

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #340

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

Canadian Closed Championship (June 27 – July 1)

In recent years the Canadian Closed, along with some other CFC events, has had trouble finding willing organizers, and the championships that have taken place have often been assembled at the last minute. Such is also the case with the current Canadian Closed; the FQE stepped in at the eleventh hour to host the tournament, and despite the clash with high school end-of-year events for some potential participants we can report the players have received good playing conditions at a location within the Olympic stadium in Montreal. The tournament began with twenty-nine entrants, including former champions GMs Bator Sambuev and Alexandre Lesiège and IM Nikolay Noritsyn; the rating requirement was lowered to a life-time high of 2000 or above, resulting in a somewhat weaker field than usual.



Michael Kleinmann and Tanraj Sohal (photo by John Upper, more on [Facebook](#))

Also participating from this province is Tanraj Sohal; he has 4.0/7 after a slow start, and it seems unlikely he can challenge for the coveted IM title or norms which accrue to the top three finishers. Noritsyn started at a blistering pace, winning his first six games and defeating both grandmasters before finally giving up a draw in round seven. Hot on his heels is Sambuev with 6.0 points, while Shiyam Thavandiran is third, a further point behind. The event ends tomorrow.

[Tournament website](#) [Pairings and Results](#)

Sohal, Tanraj S. - Lecomte, André [E09] CAN ch 84th Montreal (3.11), 28.06.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.Qc2 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Bb7 11.Rd1 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Nf6 13.Qe2 Qc7 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Ne5 Rfd8 16.c5 bxc5 17.dxc5 Bxe5

18.Bxe5 Qe7 19.Bd6 Qe8 20.Rac1 a5 21.Qe5 a4 22.a3 Ba6 23.Bf3 Bb5 24.Rd4 Kh8 25.Rh4 Bd3 26.Bd1 Bb5 27.Bc2 h6 28.Rxh6+ Kg8 29.Rxf6 gxf6 30.Qxf6 Rxd6 31.cxd6 Qd8 32.Qh6 1–0

Kleinman, Michael - Sohal, Tanraj S. [A00] CAN ch 84th Montreal (4.9), 28.06.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 Nc6 4.Bb2 a6 5.c4 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qc7 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Rc1 0–0 11.0–0 Ne5 12.f4 Ng6 13.Kh1 Re8 14.Qd2 e5 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Nf5 Bb4 17.Qe3 Bxf5 18.exf5 Bc5 19.Qg3 Nf4 20.Rfe1 Rad8 21.Rc2 Qd7 22.Nd5 Ne4 23.Qf3 Nf2+ 24.Kg1 N2d3+ 25.Kf1 Nxe1 26.Kxe1 Qxf5 27.Rc1 Qg5 28.Kf1 Nxd5 29.cxd5 Bd4 30.h4 Qxh4 31.Bxd4 exd4 32.Rc7 Re7 33.d6 Rxc7 34.dxc7 Rc8 35.Qxb7 Qf4+ 36.Kg1 Qxc7 37.Qxa6 Qc1+ 38.Kh2 Qf4+ 39.g3 Qh6+ 40.Qxh6 gxh6 41.Kg2 Rc2 42.Kf3 Rxa2 43.Bc4 Kf8 44.g4 Ke7 45.Ke4 Rd2 46.b4 Kd6 47.Bxf7 Rb2 48.Kxd4 Rxb4+ 49.Bc4 Ra4 50.Kc3 Ke5 51.Be2 Rd4 52.Kc2 Kf4 53.Kc1 Kg3 54.Kc2 Rxg4 55.Bxg4 Kxg4 56.Kd2 0–1

Las Vegas International Chess Festival (June 16-18)

Jason Williamson recently played in the U2100 National Open, held as part of the [Las Vegas International Chess Festival](#). “I finished with a score of 4.0/6 and was undefeated going into the last round. Sadly I made a \$1000 mistake and lost the game. Overall the tournament was amazing and it was my second year in a row playing. The overall tournament was won Tigran Petrosian [no, a different one]. Last year’s winner Ruifeng Li finished a point off the pace. I saw Ian Finday there as well. This is a tournament that is fun to travel to and I will likely be back.” – Jason Williamson

Summer Events

Summer is upon us and a consequent multiplicity of tournaments. Here are some of the events BC players will be participating in in the next few weeks:

June 27 – July 1	CAN Closed (Montreal)
June 29 – July 4	World Open (Philadelphia, PA)
July 1-6	Pan-American YCC (Costa Rica)
July 6-10	CYCC (Sault Ste. Marie)
July 8-16	CAN Open (Sault Ste. Marie)
July 12-16	NAYCC (Morristown, NJ)
Aug 9-13	CAN Junior (Mississauga)
Aug 12-19	Quebec Open (Quebec City)

Through the Looking Glass (July 8)

There will be a chess component to the annual [Taste of Park Royal](#) at the West Vancouver shopping centre on July 8. Join Chess Girl Ashley Tapp and former BC Champion Dan Scoones for simultaneous displays, casual play, instruction, face painting, and free food samples. The action takes place in the main centre court area of Park Royal South, 1-3pm on July 8 – and check out the new permanent designated chess space nearby in Park Royal. Further [details](#)

Queen of Katwe goes to college by Elliott Neff, Founder & CEO, [Chess4Life](#)



Phiona and Benjamin in Seattle, January 2017

By now you probably have heard of the amazing real-life story of Phiona Mutesi, the young girl from the slums of Katwe, Uganda, who attends chess club because of food and ultimately becomes chess champion attending the world chess olympiads...a book the *Queen of Katwe* is written...Disney buys the rights and produces a live-action movie that premiered fall of 2016. What you may not know is that in real life Phiona & Benjamin have been offered and accepted full-tuition scholarships at Northwest University in Kirkland, WA and plan to attend this fall 2017! They are eager to move forward with the next step in their journey as they both have HUGE dreams for making a great positive impact in this world. However, the reason I am writing this, is that they do not have the means to cover the necessary living expenses...

If you would like to learn more, or find it in your heart to help support or know someone who would be willing to help out, please simply go to the [gofundme](#) page that we've setup to read more of the story and ways you could help out. Please do help spread the word!

Also, a few special notes - there are ways to DOUBLE your donation if you or someone you know who works at Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Boeing, and some other companies would like to help out! Just let me know and I'm happy to share more about how to do so. And ... being personal friends with Robert Katende since before the movie was in the works, there could be possibilities for Robert as well as possibly Phiona and/or Benjamin coming in person to do an appearance. Again, just let me know if you would like to discuss possibilities.

2017 BC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (June 16-18) by Paul Leblanc

Thirty players convened at the Comfort Inn in Victoria on the weekend of 16-18 June for the fifth annual BC Senior Championship. This was the first time that the event has been held in Victoria and about half the players were from Vancouver Island. The usual genteel atmosphere prevailed, however fighting chess was the order of the day with only 8 draws in the entire tournament.

Brian McLaren and Valeria Gansvind each finished with 4.5 out of 5 and drew their individual encounter in Round 4. That game featured an unusual pawn structure that entombed a rook and

knight that could only be freed by giving up the knight. This led to an ending with an extra piece for McLaren but two extra pawns for Gansvind that allowed her to hold the draw.



A thousand years of experience ...

If there had been a brilliancy prize it would have gone to Richard Lapenna for his game against Bill Tate that featured two piece sacrifices on route to a successful kingside attack. Paul Leblanc captured the U1800 prize with a last round victory against Joe Soliven in another exciting game. Other prize winners were Mau-Seng Lee and Paul MacDonell (tied for U1600), Ivan Nicolici and Ralph Fink (tied for U1400), and Al Hui (U1200).



McLaren-Gansvind, round four

The tournament was organized by Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess and directed by Stephen Wright, IA. Marc Moisan, a local Victoria player, acted as assistant TD and floater.

McLaren, Brian - Gansvind, Valeria [B26] BC sen 5th Victoria (4.1), 18.06.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 Rb8 7.Qd2 b5 8.Nge2 Nd4 9.0–0 Bg4 10.f3 Bd7 11.Rae1 Qc8 12.Nd1 b4 13.g4 Nxe2+ 14.Rxe2 Qa6 15.c4 Qxa2 16.h3 h5 17.Nf2 Bd4 18.Bxd4 cxd4 19.e5 d5 20.cxd5 Qxd5 21.f4 Qa5 22.g5 Bf5 23.e6 Bxe6 24.Rxe6 fxe6 25.Re1 Kf7 26.Re5 Qb6 27.Qc2 Nf6 28.gxf6 exf6 29.Rc5 Rhe8 30.Ne4 Re7 31.Rc6 Qa5 32.b3 Qa1+ 33.Kh2 Qa5 34.Qc4 Rb6 35.Nd6+ Kg7 36.Rc5 Qa6 37.Nc8 Qxc4 38.Rxc4 Reb7 39.Nxb6 Rxb6 40.Rc7+ Kh6 41.Rxa7 g5 42.fxg5+ Kxg5 43.Rd7 e5 44.Kg3 h4+ 45.Kf3 Rc6 46.Ke4 Rc3 47.Rg7+ Kh6 48.Rg4 Rxb3 49.Rxh4+ Kg6 50.Rg4+ Kf7 51.Bf3 Rc3 52.Rg2 b3 53.Rb2 f5+ 54.Kxe5 ½–½

Lapenna, Richard J. - Tate, Bill [B88] BC sen 5th Victoria (4.9), 18.06.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0–0 a6 8.Be3 Be7 9.f4 0–0 10.Qf3 Bd7 11.Rad1 Qc7 12.Bb3 Rac8 13.g4 Na5 14.g5 Nxb3 15.axb3 Ne8 16.Qh5 Qa5 17.Rf3 g6 18.Qh6 Ng7 19.Rh3 Nh5



20.Nd5 exd5 21.Rxh5 gxh5 22.f5 Kh8 23.g6 fxg6 24.fxg6 Rf7 25.Ne6 Rg8 26.Bd4+ Rf6 27.Qxh7# 1–0

Leblanc, Paul - Soliven, Joe [C02] BC sen 5th Victoria (5.3), 18.06.2017

1.d4 e6 2.e4 c5 3.c3 d5 4.e5 f5 5.f4 Qd7 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bd3 Ba6 8.Bxa6 Nxa6 9.Qe2 Nc7 10.Nbd2 Rb8 11.a4 Be7 12.Nf1 Rc8 13.Ne3 Nh6 14.Bd2 0–0 15.h3 Kh8 16.0–0 Nf7 17.g4 g6 18.g5 Nd8 19.Kf2 Nc6 20.h4 Na5 21.Rh1 Kg7 22.h5 Rh8 23.Rh3 Nb3 24.Rah1 Qxa4 25.Kg3 cxd4 26.cxd4 Nxd2 27.Qxd2 Rcg8 28.Qh2 Qe8 29.hxg6 hxg6 30.Rh7+ Rxh7 31.Qxh7+ Kf8 32.Qh6+ Kf7 33.Qh7+ Rg7 34.Qh2 Qa4 35.Rc1 Nb5 36.Rc8 Nxd4 37.Qh8 Ne2+ 38.Kf2 Nxf4 39.Rc7 Nh5 40.Nxf5 exf5 41.e6+ Kxe6 42.Qc8+ Kd6 43.Rc3 Bxg5 44.Qb8+ Ke6 45.Qe5+ Kd7 46.Qxd5+ Ke8 47.Rc8+ Ke7 48.Qd8+ Ke6 49.Nxg5+ Ke5 50.Nf3+ Ke4 51.Nd2+ Ke5 52.Nc4+ Ke4 53.Nd2+ Ke5 54.Nf3+ Ke4 55.Rc4+ Qxc4 56.Nd2+ Ke5 57.Nxc4+ Ke4 58.Qd6 f4 59.Qe5+ Kd3 60.Qd5+ Kc2 61.Qd2+ Kb3 62.Qc3+ Ka4 63.Nd6 1–0

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Opponent - Harper, Bruce [A42] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

I like this game because it was the second time I've beaten the same Grandmaster in this variation. I will probably lose next time from overconfidence, but live for the day!

1.c4 [0:03:00] **1...g6** [0:03:00] **2.d4** [0:02:58] **2...Bg7** [0:03:00] **3.e4** [0:02:58] **3...d6** [0:02:59] **4.Nc3** [0:02:57] **4...Nc6** [0:02:59] **5.Nge2** [0:02:56] **5...e5** [0:02:58] **6.Be3** [0:02:55] **6...Nh6** [0:02:57]



A specialty of the house. **7.d5** [0:02:51] **7...Ne7** [0:02:55]



8.f4?! [0:02:48] 8.f3, followed by 9.Qd2, is much more common. In a way 8.f4?! is logical, but I think Black is better prepared than White for a quick opening of the position. **8...f5** [0:02:51] **9.fxe5** [0:02:46] **9...Ng4** [0:02:48] 9...dxe5 was quite playable, but Black had a different idea that turned out well. **10.Bg5** [0:02:39] 10.exd6 Nxe3 11.dxe7 might have been better, but it's understandable that White opted for something simpler. **10...Nxe5** [0:02:41] **11.exf5** [0:02:37] This exchange eliminates the possibility of Black later advancing his f5-pawn to f4, but the drawback is that 11.exf5 helps Black develop. **11...Bxf5** [0:02:38] **12.Nd4** [0:02:36] **12...0-0** [0:02:29]



13.Nxf5?! [0:02:32] White was probably thinking of a rosy future when his light-squared bishop would dominate the board, but Black's lead in development makes long-term planning somewhat academic. It will be White who suffers on the dark squares. **13...Rxf5** [0:02:26] **14.Qd2** [0:02:32] **14...Qf8** [0:02:16] **15.Be2** [0:02:29]



15...Rg5!? [0:02:06] After the calm 15...Re8, Black would have an edge, but I sought to shock White with a purely positional sacrifice. It somehow seemed like something Kasparov woud do, although I haven't had a chance to ask him. 15...Rg5!? accords with the fundamental principle when playing GMs - don't give them any respect. **16.Qxg5** [0:02:27] **16...Bh6** [0:02:05] Now White can't castle on either side, and since White's queen has to move to a dark square, Black gains an important tempo for his e7–knight. **17.Qg3** [0:02:26] **17...Nf5** [0:02:02] **18.Qh3** [0:02:25] Interestingly, my engine recommends the cold-blooded 18.0–0!?, giving back the exchange in the hope of holding a slightly worse ending. **18...Ne3** [0:01:56]



This is the position Black had in mind when he sacrificed the exchange three moves earlier. Black's e3–knight is a monster, and White has to deal with the immediate threat of 19...Nc2+. **19.Rc1** [0:02:02]



19...N_xg2+? [0:01:46] Selling out. 19...Qf4! was crushing, and White simply has no reply. I took 12 seconds on this move and I recall considering 19...Qf4!, but I thought a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush, and didn't want to wreck a good position by being fancy. **20.Qxg2** [0:01:57] **20...Bxc1** [0:01:44] **21.Rf1** [0:01:56] **21...Qh6** [0:01:41]



Black is still winning, as virtually all of his pieces are more effective than their White counterparts, and Black has an extra pawn as insurance. **22.Ne4** [0:01:52] To prevent 22...Qd2+. **22...Rf8** [0:01:28] 22...Qe3 was more incisive, but at this point I thought that only a serious blunder by Black could change the course of the game, so I decided to exchange White's most active piece. **23.Nf6+?** [0:01:36] **23...Kg7** [0:01:21] **24.Nh5+** [0:01:28] **24...Kh8** [0:01:00] Triangulation... **25.Rxf8+** [0:01:20] **25...Qxf8** [0:01:00] **26.Ng3** [0:01:19] All White accomplished with his knight sortie was to transfer it to a worse square. **26...Qf4** [0:00:54] **27.Ne4** [0:01:17] **27...Bxb2** [0:00:47] Picking up a second pawn, while maintaining the pressure. Now the game suddenly ends. **28.Kd1?** [0:01:16] **28...Qc1#** [0:00:44] White checkmated. **0-1**

J.B.A.A. CHESS

Currently the Victoria-based [James Bay Athletic Association](#) is known exclusively as a rugby club, but earlier the association catered to many different sports. Formed in 1886, its members engaged in rowing, basketball, baseball, soccer, track and field, boxing, tennis, lacrosse, and hockey, amongst others. However, the club house also possessed a reading room where more sedate pastimes occurred, including whist and chess. It's not clear when chess began at the J.B.A.A., but by 1899 [Thomas Piper](#) was giving a course of instruction at the association. In 1902 the following announcement appeared in *The Daily Colonist* (November 23):

At a meeting of the chess committee of the J.B.A.A., held on Friday evening, it was decided to hold a tourney, open to the city of Victoria; players entering to be handicapped, according to their respective strength, in chess; players in each class – that is, players of equal strength – to play together until one player is the victor; the winners from each section to contest for the first place in the tournament.

We have previously written on the subject of handicapping in these columns – for example, see Bulletins #97 (Vancouver Chess Club handicap tournament 1913-14) and #305 (Blackburne vs. Piper: the games at odds). The entry fee was 50 cents and the tournament was open to anyone, not just members of the J.B.A.A. The announcement also specifically stated that the committee would decide when the games were played “to prevent any repetition of the fiasco known as the ‘New Century tournament,’ which is still unfinished.” This was a Victoria Chess Club event which began in November 1901, marred by a flexible schedule based on agreement of the individual players which meant that it took ages before some of the games were played (if at all). This first J.B.A.A. tournament began on December 8 with seventeen entrants divided into four classes:

Class A – B. Williams

Class B – C.W.D. Clifford, P.E. Leeming sr., B.H. Hurst, C.C. McKenzie

Class C – P.T. Johnstone, D. Leeming, F. Davie, S. Child, Batstone, W. Brown

Class D – W. Blake, P. Smith, R. Clarke, J. Scott, Wm. Moresby, C. Christopher

By January 4, 1903 the *Colonist* was able to announce the winners of each class. In Class B Hurst and McKenzie tied for first, with Hurst winning the playoff match; P.T. Johnstone and W. Blake won the Class C and D sections respectively. The class sections were played at equal strength, but for the games between the class winners handicapping was applied: knight odds were given to the next lower class, knight and bishop to the player two classes below, and finally knight and rook odds to those separated by three classes. These are rather severe odds, and not surprisingly the overall winner was the Class D victor, William Blake, with B.H. Hurst of Class B second.

The tourney was a great success in fostering a love of the game for itself, many of the players never troubling to look at the scoring sheet. The handicapping was left entirely to Mr. T.H. Piper, who was umpire also, but so few and unimportant were the infractions of rules that the latter’s office was almost a sinecure [also the feelings of your editor on being the TD for the recent BC Senior]. [*Daily Colonist*, 22 January 1903]



B. Williams, T.H. Piper



C.W.D. Clifford

At least half of the participants had never played in a tournament before, which is perhaps why Piper had trouble judging the handicapping correctly. The *Colonist* applauded the use of sections

where players competed on equal terms, noting that under handicap conditions “naturally the weaker player endeavours to exchange piece for piece, to preserve simplicity of position, and to wait for the endgame; but this is not chess, but merely shifting the pieces,” yet overlooking the fact that this is presumably exactly what happened in the handicap finals. Some of the individual players were praised: “patience, steadiness and a faculty of snapping up well considered trifles from pawns to queens were characteristic of Mr. Blake’s play;” “The play of Messrs. F. Davie and W. Brown has a note of promise, each showing a chess instinct sufficient to make a strong player.” There are many typos and inconsistencies in the newspaper listing of names, but we believe the former player to be [Cyril Francis Davie](#), a subsequent Victoria city champion. Another notable participant was [Charles William Digby Clifford](#) (1842-1916), at that time the M.P.P. for Cassiar; “Mr. Clifford has had the advantage of practice with players of a high order, the late Cecil De Vere, one of the strongest players of England, being among his earliest opponents.”

A second J.B.A.A. tournament commenced almost immediately with sixteen entrants. This time there was a larger number of classes involved:

Class 1 – B. Williams and Worthingham

Class 2 – B.H. Hurst and G.H. Sprout

Class 3 – C.C. McKenzie

Class 4 – no entries

Class 5 – P.T. Johnston, D. Leeming, E. Leeming, G. Brown, F. Davie and Wm. Blake

Class 6 – W. Clarke, W. Moresby, S. Child, C. Christopher, F. Scott, W. Hopkins

Classes 1, 2, and 3 were combined as Section A, while Classes 5 and 6 constituted Sections B and C respectively. Handicapping occurred between the classes in Section A but was not as severe as previously, the usual beginning odds of pawn and move or pawn and two moves being employed; it was also stated that the largest odds conceded should be bishop and knight. The first prize was a ‘handsome’ case of pipes, generously donated by Mr. Clifford. The winners of the three sections, B.H. Hurst, D. Leeming, and S. Child, competed in the finals, with Leeming placing first and Hurst second. Hurst gave Leeming a knight and Child a rook, while Leeming conceded pawn and move odds to Child. Ratings did not exist in those days, but players were classified by the odds they could offer or would receive; the *Colonist* commented that “Mr. G.H. Sprout, once a member of the Glasgow Chess Club, playing at odds of pawn and two moves with Mr. G.B. Fraser, champion of Scotland [1898] and Sheriff Spens [Scottish champion in 1894].”

A third J.B.A.A. tournament began on 9 March 1903 with seventeen players; this time the sections were dispensed with, there being instead a “general melee” with each player contesting two games with every other, the usual handicaps applying. However, there don’t seem to be any news reports on how this or subsequent tournaments ended. Defensive technique was improving and by this point handicap events were becoming anachronistic, despite the above mentioned Vancouver CC tournament in 1913. One suspects they only survived into the 20th century because of the influence of older players from the old country, such as Piper in Victoria or Bertram Yates in Vancouver, who had grown up with the system of games at odds. Twenty years later, despite being all but abandoned by everyone else, we still find Piper using games at odds as a teaching technique: there is a series of scoresheets dating to February/March 1925 at the BC Archives in which Piper played Max Enke at queen-knight odds – shortly thereafter Enke became BC Champion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)

Langley Open

September 2-4, Langley

[Details](#)