

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #368

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

World Youth Championships (October 17-18, 19, 20-30)

The World Youth Championships (the renamed U14-U18 sections of the former WYCC) are currently taking place at the Porto Carras Grand Resort in Chalkidiki (or Halkidiki if you prefer), Greece; Chalkidiki had previously hosted the event in 2015, 2010, and several times in the early 2000s. In addition to the usual championships by age group FIDE this year inaugurated a new tournament, the World Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships which took place at Chalkidiki immediately before the main event. Eleven Canadians are participating in the WYCC this year, including William Bremner and Brandon Zhu (both U18) from this province; they both arrived early to also play in the Rapid and Blitz Championships, the only other Canadian to do so was Yilin Yi (U18 Girls).



(Photos by Niki Riga)

Being a new event organized at relatively short notice and also adding more days to a lengthy main event, the [Rapid](#) (October 17-18) and [Blitz](#) (October 19) attracted a limited number of players – twenty-six and twenty-eight respectively for the U18 Open Sections. Rapid in this context was a fastish time control of 10 + 5, whereas the Blitz was a leisurely 5 + 2. Both U18 Sections were won by Russian GM Alexey Sarana with identical 7.5/9 scores. Our BC representatives also had identical scores in both events, 2.5 points for William and 3.0 for Brandon, although William won both their individual games. It appears regular FIDE ratings were used for pairings, as most players lacked official FIDE rapid or blitz ratings.

In the regular [WYCC](#) after seven of eleven rounds the top Canadians are Nicholas Vettese, Rohan Talukdar, and Maili-Jade Ouellet with 4.5 points; William and Brandon have 2.5 and 3.5 points respectively. This year's U18 section is particularly tough – among the ninety-seven players are seven GMs and sixteen IMs. [Tournament website](#) Canadian reports at the [Doknjas Chess](#) facebook page

Porto Carras is a popular holiday resort and also a choice location for chess tournaments, it seems; overlapping the Youth Rapid Championships was the end of the European Club Cup, allowing the participants of the former to glimpse some of the world's top players in action:



Shakhriyar Mamedyarov about to play Magnus Carlsen (Photo by Wendy Matsubuchi)

Bremner, William – Pantzar, Milton [E01] WYCC U18 Porto Carras (2.29), 21.10.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bd6 6.Nc3 0–0 7.Bg5 c6 8.Bg2 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.e4 Bc7 11.0–0 dxc4 12.Qe2 Qe7 13.Qxc4 b5 14.Qb3 Ba6 15.Rfd1 Nd7 16.Rac1 Bb6 17.d5 exd5 18.exd5 Nf6 19.dxc6 Bxf2+ 20.Kh1 Bb6 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.Rxd5 Rad8 23.Re1 Qc7 24.Ne5 Rde8 25.Qd1 Bc8 26.Rxb5 a6 27.Rd5 Be6 28.Rd3 Bf5 29.Rd5 Be6 30.Rd3 Bf5 31.Rd5 ½–½

Zhu, Brandon – Kouskoutis, Georgios-Alexandros [B35] WYCC U18 Porto Carras (3.31), 21.10.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0–0 8.Bb3 d6 9.f3 Bd7 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.a4 b4 13.Na2 a5 14.c3 bxc3 15.Nxc3 Rb8 16.Qd1 Rb4 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nd5 Bxb2 19.Ra2 Bg7 20.Nxb4 Bc3+ 21.Ke2 axb4 22.g4 Kg7 23.Kf1 e5 24.h4 f5 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Rg2+ Kh6 27.exf5 Rxf5 28.Rg5 Qf6 29.Rxf5 Bxf5 30.Qc1+ Kg7 31.Qg5+ Qxg5 32.hxg5 e4 33.fxe4 Bxe4 34.Rh4 Bf5 35.a5 d5 36.Ke2 d4 37.a6 d3+ 38.Ke3 Bc8 39.a7 Bb7 40.Kxd3 Be1 41.Re4 1–0

Isle of Man International (October 20-28)

Held in Douglas on the Isle of Man, an island in the Irish Sea between England and Northern Ireland, this event is sponsored by chess.com, the Scheinberg Family, and other local organizations. In 2017 both Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana were participants; neither is present this year due to their upcoming world championship match, but the one hundred and sixty-five player Masters Section still includes seventy-five grandmasters, twenty of whom are over 2700. Last year's novelty of using random pairings for the first round was not repeated. After six rounds there was a six-way tie for first between Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Hikaru Nakamura, Radoslaw

Wojtaszek, Wang Hao, Arkadij Naiditsch, and Jeffery Xiong, with the likes of Vladimir Kramnik, Viswanathan Anand, and Sergey Karjakin just a half-point off the pace. The only Canadian in the field is Leon Piasetski who has 2.5 points including a half-point bye. [Tournament website](#)



We haven't been able to locate a photo of Leon from this year's event so here is one from last year with Lawrence Trent, whom he also played this year in round five, and Hou Yifan, who is not participating this time.

Piasetski, Leon – Shaw, Peter [A07] Isle of Man Masters Douglas (3.78), 22.10.2018

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.0–0 Nbd7 7.Re1 e5 8.e4 dxe4 9.dxe4 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Bc5 11.Nd2 0–0 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Qe2 a5 14.a4 Qe7 15.Rd1 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Qc4 Bb6 18.Ra3 Rfd8 19.Rad3 Rxd3 20.Rxd3 Rd8 21.Bd2 Rxd3 22.cxd3 Nd7 23.b4 axb4 24.Bxb4 Bc5 25.Bd2 Bd4 26.Bb4 Bc5 27.Be1 Bd4 28.Bg4 Nb6 29.Qb3 Qg5 30.Kf1 h5 31.Bf3 g6 32.a5 Nd7 33.Qxb7 Qc1 34.Qb3 Nc5 35.Qd1 Qxd1 36.Bxd1 Nxd3 37.a6 Nxe1 38.Kxe1 Kf8 39.h4 Ke7 40.f4 exf4 41.gxf4 Bb6 42.Kd2 Ba7 43.Kd3 Bb6 44.e5 f5 45.Kc4 Bf2 46.Bb3 Kd7 47.Kd3 Ke7 48.Ke2 Bb6 49.Bg8 Kf8 50.Bh7 Kf7 51.e6+ Kxe6 52.Bxg6 c5 53.Bxh5 c4 54.Be8 Kf6 55.Kd2 Bd4 56.h5 Kg7 57.Bg6 Kh6 58.Kc2 Kg7 59.Bxf5 Kh6 60.Bg6 Kg7 61.f5 1–0

Zhukova, Natalia – Piasetski, Leon [E12] Isle of Man Masters Douglas (4.62), 23.10.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 c5 5.d5 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.e4 0–0 9.Nd2 d6 10.Be2 Na6 11.0–0 Nc7 12.a4 Rb8 13.h3 a6 14.Rb1 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.b4 cxb4 17.Na2 Na6 18.Nxb4 Nxb4 19.Rxb4 Qa5 20.Qb3 Bd7 21.Bb2 Rfe8 22.Ra1 Qc7 23.Bf3 h6 24.Bd4 Nh7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Qb2+ Nf6 27.Rb3 Rec8 28.Bd1 Ra8 29.Rf3 Qd8 30.Rfa3 Rxa3 31.Rxa3 Qe7 32.f4 Kg8 33.Bf3 Be8 34.Kh2 Nd7 35.Ra7 Qf6 36.Qxf6 Nxf6 37.e5 dxe5 38.fxe5 Nd7 39.Bg4 Rd8 40.e6 Nf6 41.exf7+ Bxf7 42.Be6 Bxe6 43.dxe6 Rxd2 44.Ra8+ Kg7 45.Ra7+ Kg8 ½–½

BC vs Washington Challenge Match Set for January 2019

In 2017, the top five boards of Team BC comprised an IM and 4 FMs. The Washington Chess Federation has accepted the challenge to the third annual BC vs Washington match, to be held in Victoria 18-20 January, 2019. Each team will field 10 players divided into two Scheveningen groups based on rating. The event will be held in the spacious Topaz Room at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria and will be FIDE and CFC rated. 160% of entry fees will be returned in prizes.

Invitations will be sent in November. Interested players can contact Paul Leblanc at

pc-leblanc@shaw.ca



The 2017 BC-WA match participants

103rd BC CHAMPIONSHIP (October 5-8)

Unusually, in this year's BC Closed Championship fully half of the players were new to the event. Making their debuts were IM Stanislav Kriventsov, IM Raymond Kaufman, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, and William Bremner. [Kriventsov](#) has lived here for some ten years but has been relatively inactive in chess – this was only his third Canadian event. He qualified for the Closed via the Paul Keres Memorial. Kaufman, the current Canadian Open co-champion, is well known in these parts but only recently took up residence in Vancouver; the Langley Open was his route to the Closed. And selected from the ratings list were Nyamdorj and Bremner, both of whom have made substantial ratings gains this year. They joined defending champions Grigorii Morozov and Tanraj Sohal, BC Junior qualifier Andrew Hemstapat, and Joshua Doknjas, also a BC Junior co-champion, whose qualification was from the ratings list. The high ratings of the newcomers, three of them over 2300, pushed the average rating of the tournament to 2297, its highest in twenty-five years. (In 1993 the average was 2302 when the Closed was at Douglas College in New Westminster – Gary Basanta won, ahead of Jonathan Berry and Leon Piasetski.)

Vancouver, 5-8 October 2018		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1 Sohal, Tanraj	2377	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.0
2 Morozov, Grigorii	2365	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	1	5.0
3 Doknjas, Joshua	2250	½	½	*	1	½	0	1	1	4.5
4 Kaufman, Raymond	2349	½	½	0	*	½	1	1	1	4.5
5 Kriventsov, Stanislav	2361	½	½	½	½	*	½	1	½	4.0
6 Hemstapat, Andrew	2201	0	0	1	0	½	*	½	1	3.0
7 Nyamdorj, Davaa-Ochir	2318	0	0	0	0	0	½	*	1	1.5
8 Bremner, William	2155	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	*	0.5

Initially the obvious division was between the five players in the 2300 club and the three who weren't. The results largely reflect these groupings, except that Davaa and Joshua switched places. This was evident in the first round, when Morozov was caught flat-footed by Doknjas' choice of a QGD Vienna and barely survived a pawn-down ending, while Nyamdorj suffered in a long defensive effort against Kriventsov, finally achieved equality but then missed the drawing subtlety in a pawn ending and lost.



Black played 87...Kd4, but 87...Ke6 88.g5 fxg5+ 89.Kxg5 h3! would draw.

This had a major impact on Davaa's confidence and he played the rest of the event much below his capabilities.

All the games between the top-five finishers were drawn, often in relatively short order, with one exception. This was the fourth round game between Doknjas and Kaufman, where Joshua took revenge for his defeat by the same opponent at the Langley Open.

Cumulative scores:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Morozov	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	5.0
2 Sohal	1.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	5.0
3 Doknjas	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	4.5
4 Kaufman	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	3.5	4.0	4.5
5 Kriventsov	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0
6 Hemstapat	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0
7 Nyamdorj	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
8 Bremner	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0

The lead changed hands several times, largely depending upon whether players from the top group were playing each other or those in the lower group. After five rounds there was a four-way tie(!) for first on 3.5/5 with Kriventsov a mere half-point back, meaning the results in the two remaining two rounds on the Monday would be crucial in determining the winners. As it happened the round six pairings included Morozov-Kaufman and Kriventsov-Sohal; nobody took any risks and both games were drawn in under twenty moves. Doknjas beat Nyamdorj relatively easily,

gaining a half-point on the rest of the pack and sole possession of the lead going into the last round. Kaufman and Kriventsov opposed each other, while Doknjas, Sohal, and Morozov were paired against players outside their 'group.' Sohal and then Morozov won their games to reach 5.0 points, leaving Kaufman applying pressure in order to tie with them, but Doknjas with a win against Hemstapat could still take clear first. Alas, it was not to be; whether nerves got to Joshua or Andrew was simply the better player on the day is hard to judge, but a complicated Najdorf gradually resolved itself into an ending with white (Andrew) having several extra pawns. The position remained tense and tricky, each side having two knights and a rook, but Andrew eventually converted his advantage. Kaufman pressed hard but Kriventsov's defence held, leaving Kaufman with 4.5 points and tied for third with Doknjas. Despite the potential for massive ties going into the last day Grigorii Morozov and Tanraj Sohal repeated as co-champions, each also scoring the same number of points as last year.



Our thanks to the [UBC Chess Club](#), president Jeremy Hui, for arranging the playing site at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC, and to [chess2inspire](#) for the equipment. The first qualifying event for the next year's Closed is the [BC Junior Championship](#), coming up on the Remembrance Day weekend – the other criteria for selection can be found on the BCCF [website](#). Photos at [Doknjas Chess](#) facebook page

Doknjas, Joshua – Kaufman, Raymond [C54] BC ch 103rd Vancouver (4.1), 07.10.2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0–0 6.0–0 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.a4 a6 9.Re1 Bg4 10.a5 Qd7 11.Nbd2 Kh8 12.h3 Bh5 13.Ne4 Ba7 14.Ng3 Bg6 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Rxe5 c6 17.Qf3 Rad8 18.d4 Bb8 19.Re2 Qd6 20.Bg5 f6 21.Bd2 c5 22.Rd1 cxd4 23.cxd4 Nf4 24.Bxf4 Qxf4 25.Qxf4 Bxf4 26.d5 Bd6 27.Nf1 Bb4 28.Ra1 Bf7 29.Ra4 Bc5 30.b4 Bd6 31.Ne3 Rc8 32.g3 Rfe8 33.b5 Re4 34.bxa6 bxa6 35.Nf5 Rxe2 36.Bxe2 Rc1+ 37.Bf1 Bc7 38.d6 Bd8 39.Rb4 g6 40.Rb8 gxf5 41.Rxd8+ Kg7 42.d7 Rd1 43.Kg2 Bd5+ 44.f3 Rd2+ 45.Kg1 Bxf3 46.Bxa6 Bc6 47.Bc8 Kh6 48.a6 Rd3 49.Kf2 f4 50.gxf4 Rd6 51.a7 Rd2+ 52.Ke3 Ra2 53.Rf8 1–0

Nyamdorj, Davaa-Ochir – Sohal, Tanraj [B48] BC ch 103rd Vancouver (4.2), 07.10.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.a3 b5 8.g3 Bb7 9.Bg2 Ne5 10.0–0 Nf6 11.Qe2 Nc4 12.Bc1 Be7 13.Re1 Qb6 14.Nf5 exf5 15.exf5 0–0 16.b3 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nd6 18.Qf3

Rae8 19.g4 Qc6 20.Bf4 Nb7 21.g5 Nh5 22.Bd2 Bd8 23.Ne4 a5 24.c4 bxc4 25.bxc4 g6 26.Rab1 Nd6 27.Nxd6 Qxd6 28.Be3 Bc7 29.Rb7 Ng7 30.Rb5 Nxf5 31.Rxf5 gxf5 32.Qxf5 Qe6 33.Qc5 Qc6+ 0–1

Morozov, Grigorii – Hemstapat, Andrew [E92] BC ch 103rd Vancouver (4.3), 07.10.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 Re8 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.cxd5 c6 12.Bc4 cxd5 13.Bxd5 Nd7 14.Rc1 h6 15.Be3 Nf6 16.Bb3 Be6 17.Bxe6 Rxe6 18.Rc7 Nxe4 19.Rxb7 Ra6 20.a3 Nd6 21.Rb4 Rc6 22.0–0 a5 23.Ra4 f5 24.Rb1 Rac8 25.b3 Ne4 26.Re1 Nc5 27.Rxa5 Nxb3 28.Rb5 Nc5 29.Rc1 Nd3 30.Rxc6 Rxc6 31.g3 Rd6 32.Rb6 Rxb6 33.Bxb6 Kf7 34.a4 g5 35.a5 Nb4 36.Nd2 Bf8 37.Nc4 Ke6 38.Kg2 g4 39.h3 h5 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.Ne3 Bh6 42.Kf1 Bxe3 43.Bxe3 Kd5 44.Bd2 Nc6 45.a6 Ke4 46.Bc3 f4 47.Ke2 Na7 48.Bb2 Nb5 49.Kd2 Kd5 50.Kd3 Nc7 51.a7 Na8 52.Bc1 f3 53.Bd2 Nb6 54.Ba5 Na8 55.Ke3 e4 56.Kf4 Kd4 57.Bd2 Kd3 58.Be3 Nc7 59.Ke5 1–0

Hemstapat, Andrew – Doknjas, Joshua [B94] BC ch 103rd Vancouver (7.1), 08.10.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qf3 b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.Bd3 g6 11.Nb3 Bg7 12.0–0 0–0 13.Rae1 Rac8 14.Qh3 Rfe8 [Black offered a draw.] 15.Kh1 Nb6 16.e5 Nfd5 17.Ne4 f5 18.exf6 exf6 19.f5 Qd7 20.Bc1 Re5 21.Nd4 Rce8 22.Nf3 R5e7 23.Qg3 gxf5 24.Nxd6 Rxe1 25.Nxe1 f4 26.Bxf4 Rd8 27.Bh6 Ne3 28.Rxf6 Qg4 29.Bxg7 Qxg3 30.hxg3 Kxg7 31.Nxb7 Rxd3 32.Re6 Rd7 33.Nc5 Rd5 34.Ned3 Rh5+ 35.Kg1 Nbd5 36.c3 Nc4 37.Rxa6 Rf5 38.Ne6+ Kg8 39.Nd4 Rf8 40.Nxb5 Nde3 41.Kh2 Rf1 42.g4 Nxg4+ 43.Kg3 Nge3 44.Nd4 h5 45.Nf3 Rd1 46.Ra8+ Kg7 47.Ra7+ Kf6 48.Nf2 Rf1 49.b3 Nd6 50.Nh4 Rc1 51.Ra6 Nf1+ 52.Kf4 Ke7 53.Ng6+ Kd7 54.Ne5+ Ke7 55.Ra7+ Kf6 56.c4 Rc2 57.Ned3 Nd2 58.c5 Nb5 59.Ra6+ Ke7 60.a4 Nd4 61.b4 Ne6+ 62.Kf5 Nc7 63.Rh6 Nc4 64.Rh7+ Kd8 65.b5 Nd5 66.Kg5 Ra2 67.b6 Kc8 68.Ra7 Kb8 69.Kxh5 Re2 70.g4 Re6 71.g5 Nce3 72.Rh7 Nf5 73.a5 Re8 74.a6 Nfe7 75.Ne5 Nf4+ 76.Kg4 Nfd5 77.Nfd3 Rg8 78.Kh3 Ka8 79.Rf7 Rh8+ 80.Kg3 Rg8 81.Kf2 Rh8 82.g6 Rg8 83.g7 1–0

Kaufman, Raymond – Kriventsov, Stanislav [B45] BC ch 103rd Vancouver (7.3), 08.10.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Qa5+ 9.Bd2 Qb6 10.c4 Qd4 11.Nd6+ Bxd6 12.exd6 Qe5+ 13.Be2 Nf4 14.Bxf4 Qxf4 15.Qd2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 c5 17.a3 Bb7 18.b4 Bxg2 19.Rhg1 Be4 20.Ke3 Bg6 21.Rg5 f5 22.f4 Kf7 23.h4 Kf6 24.bxc5 Rab8 25.Rag1 Rhg8 26.Kd4 Rb2 27.R1g2 Rgb8 28.h5 Be8 29.Bd3 Rxg2 30.Rxg2 Bxh5 31.Rh2 Bf3 32.Rxh7 Rb3 33.Rh3 Bg2 34.c6 Bxc6 35.Bxf5 Rxh3 36.Bxh3 Ba4 37.Bg2 Kf5 38.c5 Kf6 39.c6 dxc6 40.Kc5 Kf7 41.Bxc6 Bd1 42.a4 Bc2 43.a5 Bd1 44.Bb5 Bf3 45.Bc4 Kf6 46.d7 Ke7 47.Bxe6 Bg2 48.Kb5 Bb7 49.f5 Kd8 50.Kc5 Ke7 51.Kb5 Kd8 52.Kc5 Ke7 53.a6 Bxa6 54.Kc6 Kd8 55.Bb3 Bd3 56.Be6 a6 57.Kd6 Bb5 58.Ke5 Ke7 59.d8Q+ Kxd8 60.f6 ½–½

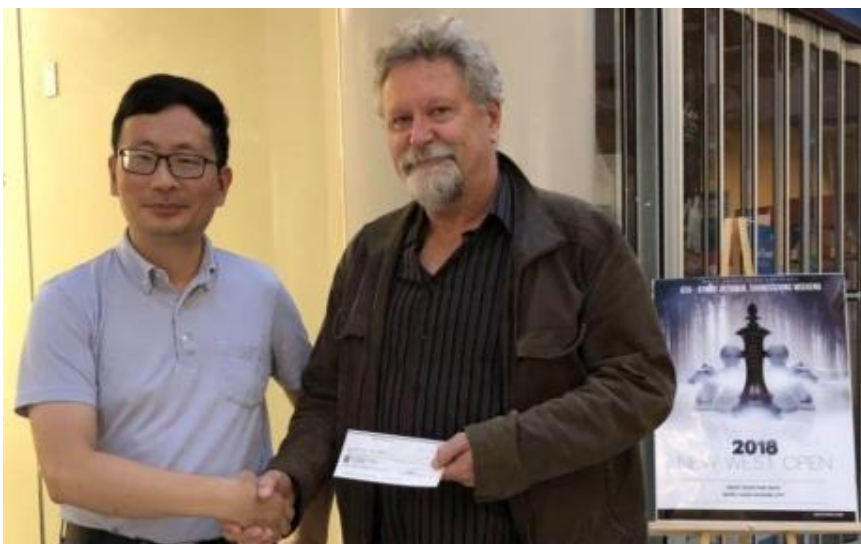
NEW WEST OPEN (October 6-8)

The New West Open 2018 was held during Oct 6th to 8th, again over the Thanksgiving weekend. This year the tournament attracted eighty players, a new record. It's organized by Lily Jia, John Jiang, and Eric Gu (West Chess Club); arbiters were Eric Gu (TD) and Jason Williamson (Adviser). In the Premier section, after round five, both Brian McLaren and Neil Doknjas had 4.5 points; Brian won the last game along with the clear first place, when Neil drew Victor Zheng to get second place, and Victor the third place. Kate Jiang finished as Top Woman in this section, and her new CFC rating (1810) made her a new advanced player from the New West Open.



(Photos by Victoria Doknjas and John Jiang)

In the U1800 Section, Ryan Leong, a regular prize winner, got first place; Aaron Hoffman, ZhiQi Ryan Huang (first U1500), Peter Yong Qiu and Ryan Yang (first U1350) tied for second place and the latter three all got a gain of about 200 points in CFC rating. Gillian Mok won the Top Woman prize in this section. In U1200, Yu Han (Veronica) Guo was the biggest winner. Veronica got a perfect score (6.0 points) for first place and Top Woman in this section. Alexander Jin was second place; Winston Huang, Eric Shan and Jaime Sandoval (first Unrated) tied for third; Mengyang Li was first U900 and Justin Gao first U700.



Eric Gu and Brian McLaren

There were sixteen players, including Robert Chow (twice first place in BC Closed) and Brian McLaren, coming to the side event of Thanksgiving Blitz; however, three juniors were the prize winners. Kate Jiang won first place, Victor Zheng and Ethan Su (first U1500) tied for second.

The second New West Open had a new venue in the Mall of Royal City Centre. Quite a lot of mall customers noticed the tournament, which makes the tournament a good event to promote chess in New Westminster. [Tournament website](#) more photos at the [Doknjas Chess](#) facebook page

Girl power! by Nick Beqo

In the New West Chess Open 2018 tournament, BCA student Veronica Guo won the first prize U1200 with a perfect score 6 out of 6! Veronica is rated only 1073 CFC ELO and in the games of U1200 section there are too many mistakes. However, I found Veronica's attacking style impressive and I would like to share two examples from the games that she played in the New West Chess Open 2018 tournament.



20.g4 Nh6 21.g5 fxg5 22.Qd4+ Kg8 23.d6+ Nf7
24.Nxg5 and Black resigned after the next 4 moves.

Veronica Guo – NN, New West Open Round 3.



14...h6 15.Nh3 e4 16.Be2 d3 17.Bf1 Bxf3 18.Qd2
Qc5+ and Black is now winning!

NN – Veronica Guo, New West Open Round 6.

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Opponent – Harper, Bruce [A40] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

In this game, White gets completely outplayed and winds up in a horrible position. The interesting thing is that I wasn't playing all that well, as I missed several better continuations. I think this game shows it's important to still be able to play decent positional chess when you're not seeing very much...

1.Nf3 [3:00] **g6** [3:00] **2.d4** [3:00] **Bg7** [2:58] **3.b3** [2:55] **d6** [2:57] **4.Bb2** [2:54] **Nd7** [2:56] **5.g3** [2:53] **e5** [2:55] **6.Bg2** [2:51] **e4** [2:54] Black decides to close the centre, because then neither of White's bishops work very well. **7.Nfd2** [2:48] **f5** [2:54] **8.e3** [2:48] **c6** [2:52] **9.c4** [2:47] **Ndf6** [2:51] **10.h4** [2:45]



10...h5?! [2:49] I think I knew at the time this wasn't the best response to 10.h4, but it was the laziest. I don't think that's a very good reason to play a move, though. **11.Nf1?! [2:42]** The logic behind this move isn't clear. White should bring his b1-knight to f4. **11...Nh6 [2:47]** **12.Nc3 [2:38]** **Nhg4 [2:46]**



13.d5? [2:34] **c5? [2:45]** A typical mistake - positionally 13...c5 is fine, but Black had better. 13...Ne5!, invading on d3, was very strong. **14.Nh2 [2:19]** **Ne5 [2:42]** **15.Bf1 [2:13]** **Nfg4 [2:40]** **16.Nxg4 [2:08]** **hxg4? [2:39]** Black is asleep at the switch again! 16...Nf3+!, then 17...hxg4, would mess up White's position a lot more. **17.Be2 [2:07]** **g5 [2:32]** **18.h5 [2:00]** **Rh6 [2:31]**



Even though Black has missed several obvious tactical opportunities, he has a dominating position. His e5–knight is strongly placed, and White's h5–pawn is living on borrowed time. Black is also 30 seconds ahead on time, so things are looking good. Around here I made a conscious decision not to bother looking for an outright win, in favour of just keeping the pressure on White and letting him implode (possibly on time). Now that I see how badly I was playing, I think I made the right choice. **19.Qd2** [1:58] **Kf8** [2:25] **20.0–0–0** [1:56] **a6** [2:25] **21.Nb1** [1:20] It's not clear how this improves White's position. **21...Bd7** [2:22] **22.Na3** [1:13] **Qe8** [2:19] Since White wasn't doing anything, I thought it was a good idea to get rid of White's h5–pawn. **23.Nc2** [1:07] **Rxh5** [2:16] **24.Qa5** [1:01] **Rxh1** [2:10] **25.Rxh1** [0:58] **Qd8!** [2:10] **26.Qxd8+** [0:55] **Rxd8** [2:10] **27.Bxe5** [0:50] **Bxe5** [2:07]



With over a minute more and an extra pawn, Black shouldn't have much trouble winning. And, amazingly, I don't! **28.Rh5** [0:49] **Bf6** [2:05] **29.Kd1** [0:45] **Kg7** [2:04] **30.Rh1** [0:43] **b5** [2:01] **31.Na3** [0:39] **Rb8** [2:00] Continuing to tread water, letting time do its work. **32.Kc2** [0:36] **b4!** [1:56] **33.Nb1** [0:35] **a5** [1:55] **34.Nd2** [0:34] **Ra8** [1:52] **35.Rg1** [0:26] **a4** [1:50] **36.Rh1** [0:23] **axb3+** [1:48]



A dream position for Black. White resigns. **0–1**

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