

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #399

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

BC Active Championship (August 15-16)

Organized by Paul Leblanc with Brendan Woodroff as TD, this was the second BC championship to move online (the first being the [BC Senior](#) last June). Consisting of eight rounds held over two days on the chess.com platform with a 25 + 5 time control, the tournament attracted ninety-two players including ten from Ontario and one from Scotland. The final results are still provisional pending fair play game review, but the winner with a perfect 8.0/8 was Andrew Hemstapat, taking first place outright after tying for first the last two years. A full report will appear next issue. [Tournament website](#)



Andrew last year

Hemstapat, Andrew – Robert, Paul [B12] BC Active ch (online) chess.com (6), 16.08.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 e6 7.Nc3 Nd7 8.Nge2 Nb6 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ne7 11.Bg5 Qd7 12.Ne4 Nf5 13.0–0–0 Be7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.N2g3 Nxg3 16.Nd6+ Kd7 17.Qxg3 Kc7 18.Rd3 g6 19.Rf3 Raf8 20.Kb1 Rhg8 21.Rb3 g5 22.Qc3 Rb8 23.Qa5 Ra8 24.a4 gxh4 25.Qc5 Rgb8 26.Rc1 Kd7 27.a5 Nc8 28.a6 Nxd6 29.exd6 Qxd6 30.axb7 1–0

North American Junior Team Match (August 15)

CFC Youth Coordinator Christina Tao has taken the opportunity during this time of no OTB chess to organize a number of international junior team matches online. The latest of these was against the United States on August 15 and was played over thirty-two boards, twenty-four open and eight for girls. Participating BC players were Veronica Guo, Matthew He, Kate Jiang, Gillian Mok, and Ethan Su; two games were played between the opposing players at a time control of 25 + 5. The Canadian team won both rounds, 18.0-14.0 and 17.5-14.5 respectively, for an overall victory by 7.0 points, 35.5-28.5. A crosstable is not currently available, but we can report that Kate Jiang and Veronica Guo both had perfect scores. [CFC Forum](#)

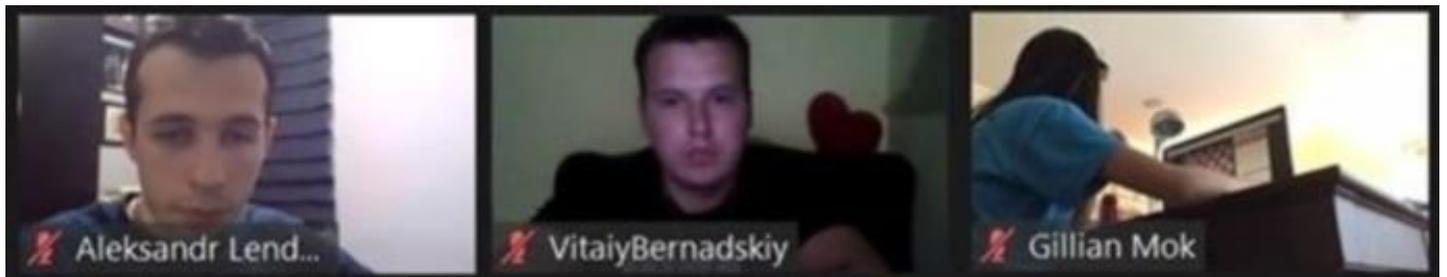
Jiang, Kate – Zhang, Cindy [B22] North American Junior m chess.com (2), 15.08.2020

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.c4 Qd8 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.d5 Re8 11.Be3 Na6 12.d6 Bf8 13.Ne5 Rb8 14.Bf3 Qb6 15.Ne4 Rbd8 16.Nxf6+ gxf6 17.Bh5 fxe5 18.Qg4+ Kh8 19.Bxf7 Bg7 20.Qh5 Qxd6 21.Bg6 h6 22.Bxh6 1–0

Liu, Christina G. – Mok, Gillian [C54] North American Junior m chess.com (1), 15.08.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 0–0 8.d5 Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2 Ne7 10.0–0 d6 11.Rc1 Bg4 12.Qc2 Rc8 13.Rfe1 Ng6 14.h3 Bd7 15.Qb3 Rb8 16.Nd4 c5 17.Nf5 Nxe4 18.Nh6+ gxh6 19.Nxe4 b5 20.Be2 Bf5 21.Ng3 Bd7 22.Qf3 f5 23.Bd3 Qg5 24.b3 Ne5 25.Qe2 f4 26.Ne4 Qg7 27.f3 Bxh3 28.Bc2 Bxg2 29.Qxg2 Nxf3+ 30.Kh1 Qxg2+ 31.Kxg2 Nxe1+ 32.Rxe1 f3+ 33.Kf2 Rb6 34.Bd1 c4 35.Bxf3 cxb3 36.axb3 a5 37.Ke3 a4 38.Rg1+ Kh8 39.Nd2 a3 40.Ra1 b4 41.Nc4 Ra6 42.Ra2 Rg8 43.Kf2 Rg5 44.Be4 h5 45.Ne3 h4 46.Bh1 Ra8 47.Nc2 Rf8+ 48.Ke3 Rg3+ 49.Ke4 Rxb3 50.Kd4 Rb2 51.Nxb4 Rxb4+ 52.Kc3 Rg4 53.Rxa3 Rg3+ 54.Kb2 Rf2+ 55.Kb1 Rg1# 0–1

4th Seattle Classic (August 12-16)



The latest in the series of regular time control tournaments to be held online by the Washington Chess Federation was the Seattle Chess Classic. To accommodate nine rounds the event started with one round on a Wednesday evening followed by two per day thereafter. Perhaps because of the schedule the field was relatively small, thirty-four players split between Open and Reserve (U1800) sections. Nevertheless there were three grandmasters competing, and Aleksandr Lenderman (USA) finally broke his 'hex' in recent events by tying for first with Vitaliy Bernadskiy (Ukraine) with 7.5/9. A number of brave souls played up in the Open Section including BC's Gillian Mok; she found the going tough but did score 1.5/2 on the last day. [Report](#)

48th World Open (August 7-9)



Normally one of the largest if not the largest tournament in the States, this year's World Open was scheduled as usual for the American July 4th but COVID-19 put paid to those plans. Instead the event migrated online, utilizing the Internet Chess Club platform; the number of sections was reduced to four (Open, U2200, U1800, U1400), there were nine rounds in each section but the time control was shortened to 60 + 10. The tournament attracted a total of nine hundred and eight

players, including from this province Alec Chung, Elaine Fan, Veronica Guo, Matthew He, Andrew Hemstapat, Winston Huang, Richard Ingram, Aiden Leong, Anthony Li, Andrew Xu, Henry Yang, Christopher Yu, Raymond Tangning Zhang (my apologies if I missed anyone, but country or state/province are not indicated on the crosstables.

The overall winners were Panneerselvam Iniyan of India (only seventeen years old) and Sanan Sjurov (Russia) who tied for first with 7.5/9. A half-point back were Baadur Jobava (Georgia), Jaime Santos Latasa (Spain), and Maximillian Lu (USA), GMs all except for Lu (FM). Top Canadian was Kaiqi Yang who tied for sixth with fellow GMs Gawain Jones (England), Gadir Guseinov (Azerbaijan), and Evgeny Postny (Israel) on 6.5 points. But the big BC news was the results of Andrew Hemstapat and Alec Chung. In the Open Section Andrew's 6.0 points left him in a tie for tenth and included a score of +2 =2 -1 against the five grandmasters he faced, while Alec tied for fifth with nine other players on 7.0 points in the U2200 Section – congratulations to both!

[Standings](#)

Volkov, Sergey – Hemstapat, Andrew [E92] World op 48th (online) ICC (3), 07.08.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0–0 6.Nf3 e5 7.Be3 Ng4 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bh4 Nc6 10.d5 Ne7 11.Nd2 Nh6 12.f3 c5 13.g4 Nf7 14.Bd3 Bd7 15.Qc2 a6 16.a4 b6 17.0–0–0 Qc7 18.Kb1 Qa7 19.b3 Rfb8 20.Kb2 Ng5 21.h3 Bh6 22.Bf2 Nf7 23.h4 Bf4 24.Ra1 Qc7 25.Ndb1 Kg7 26.Na3 Rh8 27.Ne2 Bh6 28.Rag1 Rab8 29.Rg2 Rbf8 30.Rhg1 Qd8 31.Qc3 Qe8 32.Bc2 b5 33.cxb5 axb5 34.axb5 Bxb5 35.Bd3 Bxd3 36.Qxd3 Qd8 37.Nc4 Nc8 38.Ra1 Nb6 39.Rgg1 Nxc4+ 40.Qxc4 Qc7 41.Ra4 Rb8 42.Rga1 Rb7 43.Kc2 Rhb8 44.R1a3 Qd7 45.Be1 Be3 46.Ra8 Qd8 47.Rxb8 Qxb8 48.Ra6 Bd4 49.Qa4 Qd8 50.Ra8 Rb8 51.Rxb8 Qxb8 52.Qa6 Qh8 53.Ng3 Qb8 54.Nf1 Qc7 55.Nd2 Qd7 56.Nc4 f5 57.Qc6 Qa7 58.Ba5 fxe4 59.fxe4 Qe7 60.g5 Bf2 61.Qc7 Kf8 62.Qc8+ Kg7 63.Qe6 Kf8 64.Qg4 Kg7 65.Bd2 Qa7 66.Ba5 Qe7 67.Qh3 Qf8 68.Kd1 Qb8 69.Kc2 Qf8 70.Bc3 Qe7 71.Bd2 Qa7 72.Ba5 Qe7 73.Kd1 Qb7 74.Ke2 Bxh4 75.Bd2 Bxg5 76.Nxd6 Qa6+ 77.Nc4 Bxd2 78.Kxd2 Qa2+ 79.Kc1 h5 80.Qc3 Qh2 81.d6 Qh1+ 82.Kb2 Qxe4 83.d7 Qd5 84.Nb6 Qd6 85.Nc4 Qxd7 86.Nxe5 Qd4 87.Nd3 Qxc3+ 88.Kxc3 h4 89.Nxc5 Kf6 90.Kd4 h3 91.Ne4+ Kf5 92.Ke3 h2 93.Ng3+ Kg4 94.Kf2 Kh3 95.b4 Nd6 96.Nh1 g5 97.Kf3 g4+ 98.Kf2 Ne4+ 99.Ke3 g3 100.b5 g2 101.b6 gxh1Q 0–1

Mikhalevski, Victor – Hemstapat, Andrew [A05] World op 48th (online) ICC (5), 08.08.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0–0 0–0 5.d4 d6 6.b3 c5 7.Bb2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 d5 9.c4 e5 10.Nc2 d4 11.e3 d3 12.Ne1 e4 13.Nd2 Bf5 14.Rc1 Nbd7 15.h3 h5 16.f3 Qc7 17.g4 exf3 18.gxf5 fxe2 19.Nxg2 Rad8 20.Qf3 g5 21.Rcd1 Rfe8 22.Bd4 a5 23.Nb1 Ne5 24.Bxe5 Qxe5 25.Qxb7 g4 26.h4 Bh6 27.Rfe1 Qg3 28.Nd2 Rxe3 29.Nf1 Rxe1 30.Rxe1 Qd6 31.Rd1 Re8 32.a3 Re2 33.b4 Qd4+ 34.Kh1 Ne4 35.Qb8+ Bf8 36.Rb1 d2 0–1

Adekola, Aderemi – Chung, Alec [A05] World op 48th U2200 (online) ICC (2), 07.08.2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qa4+ Bd7 5.Qb3 Bc6 6.e3 Bg7 7.Nd4 0–0 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.d4 Nbd7 10.Be2 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.0–0 Qd6 13.h3 dxc4 14.Qc2 Nd5 15.Bd2 Nb4 16.Qd1 Rfd8 17.Ne4 Qd5 18.Bxb4 Qxe4 19.Qb1 Nd3 20.Bc3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Rab8 22.Bf3 Qe5 23.Qc2 Rb2 24.Qa4 Nxf2 25.Qxa7 Nxf3+ 26.Kh1 Nf2+ 27.Kg1 Nh3+ 28.Kh1 Qg3 29.Rfb1 Rdd2 30.Rxb2 Rxb2 31.Qd4 c5 32.Qxc4 g5 33.Rf1 Nf2+ 34.Rxf2 Qxf2 35.Qe4 Qg3 36.a4 Rb6 37.Kg1 Qe1+ 0–1

EACH PIECE TELLS A STORY by Nathan Divinsky

The Black Queen Knight

He was very dark, almost purplish black, and his costume did very little to relieve the powerful austerity that surrounded him. He walked slowly almost majestically to the centre of the room, unhooked his cape, and swished it off with one graceful movement, directly into the arms of the black queen knight pawn. His hair was jet black, and it cascaded in dark ridges down to his shoulders. Only his bright sword reflected any light and I found it difficult to make out his features. His shoes had large buckles made of dark blue velvet. They had a decidedly Elizabethan look. I might have been frightened by such a figure but he had a reliability about him that dispelled fear. Even if he was going to inflict pain it was clear that it would be done quickly and efficiently.

"Professor," he shouted, "you are a silly goose!" This did take me somewhat aback but I tried to be calm and carefully refilled my pipe. His voice continued loud and clear. "You and your noble science. How can you continue to think of mathematics as noble, pure and important when you believe that chess is a delightful frivolity? Why do you place mathematics above chess? In terms of applications you can use mathematics to go to the moon, but for what purpose? There are no chessplayers on the moon. You can use mathematics to predict the results of economic decisions but this deals with money and that can never lift your soul or spirit. Surely the only honest comparison lies between mathematics as an art and chess as an art. I will go so far as to say that they are equal. But to place mathematics above chess is a heresy, a misconception and an insult to all of us."

This was something close to my heart and the white king pawn had already raised this issue. I knew I had these feelings and I had attempted to understand and resolve them. But I had not really come to any satisfactory insights. The queen knight scrutinized me to see if I could take more.

"You believe" he continued, "that mathematics is more important because the society about you believes this. But you know that this society is crumbling, is in its last stage of decay. You have understood Spengler's *Decline of the West* and you agree with him. How can you choose an opinion based on ruins over an opinion based on your own inner ideas? Why do you fight natural honest artistic strivings, especially when they do not impinge on others? You and your human theorems, bah! Take that nonsense theorem of Steinitz about the superiority of bishops over knights - pure rubbish. You also believe this rumour that Dawid Janowski preferred bishops and handled them with virtuosity. Let me tell you of a game where Janowski did very well without those overpriced bishops. It took place at Semmering:

Rubinstein, Akiba – Janowski, Dawid Markelowicz [D28] Semmering (15), 27.03.1926

1.d4 A powerful weapon in the talented hands of Rubinstein. This was his beloved opening move and he created many masterpieces with it. In fact it grieves me to present one of his losses. **1...d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4** A fighting defence. Janowski played dangerously at all times, and in spite of this he reached the very top. Of course when this game was played he was long past his prime but notice how much fire he puts into the game. **4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0–0 Nc6** Your modern opening books criticize this move and prefer 6...a6. And yet it is from here, eighteen moves later, that I set out on a remarkable journey. **7.Qe2 a6 8.Nc3 Qc7** This is slipshod. Necessary is 8...b5 9.Bb3 c4 10.Bc2 Bb7. **9.Rd1 Be7 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.a3 e5** This is blind optimism. But Janowski was the man who rechallenged Marshall to a match after losing one to him, and offered Marshall odds! Yes, this Dawid Janowski was an optimist. **12.Ng5 Bg4** Planning to answer 13.Bxf7+ with 13...Qxf7 14.Nxf7 Bxe2. On the other hand if 13.f3 Bh5 protects the king bishop pawn. **13.Nd5!** Rubinstein has plans

of his own. **13...Qc8** If 13...Nxd5 14.Qxg4 Nf6 15.Qh4 0–0 when White has a fine attacking game. He also has the two bishops but that is nothing special. Or if 13...Bxe2 14.Nxc7+ Ke7 15.Bxe2 Rac8 16.Nxa6 or 16.Nd5+. **14.f3 Bh5 15.Nxf6+** This wins a clear pawn for White. **15...gxf6 16.Nxf7! Bxf7 17.Bxf7+ Kxf7 18.Qc4+ Qe6 19.Qxc5 Rad8 20.Bd2 Rd3 21.Ba5** To prevent 21...Rhd8. **21...Qb3 22.Rxd3 Qxd3 23.Bc3 Rd8 24.Re1** Rubinstein now becomes overconfident. True, he is a full pawn up, but his queen is not too well placed and the position suits me very well. Perhaps Rubinstein intended 25.e4 and 26.Qe3.



Now I begin an incredible sequence of moves. In fact from here to the end I lead the black forces, and defend the black monarch. **24...Ne7** Threatening to enter powerfully at d5. **25.f4?! Certainly 25.e4** was the natural move. Rubinstein probably planned on 25...exf4 26.Qh5+ and 27.exf4, but it doesn't go so easily. **25...exf4 26.exf4** If 26.Qh5+ Qg6 27.Qxg6+ Nxc6 and I protect the pawn at f4. **26...Nd5** It is amazing how much influence I exert from this square. I control and protect both e7 and c7. I cut off the white queen from the kingside as well as from e3. I attack the bishop pawn, though at the moment if 27...Nxf4 28.Qc7+ wins me. And I put pressure on the bishop so that the white queen must stay about to save the queen knight pawn.

27.h3 Still overconfident. Best was 27.Qf2 Nxc3 28.bxc3 Qxc3 29.Qh4 with counterplay. **27...Rg8** The threat is 28...Qf3 (not 28...Qxh3 29.Qxd5+). **28.Rf1** Underestimating my force. Safer was 28.Kh1. **28...Rxc3 29.Kxc3 Ne3+ 30.Kg3** The white king dare not get too close to me: 30.Kf2 Qxf1+ 31.Kxe3 Qg1+ wins the queen. Probably the best practical chance was 30.Qxe3 Qxe3 31.Rf3. **30...Nxf1+ 31.Kf2 Ng3** Threatening 32...Ne4+. **32.Qe3 Nh1+! 33.Kf3 Qf1+ 34.Kg4** Having made six of the last ten moves you might imagine that I would relax. Just watch.



34...Nf2+ 35.Kh4 Nd3 36.Kg3 Nc1 37.f5 Threatening 38.Qe6+. **37...Ne2+ 38.Kh2 Nf4** A brilliant tour. I prevent white from checking at e6 and I threaten mate. **39.Kg3** If 39.Qg3 h5 40.h4 Qe2+ 41.Kg1 Qd1+ 42.Kf2 (or 42.Qe1 Qxe1+ 43.Bxe1 Nd5 and we win the bishop pawn as in the game) 42...Qc2+ 43.Ke3 Nd5+ and 44...Qxf5. **39...Nh5+ 40.Kg4 Ng7!**



Again preventing 41.Qe6+ and threatening 41...h5+ 42.Kg3 or Kh4, 42...Nxf5+ winning the queen. I believe that moves 29-40, apart from move 33, form a unique display of military virtuosity. And they used to say that Janowski was unusually expert in his handling of bishops. Ha! One final remark about this sequence. I touched eleven different squares: e3, f1, g3, h1, f2, d3, c1, e2, f4, h5, and g7! Thus three on White's back rank, two on the seventh rank, three on the sixth rank, all deep in enemy territory. But my activity in this game is by no means over.

41.Qf3 If 41.Qe4 to try and save the bishop pawn, then 41...h5+ 42.Kh4 Qf2#; or if 41.Qf4 h5+ 42.Kg3 Nxf5+. **41...h5+ 42.Kf4 Qxf3+ 43.Kxf3 Nxf5 44.Kf4 Ke6 45.a4 Ne7 46.Ke4 Nd5 47.Bd2 Nb6 48.b3 Nd7 49.Be3 f5+ 50.Kd4 Nf6 51.Bf4** If 51.Kc5 b6+ and if 52.Kxb6 Nd5+ 53.Kxa6 Nxe3 wins. **51...Ne4 52.h4 b6 53.b4 53.Bc7** may have put up a stouter resistance. **53...Nf6 54.b5 a5**



55.Be3 And here 55.Bc7 would have made things more difficult for us. For example, 55...Nd5 56.Bd8 f4 57.Ke4 Kd6 58.Bg5 Nc3+ 59.Kxf4 Nxa4 60.Bd8 Nc3 61.Kg5 Nd5 62.Kxh5 a4 63.Bg5 and the win is not easy. **55...Nd7** Threatening 56...Nc5 winning the queen rook pawn. **56.Kc4 Ke5 57.Bg1 Ke4 58.Bf2 f4 59.Bg1 f3 60.Kc3 Kd5 61.Kd3 Nc5+ 62.Ke3 Nxa4 63.Kxf3 Nc5 64.Be3 a4 65.Bc1 Kc4 66.Bb2 Kxb5 67.Bh8 Kc4 68.Kf4 a3 69.Kg5 Ne4+ 70.Kxh5 Nc3 0-1**

In this game I made direct fighting moves. But Dr. D., I can also play another brand of chess – one of control and influence. Let me tell you about a game that took place at Karlsbad:

Rotlewi, Georg – Teichmann, Richard [D61] Karlsbad (23), 21.09.1911

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 Nbd7 Not an auspicious beginning but my role in this Orthodox Defence to the Queen's Gambit is one of holding the entire position together, and this I can do better from d7 than from c6. **6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 c5 8.0-0-0 Qa5 9.cxd5** Better is 9.Kb1 but this was played rather long ago. **9...exd5 10.dxc5 Nxc5** White hopes to make something of our isolated queen pawn but he underestimates my effectiveness. **11.Nd4 Be6 12.Kb1 Rac8 13.Bd3 h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Bf5 Rfd8 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Qg6** I was threatening 17...Ne4. **17...Rd6 18.Rc1 Ra6** Again I threaten Ne4. **19.f3 Rd8 20.Rc2**



20...Bxd4 Professor Vidmar recommended 20...Bg5 21.f4 e5 22.Qf5 exd4 23.exd4 Bf6 24.dxc5 d4 but Teichmann wisely keeps me on the board. **21.exd4 e5 22.Qg4 exd4** Even simpler was 22...Ne6 winning the queen pawn for if 23.dxe5 d4 attacks the white knight and if it moves, Qxa2+ wins. **23.Qxd4 Ne6 24.Qe5** The only chance, for it pins the queen pawn. Thus if 24...d4 25.Qxa5 Rxa5 and now the white knight can move. **24...b5** Threatening either d4 or b4. **25.b3 d4 26.Ne4 d3 27.Rd2 Nd4 28.Rc1 Nc2** Observe how crushing I am in the heart of the white position. **29.Qb2 Na3+ 30.Ka1 Nc2+** Teichmann uses me to gain time on the clock. **31.Kb1 Na3+ 32.Ka1 Nc2+ 33.Kb1 Rc6 34.Rcd1 Rdc8** We can afford to let the queen pawn go because I have a stranglehold on the white king position. However, 34...b4 35.Rxd3 Rxd3 36.Rxd3



Na3+ 37.Ka1 Rc2 was faster. **35.Rxd3 Na3+ 36.Ka1 b4!** Now that I am secured, White is lost. Note that if 36...Rc2 37.b4! and if our queen moves then 38.Qxa3 or if 37...Rxb2 38.bxa5 and I am lost. **37.Rd7**

[diagram]

White threatens 38.Qxg7 mate. But my grip allows us a wonderful reply. **37...Qe5!** Now if 38.Qxe5 Rc1+ 39.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 40.Kb2 Rb1#. **38.Rd8+** White must do something about the threat 38...Rc1+ 39.Rxc1 Rxc1#. **38...Rxd8 39.Rxd8+ Kh7** Now we threaten 40...Rc1#. **40.Rd1 Qxb2+ 41.Kxb2 Rc2+ 42.Ka1 Rxc2 43.Rh1 g5 44.Nf6+** Observe how ineffectual the white knight is. **44...Kg7 45.Ne4 Kg6 46.Nd6 a5**



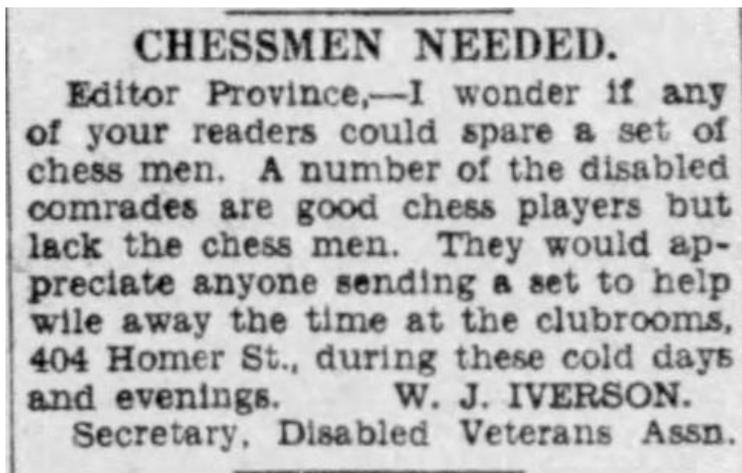
47.Rc1 If 47.Nb7 Nb5! 48.Nxa5 Nc3! and 49...Rxa2#. Or if 47.Nb7 Nb5! 48.Kb1 Nc3+ 49.Kc1 Rxa2 wins quickly. On the other hand if 47.Ne4 Kf5 and Kf4. **47...Rxc2 48.Nc4** Anything to get me off the board. **48...Nb5! 49.Ne5+** Again if 49.Nxa5 Nc3! **49...Kg7 50.Ng4 Re2 51.Rc5 Re1+** And not 51...Nc3 52.Rxa5. **52.Kb2 Na3** Threatening 53...Rb1#. **53.Rc7+ Kf8 54.Rc1 Re2+ 55.Ka1** Back into the ice box! **55...Nc2+ 56.Kb1 Na3+** Again I am used to gain time on the clock. **57.Ka1 Nb5 58.Rc5 Re1+ 59.Kb2 Na3 60.Rc1 Re2+ 61.Ka1 Re6 62.Rh1 Kg7 63.Rc1 Kg6 64.Rc6 Rxc6 65.Ne5+ Kf5 66.Nxc6 h5 67.Nd4+** If 67.Nxa5 the king rook pawn queens. **67...Ke5 68.Ne2 Nc2+ 69.Kb2 Nd4 0-1"**

The black queen knight pawn brought the dark cape for his master, helped him buckle it up, and stood at attention as the knight gave me a slight bow. The games had been thrilling and I put my pipe down in order to applaud with full force. The knight, followed by his pawn, marched off to further applause.

EX-SERVICE MEN'S INTERCLUB CHESS LEAGUE

We are currently experiencing chess in a time of crisis unparalleled in most of our lives, but historically there have been other occasions of great turmoil which had an effect on our favourite hobby. One obvious similar event was the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918 which infected almost a third of Vancouver's population and resulted in nine hundred fatalities. The city was officially "closed" between October 18 and November 19, which necessitated the postponement of matches in that year's Greater Vancouver Chess League. Alternately chess is a game which can grant solace or at least provide a way to pass the time; witness the membership growth of online chess servers in the current pandemic.

Another time of upheaval was the Great Depression of the 1930s when a world-wide economic downturn left millions unemployed. Western Canada was particularly hard hit, and the jobless flocked to Vancouver for its warm climate and in search of work. By the summer of 1931 there were 42,000 unemployed in BC, and relief camps were created where men were forced to do road work. There were plenty of people with time on their hands, and a small indication of this was a request sent to the editor of the *Province* newspaper at the end of 1932 [29 December]:



Such was the response that in short order the Ex-Service Men's Interclub Chess League was formed, which began play on 5 January 1934 with a match between the Ex-Service Men's Billets Chess Club and the Disabled Veterans Chess Club. There was also an invitation "extended to members of other Ex-Service clubs interested in chess, to attend this tournament and arrange dates for matches with their clubs." [*Province*, 4 January 1933]

The number of teams increased and match results were published in the press, even to the point of providing player names and individual results. On 26 March 1933 the *Province* noted

The Kerrisdale Chess Club has completed arrangements to use the facilities of the Disabled War Veterans' quarters and is anxious to get in touch with parties interested in single games, friendly games, team matches or joining the City League, which is at present made

up of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Disabled War Veterans, Great War Veterans, Canadian Legion, and the Seaman's Institute.

Further intermittent reports of results followed until 10 June 1933 when the completion of league play was announced:

The 1933 chess tournament of Ex-Service Men's Interclub Chess League, which closed recently, was most successful, officials state. At the final meeting of the season the league passed a vote of thanks to its patron, Mr. Philip Malkin, and to Mr. J.F. Malkin, who sponsored a tournament between the league and New Westminster chess experts. [*Province newspaper*]

Six participating teams were then listed, which differ slightly from those previously mentioned: Disabled Veterans, Great War Veterans', Ex-Service Men's, Kerrisdale, Seaman's Institute, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The winning team was the Disabled Veterans Club. There is no mention of the league prior to the March 1933 report alluded to above, so one assumes the league was only formed early in 1933. The number of service clubs for veterans is a surprise, to the point there were enough of them to form an entire league. The latter three clubs above (Kerrisdale, Seaman's Institute, RCMP) don't seem to be specifically for veterans but of course likely included at least some ex-servicemen (World War 1 was only fifteen years previous). The ranking club at the time was the Vancouver Chess Club which was certainly active but is conspicuously absent from the league; perhaps they didn't meet the requirements for the league or felt it was beneath their level.

The Malkins were three brothers who emigrated from England and operated a wholesale grocery business named W.H. Malkin and Company which was eventually sold to Western Grocers Limited in 1938. W.H. Malkin was Mayor of Vancouver 1929-1930 and was responsible for the eponymous Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park. His brother Philip was vice-president and a director of the company, a president of the Vancouver Board of Trade, and served as purchasing director for Canada's supply ministry during World War 2. In July of 1933 he donated a cup to the league for annual competition.



Philip Malkin

The league began its second season appropriately enough on 11 November 1933 (Armistice Day, now known as Remembrance Day) with the same six teams mentioned above; play lasted until the following March when the Seaman's Institute Chess Club were awarded the Philip Malkin Cup for the 1933-34 season. Another club, the Canadian Expeditionary Force Federation (C.E.F.F.) Post #1 is mentioned in reports, but it is not clear whether this was a new group or a renaming of one of the original six. Apart from match play between the teams there were several exhibitions in which one of the team captains, Jack Ronean, would meet individual league players in simultaneous displays, also a number of matches between a composite league team and the Shaturanga Chess Club of New Westminster. The league also issued a challenge to the American Legion of Seattle for a team match between five and eight boards in size, but there is no indication the match took place.

The normal number of boards for each league match seems to have been five with some exceptions (the matches with New Westminster were larger affairs). Curiously the scoring given in the newspaper is two points for a win. Many of the players' names are given in the reports but most are unrecognizable now, given the vast majority were not in the upper echelons of players at the

time. Very occasionally one comes across a name which subsequently appears in the *Province* chess column in the 1950s: H. Coplestone, A. Arrow, W.E.F. Fillery. The strongest player appears to be the aforementioned Jack Ronean who later was a member of the Vancouver Chess Club and played in matches versus Seattle; Hans Jung recalls playing him as a much older man in London (ON) in the 1970s.

After March 1934 there is no further mention of the Ex-Service Men's Interclub Chess League; either its activities were no longer worthy of inclusion in the press or more likely it disbanded. By the end of 1934 New Westminster players were playing team matches with members of the Vancouver Chess Club, so presumably playing against a league team was no longer an option. Roughly a year later we find the following in the *Vancouver Sun*:

Formation of a Chess League to function through the coming winter will be discussed at a meeting of the British Columbia Chess Federation ... For some years the British Columbia Chess Federation has been dormant, but officers, all of whom are members of the Vancouver Chess Club, have set themselves out to bring the game back into prominence once more. [7 October 1935]

As far as we can tell the proposed league did not come into existence until much later, 1947.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The [CFC](#) website has returned from the dead and is now safe to visit; we can now direct you to its list of upcoming events, both online and OTB(?). There are also tournament listings on the [Northwest chess](#) website.