

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #391

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

Vancouver Rapid Chess League



The regular portion of this year's Vancouver Rapid Chess League has been completed and eight teams have qualified for the playoffs. The league is a team competition, with a regular season followed by playoffs. Each match consists of three rounds, where three members of one team play three members of the opposing team in a Scheveningen format (games against everyone on the other team). The time control is fifteen minutes with a ten second increment or approximately twenty-five minutes per player, allowing all three rounds to be played in a single evening. Venue for the regular season was the Vancouver Chess Club/BC Dance Studio on Hamilton Street in Vancouver.

Ten teams began the season last September and ten teams finished, but along the way there were name changes (Underpromotion became Peace Sacrifice and Bazinga became Pawn Storm 51) and a mid-season switch as Chess First! was replaced by the Lions Chess Club. There were more defaults than usual including occasionally entire teams not showing up, but at the end of seven rounds the standings were as follows (match points, then game and round points):

1 Peace Sacrifice	14	48.5	19.0	6 ViKinGS	6	28.5	8.5
2 Vancouver Eagles	12	43.0	14.0	7 Thunder	6	23.0	7.0
3 Chigorin Chess Club	9	39.5	14.0	8 Lightning	4	29.5	9.0
4 Pawn Storm 51	8	33.5	14.5	9 UBC Chess Club	2	20.5	4.5
5 Lions Chess Club	7	27.5	9.5	10 Mavericks	2	17.5	5.0

The top eight teams now qualify for the knockout playoffs. These were originally to be played in the next few weeks at the Lions Chess Club, but this has been changed due to the coronavirus restrictions currently in place. The three stages are now scheduled for May 23, July 18, and August 15, with teams being given the option and recommendation to conduct their matches earlier online. [League website](#)

Montreal Winter Chess Classic (March 2-6)



Inaugurated by Lefong Hua in 2018, the Montreal Winter Chess Classic was the fourth in a series of invitational IM norm round robins with adjunct open tournaments in three sections. One of the invited participants was IM Raymond Kaufman, who also took part in the third event last summer. Unfortunately Raymond's result was not great, finishing last in the field of ten with 3.0 points. The sensation of the tournament was American FM Jason Liang, who won his first six games before drawing in the seventh round to achieve an IM norm with two rounds to spare. A draw and a last-round loss followed, leaving him with a final score of 7.0 points and clear first. Second was Canadian FM Rohan Talukdar a full point behind (he missed the IM norm by half a point) and third was FM Dagur Ragnarsson of Iceland with 5.5 points. [Crosstable](#); [Photos on Facebook](#)

Ragnarsson, Dagur – Kaufman, Raymond [E62] Winter Chess Classic Montreal (1.3), 02.03.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0–0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0–0 Nc6
7.Nc3 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qa4 Be6 10.Bg5 Qc8 11.Rfd1 h6
12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd2 Nd4 14.Rac1 c6 15.e3 Nf5 16.b4 a6
17.Nce4 Be7 18.Qa5 Qb8 19.c5 Qd8 20.Qa4 Qc7 21.Bf1
Rad8 22.Bc4 Bc8 23.Qc2 Kg7 24.Qc3 f6 25.Bb3 h5
26.Nc4 Be6 27.f4 Bd5 28.Ned2 exf4 29.gxf4 Nh4 30.Rf1
Qc8 31.e4 Qg4+ 32.Qg3 Bxc4 33.Nxc4 Rd3 34.Qxg4
hxg4 35.Rfd1 Rfd8 36.Rxd3 Rxd3 37.Rd1 Rh3 38.Rd7
Kf8 39.Bd1 Nf3+ 40.Bxf3 Rxf3 41.Rxb7 Rxf4 42.Na5
Rxe4 43.Nxc6 f5 44.Nxe7 Rxe7 45.Rxe7 Kxe7 46.a4 Kd7
47.b5 axb5 48.axb5 f4 49.Kf2 Kc7 ½–½



Eckert, Doug D. – Kaufman, Raymond [A33] Winter Chess Classic Montreal (8.2), 06.03.2020

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.a3 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.e4 0–0 9.Be2 b6 10.Be3 d6 11.0–0 Bb7 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.f4 Nb8 14.Qd3 Nbd7 15.Bf3 Qc7 16.Nb5 Qb8 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.Nc3 h5 19.h3 Nf8 20.Qe2 Ng6 21.Nd4 e5 22.Nf5 Bf8 23.fxe5 dxe5 24.Bg5 Nf4 25.Qe1 Rxd1 26.Rxd1 Nh7 27.Ne7+ Bxe7 28.Bxe7 Qc7 29.Bd6 Qxc4 30.Bxe5 Nd3 31.Rxd3 Qxd3 32.Bxh5 Rc5 33.Nd5 Bxd5 34.b4 Qxe4 0–1

Cancellations

By now the novel coronavirus COVID-19 has had an effect on how we all live, work, and play, and chess events have not been immune from the strictures governing the size of public gatherings. To date the following tournaments in BC have been cancelled:

BC Youth Chess Championships (Vancouver)

Stan Rogers Memorial (Chilliwack)

Grand Pacific Open (Victoria)

Paul Keres Memorial (Richmond)

One event which we hope will take place is the annual scholastic match between BC and Washington juniors on April 25 (the InterMat), which will switch to an online format for this year. Beyond that the next scheduled tournament is the BC Senior in June, but we don't know at this stage how long these public health measures will continue; current indications are that the situation will get worse before it improves.

The first of the tournaments listed above, the BCYCC, is a qualifying event for the CYCC scheduled to take place in early July (if conditions allow). Given the cancellation of many of the qualifying events, the CFC has made the following announcement:

Dear Chess Communities and provincial coordinators,

In the light of the current Covid-19 outbreak and government directives, CFC will cancel the qualification requirements for 2020 CYCC for all. Players can register into CYCC directly.

It is an uncertain time and we urge everyone to remain calm and follow recommendations from the health and government authorities. Please watch CFC website for future announcements and updates

Please pass this information to your players.

Sincerely,
Christina Tao
CFC Youth Coordinator

To Seed or Not To Seed, the Unrated Question by Don Hack

I have noticed that it is common for BC tournaments to “seed” unrated players into a section based on non-traditional ratings. By “seeding”, I am referring to giving the player a rating that is not from a country-standards body for the purposes of pairing via the Swiss system. I understand and agree using a valid rating from the US Chess, FIDE, or any of the major entities when no Canadian Chess Federation (CFC) is available is reasonable. In my mind, it is the other sources that beg a discussion.

Often, the source of the seeded ratings might be from CMA, on-line ratings, or possibly even a result of a persuasive oral request. I believe ...

1. Playing chess face-to-face, longer games, and a diverse range of opponents is *harder* than on-line games or playing a narrow population of players.
2. A country-based rating is probably a reasonable reflection of relative skill of players in a tournament. The other rating sources, particularly on-line, lack due diligence.
3. There is an initial advantage to not being seeded as Unrated. In the Swiss system, lower rated players play a higher rated, potentially tougher, opponent.
4. Over the life of the tournament, the better players should float to the top, regardless of their seed.

So, why should seeding be avoided?

- It diminishes the value of an *earned* rating for tournament pairing.
- It provides an *unearned* initial advantage to the truly unrated player.
- Most likely, it is not accurate.

Below is my hand-waving data from a recent BC tournament U1200 Section where I estimated 14% of the players were seeded without CFC or US Chess ratings.

Percentile	Seeded	Results
Top 25%	3	0
26-50%	2	1
51-75%	1	4
Bottom 25%	0	1

At the simplest view, five players were seeded in the top 50%; the results showed a flip of five ending up in the bottom 50%. CFC/US Chess-type tournament play is tough.

If you disagree, have a different opinion, or a solution, please send your thoughts to Stephen Wright, the wonderful BCCF Email Bulletin editor.

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

Because of the knight's peculiar way of moving, endgames featuring knights and pawns are notoriously difficult to play well. In today's example, two leading grandmasters struggled to make the best moves and were not always successful. In the end, Black made the last mistake and had to pay the usual price.



Gulko, Boris F. – Blatny, Pavel [A42] Saitek US Masters Hawaii (8), 28.07.1998

The opening moves were: 1.c4 c6 2.e4 e5 3.d4 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Be2 Ne7 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Be3 Na6 10.0–0–0+ Ke8 11.c5 Nc7 12.Nd2 Be6 13.Nc4 Rb8 14.f4 Bxc4 15.Bxc4 Bh6 16.g3 Rf8 17.h4 Ne6 18.Ne2 Ng8 19.h5 Ke7 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Rd3 Rbd8 23.Ra3 a6 24.fxe5 Bxe3+ 25.Rxe3 g5 26.Rb3 Rd7 27.Rd1 Rxd1+ 28.Kxd1 Rd8+ 29.Ke1 Rd7 30.Ng1 Nh6 31.Nf3 Nf7 32.g4 Kf8 33.Ke2 Kg7 34.Rd3 Rxd3 35.Kxd3 Kf8 36.Kc4 Ke7 37.Kb4 Kd7 38.Ka5 Kc7 39.Nd4 Kd7, reaching the diagram position.

White is a pawn up but it is a doubled pawn so it is not going anywhere at the moment. The best White can do is engage in a series of indirect pawn exchanges. This should eventually give him a passed pawn and corresponding chances to win. **40.Kb6 Nxe5 41.Kxb7** Objectively speaking, White should be winning after this, but accuracy will be required. **41...Nd3**



42.Nxc6 Analysis shows that 42.b4!? Nxb4 would improve White's chances by deflecting Black's knight to a less effective square; for example: 43.Nf3 Nd3 44.Kb6 a5 45.a4 e5 46.Nxg5 Nf2 47.Kxa5 Nd3 48.Nf7 Nxc5 49.Nxe5+ Kd6 50.Nc4+ Ke6 51.g5 Nxe4 52.Kb6 Nxg5 53.a5 Nf7 54.Kxc6 Nd8+ 55.Kc7 and wins.

42...Nxc5+ 43.Kb6 Na4+ 44.Ka5 Nxb2 45.Ne5+ Kc7 Or 45...Ke7 46.Nf3 Nd3 47.Nxg5 Nf2 48.Kxa6 Nxg4 49.a4 and White wins. **46.Nf7 Nc4+ 47.Kxa6 Ne3 48.Nxg5 e5** If Black protects his e-pawn with 48...Kd6, White's a-pawn will go through after 49.a4! **49.Ne6+! Kd6**



50.Ng7? A recurring theme in these endings is the knight's struggle to stop a passed rook pawn, especially one that is supported by its own king. In the right circumstances the side with the passed pawn can even ignore the defender's threats, and that is the case here. White could have won by force with 50.a4!! Kxe6 51.a5 Nc4 52.Kb5 Nd6+ 53.Kc6 Nc8 54.g5 and the pawn goes through. **50...Nxf6** 51.Kb6 Nf2?! More accurate was 51...Nf6! 52.Nf5+ Kd7 53.Ng3 Kd6 54.a4 Nd7+ 55.Kb5 Nf6 56.a5 Kc7 and White cannot win. The a-pawn cannot be forced through with the king alone, and if White abandons the a-pawn, then Black will sacrifice his knight for White's remaining pawn. **52.Nf5+ Kd7 53.Ng3 Kc8 54.Kc6**



54...Nd3?! Black's king should prepare for coming up the a-file, while his knight should maintain its attack on White's e-pawn. After 54...Kb8 55.Kd5 Nd3 56.Kc4 Nf2 it is not clear that White can win. **55.a3! Kb8** Or 55...Nf2 56.a4 Kb8 57.Kd5 Nd3 58.Nf1! Ka7 59.Nd2 Kb6 60.Nb3! and, compared with the line given in the last note, White's knight is back in action and Black can no longer save the game. **56.Nf1 Ka7 57.Nd2 Ka6 58.Nc4 Nf2 59.Kd5 Kb5**



60.Nxe5? This simplification leads to a N+P vs N ending that cannot be won with best play. Stronger was 60.Nb2! Ng4 (60...Kb6 61.Kxe5 Ng4+ 62.Kd6 Nf2 63.Kd5) 61.a4+! Ka5 62.Ke6 Kb6 63.Kf5 Ne3+ 64.Kxe5 and the two extra pawns give White a much simpler winning task. **60...Ka4 61.Nc4 Kb3 62.a4** If 62.e5 Nd3 63.e6 (63.a4 Nxe5) 63...Nf4+ 64.Ke5 Nxe6 65.Kxe6 Kxc4 and Black draws. In this line, White's problem was that his knight was on the wrong square for protecting the a-pawn. **62...Kxa4 63.e5 Ng4** Also possible was 63...Nh3!? so that 64.e6 can be met by 64...Nf4+, etc. **64.e6 Nf6+ 65.Kc5 Ng8 66.Ne3 Kb3?** Stronger was 66...Ne7! 67.Kd6 Ng8, keeping the king on a4, where it is closer to the zone of action.



67.Ng4? It was vital to prevent Black's manoeuvre ...N-e7-g6 by playing 67.Nf5! The game could continue as follows: 67...Kc2 68.Nh6 Ne7 69.Kd6 Ng6 70.Nf7 Nh4 71.Kd7 Ng6 72.Kd8 Kd3 73.Nh8 Nf8 74.e7 Ne6+ 75.Kd7 Ng7 76.Nf7 Kd4 77.Nd6 Ke5 78.Nb5 Kd5 79.Nc7+ Ke5 80.Ne6 Nh5 81.Kd8 Nf6 82.Nf8 Kd6 83.Nh7 and the pawn goes through. **67...Ne7 68.Nh6**



68...Nc8? Not the right way to hold up White's pawn. Black must keep his knight away from White's king with 68...Ng6! 69.Kd6 Kc4 70.Nf5 Kd3, and White cannot make further progress. **69.Nf5!** This time White finds the right way to restrict Black's knight. **69...Ka4 70.Kc6 Ka5 71.Kc7 Nb6 72.Ne3 1-0** Black cannot stop the pawn from queening and therefore he resigned.



Peelback

Let us return to the position after White's move **66.Ne3 (left)**.

In the game, Black went wrong with 66...Kb3?, after which White could have won by force had he found the reply 67.Nf5! Besides the defence 66...Ne7 given above in the main notes, Black could also have drawn in amazing fashion with 66...Ka3! 67.Nf5 Kb3! (only now).



Reciprocal zugzwang

The miracle of tablebases reveals this to be a position of reciprocal zugzwang. Black to play loses, but White to play can only draw. We will leave the analysis to the interested reader.

Please send all feedback on this column to the writer at dscoones@telus.net.

EACH PIECE TELLS A STORY by Nathan Divinsky

The White King Bishop

The white king bishop was quite different from the black king bishop. He was a soldier, and there was about as much religion in him as in an atom smasher – or so it seemed to me. He had a haughty look and I could sense that he liked to fight. He wasn't limp nor was he sly. But he certainly didn't have the inner sweetness of his black counterpart. Apart from the large silver square that he wore across his chest, there were no religious trappings to his outfit. He was completely dressed in white, with bits of ermine to fill out the richness of his costume. The slender silver sword at his side seemed part of him. He eyed me with humour and a sparkle in his eyes.

"Sir, please do not get the wrong idea of our worship of the goddess Caissa. She is the goddess of the chequered board which deals with war and struggle. The only thing to rely on is one's own strength and agility. I admit that we did discuss your religious commitment before we made our final decision to visit you, but there was never any doubt."

He turned and clapped his hands. Immediately a procession approached and in the midst of this procession I could see a large wall board. It was filled with bright reflecting pieces and I could make out the position as it approached.

"Good chess is a combination of forceful struggle combined with delicate ballet-like thrusts," he continued. "And we play our role both in games and in problems. I thought you would appreciate this one."

The creatures carrying the wall board were carefully directed by the white king bishop pawn and soon they had the board set down in front of me.



White to play and mate in 14 – G.F. Anderson

“Take a few moments, sir, and see if you can solve this problem.”

He made himself comfortable while I sought the solution. I got nowhere, threw my hands up in the air and shook my head.

“The solution has a geometric symmetry that I thought would amuse you. It goes:

1.Bd5 Bb8 2.Bc4 Ba7 3.Kc3 Bb8 4.Bf1 Ba7 5.Kd3 f3 6.Kc3 Bb8 7.Bc4 Ba7 8.Kd3 Bb8 9.Bd5 Ba7 10.Be4 Bb8 11.Ke3 Ba7 12.Bb1 Bb8 13.Kd3 Ba7 14.Bc2#”

There was mild applause. I enjoyed the problem and smiled accordingly. The bishop smiled back at me while the little creatures removed the wall board. He began pacing up and down while he continued:

“But enough of delicate thrusts. I really prefer the sharp clash of battle. One can only reach God vigorously and so it is in all things. Vigour and strength are the things that count. I should like to tell you of a short sharp conflict that occurred in Bled 1961, round 3.

Tal, Mihail - Olafsson, Fridrik [B48]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.a3 Nf6 8.f4

Tal plays the Sicilian like a drum – he beats it hard.

8...d6 9.Qf3 Be7 10.Bd3 0–0 11.0–0 Bd7 12.Rae1 b5 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.e5 Ng8 16.Qh3 Nh6



In your modern tradition, Black refuses to weaken his pawn structure with 16...g6 or set up a target with 16...h6. But Tal finds a way. **17.f5! Nxf5 18.Rxf5!** The rook is sacrificed in order to let my sharp sword cut through the enemy defences. A brilliant coup.

18...exf5 19.Bxf5 g6 Of course if 19...h6 20.Bxh6 gxh6 21.Qxh6+ and 22.Qh7#. **20.Bd4** Threatening 21.exd6+ winning the queen. **20...Kg8 21.e6!!** Again I cannot be captured because I take the defence with me: 21...gxf5 22.Qg3+ Bg5 23.Qxg5#. **21...Bg5 22.exf7+ Rxf7** If 22...Qxf7 23.Be6 wins the queen. If 22...Kxf7 23.Qxh7#.



23.Bxg6! The crushing blow. If 23...hxg6 24.Qh8#. Now Black has no defence left. **23...Rg7 24.Qe6+ Kh8 25.Be8** A final triumph. If 25...Bxe8 26.Qxe8+ Rxe8 27.Rxe8#.

25...h6 26.Bxc6 The rest is easy. **26...Qxc6 27.Ne4 Re8 28.Qg6 Ree7 29.h4 Qd5 30.Bxg7+ Rxg7 31.Qxd6 Qxd6 32.Nxd6 Bxh4 33.Re8+ Rg8** If 33...Kh7 34.Nf5. **34.Nf7+ Kg7 35.Rxg8+ Kxg8 36.Nxh6+ Kh7 37.Nf5 Bg5 38.b3 1-0**

You see, sir, it is not necessary to continue to exist in the game after you have created a triumph. One must accept God's way, vigorously!"

He stood to attention, saluted me, and marched proudly away.

COMMERCIAL CHESS LEAGUE 1974-78

1974: in the wake of the Fischer boom chess was more popular than it had ever been. CFC President Kalev Pugi asked one David Broughton to coordinate industrial chess activities, the company chess clubs which could potentially form leagues and ultimately contest provincial and national championships. In this province the coordination was handled by Brian Potter, and the following advert subsequently appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper for 19 October 1974:

The BC Chess Federation is seeking four-man teams for a proposed commercial chess league on the Lower Mainland. Brian Potter, who is handling the project, says the league will

stress friendly competition. Clocks will not be used and recording of moves will not be mandatory. Teams must be affiliated with a profession or business and provide suitable facilities for home matches. Potter suggests six players be available for team play so that flexibility is maintained in making up the teams. Team results only will count towards a trophy, with no individual awards. Individual games also will not be rated. Membership in the BCCF is not required and the proposed entry fee per player for the league is \$1.

The trophy, donated by Can-Dive Services Ltd (now [Can-Dive Construction Ltd](#)), is still extant, and from it we learn that the winners for 1974 were an organization called the Vancouver Waiters Chess Club. Presumably because the league was recreational there are no other details available for this or most other years, although in the advert for the following season it was mentioned in passing that the league consisted of nine teams:

The BC Chess Federation plans to expand its commercial chess program for its second year of operation. The program, called the Vancouver Commercial Chess League, had four-man teams playing each other in informal competition. Although team entries are welcome to expand the present nine-team league, the federation will also accept individual entries for the 1975-76. These entries will be formed into league-sponsored teams. Entry fee for teams is \$4 and for individuals, \$1. [*Vancouver Sun*, 19 August 1975]

It was not until the end of the 1975-76 season that a press announcement named the teams that year (now ten) and the standings after the regular games:

UBC Occasionals finished at the top of the standings as the Commercial Chess League finished its regular season schedule. They will be joined by Vancouver General Hospital, Pacific Press Printers and Welrec in a four-team playoff. Final season standings: UBC, 7.5 points; VGH, 6.5; Pacific Press, 6.0; Welrec, 5.5; Vancouver Waiters, 5.0; Oceaneers, 4.0; Mackenzie, Snowball & Skalbania and Phillips-Barratt, 3.5 each; Telco, 2.5 and Lenkurt 1.0. [*Vancouver Sun*, 6 April 1976]



The results of the playoffs appeared the following month, with the UBC Occasionals topping the field as they had done in the regular season:

UBC Occasionals scored 2.5 points to win the Can-Dive Trophy in the Commercial Chess League playoffs. Vancouver General Hospital and Welrec tied for second with 1.5 points each. Pacific Press Printers finished last with half a point. [*Vancouver Sun*, 17 May 1976]

As far as your editor can tell, this was the last press release concerning the ongoing league. The UBC Occasionals also won the following season before tying for first with a team from BC Hydro. In 1978-79 Vancouver General Hospital won the trophy, after which the league presumably ceased to operate.

- 1974 Vancouver Waiters Chess Club
- 1975 UBC Occasionals
- 1976 UBC Occasionals
- 1977 BC Hydro, UBC Occasionals
- 1978 Vancouver General Hospital



UPCOMING EVENTS

BC Senior and Adult Championships

June 12-14, Victoria

[Details](#)

Vernon Open

July 3-5, Vernon

[Details](#)