

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #262

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

Calgary International (May 14-20)

The 6th Calgary International Chess Classic, a nine-round norm tournament, is currently underway. Headliners this year are GMs Wesley So, Robin van Kampen, Eric Hansen, Victor Mikhalevski, and Eugene Perelshteyn, but the field also includes Leon Piasetski and Jason Cao from this province, and Doug Sly is playing in the Reserves. Pairings, standings, photos, and games can be found at the event [website](#).

Cao, Jason - Piasetski, Leon [B42] 2013 Calgary International (2), 15.05.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.0-0 d6 8.Qg4 g6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.Qe2 0-0 11.a4 b6 12.Be3 Nbd7 13.f4 Bb7 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.h3 Rfe8 16.Nd2 Nc5 17.Bd4 e5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.Be3 Nxd3 20.cxd3 Nd7 21.Nc4 Bc5 22.Qf2 Rf8 23.d4 exd4 24.Bxd4 f5 25.Nd5 Bxd5 26.exd5 Rae8 27.b3 Re4 28.Bxc5 bxc5 29.Rfe1 Rfe8 30.Rxe4 Rxe4 31.Re1 Nf6 32.Rxe4 Nxe4 33.Qe3 Qd8 34.d6 Nxd6 35.Qxc5 Ne4 36.Qe3 h5 37.a5 Kh7 38.Qa7+ Kh6 39.Qe3+ Kg7 40.b4 Qd5 41.Nb2 h4 42.Nd3 Qc4 43.Qa7+ Kh6 44.Qe3+ Kg7 45.Qa7+ ½-½

May Active (May 12)

A scant two weeks after the previous active, the May event saw Mayo Fuentebella win yet again, this time sharing the lead with Victoria's Jason Cao. We don't have an indication of the other prize winners, but the crosstable can be found [here](#). Twenty-seven players participated.

April Active (April 28)

The April Active saw three players tie for first, as Mayo Fuentebella, Alfred Pechisker, and Butch Villavieja all finished with identical 5.0/6 scores. However, this was not achieved without some controversy, as the last-round game between Butch and Vicente Lee Jr. devolved into mayhem in the sudden-death time scramble (a non-incremental time control was used). Michael Su won the U1800 prize, the U1500 was split between Digvijay Sawant and James Li, and Payam Mousavi won the biggest upset prize for defeating Vicente Lee Jr. in the first round. Thirty-four players participated. [Crosstable](#)



Alfred, Mayo, and Butch

EAC Open #22 (April 26-27)

As with the last EAC tournament, this event only attracted four players so was run as a double round robin. The top two places were reversed from last time, with Peter Yee taking first with 5.6/6 ahead of organizer and host Eugenio Alonso Campos in second. [Crosstable](#)

Bishop and knight mate illustrated

From Nick Beqo: I have created an [album](#) for Bishop + Knight ending on my chess training facebook page and thought to share with the BC Chess community.

INTERMAT (May 4) by Gyan Awatramani (Chief Arbiter)



Teams Washington and BC

We travelled down the I5 to Bellevue with a team anchored by a few intermat veterans and about a dozen first timers. To be selected to play for an international match of this stature is in itself a notable achievement, and they all gained valuable experience that will help them and team BC in near future.

The day kicked off with the distribution of swank, embossed jackets (azure in colour), motivational speeches, group photo opps, Elliott Neff briefly going over the USCF rules of chess, and a pin exchange (thanks Victoria Doknjas) before the commencement of games.

The first round loss (9-17) was heavy, according to some stalwarts, directly attributable to the Canucks having lost the previous evening. A perfectly legitimate excuse. Team BC stayed true to form, in the second round, and pipped Washington by a single point. (13.5-12.5). Several momentous comebacks - Andrew Xu despite being a piece down did some clever rook, and knight maneuvering, trapping his opponent's king in a mating net; Jason Qian coming back from a piece down (touch move call) to win a brilliant king and pawn endgame; Joshua Doknjas erasing a three-pawn deficit, displaying great endgame technique in executing the Lucena position. Fine examples of our fighting team spirit.

Noteworthy perfect scores were achieved by Andrew Xu, Joshua Doknjas, Matthew Herdin, Ryan Lo, Janak Awatramani, and Tanraj Sohal. Perhaps the second half scoreline was a good enough reason to celebrate. Forty-two (parents and kids) ventured out for Italian fare. Much pomp, and merriment ensued, with the K-12s dining on a private table, banquet style, chaired by rising junior star (five years of age) Jason Qian.

In between courses, there was a toast to our team captain, Vivien Lai, and heartfelt thanks for all her diligent efforts and dedication. It was also acknowledged that this would be junior veteran Jack Cheng's (Grade 12) last appearance for Team BC at the intermat. The occasion was commemorated with a cake and candle, courtesy of Eric Gedajlovic, and all forty-two (parents, and by then raucous kids) broke out in song, and well wishes for the champ. We wish him every success, and much, much, more.

All the festivities despite an overall loss, bore testament to our team camaraderie developed over the years. As the saying goes, win with grace and loose with dignity- team BC certainly showcased that at the Olive Garden- in great style.

Sincere thanks to Elliott Neff and all the organizers in Washington for hosting the 22nd BC vs Washington International Match, and our congratulations to all of them for winning the match by a convincing score of 29.5 to 22.5. Team Washington will bring the trophy to BC in May 2014, and here it will stay. The gauntlet has been thrown.

Goodluck everybody, and may god bless the United (junior) Chess team of British Columbia.

Individual [results](#)

Historical [results](#)

Many more [photos](#)

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

Today we will look at an interesting minor piece ending from the game between Alex Lin of Surrey and NM Roger Patterson of Victoria, played at this year's B.C. Open in Richmond.



A. Lin – R. Patterson
BC Open, Richmond 2013
Black to play

There is no doubt that Black stands better – much better in fact. All of White's pawns, including his isolated d-pawn, are on the same colour squares as his bishop. Black's knight occupies a strong central position, and his more active king is poised to attack White's queenside. Can White defend?

We will look at the game continuation first, and then go back and look at two alternatives – one for each player.

34...a5!

The first salvo in the attack on White's queenside. He must take or else he loses a pawn for nothing.

35.bxa5 Kxa5!

It might look more natural to retake with the pawn, but Patterson has seen a long way ahead. When Black's b-pawn eventually arrives on b4, White will not be able to take it.

36.Nd2 Ka4 37.Nb1

If 37.Ne4 Bxa3 38.Bxa3 Kxa3 39.Kc4 Ka4 40.Nd6 Nc7 and Black is winning.

37...Kb3 38.Bc1

If 38.Nd2+ Kxb2 39.Nc4+ Kb3 40.Nxd6 Kxa3 41.Kc4, then 41...Ka4 42.Nb5 h5 43.Nd6 Nc7 and Black's b-pawn is set to march up the board.

38...b5 39.Kd2 Ka2 40.Kc2

No better was 40.Nc3+ Nxc3 41.Kxc3 Bxa3, etc.



42...Nxc3 43.Bxc3



The sign of the master! With this move – which he must have foreseen well in advance – Black fixes White's remaining pawns on dark squares and creates the conditions for an eventual zugzwang.

44.f4

This may look like a mistake, but in reality it makes no difference at all. If White leaves the pawn on f2, Black's bishop will eventually break through to e1.

It is safe to say that when Black played 35...Kxa5, he had already seen this position – and his next move.

40...b4!

This pawn cannot be captured but it also cannot be ignored. White finds the only defence to the threat of 41...b3+.

41.Bb2 bxa3 42.Nc3+

Completely hopeless is 42.Bc3 Nb4+ 43.Bxb4 Bxb4 followed by 44...Ka1 and 45...a2, etc.

White has lost an important pawn but he has still managed to find the best way of defending his position. He intends to keep his king on c2, preventing Black's king from lifting the blockade on the a-pawn. He will then simply move his bishop back and forth, asking Black how he intends to make progress. Unfortunately for White, Black has a convincing answer to this question.

43...h5!

44...f5 45.Be1

If 45.d5 exd5 46.Bxg7 Bc5 intending 47...Bf2, etc.

45...Bc7 46.Bd2

Or 46.Bb4 Bb6 47.Bc5 Ba5 48.Bf8 Be1, etc.

46...Bb6 47.Be3 Ba5 48.Bf2



48...g6!

Zugzwang has arrived in force. White could safely resign here, but he plays on – likely out of sheer inertia.

49.g4 hxg4 50.Bg3 Bd8 51.Be1 Bf6 52.Bf2 Bg7 53.Be3 Bh6 54.Bc1 g3 55.Bd2 g2 56.Be3 Bxf4 0–1

White resigned. A very impressive display by the long-serving BCCF President.

Peelback No. 1

Let us go back and see if we can improve White's play. If he had seen the move 40...h5 – and the strategic plan behind it – early enough, he might have cast around for a different defensive idea. These thoughts take us back to the position after Black's move 38...b5:



Instead of wasting a tempo on the manoeuvre K-d2-c2, White could have played to forestall Black's ...h5 idea:

39.h5!

This makes things much more difficult for Black. Now there are two lines:

Line A

39...Ka2

Black carries on with the same plan as in the game.

40.Kc2 b4 41.Nd2 bxa3 42.Ne4 Bb4 43.Nc5 Be1 44.Nd3 Nb4+ 45.Nxb4+ Bxb4 46.g4 Ba5 47.Be3 Bb6

If 47...h6 then 48.Bc1 Bb6 49.Be3 Ba7 50.Bc1! Bxd4 51.f3!



Although White has been forced to give up a second pawn, he has managed to construct an effective light-square restraint on Black's pawns. Without his king there is no way for Black to break through, so the result must be a draw.

After this digression let us return to the position after 47...Bb6.



48.g5!? fxg5

If 48...f5 then 49.g6! hxg6 50.fxg6 Bb6 51.f3 Ba7 52.f4, etc.

49.Bxg5 Bxd4 50.f3 g6

There is nothing better.

51.hxg6 hxg6 52.Be7



Here again White has given up a second pawn in order to establish light-square restraint. The verdict is the same: positional draw.

Line B

39...f5

Black gives himself the option of a later ...f5-f4, attacking White's kingside pawns.

40.Kd2 Ka2 41.Kc2 b4 42.Nd2 bxa3 43.Nc4

White has activated his knight and is fighting hard for the draw.

43...Bb4

There are several other options but I do not believe any of them lead to a win for Black. The text is the most direct.

44.Bd2 Bxd2 45.Nxd2 f4 46.g4 Nb4+ 47.Kc3 Nc6 48.Nc4 g6

Alternatives:

a) 48...h6 49.f3 Ne7 50.Kc2 Nd5 51.Nd2 Ne3+ 52.Kc3 Ng2 53.Kc2 Ne1+ 54.Kc1 e5 55.dxe5 Nd3+ 56.Kc2 Nxe5 57.Kc3 Nd7 58.Nc4 Nc5 59.Nd2 Na4+ 60.Kc2 Nb2 61.Ne4 and Black cannot win;

b) 48...f3 49.Nd2 h6 50.Nxf3 Na7 51.Nd2 Nb5+ 52.Kd3 Kb2 53.Nc4+ Kb3 54.Nxa3 Nxa3 55.d5 exd5 56.Kd4 Kb4 57.Kxd5 and draws.

49.hxg6 hxg6 50.g5 Ne7 51.Kc2 Nf5 52.Kc3 f3 53.Nd2 Ka1 54.Nxf3 Kb1 55.Nd2+ Kc1 56.Nb3+ Kb1 57.Nd2+

Black cannot release his king without losing his a-pawn. All he can do is acquiesce to a draw.

Does this mean that White can save the game with best play? No, not quite.

Peelback No. 2

Let us go back to the position after White's move 38.Bc1.



Black played 38...b5 here, but I believe he has a big improvement available:

38...h5!

White's queenside is still under attack and will not run away. Meanwhile, Black takes the opportunity to nail down the same favourable kingside pawn configuration that he obtained in the game.

If White does nothing he will eventually lose, as we have already seen. The only active idea is:

39.Nd2+ Ka2 40.Nc4

If 40.Nxe4 then 40...Bxa3 41.Bxa3 Kxa3 42.Nd6 Kb4 with a winning advantage for Black.

40...Be7!



With this simple retreat, Black insures the capture of White's a-pawn under favourable circumstances. There is no reason to predict anything other than a win for Black.

So – not quite perfect play from both contestants, but very close. This has to be one of the most interesting endgames ever to appear in this column.

* * *

Feedback from readers is always welcome. Email the writer at dscoones@telus.net

BI-WEEKLY BAFFLER by Valer Eugen Demian



Baffler #10

Assess/understand the position before you even think about any solution like we did in baffler #9. Once you do that, come up with a conclusion and plan; then look for the moves following the plan and reaching the desired result: White moves and wins. It should be as easy as the previous baffler if you do it right! If you did not do it right, practice more. Rome was not built in a day either and still turned out a famous city to our days...

#9 Answer:



The first thing to notice is the material advantage: White has enough of that and should be able to mate Black either on the a1- or h8-corner, the only ones of the same colour with the dark squares Bishop. Secondly we see the Black King is in a stalemate situation; the game would end on the spot with Black to move. Let's add here the Black King is also placed in a corner we like, so we should keep it there! Thirdly we consider if both pawns are allowed to move, this could go on for a while. Out of all these facts we conclude one Black pawn should be allowed to move as we choose. Now the answer is right in front of you.

- 1.Bf6! gxf6 (forced move)
- 2.Kf8 ... Key move. Normally a King and Knight is not sufficient material to win a game, but here the h7-pawn is in a bad place at a bad time.
- 2... f5 3.Nf7#

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC Thursday Night Swiss

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Henry Angus Building, University of British Columbia
entry fee \$21 Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca

Paul Keres Memorial

May 18-20, Richmond

[Details](#)

Knightmare Junior Tourney #3

May 18, Fraserview Library, Vancouver

[Details](#)

Knightmare Junior Quads #1

June 2, Burnaby

[Details](#)

Bowser Builders Supply Open

August 11, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

[Detail](#)