

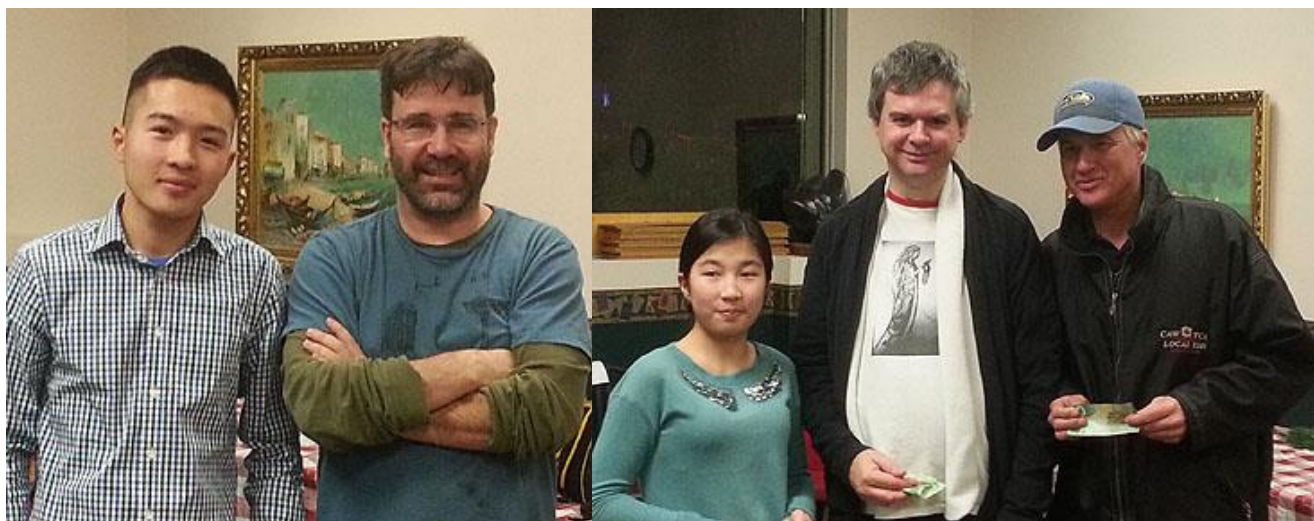
BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #275

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

January Active/Blitz (January 5)



Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj and Luc Poitras; the U2000 prize winners

Back in October Luc Poitras, absent from organizing for some time, ran a novel event at the Vancouver Bridge Centre which alternated rounds of active and blitz chess. He repeated this format for the first local tournament of 2014, attracting twenty players to the same venue. Despite the presence of BC Active Champion Mayo Fuentebella and other strong players (Butch Villavieja, Dragoljub Milicevic) it was relative newcomer Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj who won yet another tournament, scoring a perfect 7.0/7 to finish two points ahead of second-placed Butch Villavieja. Don Monteith, Richard Ingram, and Davaa-Ochir's sister Uranchimeg tied for the U2000 prize, Constantin Rotariu and George Kim split the U1600, and Curtis Catt was the winner of the upset prize.

[Standings](#)

North American Open (December 26-30)

Now in its twenty-third year, the North American Open was hosted as usual at Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas during the Christmas Holidays. A popular event for B.C. residents, this year the tournament conflicted with the WYCC and the Active Grand Prix (see below) so only four players from this province participated: Max Gedajlovic, Jack Cheng, Daniel Salcedo, and Juni Caluza. The overall winner was GM Giorgi Kacheishvili who had the best tie-breaks of the eight

players tied with 6.5 points in the Open Section. Some Canadians won money, but perhaps more importantly FMs Razvan Preotu and Roman Sapozhnikov were among those scoring IM norms.

[Tournament website](#)

Active Grand Prix (December 29) by Victoria Jung-Doknjas



The invitational Grand Prix pitted the twelve winners of the 2013 monthly active tournaments against each other for what was affectionately called, “The Death Match.” Organizer Maxim Doroshenko’s idea of having the best play the best for a “winner takes all” grand prize of \$500 was an excellent one and enticed the highly skilled players to this unique tournament.

The impressive field included four juniors, all of whom have either won the B.C. Junior Championship title outright or tied for the honours, and no less than four B.C. Closed Champions (current and former ones). The six rounds of 25 mins + 5 sec inc. games provided some very entertaining and inspiring play. And after all the dust settled, former U10 World Youth Champion FM Jason Cao was the big prize winner, going undefeated with 4.5pts/6 games. Thank you FM Maxim Doroshenko for hosting this event.

[With such a strong field, and with anyone capable of beating anyone else on a good day, it was a matter of who was in form. By the end of round two no perfect scores remained; after round three Tanraj Sohal held a slim half-point lead ahead of the pack. In round four Tanraj was beaten by Mayo Fuentebella, who was joined in the lead by Jason Cao and Alfred Pechisker. In round five Mayo beat Alfred and Jason drew, leaving Mayo in the lead by a half-point heading into the last round. Paired with Joe Roback, it appeared Mayo had a straight-forward task but Joe had other ideas; having just beaten Butch Villavieja, Joe capped his comeback by taking out Mayo and allowing Jason Cao to take the overall prize. Mayo finished second, tied with Joe and Alfred Pechisker – ed.]

[Standings](#)

WYCC (December 17-29)



Most of team Canada, along with some guy named Kasparov who happened to be passing by

This year's World Youth Chess Championship in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates was the largest ever, with one thousand, seven hundred and seventy-odd players. Canada also sent its largest team ever, forty-one players, including Alexandra Botez, Ryan Lo, Jeremy Hui, Alice Xiao, Luke Pulfer, Ashley Tapp, Kai Richardson, James Rowan, and Ethan and Kevin Low from this province (apologies if I missed anyone). The large numbers produced some organizational difficulties (late first round, long cafeteria lineups, initial lack of live games), but the problems were ironed out as the tournament progressed. All the B.C. players scored between 5.0 and 6.5 points out of 11; Kevin Low and Luke Pulfer led with 6.5 each, and indeed each had 5.5/7 but could only score 1 point each in their remaining four games. The big Canadian news was Harmony Zhu, formerly a resident of B.C. but now living in Toronto, who won the gold medal in the Girls' Under 8 Section with 9.0/11. Congratulations Harmony, from all your friends in B.C.!



Other high Canadian scores included Nameer Issani (U8), 8.0 points, Richard Wang (U16), 7.5 points, and Qiyu Zhou (U14 Girls'), Rohan Talukdar (U10), and Aahil Noorali (U8), all with 7.0 points. Results, photos, PGN files and other information can be found at the [tournament website](#), the best summary of Canadian results is via the [Chess-Results](#) site, there are many photos on the Canadian [blog](#), while overall reports can be found at [ChessBase](#).

Knighmare Hexagonals #4 (December 28)

Twenty-one elementary school kids showed for the first anniversary of the Knightmare series of events. As three of the players came from Bellingham, this event became an international tournament overnight! By winning the top section with 4.5-0.5, Grade 6 student Boya Yang of Burnaby has won three of the last events which he played in during the last two months! For his efforts, he was awarded a beautiful commemorative coloured keychained chess set donated by the organizer. Grade 2 student Chuyang Gu of New Westminster took second place in the very strong top section! Grade 4 student Ken Xu of Burnaby, playing in his third ever tournament, also tied for second in the six-player round robin. Another strong Grade 2 student, Nathan Chen of Bellingham, finished with an even score.

The middle section ended up with two grade 2 players, Bobby Chen and Aaron Chiu, tying for first with grade 4 player Cameron Brown at 5-1 each. Both Bobby and Aaron are now over 900 for the first time! First time player, Graydon Baker in grade 5, won Section C with 5.5 out of 6! Grade 6 player, Manav Juthani was second with 5-1. Another first time player, David Eirew in grade 2, was third with 3.5-2.5. All the top finishers of each section were given a chess piece key chain. All other competitors were given a certificate as well as a McDonald's coupon. [Crosstable](#) now posted on the NWSRS website together with other Knightmare events.

These free Knightmare Hexagonals will be expanding to allow all elementary school players rated over 800 to play in the Sat., March 29 event. It will be further expanded to allow adult players later this year in order to give the top juniors stronger competition. Details will be posted on the [BCCF](#) website once they are available. The free [Knightmare Quads #5](#) event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26. All players need to bring their own tournament size chess set and board.

Thanks to all the various parents who helped out as arbiters, with registration and the rating report. Thank you also to Candidate Master Toni Deline who came by to play practice games with the kids during the lunch break. If you have an old analog chess clock which is no longer needed, please consider donating it to these tournaments so that more kids would be able to have practice playing with clocks. Please contact National Tournament Director Henry Chiu at <mailto:knightmares64@gmail.com> if you are able to donate a clock or if you are rated between 1300 and 1800 and would like to play in a future event as an adult.

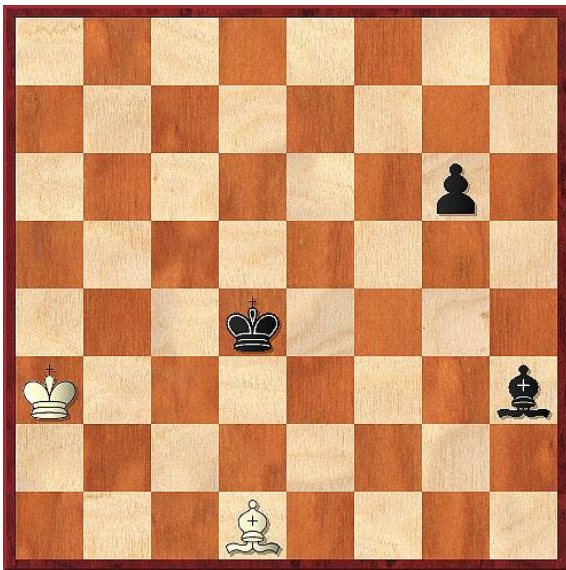
Washington Class Championships (November 29 - December 1)

In the 'better late than never' category, your editor neglected to report on the 2013 Washington Class Championships, held in Lynwood, WA on the American Thanksgiving weekend. Almost a dozen players from this province participated, including Juni Caluza, John, Joshua and Neil Doknjas, Jofrel Landingin, Paul Leblanc, Kevin and Ethan Low, Luke Pulfer, Alex Reny, and Brian Sullivan. Neil Doknjas won the 'D' Class Section with 5.5/6, John Doknjas tied for first in the Expert with Ethan Bashkansky and Sarah May, and Luke Pulfer and Brian Sullivan tied for the U1700 prize. [Standings](#)

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

John Nunn wrote in one of his endgame books that in practical play the ending of bishop and pawn vs bishop (of the same colour) is very often misplayed. Either the stronger side draws a winning position, or the weaker side loses a drawable position. This claim sent me to Hugh Brodie's database of games played by Canadians, and I quickly found three examples corroborating the doctor's assessment. In all three examples the defending side was within sight of a draw, but faltered in some way.

Our first position comes from the game **P. Ravn - P. Vaitonis** from Canada's B-Final match against Denmark at the **Munich Olympiad 1958**. Povilas (Paul) Vaitonis was originally from Lithuania but emigrated to Canada after World War II when his country came under the USSR's sphere of influence. He had an immediate impact on the national chess scene, winning the Ontario Championship in 1950 and the Canadian Championship in 1951. He also represented Canada at the 1952 Stockholm Interzonal and at the Chess Olympiads of 1954 and 1958.



In the first diagram position, White has just captured a Black pawn on a3, and it is Black to play. Of course the key issue is whether Black can successfully promote his single remaining pawn. It is not enough to force White to sacrifice his bishop for the pawn because, as is well-known, a lone bishop cannot deliver checkmate, even when assisted by the king. Vaitonis gets right to the task of clearing away the obstructions and advancing his pawn.

67...Ke3 68.Kb2 Bg2 69.Bg4 Be4 70.Kc3 Kf4 71.Bd7 g5 72.Kd2 Bf5 73.Bc6 g4



Both sides have played purposefully thus far, but now White makes a major error.

74.Ke2?

In these positions the weaker side has two defensive plans. One is to get his king to a square directly in front of the pawn that is not of the same colour as the attacker's bishop. If this can be accomplished then the king cannot be driven away and no further progress can be made. If this cannot be accomplished, then the defender's bishop must get involved. Here the first plan does not work, but the second plan can be put into effect as follows: 74.Bb5! g3 (both 74...Kg3 75.Be2 and 74...Kf3 75.Be2+ are immediate draws, since White manages to capture Black's pawn) 75.Ke1 Kf3 76.Kf1! intending 77.Kg1 and draws. Instead of 76.Kf1, 76.Bc6+? would be quite wrong because of 76...Be4! 77.Bxe4+ Kxe4 78.Kf1 Kf3 79.Kg1 g2 and Black wins.

74...Kg3!

The difference: White cannot play 75.Bf3 attacking the pawn since Black would simply take it off with his king.

75.Ke3 Kh2 76.Bf3 g3 0–1

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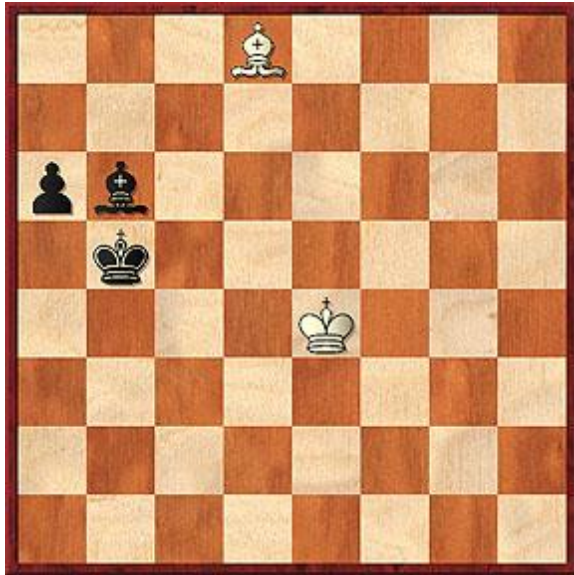
Our second example comes from the game **P. Burke – F. Cabanas, Vancouver Futurity 1984**. It is White to play.



Black's pieces are well-placed and his pawn is threatening to sprint up the board. White finds the right move to hinder this plan:

44.Bb6! Kc6 45.Bd8 Kb5 46.Kf3 Bd4 47.Ke4 Bb6

The only reasonable attempt to make progress for Black – otherwise White's king just heads over to a2. But it contains a large element of bluff...



48.Be7?

Perhaps the question mark is a bit harsh since this move does not actually throw away the draw, but it's a big step in the wrong direction. After 48.Bxb6! Kxb6 49.Kd4 Black's king easily reaches the drawing zone.

48...Kc4 49.Kf3 a5 50.Ke2 Kb3 51.Bf6 Kc2 52.Be7!

Well-played. Black was threatening 52...Bc5 followed by advancing the pawn.

52...Bd4 53.Kf3 Bc3

54.Ke4?

The losing error. White can still save the draw with the following study-like manoeuvre: 54.Bd8! (forcing the pawn to advance, thus weakening the square b4) 54...a4 55.Be7! (only now) 55...Kb3 56.Ke2 Bb4 57.Bxb4 Kxb4 58.Kd2 Kb3 59.Kc1, with a well-known drawing position.

54...Bb4! 55.Bd8



Black also wins easily after 55.Bxb4 axb4 and there is nothing to stop the pawn from promoting.

55...a4 56.Kd5 a3 0-1

* * *

Our final example comes from the game **M. Ryan – D. Milicevic, Paul Keres Memorial 2004**. It is Black to play.

In the ending of bishop and pawn vs bishop, defending against the advance of a centre pawn or bishop pawn is generally easier than defending against the advance of a rook pawn or knight pawn. This is because the greater diagonal space available to the defender's bishop makes it more difficult for the attacker to get absolute control of the pawn's route to eighth rank.



71...Kc3

The plan of getting the White king to d2 is looking quite unrealistic so White instead keeps watch on the key square with his bishop.

72.Kg2 Kd3 73.Kf3

White prevents 73...Be3 but even with Black to play this move would not accomplish much because of the reply 74.Be5.

73...Bg7 74.Bg5 d4 75.Bf4 Kc2 76.Bg5 d3



White's situation has become quite critical and in fact his next move is a serious error.

77.Bf4?

If left undisturbed, Black will play either ...Bb2-c1 followed by ...d2, or ...Bc3-d2 followed by ...Bc1 and d2, winning in both cases. The only way to interrupt these ideas starts with the move 77.Ke4! Now there are two main variations:

a) 77...Bb2 78.Bf4 and now 78...Bc1 fails to 79.Bxc1 Kxc1 80.Kxd3;

b) 77...Bc3 78.Kd5! Bd2 79.Bd8 Bh6 80.Ba5 Bg7 81.Kc4! After this precise move White draws comfortably because Black cannot play his bishop to c3, and if he offers an exchange on d2 it will block his pawn, giving Black's bishop time to switch diagonals.

77...Bc3 78.Bg5 Bd2 79.Bd8 Bh6 80.Ba5 Bg7 81.Kf2

After 81.Be1 Bc3 wins in any case.

81...Bc3 0-1

I suspect that Black – a very strong master – was quite relieved to finally win this game!

* * *

Because of time and space limitations, this column can never be anything more than an appendix to the many fine works on theoretical and practical endgames that are available in the marketplace. Nevertheless, I hope the reader appreciates the value of making connections between established theory and local experience.

All reader feedback on this column is welcome. Email the writer at dscoones@telus.net.

2013 IN B.C. CHESS

The end/beginning of the year is often a time for reflection and review of the events that occurred in the previous twelve months. With this in mind, here is a list of B.C. tournament winners for 2013, along with a few other highlights:

B.C. Senior Championship – Eugenio Alonso Campos

B.C. Active Championship - Mayo Fuentebella

EAC Open #19 – Peter Yee and Constantin Rotariu

B.C. Open – Tanraj Sohal

EAC Open #20 – Peter Yee and Constantin Rotariu

Vancouver Spring Open – Tanraj Sohal and Max Gedajlovic

Grand Pacific Open – Jack Yoos

EAC Open #21 – Eugenio Alonso Campos

EAC Open #22 – Peter Yee

Keres Memorial – Georgi Orlov

National Chess Challenge - gold medals won by Lucian Wu, Tanraj Sohal

EAC Open #23 – Eugenio Alonso Campos

CYCC - gold medals won by Luke Pulfer, Jason Cao, Alice Xiao, Alexandra Botez

EAC Open #24 – Eugenio Alonso Campos

B.C. Day Open – Tanraj Sohal

Labour Day Open – Leon Piasetski

September Open – Jason Kenney

B.C. Championship – Tanraj Sohal

Vancouver Open – Joshua Doknjas, Primero Landingin

October VCS Open – Matthew Herdin

B.C. Junior Championship – Tanraj Sohal, Jason Cao, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj

Jack Taylor Memorial – Roger Patterson

November VCS Open – Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj

Active Grand Prix – Jason Cao

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>

Vancouver Rapid Team Ch. 2013-14

September 2013 - April 2014

Details on web-site

www.VancouverRapid.ca

BC Active Championship

January 18-19, 2014, Surrey

[Details](#)

UBC SUO Active Championship

January 25, 2014, Kelowna

[Details](#)

Knightmare Junior Quads #5

January 26, 2014, Burnaby

[Details](#)

BC Open

February 8-10, 2014, Richmond

[Details](#)