

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #291

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.

Best wishes for the holiday season and for the New Year!

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

North American Open (December 26-30)

Now in its twenty-fourth year, the annual North American Open at Bally's Casino in Las Vegas as usual attracted a contingent of players from this province, including Tanraj Sohal, Daniel Salcedo, Kevin and Ethan Low, Nathan Shao, Constantin Rotariu, Juni Caluza, and Daniel Chen. Ethan Low tied for the seventh/tenth places in the U1700 Section with 5.0/7, while Daniel Chen tied for fourth/fifth in the U1500 Section with 5.5 points. The overall winner was Filipino/U.S. grandmaster Wesley So with 8.0/9. Pairings, standings, and live games can be found at the [tournament website](#).

VCS December Active (December 20) by Joe Roback



This month's winner is university freshman Jack Cheng (2248 CFC). Jack placed clear first with an impressive 6.0/6 score to become the final qualifier of the upcoming Active Grand Prix Tournament. He was awarded \$120 which was presented in a fan-shape. Jack was greeted by his mother and little sister just in time for the award ceremony.

Up-and-coming junior Ethan Low defeated some tough competition to win clear first under 1600 for \$80 despite being several hundred active points underrated for the usual prize holders of the U1600 prize category. Finally, An Yu makes a part-time job of the monthly active by placing first

U1400 for a \$60 prize. Special thanks to Vivien and Maxim for helping organize this year! See you at the next one! [Crosstable](#)

East Vancouver December Active (December 14)

The latest active event organized by Luc Poitras at the Vancouver Bridge Centre attracted a total of nine players. The top three players took the top three places, although not in the expected order – it was Jofrel Landingin who came in first after Poitras downed Joe Roback in the last round. Poitras and Roback shared second, while John David won the U1500 prize; given that he was rated 1582 at the beginning of the event, perhaps that is a typo for U1600. [Crosstable](#)

World U16 Olympiad (December 13-21)

World team events for younger players began just after the first World Junior championship in 1951, but the age restriction has gradually become more severe. The first such events were labelled Student Olympiads; the initial tournament, held in Liverpool in 1952, included the previous year's challenger for the World Championship, David Bronstein, so one wonders what definition of student was being used. These events were replaced around 1978 by the World Youth U26 Team Championships, then in 1998 the age limit was dropped to 20, and since 2001 the event has been restricted to those under [16 years of age](#) (the old 'cadet' category, now incorporated in the various youth tournaments as the U16 section). Canada's involvement in these events has been sporadic, although a team including Duncan Suttles and Peter Biyiasas won bronze medals behind the USSR and USA at Mayagüez (Puerto Rico) in [1971](#).

The only previous U16 Olympiad to which Canada sent a team was Burdur (Turkey) in 2010. This year the event was held in Győr, Hungary and the CFC sent not one but three teams! Why exactly is unclear, apart from the fact that we have a particularly good crop of U16 players at the moment.



The Canadian players and coaches (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

Each team consisted of five players and at least theoretically had to include at least one female player. The three Canadian teams included four players from this province: Jason Cao on team one, John and Joshua Doknjas on team two, and Max Gedajlovic on team three. After the ten-round Swiss was over Canada 1 had converted its initial ranking of seventh into a final place of fifth after tiebreaks, behind India, Russia, Iran, and Hungary 1. Canada 2 and Canada 3 finished

respectively four places below and four places above their initial rankings, largely as a result of their last round pairings – Canada 3 played Hungary 4, while Canada 2 was paired with the Chinese.

Apart from the team awards there were judged individual brilliancy prizes given out every round in the form of jackets and Canadians won two of these, Jason Cao and Max Gedajlovic (games below). And Victoria Jung-Doknjas and Changrong (Penny) Yu won the event photography contest. [Tournament website](#) [CFC facebook reports](#) [standings at Chess-Results](#)



Moller, Sophus Mechlenburg - Cao, Jason [B96] World Youth U16 Olympiad 2014 Győr (5.6), 16.12.2014 With [analysis](#) by Mihail Marin

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qe2 e6 9.0–0–0 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.g4 Be7 12.Bg2 Rc8 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 Qc4 16.Qe1 b4 17.Bf1 Qc5 18.Nb3 Qb6 19.axb4 Qxb4 20.Kb1 Nc5 21.Bb5+ axb5 22.Rd4 Qxd4 23.Nxd4 b4 24.Na2 Bxe4 25.Rh2 d5 26.Nxb4 0–0 27.Qd2 Ra8 28.Nd3 Ra4 29.Qe3 Rfa8 30.Kc1 Bxd3 31.Nc6 Bd6 32.cxd3 Bxf4 0–1



An inspirational player to receive an award from - Judit Polgar

**Gedajlovic, Max - Kula, Dominik [A80] World Youth U16 Olympiad 2014 Győr (7.26),
18.12.2014** With [analysis](#) by Mihail Marin

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.h4 h6 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e3 d6 7.Qf3 e6 8.Qg3 Kf7 9.Qf3 Nc6 10.0-0-0
Bd7 11.Bc4 d5 12.Bb3 a6 13.Nge2 b5 14.Be5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Ng4 16.h5 g5 17.Rxd5 Nxe5 8.Rxd7+
Qxd7 19.Qxf5+ Ke7 20.Qe4 c5 21.f4 b4 22.Rd1 Qc7 23.fxe5 bxc3 24.Rd6 cxb2+ 25.Kb1 Raf8
26.Ng3 Bxe5 27.Rxe6+ Kd8 28.Rxe5 Rh7 29.Be6 Qb7 30.Rd5+ 1-0

Victoria Fundraiser (December 13) by Roger Patterson

A small Active chess tournament was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Victoria on Saturday, December 13th with all proceeds donated to the 2015 Grand Pacific Open. Roger Patterson captured the first place trophy with a near perfect score of 4.5, surrendering only a last round draw to Patrick Huang. Paul Leblanc finished second, losing only to Patterson. The U1700 trophy was won by Bernie Stanley who was competing in his first tournament. Second U1700 was Matthew Geng. The U1400 prize was taken by Fred Wissemann.



(photo by Mark Dutton)

Emmanuel Baptist Church provided the playing site free of charge and Ross Richardson made a much appreciated donation. In total, \$165 was raised to help offset expenses for the 2015 Grand Pacific Open. [This report with crosstable](#)

35th Crespi Memorial (December 6-13)

En route to the World U16 Olympiad in Győr, Hungary, Max Gedajlovic took the opportunity to play in the Crespi Memorial in Milan, Italy. Held in remembrance of Edoardo Crespi (1849-1910), the founder of the Milanese Chess Society in 1880, the tournament was originally specified to occur every four years but has been an annual event for at least the past fifteen years. The Open Section of twenty-eight players included three grandmasters, headed by eventual winner Eduardas Rozentalis of Lithuania – Gedajlovic had the pleasure of playing him in the first round. Max scored 4.0/7 before having to depart early to get to Győr for the first round of the Olympiad. [History](#) (have Google translate the page for you), [crosstable](#).

Vancouver West Open #2 (December 6-7)

As with the inaugural event in October there were three sections: a two-day Open for adults and stronger juniors, a two-day Junior Open, and a one-day Junior Open. Both the two-day sections consisted of six games played at the time control of one hour per player (50 minutes with a 10-second increment), the minimum necessary for regular rating; the one-day section was five games at 25 minutes with a 5-second increment.

The two-day Open attracted twenty-two players, testing their skills against each other and competing for a generous prize fund which included a guaranteed first prize of \$600. There were four players rated over 2000, but the upsets began in round one as Alfred Pechisker lost to Ethan Low and Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj should have lost to Maven Zheng (he drew). Round two saw top-ranked Mayo Fuentebella get nicked for a draw by Ethan's brother Kevin. After the first day the only player left with a perfect score was Alisher Sanetullaev; he drew with Uranchimeg Nyamdorj in round four while Fuentebella beat Pechisker, then lost to Fuentebella in round five. This left Mayo in the driver's seat going into the last round but he unexpectedly lost to the surging Joe Roback, leaving Joe in clear first place with 5.0/6. Mayo, Davaa-Ochir, and Alisher split the second/third prizes with 4.5 points. For the U1600 prizes Maven Zheng was also a clear winner with 3.5 points, while second and third were shared by Robert Hao, Ethan Low, James Li, and newcomer Shervin Shahabi-Gharib.



Joe and Maxim with Joe's hat

As in October, Ryan Leong topped the eighteen player two-day Junior Open, this time with a perfect 6.0/6. One pairing peculiarity: Jason Shao misunderstood the schedule for round four and lost by forfeit to Leong, yet despite this the correct pairing for the last round was Leong-Shao again; because the previous pairing was decided by forfeit rather than an actual game, FIDE does not consider the second pairing invalid. Other prize winners included Daniel Wang, Jason Shao, Kevin Liu, and Angelina Yang (overall), Jenny and Jim Jiang (U1100), Anna Van and Elvin Sun (U1000), and Bill Wang, Colby Liu, and Jason Qian (U900). Daniel Zhang came clear first in the main one-day Junior Open, while other prize winners were Bruce Zhang, Richard Chen, Severn Nie, Colin Wang, Vincent Guo, Jason Chen, Artin Hajhosseinlou, and Terry Zhiren Xu. And in the U500 one-day section, Antonia Bonnis was the overall winner, while Eric Shi, Denman Hertz, Ethan YuBo Wang, and Jerry Zhang were also prizewinners. [West Open crosstable](#); [junior crosstables](#)

Washington Class Championships (November 28-30)

As reported last issue, the standings for the Master Section of the Washington Class Championships were not available as we went to press. The tournament has since been rated by the USCF, and we can now report from those [crosstables](#) that Tanraj Sohal tied for second with Tian Sang and Roland Feng, a half point behind winner Nick Raptis.

SIR GEORGE THOMAS IN NORTH VANCOUVER

In December 1925 a team of six crack British badminton players travelled across Canada, giving exhibitions and generally promoting what at the time was still a relatively young sport. The team was captained by Sir George Thomas (1881-1972), one of the world's leading players. He remains the most successful player ever in the All England Open Badminton Championships (considered the unofficial world championships in that era) with twenty-one titles; he authored a leading text on the sport; in 1934 he was co-founder of the International Badminton Federation and was its president from 1934 to 1955; and he donated the Thomas Cup, still awarded to the winner of the World Men's Team Badminton Championships.



Sir George was also a tennis player of note, reaching the Wimbledon quarter- and semi-finals on several occasions. And finally, which explains our interest in him, Sir George was also a chess player of some ability. British champion in 1923 and 1934, he had his best chess result at Hastings 1934-5, where he tied for first with Euwe and Flohr after defeating Capablanca and Botvinnik in consecutive rounds. He was named an International Master by FIDE in 1950 and an International Arbiter two years later.

The British squad played their first British Columbia exhibition games in Kelowna on Thursday, 17 December 1925 before spending two full days in Vancouver on the weekend of December 18/19. The main Vancouver display took place at the Drill Hall on Saturday afternoon, followed by a banquet that evening at the Vancouver Club; on Sunday they were guests of the Jericho Golf Club. There is no mention of chess in contemporary newspapers, but from a later account we learn that Sir George was persuaded to give a simultaneous exhibition in North Vancouver:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *MORNING POST*:

Sir,

Some time ago Sir George Thomas visited Vancouver with a Badminton team and showed us how the shuttlecock should be shuttled. There are some chess enthusiasts living in North Vancouver who have built a little shack for a club. They were aware that Sir George was a British chess champion, and they determined to get hold of him for an exhibition game. He was very sorry, he told us, that he could not accept the invitation. He had refused to play in Montreal and Toronto. The strain of travelling had been great. He had got in at five o'clock that morning, and was leaving on Monday. He was booked up every moment.

His refusal was accepted with a casual mention of the little shack we had built, and, like a good sport, he cancelled all his other arrangements and played our first twelve boards simultaneously. We did our best, but very courteously he defeated all of us. The sportsmanlike disregard for his own comfort shown by Sir George Thomas in visiting our shack to help our chess has given us much pleasure. We have made a chess board from British Columbia wood which bears this inscription:- "Presented by the North Vancouver Chess Club to the City of London Chess Club in appreciation of our visitor, your member, Sir George Thomas."

The chess board has started out on its 6,000 miles journey to the Agent-General for British Columbia in London for presentation.

Yours, etc.,

R.F. Cruise

Vancouver Club,
Vancouver, B.C. April 3rd [1926]

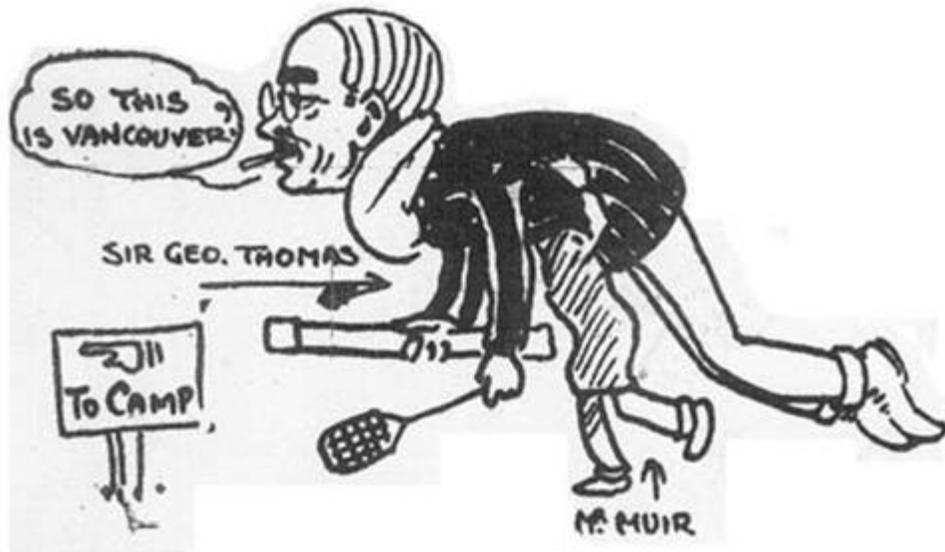
[Printed in the *British Chess Magazine*, June 1926, pp. 275-276]

No games have come to light from this contest, but we can present the following, played in Winnipeg some five years later when Sir George again captained a team of British badminton players in a trans-Canada tour. Dave Creemer did not move to Vancouver until 1941, but thereafter was an important player and organizer in this province; he wrote a chess column in the *Vancouver Province* newspaper from 1947 until his untimely passing in 1953, and the current B.C. Junior Championship trophy is named in memory of Creemer.

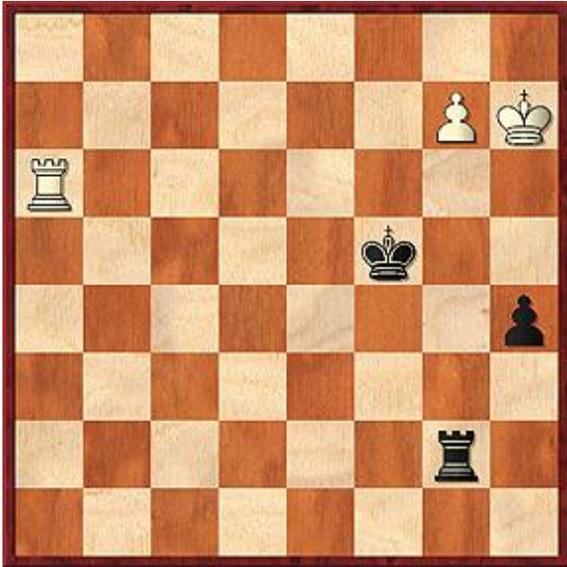
Thomas, George Alan - Creemer, Dave [E61] Simul Winnipeg, 19.11.1930

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.e4 d6 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.Qd2 Qc8 11.Bh6 c5 12.Qg5 cxd4 13.Nb5 Qc5 14.Qh4 e5 15.Ng5 Rfe8 16.Rae1 Nf8 17.f4 a6 18.Na3 Bxh6 19.Qxh6 Ng4 20.Qh3 Ne3 21.Rf2 f6 22.Nf3 exf4 23.Nc2 Bxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 25.Nd2 Nxc2 26.Nxe4 Qxc4 27.Nxd6 Qc6 28.Rc1 Qxd6 29.Rfxc2 Re8 30.Qd3 Re3 31.Qc4+ Ne6 32.Qc8+ Kg7 33.Qxa6 Kh6 34.Rd1 Nc5 35.Qc8 f5 36.Rcd2 Ne4 37.Rd3 Qb4 38.Qc1 g5 39.Rxd4 Re1+ 40.Rxe1 Qxd4+ [*Manitoba Free Press*, 29 November 1930] 0-1

A caricature of Sir George from the time of his visit to Vancouver; according to the caption, "Seeing it was Christmas time, Mr. Muir thought a little fairy story would be appropriate. With the assistance of Sir George Thomas he staged Jack the giant-killer very effectively." [Jack G. Muir was a leading local badminton player, presumably he defeated Sir George in one of the exhibitions.]



BI-WEEKLY BAFFLER by Valer Eugen Demian



Baffler 30: one-minute puzzle

In the heat of the battle precious half points are won by either inspiration or mostly solid knowledge gained by applying the same concepts over and over again on a regular basis during our home chess preparation. This rook and pawn endgame arose in a game played these days by top GMs. It is Black to move and funnily enough he also sits at a crossroads: one move leads to a draw, while the other leads to a loss. Can you figure it out within a minute time frame, to mimic the pressure from the real game? If you can, your endgame knowledge is always going to reward your efforts with those precious half points!

Answer #29:



It is important to identify what is going on around Kc4, where it could escape and how that should help us mate it. The weak point seems to be the d5-pawn and we quickly realise there is no way to defend it in time:
 1. Nxc3+ Kxc3 opens up more escapes
 1. Ke5 Qh2+ and no mate at the next move
 1. Qxh1 Kxd5 and White cannot cover both c4

and d5 for mate
 Of all the White pieces capable of reaching d5 the only one worthy of consideration is Nb5 if it could go to c7. Hmm, that square is occupied by a white pawn; let's push it and see what happens:
 1. c8=?
 If 1. c8=Q Bxb8 (covers c7 and d6) 2. Nd6++ Kxd5 and no mate. Same goes for 1. c8=R and c8=B
 1. c8=N might look more appealing than all 3 previously mentioned promotions since Knights are mighty useful around blocked positions like this one. All remaining here is to verify if we got it right:
 1... Bxb8 2. Nb6#
 1... b3 2. Nc7#
 1... Kxd5 2. Nc7#
 1... Rxb8 2. Nc7#
 1... Bxd5 allows most possible mates: 2. Nbx7#, 2. Ncd6#, 2. Nc7# and Nbd6#. Impressive, right?

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

2014-2015, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

Active Grand Prix 2014

January 4, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

East Vancouver January Active

January 11, Vancouver Bridge Centre
[Details](#)

2015 B.C. Active Championship

January 17-18, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

Vancouver West Open #3

January 24-25, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

Knightmare January Quads

January 25, Burnaby
[Details](#)

2015 B.C. Open

February 7-9, Richmond
[Details](#)

Knightmare February Quads

February 15, Burnaby
[Details](#)

Knightmare March Quads

March 8, Burnaby
[Details](#)

9th Grand Pacific Open

April 3-6, Victoria
[Details](#)

7th Bishops of Bowser Tournament

August 9, Bowser
[Details](#)