

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #375

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

Reykjavík Open (April 8-16)



(photos by Fiona Steil-Antoni)

Sponsored by the Icelandic capital management company GAMMA and held in the [Harpa](#) concert hall, this year's Reykjavík Open has attracted some two hundred and thirty-seven participants, including thirty-one grandmasters. There are a dozen players rated over 2600, headed by Gawain Jones (England), Nils Grandelius (Sweden), and junior Alireza Firouzja (Iran). There is a contingent of eight Canadians playing, including Aman Hambleton, David Cummings, and, with BC connections, Tanraj Sohal, Leon Piasetski, and Alexandra Botez. After five rounds four players are tied for the lead with 4.5 points – Alireza Firouzja, Robert Hovhannisyan, Sergei Movsesian, and Constantin Lupulescu. Leon leads the Canadians with 3.5 points after defeating GM Johan-Sebastian Christiansen in round 5, he also played Norwegian Aryan Tari in the first round. Alexandra has 3/5 and Tanraj only two points, the latter gaining experience in games versus the Indian thirteen year-old phenomenon Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa and the American Andrew Tang. [Tournament website results](#)

Sohal, Tanraj – Praggnanandhaa, Rameshbabu (2537) [D06] Reykjavík op (2.18), 09.04.2019

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.Bg5 Bg4 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.h3 Bh5 10.Rc1 Nd5 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Be2 c6 13.a3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Nf5 15.Qb3 Rb8 16.Ne2 Nh4 17.Be4 f5 18.Bxd5 exd5 19.Nf4 Qe8 20.Qd1 g5 21.Qh5 Qxh5 22.Nxh5 Kf7 23.f4 Kg6 24.Ng3 Rbe8 25.Rc3 h6 26.Ne2 Kh7 27.g3 Ng6 28.Kf2 Nh8 29.Rb3 Re7 30.fxg5 hxg5 31.Kg2 Ng6 32.Ng1 Kh6 33.Rd3 f4 34.Ne2 Rfe8 35.gxf4 Rxe3 36.Rxe3 Rxe3 37.fxg5+ Kxg5 38.Kf2 Rb3 39.Rg1+ Kf6 40.Rb1 Rxh3

41.Ng3 Nh4 42.b4 Nf5 43.Nxf5 Kxf5 44.b5 Ke4 45.bxc6 bxc6 46.Rc1 Rh6 47.Rd1 Rh2+ 48.Kg3 Ra2 49.Rc1 Rxa3+ 50.Kf2 Ra6 51.Rd1 Ra4 52.Rc1 Rc4 0–1

Schwerteck, Michael – Sohal, Tanraj [B45] Reykjavík op (3.38), 09.04.2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 Bc5 7.Nd6+ Ke7 8.Bf4 e5 9.Nf5+ Kf8 10.Bg5 d6 11.Ne3 Be6 12.Ncd5 Qa5+ 13.c3 Nxe4 14.Bh4 Bxe3 15.Nxe3 Nxc3 16.Qxd6+ Kg8 17.Qd2 Nd5 18.Qxa5 Nxa5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Rd1 Be6 21.Bb5 Nc6 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.b3 Bd5 24.f3 f6 25.Kd2 a5 26.Kc3 a4 27.Rd2 axb3 28.axb3 Kf7 29.Rb1 Rhb8 30.Bf2 Ra3 31.Rdb2 Rb5 32.Be3 h5 33.f4 c5 34.fxe5 fxe5 35.Rf1+ Ke6 36.Rf8 Raxb3+ 37.Rxb3 Rxb3+ 38.Kd2 c4 39.Re8+ Kf5 0–1

Piasecki, Leon David – Christiansen, Johan-Sebastian [A30] Reykjavík op (5.20), 11.04.2019

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 a6 6.N5c3 d6 7.Nd5 Nge7 8.Nbc3 Nf5 9.g3 Rb8 10.a4 Nfd4 11.Be3 Bf5 12.Rc1 g6 13.b4 Bg7 14.a5 0–0 15.Bg2 Be6 16.Bd2 Kh8 17.0–0 f6 18.e3 Nf5 19.Qa4 h5 20.Rfd1 h4 21.Be1 Bd7 22.Qa3 Be8 23.Rd3 Nh6 24.Rcd1 f5 25.Nb6 Nf7 26.b5 Na7 27.Rd5 Qg5 28.Qb3 Qh5 29.Rb1 Bf6 30.Qd1 Qh6 31.f4 Kg7 32.Qc2 Rh8 33.Kf1 hxg3 34.hxg3 Nc8 35.bxa6 bxa6 36.Rdd1 Bd8 37.Ncd5 Na7 38.Bc3 Nc6 39.e4 Qh5 40.exf5 gxf5 41.Ne3 Bxb6 42.Rxb6 Rxb6 43.axb6 Bd7 44.fxe5 Ncxe5 45.Rxd6 Qg5 46.Rxd7 Qxe3 47.Bd4 Qxg3 48.Qxf5 Kh6 49.Qf6+ Ng6 50.Rxf7 Rg8 51.Qf3 1–0

6th Stan Rogers Memorial (April 6)



Held in honour of Stan Rogers who passed away in 2014 (no, not the famous folk musician – the Stan Rogers in question was a prominent Chilliwack businessman and former federal Liberal Party riding president who was also a member of the Chilliwack Chess Club), this year's sixth edition was won by Mayo Fuentesbella who “rolled over everyone easily” in chalking up a perfect score.

Paul Leblanc, Arnie Lucki, and Jose Prem tied for second on a distant 4.5/6, with Arnie Lucki being the best Chilliwack player. Top Junior was Daniel Wang ahead of Matthew Kay and AryaCyrus Boroomand, Top U1500 was Jeremy Paterson. Twenty-nine players participated. Many thanks to organizers Ian MacKay and Lorne Kay of the [Chilliwack Chess Club](#). [Standings](#)



Repeat winner Mayo Fuentebella (he also won in 2016) (photo by Paul Leblanc)

Victoria CC Active (March 30) by Marc Moisan



The tournament was a tremendous success, with a record forty-three players participating, a dozen of them being unrated. Some players came from as far as Duncan to play in this tournament. Roger Patterson came in first place with a perfect score and Shayan Rahimabadi was the top player rated under 1700, both receiving a trophy and a chess book. Jishang Jiang and Hal Foster each won a book for being the top players rated under 1400 and unrated respectively.

[This report plus crosstable and more photos](#)

Winners:

- 1st Place: Roger Patterson
- Top U1700: Shayan Rahimabadi
- Top U1400: Jishang Jiang
- Top Unrated: Hal Foster



Roger Patterson with TD Marc Moisan

Peter Biyiasas

A 'blast from the past': a 1980(!) article in [Chess Voice](#) (official organ of the Northern California Chess Association) about former BC and Canadian Champion Peter Biyiasas (see page 8).

SECRET GAMES SURFACE AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS by Paul Leblanc

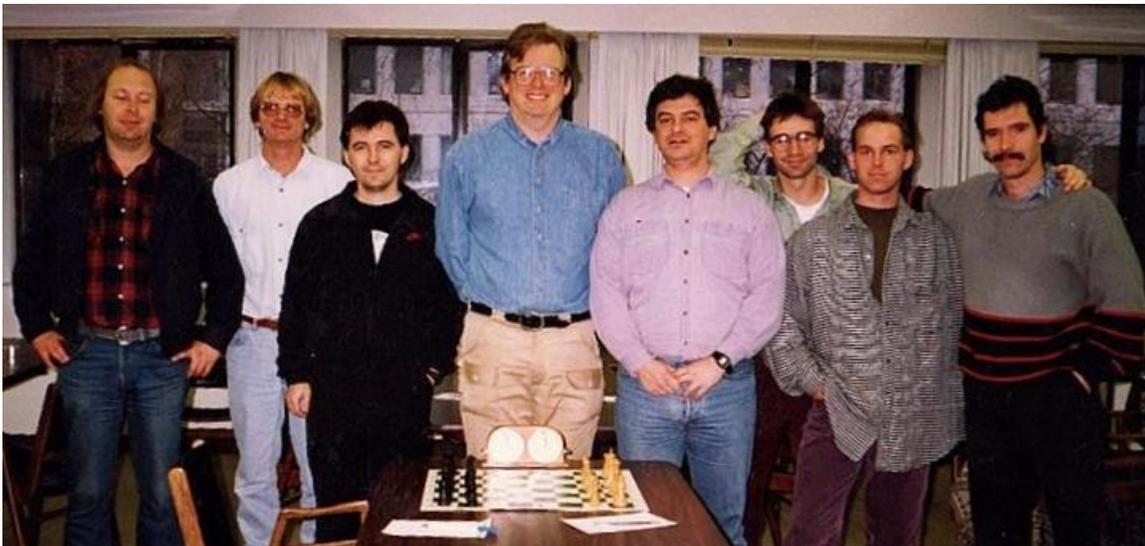


Photo taken at the 1994 BC Closed by Lynn Stringer. Harry Moore, David Moore, Lungo Constantin, Jonathan Berry, Francisco Cabanas, Luc Poitras, Dave Herder, Carl Storey. The winner, Berry, qualified for the 1994 Canadian Closed.

Twenty-five years ago this month, two long-time rivals met head-to-head in a training match to prepare one of them for the 1994 Canadian Closed. The game scores were not to be published until after the Canadian Closed and ended up gathering cobwebs for twenty-five years. The match between Harry Moore and Jonathan Berry was held on 23-24 April, 1994 and shared the venue

(University of Victoria) and TD (Lynn Stringer) with the Victoria Spring Open. The Open, by the way, was won by Marcel Milat, followed by Jack Lee, Ed Seedhouse, and Pablo Diemecke.

Jonathan Berry subsequently travelled to Hamilton for the Canadian Closed, won by Kevin Spraggett. He provided some interesting retrospective comments:

"It's different, playing a training match. When the goal is "to win", that's easy to understand. Harry deservedly beat me 3.0-1.0.

The match with Harry served its purpose. I played better than expected at the 1994 Canadian Closed in Hamilton. The Olympic selection committee even gave me a nod. They chose Ron Livshits to play on the Canadian Olympiad team, but because they knew he could not play (I believe the Olympiad conflicted with his University studies) they figured that their second choice, your ob't serv't, would go. In reality, the rule was interpreted differently, so somebody else represented Canada at the Olympiad, selected from the rating list AFAIR. The selection committee was not aware that by making a selection "for show" (to show Ron was a good player worthy of future selection), they were negating their work. Not enough high-powered lawyers on the committee!

The event in Hamilton, led by Brian Hartman, was well organized. Out-of-town players stayed at the hotel, two to a room. My roommate was Fletcher Baragar of Winnipeg, with whom I got on well. I'm not sure if what follows has been published before, but here goes. I established a kind of a routine, with study time, exercise and a regular place to eat lunch. I went into a small shop which had mountains of a herbal tea called "Super D's Tea", or something like that. That was great, I could make tea in the hotel room, so I bought a box.

The tournament started well, with draws against LeSiege and Spraggett (I've never beaten either one) and wins over Gardner, O'Donnell, Piasetski, the latter game finishing after an adjournment. Remember those? Then I played a strange game against Deen Hergott where I could have drawn, but from the moves I played it looked more like I was trying to win--from an inferior position. Deen won, and that was the start of loooong castling (a string of zeros) for me. I sacrificed material against nemesis Bryon Nickoloff, and it achieved the desired effect, but then I overlooked a clear win, a one-mover. And so on. After a few losses, I stabilized. The committee made its choice before the 15th round, when I was, AFAIR, +1. In the final round, Lawrence Day beat me.

Pacing oneself is an important part of playing a 16-player round robin. A well-rested player is less likely to make silly errors. It was only long after the tournament that I realized that the "D" in Super D's tea should have meant "Dieter". I was regularly imbibing diet tea, which of course would have stimulants, and not just the ones in ordinary tea, to keep one's metabolism up. Because of Canadian Law, a product is either a food (in which case the packaging is not allowed to mention any use for it, certainly not a medical use such as losing weight) or it is a medicine, not to be sold in pop-up stores, so I had unwittingly been taking a kind of herbal Speed. Canadian Law did not allow the manufacturers to print the tea's purpose on the packaging. No wonder I was getting up at dawn every day! So did the tea help me play better (with a few regrettable reverses), or were the reverses the main affect?

In the magazine issue, which I didn't receive until a year later, Bryon Nickoloff wrote about how he might have won the Closed. I wrote an article on the same subject, but it was declined."

Moore, Harry – Berry, Jonathan [C60] Berry - Moore m Victoria (1), 23.04.1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3 a6 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.0–0 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bg7 9.d4 exd4
10.cxd4 Qxd4 11.Rd1 Qf6 12.Qg3 Rd8 13.Nc3 Rxd1+ 14.Nxd1 Qd8 15.Bg5 Nf6 16.Qe5+ Kf8
17.Nc3 h6 18.Bh4 g5 19.Bg3 Nd5 20.Qf5 Nxc3 21.bxc3 Bxc3 22.Qc5+ 1–0

Berry, Jonathan – Moore, Harry [D45] Berry - Moore m Victoria (2), 23.04.1994

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd2 0–0 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 Re8 10.g4
Qe7 11.h3 Ne4 12.Rg1 Nf8 13.Rg2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Qf6 15.Qe2 Ng6 16.Bxg6 fxe6 17.0–0–0 Rf8
18.Nd2 b5 19.f4 b4 20.Na4 a5 21.Nb3 Ba6 22.Qf3 Rae8 23.Kd2 Rxe3 24.Qxe3 Bxf4 0–1

Moore, Harry – Berry, Jonathan [D36] Berry - Moore m Victoria (3), 24.04.1994

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 Be7 9.Qc2 a5
10.Nge2 Nf8 11.0–0–0 Ne6 12.f3 Kf8 13.Bf2 c5 14.Bf5 g6 15.Bh3 Kg7 16.Kb1 cxd4 17.exd4 Ra6
18.Bg3 Nh7 19.Qb3 Nhg5 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Qxb7 Rb6 22.Qc7 Bf5+ 23.Ka1 Ne6 24.Qe5+ Bf6
25.Qxd5 Qe7 26.Qxa5 Qb7 27.Be5 Bxe5 28.Qxe5+ f6 29.Qd5 Qa7 30.Nb5 Qa5 31.Qd7+ Kg8
32.Nd6 Rh7 33.Qe8+ Nf8 34.Nc4 Qa6 35.Nxb6 Qxb6 36.Nc3 Rb7 37.Rd2 Be6 38.Re1 Bf7 39.Qe3
Ra7 40.d5 Qa5 41.Qxh6 Nd7 42.Rde2 Ra8 43.Re7 Ne5 44.R7xe5 fxe5 45.Rxe5 1–0

Berry, Jonathan – Moore, Harry [A48] Berry - Moore m Victoria (4), 24.04.1994

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 0–0 5.c3 d6 6.e4 Nc6 7.Bb5 Nd7 8.0–0 h6 9.Bh4 Qe8 10.Re1
e5 11.Nb3 a6 12.Bf1 a5 13.a4 exd4 14.cxd4 Nb4 15.Rc1 c6 16.Qd2 b6 17.Bg3 Qe7 18.Qf4 Qe6
19.Bc4 d5 20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Rxe6 Nxf4 22.Rxc6 g5 23.Bxf4 gxf4 24.Nh4 Re8 25.h3 Kf8 26.Rc7 Bf6
27.Bd5 Rb8 28.Nf5 Rd8 29.Nd6 1–0

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

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

Under the scrutiny of the engine, it is evident that neither side played this game very well. The errors more or less balanced out until move 20, when White allowed a thematic piece sacrifice by his opponent. A subsequent pawn sacrifice led to White's sudden, but not premature, resignation.

1.d4 [3:00] **g6** [3:00] **2.c4** [2:58] **Bg7** [3:00] **3.e4** [2:55] **d6** [2:59] **4.Nc3** [2:51] **Nc6** [2:59] **5.Be3**
[2:48] **e5** [2:58] **6.Nge2** [2:46] **Nh6** [2:56] **7.f3** [2:44] **f5** [2:54] **8.d5** [2:42] **Ne7** [2:53] **9.Qd2** [2:41]
Nf7 [2:52] **10.0–0–0** [2:36] **0–0** [2:50]



A tabia in this variation. 11.Kb1 and 11.h4 are common. Here White plays something else. **11.c5** [2:33] **Bd7** [2:42] **12.cxd6?!** [2:31] Logical enough, but there was no need to release the tension. **12...cxd6** [2:42] **13.Kb1** [2:30] **a6** [2:40] 13...b5! was more precise. **14.Rc1** [2:28] **b5** [2:39] **15.a3?!** [2:25] We are told as children not to move pawns in front of our kings. **15...Qb8?!** [2:31] 15... a5! **16.Na2** [2:22] **a5** [2:29] **17.Rc2** [2:20] **Rc8** [2:26] **18.Rxc8+** [2:18] **Qxc8** [2:24] **19.Nec1** [2:16] **Qb7** [2:13]



White has played inexactly, but Black hasn't done any better, and with 20.h4! White could start action on the kingside. Instead White helps Black accomplish what he failed to do himself - open another file on the queenside. **20.b4?** [2:14] **axb4** [2:10] **21.axb4** [2:10] **Ra3?!** [2:04] **22.Kb2?!** **22...Qa6?!** [1:59] One imprecise move follows another. 22...Ra4! would have prevented 23.Nc3! **23.Bd3?** [2:03]



But this is a blunder and, miracle of miracles, Black finds the right response. **23...Nxd5!** [1:55] The idea of this temporary sacrifice is to bring Black's dark-squared bishop into play. **24.exd5** [2:00] **e4+** [1:53] **25.Kb1** [1:58] **exd3** [1:50] **26.Nxd3** [1:49]

John Watson and Gyozo Forintos at Vancouver 1975 in tournament winner Paul Keres' last event. Macskasy was also a seminal influence on several younger BC players, as indicated below.

Nathan Divinsky:

Elod Macskasy was a gentle and generous soul who thoroughly enjoyed many aspects of life, and who preserved an impish sense of humour throughout his seventy years. He had absolutely no poison in him: envy, greed, and the other classical vices were simply unknown to him. When he beat you at chess, he almost apologized, and explained your loss away because of a hasty move or an unexpected quirk in the position. Macskasy was mathematician, teacher, stamp collector, football pools expert, horse racing handicapper, penny stock expert, bridge player, and gourmet, as well as a chess master. He loved to talk politics, medicine and human nature. He was not perfect. As a dreamer who seldom went to sleep before 3:00 am, he was often late for appointments. He always promised to write but seldom finished a project. But he never took himself too seriously and saw the humour in people and their foibles. He was especially amused by the petty jealousies of academia, the politicking and intense passions aroused over trivialities. He agreed with the observation that campus passions and feuds were intense because the stakes were so small. [First published in the April 1990 edition of *En Passant*]

An Interview with Duncan and Dobrilla Suttles by Robert North

This interview was conducted with Duncan and Dobrilla Suttles in their comfortable penthouse suite located in the University Endowment lands. The interview lasted approximately one and a half hours.



The 1961 BC - WA match: Dr. Macskasy on board 1, 15 year old Duncan Suttles on board 2

Counterplay: When did you first meet Dr. Macskasy?

Duncan: Oh, it must have been over thirty years ago. I think I was thirteen years old. I met him shortly after I learned to play. I started playing at the Vancouver City Chess Club and that's where I met him.

Counterplay: What was your first impression of him?

Duncan: Well, he was one of the leading players at that time. I think the Canadian Championship was the first time that we traveled together across the country by train ... I was fifteen years old. I saw a lot of Doctor Macskasy from that time on. I can't remember exactly when I met him. It was probably at the chess club.

Dobrilla: Duncan's mother said about Dr. Macskasy that he was a second father to Duncan.

Counterplay: Both in chess and mathematics?

Duncan: Chess, mathematics, stock markets, bridge, a few different areas. You know besides chess, one of his main interests was speculating in the stock market and he got me involved in that and eventually I became a stock broker. Also, I played bridge, but not very much.

Dobrilla: The news of his death was a tragedy. He would help people out, people like myself, he liked everyone.

Counterplay: Surely he must have had some bitter memories of Hungary.

Duncan: He had some. He would have had some bad things to say about certain political systems, but he was friends with almost everybody.

Counterplay: I gather from not only what you said, but also your tone, you felt quite close to him. Was he very supportive, kind and considerate not only to yourself and your wife but to others as well?

Duncan: I think he was, yes. He was very much involved in the chess arena, especially with the younger players. He would look after them and they would visit his house.

Dobrilla: You know Bruce Harper, when Bruce Harper was growing and learning to play chess he would visit the Doctor's house and play till late at night. He would drive Bruce home rather than let him walk home in the dark.

Duncan: He was the kind of person who had time for everybody but was never on time.

Dobrilla: That was a general joke. A lot of chess players grew up under his wing, Duncan, Peter Biyasas, Bruce Harper, all those chess players grew up under his shadow and more or less he influenced every single one of them. I know he influenced Duncan.

Counterplay: In what sort of direction?

Dobrilla: A very positive direction. In chess, he would guide them. Duncan was left here (at the university) when his parents moved back to the United States. Macskasy would look after him like his own child. You know, he would try to look after him, make sure that he had at least one good

meal a day, that he had clothes. He would buy Duncan clothes, just like his own child. In the first two years of our marriage, his wife would go to the Safeway to buy food for her family of five and would have another bag for a family of two, the two of us. Whatever she cooked for herself, she cooked for us. I mean you can't find that anywhere in the world. When he died, I lost a father for a second time, that's what I felt about it. And Duncan felt like he was his father too.

Counterplay: Was Dr. Macskasy involved in organizational efforts on a larger scale, was he involved in the CFC or the BCCF to any extent?

Duncan: I guess he was off and on, I don't know.

Counterplay: Were his efforts directed more towards individuals than, say, organizations?

Duncan: I would think so.

Dobrilla: Definitely.

Counterplay: Is there anything more you would like to say?

Duncan: I should say it was a pretty special relationship for me. He never would say no. He had a very wide circle of friends with different interests and he always seemed to manage to visit them and do things with different people. He was very active.

Dobrilla: To the last day. He never sat down, not for a minute. He still did, in the last day of his life, like he did years ago when I arrived. He was playing chess, he was still teaching at the university, he was collecting stamps, he was trading on the stock market, he lived everything to the fullest, he did not slow down, he lived his life full. He was happy. He was a very happy person.

Counterplay: That's a pretty full life.

Dobrilla: That's right. He met lots of American chess players. He played lots of them and entertained them at his house. Bobby Fischer visited him and Mark Taimanov.

Counterplay: Was that in 1971 during the Candidate's match?

Duncan: Yes, he was pretty well known around the world and respected.

Counterplay: As a player or as a host?

Dobrilla: Both, as a host and as a player. As a person generally.

Duncan: It will take a long time for us to get over it. It is not something you forget about in a day, in a year.

Dobrilla: When I met Duncan first and Duncan kept talking about Macskasy it took me about six months to realize that that wasn't his real father. And my family thought for a few years that was his real father.

Counterplay: How old was Dr. Macskasy?

Dobrilla: He was born in 1919. That makes him seventy-one. He was a stamp collector and had one of the best stamp collections in the world. He had stamps from around the world. I remember at one Olympiad in Europe he showed up at Customs with suitcases full of stamps. That caused some problems.

Duncan: We traveled to several Olympiads together. At one time I used to see him almost every day at the stock market. He used to come down there every day and talk about stocks and how they broke. I guess that was the only place where I sort of went into something that he didn't have much interest in - computers.



Perez-Macskasy, 3rd Pan-American Championship, Santa Clara (Cuba), 1968

Counterplay: What was his professional field?

Duncan: He taught various types of mathematics. Some of it had to do with calculus, some of it with geometry. I know he never did get involved with computers or anything like that. I guess it was too impersonal to attract him.

Dobrilla: He tried, he came around to talk with Duncan about it to get a computer, but he never did. He believed in the human touch.

Duncan: It was the intuitive element, rather than the calculation that he liked. You know, play by feel.

Counterplay: So he was a player in the Emanuel Lasker mould?

Duncan: Yes. He was a player that would feel a good move and make it without too much thought to calculating all variations.

Counterplay: Your lives were really intertwined with Dr. Macskasy.

Dobrilla: I've never known Duncan to have a greater respect for anyone alive or greater feelings. Whenever Duncan needed something, he was there.

Duncan: Well, I guess the one thing that he taught me is to not take things too seriously. In other words, he was a person that was able to step back and see things without getting involved, you know, caught up. Playing the stock market... it had its ups and downs but it wouldn't bother him. And the same with chess ... I think that was a very valuable thing, and some players have never learned that. [First published in *Counterplay*, June 1990]

Bruce Harper:

Dr. Elod Macskasy had many friends who mourn his passing, and I count myself among them. The purpose of this article, though, is neither to praise nor to bury him, but rather to present to the reader a picture of Macskasy the chess player. In his case, as in almost all others, this is something quite different from Macskasy the person. It is customary, I suppose, to print a series of brilliant wins in such articles, but instead I present a personal view of Macskasy as an opponent. We played, as far as I can determine, sixteen tournament games. My lifetime score against Macskasy was two wins, five losses and nine draws. This doesn't count the first game we played, where I beat him (playing the Stonewall Dutch) in a simultaneous exhibition - I couldn't find the game, although I still have the trophy. Macskasy was many things to the chess players of this province. He was a star by which we could chart our progress. He was also an example to be followed, both as a person and a player. Elements of his style can be found not only in my games, but also in those of Suttles, Biyiasas, Berry and the others who made up the fragmented 'BC school of chess.' His play was richer and more creative than was sometimes thought. For me he was a difficult opponent. In the early years, of course, he was just better, although I had some surprising opportunities against him even then. Later, on paper, I was the favourite, but I had a tremendously hard time actually scoring the full point against him. This was partly psychological, but mainly because, as they say, he was a tough nut to crack. He may have realized his position was bad, or even lost, but you would never know it when you were playing him. For a player who always had trouble winning won positions, Macskasy was a challenge. The two games I did manage to win were brutal in their thoroughness - anything closer and he always managed to escape. When I conceived of this article, I didn't realize we played so many games. I also had forgotten how interesting and complex the games were, and how much of the struggle that is the best in chess can be seen in them.

Harper, Bruce – Macskasy, Elod [B70] BC Centennial op Nanaimo (3), 01.05.1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 Macskasy rarely played the Sicilian, and when he did he employed the Dragon variation. **6.Bc4 Bg7 7.Bb3?!** This is an inaccuracy which Black quickly exploits. It would have been interesting to see how Black would have fared in a main line theoretical duel, but since I didn't know the main line, that question will remain unanswered. **7...Nbd7! 8.Be3 a6 9.f3 Nc5 10.Qd2 Nxb3 11.Nxb3** It may be that 11.axb3 is better, keeping the knight in the centre. **11...b5 12.0-0?** This move is very suspect. The exchange of the bishop on b3 isn't the end of the world, but to exploit his lead in development, White must play aggressively. 12.Bh6 0-0 13.h4 is one way, and 12.0-0-0 is another. The move played leaves Black with a comfortable game because of the Bishop pair. **12...Bb7 13.a3 Rc8 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Bd4 0-0 16.Rf2 Qb8** White has not committed an outright blunder, but his passive opening gives Black a chance to show his strength in a quiet, manoeuvring game. Black's plans are self-evident – he builds up pressure on the c-file and gradually opens the position for his bishops. It isn't so easy to see what White can do. **17.Re2 Rfd8** Threatening 18...e5 and 19...d5. **18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 Re8** Black has given up one of his bishops, but still has good prospects. White's problem is his Knight

on b3. Even if it gets to c6, this is not necessarily a stable outpost, because the pawn on d5 is artificially isolated and vulnerable. **20.Bc3 Rc4 21.Kf1** A strange move, but this position is hard to play. For example, 21.Na5 can be met by 21...Rxc3 22.Qxc3 Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Nxd5, with more than enough for the exchange. Black now finds a creative and very strong manoeuvre.



21...Rh4! 22.g3 Rh5! 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.c3 The deployment of the rook from c4 to h5 had two ideas behind it. One was to force the exchange on f6, leaving Black with a good bishop against a bad knight. The other was to probe White's kingside and create weaknesses there, so that Black can attack on both sides of the board. The two ideas are related. **24...Qc8 25.Kg1 Qh3 26.Re4 Rc8 27.Qg2 Qd7** Naturally Black refuses to exchange Queens, as he intends to attack White's weakened Kingside. **28.f4 Qa7+ 29.Kh1 Qb7** Attacking the d-pawn - keep an eye on it. **30.Re3 Qb6 31.Red3 g5!** This sort of move is often missed, as it is only good under certain circumstances. Those circumstances exist in this position - Black holds the initiative and has more active pieces on the Kingside.

The idea is simple enough. Black wants to open the g-file and increase the pressure on White's King. **32.Nd2 Kh6 33.g4 Rh6 34.f5** Keeping the kingside closed, but at the expense of further increasing the scope of Black's bishop. White was now in increasingly severe time trouble. **34...Be5 35.h3 Bf4 36.Nf3 Qb7 37.Nd4 Rc5 38.Nc6** Finally, but the Knight doesn't do all that much on c6. Now Black finds the sort of move that is hard to answer in a time scramble. **38 ... e5!** A psychological masterstroke. If White just ignores this move, the one weakness in Black's position, his backward e-pawn, is suddenly transformed into a protected passed pawn. The Knight at c6 is also cut off from d4 and the kingside, giving Black the possibility of ...Rh4 and ...h5. **39.fxe6 fxe6 40.b4** An attempt to solve the problems on d5 by tactical means, but Black has seen this as well. **40...Rxd5 41.Na5 Rxh3+! 42.Rxh3 Rxd1# 0-1**

All told, a brilliant game by Macskasy. This was his best game against me, and impresses me still.

To return to the theme of Macskasy's place in Canadian chess history, I suspect that many players are unaware of his contribution to the "Suttles" (for want of a better term) style of play. There is little doubt that other BC players embarked on unusual and esoteric manoeuvres (such as Rc8-c4-h4-h5) more frequently, and sometimes for their own sake, than did Macskasy, but it would be absolutely wrong to characterize his play as exclusively classical or technical. Macskasy had a strong creative streak, and while his results sometimes suffered because his optimism overrode the requirements of the position, this weakness was not the result of a routine approach to the game. It might be more accurate to say that a strong point in his character as a person sometimes proved to be inappropriate at the chessboard. I focus here, of course, on Macskasy's contributions to the development of BC chess as a chess player, not as an organizer or a person. Macskasy was not simply a very strong player who was necessary for the creation of a unique school of chess in the Hegelian sense - he was a member of that school in his own way. The preceding game, in my view, was a creative achievement by Macskasy and is very revealing as to his abilities and style. [First published in *Counterplay*, June 1990]

(Due to space restrictions a number of Macskasy's games can be found in the attached PGN file.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vancouver Rapid League 2018-2019

Monthly until May 2019

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

April 19-22, Victoria

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Paul Keres Memorial

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June 29 - July 1, Surrey

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