

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #371

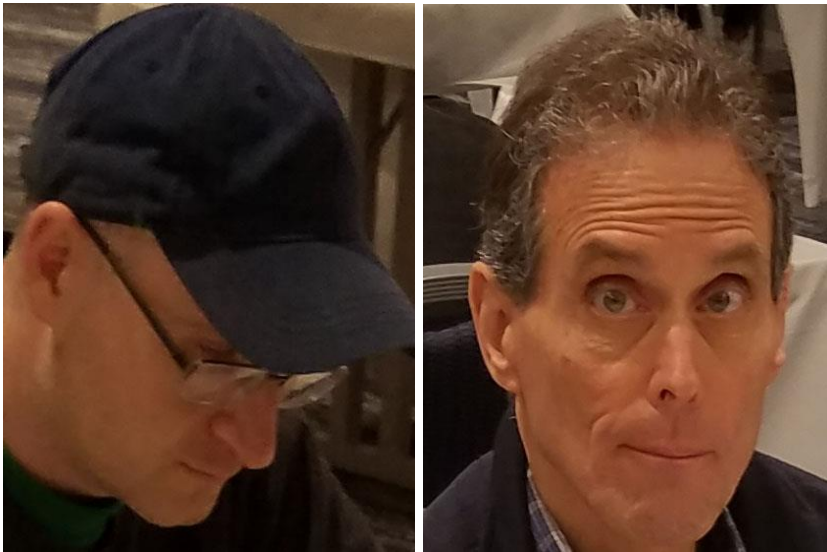
Your editor welcomes any and all submissions – news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to BC players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. To subscribe, send me an e-mail ([swright2@telus.net](mailto:swright2@telus.net)); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

---

### HERE AND THERE

#### Bay Area International (January 1-7)



Last held in 2014, the Bay Area International is a San Francisco-area event designed to present opportunities for GM and IM norms – players must have a minimum FIDE rating of 2000, and a maximum of one third of the field can be rated below 2200. This year's edition, held in Burlingame just north of San Mateo, attracted one hundred and seven entrants, including twenty-three grandmasters led by Le Quang Liem (Vietnam). Despite being the only 2700 player Liem was upset in round three by twelve year-old Christopher Yoo but still managed to tie for first with Andrey Stukopin (Russia), they each scored 7.0/9. Familiar faces from this province were IMs Ray Kaufman and Leon Piasetski, finishing with 4.5 and 3.5 points respectively. Oh, and there were three norms achieved, by IM Felix Ynojosa (GM) and NM Siddharth Banik and FM Christopher Yoo (both IM). Yoo's norm was his third, meaning he is now the youngest American IM in history.

[Tournament website](#) [ChessBase report](#)

#### **Piasetski, Leon – Polavaram, Rithik [E05] Bay Area int Burlingame (4), 03.01.2019**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.d4 dxc4 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nxc6 Qe8  
10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.Qa4 e5 12.dxe5 Qxe5 13.Nc3 Be6 14.Qb5 Qxb5 15.Nxb5 Rfc8 16.Rd1 c6  
17.Nd4 Bd7 18.f3 Rab8 19.e4 h6 20.Kf2 Kf8 21.g4 Ke7 22.h4 Ne8 23.Rb1 c5 24.Nf5+ Bxf5 25.exf5  
c3 26.b3 c4 27.Ba3+ Kf6 28.Re1 g6 29.Be7+ Kg7 30.b4 gxf5 31.gxf5 Rb5 32.Bc5 Kf6 33.Rbd1 a5

34.Rd5 Rbxc5 35.Rxc5 Rxc5 36.bxc5 Nc7 37.Rc1 Nd5 38.c6 Ke7 39.c7 Kd7 40.Rd1 Kc8 41.Ke2 Nxc7 42.Rd4 Kb7 43.Rxc4 Nd5 44.a3 Kb6 45.Kd3 Kb5 46.Kd4 Ne3 47.a4+ Kb6 48.Kxe3 1-0

### **Kaufman, Ray – Javakhadze, Zurabi [E80] Bay Area int Burlingame (6), 05.01.2019**

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.f3 c6 6.Be3 a6 7.Bd3 b5 8.Nge2 Nbd7 9.Qd2 Rb8 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rac1 e5 12.d5 bxc4 13.Bxc4 Nb6 14.Bb3 cxd5 15.exd5 a5 16.a4 Ba6 17.Ne4 Bxe2 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Qxe2 Nd7 20.Bc4 Bg5 21.Bb5 Nc5 22.Bxc5 Bxc1 23.Rxc1 dxc5 24.Qxe5 Rb6 25.Rxc5 Rf6 26.Qc7 Qxc7 27.Rxc7 Ra8 28.Kf2 Rd6 29.Bc4 Kf8 30.Ke3 Re8+ 31.Kd4 Re1 32.Kc5 Rf6 33.Ra7 Rb1 34.b3 Rb2 35.Rxa5 Rxc2 36.Ra8+ Kg7 37.a5 Rxh2 38.a6 Ra2 39.b4 Rc2 40.Kb5 Rf4 41.Rc8 1-0

### **48<sup>th</sup> Rilton Cup** (December 27 – January 5)

Sweden's major annual chess event, the Rilton Cup takes place in Stockholm in late December/ early January. This year one of the participants was BC junior Aiden Zhou; his final tally of 3.0 points was slightly below that predicted by his rating and included a full-point bye. Israeli GM Tamir Nabaty achieved one of his best results ever in winning the one hundred and sixty player tournament with 8.0/9, a full point ahead of Tiger Hillarp Persson (Sweden), Sergey Volkov (Russia), and Frode Urkedal (Norway). [Results](#) [Tournament website](#)



(photo by Lars OA Hedlund)

### **Sundin, Emanuel – Zhou, Aiden [E73] Rilton Cup 48<sup>th</sup> Stockholm (7.73), 03.01.2019**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.g4 Nc5 9.f3 h5 10.g5 Nh7 11.h4 f6 12.gxf6 Bxf6 13.Bf2 Be7 14.Kd2 a5 15.b3 Rf4 16.Qe1 Kg7 17.Kc2 Bd7 18.Nh3 Rxh4 19.Bxh4 Bxh4 20.Nf2 Qf6 21.Qf1 Rf8 22.Nd3 Nxd3 23.Kxd3 Qf4 24.Qg2 Ng5 25.Raf1 Qg3 26.Qxg3 Bxg3 27.Nb1 h4 28.Nd2 Nh3 29.Kc2 Nf4 30.Bd1 Bh3 31.Rfg1 Bg2 32.Nf1 Bxh1 33.Rxh1 g5 34.Rg1 Nh5 35.f4 Nxf4 36.Nxg3 hxg3 37.Rxg3 Kf6 38.a3 Rh8 39.b4 axb4 40.axb4 Rh3 41.Rxh3 Nxh3 42.c5 Nf2 43.Bf3 g4 44.Bg2 Nh3 45.Kc3 Nf4 46.Bf1 Ke7 47.Kc4 g3 48.b5 b6 0-1

### **North American Open** (December 26-30)

The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the North American Open was held at Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas immediately after Christmas. The tournament attracted a number of BC players, including Severo Caluza, Winston Huang, Ryan Leong, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, Jayden Qu, Yongqing Qu, Ethan Su, Michael Su, Ashton Taylor, Tristan Taylor, Charles Wu, Nathan Wu, Henry Yang, and Raymond Zhang. A number of these were prizewinners: Michael Su tied for ninth in the U2100 Section, Ryan Leong had the same result in the U1900 Section, Ashton Taylor and Henry Yang were among those who tied for seventh in the U1500, but the biggest monetary winner was Jayden Qu, who collected \$1,500 for sweeping the U1250 Section with a perfect 7.0/7. There were other winners in the U1900 portion of the blitz event: Ryan Leong tied for third, while Ethan Su and Nathan Wu tied for the U1700 prize. The overall winner was top-ranked Chinese GM Jinshi Bai who was alone in first place with 7.5/9. [Tournament website](#)

**Nyamdorj, Davaa-Ochir – Mulyar, Michael [C78] North American op 28th Las Vegas (1), 26.12.2018**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.h3 0-0 10.a4 Bb7 11.Re1 h6 12.Na3 exd4 13.cxd4 Re8 14.d5 Ne5 15.Be3 Ba5 16.Nd2 Bxd2 17.Bxd2 Nd3 18.Re3 Nc5 19.f3 Nh5 20.Bc2 Nf4 21.Rc3 b4 22.Rxc5 bxa3 23.Rc4 axb2 24.Rb1 Qf6 25.Bxf4 Qxf4 26.Rxc7 Bc8 27.Rxb2 Qg3 28.Kf1 Re5 29.Qe1 Qh2 30.Qf2 Rg5 31.g4 Qxh3+ 32.Ke2 h5 33.Kd2 hxg4 34.fxg4 f6 35.Bd3 Rxc4 36.Bf1 Qh6+ 37.Kd3 a5 38.Kc2 Rxe4 39.Bd3 Rf4 40.Qe2 Bg4 41.Qd2 Bf5 42.Bxf5 Rxf5 43.Qxh6 gxh6 44.Rbb7 Rg5 45.Rd7 Rc8+ 46.Kb2 Rg2+ 47.Kb3 h5 48.Rxd6 Rgc2 49.Rb8 Kf7 50.Rd7+ Kg6 51.Rxc8 Rxc8 52.d6 h4 53.Re7 Rd8 54.d7 h3 55.Re3 Rxd7 56.Rg3+ Kf5 57.Rxh3 Kg4 58.Rh6 f5 59.Rg6+ Kf4 60.Rb6 Rd5 61.Kc4 Re5 62.Rb1 Kf3 63.Rb5 Ke4 64.Rb1 f4 65.Rf1 f3 66.Re1+ Kf4 67.Rf1 Kg3 68.Kd4 Re2 69.Rg1+ Rg2 70.Rb1 f2 0-1

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunway Sitges Open** (December 14-23)

With the end of the school year Ethan and Kevin Low took the opportunity to return to Europe, specifically to Sitges, just down the coast from Barcelona, for some chess. They have played in many events in the area in the past few years, and indeed participated in the 2016 version of the Sunway Sitges Open. As usual with these events, Kevin entered the open, Ethan the next section down. Group A consisted of one hundred and seventy five players, including thirty-four grandmasters. The field was topped by Messrs. Andreikin, Ivanchuk, Inarkiev, and Sasikiran, but they had to be content with a tie for second as twenty-seventh seed Alvar Alonso Rosell (Spanish champion in 2011) was the sole winner with 8.0/10. Kevin had a good tournament, finishing with 4.5 points and gaining some 80 rating points. Group B appears to have been U2000; here Ethan scored 6.0 points to finish nineteenth out of one hundred and seven and a more modest rating gain of 12 rating points. [Tournament website Results](#)

**Low, Kevin – Blasco Coll, Andreu [B48] Sunway Sitges op 5<sup>th</sup> A Sitges (3.66), 16.12.2018**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.f3 h5 10.Kb1 b5 11.h4 Bb7 12.Bf4 e5 13.Nf5 exf4 14.Nd5 Qb8 15.Nxg7+ Kf8 16.Nf5 Qe5 17.Nxf4 Rd8 18.c4 bxc4 19.Bxc4 d5 20.Nxd5 Nxd5 21.Bxd5 Nb4 22.Nxe7 Qxe7 23.Qc3 Rh6 24.Bxb7 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qxb7 26.Qc5+ Kg7 27.Qe5+ Kh7 28.Rd8 1-0





**Low, Ethan – Pedashenko, Anatoly [B51] Sunway Sitges op 5th B Sitges (3.2), 16.12.2018**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c3 Qa5 5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.Bc2 g6 7.0-0 c4 8.Qe2 Nb6 9.Na3 Be6  
10.Nd4 Bg4 11.f3 Bd7 12.Qf2 Bg7 13.d3 e5 14.Ne2 cxd3 15.Bxd3 0-0 16.Nc4 Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Rac8  
18.Bb3 Be6 19.Be3 Nd7 20.Rfd1 Qa6 21.Ng3 Nc5 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Qe2 Qc6 24.c4 Na4 25.Rac1  
Rfd8 26.b3 Nc5 27.Nh1 b6 28.Nf2 Qb7 29.Rc2 Na6 30.Rcd2 Qc7 31.Bg5 Rd7 32.Ng4 Rf8 33.Qe1  
h5 34.Ne3 Qc5 35.Kh1 Nb8 36.Nc2 Qc7 37.Na3 a6 38.Be3 Nc6 39.Nc2 Bf6 40.Qg3 Kg7 ½-½



**Pan-American Senior** (December 8-13)

Last August IM Leon Piasetski won the 65+ division of the Canadian Senior Championship; part of his prize was a travel grant to either the World Senior or the Pan-American Senior. Leon chose the latter, held this year on St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. There were only four players over 65, so they were combined with the ten over 50 to produce a fourteen player nine-round Swiss. Other players known in these parts included Hanniegn Pitre and Lawrence Cohen (the latter was a participant in the 2011 and 2013 GPO and 2012 Keres). IMs Jefferson Pelikian (Brazil) and Bernardo Roselli Mailhe (Uruguay) tied for first on 7.5 points, with Pelikian taking the 50+ title on tiebreak. Leon was not happy with his play, scoring only 4.5 points, but did win the 65+ title by virtue of defeating FM Jorge Molina (Bolivia) who achieved the same score. [Tournament website Results](#)



**Molina, Jorge – Piasetski, Leon David [A13] Pan-American Veteran & Senior ch St. Croix (3.3), 09.12.2018**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 a6 4.Bg2 b5 5.b3 c5 6.0–0 Bb7 7.d3 Be7 8.Bb2 0–0 9.Nbd2 Qb6 10.e4 d6 11.Re1 Nc6 12.a3 Nd7 13.Rb1 b4 14.a4 Bf6 15.Nf1 Bxb2 16.Rxb2 Nde5 17.h3 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Nd4 19.Nh2 d5 20.exd5 Nxf3+ 21.Nxf3 exd5 22.Ne5 Rad8 23.Qg4 dxc4 24.Nxc4 Qc6 25.Qe4 Rde8 0–1

## BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

**Opponent – Harper, Bruce [A25] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club, 2018**

It helps to know the classic mating patterns, even though sometimes you can wreck your position trying to get to one of them. Not here, though. A cooperative opponent allowed one of the all-time classic mates (almost).

**1.c4** [3:00] **g6** [3:00] **2.Nc3** [2:59] **Bg7** [3:00] **3.g3** [2:58] **d6** [2:59] **4.Bg2** [2:58] **Nc6** [2:59] **5.e3** [2:57] **e5** [2:58] **6.Nge2** [2:56] **Be6** [2:57]



**7.Nd5** [2:55] 7.d4! is best, as was played against Suttles several times, but this is Lost Knowledge from the Distant Past. **7...Qd7** [2:56] **8.Rb1** [2:54] **Nd8** [2:55] **9.d3** [2:52] **c6** [2:54] **10.Ndc3** [2:51] **f5** [2:51] I was either in the mood for something different, or I forgot to play 10...Bh3. Either explanation is reasonable, but I think I was trying to throw off my opponent, having exchanged bishops against him or her in previous games. **11.b4** [2:46] **Ne7** [2:50] **12.b5** [2:45] **0–0** [2:48] **13.bxc6** [2:44] **bxc6** [2:48] **14.0–0** [2:41]



This type of position often arises in the English, or – perhaps more descriptively – in the Closed Sicilian Reversed. Black's position is all right, but he has to be careful not to get jammed up, so I did something assertive. **14...g5!?** [2:40] **15.Qc2** [2:32] The immediate 15.f4 was better, but White was worried about tactics involving his c3–knight. **15...Ng6** [2:37] **16.f4** [2:29] **gxf4** [2:32] **17.gxf4?** [2:28] White should retake with his e3–pawn. **17...Nh4!** [2:26] **18.Bh1?** [2:20] The engine recommends 18.Bh3, assessing the position as equal. h3 is a strange square for White's light-squared bishop in this position, but h1 is just a bad square, because White's king can get in trouble. **18...Kh8?!** [2:24] A bit slow, compared to 18...Rf6! **19.Ng3** [2:14] **exf4** [2:09] **20.Rxf4** [2:12] **Ng6** [2:06]



The key point of the game. Black has placed tremendous importance on forcing through the advance ...f5–f4, but that doesn't mean it will bring victory. **21.Rf1?** [2:07] This natural move is very bad. Either 21.Rf2 or the interesting positional sacrifice 21.Nce2!? was better. **21...f4** [2:04] **22.Nge2** [1:36] **Bh3!** [1:57] **23.Nxf4?** [1:15] White had to play 23.Bg2. Now Black's far-fetched mating idea actually materializes. **23...Nxf4** [1:46] **24.Rxf4** [1:08] **Rxf4** [1:44] **25.exf4** [1:03] **Bd4+** [1:42] White was kind enough to play to this point, allowing Black to demonstrate the Boden's Mate position. Sadly, it's not a true Boden's mate, because after 26.Be3 Bxe3+ 27.Qf2, Black has to play 27...Qg4+ 28.Bg2 Qxg2 mate, but it's close enough. White resigned. **0–1**

## BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

One of the more difficult categories of endgame arises when a lone knight is opposed by two separate rook pawns. It is well known that even one such pawn can be a problem, and if the pawn is assisted by its own king then the side with the knight can easily end up losing the game. There is also the challenge that a distant rook pawn can tie up a knight and prevent it from joining the action on the other side of the board.

These considerations were on display in today's main example, which appeared in the Endgame section of *Informant 83*. Before reading further, please set up the diagram position on a real board and spend some time analyzing it or playing it out with a friend.

### Yagupov, Igor – Sorokin, Maxim [C42] Chigorin mem 9th St Petersburg (9), 03.10.2001

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5  
 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0–0 Be7 8.Re1 Bf5 9.c4 0–0 10.cxd5  
 Qxd5 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Rfe8 13.Bf4 Bxd3  
 14.Qxd3 Qd7 15.Re3 Bf6 16.Rae1 Re7 17.Bg5  
 Rxe3 18.fxe3 Bxg5 19.Nxg5 g6 20.e4 Re8 21.Qg3  
 f6 22.Nh3 Nd8 23.Nf4 Qf7 24.h4 Ne6 25.Nd3 Ng7  
 26.Qf2 Qc4 27.Qc2 Ne6 28.Qd2 Nf8 29.Nf2 Qe6  
 30.Re3 Nd7 31.h5 gxh5 32.Rh3 Re7 33.Rxh5 Rg7  
 34.Qe2 Kh8 35.Rf5 Qd6 36.Rf3 c5 37.Qc4 b5  
 38.Qd3 b4 39.e5 fxe5 40.Ne4 Qg6 41.Rg3 Qb6  
 42.Rxg7 Kxg7 43.dxc5 Nxc5 44.Qg3+ Kf7 45.Qf2+  
 Ke7 46.Qxc5+ Qxc5+ 47.Nxc5 bxc3 48.Kf2 c2  
 49.Nb3 Kf6 50.Ke3 Kf5 51.Nc1 Kg4 52.Ne2 c1Q+  
 53.Nxc1 Kg3 54.Nd3 Kxg2 55.Nxe5 h5



White to play



White has two winning plans: A. Give up his knight for the Black h-pawn, capture the Black a-pawn with his king, and promote his own a-pawn; B. Stop the Black h-pawn with his king, capture the Black a-pawn with his knight, and promote his a-pawn. In order to save the game, Black must oppose these plans. He has two ways of doing so: A. Force White to give up his knight for the h-pawn, and then send his king to the queenside in time to establish a drawn pawn ending; B. If White's king heads to the queenside too soon, keep White's knight occupied with stopping the h-pawn, thereby preventing White from capturing the a-pawn. Here are a few lines illustrating these points: 56.Nf3 Kg3 57.a4 h4 58.a5 (if 58.Nxh4 Kxh4 58.Kd4 Kg4 and Black's king arrives at c7 in time to stop White from promoting his pawn) 58...h3 59.Ke4 Kg2! (not 59...h2? 60.Nxh2 Kxh2 61.Kd5 and White wins -- the difference being that White's king is on a straight track to b7 and does not have to waste a move switching diagonals) 60.a6 Kg3 61.Ke3 h2! (only now) 62.Nxh2 Kxh2 63.Kd4 Kg3 64.Kc5 Kf4 65.Kc6 Ke5 66.Kb7 Kd6 67.Kxa7 Kc7 with a well-known drawing position. As with all knight and pawn endings, correct play depends upon specific tactical details, and this forces both players to make precise calculations. Back to the game...

**56.Ng6?** The wrong idea, allowing Black an amazing drawing resource. White's knight was already well-placed for dealing with the h-pawn, so White could have played the multi-purpose move 56.Kd3!!



**Position after 56.Kd3!!**

### **Black to play, White wins**

Now there are three variations: a) 56...h4? 57.Ng6 h3 58.Nf4+ Kg3 59.Nxh3 Kxh3 60.Kc4. Here White wins easily since Black's king is too far away and cannot get to c7 or c8 in time; b) 56...Kg3 57.Ke2! (switching to Plan B) 57...Kg2 58.Nf3 Kg3 59.Nd4 h4 (or 59...Kg2 60.Nf5, forcing the Black king to give way) 60.Kf1 Kf4 (or 60...h3 61.Kg1, stopping the h-pawn in its tracks) 61.Nc6 a6 62.Nb8 a5 63.a4, followed by 63.Nc6, rounding up the a-pawn and winning easily; c) 56...Kf2 57.Ng6 Kf3 58.a4 Kg4 59.Kd4 and wins (see later analysis).

Let us return to the game, where **56.Ng6?** was played. **56...Kg3 57.Kd4**



**Black to play**

**57...Kg4?** Believe it or not, this natural-looking move is a game-losing error. Black can draw with 57...Kf3!! (triangulation!) 58.a4 Kg4!, reaching the following position:



**White to play: draw**

After 58...Kg4! it is White's turn to move and he must compromise his position in some way. For example: a) 59.Ke4 h4 60.Nf4 h3 61.Nxh3 Kxh3 62.a5 Kg4 and Black reaches a drawn pawn ending; b) 59.a5 Kf5! 60.Ne7+ Kf4!? (Or 60...Ke6 61.Nc6 h4! 62.Ke3 Kd5 63.Nxa7 Kc5 64.Kf3 Kb4! 65.a6 Ka5 and Black wins White's last pawn, securing an immediate draw) 61.a6 h4! 62.Ng6+ Kf5 63.Nxh4 Ke6!! 64.Kc5 Kd7! with a positional draw since White cannot attack Black's pawn with his king and Black's king will find a drawing haven on a8; c) 59.Kd5 Kf5! 60.Ne4 h4 61.Nf3 h3 62.Nh2 Kf4 and White cannot win. But after 57...Kg4? White (Yagupov) continued with **58.a4!** Now it is Black's turn to move and he is the one who must compromise his position in some way.





**Black to play loses**

**58...Kf5** Or 58...Kg5 59.Ne7 Kf4 60.a5 and White wins; for example, 60...h4 61.Ng6+ Kg3 62.Nxh4 Kxh4 63. Kc5, etc. **59.Ne7+! Kg4** In his *Informant* analysis Yagupov gave 59...Kf4 60.a5 Kf3 61.Ng6 Kg4 62.a6 Kf5 63.Ne7+ Ke6 64.Nc6 Kd6 65.Nxa7 Kc7 66.Kc5 and wins, but much stronger than 65...Kc7? is 65...h4!, after which White cannot win. But in this line, instead of 62.a6?, White is winning after the stronger move 62.Ke4! Kg5 63.Ne5 Kf6 64.Nc6 Ke6 65.Nxa7 Kd7 66.Nb5 Kc6 67.Nd4+ Kb7 68.Kf4 Ka6 69.Nb3. The defending knight is immune from capture because the pawn would then go on to queen; a bit of technique that is worth remembering. **60.Ke3! Kg3 61.Ke2! Kg2** Black prevents White from playing 62.Kf1 but it does not help. **62.Nf5!** Winning a tempo to attack the a-pawn since the h-pawn is held up for the moment. **62...a5 63.Ke3 Kh3 64.Kf3 Kh2 65.Ne3 Kh3 66.Nc4** The a-pawn falls and Black is no closer to promoting his h-pawn, so therefore he **resigned. 1-0**

Here is that key position again:



**Reciprocal zugzwang**

**White to play draws, Black to play loses**

Here I must reveal that this position was identified as a reciprocal zugzwang by the Nalimov 6-man tablebases. What is amazing – and completely counter-intuitive -- is that with White to move, the pawn advance a4-a5 not only does NOT improve White's position, but actually allows Black to draw by making it easier for his king to attack the a-pawn. This is a very subtle point, one that makes it almost impossible for anyone handling the Black pieces to find the triangulation manoeuvre K-f3-g4 over the board. Sorokin missed it; and Yagupov did not notice it even while analyzing the endgame for publication in *Informant*. Chess marches on!

Here is another example featuring the same material balance and a similar pawn configuration. This position is more favourable for the side with the knight than the last example because the defender's a-pawn has left its home square (and is thus easier to attack), and because the defender's passed h-pawn is not as far advanced. Still, accurate play is required. In fact, in the game continuation there is often just one move that preserves the win.



**Arsenic - B. Kostić, Yugoslavia 1948**  
**Black to play**

Boris Kostić (1887-1963) was a well-known Yugoslav grandmaster whose playing career lasted for more than 50 years. He famously lost a match to José Raúl Capablanca in 1919 but was otherwise quite successful. In his last years he enjoyed an association with the young Bobby Fischer. On the other side of the ledger, I have been unable to find any information at all about Mr Arsenic. Perhaps he suffered an early death by poisoning.

**1...Nd2!** 1...Ne5 also wins but 1...Nd2 is more direct. **2.Kf4** The favourable position of Black's king means that White cannot save himself with 2.h4?! because of the simple reply 2...Nf3+ 3.Kg4 Nxh4! 4.Kxh4 Kc4 5.Kg4 Kb4 6.Kf4 Kxa4 7.Ke3 Kb3 8.Kd2 Kb2! and Black wins. **2...Kd5** 2...Ne4? 3.h4! Kd5 4.h5 Nf6 5.h6 Ke6 6.Ke3 Ng4+ 7.Kd4 Nxh6 8.Kc5= **3.Kf5 Nf3** **4.Kf4 Ne5** **5.Kf5 Nd7** **6.h4 Kd6!** Everything else draws. **7.Kg6 Ke7!** Everything else draws. **8.Kg7 Nf6** Also winning was 8...Nf8 9.h5 Ne6+ 10.Kg6 Kf8, etc.. **9.Kg6 Nd5** **10.Kf5** If 10.h5 Kf8 (10...Nf4+ 11.Kg5 Nxh5? 12.Kxh5 Kd6 13.Kg4 Kc5 14.Kf4! Kb4 15.Ke3! Kxa4 16.Kd2! Kb3 17.Kc1! and White draws) 11.h6 Kg8 and Black wins. **10...Kf7** **11.Ke5 Nb6** **12.Kd4 Nxa4** **13.Kc4 Nb6+** **14.Kb5 a4** **15.Kb4 Kg6** **0-1**

It should be noted that if the Arsenic-Kostić position is modified by returning White's a-pawn to its home square, then Black cannot force a win. With the pawn at home it takes Black longer to round it up, and the extra tempi enable White's h-pawn to get further up the board.

Finally, an all-Canadian example that still has me shaking my head:

### Horton, Joe – Lesiège, Alexandre [A36] CAN ch Kingston (2), 1992

1.g3 g6 2.Bg2 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.0–0 Nc6 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 Nge7 7.d3 0–0 8.e4 d6 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Qd2 f5 11.Bh6 f4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.gxf4 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 e5 15.f5 gxf5 16.exf5 Nxf5 17.Bd5 Nh4 18.Kh1 Kh8 19.f4 Bh3 20.Rf2 Ng6 21.fxe5 Qh4 22.Ne4 Nxe5 23.Rg1 Bg4 24.Rg3 Bf3+ 25.Kg1 Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Nxc4 27.Rxf8+ Rxf8 28.Qg2 Qf4 29.Qe2 Qc1+ 30.Kg2 Qxb2 31.Qxb2+ Nxb2 32.Bxb7 Rg8 33.Ba6 Rxc3+ 34.Kxc3 Kg7 35.Kf4 Nd1 36.Kf5 Kf7 37.Bc4+ Ke7 38.Kg5 Ne3 39.Bg8 h6+ 40.Kg6 d5 41.Kxh6 Kf6 42.Kh5 a5 43.Kh4 c4 44.dxc4 dxc4 45.Kg3 c3 46.Bb3 c2 47.Bxc2 Nxc2



**White to play**

Black must be winning easily here, but it doesn't turn out that way... **48.Kf4 Nb4 49.a3** Or **49.a4 Nd3+ 50.Ke3 Nc5** followed by **51...Nxa4**, etc. **49...Nc2?** Throwing away the win. The cheeky **49...a4!** – gluing down White's a-pawn – was the only way forward. After **50.Kd4** (or **50.axb4? a3!** and makes a queen) **50...Nc2!** (only now) **51.Kd3 Nxa3 52.Kc3 Nb5+ 53.Kb4 a3** (here is that bit of technique again) **54.Kb3**, Black's king is free to round up the h-pawn, followed by a trip to the queenside to force through the a-pawn. **50.a4 Ke6 51.Ke4 Nb4 52.h4 Nd5 53.Kd4 Kd6 54.h5 Nb6??** The final indignity. **54...Nf4 55.h6 Ng6 56.h7 Nh8!?** was the simplest way of acknowledging the draw. **55.h6! 1-0** Time pressure is the only possible explanation for this huge turnaround.

Please send all feedback to the writer at [dscoones@telus.net](mailto:dscoones@telus.net).

---

## 2017 IN REVIEW

The end/beginning of the year is often a time for reflection and review of the events that occurred in the previous twelve months. With this in mind, here is a list of B.C. tournament winners for 2016, along with a few other highlights:

BC Speed Championship – Max Gedajlovic



BC-WA "A" 12.5-12.5; BC-WA "B" 9.0-16.0

Victoria Invitational RR – Zulfikar Sali

Victoria Open – Nicolau Machado de Oliveira, George Kim

Chess2Inspire Junior Championship – Rowan James, William Bremner

BC Women's Championship – Sherry Tian

BC Open – Ray Kaufman, Grigorii Morozov

Nanaimo Spring Open – Eric Hansen

BC Active Championship – Raymond Kaufman, Andrew Hemstapat

Grand Pacific Open – Mark Ginsburg

Stan Rogers Memorial – Brian McLaren

Intermat – won by BC

Vancouver Rapid Chess League – VCS-1

BC School Team Championship – Marlborough Elementary School

Keres Memorial – Tanraj Sohal, Stanislav Kriventsov

National Open, U1900 Section – Ryan Leong

BC Senior Championship – Arpak Qanee, Brian McLaren, Mayo Fuentesbella

World Open, U1600 Section – Stephanie Gu

Canadian Open – Raymond Kaufman; U2000 Section – William Bremner; U1400 Section – Jessica Qian

Canadian Girls' Championship – Sherry Tian

Canadian Senior Championship (65+) – Leon Piasetski

Semiahmoo Open – Alisher Sanetullaev

Bowser Builders Supply – Joshua Doknjas

Langley Open – Raymond Kaufman, Brian McLaren

BC Championship – Grigorii Morozov, Tanraj Sohal

New West Open – Brian McLaren

Jack Taylor Memorial – Zulfikar Sali

BC Junior – Joshua Doknjas

Nanaimo Winter Open – Jason Kenney

Pan-American 65+ Senior Championship – Leon Piasetski

---

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Vancouver Rapid League 2018-2019**

Monthly until May 2019

[Details](#)

### **Victoria Open**

January 18-20, Victoria

[Details](#)

### **Chess Challenge Regional #2**

January 27, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

### **BC Open**

February 16-18, 2019, Richmond

[Details](#)

### **BCYCC**

March 9-10, Richmond

[Details](#)

### **Grand Pacific Open**

April 19-22, Victoria

[Details](#)

### **Paul Keres Memorial**

May 18-20

[Details](#)