

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #288

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); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

LakeCity Open (October 18)



Tournament chess returned to the Cariboo for the first time in many a moon with the LakeCity Open in Williams Lake (although it should be noted there is a chess club which meets at the Williams Lake Library). Scott Richardson, father of junior player Kai Richardson, was the driving force behind the event, and the following is largely culled from his words or the [event website](#):

The Williams Lake chess tournament, LakeCity Open, was a success. The playing room was at full capacity, twenty-eight players (four unofficial, parents in a mini tournament). All levels, all ages. The Casual Open section had fourteen players and the Open section had ten players. There were also chess parents playing alongside the tournament. Players came from 100 Mile House, Quesnel, Williams Lake and a visitor from Quebec. Sandwiches were provided for lunch by Safeway. Prizes included a quality backpack, bike equipment and tune-ups from the mountain bike specialists at Red Shreds and The Barking Spider, five deluxe, triple weighted House of Staunton tournament chess sets and boards donated by SelfDesign Learning as prizes for the top five student youth finishers, and gift certificates from the Gecko Tree and The Open Book. Fantastic support from our sponsors; Kathleen at SelfDesign. Mark at Red Shreds, Scott at Barking Spider, Brad at Safeway, Crystal at the Gecko Tree, Angela at the Open Book and the librarians at the Williams Lake library. Thanks to the people who postered the land. To view pictures and see the results of the event please visit <http://lakecitychess.homestead.com/>.

The Tournament was a success. There is chess in the Cariboo.

Chess Train (October 10-14)



The result of a collaboration between the Prague Chess Society and Czech Railways, the Chess Train is a special railway tour of five central European cities, during which the passengers have the opportunity to participate in a twelve-round rapid tournament with featured grandmasters. This year the train travelled between Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Trencin (Slovakia), and Krakow (Poland) before returning to Prague. The grandmasters included last year's winner, legendary Vlastimil Hort, Australian Ian Rogers, and Petr Martin and Neumann from the Czech Republic, but one of the features of the tournament is anyone can apply for the tour – several of the seventy-six participants had ratings around 1000. Also a passenger/player was former B.C. champion Brian McLaren, who finished in a tie for seventeenth place with 7.0 points. The overall winner on tiebreak was Ian Rogers, who tied for first with Petr Martin (9.0 points each), closely followed by Hort, Neumann and four other players on 8.5. [Tour details](#); [results](#)

Vancouver Open (October 11-13)

Organized and directed by Eugenio Alonso Campos, this year's Vancouver Open took place at the Guru Angad Dev Elementary School in Surrey and attracted twenty-one players, exactly half last year's field. And like last year's event, a dark horse won the tournament: Leo Qu, rated 1533 and ranked eleventh, won clear first ahead of six "A" players with an undefeated 5.0/6. His performance rating of 2020 and the CFC's bonus point system mean he is now an "A" player himself. Paul Leblanc placed second with 4.5, while Campos, Jofrel Landingin, Neale Monkhouse, and Annika Zhou tied for third. Others making significant rating gains were Paula Brewster and Jerry Chen. [Crosstable](#)

Millionaire Chess Open (October 9-13)

The brainchild of Afro-American GM Maurice Ashley, the Millionaire Chess Open in Las Vegas was an attempt to bring chess into the mainstream with some of the glitz and glamour that has accrued to online/televised poker in the past few years. To what degree the event succeeded in that goal is unclear; the guaranteed \$1,000,000 dollar prize fund was not achieved via entry fees (at \$1,000 a

shot) but through the generous sponsorship of Vancouver-based entrepreneur [Amy Lee](#). Organized into six sections (Open, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400), the main portion of the tournament was a seven-round Swiss to determine the top four in each section, who then participated in knockout playoffs to decide their final placing. For the Open section only, the remaining players finished the event with two extra Swiss rounds to make norms possible (usually nine rounds is the minimum necessary for a norm). GM Wesley So was the overall winner, taking home \$100,000 after defeating Ray Robson in the final (Robson earned \$50,000). Apart from the top places there were also cash prizes going down to fiftieth place in each section; five B.C. players entered the tournament and all five won money, although not enough to cover the entry fee. Daniel Salcedo (U2200) tied for 49th-50th, Hiva Menbari and Wayne Kort (both U2000) tied for 18th-30th and 31st-48th respectively, Doug Sly (U1800) tied for 33rd-42nd, and Digvijay Sawant (U1400) tied for 16th-25th. Apparently the event will be run again next year, with Orlando and Miami being mentioned as possible sites. [Tournament website](#)

National Chess Day Fall Open (October 11-12)

It was U.S. President Gerald Ford who back in 1976 proclaimed that the second Saturday of October be celebrated as [National Chess Day](#). Since this was not an official act (i.e., approved by Congress), the annual observance soon faded, to be revived in 2010 when National Chess Day was officially approved by Congress. So while we Canadians were celebrating Thanksgiving, many U.S. centres were hosting chess tournaments, including the Portland Chess Club in Oregon. However, despite the fact National Chess Day is an American observance, it was two Canadians who won the Portland Fall Open: Bindi Cheng and Joe Roback both scored 4.0/5 in tying for first place. The forty-four player field (in two sections) also included two others from this province; James Chan and Jason Kenney were among those who finished with 3.0 points. [Crosstable](#)

October Active (October 5) by Joe Roback

The October active was a three-way tie with Joe Roback, Luke Pulfer, and Jofrel Landingin tying for first place with 5/6 points. They split the first/second prizes for \$65 each. It looks like the national-champion Luke Pulfer and Jofrel Landingin qualify for the Junior Grand Prix and the Active Grand Prix in December, respectively. The tie-breaks were included in the Standings.

There was an impressive array of prize winners this month; nineteen players won a prize out of a total of twenty-four players! James Li under-dogged his way to a clear first U1600 with 4.0/6 for \$50. Ryan Leong won a clear second U1600 prize with 3.5/6; tying with Ryan was Daniel Du, but as he is U1300 he took the first U1300 prize alone. For the third U1600 prize there was a seven-way tie with 3.0/6: Maven Zheng, Robert Hao, An Yu, Stephen Brock, Kevin Tang, Victor Zheng, and Brian Sullivan. Samuel Taplin placed clear second U1300 (\$35). The third U1300 prize was split five ways with Ethan Low, Ping Yu, Ryne Zhu, Jason Qian, and Lucian Wu: 2.0/6, \$5. Stay tuned for next month's November Active. Try to bring exact change. Thanks guys! [Crosstable](#)

99th B.C. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP by Roger Patterson



The participants with organizer Roger Patterson (left) (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

The 2014 B.C. Closed was won convincingly by Jason Cao, who at thirteen years old is the youngest B.C. champion ever [he turns fourteen in December]. He started with four straight wins and held the rest to draws. When I arrived in B.C. eight years ago, the B.C. Closed had a median age of something like forty-five or fifty. This year's version had half the field under eighteen, the youngest being twelve. The juniors have arrived and they have taken over. Spectators were welcome at the event. A number showed up and even bore gifts - Bishops of Bowser T-shirts in the case of Robert McFetridge and a plate of cookies from Jason's mother. A photo of the participants is above and a PGN of the games can be found at Stephen Wright's home page <http://www3.telus.net/public/swright2/homepage.html>. My understanding is that Victoria Doknjas is writing a more detailed report with annotated games and additional photographs for the CFC email magazine so be sure to check that out.

Victoria, 10-13 October 2014	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1 Cao, Jason	2373	*	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	5.5
2 Sohal, Tanraj S.	2355	½	*	½	0	½	½	1	1	4.0
3 Doknjas, John	2234	½	½	*	1	½	0	0	1	3.5
4 Villavieja, Butch	2226	0	1	0	*	1	½	0	1	3.5
5 Jiganchine, Roman	2208	½	½	½	0	*	1	½	0	3.0
6 Yoos, Jack	2371	0	½	1	½	0	*	½	½	3.0
7 Wu, Howard	2224	0	0	1	1	½	½	*	0	3.0
8 Doknjas, Joshua	2215	0	0	0	0	1	½	1	*	2.5

Cumulative scores:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Cao, Jason	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5
2 Sohal, Tanraj	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0
3 Doknjas, John	0.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.5
4 Villavieja, Butch	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5
5 Jiganchine, Roman	0.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	3.0
6 Yoos, Jack	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0
7 Wu, Howard	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	3.0
8 Doknjas, Joshua	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.5

Sohal, Tanraj - Doknjas, John [A61] BC ch 99th Victoria (1.2), 10.10.2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 a6 8.a4 Bg7 9.h3 0-0 10.e3 Ne8 11.Be2 Nd7 12.0-0 Qe7 13.Nd2 Ne5 14.Bg3 f5 15.Re1 Nf6 16.f4 Nf7 17.Bf3 Re8 18.Qb3 Rb8 19.e4 fxe4 20.Ndxe4 Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Qd8 22.Bh2 Bf5 23.Ng3 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Bd7 25.Ne4 b5 26.axb5 Rxb5 27.Qd3 Bxb2 28.Ng5 Nxc5 29.fxc5 Bf5 30.Qe2 Bc3 31.Rf1 Rb8 32.Qxa6 Qb6 33.Qe2 Be5 34.Bg4 Bxc4 35.Qxc4 Bxc2+ 36.Kxh2 Qc7 37.Qe6+ Kg7 38.Qf6+ Kg8 39.Qe6+ Kg7 40.Qf6+ ½-½

Cao, Jason - Yoos, Jack [E83] BC ch 99th Victoria (2.2), 11.10.2014

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nc6 8.h4 h5 9.Nge2 Rb8 10.Nc1 e5 11.d5 Nd4 12.Nb3 Nxb3 13.axb3 c5 14.Be2 Bd7 15.Kd1 Qc8 16.Kc2 b5 17.Rhg1 Qb7 18.Bg5 bxc4 19.Bxc4 Bb5 20.Qd3 Nh7 21.Be3 Qe7 22.Bxb5 axb5 23.Nxb5 Rfd8 24.Na7 Qxh4 25.Nc6 Bf8 26.Nxb8 Rxb8 27.Ra7 Qf6 28.Rga1 h4 29.Rh1 g5 30.Bd2 Kg7 31.g3 Be7 32.gxh4 gxh4 33.f4 Kf8 34.Rg1 Bd8 35.fxe5 Qxe5 36.Bh6+ 1-0

Yoos, Jack - Doknjas, John [B96] BC ch 99th Victoria (3.3), 11.10.2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.Qd3 Be7 9.0-0-0 b4 10.Nce2 Qc7 11.Ng3 Nbd7 12.Be2 Bb7 13.Bf3 h6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.e5 dxe5 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qg6+ Kf8 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 19.fxe5 Qc6 20.Rhf1 Qe8 21.Qe4 Kf7 22.Nh5 Rd8 23.exf6 Bxf6 24.Nxf6 gxf6 25.Qxb4 Qb5 26.Qc3 Qg5+ 27.Kb1 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Re8 29.Qd3 f5 30.g3 Qg4 31.Rf1 Qa4 32.b3 Qb5 33.Qf3 Kg6 34.a4 Qb6 35.g4 Rf8 36.Qg3 Kh7 37.Qe5 1-0

Villavieja, Butch - Cao, Jason [B94] BC ch 99th Victoria (3.4), 11.10.2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qb6 8.Bb3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 Qa5 11.f4 Nc5 12.Qf3 0-0 13.f5 Nxb3 14.axb3 Qc7 15.Rf2 Rb8 16.g4 b5 17.g5 Nd7 18.Qh3 b4 19.g6 Nf6 20.gxf7+ Kh8 21.Nce2 Nxe4 22.fxe6 Nxf2 23.Bxf2 Rxf7 24.Qh5 Rf8 25.Bg3 Bb7 26.Nf4 Kg8 27.Nd5 Qd8 28.Nxb4 Bf6 29.Qg4 Qb6 30.c3 Bf3 31.Qh3 Bxd4+ 32.cxd4 Qxd4+ 33.Bf2 Qxb4 34.e7 Rf6 0-1

Sohal, Tanraj - Villavieja, Butch [E97] BC ch 99th Victoria (6.3), 13.10.2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Kh1 Ne8 10.Ne1 f5 11.exf5 Nxf5 12.Bd3 Nd4 13.Nc2 Nxc2 14.Qxc2 Bf5 15.Be4 Kh8 16.f3 Rc8 17.Be3 a6 18.Qb3 b6

19.Qa4 Ra8 20.Qc2 Rb8 21.a4 a5 22.Qd2 Qc8 23.Rae1 Nf6 24.Bg5 Nd7 25.Qd1 Nc5 26.Be3 Na6
 27.g4 Bd7 28.Qd2 Rf7 29.b3 Qf8 30.Kg2 Qe7 31.Rh1 Nc5 32.Bxc5 bxc5 33.Nb5 Rf4 34.h3 Rbf8
 35.Qd3 Bc8 36.Kf1 Bh6 37.Ke2 R8f7 38.Kd1 Qh4 39.Nc3 Rf8 40.Ne2 R4f7 41.Ref1 Bf5 42.Nc3
 Qg3 43.Rhg1 Qf4 44.Kc2 Qh2+ 45.Kb1 Bxe4 46.fxe4 Be3 47.Rh1 Qg2 48.Rd1 Bd4 49.Ne2 Rf3
 50.Qc2 Rf2 51.Rhe1 R8f3 52.Rd2 Re3 53.Rg1 Rf1+ 54.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 55.Nc1 Re1 56.Rxd4 exd4
 57.Qd2 Rd1 58.Qg5 Qd3+ 59.Ka1 Qc3+ 60.Kb1 Qxb3+ 61.Ka1 Qxa4+ 62.Kb2 Qb4+ 63.Nb3 Rf1
 64.Qd8+ Kg7 65.Qxc7+ Rf7 66.Qxd6 Rf2+ 67.Kc1 Qc3+ 68.Kd1 Qc2+ 69.Ke1 Qe2# 0–1

MICHAEL YIP ANNOTATES

Yip, Michael - Csala, Imre [D36] Budapest Open (9.5), 24.08.2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 Threatening a Nimzo-Indian/Queen's Indian or Bogo-Indian amongst other things.
3.Nc3 My brief pre-game preparation revealed that my opponent had 200-ish games and no clear conclusions could be reached. I switched to my new normal repertoire and was prepared to play against the Nimzo-Indian. **3...d5** Electing to do battle in a normal conservative Queen's Gambit formation. **4.cxd5** I chose the Exchange variation to avoid the Semi-Slav which gives Black a strategically complex game. **4...exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3** So far so good. Recently I added the Nge2 line of the exchange to my repertoire which gives White more dynamic play than the traditional Nf3+ the minority attack. **6...Bd6** Not what I was expected (..Be7). My opponent played quickly and confidently but I had no idea what was going on. **7.Qc2** Developing and preventing the active ..Bf5. **7...h6?** A surprising and careless mistake that allows White to seriously weaken the kingside pawns. **8.Bxf6!** It took a couple of minutes to realize that I had been given a large gift. **8...gxf6** Black must accept the breakup of the kingside pawns. Here I was too happy and lacked to self-discipline to maintain my concentration. **8...Qxf6?** **9.Nxd5+–** Gives me an instant free pawn and a winning position. **9.g3** I found the right pawn arrangement without much effort but the rest of the game caused me some trouble. The immediate fianchetto was probably too clever as I found a nice example of what to do when checking the game. **9.Bd3** Continuing with simple development is a strong an natural plan. **9...Rg8 10.g3!** The optimal pawn arrangement to restrict Black's gi-file activity. **10...h5 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.Nh4 Nd7 13.Bh7 Rg7 14.Bf5!** Trading off one of Black's bishops for White's bishop is a key strategic idea. Now White will be left with a very strong knight pair to maneuver around against Black's static pawn weaknesses. **14...Nf8 15.h3!** Forcing the bishop trade. **15...Bxf5 16.Nxf5 Rg6 17.Nxd5!** **Bxg3+–** The desperado changes nothing. (17...cxd5? Taking the knight loses. **18.Qa4+ Qd7 19.Nxd6+ Ke7 20.Qb4+– (20.Qxd7+ Nxd7 21.Nf5+–)**) **18.Nde7 Bc7 19.0–0–0 Bd6 20.Nxg6 fxc6 21.Nxd6+ Qxd6 22.Kb1 0–0–0 23.d5 c5 24.Rc1 b6 25.b4 Nd7 26.Qxg6 Kb7 27.Qxh5 cxb4 28.Rc6 Qe7 29.Qf5 b3 30.axb3 Qa3 31.Qc2 Nc5 32.Rd1 Nxb3 33.Qc3 Qa4 34.Rc4 1–0 Johannessen,L (2528)-Al Sulaiti,K (2082)/Tromso NOR 2014**
9...Bg4 This caught me a bit by surprise as I was not expected active play or any kind on meaningful resistance. My guard was already down when the opposite should have happened. The proper and correct attitude and approach was to increase my vigilance and make a concentrated effort to prevent any form of counterplay to maintain White's static advantage. **10.Bg2** Too routine and much too casually played. The bishop is passive now and White has problems developing Ng1 without allowing Black the useful bishop for knight trade. This would leave opposite color bishops and give Black more defensive chances than he deserved. **10.Bd3!?** With Bf5 in mind and a bishop for bishop trade make sense in light of the example game (see note to move 9) **10...Bh5 11.Nge2** I did not see anything better. **11...Bg6 11...Bxe2** was my fear but the bishop-pair is useful for Black.



12.Qb3? Quickly and carelessly played. I stopped thinking for a move and relaxed which is definitely not the thing to do when nursing a stable static advantage. 12.Qd2 Staying in a middlegame was better but Black already has gained more activity than I should have allowed. 12...Nd7 13.0-0 f5 14.Nf4+= ; 12.e4! Blowing open the position to exploit the lead in development is the best way to react. However I missed this idea completely being totally focused on pressing the queenside. I thought this was the best plan as Black's light bishop was stranded on the kingside. Stockfish 5 64: 12...Qb6 is the most active but still White is clearly better. (12...dxe4?

Opening up the position plays into White's hands. 13.Bxe4 Bxe4 14.Qxe4+ Qe7 15.0-0-0± ; Stockfish 5 64: 12...0-0 Stockfish 5 64: 13.Qb3 Now is the correct time to press the queenside. 13...dxe4 14.Qxb7 Qd7 15.Qxd7 Nxd7 16.Nxe4 Be7 17.a3 Rac8 18.N4c3 f5 19.0-0 Bf6 20.Rfd1 Nb6 21.d5 cxd5 22.Bxd5 Rfd8 23.Bb7 Rb8 24.Bc60.95/18) 13.0-0 Na6 14.a3 Nc7 15.f4 0-0 16.Qd2 dxe4 17.f5 Bh5 18.Rae1 e3 19.Qxe3 Qxb2 20.Qxh6 Bxe2 21.Nxe2 Rfe8 22.Qxf6 Rxe2 23.Rxe2 Qxe2 24.Qxd60.85/19 **12...Qb6!** Practically forces a queen trade as now I realized that Qc2 was not possible. **13.Qxb6 axb6** The queen trade has given Black hope and equality as the a-file gives Black a normal counterplay plan and something to do. White must now take care not to give the game away. **14.Kd2** Usually I am OK in endgame play for this game I thought I was clever during the game but only checking it later realized that I was really the defender. Centralizing the king and connecting the rooks for the endgame phase is generally useful. Now I was focused and identified Black's main idea as ..b5-b4-b3!? causing some disruption on the queenside. Only after the game did I realized that I totally misunderstood the needs of the position and should have been looking for sharper more concrete play associated with the e4 break. This would open up the position to exploit White's lead in development and make it easier to exploit Black's poor structure. 14.e4! is still the Stockfish recommendation but I did not want to open the position up yet. Stockfish 5 64: 14...Bxe4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bxe4 0-0 17.0-0 Re8 18.Nc3 Bb4 19.Bf5 Kg7 20.Rfd1 Na6 21.Ne4 Nc7 22.a3 Be7 23.Rac1 Rad8 24.Nc3 b5 25.Kg2 b4 26.axb4 Bxb40.30/21 **14...b5=** Black is fine now but I thought that White still had the upper hand. Black's queenside pawn mass and the open a-file give enough counterplay to offset the kingside pawn weaknesses. White is in no place attack the doubled f-pawns and they can be easily defended by the king. **15.Nc1?+=** White starts purely passive defensive maneuvering to negate any Black threats. My overall plan was to prevent any Black activity and then focus on the kingside pawn weaknesses. First White anticipates ..b4. Now White can retreat Nce2 and has Nd3 to block the b1-h7 diagonal. White is on the defensive now and must identify every dangerous Black idea to make small improvements in activity or position. **15...b4** Is premature and White is back in the game. Stockfish 5 64: 15...Nd7 Black would do better to bring more pieces into play. 16.Nd3 Nb6 17.Kc2 Nc4 18.b3 b4 19.bxc4 Ra3 20.Ne4 Bxe4 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Nc1 b6 23.Nb3 f5 24.Kb2 Kd7 25.Rhd1 Ke7 26.h4 Kf6 27.Rg1 Rha8 28.c5 bxc5 29.Nxc5-0.38/11 **16.N3e2 Nd7** 16...Ke7 Is also logical. Stockfish 5 64: 17.Nf4 Nd7 18.Re1 Nb6 19.Nxg6+ fxg6 20.Nd3 Kf7 21.Kc2 Rhe8 22.Rg1 Kg7 23.h4 f5 24.Bf3 h5 25.Be2 Nd7 26.Kb3 Nf6 27.Nxb4 Ne4 28.Nd3 Nxf2 29.Nxf2 Rxe3+ 30.Bd3 Bxg3-0.22/18 **17.Nd3** The situation has somewhat stabilized and the position is equal. Black has the active plan of doubling on the a-file to increase activity and tie White down but Black cannot win the a-pawn. **17...Nb6** Trying to install the knight on c4 is a reasonable plan but Black can do better. 17...Ra5!? The a2 pawn is White's

attackable weakness and this should be the immediate focus of Black's attention. Stockfish 5 64: 18.Nef4 Ke7 19.Rhd1 Rha8 20.Kc2 Rxa2 21.Rxa2 Rxa2 22.Kb3 Ra6 23.Bh3 Be4 24.Bxd7 Kxd7 25.Nc5+ Bxc5 26.dxc5 Ra5 27.Rc1 Rb5 28.h4 f5-0.25/9 **18.b3** Carefully preventing ..Nc4 which would allow Black too much activity. The cost is to concede the a3 outpost which is a necessary concession, but not too serious. **18...Ra3** Increasing the pressure on the a-file. White is clearly the defender now.



19.Nec1?-/+ A preliminary passive retreat to seal up the queenside and eliminate any tactical tricks. Here I made the habitual mistake of volunteering for a purely passive defence. Stockfish 5 64: 19.Ndf4 is more active and is a more useful move. There are enough defenders on the queenside to hold the a-pawn. 19...0-0 20.Kc1 Nd7 21.Kb2 Rfa8 22.h4 f5 23.Nd3 Nf6 24.Nef4 Ne4 25.Bxe4 fxe4 26.Nc5 R8a7 27.g4 Kg7 28.h5 Bh7 29.Rhg1 Be7 30.Rh1 f5 31.Nce6+ Kf7 32.Rhg1 Bh4 33.g5 Bxf2-0.12/5 **19...Nd7** Stockfish 5 64: 19...Ke7 Connecting rooks is strong. 20.Re1 Rd8 21.Kc2 Kf8 22.Kb2 Nc4+ 23.Kc2 Re8 24.Bf3 Kg7 25.h4 Nb6 26.Rd1-0.70/5

20.Rb1?-/+ Now I was in full defensive mode and unpinned the a-pawn. The rook can now slowly be regrouped for a more active role, compared to sitting on a1. My basic reasoning was that the Ra1 was my worst placed piece and should be improved. Stockfish 5 64: 20.Kc2 Using the king to guard the a-pawn is better but I did not like to have Ra1 in such a passive role for so long. Stockfish 5 64: 20...0-0 21.Kb2 The king secures the a-pawn and White is close to equal. 21...Rfa8 22.Rd1 f5 23.Ne2 Nf6 24.Bf3 Ne4 25.h4 f6 26.Nef4 Bxf4 27.Bxe4 fxe4 28.Nxf4 Bf5 29.Rf1 Kg7 30.Rfc1 Bg4-0.26/21 **20...h5** Trying to make some progress with ..h4 which White should not allow. **21.h4** I played this quickly believing that h5 was a fresh weakness but White's kingside pawn arrangement is also more vulnerable. **21...Be4!?** The bishop is more active but White is in no danger. **22.Rg1** White holds firm and is happy to remain equal with the better structure. 22.Bxe4 This exchange did not appeal to me as Black gained control over d3 and I would lose some maneuvering room. 22...dxe4 Now d3 is not available for piece play. 23.Nf4 Bxf4 24.gxf4³ **22...f5** Reinforcing Be4 comes at the slight risk that White can play for f3 and trap the bishop at some point after making suitable preparations. **23.Rb2** Continuing with preventing any tactics. The rook gets off the b1-h7 diagonal and increases its activity very slightly. Every little bit counts. **23...Nf6=+** Black also activates his knight and increases overall activity but loses some of the advantage. 23...Ke7 Connecting rooks was more to the point. Stockfish 5 64: 24.Ke2 Bxg2 25.Rxg2 Rg8 26.Kf3 Rga8 27.Nf4 Nf6 28.Rg1 Kd7 29.Nfd3 Kc7 30.Nf4 R8a6 31.Rd1 Kc8 32.Re1 Kd7 33.Rg1 Kc7-0.40/19 **24.Bh3!** Activating the bishop slightly and introducing a hanging threat to the f5 pawn to limit Black's options. **24...Ng4** **25.Ke2** The king shuffles over to guard the f2 pawn as White continues to play patient defence. There is also the secondary idea of preparing f3 to trap Be4 **25...Bxd3+** Black parts with the strong bishop and allows the passive Nc1 to activate which is good progress for White. **26.Nxd3** Simplification has helped ease the pressure on White. **26...Ke7** **27.Rc1** Now the rook is activated and White discourages any ..c5 ideas that would gain useful queenside space for Black. **27...Rha8** The renewed attack on a2 forces White into a more passive role and the position remains more or less equal. **28.Rcc2**



White has improved both rooks and secured the a-pawn so I was quite happy. **28...Kf6** Covering the f-pawn to release the knight for maneuvering. **29.Bg2** Now White begins to make small improvements in piece position but cannot create any threats to change the course of the game. **29...Kg6 30.Kf1=+** The king clears the d1–h5 diagonal to allow the bishop some additional maneuvering options. White shows some ambition but objectively worsens the position. **30...Nf6** Trying to play without taking any risks. **30...Bxg3!** was a shot that I did not take seriously this may have been Black's best winning chance. Stockfish 5 64: 31.fxg3 Nxe3+ 32.Ke2 -0.44/5

Nxc2 33.Rxc2 Stockfish 5 64: 33...Rxa2 34.Nxb4 Rxc2+ 35.Nxc2 Ra2 36.Kd3 Rb2 37.Kc3 Rb1 38.Ne3 Rg1 39.Kd3 Kf6 40.Kc3=+ -0.45/5 **31.Bf3 Ne4** The knight is well placed and is on the way to c3. **32.Nc1** Going into a full retreat covers the a-pawn and clears d3 for the bishop. **32...Nc3 33.Be2** The bishop heads to d3 and is a strong piece. The problem for White is that every other piece is tied to the passive defence of a2. **33...R3a5 34.Rd2 Ra3** Black can do nothing more than shuffle rooks. Stockfish 5 64: 34...Ne4 35.Rdc2 R5a7 36.Bf3 Ra3 37.Nd3 Re8 Black may be better but has trouble making any additional progress. -0.36/27 **35.Bd3** White is not interested in doing more than waiting for Black to try too hard and make positional concessions. My opponent thought for a bit, picked up Ra3 and offered a draw which I accepted. ½–½

CHESS IN THE CARIBOO 1865

The early history of chess in B.C. is largely undocumented. When the province's fledgling cities grew large enough, organized chess followed almost as a matter of course, e.g., the Victoria Chess Club in 1892. However, before that time chess, along with horse racing, gambling, and other more adventurous activities, served as a social outlet from the hardships of pioneer life, and thus is not often mentioned in contemporary sources. One important early account, describing what was presumably B.C.'s first chess tournament, occurs as a letter to the editor of the Victoria newspaper *The Daily British Colonist* of March 18, 1865:

To the editor of the British Colonist

Williams Creek, 18th February 1865

Sir,

It may not be uninteresting to your readers, at least that portion of them who are chess players, to receive an account of a chess tournament which lately took place among the players on the creek.

A public notice was put up by some of the most enthusiastic players that a meeting for the purpose of getting up a chess tournament would be held on the 10th ult. At this meeting twelve gentlemen gave in their names as competitors for the championship. It was decided that the players should be

divided into pairs by ballot, to play five games, and the first three games won by either of the contestants to decide between them; the winners of these first games to be again paired off to play a like number of games, and so continue to pair off until only one winner remained, who should be declared the champion of the tournament.

Accordingly the players in the first ballot were as follows:

J.A. Fraser vs. D. McNaughton
J. Elliott vs. B. Bellenbur
Jas. T. Steele vs. W. Reynbow
W. Dodd vs. E. Hodgens
J.S. Thompson vs. J. McLaren
[the sixth pairing, presumably involving John Adair, is missing from the original]

Second Ballot

J.A. Fraser vs. John Elliot [*sic*]
John Adair vs. James T. Steele
Edward Hodgens vs. J.S. Thompson

Third Ballot

The players were now reduced to three, Messrs. Thompson, Fraser and Steele. On drawing for partners the lot fell upon Messrs. Thompson and Fraser to play together and the winner to play Mr. Steele. In this match Mr. Fraser was again the winner. This gentleman had now played three matches without losing a single game, and his friends felt confident that he would come out the victor in the next, but his opponent Mr. Steele proved a tough customer, and after playing five well contested games, they stood two each the fifth one having been a drawn one; then came the deciding game of which I annex a copy, which was won in good style by Mr. Steele, who was accordingly declared the champion of the tournament.

I am, yours, &c.

A Chess Player

Fraser, J.A. - Steele, J.T. [C55] Williams Creek, 10.02.1865

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Ne4 6.0-0 d5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Qd3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Ng5 12.Nb3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Qe7 14.Bf4 Bb6 15.Qg3 Qe6 16.Kh1 d4 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Bg5 Rd7 19.f4 Re8 20.Rfe1 Qf5 21.Bf6 g6 22.Qh4 d3 23.Qh6 Bxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qg4+ 25.Kh1 Qf3# 0-1

Williams Creek was the focus of the Cariboo gold rush of the 1860s. Inundated with miners and other individuals hoping to make a fortune, the creek acquired several towns almost overnight, including Marysville, Cameronton, Richfield, and the best known, Barkerville, which claimed to be the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. [At its height, Barkerville and environs had a population of some ten thousand; by comparison, Victoria's population at the beginning of the gold rush was substantially less than a thousand.]

The site of the tournament is not given by the correspondent; the first library in Williams Creek had opened in Cameronton in 1864, so it seems likely the event was publicized via the library, if not actually played there. The format, a series of knockout matches, had been standard since London 1851, and was only gradually supplanted by the round robin in the coming decade. With a minimum of sixteen "rounds" apparently occurring on the same day as the tournament was organized (the letter specifies that the printed final game was played on February 10), the games must have been played at a pretty fast rate. One wonders about the level of play at that speed; although the published game is relatively well-played, this may just reflect on the abilities of the finalists.

And what of the players? There is no way of knowing for certain if they are the same persons, but there is a J. McLaren and J.A. Fraser buried in the Barkersville cemetery. John McLaren was a grammar school headmaster before coming to the Cariboo in 1864; for a time he edited the local newspaper, the Cariboo Sentinel. He was killed at age thirty-one by a slide of sand and tailings in 1869. John Alexander Fraser was the fourth son of explorer Simon Fraser; he came to Cameronton in 1864 as an engineer. Money woes over his family's mortgaged farm and an unhappy love affair led him to commit suicide on May 20, 1865 - he was thirty-two. The next day one of the companies he had invested heavily in struck a rich lead. John Adair is identified in the photo at right. A James Steele worked for John Cameron's company, and can be identified in a photo of the latter. There was also a Steele Claim on the creek, said to be the richest piece of ground in the area; in 1861 it was producing thirty to forty pounds of gold a day.



BI-WEEKLY BAFFLER by Valer Eugen Demian



Baffler #28:

What can be so special about this position? Black is simply up three pawns and the Bishops are of the same colour (no chance for an opposite colour Bishop endgame). Things truly look "Doom and Gloom" as AC/DC might put it. Still it is White to move and it is hard to believe anyone would resign here. Of course no resignation means White has to move something, hopefully something meaningful. Could you give him a big helpful hand?

Answer #27:



In this study by A. Wotawa (1944), the magical trick white uses is to trap the black King and checkmate it: 1.e6!!; if 1...Kxe6 2.Kg6 followed by f2-f4-f5 mate; if 1...dxe6 2.Be5 Kxe5 3. Kg5 and f2-f4 mate. These 2 lines are absolutely magical in my opinion. Less attractive but still winning is: 1...a2 2.e7 a1=Q 3.e8=Q Qc1+ 4.Kh7 Qh1+ 5.g7 Qg2+ 6.Bg3.

This last line makes me wonder: is this the correct position, or the internet source where I got it from was wrong (again)? Maybe the a3-pawn is actually only on the a4-square, making the less attractive line a straight forward win? But then this defeats the purpose of having the a-pawn all together. Please let me know if you have the answer!

[Addendum – your editor]



The diagram to the left is the Wotawa study as published in *Studies for Practical Players* by Mark Dvoretsky and Oleg Pervakov. Apart from a few minor placement issues, the main difference is the position has been taken back an extra move. Dvoretsky's analysis: **1.d3!!** [1.e6? dxe6 2.d3 e5!-+] **1...a3 2.e6! dxe6** [2...Kxe6 3.Kg6 a2 4.f4 a1Q 5.f5#] **3.Be5! Kxe5** [3...a2 4.Bxd4 Kf4 5.Kg6+-] **4.Kg5 a2 5.f4#**

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 Championship

September 2014 - May 2015, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

Vancouver West Open

October 25-26, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

VCS November Active

November 2, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

B.C. Junior Championship

November 7-9, Richmond

[Details](#)

Knightmare November Quads

November 9, Burnaby

[Details](#)

Jack Taylor Memorial

November 15-16, Victoria

[Details](#)

EAC Greater Vancouver Open

November 29-30, Surrey

[Details](#)

Knightmare November Quads

November 30, Burnaby

[Details](#)

VCS December Active

December 7, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

East Vancouver December Active

December 14, Vancouver Bridge Centre

[Details](#)

Knightmare Christmas Quads

December 28, Burnaby

[Details](#)