

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #376

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

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Canadian Championship and Zonal (April 18-22)

Last December the CFC Directors approved a bid from Aris Marghetis to hold the next four Canadian Championships in Kingston, Ontario, and the first of these events has just taken place over the Easter weekend. Held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in part through contacts made at the CSTA (Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance) Conference in Halifax in March 2018, the Championship served as the centrepiece for a chess festival, with additional sections for those rated below 2200. 2019 is also a Zonal year, meaning there were qualification spots for the World Cup and American Continental Championship plus the chance to obtain direct titles.



Round one, Joshua Doknjas versus Evgeny Bareev (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

Thirty-six players participated in the Championship Section, including GMs Evgeny Bareev, Kaiqi Yang, and Aman Hambleton, WGM Qiyu Zhou, and former champions IM Nikolay Noritsyn and IM Artiom Samsonkin. There were two players from BC, Joshua Doknjas and Kevin Gentes, the former receiving financial support from the BCCF due to his high finish in the last BC Closed. Evgeny Bareev was the obvious favourite, but the former world number four (2003) suffered the tournament's biggest upset in the very first round at the hands of – Joshua Doknjas! It was Nikolay Noritsyn who made the most of the early going and after six rounds was in clear first with 5.5 points, having defeated Yang and Samsonkin. However, Bareev was not to be denied and produced seven(!) wins in a row, including a victory against Noritsyn in round seven, before drawing with Hambleton in the last round to claim the Canadian championship at his first attempt

with a score of 7.5/9. Aman Hambleton and Nikolay Noritsyn were respectively second and third after tiebreaks, both scored 6.5 points. No one managed to win one of the direct titles, but Mark Plotkin achieved an IM norm through standard means for his excellent 6.0/9.



Kevin Gentes
(photo by John Uppér)

After the thrill of the first round Joshua Doknjas had to settle down to a 'normal' tournament; he scored plus one in his remaining games to finish with 5.5 and a tie for seventh. His result pushed both his CFC and FIDE ratings to lifetime highs, 2367 and 2278 respectively. Kevin Gentes had a sub-par result; perhaps lack of recent practice was a problem (his last two events were the 2017 Keres and 2018 Keres), but after losing to Qiyu Zhou he forfeited his fifth round game and didn't complete the remainder of the event. Kevin's final total was 1.5 points. [Crosstables photos](#)

Doknjas, Joshua – Bareev, Evgeny [B06] CAN ch Kingston (1.1), 18.04.2019

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be3 a6 5.h4 h5 6.Nh3 Nd7 7.Ng5 e6 8.Bc4 Qe7 9.a4 Ngf6 10.Qd2 b6 11.d5 e5 12.f3 0–0 13.Qe2 Bb7 14.Rd1 Nc5 15.b3 Bc8 16.b4 Ncd7 17.a5 Bb7 18.Qf2 Rac8 19.Bb3 b5 20.Qd2 Nh7 21.Ne2 f5 22.Ne6 fxe4 23.Nxf8 Rxf8 24.fxe4 Ndf6 25.0–0 Nxe4 26.Rxf8+ Bxf8 27.Qe1 Bc8 28.c4 Bd7 29.Bc2 Nef6 30.cxb5 Ng4 31.Nc3 axb5 32.Bxg6 Nhf6 33.a6 1–0

Li, William – Gentes, Kevin [C97] CAN ch Kingston (3.13), 19.04.2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0–0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.d5 c4 13.b4 cxb3 14.axb3 Nb7 15.b4 Bd7 16.Bd3 g6 17.Bh6 Rfc8 18.Re2 Nd8 19.Rea2 Qb7 20.g4 Ne8 21.Qe2 Nc7 22.Qe3 f6 23.Qe2 Nf7 24.Bd2 Kh8 25.Kh2 Rg8 26.c4 bxc4 27.Bxc4 f5 28.Ne1 Nb5 29.Nc2 Ng5 30.f3 fxe4 31.Bxg5 Bxg5 32.Qxe4 Qb6 33.Ne1 Rgf8 34.Bxb5 Bxb5 35.Ng2 Rac8 36.Na3 Bf4+ 37.Kh1 Be8 38.h4 Rc3 39.Rf1 Qc7 40.Rc2 Rxc2 41.Qxc2 Qxc2 42.Nxc2 Bb5 43.Ra1 Bg3 44.Nce3 Rxf3 45.Rc1 Bf2 0–1

Saha, Ananda – Doknjas, Joshua [E34] CAN ch Kingston (4.10), 20.04.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.e3 0–0 6.Qc2 b6 7.Ne5 c5 8.a3 Ba5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Be2 Bb7 11.0–0 Nbd7 12.f4 Rc8 13.Qa4 c4 14.Nb5 Nxe5 15.fxe5 Ne4 16.Nxa7 Ra8 17.Nb5 Bc6 18.b4 Bxb5 19.Qxb5 Nc3 20.Qc6 Nxe2+ 21.Kf2 Nxd4 22.exd4 Qh4+ 23.Kf3 Qe4+ 24.Kg3 Bxb4 25.Bf4 Bc3 26.Rad1 Rxa3 27.Rf3 Be1+ 28.Kg4 h5+ 29.Kg5 f6+ 30.exf6 gxf6+ 31.Qxf6 Rxf6 0–1

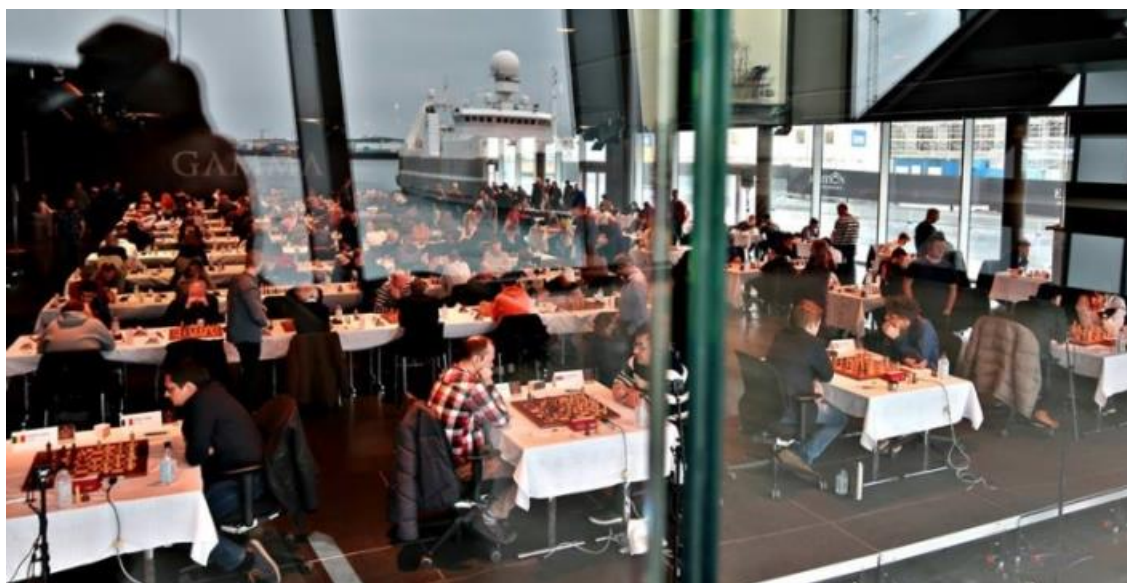
22nd International Chess Jam (April 13)

Now in its twenty-second year, this annual scholastic event in Ferndale, Washington has been out of the limelight of late but often attracts Canadians who frequently do well in the various sections. This year there were perhaps fewer than usual due to the Provincial Chess Challenge being held the following day, but we note in the Grade 6-12 Section Lucas Eisenberg placed third with 4.5 points, while a half-point back were Colette Eisenberg, Jayden Qu, and Denman Hertz (apologies if I missed anyone). The overall winner was Carson Roesch, who some may remember from last year's Semiahmoo and New West Opens. [Crosstables](#)

Skakit Tulips (April 11-14)

This picturesque title was attached to the April FIDE open run by the Pacific Northwest Chess Center based in Kirkland, WA. Founded last year, the PNWCC is a non-profit corporation which offers chess lessons and tournaments of various levels. The monthly FIDE opens feature two or more visiting titled players, with the proviso the visitors do not play against each other so as to give local players more opportunities to meet strong opposition. (How this does not offend against the FIDE rule forbidding the manipulation of pairings to favour certain players is unclear to your editor.) For the April edition the visitors were GMs Aleksandr Lenderman and Andrey Gorovets, who unsurprisingly took first and second places with 7.0/7 and 6.5/7 respectively. GM James Tarjan was among those who tied for third with 4.0 points, while Joshua and Neil Doknjas scored 3.5 points; they did not play the last day so as to attend the Provincial Chess Challenge at UBC, but both faced Gorovets in rounds three and four respectively. There were twenty-two players in the section. [PNWCC website](#) [USCF ratings report](#)

Reykjavík Open (April 8-16)



This year's GAMMA Reykjavík Open ended in a massive eight-way tie for first between Constantin Lupulescu (Romania), Alireza Firouzja (Iran), Nils Grandelius (Sweden), Gawain Jones (England), Mircea-Emilian Parligras (Romania), Tigran Petrosian (Armenia), Aryan Tari (Norway), and Abhijeet Gupta (India) on 7.0/9, with Lupulescu taking the top honours on tiebreak. Top Canadian was Aman Hambleton with 6.0 points; Alexandra Botez finished with 5.0, Tanraj Sohal 4.5, and Leon Piasetski 3.5, the latter withdrawing due to a nasty cold.

Apart from the Open there was also a Fischer Random event, won by Alireza Firouzja (Aman Hambleton scored 5.0/9), and the Harpa Blitz. Here Gawain Jones and Jordan Van Foreest tied for first with 7.5/9, while Aman Hambleton, Tanraj Sohal, and Alexandra Botez scored 6.5, 6.0, and 4.0 points respectively. [Tournament website results](#)

As far as we can tell a complete games file has yet to be issued; the attached PGN file contains those games which are available.

Botez, Alexandra – Stoyanov, Viktor [A61] Reykjavik op (5.48), 11.04.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 Bg7 8.e3 0–0 9.Be2 Na6 10.0–0 Nc7 11.a4 Re8 12.h3 Bf5 13.Qb3 Ne4 14.Rfd1 Rb8 15.Nd2 Nxd2 16.Rxd2 g5 17.Bg3 Bg6 18.Bd3 f5 19.Qc2 Qf6 20.Bh2 Kh8 21.Re1 Na6 22.Nb5 Nb4 23.Qb3 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 f4 25.e4 Qe7 26.f3 a6 27.Na3 b5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Nxb5 Qd7 30.Nc3 Rb4 31.Ra1 Reb8 32.Ra2 Qb7 33.Kh1 Ra8 34.Rxa8+ Qxa8 35.Qf1 Qb7 36.Qc1 Rb3 37.Bg1 Qa6 38.Bf2 Be5 39.Kh2 Be8 40.g4 Rb7 41.Kg2 h5 42.Qf1 Qa5 43.Qc1 hxg4 44.hxg4 Rh7 45.Rd1 Qa6 46.Rh1 Rxh1 47.Qxh1+ Kg7 48.Qd1 Qa5 49.Be1 Qb4 50.Qa1 Qb3 51.Qc1 Bd7 52.Nd1 Ba4 53.Nc3 Qc4 54.Qa1 Be8 55.Qa7+ Bf7 56.Qe7 Kg6 57.Qd7 Kg7 58.Qf5 Qb3 59.Qxg5+ Bg6 60.Ne2 Qxb2 61.Kf1 Qb3 62.Qe7+ Kg8 63.Qd8+ Kg7 64.Qe7+ Bf7 65.Qg5+ Kf8 66.Qh6+ Ke8 67.Qh3 c4 68.g5 Qb7 69.g6 Bg8 70.Qh5 Qg7 71.Qg4 Qd7 72.Qxd7+ Kxd7 73.Bd2 Ke7 74.Nxf4 Kf6 75.Ke2 Bd4 76.Kd1 Be5 77.Kc2 Kg5 78.Nd3+ Kxg6 79.Nxe5+ dxe5 80.Bc3 Kf6 1–0

BCCF Annual General Meeting (May 19)

The BCCF Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19 between the third and fourth rounds of the Keres Memorial, beginning around 2:30pm or thereabouts. We encourage you to come out and attend the AGM: the executive for the coming year will be elected, and there will also be opportunity to voice concerns, comments, and ideas about how organized chess is run in BC. The BCCF is your federation – it is only as strong as those involved in it, your help is needed. Please note that anyone may attend, but voting is restricted to BCCF members (anyone who has played in a CFC-rated event in the last year, plus select TDs and organizers) aged fourteen or over.

GRAND PACIFIC OPEN (April 19-22) by Roger Patterson

The thirteenth annual Grand Pacific Open drew one hundred and fifty-five players from five provinces (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec) and five states (Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Arizona) as well as France and Brazil. This is a new record for the GPO and indeed is the largest tournament ever on Vancouver Island apart from junior events thirty or forty years ago. You'd think we would be happy with this record but actually we were a little disappointed as the early pre-registration was very strong and faded at the end. It's possible some were unable to find a hotel room. The Grand Pacific sold out early and apparently so did other local hotels (or the rates on offer were high). A lesson for next year - book your room early!

The event received an unusually high level of mainstream media coverage including a half column or so in the Times Colonist newspaper, announcements on CFX radio and a CHEK TV reporter who was on site conducting interviews with an eventual spot on the evening news.

GM Andrey Gorovets came clear first, winning his key game against GM Alexandr Fier in round four and conceding a draw against WGM Maisuradze in the final round. A surprising clear second with 5.0 points was local junior Patrick Huang who was ranked originally well down on the wall chart. It's good for Victoria that someone local did well as the old guard (Wu, Moore, Patterson) crashed and burned. Patrick's performance means he also scores the qualifying spot for the next BC Closed. The remaining top place money was taken by those with 4.5 points - GM Alexandr Fier, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, WGM Nino Maisuradze, and NM Jason Kenney.



Paul Leblanc, Brian Raymer, Andrey Gorovets, Roger Patterson, Elliot Raymer

The U2000 section was abandoned by those rated 1800-2000 who almost all played up a section leaving an opportunity for the U1800 crowd. Lucian Wu took the top honour, yielding two draws along the way to a 5.0/6 score. Likewise, the U1700 section produced a clear winner in David Crook. Tied for second was Elyjah Kiyooka (along with Joshua Imoo) who vastly outperformed his 1220 rating. Somewhat unusually, all the sections produced clear winners. In the U1200 group, this was Jonathan Johnson with a clean sweep of the section.

As always, many thanks to all those who helped in any way for setup, playing as a floater, our TDs Elliot Raymer NA, and Nigel Hanrahan NA, and to our [sponsors](#).

This [report](#) with additional photos, full prize distribution, crosstables, and side event reports

Gorovets, Andrey – Fier, Alexandr [E07] Grand Pacific op 13th Victoria (4.1), 21.04.2019

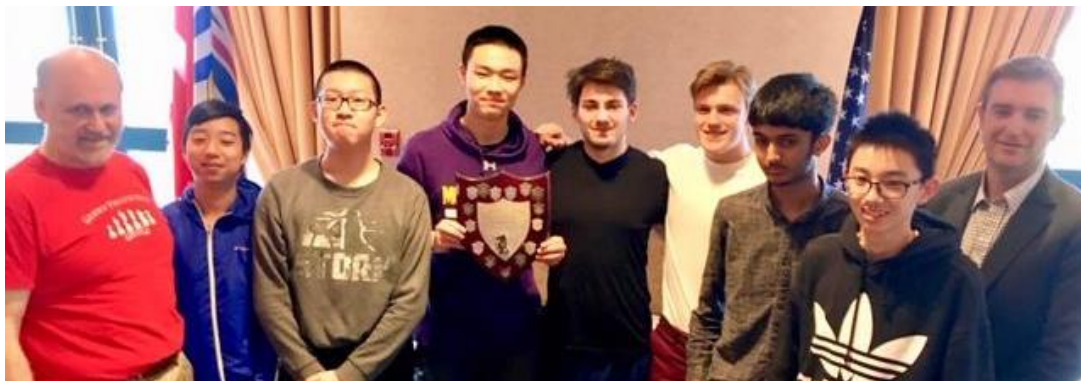
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.g3 0–0 6.Bg2 c6 7.0–0 Nbd7 8.b3 b6 9.Bb2 Ba6 10.Nd2 b5 11.cxb5 cxb5 12.a3 Rc8 13.b4 Nb6 14.Nb3 Nc4 15.Bc1 Nd7 16.Nc5 Nxc5 17.dxc5 Bf6 18.Qb3 Bb7 19.Ra2 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 d4 21.Qd3 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Qd5+ 23.Qf3 Ne3+ 24.fxe3 Qxa2 25.exd4 f6 26.Rd1 Rfd8 27.Rd3 Qc4 28.Bb2 e5 29.dxe5 Rxd3 30.Qxd3 Qxd3 31.exd3 Rd8 32.Kf3 Kf7 33.Ke4 f5+ 34.Kxf5 Rxd3 35.e6+ Ke7 36.Bxg7 Rf3+ 37.Ke4 Rxa3 38.Kd5 a5 39.c6 axb4 40.Bd4 Ra8 41.Bc5+ Kf6 42.c7 b3 43.Kd6 Kf5 44.Bd4 Ra4 45.c8Q Rxd4+ 46.Ke7 Rc4 47.Qb7 Rb4 48.Qd5+ Kg4 49.Qc5 1–0

Huang, Patrick – Kaufman, Raymond [A45] Grand Pacific op 13th Victoria (6.3), 22.04.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.h4 c5 6.Nb5 Na6 7.a4 h6 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Be2 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 cxd4 11.exd4 Ne4 12.c3 0–0 13.Qe2 f5 14.Qe3 Kh7 15.g4 e6 16.g5 h5 17.Bg2 Re8 18.f3 e5 19.Bxe5 Qb6 20.fxe4 Bxe5 21.Qf2 Bd6 22.e5 Rad8 23.0–0 Bf8 24.Rae1 Nb8 25.Qg3 Nc6 26.e6 Re7 27.Rf2 a6 28.Na3 Qa5 29.Bh3 Qxa4 30.Qd3 Qa5 31.Bxf5 gxf5 32.Rxf5 Kg8 33.Rf7 Rxf7 34.exf7+ Kg7 35.Re6 Ne7 36.Qf3 Kh8 37.Qxh5+ Kg7 38.g6 1–0

VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP IS RESURRECTED (April 19) by Paul Leblanc

After a thirty-three year hiatus, Victoria has a high school chess champion. Mount Douglas High School, led by top scoring Matthew Geng, captured the team championship at the Hotel Grand Pacific on Easter weekend. The tournament was held as a five-round active Swiss event with the total points earned by the top four players from each team counting as the team total. Mount Douglas finished with 14.5 points, far outdistancing Pacific Christian School with 6.5, Claremont High School with 5.0, Parkland High School with 4.5, and Esquimalt High School with 2.0.



2019 Victoria High School Championship team, Mount Douglas High School. William Ma, Haibo Sun, Matthew Geng (holding the J. Baines-Lewis trophy), Johnny Cole, Evan Guilford, Surya Narayan, and Suhao Hu. The team is flanked by organizers Paul Leblanc (left) and Dave Gardner (right)

Fittingly, my two co-organizers were Dave Gardner, a Claremont teacher and member of the 1986 Claremont championship team as well as Dan Myers, who at that time was a teacher and prominent junior chess organizer. Elliot Raymer was our hard-working TD. To recognize the winning team, the J. Baines-Lewis Trophy was brought out of retirement. It had been gathering dust in the custody of the Victoria Chess Club since last awarded in 1970. We hope to add many more names to it in coming years.



Daniel Myers, erstwhile junior chess organizer, came out of chess retirement to facilitate the championship

The Victoria High School Championship was held in conjunction with the VYCC and the Grand Pacific Open for a great Easter weekend of chess in Victoria. [Report plus crosstables](#)

PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE (April 14)

The Chess Challenge Finals were held at the Ponderosa Ballroom at the University of British Columbia. One hundred and thirty-six players competed in grade sections to determine who will represent BC at the National Chess Challenge, coming up in Vancouver on the Victoria Day weekend. The following are the trophy winners for this year – congratulations to all!

Kindergarten – Steven Chang, Ethan Low, Leon Gong
Grade 1 – Nicholas Wu, Nathan Yang, An Nguyen
Grade 2 – Erwin Mok, Justin Gao, Zack Zhou
Grade 3 – BiaoBiao Boyang Guo, Tony Li, Ryanbole Yu
Grade 4 – Ryan Yang, Nico Huang, Alex Zou
Grade 5 – Eric Jiang, Ethan Su, Daniel Wang
Grade 6 – Kate Jiang, Matthew He, Veronica Guo
Grade 7 – Joshua Imoo, Ryan Huang, Luka Spasojevic
Grade 8 – Sherry Tian, Kevin Low, Patrick Huang
Grade 9 – Andrew Hemstapat, Chris Luu, Victor Zheng
Grade 10 – Brian Yang, Ethan Low
Grade 11 – Joshua Doknjas, Ryan Leong, Ashton Taylor
Grade 12 – Max Gedajlovic, Maven Zheng



Many thanks to organizer Maxim Doroshenko, the arbiters, volunteers, parents and players for making the event a success. [Crosstables](#)

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Opponent – Harper, Bruce [A26] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

It is always annoying when you are just sure there's a mate, but you can't see it. I think it's a mark of a strong player to get that feeling. Of course, it's the mark of an even stronger player to actually see the mate!

1.c4 [3:00] **g6** [3:00] **2.g3** [2:57] **Bg7** [2:59] **3.Bg2** [2:56] **d6** [2:59] **4.Nc3** [2:55] **Nc6** [2:58] **5.d3** [2:53] **e5** [2:57] **6.e4** [2:52] **Nh6** [2:53] **7.Nge2** [2:49] **f5** [2:50] **8.0-0** [2:43] **0-0** [2:47] **9.h3?** [2:41]



This just makes Black's next move all the stronger, although I don't follow it up accurately. **9...f4!** [2:44] **10.gxf4** [2:40] **Qh4** [2:42] **11.fxe5?** [2:37] 11.Nd5! was right. **11...Bxh3** [2:35] **12.exd6** [2:26] **Bxg2** [2:31] **13.Kxg2** [2:25] **Ng4** [2:30] White's plan is to destroy Black's centre. Black's plan is to checkmate. Black's plan is better. **14.Bf4** [2:12]



14...Rxf4! [2:25] **15.Nxf4** [2:11] **Qh2+** [2:22] **16.Kf3** [2:09]



It's about here that I started getting that feeling. **16...Rf8?** [1:32] Played after an embarrassingly long thought - 50 seconds. After 16...Nd4+ 27.Kxg4 Bf6! (the move I missed), it's mate - 28.Rh1 h5+ 29. Nxf4 hxg5 mate. I overlooked that Black's d4-knight covered the f5-square. I also overlooked that Black could checkmate by recapturing on h5 with his g6-pawn. **17.Ncd5** [2:02] **Nd4+** [1:07] **18.Kxg4** [1:59] **h5+** [1:05] And now 18...Rxf4+ 19.Nxf4 Bf6! leads to the same mate. **19.Kg5** [1:59] **Kh7!** [0:45] **20.Nxh5** [1:42]



20...Nf3+?! [0:09] Here there was a slightly different mate: 20...Bh6+ 21.Kg4 gxh5 mate. I took 37 seconds to miss this line, leaving myself with only eight seconds to finish off my opponent. **21.Qxf3 [1:26] Bh6+ [0:08]**
22.Kg4 [1:24] Qxh5+? [0:07] Played because here I finally thought I saw a way to mate! But not the best way, since 22...gxh5 was mate on the spot... **23.Kg3 [1:23] Rxf3+ [0:06] 24.Kg2 [1:22] Qh3+? [0:06]**
 Really? 24...Qg4+ 25.Kh1 Rh3 was mate. **25.Kg1 [1:21] Rf4? [0:04] 26.Nxf4 [1:14] Bxf4 [4] 27.Rfd1 [1:11]**



With only three seconds left, is Black about to set a record for losing the most winning position ever? No (and I probably hold that record, by the way), because here I actually saw a slightly less obvious mating pattern. **27...Bh2+ [0:03] 28.Kh1 [1:10] Bg3+ [0:02]**
29.Kg1 [1:09] Qh2+ [0:02] 30.Kf1 [1:08] Qxf2# [0:02]
 White is checkmated, with time to spare! **0-1**

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

In 1971, the Czech-born Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek was already playing for the United States, having defected to West Germany in 1968 when Soviet tanks rolled into Prague. In the Netanya 1971 international tournament he tied for first with the Yugoslav GM Bruno Parma, just ahead of the American GMs Samuel Reshevsky and Pal Benko and the Australian (subsequently American) GM Walter Browne. A three-time winner of the U.S. Championship, Kavalek retired from competitive play in 1998 in favour of coaching and writing. He is currently the chess correspondent of *The Huffington Post*.

International Master Bernard Zuckerman was once a fixture on the U.S. chess scene, but he too is long retired from tournament play. He is known for three things: 1. His encyclopaedic opening knowledge; 2. His habit of making short draws; 3. His enduring friendship with his contemporary Bobby Fischer. In the Netanya tournament Zuckerman finished thirteenth out of sixteen participants.

Kavalek, Lubomir – Zuckerman, Bernard [B72] Netanya (15), 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.h3 a6 8.g3 d5 9.Nb3 Nxe4 10.Nxd5 Nd7 11.Bg2 Nd6 12.Bd4 0–0 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Qd4+ Kg8 15.0–0–0 e6 16.Nf6+ Nxf6 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 Rb8 19.Na5 b5 20.Rhd1 b4 21.Bc6 h6 22.g4 Kg7 23.Rd8 e5 24.Nc4 Be6 25.Rxf8 Rxf8 26.Nxe5 g5 27.Bf3 h5 28.Rd4 hxg4 29.hxg4 a5 30.Nc6 Rh8 31.Kd2 Rh4 32.Ne5 Rh2 33.Ke2 Bxa2 34.b3 Rh8 35.Nc6 a4 36.bxa4 b3 37.cxb3 Bxb3 38.a5 Ra8 39.Kd2 Ra6 40.Kc3 Be6 41.Kb4 Bxg4 42.Bxg4 Rxc6 43.Bf3 Rc1 44.a6 Ra1 45.Kb5 Ne8 46.Rd7 Kf6 47.Kb6 Rb1+ 48.Kc5 Rc1+ 49.Kb6 Rb1+ 50.Kc5 Rc1+ 51.Kd4



The diagrammed position arose in the game Kavalek-Zuckerman, Netanya 1971, and was analyzed by Lubomir Kavalek in the November 1971 issue of *Chess Life & Review*. Material is equal, but with more active pieces and a dangerous passed a-pawn, White obviously has the advantage. Black can only play the best moves and hope that White goes wrong somewhere.

51...Ke6 52.a7 Ra1 53.Bc6

Kavalek gave 53.Bc6 an exclamation mark and wrote, "The only move to play for a win. If **53.Rd8? Nc7! 54.a8Q Nxa8 55.Rxa8** (55.Bxa8?? Rd1+ and Black wins!) **55...Rxa8 56.Bxa8 g4!** and the position is a draw."



In fact this position is **not** a draw as claimed by Kavalek. White is winning after 57.Ke4! f5+ (or else White simply strolls over and takes the g-pawn) 58.Kf4 Kf6 59.Bb7 followed by 60.Bc8 and the capture of both Black pawns.

Instead of 56...g4, Black can improve with **56...Kf5 57.Ke3 g4**, reaching the following position:



Here White's best move (ironically) is **58.Bc6!**

Now there are two different variations, depending on where Black moves his king. He can either keep it in the centre and try to restrict White's movements, or send it over the kingside and try to trade off his g-pawn.



A. 58...Ke5 59.Bd7! f5 (or 59...f6 60.Bc8 f5 61.Bd7) **60.Bc8!** (diagram)

After this simple move it is clear that Black is lost. If he moves his king, White plays 61.Kf4 and picks up both pawns; and of course 60...g3? is obviously no help. The only other try is **60...f4+**, but White takes care of that as follows: **61.Ke2 g3** (61...Kf5 isn't legal and otherwise White just plays 62.Bxg4) **62.f3! Kd4 63.Bh3! Kc3 64.Bg2! Kc4 65.Kd2 Kd4 66.Bf1!** From here the bishop stops the g-pawn and also restricts Black's king. **66...Ke5 67.Kc3 Kd5 68.Kd3 Ke5 69.Kc4 Kf5 70.Kd5 Kf6 71.Ke4 Kg5 72.Kf5.** White has forced Black's king to retreat, and he now wins both pawns and eventually promotes his own f-pawn.



B. 58...Kg5 59.Bd5 f5 (diagram)

60.Bh1! The only move to win. Despite being the stronger side, White must alter his strategy according to what Black does. Here it is necessary to see that 60.Bc6? allows Black to draw after 60...f4+ 61.Ke2 (or 61.Ke4 g3 and White must exchange pawns since 62.f3? g2 wins for Black) 61...Kh4 62.Bh1 f3+! Now both 63.Bxf3 and 63.Kf1 are met by 63...g3, forcing the exchange of White's last pawn. **60...f4+ 61.Ke4!** The difference. With the bishop already on h1 White's king maintains contact with the key square f4. **61...f3 62.Ke3 Kh4 63.Kf4!**

Avoiding the last pitfall. As we have already seen, 63.Bxf3? allows 63...g3! and Black draws.
63...Kh4 64.Bxf3! gxf3 65.Kxf3 Kg5 66.Ke4 Kf6 67.Kf4 and Black cannot stop White's pawn from promoting (which the reader might care to verify).

One should not fault Kavalek for his over-the-board decision to avoid the bishop ending. In a competitive game it is usually better to play what you **know to be winning** instead of what you **think should be winning**. But once the game is over, the analyst should come to life and try to establish the truth.

After this extended interlude we now return to the game, where Kavalek has just played 56.Bc6:



53...Nf6 54.Rc7 Here Kavalek wrote: "After 54.Rb7 Kd6 55.Bg2? Nd7 Black has good chances for a draw." This is not correct either. After 56.Rxd7+! Kxd7 57.a8Q Rxa8 58.Bxa8 Ke6 59.Bd5+ Kf6 60.Ke4 White has a superior version of the bishop ending analyzed above.

Another idea for White -- not mentioned by Kavalek -- starts with 54.Rb7 Kd6 55.Bb5!? Here White intends 56.Rb6+ followed by 57...Ra6, cutting off the Black rook's control of the queening square. If Black prevents this manoeuvre with 55...Nd5, he loses a piece after 56.Rd7+ Ke6 57.Rxd5 Rxa7 58.Rxg5.



This ending is also winning for White. Through a combined attack against Black's king and f-pawn, White will force Black into passive defence. He will then acquire the possibility of exchanging all of the pieces on f7, leaving himself with a winning king and pawn ending. But... let's get back to the game.

54...Kd6 55.Rxf7 Kxc6 56.Rxf6+ Kb7 57.Rf7+ Ka8



White has steered past the other endgame options and has gone for a pure rook ending, one that at first glance appears to be winning easily for him. Black's king is stuck in the corner and his g-pawn is subject to attack. If White can round up the g-pawn, his own f-pawn will sprint forward and decide the game. But there is a pitfall lurking for White. At the moment, the Black king is stalemated. If White is too hasty with capturing the g-pawn, Black's rook will suddenly become a *desperado* and will start harassing the White king with checks at close range. If the rook is captured, the result will be stalemate and a draw. And if the rook is not captured, may be able to deliver perpetual check.

58.f3!

The best move. When Black's g-pawn is eventually captured, White's f-pawn will be closer to the queening square. Because 58.f3 is clearly best, we will not bother analyzing 58.Ke4, which can be met by either 58...Ra4+ or 58...g4. However, I believe White is also winning in each of those cases.

58...Rf1

58...g4 59.f4! Ra4+ 60.Ke3 Ra3+ 61.Ke4 Ra4+ 62.Kf5 Ra5+ 63.Kxg4 Rg5+ 64.Kf3 Rg3+ 65.Ke4 Re3+ 66.Kf5 Re5+ 67.Kg6 Rg5+ 68.Kf6 Rf5+ 69.Ke7+—

59.Ke3 Re1+ 60.Kf2 Rc1 61.Kg2

Here Kavalek noted that 61.Rg7! was faster; for example, 61...Rc5 62.Kg2! Rd5 63.Kh3 Rf5 64.Kg3! Rc5 and now 65.Rg8+! as in the game. On the other hand, in endings where the opponent has no counterplay, the legendary J.R. Capablanca used to recommend repeating moves from time to time, thus giving the opponent more opportunities to go wrong.

61...Rc4

After 61...g4 62.Rf8+! Kxa7 63.fxg4 Kb6 64.Kg3 Kc7 65.Kh4 Rh1+ 66.Kg5 Rg1 67.Re8!, Black cannot prevent White from achieving the Lucena position.

62.Kg3 Rg4+! 63.Kf2

Of course not 63.Kxg4? with an immediate draw.

63...Rc4 64.Rg7! Rc5 65.Kg2 Rb5 66.Kh3 Rc5 67.Rg8+!

White is winning the g-pawn by force so he is now good to release the stalemate. Black's king is too far away to affect the outcome, and from here on the win is purely a matter of technique.

67...Kxa7 68.Kg4 Kb7 69.Rxg5 Rc8

Or 69...Rc1 70.f4 Kc6 (70...Kc7 71.Rd5) 71.Re5 Rg1+ 72.Kf5 and with Black's king cut off along the e-file, White will achieve the Lucena position by force.

70.f4! Kc6 71.f5 Kd6

71...Kd7 72.Rg7+! Kd6 and White is a move ahead of the game continuation. Note that 72...Kd8?! allows the exchange of rooks, after which White's king will get to g7, securing the promotion of his f-pawn.

72.Rg7!

The only move to win. Black's king cannot get to the drawing zone because it is cut off along the rank. In the endgame, accuracy is required, even in winning positions.

72...Rc1 73.Kg5! Kd5

73...Rg1+ 74.Kf6 Rf1 75.Rg2 Kd7 76.Re2 makes no difference.

74.Re7 Kd6 75.Re2 Kd7 76.Kg6 Rh1 77.f6 Rf1 78.f7 Rg1+ 79.Kf6 Rf1+ 80.Kg7 Rg1+ 81.Kf8 Rg4 82.Rd2+ Kc7 83.Ke7 Re4+ 84.Kf6 Rf4+ 85.Ke6 Re4+ 86.Kf5 Re1 87.Rf2

White's pawn can no longer be stopped, and therefore **Zuckerman resigned. 1–0**

Please send all comments and corrections to this column to the writer at dscoones@telus.net.

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Monthly until May 2019

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May 12, Burnaby

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Paul Keres Memorial

May 18-20, Richmond

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Washington Open

May 25-27, Lynnwood WA

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BC Senior Championship

June 29 - July 1, Surrey

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