

# BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #330

Your editor welcomes any and all submissions – news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to BC players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. To subscribe, send me an e-mail ([swright2@telus.net](mailto: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

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## HERE AND THERE

### European Excursions

With school holidays approaching several BC juniors have taken the opportunity to participate in tournaments in Europe (while simultaneously escaping from our recent weather conditions). Max Gedajlovic was a participant in two of the events constituting the [London Chess Classic](#). In a nine-round [FIDE Open](#) (December 9-18) with some two hundred and forty entrants Max scored 5.0 points, roughly on a par with his initial ranking; the overall winners were French GMs Etienne Bacrot and Sebastian Maze with 7.5/9. On the last weekend Max also played in the [Super Rapidplay](#) (December 17-18), four hundred and sixty players including forty-five grandmasters. The surprising but worthy winner was Russian GM Valentina Gunina with 9.0/10; Max scored 6.5, good enough for a share of the U2100 (based on FIDE rapid ratings) and third junior prizes.

Meanwhile on the continent Kevin and Ethan Low were entrants in the B Group of the [Sunway Sitges International](#) (December 16-23), Sitges being a Mediterranean coastal city twenty miles southwest of Barcelona. Kevin ended with 5.5/9 while Ethan scored 4.0 points; both had performance ratings significantly higher than their actual ratings. Algerian Kamel Saheb won the section, while the overall A Group winners were GMs Evgeny Romanov, Romain Edouard, Josep Manuel Lopez Martinez, and Gata Kamsky, who all tied for first with 7.0/9.

### Nanaimo Winter Open (December 17-18)

After an absence of many years, tournament chess has returned to Nanaimo. Organized by Jason Williamson and Nicholas Peters, the Nanaimo Winter Open was held on the campus of Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. The poor weather conditions perhaps kept some away but the tournament still mustered a field of twenty-two players, including six unrateds. Jason Williamson finished at the top of the crosstable with 4.5/5, drawing with Paul Leblanc in the last round. David Deimert was second, while Leblanc and Jamie Campbell tied for third. Watch for the Nanaimo Spring Open coming up next March. [Tournament website](#)

### VCS Chess Festival (December 17)

December 17 was the date for the Active Grand Prix, the year-end showdown between the twelve winners of the monthly active events (or their replacements). In addition, a parallel winter open was held for those who didn't qualify for the Grand Prix, topped off by a blitz championship following both events. With an average rating of just over 2200 and a (theoretical) winner-take-all first prize of \$500 the [Active Grand Prix](#) was very competitive. After the scheduled five rounds three players

were tied for first on 3.5/5: Tanraj Sohal, Alfred Pechisker, and Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj. With time running out we went to blitz playoffs. Tanraj had the best tiebreak, so Alfred and Davaa played off for the second place; Alfred won, leaving Tanraj and Alfred to play for the first prize. Their game ended in a draw, and with no more time they were declared joint winners.



Pechisker and Sohal; Morozov

In the conjunct [Winter Open](#) top-ranked Paul Burke and junior Dylan Fox split first and second with 4.5/5, with co-leader Gilberto Igharas losing to Dylan in the last round. Kevin Butchart and Henry Yang tied for the U1400 prizes, Robert Russell took the top U1200, and there was a five(!)-way tie for the second U1200 prize between Borna Amjadi, Ethan Song, Stephanie Gu, Willaim Zhang, and Eugene Liang. In the Junior Section Kate Jiang was the overall winner; trophies went to Kate, David Zhou, Evan Friesen, and Adrian Kan (U800, U1000, U600, and U400 respectively), while Alex Zou, Bruce Chen, James Hu, Jeremy Jiang, and Roy Zhou received medals.

Last up was the [Blitz Championship](#), a seven-round Swiss with a time control of 3 + 2. Here Grigoriy Morozov reigned supreme, crushing the field with a perfect score. Tied for second with 5.5 points were Brian McLaren and Jeremy Hui. Top U2000 was Brandon Zhu, while there was another five-way tie for the second U2000 prize, this time between Evgeny Tuev, Chuyang Gu, Callum Lehingrat, Charles Wu, and Dylan Fox. The U1500 prizes went to Henry Yang, Ryan Yang, and Stephanie Gu. In the Junior Section Roy Zhou, Fangxun Wang, Adrian Kan, and Bruce Chen were awarded medals. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone for attending.

### **December Active** (December 3)



The December VCS Active very much resembled the events of the previous few months – a junior section with ten entrants, just over twenty in the open section, and three players rated over 2000. This edition saw the return of Vicente Lee Jr. to competitive chess after a long hiatus, but he was unable to break the hegemony of regulars Mayo Fuentebella and Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj. The latter tied for first with 5.5/6 (they drew with each other); Vicente tied for third with 4.0 points, but at least qualified for the Active Grand Prix final. Also scoring 4.0 points were Lucian Wu and Adel Talyspayeva, who split the U1800 prizes; Bilguun Purevjav was top U1500 with Brian Sullivan second. In the Junior Section Luka Spasojevic was first overall and took the U1300 Trophy, Benjamin Wu was second and received the U1000 trophy, while medals were awarded to Ethan Song and Stephanie Gu. The next event will be on January 7, the first Saturday in the New Year. [Standings](#)

## Victoria News

*Victoria News* recently featured a story on Roger Patterson and the Victoria Chess Club:

<http://www.vicnews.com/news/405311426.html>

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## BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

### Harper, Bruce - Opponent [A00] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

Okay, I'll be up front about it. Most of today's game isn't particularly interesting or even well-played, and the reason it made the cut only becomes apparent once you get near the end. So I'll try to make the rest of the game as painless as possible.

**1.g3** [0:03:00] **1...c6** [0:03:00] **2.Bg2** [0:02:59] **2...d5** [0:03:00] **3.d3** [0:02:59] **3...Nf6** [0:03:00]  
**4.Nc3** [0:02:58] **4...g6** [0:02:59] **5.Bd2** [0:02:57] **5...Bg7** [0:02:59] **6.Qc1** [0:02:57]



Yep, another "Suttles System." It sure saves time, although maybe Black was expecting it, because he played fast too. **6...0-0** [0:02:58] **7.Bh6** [0:02:56] **7...Re8** [0:02:57] **8.Bxg7** [0:02:53] 8.h4 might be more fun. **8...Kxg7** [0:02:57] **9.e4** [0:02:51] **9...e5** [0:02:47] **10.h3** [0:02:47] **10...dxe4** [0:02:35] **11.dxe4** [0:02:45] **11...Nbd7** [0:02:32] **12.Nge2** [0:02:44]





White doesn't have a shadow of an advantage, other than a slight lead on the clock. **12...Nf8** [0:02:31] **13.0-0** [0:02:41] **13...Ne6?!** [0:02:29] **14.Qe3** [0:02:41] **14...Qb6** [0:02:26] **15.Qxb6** [0:02:39] **15...axb6** [0:02:24] **16.Rfd1** [0:02:38] White's control of the open d-file gives him a slight edge. Chess is rarely as simple as it seems. **16...b5** [0:02:20] **17.a3** [0:02:36] **17...Nc5** [0:02:11] **18.f3** [0:02:31] **18...Be6** [0:02:08] **19.Kf2** [0:02:28] **19...Red8** [0:02:06] **20.Rxd8** [0:02:25] **20...Rxd8** [0:02:04] **21.Rd1** [0:02:24] **21...Rxd1** [0:02:03] **22.Nxd1** [0:02:24]



Easy come, easy go. With the rooks gone, the d-file isn't as important. The position is again equal. **22...h5?!** [0:01:54] **23.h4** [0:02:22] **23...Nfd7** [0:01:51] **24.Ne3** [0:02:20] **24...Nb6** [0:01:49] **25.b3** [0:02:15]



White restricts the activity of Black's minor pieces, but this shouldn't impress either the engine or anyone else. **25...Na6** [0:01:40] **26.f4** [0:02:10] **26...f6** [0:01:30] **27.Nc1** [0:02:07]

White's only advantage is on the clock. The position is equal, but it's hard for Black to "force" a draw. Possibly because of his time deficit, Black decides to defend actively, unbalancing the pawn structures.



27...exf4!? [0:01:25] 28.gxf4 [0:02:06] 28...b4? [0:01:21] But this is too much - now White has a target. 29.a4 [0:02:04] 29...Nc8 [0:01:13] 30.Bf1 [0:02:01] 30...Nc7 [0:01:10] 31.Bc4?! [0:01:56] Objectively not the best, but White's idea - which turns out to be correct - was that Black couldn't play a double-knight ending with only a minute left. 31...Bxc4? [0:01:06] 31...Nd6!, forcing White to trade on e6, was much stronger. 32.Nxc4 [0:01:55] 32...b5?! [0:01:05] Again trying to force the issue, but things keep getting worse. 33.axb5 [0:01:50] 33.Na5! was strong. 33...Nxb5 [0:01:03] 34.Ke3 [0:01:45] 34.Nd3! won a pawn. White is not playing particularly well, but he is keeping his eye on the clock and trying to avoid clear lines, because knights are tricky. 34...Na3 [0:00:50] 35.Kd3 [0:01:40] 35...Nb1? [0:00:48] Black should take

advantage of his opportunity by trading knights, then breaking with ...g6–g5. 36.Kd4 [0:01:32]



36...g5!? [0:00:46] This break has been long been in the air, and the game reaches its crisis stage. 37.fxg5 [0:01:29] 37...fxg5 [0:00:44] 38.hxg5 [0:01:28] 38...h4 [0:00:44] 39.Ke3 [0:01:09] 39...Kg6 [0:00:41] 40.Kf4 [0:01:06] Greedy - 40.Ne5+ would wipe out Black's queenside pawns, but White wants to keep his g5–pawn as well. 40...h3 [0:00:39] 41.Ne5+ [0:01:05] 41...Kh5 [0:00:37]



42.g6 [0:01:04] 42.Ne2! was simpler, but then this game wouldn't have been worth sharing. 42...h2 [0:00:33] 43.Ne2 [0:01:02]





The moment of truth. White has (sort of) cleverly seen that 43...h1Q 44.Ng3+ wins. White has also seen that Black can instead promote to a knight, preventing White's fork and giving us an exceptionally rare five-knight ending. How could White resist this variation, and how can Black avoid it? To answer the first question, I couldn't resist it. There is also an answer to the second question - by 43...Ne7!, after which the position is still unclear, although objectively White is slightly better. Most of all, though, do YOU know how to under-promote in a 3-minute game? You can type in the move, but you have to know exactly what to type. Otherwise, at least in Blitzin, you have to go into a menu and change the default setting (which makes every promotion a queen). Black managed to do this,



but it took him 21 seconds, after which he had no chance, because he had only had only 12 seconds left. I'm sure Black didn't think for 21 seconds on whether to promote to a knight - he used the time to figure out how to do it. And that was White's whole plan.

**43...h1N!?** [0:00:12] **44.Nxc6** [0:00:56] 44.g7 was winning, but now White was in blitz mode. **44...Nc3** [0:00:11] **45.Ned4** [0:00:49] Here 45.g7 wins easily, but White wanted to keep all the knights on the board in order to boggle Black. To his credit, he managed to play another ten moves. **45...Kxg6** [0:00:10] **46.Nxb4** [0:00:47] **46...Nf2** [0:00:08] **47.Ndc6?** [0:00:39] **47...Nfxe4** [0:00:07] **48.Ne5+** [0:00:36] **48...Kf6** [0:00:05] **49.Nbd3** [0:00:35] **49...Ke6** [0:00:05] **50.Nf3** [0:00:30] **50...Ncd6** [0:00:05]



This position is just too awesome not to get a diagram. **51.Nd4+** [0:00:28] **51...Kd5** [0:00:05] **52.Nf3** [0:00:24] **52...Nc5** [0:00:05] **53.Nb4+** [0:00:22]



To be honest, I had my heart set on somehow mating Black's king in the middle of the board. **53...Ke6** [0:00:04] **54.Nd4+** [0:00:21] **54...Kd7** [0:00:03] **55.Ke3** [0:00:19] **55...Nd5+?!** [0:00:02] It's cruel to give this a "dubious", because Black had only two seconds left and had no chance of capturing White's remaining pawns, which on ICC would be a draw (I think). **56.Nxd5** [0:00:17] Black forfeits on time. **1-0**

## BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

An important element of good endgame technique is knowing when and how to simplify the position into one that is winning by force against any defence. Study the games of the great masters and you will find many so-called "little combinations" which either eliminate the opponent's counterplay or reduce it to insignificance.



**Steinitz, Wilhelm - Zukertort, Johannes Hermann**  
**[C67] World Championship 01st USA (12),**  
**03.03.1886**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6**  
**6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Qe2 Be6 9.d3 Nf5 10.Nd2**  
**0-0 11.c3 Re8 12.Ne4 Qd5 13.Bf4 Rad8 14.d4 Nd6**  
**15.Nc5 Bc8 16.Ncd3 f6 17.Nb4 Qb5 18.Qxb5 Nxb5**  
**19.Ned3 Bf5 20.a4 Nd6 21.a5 Nb5 22.a6 Bxd3**  
**23.Nxd3 b6 24.Re3 Kf7 25.Rae1 Rd7 26.Nb4 g5**  
**27.Bg3 f5**

**White to play**

First up is a position from the 12th game of the 1886 World Championship match between Wilhelm Steinitz (White) and Johannes Zukertort (Black). It is obvious that White has a big advantage but it is also obvious that he must still find the right way to finish Black off.

**28.f4!?**

Radically preventing the threatened 28...f4. At this stage of the match Steinitz was leading by 6-5, having recently fought back from being 1-4 down. A bit of excess caution is likely the reason he did not go in for the sharp line 28.Nxc6!? f4 29.Ne5+ Ke6 30.Bxf4!? gxf4 31.Rh3.





Position after 31.Rh3 (analysis)

White has sacrificed a piece but has many dangerous threats. The best defence is 31...Rdd8 (stronger than 31...Rd6?! 32.Rxh7 and White will soon recover the piece with interest) 32.Nc6+ Kd7 33.Nxd8 Kxd8 34.Rxh7 Nd6.



Position after 34...Nd6 (analysis)

Black has avoided immediate disaster but in the sequel his two minor pieces will be no match for White's rook and three(!) extra pawns. Back to the game, where White has just played 28.f4. **28...c5 29.Nc6 cxd4 30.cxd4 Kf8 31.Re5 Nxd4 32.Nxd4 Rxd4 33.Rxf5+ Kg7 34.fxg5**



The losing moment

### 34...Bc5?

Zukertort has either failed to spot Steinitz's idea or failed to appreciate its power. After 34...Rd7! 35.h4 Bc5+ 36.Kf1 Rxe1+ 37.Bxe1 White has a big advantage but is not yet winning.





**35.Rxc5!** Of course not 35.Rxe8? Rd1#! **35...Rxe1+**  
**36.Bxe1 bxc5 37.Bc3**  
 Neatly recovering the sacrificed material. **37...Kg6**  
**38.Bxd4 cxd4 39.h4!**

**Hammer Time**



Reaching the position foreseen by Steinitz when he gave up the exchange on move 35. Black's king must stay on the kingside to prevent White from promoting his front g-pawn, and because of this restriction he can only watch as White establishes a winning advantage on the queenside.

**39...Kf5 40.Kf2 Ke4**

Playing the king to g3 does not help Black since White just goes ahead and makes a queen.

**41.Ke2 c5 42.b3! Ke5 43.Kd3 Kf4 44.b4!**

With this move White breaks up Black's queenside formation. He will eventually capture all of the latter's pawns, and therefore Black resigned. **1-0**

Our next example comes from the game between Bent Larsen (White) and Svetozar Gligoric (Black) at the 1956 Moscow Olympiad.



White to play

White has a big advantage because of his more active pieces, but if Black defends correctly he should be able to stay in the game. Unfortunately, he fails to spot White's clever idea.

**26.Ra8! Bxf2+?**

Mandatory was 26...Qd6! 27.Qxd6 Bxd6 but after 28.Ra7 Bc5 29.Rc7 Bd6 30.Rd7 Bc5 31.Rd5 Rc8 32.Rxe5, White is a pawn up and can keep Black on the rack for a long time to come.

**27.Kf1 Qf6**

Or 27...Rxa8 28.Qxa8+ Kh7 29.Bxf7 and Black must give up a piece to stave off mate: 29...h5 30.h4 Bxh4 31.Qg8+ Kh6 32.Qh8+ Kg5 33.Qxh5+ Kf4 (or 33...Kf6 34.Qh6+ picking up Black's queen) 34.Qxh4+ and White is winning easily.



Hammer Time

Larsen, Bent - Gligoric, Svetozar [B92] Moscow ol (Men) fin-A (5), 1956

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6  
6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.a4 b6  
11.Bc4 Bb7 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.Rfd1 Rfc8 14.Nd2 h6  
15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Bb3 Bc6 17.Nc4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 d5  
19.a5 dxc4 20.Qxc4 Rf8 21.axb6 Qxb6 22.Nd6 Bb5  
23.Nxb5 axb5 24.Qd5 Rxa1 25.Rxa1 Bc5 26.Ra8  
Bxf2+ 27.Kf1 Qf6

I suspect that both sides had been aiming for this position. It might appear that Black is getting away unscathed, but White's next move puts an end to that idea. **28.Qxf7+! Qxf7 29.Bxf7+ Kxf7 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 31.Kxf2**



This endgame is winning for White because of his outside pawn majority. The remaining moves were:

**31...Ke7 32.Ke3 Kd6 33.Ke4 b4 34.c3 b3 35.c4 g6  
36.g4 h5 37.gxh5 gxh5 38.h4 Kc6 39.Kxe5 Kc5  
40.Kf5 Kd4 41.Kf4 Kc5 42.Ke5 Kxc4 43.Ke4 Kc5  
44.Kd3 Kd5 45.Kc3 Ke4 46.Kxb3 Kf5 47.Kc3 1-0**

Our final position comes from the game between Alexei Shirov (White) and Garry Kasparov (Black) played at Linares 1997.



**Shirov, Alexei - Kasparov, Garry [B90] Linares 14th (10), 15.02.1997**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6  
6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Be2 h5  
11.Bxg4 Bxg4 12.f3 Bd7 13.0-0 Nc6 14.Bf2 e6  
15.Nce2 Ne5 16.b3 g4 17.f4 h4 18.Be3 h3 19.g3 Nc6  
20.Qd3 0-0 21.Rad1 f5 22.c4 Qa5 23.Nc3 Rae8  
24.Rfe1 e5 25.Nxc6 Bxc6 26.b4 Qa3 27.b5 exf4  
28.Bxf4 axb5 29.cxb5**

**Black to play**

Through an aggressive kingside pawn advance, Kasparov has weakened Shirov's king position and transformed the square g2 into a dangerous focal point. Shirov was probably hoping to defend against potential mating attacks by exchanging off as many pieces as possible. Kasparov appears to fall in with this idea but it turns out he has a different idea in mind.

**29...Qc5+!?** Also possible was 29...Qxc3 but Kasparov's move sets a devilish trap.

**30.Be3?!** White had to play 30.Re3 and hope for the best.

**30...Qxc3 31.bxc6 Qxc6 32.Qxd6 Qxe4 33.Qd5+** Shirov may have been starting to breathe a bit more easily, but he's actually just a few moves away from disaster.

**33...Qxd5 34.Rxd5**





**34...Bc3!** After this shot, White is forced into a catastrophic pin along the e-file. **35.Re2 Re4 36.Kf2**  
**36.Rd3** is a tougher defence, but after **36...Bf6!** **37.Kf1**  
**Rfe8 38.Re1 Kf7 39.Rb3 Kg6** (bringing up the king before taking further action) **40.Rd3** (or **40.Bf2 Rxe1+**  
**41.Bxe1 Rc8 42.Rxb7 Rc2** and wins) **40...f4!** **41.gxf4**  
**Bh4 42.Re2 g3!** Black is clearly winning: **43.hxg3 Bxg3**  
**44.Bf2 Rxe2 45.Rxg3+ Kf5 46.Rxh3 Rxa2**, etc.  
**36...Rfe8 37.Rd3 Bf6 38.Red2**



**38...Rxe3!** Another winning simplifying combination. Shirov saw what was coming and immediately resigned (**0-1**). The conclusion would be: **39.Rxe3**  
**Rxe3 40.Kxe3 Bg5+ 41.Ke2 Bxd2 42.Kxd2**

**Hammer Time**



**42...f4!** **43.gxf4** Or **43.Ke2 fxg3 44.hxg3 h2**, etc.  
**43...g3 44.hxg3 h2** The h-pawn will promote next move and White has no resources left.

All feedback on this column is welcome. Email the writer at [dscoones@telus.net](mailto:dscoones@telus.net).

**Position after 42.Kxd2 (analysis)**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Vancouver Rapid Chess League 2016-17**

2016 - 2017, various locations

[Details](#)

### **January Active**

January 7, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **Victoria Open and BC-WA Match**

January 13-15, Victoria

[Details](#)

### **Junior Nightmare Quads**

January 15, Burnaby

[Details](#)

### **BC Active Championship**

January 21-22, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **February Active**

February 4, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **BC Open**

February 11-13, Richmond

[Details](#)

### **Vancouver West Open #12**

February 25-26, Columbia College

[Details](#)