

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #270

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

Second Enrico Winery Open (September 15) by Robert McFetridge

Well I've finally completed the results for the September 15 2nd Enrico Winery Tournament. The weather was not quite as spectacular as it was last year but the rains held back at least until about 4 pm. It was definitely cool and cloudy. The \$5 burgers supplied by Enrico's were appreciated except by vegetarians.

The Thomas family from Courtenay were welcomed as new-comers to the tournament scene on Vancouver Island. Three boys Callum and Jack (twins) and younger brother Max were accompanied by their father Trace. Unfortunately I did not get many pictures of the Thomas family, partly because they felt they needed to leave early after the second round to get back to Courtenay at a reasonable hour. The boys did not win any games but they certainly played well. Trace was a dark horse and handily defeated Paul LeBlanc. We hope to see more of them at future tournaments in Bowser and Victoria.

The final results were very much a reprise of last year with Jason Cao winning the tournament with a score of 3.5, drawing his match in round 4 with Roger Patterson. Roger, who requested a bye in the first round, shared second place with Neil Cruden from Courtenay. Last year Roger shared second place with Howard Wu who did not play this year.

A very big thank you goes to Enrico Winery for providing the wonderful venue.

[Crosstable and photos](#)

September Open (September 20-22)

Held in conjunction with a scholastic event at Lansdowne Centre in Richmond, the September Open follows on from the August BC Day Open in what is planned to be a series of monthly weekend Swisses organized by the Vancouver Chess School. A total of thirty players participated in the September edition, thirteen in the Open, the rest in the U1800. Almost half of the Open field were rated above 2000, led by current junior co-champion Jack Cheng, but it was Jason Kenney who claimed the first prize with a 4.0/5 score, this despite inadvertently receiving a half-point bye in the first round because he couldn't locate the site before the games had started.

Cheng tied for second with Ray Wu of Victoria, while the U2000 prize was shared between newcomer Laurent Chaurette and Richard Ingram. In the U1800 Section Jofrel Landingin was running away with the event after four rounds but lost in the final round to Luke Pulfer, resulting in a

three-way tie for first between Landingin, Pulfer, and Stephen Brock (who performed far above his 1222 rating). Ethan Low won the U1500 prize and brothers Maven and Victor Zheng split the U1200. Thanks to the Lansdowne centre, organizer Maxim Doroshenko and all those who helped make the event a success. [Crosstable](#)



Jason Kenney

GPO Active Fundraiser (September 28) by Paul Leblanc



Ray Wu, Jason Cao, Paul Leblanc, Ross Richardson (photo by Mark Dutton)

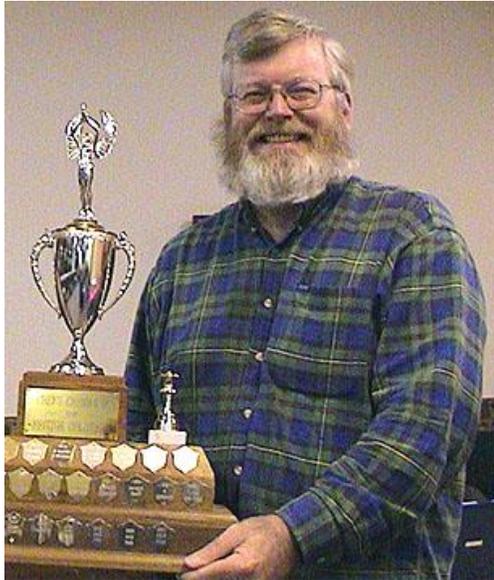
Sixteen players participated in an Active fund raising tournament at the Victoria Chess Club on Saturday, September 28. The first cliff-hanger occurred before any pieces were moved with a cluster of chess players huddled under the small awning in front of the Victoria Chess Club in a heavy rain storm asking each other who had the key to the building. After a dozen phone calls a key was delivered and the event got underway only a few minutes late.

Ray Wu won the first place trophy on tiebreak as Jason Cao could not overcome a first round bye and Ross Richardson could not overcome a loss to Jason in round two. The first U1700 trophy went to Bill Tate, also on tiebreak. Mohamed Chraibi, a Moroccan who was visiting family in Victoria at the time of the event, finished second U1700. Scott Gray captured the U1400 prize. \$175 was raised for the Grand Pacific Open, to be held 18-21 April 2014 in Victoria.

Organizers: Roger Patterson and Paul Leblanc, TD: Paul Leblanc

[Report and crosstable](#)

JONATHAN BERRY AT SIXTY



[Francis] Jonathan Berry was born in Chilliwack on 11 September 1953, which means he has just celebrated a significant birthday ending in a zero. A FIDE master, correspondence grandmaster, international arbiter, author, former CFC business manager and chess columnist for the *Globe and Mail* newspaper, Jonathan has been involved in chess in one form or another for his entire adult life, and a full listing of his accomplishments would run to several pages. Some of those pages can be found on his own website at <http://members.shaw.ca/berry5868/chess.htm>; there was also a long interview with Lynn Stringer which appeared in the December 1990 edition of *Counterplay*. For those who don't know what that was (the BCCF's last print magazine, now defunct for quite some time), let alone possess the issue in question, a digital version can be found [here](#). To summarize just a few accomplishments since then: Jonathan won the

B.C. Championship in 1994, 2000 (tied with Dragoljub Milicevic), 2006 (tied with Brian McLaren and Howard Wu) and 2008, won the Macskasy Memorial in 2005, and was the winner of the game voted most interesting at the 2006 [GM Slugfest](#) in Bellevue, WA (against IM David Pruess – annotations on the linked page). He was an arbiter at the Olympiads in Yerevan (1996), Istanbul (2000), Calvia (2004), the US Championship in 2002 and 2003, directed the North Bay International 1994-99, the 2000 Keres, and the CYCC and Canadian Open in 2003 and 2007. And in 2004 Jonathan tied the world record for most blindfold simultaneous games for a player over fifty – twelve.

So many happy returns, Jonathan, and we wish you many more!

In response, Jonathan has made the following generous offer:

“As a belated present to BC Chess, I'll offer to (lightly) comment, one game per BC player, preferably a loss. A game should be submitted by White or Black (or a parent) by 15 November 2013 in PGN format to jberry@islandnet.com. The eventual commented games will be NOT for publication. This is a present, no charge. Happy birthday, BC.”

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

Amongst experienced chessplayers it is well-known that a king and two knights can stalemate a lone king but cannot force mate when opposed by purposeful defensive play. It is perhaps less well-known that when the defender has a single pawn the situation may be rather different. In that case it is sometimes possible for the attacker to force mate because having the pawn eliminates the defender's weapon of stalemate – or at least postpones it significantly. To win, the attacker blockades the pawn with one of his knights and uses his king and other knight to force the defender's king into a corner. When that is accomplished the blockading knight heads over and helps deliver checkmate. Of course this assumes that the defender's pawn, once released, cannot promote to a queen and interrupt the mating attack. As one might expect, the specific location of the pawn is a matter of great importance – the less advanced it is, the better for the attacker.

In master play the ending of two knights vs. pawn is rare but certainly not unknown. My “clean” database of recent master games contains 81 examples of this ending, yielding an occurrence rate of once in 10,000 games. From this figure and one's own activity level it is a simple matter to estimate the probability of encountering this ending in practice. In my own case the theoretical probability is approximately 15% and in fact it has not occurred at all.

Given its low occurrence rate, is it worth spending time studying the ending of two knights vs pawn? The answer is surely yes. Analysing a challenging endgame position brings a general benefit that is independent of the exact positional or material elements that it contains. The additional benefit is that if it this ending does arise in one of your games, you will have a better chance of avoiding the fate of Anatoly Karpov, who famously lost to Veselin Topalov without putting up any resistance at all.

Some time ago a reader of this column relayed the information that local master Jack Yoos had managed to win the ending of two knights vs. pawn in an important tournament game. I went looking in my database and quickly found the game in question. In today's instalment of *Browsing for Endgames* we will analyse the final stages of the game between Fletcher Baragar (White) and Jack Yoos (Black), played in the 1997 Manitoba Championship.



Black to play

It is not difficult to see that White's king has been confined to the southwest corner of the board. Despite having a pawn that is relatively advanced, White cannot prevent mate.

54...Ncd5+!

Obvious perhaps, but in fact the only move to win and therefore deserving of an exclamation mark.

55.Kc2 Ke2!

Another “only” move from Black, forcing the White king closer to the fatal corner.

56.Kb3 Kd3 57.Kb2 Nb4

According to the Nalimov tablebases, 57...Kd2 is slightly faster: 58.Kb3 Kc1 59.Ka2 Kc2 60.Ka3 Kc3 61.Ka2 Nc4 62.Kb1 Kd2 63.Ka2 Kc2 64.b6 Nb4+ 65.Ka1 Na5 66.b7 Nb3#. But there is nothing wrong with the text move.

**58.Kb3 Nc2 59.Kb2 Nd4 60.Kc1 Ke2! 61.Kb2 Kd2! 62.Kb1 Nb3 63.Kb2 Nc5! 64.Kb1 Nd3!
65.Ka2 Kc2! 66.Ka3 Kc3 67.Ka2**



67...Kb4

And here 67...Nc4 is very slightly faster:
68.Ka1 Kc2 69.Ka2 Nb4+ 70.Ka1 Na5 71.b6 Nb3#.

68.Kb1 Kb3 69.Ka1 Kc2 70.Ka2 Nc4 71.Ka1 Nb4 0–1

Now that the king has been stalemated, Black can finally release the blockade on White's pawn. It is mate after 72.b6 Na5 73.b7 Nb3#. Bravo!

Peelback

Let's take one step back from the first position analysed above. Here it is White's move, and he went immediately wrong with 54.Kc3? This of course led to his king being trapped in the corner.



White to play

According to the Nalimov tablebases, White could have escaped the corral – and the mating attack – with the stronger move:
54.Kd1!

It is true that Black can now use his king and c7-knight to chase the White king around the board and into one of the corners. Unfortunately, Black's b6-knight will not have time to hop over and execute mate because White's b-pawn is too close to the queening square.

For further details on the ending of two knights vs pawn, the reader should consult the standard reference work *Knight Endings* by Yuri Averbakh and Vitaly Chekhover.

EACH PIECE TELLS A STORY by Nathan Divinsky

The Black Queen Rook Pawn (2)

"You see sir, you mortals too often judge people and things by their outward appearance. Besides falling victim to fashions, you find it so easy to judge a man by the size of the car he drives, or by his haircut or his clothes. I am particularly touchy about my clothes. It seems I do not pay sufficient attention to them. My boots are seldom polished, and my pants are never creased, and I suffer a great deal from the queen rook. Surely it is what a person accomplishes and not what he looks like. Now I can understand a disappointment when a beautiful lady doesn't make herself look as beautiful as she might for she can be a most beautiful object. But what matter if a man wear a beard, or sideburns, or any unusual sort of hair? Why do so many of your friends turn up their noses at people and especially youngsters who dress in individual ways? I can understand them turning up their noses at some of the odors, but they even turn them up at clean individualists. It is particularly surprising to hear them say that men should not be judged by their automobiles, while they go ahead and judge men by their clothes and hair. There seems to be no criticism of the man who buys himself a unique suit in a unique style of unique cloth at an incredibly high price – all this so that he will not be imitated. Yet he objects to youngsters who are also trying to establish their identity. Besides, there are more important matters to think about than hair or cloth. Now if people only knew that material in chess sets has some effect on the behaviour of the pieces, they would know what openings to play when using an ivory set or one made of bone or wood, but that is a forbidden subject and I have rambled too long sir. That is why people misjudge chess positions. They come to conclusions based entirely on appearances. Knowledge of position and of people is obtained by studying the inner workings and not the outward trappings."

By this time the queen rook pawn was waving his hands and getting very excited indeed. I didn't wish to argue with him, mainly because I agreed with what he was saying. However the black queen rook shouted something to him and this quieted him down immediately. He continued in a more subdued tone.

"May I tell you one further adventure before I take my leave?"

I nodded and he smiled somewhat sheepishly.

"It was played between two giants of your time, masters who almost never judged anything by superficial appearances. It was in round 15 of the USSR absolute championship, April 17, 1941.

Smyslov, Vassily - Botvinnik, Mikhail [C84]

Ruy Lopez

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 By far the very best defence to the Lopez.

4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 Passive yes, but perhaps wise when the Morphy Defence is played.

5...d6 6.c3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 b5 9.Bc2 d5 The equalizer.

10.Nbd2 dxe4 11.dxe4 Be6 12.h3 h6 13.Nh2 Nh7 14.Ng4 Bg5 15.Qe2 Qd6 16.Ne3 Rfd8 17.Nf3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3

You observe that if 18.Bxe3 Bc4 is uncomfortable. But the central slaughter of the high personages will soon be over and we can get to the heart of the game. **18...Qe7 19.Nh2**



19...Nf8 This turns out to be a waste of time, but so many complex manoeuvres of the high personages are wastes of time. When you are a pawn and cannot move backwards then every step forward is a precious and crucial one, not to be taken lightly. **20.Qf3 Rd7 21.Nf1 Nh7 22.Ng3 Rad8 23.Nf5 Qf6 24.g4 Ne7 25.Qg3 Bc4 26.f3 Bd3 27.Bb3 c5 28.Be3 c4 29.Bd1 Ng5 30.h4 Ne6 31.a4**



31...b4 A fine sacrifice of my brother, in order to keep the white queen rook out of play. **32.cxb4 Nf4 33.Kh1** Botvinnik pointed out that he threatened **33...Nxf5 34.gxf5 Bxe4 35.fxe4 Rxd1 36.Raxd1 Rxd1 37.Rxd1 Ne2+** winning the queen. Thus Smyslov gets his king out of the check. Smyslov could of course have tried **33.Bxf4 exf4 34.Qf2** (to protect his queen knight pawn at b2) but he wanted to save his pair of bishops. While all of this was going on, I had to sit at a6, isolated and facing two rough and tough soldiers. **33...g5 34.b5** Here they come. **34...a5** I wanted to take one enemy with me but that would have opened up the white queen rook. **35.Bc5** Botvinnik felt this was an error and recommended **35.Rc1**. I was too busy trying to keep warm to worry about the heavy artillery. **35...Nxf5 36.gxf5 Kh7 37.Qg4** Abramov suggested **37.Qh2** but Botvinnik pointed out

that **37...Bc2!** would win – if **38.Qxc2 Rd2** followed by **39...g4** and **40...Qxh4+**. Botvinnik gives **37...Bc2! 38.hxg5 Qxg5 39.Be2 Nxe2 40.Rxe2 Rd1+ 41.Rxd1 Bxd1 42.Be3 Qf6 43.Rf2 Rd3 44.Rf1 Rxe3 45.Rxd1 Rxf3. 37...gxh4 38.Rg1** Smyslov intended to play **38.Bf2 Rg8 39.Bxh4** but then saw that **39...Qb6** wins his queen. **38...h5** Botvinnik states that **38...Bf1** would have won more quickly. That would have suited me. **39.Qg5 Qxg5 40.Rxg5 f6** Here again **40...Bf1** would have won more quickly. **41.Rg1 Nh3 42.Re1 Rg8**

BI-WEEKLY BAFFLER by Valer Eugen Demian



Baffler #17

White to move and win. This is one of the most instructive puzzles on using an extra pawn, as powerless as it looks at the start, to break the opposition and push the Black King all the way back. At the beginning the moves are simple, but as we advance down the board extra care is needed to avoid some embarrassing stalemates. This is very good practice for your endgame knowledge, even if it feels easy to do.

#16 Answer:



1...Rf4+ 2.Kxg5 looks to be the best bet to start the solution. Now I spent quite a bit of time looking at the discovered check, followed by the double check 2...Rxe4. Of course this also leads to a win for Black, but the game extends too long considering how badly placed the White pieces are. What else to do then?

The next idea that comes to mind might be to find a way of giving the Queen something to do, like the manoeuvre Qe1-b4-b6-d8#. Unfortunately this gives White time to bring out his pieces as well with Qg2-h3.

Finally, depending how rusty or sharp you are, the solution hits you right in the face: the sweet d8-square can also be used by Be3!! Now it is easy: 2...Bb6 3.any Bd8#

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC Thursday Night Blitz (note the change of format)

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Henry Angus Building, University of British Columbia

Entry fee \$10+, depending on number of players and whether rated or not

Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca, or see <https://www.facebook.com/UBCChess>

October Active/Blitz

October 6, Vancouver Bridge Centre

[Details](#)

Knightmare Quads

October 6, Burnaby

November 3, Burnaby

December 8, Burnaby

[Details](#)

Vancouver Open

October 12-14, Surrey

[Details](#)

October Active

October 20, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

October VCS Open

October 25-27, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

Jack Taylor Memorial

November 16-17, Victoria

[Details](#)