

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #310

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 to everyone for a happy holiday season!

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

European Excursions

We left Leon Piasetski in the middle of the [9th Figueira da Foz Open](#) (November 21-28) in Portugal. After taking three byes at the beginning Leon scored 4.0/6 in the games he played, finishing in a tie for fifth with 5.5 points. American GM Timur Gareyev crushed the field, giving up but a single draw in taking first place, a point and a half ahead of Krzysztof Jakubowski in second; Canadian Kevin Spraggett finished with 5.0/9. Gareyev subsequently wrote a report on the event for [ChessBase](#), including comments on a minor dispute with Spraggett (see notes to Jakubowski-Gareyev), his harrowing misadventures after the tournament had ended, and a photo including Gareyev, Spraggett, and Piasetski. Next event for Leon is the [Qatar Masters Open](#) (December 19-30) which is a tad strong – there are eighteen players registered over 2700, including Carlsen, Kramnik, Giri, So, and Karjakin in the top five spots. Good luck!

Meanwhile Max Gedajlovic is currently also in Europe, playing in the [2nd Sunway Sitges Festival](#) (December 12-20), Sitges being a Catalonia city some thirty-five kilometres south-west of Barcelona. After six rounds Peruvian legend Julio Granda Zuniga is tied for first at the top of the ninety-two player field with 5.0/6, while Max has 3.0 points after facing three grandmasters.

Agrest, Evgenij - Gedajlovic, Max [A30] Sunway Sitges int 2nd (3), 14.12.2015

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.b3 d6 8.Bb2 a6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Nbd7 11.Qe3 0-0 12.Nd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Qc7 14.f4 Rfe8 15.Qf3 Rac8 16.Rac1 Bf8 17.h3 Qa7 18.Rfd1 Qa8 19.Qxa8 Rxa8 20.e3 Rac8 21.Nde2 Rb8 22.Nd4 Rbc8 23.g4 Nb8 24.Kf3 Red8 25.Nde2 Nfd7 26.Rd2 Nc6 27.Ng3 Nc5 28.Rcd1 Rd7 29.Ke2 Rb8 30.Nge4 Rbd8 31.Nxc5 bxc5 32.Ba3 Nb8 33.Ne4 Be7 34.g5 f5 35.gxf6 gxf6 36.f5 exf5 37.Ng3 Kf7 38.Nxf5 Ke6 39.Ng7+ Kf7 40.Nh5 Rg8 41.Nf4 Rdd8 42.Kf1 Nc6 43.Rg2 f5 44.Rxg8 Rxg8 45.Rd5 Kf6 46.Bb2+ Kg5 47.Bc3 Nd8 48.Ke2 Rf8 49.Rd1 Kh6 50.Nd5 Bh4 51.Rg1 Ne6 52.Rg2 Re8 53.Kd3 Rf8 54.a3 Ng5 55.Bf6 Rf7 56.b4 cxb4 57.axb4 Ra7 58.Be7 Ra8 59.Bxd6 Ne6 60.c5 Bg5 61.Kc4 Re8 62.Ra2 Ra8 63.Nf4 Ng7 64.Kd5 Bd8 65.b5 Ne8 66.Rxa6 Nf6+ 67.Ke6 Rc8 68.Kxf5 Kg7 69.Ne6+ Kf7 70.Ra7+ 1-0

Gedajlovic, Max - Agostinho, Diogo [E90] Sunway Sitges int 2nd (4), 15.12.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.e4 e6 8.Bd3 exd5 9.exd5 Re8+ 10.Be3 Bh6 11.0-0 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Rxe3 13.Qd2 Re7 14.Qh6 Ne8 15.Ng5 f5 16.Rae1 Nf6 17.Qh4 Rxe1 18.Rxe1 Qf8 19.Nb5 Na6 20.a3 Kg7 21.Nxh7 1-0

December Active (December 13)



The last of the monthly active tournaments at the Vancouver Chess School for this year attracted a total of thirty-six players, twenty-three in the Open and thirteen in the Junior Section, the numbers no doubt boosted by the inclusion of a pot-luck lunch for the occasion. Four players over 2000 vied for first place along with the usual crowd of hungry juniors but in the end it was Alfred Pechisker and Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj who finished atop the field with identical 5.0/6 scores. Both lost in the third round to Brian McLaren and Kevin Low respectively, but they in turn drew with each other and lost to Davaa and Alfred to finish with 4.5 points. Brandon Zhu and Victor Zheng tied for the U1800 prizes, while Daniel Du and Kai Wang split the U1600 prizes. [Standings](#) and [link to photos](#).



The Junior Section demonstrated that ratings occasional mean something, as the top three by rating finished in the top three places: Ryan Yang, Jerry Wang, and Bruce Zhang. The other competitors who won medals for scoring two points or above were Eric Jiang, Ethan Song, Vincent Guo, Loukas Kyriakides, Michael Chen, Jeremy Liang, Jacky Tang, Benjamin Ruan, and Jeremy Reyes. The winners of both sections now join the other monthly qualifiers in the year-end [Active Grand Prix](#) on December 19, pitting all twelve champions (or their replacements) in a final winner-take-all competition at the chess school.



In addition to the two active sections there was also a girls' only event, the 2015 Vancouver West All Girls Open, which attracted fifteen players. The main prizes were five trophies distributed by rating class, which were won by Agata Seyfi (>1000), Jenny Jiang (U1000), Jocelyn Reyes (U800), Gillian Mok (U600), and Simarleen Kaur (U400), while Jemelyn Reyes, Veronica Guo, Pavni Santosh Labade, Atrina Shadgan, Sophia Yu, Stephanie Gu, Angela Zhou, and Rachel Worland were awarded medals. [Standings](#) and link to photos.

B.C. Junior Championship (December 4-6)

Organizationally at least, this year's B.C. Junior Championship was very similar to the one last year. Held again under the auspices of [Chess2Inspire](#), the tournament took place at Lansdowne Centre, Richmond in three sections, Championship, Reserve, and Booster. All sections consisted of five rounds, but the Championship and Reserve were spread over two and a half days with a time control of 90 + 30, while the Booster was a one-day event at 25 + 5 per player.



In the Championship Section there were ten entrants, compared to eighteen last year. One previous winner, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, had graduated in the interim but otherwise there was no

apparent reason why the numbers were lower. The main contenders were the same as last year, John and Joshua Doknjas, Kai Richardson, and Luke Pulfer. John and Joshua were the highest rated by a substantial margin and in the end shared first place with 4.0/5, although apart from a relatively short last round draw between themselves they also gave up draws to Kai Richardson and Callum Lehingrat respectively. John's draw was in the second round and Joshua's in the third, so on tiebreak (cumulative score) Joshua won the qualification spot for next year's B.C. Closed. The rest of the field finished pretty much in rating order with the exception of Callum Lehingrat, who in tying for third achieved a performance rating almost 400 points higher than his actual rating of 1622; he won the U1900 trophy for his efforts.

The twenty-two player Reserve Section was won by Danny Liu with a perfect 5.0/5, a point ahead of Joseph Dobrzanski and Andrew Hempstapat. Notable was the result of three girls, Sherry Tian, Agata Seyfi, and Anna Van, who were all victorious in the last round to finish with 3.0 points. After computer tiebreaks were applied Sherry was awarded the second U1200 trophy (Brian Zhang won the first), while Agata and Anna won prizes as the top placing girls.



Whatever numbers were missing from the other two sections were more than made up for in the Booster, which had eighty-six(!) entrants, over half of whom were unrated. Top-ranked Ryan Yang took the first place over Colby Liu on tiebreaks after both scored 5.0/5; Eric Wen came third. The U800 trophies went to Johnny Zhou, Ryan Yu, and Alessandra Lu, while the unrated prizewinners were Eric Luo, Marty Bajarunas, and FangMing Zhang. Elaine Fan and Emma Doede were the top girls, and Borna Amjadi and Eva Shu received medals as top performers. Many thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who helped make the event happen: Jeremy Hui, Glen Lee, Jonah Lee, Ron Hui, Caroline Hui, Michael Lo, Lara Lo, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Dave Doknjas, Curtis Lister, Beau Pulfer, Stephen Wright, Joe Roback. And a special thank you to site sponsors Lansdowne Centre and all the players and parents. [Standings](#) and more photos.

Richardson, Kai - Doknjas,John [A67] BC jun Richmond (2.1), 05.12.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.Nf3 a6 10.Bd3 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qe1 Re8 13.Qg3 c4 14.Bc2 Nc5 15.f5 b4 16.Nd1 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Rxe4 18.Ng5 Bxf5 19.Rxf5 gxf5 20.Nxe4 fxe4 21.Bg5 f6 ½-½

Lehingrat, Callum - Doknjas, Joshua [B90] BC jun Richmond (3.1), 05.12.2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 0–0 10.g4 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Be2 Bh4+ 14.Kf1 Be7 15.c4 Be6 16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.Kf2 Nc6 18.Rhd1 Nb4 19.Rd2 Rxd2 20.Bxd2 Rd8 21.Bc3 f6 22.Na5 b6 23.Nb3 Nd3+ 24.Bxd3 Rxd3 25.Nd2 Kf7 26.Ke2 Rd8 27.b3 Bd6 28.Ne4 Bc7 29.Rd1 Rxd1 30.Kxd1 a5 31.Ke2 Ke7 32.Kd3 Kd7 33.a4 Bd8 34.b4 Kc6 35.Nd2 Bc7 36.Ne4 Bf7 37.Be1 Bg6 38.Kc3 axb4+ 39.Kxb4 h5 40.h3 f5 41.gxf5 Bxf5 42.h4 Bd8 43.Bg3 g6 44.Bf2 Be7+ 45.Kc3 Bh3 46.Bg3 Bg2 47.Ng5 Bf6 48.Kb3 Bxg5 49.hxg5 Bxf3 50.Bxe5 Kc5 51.Kc3 h4 52.Bd4+ Kc6 53.Kb4 h3 54.Bg1 Bd1 55.a5 bxa5+ 56.Kxa5 Bf3 57.Kb4 Kd6 58.Kc3 Ke5 59.Kd2 Ke4 60.Ke1 Bg4 61.Kf2 Kf4 62.Bh2+ Kxg5 63.Bd6 Be6 64.Kg3 Kf6 ½–½

Doknjas, John - Pulfer, Luke [A84] BC jun Richmond (3.2), 05.12.2015

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.e3 Bd6 5.b3 f5 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0–0 Qe7 8.Bb2 0–0 9.Qc1 b6 10.Ba3 Nbd7 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Nc3 Ne4 13.Ne2 Bb7 14.Rd1 Kh8 15.Qb2 Qe7 16.b4 Ba6 17.Rac1 Rac8 18.cxd5 Bxd3 19.dxe6 Ndf6 20.Rxd3 Qxe6 21.h3 g5 22.Ne5 Rg8 23.f3 Nd6 24.Rdc3 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Rxc6 26.Rxc6 Rf8 27.Qb3 Rf6 28.e4 fxe4 29.fxe4 Nf4 30.Nxf4 Qxb3 31.axb3 gxf4 32.Rxd6 Rxd6 33.Nf7+ Kg7 34.Nxd6 1–0

Doknjas, Joshua - Richardson, Kai [C54] BC jun Richmond (4.2), 06.12.2015

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.Bb3 a6 7.0–0 Ba7 8.Re1 h6 9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.Nf1 Ng6 11.Ng3 0–0 12.h3 Bd7 13.d4 Re8 14.Bc2 Bc6 15.Be3 d5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bxe3 18.exf6 Bb6 19.e5 gxf6 20.Qg4+ Kf8 21.Nh5 Rxe5 22.Qg7+ Ke8 23.Nxf6+ Ke7 24.Rxe5+ Kd6 25.Ree1 Qf8 26.Qg3+ Kc5 27.b4+ Kb5 28.Qd3# 1–0

Washington Class Championships (November 27-29)

Held at the North Seattle Community College on the American thanksgiving weekend, this traditional event drew one hundred and sixty players, including a smattering from this province: Joshua Doknjas and Roger Patterson (Master), Nathan Shao (Expert), Paul Leblanc and Neil Doknjas (A Class), and Brian Sullivan (B Class). Joshua Doknjas tied for third with William Schill (both with 4.0 points) behind overall winner Roland Feng and Nick Raptis, while John Doknjas placed third in the adjunct blitz event after Dmitry Skorchenko and Nick Raptis (again). [USCF crosstables](#); photos on [Facebook](#) (scroll down).

BCCF Junior Membership (by Paul Leblanc)

The executive has passed the following motion: that the regulations of the tournament fees for BCCF sanctioned events be amended as follows:

1) BCCF Player Rating Fees – Junior only events: \$3.00 / player (multi-day events), \$1.50 / player (single day events)

2) BCCF Rating Fees from all-junior events will be administered separately by the BCCF Treasurer and is designated for the support of BCCF junior event expenses.

3) This motion takes effect January 1, 2016

Note: Previously, BCCF fees were waived for tournaments where all participants were juniors. Effective January 1st, junior event organizers will be required to submit BCCF fees to the CFC when submitting events for rating.

CMA Blog

Otherwise known as the Chess'n Math Association, CMA is Canada's national scholastic chess organization and is based in Montreal. Now thirty years old, CMA is best known in these parts as the organizer of the annual Chess Challenge, a series of regional and provincial tournaments culminating in a national team championship held on the Victoria Day weekend in May. CMA recently revamped its [website](#), including the introduction of a weekly [Across Canada Blog](#). This is written by our own Victoria Jung-Doknjas, who apart from raising junior champions has also been involved in chess as a player, organizer, photographer, and most recently as head of delegation for the Canadian contingent at the 2015 WYCCC. Her report on the latter can be found as one of the blog entries at the above link – check it out!

Ashley Tapp

“Chess Girl” Ashley Tapp has been kept busy of late with the rigours of high school, but has found time for a couple of chess initiatives. UBC is currently celebrating its centennial, and to celebrate the occasion Ashley and UBC Chess Club President Laurent Chaurette arranged for the installation of a framed photo of the 1971 Fischer-Taimanov Candidates' Quarter-Final match in the (old) Student Union Building, the site of the match.



Laurent Chaurette and Ashley Tapp

Ashley has also been asked to write occasional articles for [chesskid.com](#), the kid-friendly younger sibling of [chess.com](#). Her first such article may be found [here](#).

Victoria Championship/Open (January 15-17) by Paul Leblanc

All positions have been filled in the Scheveningen-style Victoria Championship, 15-17 January 2016. Team Victoria will comprise Jason Cao, Valeria Gansvind, Howard Wu, Harry Moore and Roger Patterson. The Rest of the World team will comprise Tanraj Sohal, Jack Yoos, John

Doknjas, Joshua Doknjas and Jason Kenney. The Victoria Open, to be held at the same time and location is accepting entries. The pre-registered list is [here](#).



IAs Lynn Stringer and Mark Dutton make the colour-determining coin toss for the Championship

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Harper, Bruce - Opponent [B23] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

Sometimes a game really comes down to a single position that is worthy of attention. Or that is at least amusing - to the winner, not the losers.

1.g3 [0:02:56] **1...Nf6** [0:03:00] **2.Bg2** [0:02:56] **2...e6** [0:02:59] **3.d3** [0:02:55] **3...c5** [0:02:57] **4.Nc3** [0:02:54] **4...d5** [0:02:54] **5.e4** [0:02:52] White is willing to play without queens, although the position is equal. **5...dxe4** [0:02:52] **6.dxe4** [0:02:51] **6...Qxd1+** [0:02:51] **7.Nxd1** [0:02:51] **7...Nc6** [0:02:48] **8.c3** [0:02:50]



White keeps Black's c6-knight out of d4, but it can now invade d3 via e5. **8...Be7?** [0:02:45] **8...Ne5!** **9.f4** [0:02:48] **9...0-0** [0:02:39] **10.e5** [0:02:39] Ambitious, but White's entire approach to the opening is ambitious. **10...Nd5** [0:02:38] **11.a3!?** [0:02:38] With the idea of 12.c4, restricting Black's knights - and maybe taking the one on c6. However, this is something of an illusion, because c3-c4 can be strongly answered with ...Nd4! **11...c4?** [0:02:34] After several seconds' thought, Black decides the threat is real. **12.Ne3!** [0:02:32] The exclamation mark isn't because 12.Ne3 is hard to see - it's because it's strong. **12...Nxe3** [0:02:31] **13.Bxe3** [0:02:32] **13...Na5** [0:02:30] **14.0-0-0** [0:02:27]



What a difference a few bad moves can make! Now White has the position he wanted. **14...f6** [0:02:22] **15.Nf3** [0:02:25] **15...Kf7** [0:02:07] **16.Kc2** [0:02:21] **16...Rd8** [0:02:01] **17.Rxd8** [0:02:17] **17...Bxd8** [0:02:00] **18.Rd1** [0:02:16] **18...Be7** [0:01:57]



19.Nd2?! [0:01:59] An imprecise move which gives Black the opportunity to develop his c8-bishop with **19...Bd7**. **19...Ke8?** [0:01:54] **20.Ne4** [0:01:56] Now things are more or less back on track. White's knight is looking at d6. **20...Bd7** [0:01:50] **21.Nd6+** [0:01:49] **21...Bxd6?** [0:01:48] The natural reaction, but this allows White to escape the threat of ...Ba4+ with tempo. **21...Kf8** was better. **22.Rxd6** [0:01:49]



22...Rc8? [0:01:19] There was no reason for Black to give up his a-pawn. Not only is it a pawn, but its loss increases the scope of White's bishops. Black's 30-second time deficit undoubtedly contributed to this oversight. **23.Bxa7** [0:01:43] **23...fxe5** [0:01:17] **24.fxe5** [0:01:41] **24...Ke7** [0:01:13] **25.Bd4?!** [0:01:32] **25.Be3** was more precise. **25...Bc6?** [0:01:06]



26.Rxe6+?! [0:01:22] Interestingly, the engine considers both 26.Bh3 and 26.Bf1 to be better than 26.Rxe6+. **26...Kxe6?** [0:01:01] 26...Kf7! would force White to give up the exchange, although he would still stand slightly better. **27.Bh3+** [0:01:20] **27...Kd5** [0:00:56] **28.Bxc8** [0:01:20]



You have to agree, White's bishops are very nice. But it will come as a surprise that Black resigns after only another four moves. **28...Ke4?** [0:00:51] Where exact is Black's king going? **29.e6** [0:01:11] Now Black realizes that it's up to his pieces to stop White's e-pawn, since his king has gone in the wrong direction. But White threatens Bd7, so Black decides to put his knight on c6, which means moving his bishop out of the way. **29...Ba4+** [0:00:48] **30.Kd2** [0:01:06] **30...Nc6** [0:00:43] It's not fair to question this move, since 30...Nb3+ and 31...Nxd4 loses too. **31.Bxb7!** [0:01:03] **31...Kd5** [0:00:39] Black had to get out of the pin with 31...Kf5, although after 32.Bc8 he is just too many pawns behind. **32.e7** [0:01:00]



Here it is - the position we've been waiting for all game. Black's c6-knight can't take White's e7-pawn, because it's pinned. And it can't move out of the way so that Black's a4-bishop can cover e8, for the same reason. In short, Black's c6-knight is worse than useless, so... Black resigns.
1-0

HAPPY SEVENTIETH, DUNCAN! by Bruce Harper

[B.C. grandmaster Duncan Suttles turns seventy on December 21; in his honour we present the following by Bruce Harper, first published in these pages ten years ago. Bruce has since gone on to co-author *Chess on the Edge*, a three volume collection containing all of Suttles' games - ed.]

The Age of Heroes in chess has passed, extinguished by the instantaneous spread of chess fashion via ChessBase and the internet, remorseless analysis by Fritz and other chess "engines," over-analysis of openings and the general homogenization of chess styles. "New" ideas, most of which are old, are (re-) discovered by teams of seconds armed with computers, rather than by players thinking at the board. And, with rare exceptions, most grandmasters play in the same active, positional, dynamic, technically proficient, omnivorous style, which synthesizes all that has gone before them.



Suttles in 1961

It was not always so. In the 1950s and 1960s, Botvinnik played "correctly," Tal was winning with stunning combinations which people (not computers) refuted only days or weeks later, Petrosian's "anti-chess" drove people crazy, and no one knew what Fischer would do next, on or off the board. Canada was fortunate to have a local hero – Duncan Suttles, who turns a young seventy this month.

Suttles won the Canadian Championship in 1969, became a grandmaster in 1972 (Cold War politics denied him the title several years earlier) and represented Canada in the chess Olympiad many times. His chess style was distinctive and unique. Despite the inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible way Suttles played – or perhaps because of it – he inspired a host of followers and imitators, who tread in his footsteps with varying degrees of success.

It is impossible to overstate the impact that Duncan had on B.C., and later Canadian, chess. His critics have accused him of ruining Canadian chess for a generation (high praise indeed!), and I have been told that I would have become a GM had it not been for Suttles (I don't think I needed much help to avoid that fate, but thank you for saving me, Duncan – just in case!). Classical players detested his iconoclastic approach to the game, especially when they lost to him (which was often) or when they didn't understand it (which was almost always).

Suttles' most famous trademark is probably the defence which begins with 1...g6. No one who understands this opening calls it anything but the "Rat" – the appalling and misleading name "Modern Defence" was an English creation.

Suttles played many memorable games with the Rat, winning quite a few of them. While he was the first B.C. player to have played this opening, he has not been the last. Elod Macskasy, GM Peter Biyiasas, Jonathan Berry and I all played it, as did Seattle super-GM Yasser Seirawan and various players I have worked with, including former Canadian Junior Champion Tyler Johnson and, more recently, Lesley and Andrea Cheng, Lara Heppenstall and my daughter Laura. Even if you forget how to play chess, you never forget how to play the Rat! Current B.C. Champion Jack Yoos has also been experimenting with the dark side.

My own experiences are interesting. When I was twelve I started playing in adult tournaments and learned about Duncan Suttles, then a rising chess star. I was so impressed that I started playing 1...g6, even though I had very little understanding of the ideas behind the opening. In my game scores, I initially described 1...g6 as the "Suttles Defence," or simply "Suttles." My results were not always good, although they probably were no better or worse than with other openings. Some of the games I lost were almost identical with later disasters which befell my students. But occasionally there was a game which more than made up for all the disasters:

Vogler, Russ - Harper, Bruce [B06] Vancouver, 30.06.1968

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.d5 Nf6? 5.e5 Ng8 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bb5+ Kf8 I would consider this a 13-year old's interpretation of Suttles' ideas. **8.Nc3 a6 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.Qe2 b5 11.h3 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nh6 13.Rg1 Ra7 14.e6 c4 15.Qe3 Rb7 16.Bf1 Nf5 17.Qe4 Qb6 18.Rg2 Bf6 19.Ne2 a5 20.c3 Na6 21.Kd1 Nc5 22.Qc2**



I still remember this as being one of the nicest positions I've ever had. **22...fxe6 23.dxe6 Nxe6 24.Qe4 Nc5 25.Be3 Nxe4 26.Bxb6 Nxc3+ 27.Nxc3 Rxb6 28.Nd5 Rc6 29.Re2 Ng3 30.Re1 Bxb2 31.Rb1 c3 32.Kc2 Nf5 33.Re4 b4 34.Rd1 Kf7 35.Ne3 Rhc8 36.Bc4+ Rxc4 37.Nxc4 Rxc4 38.Rxc4 Ne3+**



0-1

For while there was something of a break, as I played less chess and even fewer Rats, describing the openings as "Yechh!!," "Sut," "S," and the more elaborate "Reti-Mutant." On October 24th, 1970, I had a notable disaster against Peter Biyiasas, the opening (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6) being described as "Thing," with a post-game note "(Never play again)." I held to this, playing various other openings, but this period of abstinence didn't last. On June 23rd, 1971, I fell off the wagon. I was clearly in denial, though, as I described the opening in the game as a "King's Indian Defence," although I later wrote "Rat" on the scoresheet, in a different pen, for the first time using the proper name for the opening. The game was a keeper, and can be considered another milestone in my fall from chess grace:

Raymond, Harold - Harper, Bruce [A42] Peace Arch op Bellingham (3), 23.01.1971

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Nge2 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.Be3 Nh6 8.f3 f5 9.b4 f4 10.Bf2 Nf7 11.Qb3 g5 12.c5 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Rc1 Bd7 15.a4 g4 16.Rc2 Ng5 17.Ng1 a6 18.a5 0-0 19.Bb6 Qe8 20.Bd3 Ng6 21.Bc7 Rf6 22.b5 Nh4 23.Kf2 Rc8 24.b6 Rg6



White has badly misplayed his attack on the queenside, while Black has a dream position on the kingside. **25.Qb2 Bf8 26.Na2 Ba4 27.Rc3 gxf3 28.g3 Qd7 29.Nxf3 Nh3+ 30.Ke2 Qg4 31.Rf1 Nxf3 32.Rxf3 Ng1+ 33.Kf2 Nxf3 34.Be2** Now Black has mate in four, which I saw. What stuck in my mind ever since was the strange way so many pieces, including White's c3-rook and b3-queen, are in just the right places to make the mate work. **34...fxg3+ 35.Ke3 Bh6+ 36.Kd3 Ne1+ 37.Kc4 Qxe4#**



This game foreshadowed what was to come, but maybe I didn't want to press my luck, as there followed few Rats, but many French Defences, Benko Gambits and other openings. But clearly my increasingly frequent blitz sessions with Duncan were having an effect, as February 21st, 1972, saw a Portland Attack (1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 2.d3 g6 4.g4!?) against Oszvald (a win), and on March 10th, 1972, another "Rat" against Hladek (also a win). By the time I got to the B.C. Championship in May 1972, it was all Rats and Pircs, with some success.

The rest, as they say, is history. By the mid-1970s, Duncan and I were playing four- or five-hour blitz sessions several times a week, and his "strange," "bizarre" and "weird" style seemed quite normal to me. Decades later, at the Western Canadian Open [2004], I played five Rats/Pircs/King's Indians with Black (scoring 4 out of 5), as opposed to five different first moves with White (scoring 3 out of 5). Even Duncan's (somewhat apocryphal) inability to win with White seems to have had some influence on my play...

Surprising as it may seem in today's world, where most aspiring young players have paid coaches and trainers, who follow a systematic and structure curriculum (the Soviet Union's greatest bequest to the world), neither I nor anyone else ever received a formal lesson from Duncan, nor was he ever paid for the knowledge he imparted to others. We just played chess. Even at the height of his fame, Duncan also played in local tournaments, when other top players would have refused to play or demanded impossible appearance fees (in 1973, Duncan won the Canadian and U.S. Opens, then finished the summer by playing in – and winning – the Victoria Labour Day tournament). More recently, Duncan continues to donate his time and energy to fund-raising events.



Bughouse: Duncan Suttles and Bruce Harper vs. Valentina Goutor and Tyler Johnson, March Open, 2002

It is hard to find anything other than nice things to say about Grandmaster Duncan Suttles, who has shown us all how to stay young. But you might be wondering just what inspired us all to play 1...g6, refuse to develop our pieces when there were pawns to be moved, try to destroy enemy centres rather than create our own, and so on. In any good blitz session with Suttles, you were likely to see games like this:

Rivera, Donato - Suttles, Duncan [A42] US op San Juan, 1965

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.f3 f5 8.c5 Nf6 9.Bb5+ Kf7 10.h3 f4
11.Bf2 g5 12.Nge2 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Qb3 g4 15.0-0-0 g3 16.Be1 Ng6 17.Ng1 Nh4 18.Bf1



Who's developed now? White's kingside pieces have returned to their original squares, and the pressure on g2 is annoying, but how can Black break through on the kingside? He can't, but he can open a second front. 18...a6 19.Kb1 b5 20.Nge2 Nd7 21.Nc1 Nc5 22.Qc2 Bd7 23.b4 Na4 24.Nb3 Nxc3+ 25.Bxc3 Qb6 26.Na5 Rhc8 27.Qd2 Ra7 28.Bb2 Bf6 29.Rc1 Rxc1+ 30.Bxc1 Bd8 31.Kc2 Rc7+ 32.Kd1 Rc8 33.Nb3 Qa7 34.Bd3 Bb6

One of Suttles' greatest strengths was his uncanny ability to find the best squares for all his pieces. 35.Re1 Bf2 36.Bf1 Bxe1 37.Qxe1



White has started to set up his pieces for the next game, but he's so rattled he has his king and queen backwards. 37...Qg1 38.Qe2 Bxh3 0-1

Mihajlovic, Miodrag - Suttles, Duncan [A42] US op Chicago (7), 19.08.1973

1.d4 g6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.Nge2 Nh6 7.d5 Ne7 8.h3 f5 9.f3 f4 10.Bf2 0-0
11.Nc1 g5 12.Nd3 c5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Qd2 Be6 15.b3 Nf7 16.Rd1 h5 17.Be2 Qc8 18.Rc1 Ng6
19.Nb4 Rd8 20.Qc2 Qb7 21.a3 Bf8 22.Rb1 Kg7 23.c5 a5 24.Nba2 d5 25.Bd3 d4 26.Na4 Nh6
27.Nc1 Qf7 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4



With the centre settled, Black now begins a version of the "standard roll-up." **29...g4 30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Ke2 Be7 32.Nb6 Ra7 33.Nb3 g3 34.Be1 Nh4 35.Kf1 Rh8 36.Na5**



36...Ng4 37.fxg4 f3 38.Rxh4 Rxh4 39.Be2 fxe2+
 Here White resigned. Black has a mate in four, in a spooky parallel to my game with Raymond: 40.Kxe2 Bxg4+ 41.Kd2 Bg5+ 42.Kd3 Qf1+, etc.



Who wouldn't want to play chess like this? Happy Birthday, Duncan – and may you have many more!

Postscript: ICC is always a good way to relax after working hard writing a chess article. Immediately after finishing this birthday tribute, I played the follow 3-minute game on ICC:

Guest5788 - Kingwalker, ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club, 08.12.2005

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.a4 b4 7.Nd1 a5 8.c4 Nc6 9.Ne2 h6 10.Be3 e5
11.d5 Nce7 12.Rc1 f5 13.f3 Nf6 14.Qc2 f4 15.Bf2 g5 16.b3 h5 17.Nb2 Ng6 18.Nd3 g4 19.c5 Bd7
20.c6 Bc8 21.Nb2 Nh7 22.Nc4 Ng5 23.Ng1 Bf6 24.Be2 Kf7 25.fxg4 hxg4



26.Nd2 g3 27.hxg3 Rxh1 28.g4 Qh8 29.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 30.Bxf3 Qh2 31.Kd2 Bh4 0-1

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>

“Any interested parties that would like to take over the TD duties at UBC please contact me [Aaron]. It would be preferred that interested parties be able to take over on a long term basis.

Thank you.

Vancouver Rapid Chess League 2015-16

Ongoing, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

Active Grand Prix (invitational)

December 19, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

Junior Woodpusher Quads

January 3, Burnaby

[Details](#)

January Active

January 10, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

Victoria Open

January 15-17, Victoria

[Details](#)

Vancouver West Open #9

January 23-24, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

UBCSUO Active Championship

January 30, Kelowna

[Details](#)

Junior Woodpusher Quads

January 31, Burnaby

[Details](#)

B.C. Open

February 6-8, Richmond

[Details](#)

February Active

February 13, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)