

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #336

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

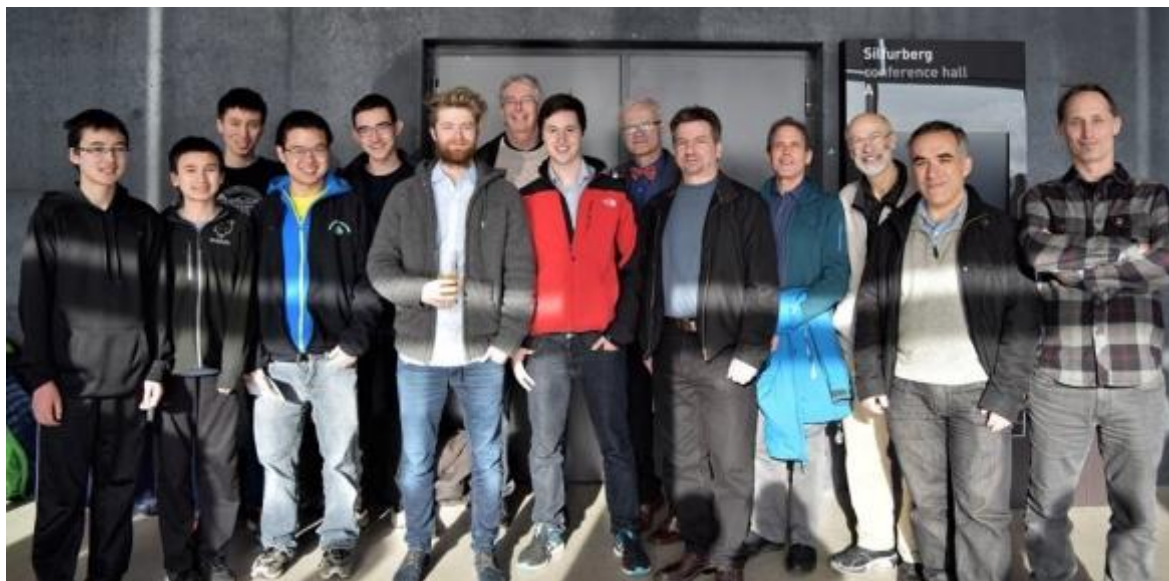
Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

BCCF Annual General Meeting (May 21)

The BCCF Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday May 21 between the third and fourth rounds of the Keres Memorial, beginning around 3:00 pm. We encourage you to come out and attend the AGM: the executive for the coming year will be elected, and there will also be opportunity to voice concerns, comments, and ideas about how organized chess is run in B.C. The BCCF is your federation – it is only as strong as those involved in it, your help is needed.

Reykjavik Open (April 19-27)



“Team Canada” (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjias)

The Reykjavik Open has attracted participants from this country before, but this year a total of fifteen(!) Canadians made the journey to the capital of Iceland for this annual tournament, including Leon Piasetski and the Doknjias brothers from this province. The overall winner of this two hundred and sixty-three player event was Dutch Super GM Anish Giri with 8.5/10, a half point ahead of Jordan Van Foreest (Netherlands), Sergei Movsesian (Armenia), Abhijeet Gupta (India), and Gata Kamsky (USA). The big Canadian success stories were Aman Hambleton and Michael Kleinman who scored GM and IM norms respectively; Hambleton’s total included wins against GMs Shirov, L’ami, and Ramirez, and a draw in the last round against chess legend Alexander Beliavsky. Of the British Columbians, Neil Doknjias had the highest rating gain of any Canadian, 124 points (due at least in part to the K factor of 40 for juniors under 2300); Joshua Doknjias gained 48 points and won

two prizes, second U2200 and second junior; John Doknjas had a more modest rating gain but drew against Indian GMs Dronavalli Harika and Abhijit Kunte; and Leon Piasetski broken even with his score of 5.5 points. [Tournament website](#) [crosstable](#) [photos at CFC Facebook page](#)

Doknjas, Neil - Wecker, Martin [B42] Reykjavik op (2.67), 20.04.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 d6 8.f4 Be7 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.Qf3 Nc5 11.Rac1 0-0 12.Qg3 Nh5 13.Qh3 g6 14.f5 Qd8 15.g4 Ng7 16.Bc4 Bf6 17.b4 b5 18.bxc5 bxc4 19.Rcd1 Qa5 20.Nce2 Bb7 21.c6 Bc8 22.Bh6 exf5 23.exf5 Re8 24.fxc6 Bxd4+ 25.Nxd4 hxg6 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Qf3 Ra7 28.Qf6+ Kg8 29.Rf2 Qe5 30.Qf3 Qg5 31.Rg2 Re3 32.Qf2 Rae7 33.Nf5 Bxf5 34.gxf5 Qh5 35.Rf1 Re2 36.c7 Kh7 37.c8Q Rxf2 38.fxc6+ fxc6 39.Rgxf2 Qg5+ 40.Rg2 Qe5 41.Kh1 1-0

Doknjas, John - Kunte, Abhijit [E42] Reykjavik op (3.24), 20.04.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 c5 6.a3 Ba5 7.Rb1 Na6 8.Bd2 0-0 9.Ng3 Bb7 10.Bd3 d5 11.cxd5 cxd4 12.exd4 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qxd5 14.Qe2 Nb8 15.f3 Qa2 16.c4 Nc6 17.Bb4 Qxe2+ 18.Nxe2 Rfd8 19.Bc3 Rac8 20.Kf2 Ba6 21.Rbc1 Ne8 22.Rhd1 Nd6 23.d5 exd5 24.cxd5 Bxd3 25.Rxd3 Ne7 26.Rcd1 f6 27.Bb4 Kf7 28.Nd4 Ndf5 29.d6 Nxd6 30.Nb5 Nb7 ½-½

Shirov, Alexei - Hambleton, Aman [B48] Reykjavik op (4.10), 21.04.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qf3 Bd6 8.0-0-0 Be5 9.g3 Nge7 10.Qe2 b5 11.f4 Bxd4 12.Bxd4 Nxd4 13.Rxd4 Rb8 14.e5 Bb7 15.Bg2 Bxg2 16.Qxg2 b4 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Rhd1 Nd5 19.Qf3 a5 20.Nd6 a4 21.a3 Qc5 22.axb4 Rxb4 23.Qa3 Rfb8 24.c3 Qc6 25.Rxb4 Nxb4 26.Kb1 Qf3 27.Qxa4 Nd5 28.Nb5 h5 29.c4 Nb6 30.Qc2 Nxc4 31.Rxd7 Ne3 32.Qd3 Qh1+ 33.Ka2 Nd5 34.Kb3 Qe1 35.Rxd5 exd5 36.Qxd5 Qa5 37.Kc4 Qa4+ 38.b4 Qa2+ 0-1

Garry Kasparov in Vancouver (April 24)

One of this year's speakers at the TED conference in Vancouver was former world chess champion, analyst, and political activist Garry Kasparov, although you'd be hard pressed to find this out from local media outlets. Kasparov spoke on the current and future impact of robotics and artificial intelligence from the unique perspective of being the poster boy for humanity in his matches with IBM's Deep Blue computer in 1996 and 1997. The TED talks eventually find their way onto youtube, so watch for Kasparov's session there at a future date, but for now [here](#) is a blog summary of his talk.

Vancouver Rapid Chess League (April 11)

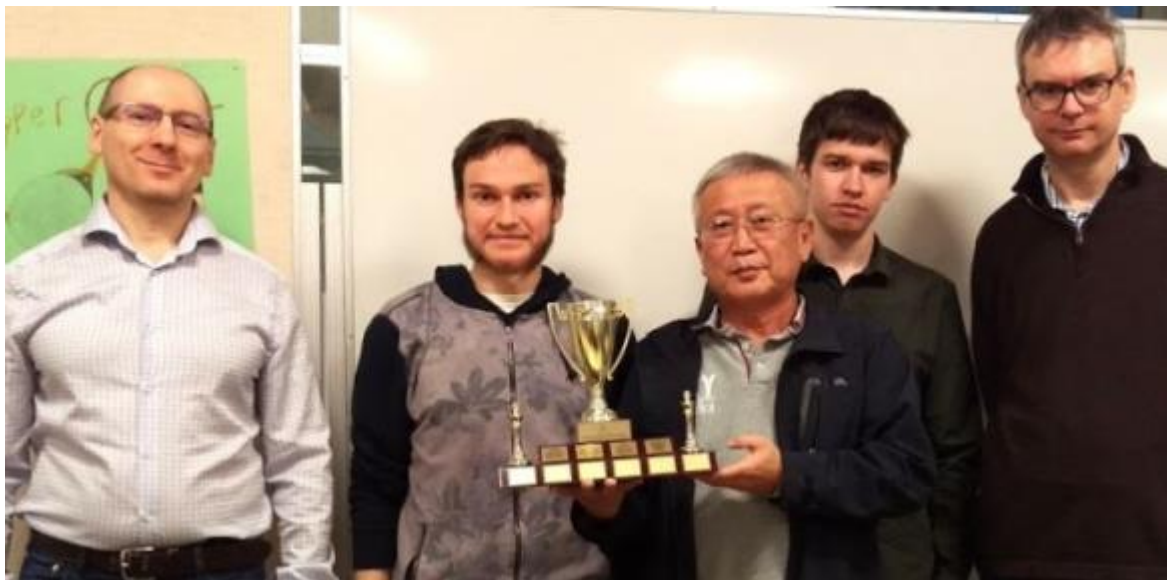
The fifth season of the Vancouver Rapid Chess League which began last September has now come to a close. The league is a team competition, with a regular season followed by playoffs. Each match consists of three rounds, where three members of one team play three members of the opposing team in a Scheveningen format (games against everyone on the other team). The time control is fifteen minutes with a ten second increment or approximately twenty-five minutes per player, allowing all three rounds to be played in a single evening.

This year there were initially eight teams, but the Masters team withdrew from the competition before the end of the regular season. Final standings after the regular season were as follows (match points followed by game points):

1 VCS-1	10	33.0
2 SFU	9	29.5
3 Chigorin Chess Club	8	34.5
4 VCS-2	6	25.0
5 West Chess Club	5	24.0
6 Mavericks	2	21.5
7 PoCo Chess Club	2	20.5

Due to the uneven number of teams the knockout playoffs were different this year, with teams three to six entering the Quarterfinals and the top two teams being seeded directly into the Semifinals. The Quarterfinals on March 27 saw the Chigorin CC dispose of the Mavericks by 7.5-1.5, but the match between VCS-2 and the West CC was tied 4.5-4.5 after the regular games. A round of blitz tiebreak games led the West CC being eliminated by the smallest possible margin, 2.0-1.0.

The Semifinals on April 3 pitted the two VCS teams together, along with SFU versus the Chigorin CC. VCS-1 squeaked by VCS-2 5.0-4.0 on the strength of James Li's win against Kevin Li in the final round; Chigorin CC had a somewhat easier time of it against SFU, winning 3.0-0.0 in the first round and then coasting home despite losing the third round 1.0-2.0 (the second round had been drawn). This led to a final showdown between VCS-1 and Chigorin CC on April 11. The first round was a 1.5-1.5 tie, but Chigorin CC won the remaining two rounds to retain the league championship they won last year – congratulations! The Most Valuable Player award went to Grigoriy Morozov, who scored 8.5/9 in the regular season. Many thanks to all the players and captains, to league coordinator Konstantin Pyryaev, and to Maxim Doroshenko for providing the equipment and default location (Columbia College). [League website](#)



Konstantin Pyryaev, Roman Jiganchine, George Kim, Grigoriy Morozov, Richard Ingram

Kings vs. Princes IV (March 17-19)

The fourth in a series of experience versus youth events at the Seattle Chess Club which this time round consisted of three Scheveningen sections plus a round robin. A detailed report has yet to appear, but going by the [USCF ratings report](#) the Princes showed their elders no mercy, taking four of the five top spots in Scheveningen M (Masters?) and the top five spots in Scheveningen A. In the M Section top scorer was Roland Feng with 4.5/5 and Joshua Doknjas scored 3.5 points, while in the A Section Patrick Huang tied for first with Addison Lee, both on 4.5/5, and Neil Doknjas was third a half point behind.

Ahluwalia, Anshul - Huang, Patrick [A57] KVP A Seattle (1), 17.03.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 Qxb6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nf3 g6 8.Nd2 Bg7 9.e4 0–0 10.a4 Nbd7 11.a5 Qc7 12.Nc4 Bb7 13.Be2 Rfd8 14.0–0 Rab8 15.Bf4 Ne5 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Qc2 Ne8 18.Rfd1 Nd6 19.Nb6 f5 20.f3 fxe4 21.fxe4 Rf8 22.Nca4 Bh6 23.Ra3 c4 24.Rc3 Nb5 25.Rxc4 Qd6 26.Qd3 Nd4 27.Nc5 Qf6 28.Rf1 Nxe2+ 29.Qxe2 Be3+ 0–1

Perez, Ignacio - Doknjas, Joshua [B90] KVP M Seattle (2), 18.03.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qe2 h6 8.Bh4 g6 9.f4 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0–0–0 Qc7 12.Nb3 b5 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Bd6 15.Be1 Kf8 16.Na5 Kg7 17.g4 b4 18.Nc4 a5 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Bg3 a4 21.Kb1 Ba6 22.Qe3 Bxf1 23.Rhxf1 Rhb8 24.Rf2 Ra5 25.Qf3 f6 26.h4 Nb6 27.g5 Rxd5 28.Qxf6+ Qxf6 29.gxf6+ Kf7 30.Rxd5 Nxd5 31.Bxe5 Re8 32.c4 Rxe5 33.cxd5 b3 34.axb3 axb3 35.Kc1 Rxd5 36.Rf3 Rd4 37.h5 g5 38.Rxb3 g4 39.Rb8 g3 40.Rb7+ Kxf6 41.Rb6+ Kf5 42.Rb5+ Kf4 43.Rb8 g2 44.Rg8 Kf3 0–1

Doknjas, Neil - Ahluwalia, Anshul [B28] KVP A Seattle (2), 18.03.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0–0 Nc6 8.Be3 Ne5 9.f4 Neg4 10.Qf3 Nxe3 11.Qxe3 Bc5 12.Nce2 d6 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 Nd7 15.Qf4 Nxe5 16.Kh1 Bd6 17.Qg5 Ng6 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Nf4 Bxf4 20.Rxf4 Rh5 21.Qg3 g5 22.Rf3 Qxg3 23.Rxg3 e5 24.Nf3 f6 25.Re1 Kf7 26.Nd2 Be6 27.Ne4 Rd8 28.Rc3 Ke7 29.Nc5 Bc8 30.Nd3 Bd7 31.Rc7 Rc8 32.Rxb7 Rxc2 33.Rd1 Ke6 34.Rxd7 Kxd7 35.Nb4+ Ke6 36.Nxc2 Rh4 37.g3 Re4 38.Rd2 f5 39.Kg2 Rc4 40.b3 Rc3 41.Na3 f4 42.Nc4 e4 43.g4 e3 44.Re2 Kd5 45.Kf3 Kd4 46.h4 Rc1 47.hxg5 Rf1+ 48.Kg2 Ra1 49.Kf3 Rf1+ 50.Kg2 Ra1 51.Kf3 ½–½

GRAND PACIFIC OPEN (April 14-17)

The eleventh annual Grand Pacific Open drew one hundred and forty-two players from across Canada and the U.S., continuing the trend of increased participation in Victoria Chess tournaments. In the end, FM Tanraj Sohal won the GPO trophy on tiebreak over Victoria resident NM Harry Moore, both scoring 5 out of 6. Tanraj has been trying to add the GPO title and trophy to his collection for many years, having already won every other major event in BC, and finally brought home the goods. He was aided this year in that by round 3, all of the top six seeds except himself had been the victims of an upset (some more than once!). Harry's journey to the top was a fine example of a well-played Swiss gambit as he recovered from some of those early upsets. Strong performances were put in by relatively lower-rated Mike Murray from Washington and WFM Adela Fratila, who were responsible for some of those upsets but faded in the final two rounds.

Adela plays under the Romanian FIDE flag but has actually lived in Vancouver for a number of years and only recently returned to active tournament play.



The Prize Ceremony: left to right: Brian Raymer (organizer), Harry Moore (tie first), Paul Leblanc (org.), Tanraj Sohal (tie first), Roger Patterson (org.), Mark S. Dutton (TD) Prize money in cash naturally! A video on [YouTube](#) of the prize ceremony was provided by Bhavik Dave which you might want to check out.

Thirty-nine players turned out for the traditional Midnight Blitz on Saturday. Tanraj also took this event sweeping the field. And where would the GPO be without the closing noisy bughouse event? Another twenty-six players participated. As always, thanks to our sponsors, Goddess Chess, the Hotel Grand Pacific, a number of individual sponsors and all those who helped as volunteers. Not to mention our TDs, Mark S. Dutton IA and Elliot Raymer. Organizers: Brian Raymer, Paul Leblanc, Roger Patterson. This [report](#) plus crosstables and links to games and more photos

Patterson, Roger - Cao, Jason [C95] Grand Pacific op 11th Victoria (2.1), 15.04.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Bc2 Re8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.Ng3 g6 15.Nh2 c5 16.d5 c4 17.Rf1 Nc5 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Qd2 h5 20.Bg5 Bg7 21.Rae1 Qb6 22.Kh1 a5 23.f4 exf4 24.Qxf4 Ncd7 25.Re2 Rf8 26.Ref2 Rce8 27.Qh4 Nh7 28.Be7 Rxe7 29.Qxe7 Ne5 30.Ne2 Bc8 31.Nd4 b4 32.Nc6 Nxc6 33.dxc6 Be6 34.c7 Qc5 35.e5 Qxe5 36.Rxf7 Bxf7 37.Rxf7 Qxe7 38.Rxe7 Bf6 39.Rd7 Rc8 40.Be4 Nf8 41.Bd5+ Kh8 42.Rf7 bxc3 43.bxc3 Bxc3 44.Bb7 Kg8 45.Bxc8 1-0

Kostadinov, Georgi - Sohal, Tanraj [E04] Grand Pacific op 11th Victoria (3.1), 15.04.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.0-0 Rb8 7.Qc2 b5 8.a3 Bb7 9.Rd1 Be7 10.Nc3 a6 11.Bg5 Na5 12.e4 Nb3 13.Rab1 h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.e5 Be7 16.d5 exd5 17.e6 0-0 18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Ne5 c6 20.Nxf7 Kxf7 21.Qh7 Bf6 22.Bf3 Nd4 23.Bh5+ Ke7 24.Re1+ Kd6 25.Re8 Qc7 26.Rbe1 Rxe8 27.Rxe8 Kc5 28.Bg4 Qf7 29.Rb8 Be5 30.Rg8 Nb3 31.Qh8 Qg6 32.Bc8 Bxc3 33.bxc3 Nd2 34.Kg2 Qe4+ 35.Kh3 Nf3 36.Kg2 Nd2+ 37.Kh3 Nf3 38.Kg2 Ne5+ 39.Kf1 Qh1+ 40.Ke2 Qe4+ 41.Kf1 Qh1+ 42.Ke2 Nd3 43.Re8 Qe1+ 44.Kf3 Qxf2+ 45.Kg4 Bxc8+ 46.Rxc8 Ne5+ 0-1

Zhu, Brandon - Gansvind, Valeria [E62] Grand Pacific op 11th Victoria (4.4), 16.04.2017

1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.c4 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.Nc3 Qa5 8.e4 e5 9.d5 c5 10.h3 a6
11.Be3 b5 12.Nd2 Nh5 13.a4 b4 14.Na2 Qd8 15.Nc1 Qe8 16.Bf3 Bxh3 17.Bxh5 gxh5 18.Qxh5
Bxf1 19.Kxf1 Nd7 20.g4 f6 21.Qf5 Nb6 22.a5 Nc8 23.Ne2 Qg6 24.Ng3 Qxf5 25.exf5 Rf7 26.b3 Bf8
27.Nde4 Be7 28.Nh5 Bd8 29.Bh6 Kh8 30.Ke2 Raa7 31.Kd3 Rad7 32.Kc2 Be7 33.Rh1 Rd8 34.Kd2
Rg8 35.f3 Bd8 36.Ra1 Be7 37.Be3 Rff8 38.Bf2 Rf7 39.Ke2 Rgf8 40.Bh4 Bd8 41.Rh1 Kg8 42.Ke3
Kh8 43.f4 Kg8 44.Kf3 Kh8 45.fxe5 fxe5 46.Bxd8 Rxd8 47.Ng5 Rdf8 48.Ke4 Ne7 49.Nf6 Rxf6
50.Rxh7+ Kg8 51.Rxe7 Rh6 52.Re6 Rh1 53.Rg6+ Kh8 54.Nf3 Rb1 55.Rxd6 Rxb3 56.Nxe5 Ra8
57.f6 Rb1 58.Rd7 Rf1 59.Ng6+ 1-0

Moore, Harry - Murray, Mike [A40] Grand Pacific op 11th Victoria (6.2), 17.04.2017

1.d4 Nc6 2.Bg5 f6 3.Bh4 d5 4.e3 Nh6 5.c4 Nf5 6.Bg3 Nxc3 7.hxc3 e5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Bb4
10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 exd4 12.cxd4 Bf5 13.Nf3 Qa5+ 14.Qd2 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 0-0-0 16.Kc3 h6
17.Nh4 Bh7 18.Bd3 Bxd3 19.Kxd3 Rhe8 20.Nf5 Rd7 21.Rhc1 Na5 22.Rab1 b6 23.e4 Nb7 24.f3 c5
25.d5 Kd8 26.a4 Nd6 27.g4 Nxf5 28.gxf5 Ke7 29.a5 Rd6 30.axb6 axb6 31.Ra1 Rd7 32.Ra6 Rb7
33.Rca1 Rc8 34.Ra7 Rcc7 35.Rxb7 Rxb7 36.Kc4 Kd6 37.Kb5 Ke5 38.Ra4 Kd6 39.f4 Rc7 40.Ra6
c4 41.Rxb6+ Kd7 42.e5 c3 43.e6+ Kc8 44.d6 Rb7 45.d7+ 1-0

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

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

Today's game is in the "crude" category - White attacks on the kingside, Black attacks on the queenside, and White gets there first. There are two things that make the game somewhat interesting. The first is that black was a Grandmaster, which doesn't mean all that much these days. The second is White's 26th move.

1.g3 [0:03:00] **1...c6** [0:03:00] **2.Bg2** [0:02:58] **2...d5** [0:02:59] **3.d3** [0:02:58] **3...Bf5** [0:02:57]
4.Nc3 [0:02:57] **4...e6** [0:02:57] **5.Bd2** [0:02:56] **5...Nf6** [0:02:56] **6.e4** [0:02:55]



6...Bg4?! [0:02:51] I don't know - the engine says this move is okay, but somehow I don't like it. In any case, Black's light-squared bishop is a target for White's kingside pawns. **7.f3** [0:02:54] **7...Bh5** [0:02:49] **8.Nh3** [0:02:52] With the idea of 9.Nf4, which Black prevents. **8...e5** [0:02:44] **9.Nf2** [0:02:50] **9...Nbd7** [0:02:42] **10.0-0** [0:02:48] **10...d4** [0:02:39] **11.Ne2** [0:02:46] **11...Bd6** [0:02:39] **12.f4** [0:02:36]



The game has ended up as some sort of King's Indian (or Rat) reversed. Objectively the position is roughly equal, although it is hardly dull - each side has plans. **12...0-0** [0:02:33] I wonder about this move, although I'm not sure it deserves a "?" or even a more cautious "?!". But is it really a good idea to give White's pawn storm a target? **13.f5** [0:02:34] **13...c5** [0:02:30] **14.h3** [0:02:32] Now Black is forced to give up his bishop for White's "bad" e2-knight. **14...Bxe2** [0:02:28] **15.Qxe2** [0:02:32] **15...b5** [0:02:24] **16.g4** [0:02:31]



A position Philidor would not only have understood, but also loved. The pawns will now advance - White on the kingside, Black on the queenside. The problem Black may have is not so much that White will get there first (although he may), but rather that Black's breakthrough might win a pawn, while White may mate. **6...Qc7** [0:02:22] **17.g5** [0:02:30] **17...Ne8** [0:02:21] **18.h4** [0:02:29]



18...f6?! [0:02:20] Arguably the first mistake. "Don't move pawns in front of your king", they taught us when we were young. Largely this is because pawn advances leave weaknesses in their wake, but it's also because they may help the opponent open lines. **19.Ng4** [0:02:25] The engine likes 19.g6, but I was afraid of just blocking the position. But White always has sacrifices on h6. **19...c4** [0:02:17] **20.Rf3** [0:02:22] A typical piece configuration. White prepares to bring his rook to g3, while at the same time freeing the f1-square for his g2-bishop, so it can defend the crucial d3-pawn if necessary. **20...Be7** [0:02:12] **21.Rg3** [0:02:20] **21...Nd6?** [0:02:09]



There's nothing esoteric about this mistake, though. They also taught us "don't move pieces away from your king when you're being attacked". **22.Rf1** [0:01:58] I took 20 seconds on this move, trying to see if there was anything decisive. I gave up and applied another principle I was taught - "don't begin the final attack without your queen's rook". I'm pretty sure they were thinking of open positions with lots of open files, but at least it got me to move. According to the engine, **22.Nh6+!** Kh8 (22...gxh6? 23.gxf6+) **23.g6!** is strong. **22...cxd3** [0:02:04] **23.cxd3** [0:01:56] **23...Rac8?** [0:02:02] Definitely the wrong rook. Black can't worry about moving pieces away from his king now - he needed to free f8 for his d7-knight with **23...Rfc8**. **24.g6** [0:01:37]



Finally. Surprisingly, Black replied instantly with a bad move. **24...hxg6?** [0:02:00] **25.fxg6?!** [0:01:33] **25.Nh6+!** forced mate, as White breaks through down the g-file. I saw a sick possibility, though. **25...Qc2?** [0:01:58]



Another two-second move. Did Black fall victim to Grandmaster hubris, thinking he could just run White out of time? That's not the only way a game can end... **26.Ne3!** [0:01:22]



Yes, it's true - I really wanted to give this "impossible" clearance move two exclamation marks. But I just couldn't do it. If Black defends his king, he loses his queen. He takes the easy way out. **26...dxe3** [0:01:48]
27.Qh5 [0:01:20]



A classic mating pattern. Remember it. Black resigns.

1-0

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

At the San Antonio 1972 international tournament, future world champion Anatoly Karpov won a nice endgame against the American grandmaster Walter Browne. Karpov annotated the game for the official tournament book but did not include it in any of his best-games collections until it appeared in his book *My 300 Best Games* (Chess VIPs, Riga 1997) with Informant-style annotation symbols but no words. Perhaps he was not completely satisfied with his play; it is certainly true that both players committed errors. But in line with Savielly Tartakower's well-known aphorism, it was Browne who made the error that counted: the last one. We shall look at the game first and then go back and explore two unplayed possibilities in a way that I hope the reader will find interesting.

Karpov, Anatoly - Browne, Walter S. [A30] San Antonio, 1972

1.c4 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.Bb2 g6 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 f5 8.e3 0-0 9.Nge2 a6 10.Rc1 b5 11.d3 Bb7 12.0-0 d6 13.Qd2 Qa5 14.Rfd1 Rab8 15.Nd5 Qxd2 16.Rxd2 b4 17.d4 Rfd8 18.Rcd1 cxd4 19.exd4 Kf8 20.c5 Na7 21.Ne3 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 dxc5 23.dxc5 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Rc8 25.Nd5 Rxc5 26.Nxb4 a5 27.Nd5 Rc6 28.Ne3 Rc5 29.Nf4



Black to play

After an interesting opening and middlegame we have arrived at a position that is slightly better for White thanks to his superior pawn structure. However, it should not amount to much if Black defends correctly. **29...Bh6?!** Browne rushes to exchange pieces with the idea of simplifying his defensive task. Instead he could just sit tight with **29...Nc6**. **30.Rd5 Rxd5 31.Nfxd5 Bxe3?** An error, and a serious one. In the tournament book Karpov gave **31...Nc6** as a stronger alternative and said that he doubted White could win in that case. This will be explored further in **Peelback No. 1** below. **32.Nxe3 Ke7**



White to play

This knight ending is significantly better for White is likely already winning by force. Black's big problem is that his kingside pawn majority is damaged and cannot produce a passed pawn without assistance from one of his other pieces. Meanwhile White's pawn majority on the queenside is set to advance and either march forward to promotion or deflect Black's pieces away from the kingside and allow White a winning attack in that sector. **33.Nc4 Nc6 34.Kf3 Ke6 35.Ke3 Kd5 36.a3 Ke6 37.Kd3 Kd5 38.f3 h6?!** The Hungarian IM Tibor Karolyi annotated this game for his book

Endgame Virtuoso Anatoly Karpov (New in Chess 2007). Here he wrote: “Black decides to move a kingside pawn. Marking time with 38...Ke6 was no fun either. However, it may well have been preferable; after 39.Kc3 Kd5 40.b4 axb4+ 41.axb4 Na7 42.Kd3 Nb5 43.Ne3+ it is hard to say how good White's prospects really are.” This line will be explored further in **Peelback No. 2** below. **39.Kc3 h5 40.Kd3 f6 41.f4 g5** If 41...Ke6 then 42.Ne3 followed by Kc4, etc.



White to play

42.Ne3+! Chaining the Black king to the defence of f5. **42...Ke6 43.h4!?** Stopping Black's kingside advance in its tracks. White is now ready for a winning advance on the queenside. **43...gxh4 44.gxh4 Ne7 45.Kc4 Ng6 46.Ng2!** Holding up Black's kingside counterplay just long enough to prevail on the opposite wing. **46...Kd6 47.Kb5 Kd5 48.Kxa5 Ke4**



White to play

Black has finally obtained a semblance of counterplay but it is just too late. **49.b4 Kf3 50.b5! Kxg2 51.b6 Nf8 52.Kb5 Nd7 53.a4 Nxb6 54.Kxb6**



Black to play

Browne could have resigned here, but he soldiers on for a few more moves out of sheer inertia. **54...Kf3 55.a5 Kxf4 56.a6 Ke3 57.a7 f4 58.a8Q f3 59.Qe8+** By this time Browne had seen enough and finally resigned. White is of course winning easily, as the reader may verify. **(1-0)**.

Peelback No. 1

Browne's move 31...Bxe3 has already been identified as an error, so let us go back and consider the alternative 31...Nc6 as recommended by Karpov. Here is the position after White's move 31.Nfxd5:



Black to play

To help assess Black's drawing chances I decided to take over and play this position out against Stockfish 8, one of the stronger chess engines currently available. I set the clocks for 15 minutes a side, and after Karpov's recommended **31...Nc6**, Stockfish played **32.Nc2** The continuation was: **32...Bg7 33.Kf3 Ke8 34.Ke2 Kd7 35.Nde3 Kd6 36.Nc4+ Kd5!** Stronger than 36...Kc5?! 37.Nxa5! Nxa5 38.b4+ Kb5 39.bxa5 Kxa5 40.Kd3 with some chances for White. **37.a3 Bd4!** Black's key defensive idea. From this centralized position the bishop exerts pressure on both sides of the

board. **38.N2e3+ Ke6 39.Kd3 Bc5 40.f4 h5** Here I felt quite confident of making a draw. **41.Kc3 Bd4+ 42.Kd3 Bc5 43.Kc3 Bd4+ 1/2 Stockfish 8 - Scoones, G/15 2017**. That was easier than expected, considering the rating disparity!

Peelback No. 2

As noted above, the Hungarian annotator Tibor Karolyi queried Browne's move 38...h6, recommending instead the line **38...Ke6 39.Kc3 Kd5 40.b4 axb4+ 41.axb4 Na7 42.Kd3 Nb5**. Here is the position:



White to play

To test Karolyi's assessment that White may not be winning here, I again set the clocks for 15 minutes a side and took the Black pieces against Stockfish 8. The game continued: **43.f4!** More accurate than 43.Ne3+ as given by Karolyi. **43...Ke6 44.Nb6!** Stockfish immediately finds the correct plan. The knight is headed for c3 in order to challenge Black's blockade on b5. **44...Kd6 45.Na4 Na3** Avoiding 45...Kd6? 43.Nc3+, when the knights are exchanged and White wins easily with his passed b-pawn. **46.Nc3 Kc6 47.Kd4 Kd6 48.b5 f6 49.b6 Nc2+ 50.Kc4 Kc6** If 50...Ne3+ then 51.Kb5, etc. **51.Nd5 g5 52.Nxf6 gxf4 53.gxf4 Ne1 54.h3 Ng2 55.Nd5 Nh4 56.Kd3 Ng6?!** The human factor... Stronger resistance was offered by 56...Nf3 57.Ke3 Nh4, although after 58.Kf2 Ng6 59.Kf3 Nf8 (59...h5 60.Ne3) 60.Ne7+ Kxb6 61.Nxf5 White has very good winning chances. **57.Kd4** I decided to resign here as my time was running down and I could see that Black can no longer defend his kingside pawns. **(1-0) [Stockfish 8 - DES, G/15 2017]** The conclusion is that Karolyi's recommendation 38...Ke6 is stronger than 38..h6?! as played by Browne. Advancing the kingside pawns is good only if it assures Black of serious counterplay; otherwise the pawns will just end up being weak.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Knightmare Junior Quads

April 30, Burnaby

[Details](#)

May Active

May 13, Columbia College

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

May 20-22, Richmond

[Details](#)

Washington Open

May 27-29, Lynnwood, WA

[Details](#)

Fischer-Taimanov Thematic Match

May 28, Vancouver

[Details](#)

June Active

June 3, Columbia College

[Details](#)

Full Cupboard Fundraiser

June 10, Delta

[Details](#)

BC Senior Championship

June 16-18, Victoria

[Details](#)

Woodpushers' Challenge

June 25, Burnaby

[Details](#)

July Active

July 22, Columbia College

[Details](#)

Semiahmoo Open

August 5-7, Surrey

[Details](#)

August Active

August 12, Columbia College

[Details](#)

9th Bowser Builders Tournament

August 13, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

[Details](#)