

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #356

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

8th HD Bank Cup (March 10-15)

The most important open event in South-East Asia, this year's HD Bank Cup moved from Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City to the capital Hanoi. With a prize fund of \$55,000 the tournament attracted one hundred and thirty-one titled players, among them national number one Lê Quang Liêm and Chinese star Wang Hao. In the end it was the fourth seed, Argentinian GM Sandro Mareco, who took the first prize with 7.5/9. There were two entrants from Canada, FM Yaaqov Vaingorten from Ontario and our own IM Leon Piasetski. Yaaqov had a horrible event, achieving only four draws and dropping 72 FIDE rating points. Leon also drew four games but had two wins to his credit, including one against third seed GM S.P. Sethuraman from India. His final total of 4.0/9 will result in a modest rating gain. [Results](#)



Piasetski, Leon – Sethuraman, S.P. [A34] 8th HDBank Cup (2.42), 10.03.2018

(Presumably the game has been truncated, but this is all that is currently available)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bd7 8.0–0 e6 9.d4 Bd6 10.Ba3 Qc7 11.Nd2 a6 12.Bd3 cxd4 13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.cxd4 Nb4 15.Ne4 Qe7 1–0

Reykjavík Open (March 6-14)

Sponsored by the Icelandic capital management company GAMMA, the dates for this year's Reykjavík Open happened to encompass what would have been Robert J. Fischer's seventy-fifth birthday, March 9. This, along with Fischer's associations with Reykjavík led to the tournament being designated the Bobby Fischer Memorial, with various lectures, tours, and a Fischer Random event on the rest day. The 'Canadian' contingent of seven included IMs Shiyam Thavandiran and David Cummings and junior Aiden Zhou, the latter from BC; the quotation marks are for Michael A. Murray, actually from Washington State but mistakenly listed as Canadian by FIDE due to his obtaining his FIDE rating via the Grand Pacific Open.

In the main event the two hundred and forty-eight player field included twenty-seven grandmasters, topped by 2700s Richard Rapport and Pavel Eljanov; they both finished a point off the pace as the overall winner was Indian star Baskaran Adhiban with 7.5/9. Thavandiran and Cummings both scored 6.0 points, while Aiden's 3.5 points resulted in a performance rating of just over 2100. Aiden also had the same score in the Fischer Random rapid event, where he had the privilege of playing eventual winner GM Aleksandr Lenderman in the first round. There was also a blitz tournament, won by Turkish GM Mustafa Yilmaz; Aiden scored 6.0/9, placing eighth in a field of fifty-nine.

[Tournament homepage](#) [Results](#)

Lorscheid, Gerhard – Zhou, Aiden [A07] GAMMA Reykjavík op (2.45), 07.03.2018

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 c6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.d3 Nd7 5.0–0 Ngf6 6.Nbd2 e5 7.h3 Bh5 8.e4 Bd6 9.Qe1 0–0 10.Nh4 Re8 11.Nb3 Nb6 12.a4 dxe4 13.dxe4 Nc4 14.g4 Bg6 15.Qe2 Na5 16.Nd2 a6 17.Rd1 Qc7 18.Nf1 b5 19.b3 Nb7 20.Bf3 Nc5 21.Nf5 Bxf5 22.gxf5 Red8 23.Bg5 Be7 24.Nd2 Nh5 25.Be3 Nf4 26.Bxf4 exf4 27.e5 f6 28.e6 Rab8 29.axb5 axb5 30.Re1 Rd4 31.Ra2 Rbd8 32.Nf1 g6 ½–½

Kvetny, Mark – Zhou, Aiden [E74] GAMMA Reykjavík op (4.25), 08.03.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0–0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 c5 8.d5 e6 9.Qd2 exd5 10.exd5 Kh7 11.h3 Re8 12.Bd3 b5 13.Nxb5 Ne4 14.Bxe4 Rxe4 15.Rc1 a6 16.Na3 f5 17.Ne2 g5 18.Qc2 Kg8 19.0–0 Re5 20.Rfe1 f4 21.Bd2 Bf5 22.Qd1 Nd7 23.Kh2 Re7 24.Bc3 Ne5 25.Ng1 Bg6 26.Re2 Bf5 27.Re1 Bg6 28.Re2 Bf5 29.Re1 Bg6 30.Re2 Bf5 ½–½

March Junior Active (March 4)

The VCS monthly active scheduled for March was to include the usual Open and Junior Sections, but there were an insufficient number of entries to run the Open Section, so only the junior division took place. Here ten players competed for three trophies by class and medals. There was a three-way tie for first on 4.0/5 between Rohan Wessels, Borna Amjadi, and Ryan Huang, with Rohan winning the U1300 Trophy on tiebreak. The U1000 and U600 Trophies went to Winston Huang and Pouya Sadeghian respectively, while medals were awarded to Borna, Ryan, and Benjamin Cooknagy.



As stated in the last Bulletin, it is not clear why attendance at the last two actives has diminished so much. Organizer Maxim Doroshenko feels the events have run their course in the current format and encourages other organizers and interested parties to take up the torch and consider continuing these tournaments which have been an important part of the Vancouver chess scene for almost a decade. [Results](#)

Seattle Super Masters (March 2-4)



Brian Yang in the foreground

A new tournament, held at the Seattle Chess Club and organized by Washington Chess Federation President Josh Sinanan, with the stated intent “to provide an opportunity for strong local junior players seeking experience in preparation for national and international competition.” To this end the tournament included three grandmasters: Andrey Gorovets, Julio Sadorra, and Yaroslav Zhrebukh. They gave lectures on the Thursday evening and then participated in the Masters Section of the main event. Here Zhrebukh defeated both his fellow GMs to claim the first prize with a perfect 5.0/5. There was also a twenty-three player Challengers Section which included Chuyang Gu and Brian Yang from this province. They both scored 1.5 points; there was a three way tie for first in the section, between Joseph Frantz, Vignseh Anand, and Frank Fagundes.

[Crosstables](#)

Mayer, Jacob – Yang, Brian [B40] Seattle Super Masters (3), 03.03.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.0–0 Be7 7.d4 0–0 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Ne5 Be6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Ne2 Re8 12.Nf4 Qb6 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qe2 Bd6 15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.c3 e5 17.b4 Bd6 18.Be3 d4 19.Qc4+ Kh8 20.cxd4 Ng4 21.Qxc6 Nxe3 22.Qxb6 axb6 23.fxe3 Ra3 24.Bc6 Rd8 25.dxe5 Bxe5 26.Rad1 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 g6 28.e4 Rxa2 29.Rd5 Bc3 30.b5 Rd2 31.Rxd2 Bxd2 32.Kf2 Kg7 33.e5 Kf7 34.Bd5+ Ke7 35.Kf3 h5 36.Be4 g5 37.Bf5 h4 ½–½

Seashadri, Sridhar – Gu, Chuyang [A20] Seattle Super Masters (3), 03.03.2018

1.c4 e5 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.d3 Nc6 5.h3 b6 6.a3 a5 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.Nd5 h6 9.Be2 0–0 10.0–0 Re8 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Nxd4 Bxd4 13.Bc3 c6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Bf3 Qg5 17.Bg4 d5 18.f4 Qg6 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.e5 Ba6 21.f5 Qg5 22.Re1 Qf4 23.e6 fxe6 24.fxe6 Re7 25.Qb3 Qd6 26.Qa4 Bxd3 27.Rad1 Bg6 28.Rxd4 Rd8 29.Kh1 Kh8 30.Qd1 Qc6 31.Bf3 Rxe6 32.Rxe6 Qxe6 33.Rxd5 Rxd5 34.Qxd5 Qe1+ 35.Kh2 Kh7 36.Qd4 Qe6 37.Bg4 Qc6 38.Bf3 Qc7+ 39.Kh1 Qc1+ 40.Kh2 ½–½

BCYCC (March 10-11)



Administered by chess2inspire, this year's BCYCC was organizational pretty much a duplicate of last year. Held at the Lansdowne Centre in Richmond, the two-day four or five round tournament attracted a total of one hundred and six players, entrants in sections determined by age and gender (although some sections were combined for pairing purposes). Special thanks to Michael Lo, Lara Lo, and Ron Hui and all the others who helped make the event a success. [Crosstables](#). The trophy winners were as follows:

U8 Open

- 1 Boyong Guo
- 2 Nicholas Wu
- 3 Codrin Pompas

U10 Open

- 1 Ethan Song
- 2 Nathan Wu
- 3 Ryan Yang

U12 Open

- 1 Chuyang Gu
- 2 Joshua Imoo
- 3 Mike Zhu

U14 Open

- 1 Andrew Hemstapat
- 2 Isaac Trenton
- 3 Leo Chung

U16 Open

- 1 Joshua Doknjas
- 2 Brian Yang
- 3 Ryan Leong

U18 Open

- 1 Brandon Zhu
- 2 William Bremner
- 3 James Li

U8 Girls

- 1 Eliza Tian

U10 Girls

- 1 Joyce Zhang

U12 Girls

- 1 Jessica Qian
- 2 Kate Jiang
- 3 Mengbai Li

U14 Girls

- 1 Anna Van

Li, James – Zhu, Brandon [D39] BCYCC U18 Richmond (2), 10.03.2018

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.a4 c5 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Rxd1 a6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Be2 Bb7 12.Nd2 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nd7 14.Rb1 Bc6 15.0-0 Nxc5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bf3 e5 18.Rfe1 Ke7 19.Nf1 Nd3 20.Re2 Ra3 21.Rc2 Rha8 22.Ne3 Ra1 23.Rf1 Kd6 24.Nd1 R1a2 25.Ne3 Rxc2 26.Nxc2 Ra2 0-1

NANAIMO SPRING OPEN (March 3-4) by Jason Williamson, TD/Organizer



This edition of the Nanaimo Spring Open was extra special as we had an appearance of that rare beast in Canadian chess: a Grandmaster! GM Eric Hansen decided to visit Nanaimo to complete his mini chess tour. This of course attracted a large amount of interest and we maxed out the registrations at twenty-six. The room might have handled a few more players but it would have been cramped.

No surprise when Eric won the event with a perfect score but he had some challenge from a few of the games, including his third round game against Jiri Blaha that went right down to the wire where the tricky GM pulled a win from a drawn position in mutual time pressure. Second was Jiri Blaha – a new comer to Canadian chess but well established as a FIDE expert.

First under 2000 was split by Mark Dutton, Jason Williamson, and Rowan James
First under 1600 was split by Charles Wu and Paul Clarkson.

Our next event is targeted for November.

[Tournament webpage](#) [CFC standings](#)

Blaha, Jiri – Hansen, Eric [B23] Nanaimo Spring op (3), 03.03.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0–0 a6 7.Bc4 e6 8.d3 Ne7 9.Bb3 0–0 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Ne2 d6 12.Bd2 Bd7 13.Qe1 Kh8 14.Qf2 Nc6 15.c3 dxc3 16.Bxc3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Rc8 18.Rac1 Qa5 19.Kh1 Rc7 20.Nd4 Ne7 21.Qh4 Ng8 22.f5 Rxc3 23.Rcd1 gxf5 24.exf5 exf5 25.Nf3 f6 26.Bxg8 Kxg8 27.Qg3+ Kh8 28.Qxd6 Rf7 29.Rc1 Qa3 30.Qb8+ Bc8 31.Qf4 Rxc1 32.Rxc1 Be6 33.Nd4 Bd7 34.h3 Rg7 35.Qc7 h6 36.Rg1 Kh7 37.Qxb7 Qxd3 38.Qb6 f4 39.Qxf6 Qe4 40.Kh2 a5 41.Nf3 Bc6 42.Nh4 a4 43.a3 Ba8 44.Nf3 Bd5 45.Nh4 Rf7 46.Qd6 Qd3 47.Nf3 Qb3 48.Rf1 Qa2 49.Re1 Qb3 50.Rf1 Qa2 51.Kg1 Qc4 52.Rf2 Qe4 53.Rf1 Rg7 54.Kh2 Qe2 55.Rg1 Bxf3 0–1

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

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

This game was selected for two reasons. The first is that the positional idea carried out by White is somewhat instructive - in some positions the normal material values simply don't apply. The second is that Black makes a fool of himself by refusing to resign, thereby losing both the game and his self-respect. **1.g3** [0:03:00] **1...d5** [0:03:00] **2.Bg2** [0:02:59] **2...c6** [0:03:00] **3.d3** [0:02:59] **3...e5** [0:02:58] **4.Nf3** [0:02:57] **4...Bd6** [0:02:57] **5.e4** [0:02:56] **5...dxe4?!** [0:02:55] This is one of the worst ways to play this position. Black should maintain the tension in the centre. **6.dxe4** [0:02:54] **6...Bg4** [0:02:52]



The engine judges the position as still being equal, but I can't help but prefer White. **7.h3** [0:02:50] **7...Bh5** [0:02:47] **8.0-0** [0:02:47] **8...Nf6** [0:02:43] **9.Nbd2** [0:02:46] **9...0-0** [0:02:41] **10.Nc4** [0:02:40]



10...Bxf3?! [0:02:39] Black ought to have calmly retreated with **10...Bc7**, relying on pressure on White's e4-pawn to offset the problems Black has with his own e5-pawn. **11.Qxf3** [0:02:37] **11...Bc7** [0:02:37] **12.Rd1** [0:02:33] **12...Qe7** [0:02:33]



13.Bg5 [0:02:28] 13.b3 would also preserve White's positional advantage, but I decided to try for something more forcing. **13...Nbd7** [0:02:32] **14.Ne3** [0:02:23] **14...h6?** [0:02:26]



Played after six seconds thought. White is now permitted to carry out his tactical idea, which involves a positional sacrifice, albeit with thoughts of checkmate thrown in. **15.Rxd7!** [0:02:20] Objectively 15. Nf5 was as good or better, but it's also necessary to consider the shock value of a move. **15...Qxd7** [0:02:22] **16.Bxf6** [0:02:18] **16...gxf6** [0:02:21] It is actually better not to recapture the f6-bishop, but what hope would Black have then? **17.Nf5** [0:02:14]



White's f5-knight is worth much more than an exchange. The threat is 18.Qg4+ and 19.Qg7 mate, and there's actually very little Black can do about it. Black thought for 17 seconds here, then decided to keep playing. As we shall soon see, he might be one of those players that never resign as a matter of principle. **17...Qd2** [0:02:04]



17...Kh7 fails to 18.Rd1!, preventing ...Qd2, after which 19.Qh5 is crushing. **18.h4** [0:02:09] Curiously, 18.Rd1 Qg5 19.h4 also wins convincingly, because Black's g5-queen is trapped! **18...Bb6** [0:01:56] 18...Rfd8, to provide Black's king with an escape route, was the only chance, but Black still gets destroyed in a conventional manner after 19.Qg4+ Kf8 20.Qg7+ Ke8 21.Nxh6. **19.Qg4+** [0:02:02] **19...Qg5** [0:01:53] At this point the only thing an annotator can do is make fun of Black for playing on and disgracing himself. **20.hxg5** [0:01:54] **20...hxg5** [0:01:52] **21.Qh5** [0:01:52]



One benefit to Black's bizarre behaviour is that now White's f5-knight somehow looks even better, thanks to Black's g5-pawn. **21...Rfd8** [0:01:35] **22.Qh6** [0:01:49] **22...Bxf2+** [0:00:58]



23.Kh2 [0:01:38] I think it's perfectly acceptable to be mean in a position like this. **23...Bxg3+** [0:00:56] **24.Kh3** [0:01:34] **24...g4+** [0:00:49] **25.Kxg3** [0:01:33] **25...Rd3+** [0:00:20] **26.cxd3** [0:01:33] **26...Rd8** [0:00:17] **27.Qg7#** [0:01:33] **1-0**

ROBERT JAMES FISCHER (9 March 1943 – 17 January 2008)

As reported in the Reykjavík report above, we just passed a significant Fischer anniversary. In commemoration we present material which first appeared in these pages ten years ago: Fischer's connections to British Columbia, concentrating on his games with our two strongest players, grandmasters Duncan Suttles and Peter Biyiasas.

FISCHER AND SUTTLES

Suttles played Fischer twice; although he lost both times, it was not without a fight:

Fischer, Robert - Suttles, Duncan [B06] US ch New York (2), 12.1965

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 c6 5.Qd2 Nd7 6.f4 Ngf6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.h3 b5 9.Bd3 Nb6 10.b3 a5 11.0-0 b4 12.Ne2 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Qe1 f5 15.a3 bxa3 16.Rxa3 a4 17.Qa1 Ba6 18.Bxa6 Rxa6 19.Nc3 Qc7 20.Ne1 Rfa8 21.Nd3 R6a7 22.Qb2 e6 23.Nc5 Bf8 24.Rfa1 Kf7 25.N3xa4 Nxa4 26.bxa4 Bxc5 27.dxc5 Kg8 28.Rb3 Qa5 29.Kh2 h5 30.Rb8+ Rxb8 31.Qxb8+ Kh7 32.Rb1 Qxa4 33.Qf8 Rg7 34.Rb8 g5 35.Qh8+ Kg6 36.Qe8+ Rf7 37.Rb7 1-0

Suttles, Duncan - Fischer, Robert [B03] Palma de Mallorca izt (20), 07.12.1970

"Today Suttles had to face the mighty Fischer and even his enthusiasm for chess was somewhat dulled by the prospect. But Fischer respects Suttles and believes that Suttles sees very deeply into a position." [Nathan Divinsky, *Canadian Chess Chat*, April 1971]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Be3 g6 7.d5 Bg7 8.Bd4 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.Nc3 e5 11.Qd2 f5 12.Nf3 N8d7 13.0-0-0 Qf6 14.Qh6 Qe7 15.Re1 e4 16.Nd2 Ne5 17.h3 Nbd7 18.Qe3 Qh4 19.g3 Qf6 20.Kb1 Nc5 21.f4 exf3 22.Nxf3 f4 23.gxf4 Nxf3 24.Qxf3 Qh4 25.Be2 Bf5+ 26.Ka1 Rae8 27.Rc1 Be4 28.Nxe4 Rxe4 29.Rh2 Rxf4 30.Qc3 Qe7 31.Bf1 Re3 32.Qd2 Ref3 33.Re2 Qf6 34.Bg2 Rf2 35.Rce1 Rxe2 36.Rxe2 Rxc4 37.Qe3 Qe5 38.Kb1 Qxe3 39.Rxe3 Rf4 40.Bf3 h5 41.Kc2 Kf7 42.Kd2 Rb4 43.Kc3 Rh4 44.b4 Nd7 45.Be2 Nf6 46.Rf3 Kg7 47.Rd3 g5 48.a3 g4 49.Bf1 Ne4+ 50.Kc2 Nf2 51.Re3 gxh3 52.Re7+ Kf8 0-1

FISCHER AND BIYIASAS

Fischer stayed for a time with Peter Biyiasas after the latter had moved to the U.S.:

"Bobby had been known to like San Francisco. In 1981 he had lived at the apartment of Greek-born grandmaster Peter Biyiasas and his wife, Ruth Haring. Through Buff [Jim Buff, a friend of Fischer's], Biyiasas had invited Fischer to live with them. One day Buff called. "Peter, he's coming up. Bobby's coming up on the bus to stay with you!" Fischer arrived one early March morning with his suitcase of clothes and vitamins and a large orange juice squeezer that he had bought in Mexico. He stayed for two months, returned to Los Angeles in the summer, then came back in the fall to stay two more months. They swam in the ocean, played pinball machines, bowled, went to movies, squeezed oranges and played baseball in Golden Gate Park. Fischer shagged Buff's fly balls and pegged them back to the plate as hard as he could. "How was it coming in?" asked Bobby.

He was more overpowering at the chessboard with Biyiasas. During his four months in San Francisco, he beat Biyiasas 17 straight speed games before Biyiasas finally surrendered. "He was too good," Biyiasas says. "There was no use in playing him. It wasn't interesting. I was getting beaten, and it wasn't clear to me why. It wasn't like I made this mistake or that mistake. It was like I was being gradually outplayed, from the start. He wasn't taking any time to think. The most depressing thing about it is that I wasn't even getting out of the middle game to an endgame. I don't ever remember as endgame. He honestly believes there is no one for him to play, no one worthy of him. I played him, and I can attest to that. It's not interesting."

As time passed, Fischer's taste for the eccentric and his preoccupation with Jews became evident to Biyiasas. Biyiasas says Fischer referred to Jews as "Yids," telling him that one controlled the fluctuating price of the world's gold. "He is fascinated by who this might be," Biyiasas says. Fischer had what he called Chinese healthy brain pills ("Good for headaches," Fischer told him) and Mexican rattlesnake pills ("Good for general health"). He had vitamins in a suitcase, and he invited Biyiasas to help himself to them. One day, Biyiasas tried to open the suitcase but found it locked. Later, Biyiasas asked him about this. "It's not locked for you," Fischer said. "If the Commies come to poison me, I don't want to make it easy for them.""

[From an article by William Nack in *Sports Illustrated*, July 29, 1985. When dealing with legendary reclusive figures, sometimes it's hard to separate fact from fiction. In other sources the number of games played between Fischer and Biyiasas vary from ten to one hundred; seventeen speed games (playable in less than three hours) seems a rather small number considering Fischer is supposed to have stayed with Biyiasas for four months. Fischer's other BC connection was of course his Candidates' Match with Mark Taimanov at UBC in 1971, for which see (most recently) [Bulletin #320](#)]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vancouver Rapid Chess League

Monthly until May 2018, Jericho Village
[Details](#)

BC Active Championship

March 25, Jericho Village
[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

March 30 – April 2, Victoria
[Details](#)

Provincial Chess Challenge

April 15, Columbia College
[Details](#)

Kamloops Grand Prix #0

April 21-22, Kamloops
[Details](#)

Knightmare Quads

April 22, Burnaby
[Details](#)

North Vancouver City Championships

April 28, North Vancouver
[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

May 19-21, Richmond
[Details](#)

BC Senior Championship

June 22-24, Surrey

[Details](#)

Bowser Builders Open

August 12, Bowser

[Details](#)