be7 6.Nbd2 c5 7.b3 Nc6 8.a3 0–0 9.Bb2 Qc7 10.Qe2
cxd4 11.exd4 Qf4 12.Rfe1 Rac8 13.Rad1 Rfe8 14.b4 d5 15.b5 Na5 16.Ne5 Bd6 17.g3 Qh6 18.Bc1
Qh3 19.f3 Qh5 20.Qf2 g5 21.h4 g4 22.Nf1 gxf3 23.Nh2 Be7 24.g4 Nxg4 25.Nhxg4 Kh8 26.Qxf3 f6
27.Nh6 Rg8+ 28.Kf1 Qxh4 29.Nef7+ 1–0

Mikhalevski, Victor - Wang, Richard [A37] CAN op 49th Victoria (6.1), 10.07.2012

1.c4 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 e5 6.0–0 Nge7 7.a3 0–0 8.Rb1 a5 9.Ne1 d6 10.Nc2
Be6 11.Ne3 Qd7 12.Ned5 Rab8 13.d3 Bh3 14.Bxh3 Qxh3 15.Nxe7+ Nxe7 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 b6
18.Bg5 f6 19.Bd2 Qe6 20.Qa4 h6 21.bxc5 bxc5 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.Qa7 Rd8 24.Rb1 Rd7 25.Qb8+
Kh7 26.Qe8 Ra7 27.Nb5 Rb7 28.Ra1 d5 29.Be3 d4 30.Bd2 f5 31.Ra8 e4 32.Kf1 g5 33.f4 e3
34.Be1 Rd7 35.Rc8 Rb7 36.Rd8 Qg6 37.Qxg6+ Kxg6 38.Ba5 gxf4 39.gxf4 Bf6 40.Bc7 Kg7 41.Rd7
Kg6 42.Rd6 Kg7 43.Kg2 h5 44.Ra6 Nc8 45.Rc6 Na7 46.Rxc5 Nxb5 47.cxb5 Be7 48.Be5+ Kf7
49.Rc7 1–0

Hansen, Eric - Perelshteyn, Eugene [E94] CAN op 49th Victoria (6.2), 10.07.2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.e4 0–0 6.Be2 Na6 7.0–0 e5 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4
Nh6 11.Qd2 Nf7 12.Rad1 g5 13.Bg3 g4 14.Ne1 Bh6 15.Qc2 Nb4 16.Qb3 Nc6 17.Nc2 f5 18.exf5
Bxf5 19.dxe5 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Ncxe5 21.c5 Bg7 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.Nd5 Kh8 24.Qb3 Qd7 25.Ne3 Rac8

26.Rd5 Rc5 27.Rfd1 Rxd5 28.Qxd5 Rc8 29.Qe4 Qc6 30.Qf5 Rf8 31.Qb1 Qd7 32.Qe4 Qc6 33.Qb4 h5 34.Nf5 Qc2 35.Nd4 Qe4 36.Bf1 Bf6 37.Re1 Qd5 38.Nf5 Rc8 39.Ne3 Qxa2 40.Qxb7 Rf8 41.Rd1 Qe6 42.Ra1 h4 43.Bxe5 Bxe5 44.Bc4 Qg6 45.Qe7 Kg7 46.Rxa7 g3 47.Qxh4 gxh2+ 48.Kh1 d5 49.Bf1 Bxb2 50.Qh3 Bf6 51.Bd3 1-0

Hansen, Eric - Mikhalevski, Victor [D90] CAN op 49th Victoria (7.1), 11.07.2012

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Qb3 Nb6 6.d4 Bg7 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Qc2 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 g4 11.Nd2 Nc6 12.e3 Nb4 13.Qd1 h5 14.a3 N4d5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bh4 c5 17.e4 Nf4 18.d5 Bd7 19.Qc2 Rc8 20.Nc4 Ng6 21.Bg5 Qc7 22.a4 Bd4 23.Qd2 Ne5 24.Bf4 h4 25.Be2 Nxc4 26.Bxc4 Be5 27.g3 Qd6 28.b3 Qf6 29.Bxe5 Qxe5 30.0-0 Kf8 31.Rad1 Kg7 32.Qf4 Rh5 33.d6 Qxf4 34.gxf4 Re8 35.dxe7 Bc6 36.Bb5 Bxb5 37.axb5 Rxe7 38.Rfe1 Rh6 39.Rd5 Rhe6 40.Rg5+ Kf8 41.e5 f6 42.Rxg4 fxe5 43.Rxh4 exf4 44.Rxf4+ Kg7 45.Rxe6 Rxe6 46.Rc4 Re1+ 47.Kg2 b6 48.Ra4 Rb1 49.Rxa7+ Kf6 50.Rb7 Rxb3 51.Rxb6+ Kf5 52.Rb8 c4 53.Rc8 c3 54.b6 Rxb6 55.Rxc3 Rb4 56.h3 Rb1 57.Rg3 Rb4 58.Rg8 Rb3 59.h4 Kf6 60.f3 Rb4 61.Rg4 Rb2+ 62.Kg3 Rb1 63.h5 Rh1 64.Rh4 Rg1+ 65.Kf4 Rg8 66.h6 Rf8 67.Kg4 Rg8+ 68.Kh3 Rh8 69.h7 Kg5 70.Kg3 Kf5 71.Rh5+ Kf6 72.Kf4 Kg6 73.Kg4 Kf6 74.Rh6+ Kf7 75.Kg5 Kg7 76.Rg6+ Kf7 77.Kh6 Ra8 78.Rg7+ 1-0

Piasecki, Leon - Hansen, Eric [A05] CAN op 49th Victoria (8.1), 12.07.2012

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.b3 g6 4.Bb2 Bg7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 d5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qf5 9.Na4 Na6 10.Rc1 Rd8 11.0-0 Qh5 12.Rc4 Ne8 13.Bxg7 Nxg7 14.Qa1 Ne6 15.e3 Rb8 16.Rh4 Qf5 17.d4 Qf6 18.dxc5 Qxa1 19.Rxa1 Nexc5 20.Rc1 b6 21.Ne5 Bb7 22.Nxc5 Nxc5 23.Rd4 f6 24.Bxb7 fxe5 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Bf3 Rd2 27.Rd1 Rb2 28.Rd8+ Kg7 29.Bd5 Rd2 30.Rg8+ Kh6 31.Bc4 Ne4 32.f4 Nf6 33.Rf8 Ng4 34.Be6 Nxe3 35.fxe5 Rg2+ 36.Kh1 Rxa2 37.Kg1 Ra5 38.Kf2 Rxe5 39.Bd7 Nd5 40.Ra8 a5 41.Rb8 Nf6 42.Bc6 Re6 43.Bb5 Ne4+ 44.Kg2 Nd2 45.Kh3 Kg7 46.Ba4 h5 0-1

Mikhalevski, Victor - Perelshteyn, Eugene [D15] CAN op 49th Victoria (8.2), 12.07.2012

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.c5 Bf5 6.Bf4 Nbd7 7.e3 Nh5 8.Nh4 Nxf4 9.Nxf5 Ng6 10.Be2 e6 11.Ng3 Nh4 12.0-0 g6 13.b4 Bh6 14.a4 0-0 15.b5 a5 16.e4 f5 17.e5 f4 18.Bg4 fxg3 19.Bxe6+ Kh8 20.hxg3 Nf5 21.Qd3 Qe7 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Rab1 Ng7 24.bxc6 bxc6 25.Rb6 Rac8 26.Ne2 Qg4 27.Rb7 Rb8 28.Rb6 Bg5 29.Rfb1 Rbc8 30.Rb7 Ne6 31.Ra7 Bd8 32.Ra6 Rf7 33.Rb2 h5 34.Qe3 Qf5 35.f3 Kg8 36.Kf2 h4 37.Kg1 Bg5 38.Qc3 hxg3 39.Rab6 Bf4 40.R6b3 Qg5 41.Qd3 Kg7 42.Kf1 Rh8 43.Ng1 Rh1 44.Rb7 Be3 45.Rxf7+ Kxf7 46.Rb7+ Kg8 47.Rb8+ Kh7 48.Rb7+ Kh6 0-1

Lila Futo Open (June 8-18) by Michael Yip

There was a three-way tie for first with FM Mihok, L; Yip, Michael and Miklós with 5/6. Mihok was first on tiebreak; I took second. Miklós lost with white against Mihok in round 6 in a tough bishop ending. This was the second edition of this tournament for this year and organizers plan to go to a bi-monthly schedule in the future. The tournament hall was on the Buda side right next to a supermarket in a very quiet but out of the way location. I was seeded #11 in this quite strong weekend G/90min (<2200) tournament. Play started on Friday afternoon but I invested Thursday afternoon taking trams, buses and the subway exploring the city and learning how to get to the tournament. The entry fee was 3,000HUF for >2000 (10.3Euro/13.3USD/13.4CAN) for a nice weekend of chess.

Hetenyi, G - Yip, Michael [A41] Lila Fotu op (6), 10.06.2012

1.d4 (0.05). Late arrival. **1...d6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5** This was played quickly but there is no reason for Black to fear the arising queenless position. **3...dxe5 4.Qxd8+ Kxd8=** Black is at least equal and should have no problems. **5.Nc3 5.Nf3 f6 6.e4 c6 7.Be3 Be6 8.Nc3 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Kc7** reaches the game position via a different move order. **10.Be2 Nh6 11.h3 Nf7** Black has a formation similar to the main game. **12.Nd2 g6 13.Rhf1 h5 14.a3 a5** Restraining the queenside. **15.Na4 b6** Keeping control of c5. **16.f4 exf4** Clearing e5 for use and now White has a weak e-pawn. **17.Bxf4+ Bd6 18.c5 Bxf4 19.Rxf4 bxc5 20.Nc4 Rae8 21.Nxa5 Nfe5 22.b4 Ra8 23.Nb2 Rhb8 24.Nac4 cxb4 25.axb4 Rxb4 26.Ne3 Ra1+ 27.Kc2 Rxb2+ 28.Kxb2 Ra2+ 29.Kb1 Rxe2 30.Nf1 Rxc2 31.h4 g5 0-1** Kanakarlis,G-Smirin,I /Athens 2008 **5...c6** This is a bit passive. **5...Be6** is more to the point and is the recommendation of Barsky in *1.d4 d6 A Universal Weapon* (Chess Stars 2010). **6.b3 (6.Bg5+ f6 7.Rd1+)** is not to be feared as the c-pawn falls.; **6.Nf3 f6**) **6...Nd7 7.g3 c6 6.Bd2 6.Bg5+ f6 7.0-0-0+ Kc7 8.Bd2 Be6 9.e4** Black has nothing to fear in this structure. **9...Nd7 10.Nf3 Bc5 11.Be1 Nh6!**? A nice way to get the knight into play without interfering with other pieces. **12.h3 Nf7 13.Bd3 a6** Preparing ...b5 expansion. **14.b3 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Kb1 Rhd8 17.Rc1 Kb7 18.Be2 Nd6 19.Nd2** Black's pieces are more active. **19...Bd4 20.f3 Ra7 21.Rc2 Rda8 22.Nd1 Nc5 23.Bf2 Nxb3 24.Nxb3 Bxb3 0-1** Escobedo Tinajero,A-Spangenberg,H /Matinhos 1994 **6...Be6 7.e4** The combination of White pawns on c4/e4 give Black good chances for dark square counterplay. **7...Nd7 8.Nf3 f6 9.0-0-0** (0.06) **9...Kc7** (0.01) **10.Be3** Black has a completely satisfactory position. **10...Nh6 11.h3 Nf7** (0.02) **12.Be2 Be7 13.Rhe1** A routine move as the rook has no real future here. **13...a5!?** Black wants to restrain the queenside and secure the c5 outpost. **14.Nh2** I was surprised by this decentralization as the reason for it is not easy to guess. **14...h5** I thought White was trying to dump the light bishops with Bg4. **14...Bb4 15.Nf3 Nd6=+/;** **14...Nd6** is also promising. **15.b3 f5 16.f3 (16.exf5 Nxf5 17.Bd2 Rhf8=+/)** **16...f4 17.Bg1 h5** with initiative; Black has a nice game.



15.Nd5+ Flashy but unproductive. **15.Nf3 Bb4!?**= ; **15.Nf1 Bb4!?** **16.Kc2 Nd6 17.Nd2 a4=+/** **15...cxd5 16.cxd5 Bf5!?** I lost count of the pawns in my head. **16...Bxh3** is objectively best. **17.gxh3 Bc5 18.Bxc5 Nxc5=** **17.exf5** Black hopes the doubled f-pawns will be meaningless. **17...Bc5** Trading off one of the bishops is a standard way to combat the bishop pair. **17...Bb4 18.Rf1 Nd6 18.Nf1!?** Now Black's play is justified. **18.Nf3** This natural move is much better. **18...h4**

19.Nd2 Nd6 20.Kb1+/- **18...Nd6** Although White is ahead a nominal pawn, Black is well placed as the Nd6 holds up all White's d-pawn ideas and White has doubled f-pawns and a fixed kingside. **19.Bxc5 Nxc5** Now it's a case of two useful knights vs one while the light bishop is essentially ineffective, being hemmed in by its own pawns. **20.Ne3 b6** Black's basic plan is to wait behind a dark square wall. **21.Kb1 Kd7 22.Nc4 Rab8 23.Nxd6** White cooperatively simplifies down to a good knight vs bad bishop ending. **23...Kxd6** Now Black has a pure good knight vs bad bishop ending and the pawn deficit is not a major factor. **24.Bf1** (0.24) **24...h4!** (0.15) Black fixes the kingside and prepares to wait with an ideal good knight position despite the pawn deficit. **25.g4** (0.25) **25...Rhe8** (0.20) 25...hxg3!? is best but I did not want to straighten out White's pawns. 26.fxg3 Rbe8 **26.b3?=-** After this careless slip Black is fine again. '26.Bb5 White should prevent Black from advancing on the queenside. 26...Re7 27.Re3+/- **26...b5!** (0.23) With counterplay. Now Black starts to take over and is ready to expand on both sides of the board. **27.Bg2** (0.30) **27...b4** Now Black has kept the same type of position but has gained more space on the queenside. **28.Rc1** Now the battle takes place over who can the most influence from the c-file. **28...Rec8 29.Red1 Rc7 30.Rc4 Rbc8 30...a4!?** was my original idea but this seemed too committal.



31.g5?=/+ Now White starts to try too hard and underestimates Black's tactical possibilities. The material balance is restored as White returns the extra pawn but White's king position is weak and the remaining kingside pawns are a mess. **31...fxg5 32.Rg4?** This was White's idea but Black has seen further to refute White's plan. **32...Nd3!-+** (0.28) Suddenly, Black has massive tactical threats as White's king is not safe. **33.Rc4 Nf4=/+** The knight takes up a dominating position and Black continues to press without taking undue risks. White has four isolated pawns so there is no hurry. 33...Rxc4 is best but I did not want to straighten out White's pawns. 34.bxc4 e4 35.Bf1 (35.Bxe4? Nxf2 36.Re1 Re8-+) 35...Nxf2 36.Re1 g4! This key secondary idea of creating a passed h-pawn decides. 37.hxg4 h3-+ **34.Bf1?-+** 34.Rc6+ is a tougher defence. 34...Rxc6 35.dxc6+ Kc5 36.Rg1 g4 37.hxg4 h3 38.Bf3 e4 39.Bxe4 Ne2 40.Re1 Nc3+ 41.Kc2 Nxe4 42.Rxe4 Kxc6 43.Re1 Kd5+ 44.Kd2 Rh8=/+ **34...Rc5!?-/+** Black adopts a slow but sure approach. 34...Rxc4 Again I rejected any lines that improved White's structure. 35.bxc4 g4! A typical idea. The pawn sacrifice creates a passed h-pawn. 36.hxg4 e4 37.Kc2 h3 38.Kd2 a4!-+ **35.Rd2** (0.45) 35.f3 **35...R8c7!?** (0.31) Black's plan is simple. Fight only on the dark squares where White will have a piece left effectively with the impotent bishop. From here to the end, Houdini2 shows various improvements that Black could have played but on the whole Black's play was consistent with the theme of good knight vs

bad bishop play with a passed pawn. Better is 35...e4 36.Kc2 Rxc4+ 37.bxc4 g4! Creating another passed pawn was an idea that I had not considered. 38.hxg4 h3 39.f3 exf3 40.Rh2 Re8—+ **36.Kb2—+ Rxd5** The first dividends are reaped as material equality is restored and White is left with several weak kingside pawns. **37.Rxd5+ Nxd5 38.Rg4 Nc3!?** The knight starts to be very active. 38...Rc3 is the most precise. 39.Rxg5 Rf3 40.Bc4 (40.Rxg7? Rxf2—+) 40...Rxf2+ 41.Kc1 Nc3 42.Rg6+ Kc5 43.Rxg7 a4 44.Rc7+ Kd6 45.Ra7 a3 46.Ra6+ Kc5 47.f6 Nxa2+ 48.Kd1 Nc3+ 49.Kc1 e4 50.f7 e3 51.Re6 Rxf7 52.Rg6 (52.Rxe3 a2—+) 52...e2 53.Rg5+ Kd4—+ **39.Rxg5** Black is willing to allow some simplification to get the RN coordinated. **39...Nd1+** Black pieces are fully mobile while White's king is cut of so Black hurries to create a passed pawn. **40.Kb1 Nxf2** Black has made considerable progress. (1) A passed e-pawn has been created with the ready support of the KRN is ready to decide the game. (2) White's king remains cut off and plays no real part in the game and cannot fight the advance of the e-pawn. (3) The bishop is passive and tied down to the h-pawn. (4) Black is up a healthy extra pawn. **41.Bc4** The c-file is blocked but now Black has a free hand to push the e-pawn. **41...Ne4** Gaining a useful tempo to regroup the knight to c3 to support the march of the e-pawn. Taking the h-pawn is possible but not strictly necessary. 41...e4 42.Kc2 (42.Rh5 e3 43.Kc2 e2 44.Kd2 Rxc4 45.bxc4 Nd3 46.Kxe2 Nf4—+) 42...Ke5 43.Kd2 Kf4 44.Rh5 Kf3 45.Be2+ Kg3 46.Ke3 Nxf3 47.Kxe4? Rf7 48.Kd4 Nf2—+ The h-pawn is free to promote. **42.Rg2 Nc3+** The regrouping is completed with check and Black loses no time in preparing the advance of the e-pawn. **43.Kb2** 43.Kc2 makes the race closer. 43...e4 44.Rg4 White has no real way to fight against Black's extra pawn and more mobile pieces. (44.Kd2 Ke5 45.Ke3 Nd1+ 46.Ke2 Nb2 47.Rg4 Nxc4 48.bxc4 Rxc4 49.Rxh4 a4 50.Rg4 Rc2+ 51.Ke3 Rc3+ 52.Kd2 Ra3 53.Kc1 Rxa2—+) 44...Ke5 45.Rxh4 e3 46.Rg4 (46.Kd3 e2 47.Kd2 Rd7—+) 46...e2 47.Rg1 Kxf5 48.Kd2 Rd7+ 49.Ke3 Rd1—+

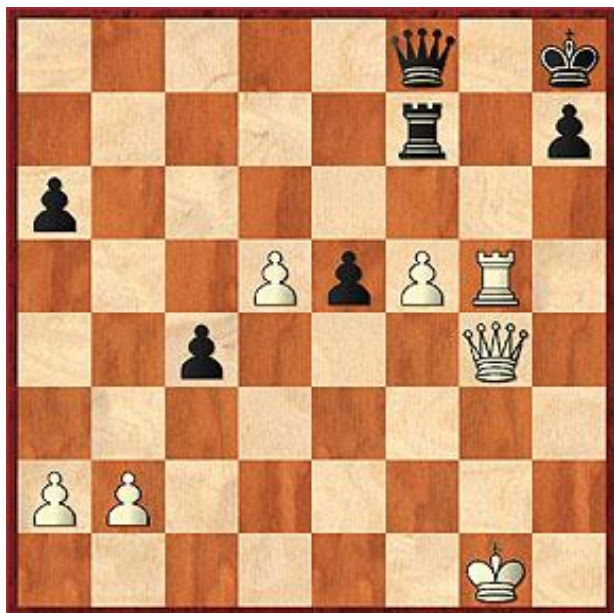


43...e4! Pushing the passed pawn is the priority. **44.Rg6+** The check pushes the king to a better position but there is no real alternative. **44...Ke5 45.Ra6** Trying to confuse matters but the a-pawn is not relevant. **45...e3!** The priority is advancing the e-pawn. **46.Rxa5+ Kf4** It's four pawns each but White has nothing to match the speedy e-pawn. Now Ra5 is out of play and White cannot oppose the passed e-pawn. **47.Ra8?** (1.02) **47...Rxc4!** Forces the passed pawn home. **48.bxc4 e2 49.Re8 Ne4** A very satisfying win despite the Houdini 2 revealed imperfections. **0-1**

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

There was very good online coverage from Monroi of this year's Canadian Open in Victoria. During the ninth and final round I was able to log in over the lunch hour and catch some of the action.

There is nothing like watching live chess to get one into playing mode, so after some time I decided to switch to the Internet Chess Club for a blitz game. The result was an interesting pawn ending, which I think merits inclusion in this column.



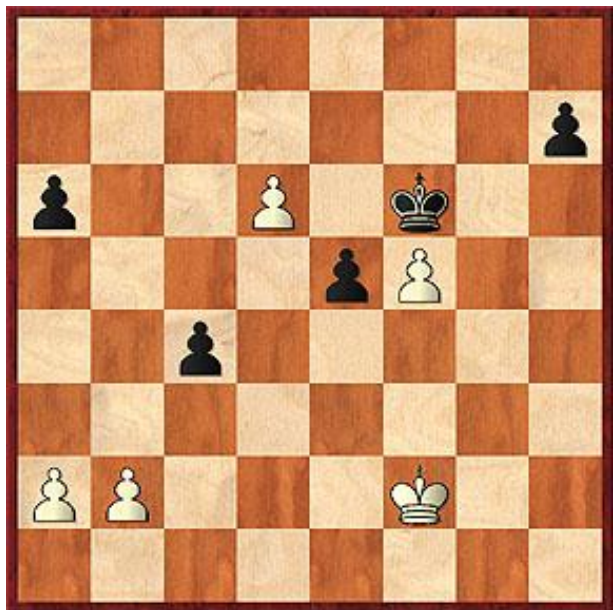
Scoones – NN, ICC G/5 2012

Black to play

White has been attacking, but Black has defended well and is now within sight of a draw. The simplest way to achieve this is by playing 38...Qc5+ 39.Kh2 Rf8, after which neither side can hope to achieve much.

However, Black came up with a different plan, that of exchanging off the major pieces and trying to win White's exposed f-pawn. At first things went according to plan but the final result was something rather different.

38...Rg7? 39.Rxg7! Qxg7 40.Qxg7+ Kxg7 41.Kf2 Kf6 42.d6!



The power of specific knowledge... Anyone who has studied the endgame books of Fine, Averbakh, or Dvoretsky knows that a lone king cannot stop two passed pawns that are separated by one file, but that he *can* stop two passed pawns that are separated by two files if – as here – they are not too far advanced.

In the position after 42.d6!, White's king has no difficulty staying within range of Black's pawns. Eventually they will all be captured and Black's king will have to give way. The inescapable conclusion is that as soon as the major pieces are exchanged, Black is on a direct route to zugzwang!

The final moves were:

42...h5 43.Kf3 a5 44.Kg3 a4 45.a3 Kf7 46.Kh4 e4 47.Kg3 Ke8 48.f6 1-0

As soon as Black runs out of pawn moves, his king must to move to one side, and that will allow one of White's pawns to promote.

In the coming weeks we will take a look at some endgames played in this year's Canadian Open. By way of introduction, here is the interesting conclusion of the game **Thanabalachandran – Grossman**, played in the Under-1600 section.



**K.Thanabalachandran – L.Grossmann
Canadian Open, Victoria 2012**

White to play

White's army of pawns can be supported by his king so one might expect it to just roll forward and overrun Black's remaining forces. But after studying the position for some time, White comes up with a different plan. He has spotted a tactic that will recover the piece and leave him with an ending of rook and two pawns against Black's lone rook. It looks like a reasonable idea, but as we shall see there is a flaw.

44.g4?

Much stronger is 44.f4! Ng6 45.Ra4 Kb5 46.Re4 Kc5 47.Kf3 Kd5 48.Rd4+ Kc5 (if 48...Ke6 then 49.f5+! Kxf5 50.g4+ Kxg5 51.Rd5+! Kf6 52.gxh5 and wins) 49.f5 Ne7 50.f6 Ng6 51.Kg4 Rh1 52.Kf5 Nf8 53.g3! Rf1+ and after 54.Rf4 White's pawns cannot be stopped.

44...Rxc5 45.f4 Rxc4 46.fxe5

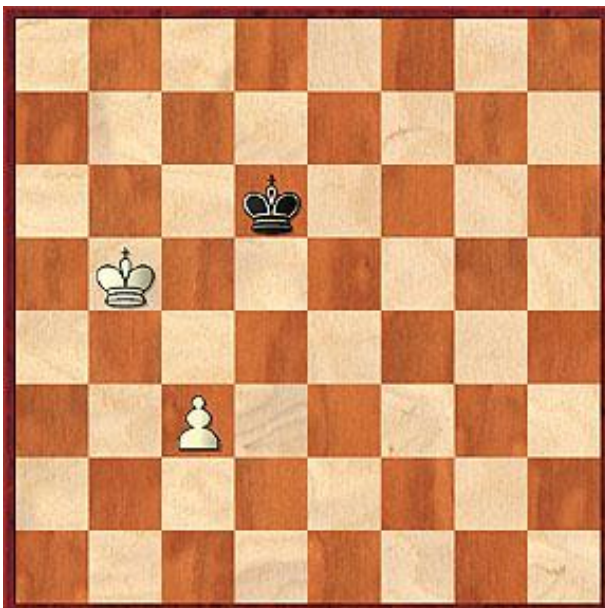


46...Rg6?

Of course Black cannot exchange rooks: 46...Rxb4 47.cxb4+ Kd5 48.Kd3 Kxe5 49.Kc4 Kd6 50.Kb5 Kc7 51.Ka6 Kb8 52.b5 Ka8 53.b6 Kb8 54.b7 and White wins, but the accurate 46...Rg5! leads to a draw: 47.Re4 (or 47.e6 Re5+ followed by 48...Rxe6, etc.) 47...Kd5 48.Kd3 Rg3+! 49.Re3 Rxe3+ 50.Kxe3 Kxe5 51.Kd3 and now 51...Kd5 maintains the blockade. If White does not protect his e-pawn, then Black simply captures it and obtains an easily-drawable ending with his king in front of White's last pawn.

After Black's error (46...Rg6?) White is a move or two ahead and this allows him to get into a winning pawn ending.

47.Re4! Kd5 48.Re3 Re6 49.Kd3 Rxe5 50.Rxe5+ Kxe5 51.Kc4 Kd6 52.Kb5!



White's technical execution is flawless.

52...Kc7 53.Kc5 Kd7 54.Kb6 Kc8 55.c4 Kb8 56.c5 Kc8 57.Kc6 Kb8 58.Kd7 Kb7 59.c6+ Kb6 60.c7 Kc5 61.c8Q+ 1-0

This important victory helped Thanabalachandran to an eventual first-place finish in the Under-1600 section. Congratulations!

Your feedback on this column is always welcome. Email the writer at dscoones@telus.net.

EAC 13

Date: Saturday-Sunday, July 21-22, 2012

Location: 14524-91B Avenue, Surrey

Rounds: 5

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

[Details](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

EAC Open 13

July 21-22, Surrey

Bowser Builders Supply Open

August 5, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

[Details](#)

U.S. Open

August 4-12, Vancouver WA

[Details](#)

Langley Labour Day Open

September 1-3, Langley

September Active

September 30, Vancouver Bridge Centre

October Active

October 21, Vancouver Bridge Centre