

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #404

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

Best wishes to everyone for a happy holiday season – stay safe and healthy!

Stephen Wright

---

### HERE AND THERE

#### **FIDE Online World Cadets and Youth Rapid Chess Championships** (November 17 – December 23)

As noted in the last issue, the recently held National Youth Active Online Chess Championships were also part of the qualifying process for this new FIDE competition, itself a replacement for the cancelled WCCC/WYCC. Due to the size of the event (ultimately almost 1400 players participated) intermediate continental tournaments were necessary; the American Continental occurred officially December 2-4 but was actually December 1-3. Three hundred and four players from twenty-eight American federations took part, including thirty-four players from Canada. Originally Canada was supposed to qualify one player per section (as usual differentiated by two-year age levels and gender) to the Continental but at the last minute was granted nineteen additional spots, which meant second-place finishers from the Nationals also participated along with several players at the top of their respective ratings lists. This allowed Gillian Mok (U12G) and Kate Jiang (U14G) to join Justin Gao (U10) as BC representatives. Held over three days, each section consisted of a seven-round Swiss at a time control of 10 + 3. Kate and Justin finished the competition with 4.0/7 scores; Gillian had 5 points going into the last round where she played on board 1 but unfortunately lost, finishing fifth on tiebreaks.

Seven Canadians qualified to the finals; each section had sixteen players in a knockout format contesting of two-game matches, time control was 15 + 10. Aaron Reeve Mendes (U10) and Maïli-Jade Ouellet (U18G) advanced to the second round but were subsequently eliminated. The entire competition took place on the Tornelo platform. [Tournament website](#) [Canadian Continental results](#) [Canadian Final results](#) [CFC report](#)

#### **Gao, Justin Jialin – Muradali, Kyan [B49] WCYR American Continental U10 (2.11), 01.12.2020**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be3 a6 7.Be2 Qc7 8.0–0 Be7 9.Qd2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 0–0 11.e5 Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Bd3 g6 14.Qh6 Re8 15.e6 Bf8 16.exf7+ Kxf7 17.Qxh7+ Ke6 18.Qxg6+ Ke7 19.Qf6# 1–0

#### **Mok, Gillian Xi-Lin – Valencia Lopez, Greissy Sofia [B84] WCYR American Continental U12G (6.2), 03.12.2020**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.0–0 Qc7 9.Kh1 Nbd7 10.f4 0–0 11.f5 exf5 12.Nxf5 Ne5 13.Bg5 Bxf5 14.Rxf5 b5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nd5 Qd8 17.Nxf6+ gxf6

18.Qd2 Rc8 19.c3 Ng6 20.Qh6 Rc5 21.Raf1 Qe7 22.Bd3 Re5 23.Rxf6 Re6 24.R6f5 Re5 25.Bc2 a5  
26.h3 a4 27.Rxe5 Qxe5 28.Rf5 Qe8 29.Rh5 1–0

### **Jiang, Kate Yuhua – La Fleur, Zara [C78] WCYR American Continental U14G (6.9), 03.12.2020**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.0–0 Nf6 5.Re1 0–0 6.c3 d6 7.h3 a6 8.Ba4 Bd7 9.d4 exd4 10.cxd4  
Bb4 11.Bd2 Bxd2 12.Qxd2 Re8 13.Nc3 b5 14.Bc2 h6 15.e5 dxe5 16.dxe5 Nh7 17.Rad1 Be6  
18.Qe3 Qe7 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qe4+ Kg8 21.Qxc6 Rec8 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rd8 24.Red1 b4  
25.Rd7 Qe8 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Qxe8+ Rxe8 28.Rd7 c5 29.Rc7 Rd8 30.Rxc5 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Rb1  
32.b3 Rb2 33.Ra5 Rxf2 34.Rxa6 Re2 35.Kg3 Kh7 36.Ra4 Re4 37.a3 g5 38.Rxb4 Re3 39.Kf2 Rd3  
40.Ke2 Rd7 41.a4 Kg6 42.a5 Kf5 43.a6 Ra7 44.Ra4 Ke6 45.Nd4+ Kd5 46.Nb5 Re7 47.a7 Rxe5+  
48.Kd3 Ke6 49.a8Q Rxb5 50.Qc6+ Kf5 51.Qxb5+ Kg6 52.Ra6+ f6 53.g4 h5 54.Qe8+ Kg7 55.Qe7+  
Kg6 56.Rxf6# 1–0

### **Chigorin Vancouver Invitational Rapid (December 13, 20)**

Organized by Konstantin Pyryaev of the Chigorin Chess Club, this double round-robin took place online on two consecutive Sundays over the chess.com platform; the time control was 25 + 10. Three-time BC Champion Grigorii Morozov placed first with 4.5/5, just ahead of three-time BC Active Champion Andrew Hemstapat – both were undefeated.

			1	2	3	4	
1	<b>Morozov, Grigorii</b>	2437	* *	½ ½	1 1	1 ½	<b>4.5</b>
2	<b>Hemstapat, Andrew</b>	2245	½ ½	* *	½ 1	1 ½	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>Kaufman, Raymond</b>	2364	0 0	½ 0	* *	1 1	<b>2.5</b>
4	<b>Gedajlovic, Max</b>	2329	0 ½	0 ½	0 0	* *	<b>1.0</b>

The final placings were already indicated after the first day: Morozov 2.5, Hemstapat 2.0, Kaufman 1.5, while nothing went right for Gedajlovic as he castled long (0 0 0). On the second Sunday the leaders pulled further ahead as Kaufman and Gedajlovic could only manage a single point each.

### **Kaufman, Raymond – Gedajlovic, Max [E20] Chigorin Vancouver inv (online) chess.com (1), 13.12.2020**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 f5 9.Nh3 0–0 10.Nf2  
Qf6 11.e4 Nc7 12.Qb3 Nc6 13.Be2 Na6 14.Bxa6 bxa6 15.0–0 Rb8 16.Qa4 Rb5 17.c4 Ra5  
18.Qxc6 Qxa1 19.Bd2 Rxa3 20.Qd6 Qf6 21.c6 Rb3 22.e5 Qh4 23.c5 Qc4 24.Bg5 a5 25.Rd1 a4  
26.c7 a3 27.Qd8 Kf7 28.Qe7+ Kg8 29.Bf6 [Time] 1–0

### **Kaufman, Raymond – Morozov, Grigorii [C16] Chigorin Vancouver inv (online) chess.com (5), 20.12.2020**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Qd7 5.h4 b6 6.h5 h6 7.Qg4 Bf8 8.Bd2 Ba6 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Nge2  
Ne7 11.Ng3 c5 12.0–0 cxd4 13.Nce2 Nc6 14.Nxd4 Nxe5 15.Qe2 Nc4 16.Bf4 Nc5 17.b3 Nd6 18.c4  
dxc4 19.bxc4 Qb7 20.Rfd1 Rd8 21.Ndf5 Nxf5 22.Nxf5 Qe4 23.Rxd8+ Kxd8 24.Rd1+ Kc8 25.Qd2  
Qd3 26.Qxd3 Nxd3 27.Rxd3 exf5 28.Be5 Rg8 29.g3 Bc5 30.Kg2 g6 31.Kf3 gxh5 32.Bf6 Rg6

33.Be5 h4 34.gxh4 Rg4 35.Bf6 Rxc4 36.Rd8+ Kc7 37.Rh8 Rc2 38.Rxh6 Rxf2+ 39.Kg3 f4+ 40.Kg4 f3 41.Be5+ Kd7 42.Rf6 Re2 43.Bg3 f2 44.Rxf7+ Ke6 45.Rf3 Rxa2 46.Rf5 Ra4+ 47.Kg5 Be3+ 48.Kg6 Rg4+ 0-1

**Kaufman, Raymond – Hemstapat, Andrew [C13] Chigorin Vancouver inv (online) chess.com (6), 20.12.2020**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 Nc6 7.Qg4 f6 8.Be3 fxe5 9.Qxg7 Bf6 10.Qh6 exd4 11.Qh5+ Ke7 12.Nxd5+ exd5 13.Bg5 Qe8 14.Qf3 Bxg5 15.hxg5 Qf7 16.Qa3+ Kd8 17.0-0-0 Nde5 18.Bb5 Qxf2 19.Nf3 Nxf3 20.Rxh7 Re8 21.gxf3 Bf5 0-1

**Team BC Announced for Match with Washington 16-17 January** by Paul Leblanc

The following players will form Team BC in the upcoming match:

IM Quang Long Le  
NM Keith MacKinnon  
NM Patrick Huang  
NM Andrew Hemstapat

WIM Bich Ngoc Pham  
NM Jason Kenney  
Brandon Zhu  
Scott Morgan

Gabriel Brown  
Sherry Tian  
Jose Kagaoan



Quang Long Le



Bich Ngoc Pham

We are pleased to welcome Quang Long Le and Bich Ngoc Pham, recently moved to Vancouver from Vietnam and eager to participate in BC chess. The match will be played on chess.com and results posted as close to real time as possible. Round times will be Saturday 10am, 1pm and 4pm then Sunday 10am and 1pm.

**2021 Victoria Open to be held 2-3 January 2021** by Paul Leblanc

The annual Victoria Open will be held on the first weekend of the New Year. The venue will be chess.com. Details are available on the Victoria Chess Club [website](#). Entries will be limited to 100 only. Enter early to avoid disappointment.

## Training Partner Wanted

I am looking for a chess training partner to meet over Zoom to play 30 + 20 games and then analyze thoroughly afterwards. I would also like to practice endgame positions and possibly openings.

I have played a total of five CFC rated games and my provisional rating is 944. For what it's worth, my classical time control rating on lichess is ~1700. Let's help each other improve! If interested, please contact Simon at [ebc.chess@gmail.com](mailto:ebc.chess@gmail.com).

## CFC Memberships

As [previously announced](#), the CFC was automatically extending memberships that expired on or after March 1, 2020. This was done due the drastically reduced number of CFC-rated events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On November 1, after eight months, the CFC ended the automatic extension of memberships. This was due to the increasing number of CFC-rated events available online to all members across Canada as well as the return of some over the board events.

The CFC is now adding eight months to all memberships that expired on or after March 1, 2020:

March 1, 2020 expiry dates will be changed to November 1, 2020  
April 1, 2020 expiry dates will be changed to December 1, 2020  
May 1, 2020 expiry dates will be changed to January 1, 2021  
Etc, etc.

The changes should be completed by the end of November (Bob Gillanders is now working hard on this). CFC memberships that expired before March 1, 2020 remain expired. If your membership needs renewing, the CFC now uses a system called GoMembership to manage its memberships – see <https://www.chess.ca/en/players/membership-join/> for more information.

---

## **SWIMMING WITH ICCF SHARKS** by Vas Sladek

2020 has been a strange year so making a comeback in correspondence chess makes perfect sense. Some years ago, I lost several games on time and the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) got mad at me. That's how my rating hit the 1731 basement. So, I invested some cash -during a pandemic- into a chess lab and went to work. It took me a year to get my rating back up to high 1900s; and thanks to BC's own Valer Demian, I snuck into my first norm event.

**Warning:** swimming with ICCF sharks is dangerous. Many players have their openings dialled and, often, it takes just one slight slip to get torn apart. In the game below, my Slovak opponent told me that he never used any database or engine help. And it shows.

**Sladek, Vaclav – Kopcok, Michal (Slovakia) [D44] 3MAB20/VEN/13S1 (VEN) ICCF, 15.07.2020**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 h6 7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Bxc4 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0–0 Qd6 11.d5 (open up lines while you can) 11...b4 12.e5 (and again...) 12...fxe5 13.Ne4 Qd8 (13...Qxd5? 14.Nxf6+ +-) 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.Qb3 Kf7 16.Nxe5+ 1–0**



### Best of 2020:

The following game was my best of 2020. It features a double exchange sacrifice. Black returned one rook but it was too late. Note White's compensation: two connected central pawns.

**Sladek, Vaclav – Grabowski, Benedykt (Poland) [D06] 3CSP/7VEN/GF1 (VEN) ICCF, 15.01.2020**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.Nf3 e6 4.Qb3 Nc6 5.Bd2 Rb8 6.e3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 0–0 10.Be2 dxc4 11.Qxc4 Be4 12.0–0 Bd5 13.Qd3 Be4 14.Qd1 Nd5 15.Rc1 Qe7 16.Nd2 Bg6 17.Bf3 Rfd8 18.Qb3 Bd3 19.Rfd1 f5 20.Nc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 a6 22.g3 Qf7 23.Bg2 Rd7 24.Qb3 Na7 25.Bd2 Rd6 26.Qc2 Nc6 27.Qb3 Nce7 28.Ba5 Nc6 29.Bd2 Nce7 30.Ba5 Rd7 31.f3 c6 32.Rd3 Re8 33.e4 Nf6 34.Rf1 h5 35.h4 Kh7 36.Bd2 Qg6 37.Qxe6 c5 38.Bg5 fxe4 39.fxe4 Nc6 40.Rxf6! Rxe6 41.Rxg6 Rxg6 42.d5 c4 43.Rf3 Ne5 44.Rf5 Nf7 45.e5 Rxg5 46.hxg5 g6



47.Rxf7+! Rxf7 48.d6 Kg7 49.e6 c3 50.bxc3 Kf8 51.exf7 Kxf7 52.Bxb7 Ke6 53.Bxa6 Kxd6 54.Bd3 Kd5 55.a4 1–0

## PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE (November 22 and 29, December 6)

The 2020 BC Chess Challenge began as it usually does with Regional qualifiers, the first of which were held last December, January, and February in preparation for the Provincials around Easter and the National team event on the Victoria Day weekend. But of course this has been no ordinary year: first the Provincials were placed on hold because of the pandemic, then the Nationals were cancelled. Conditions have not been sufficient since for large-scale over-the-board chess tournaments so two more Regionals were held online in September and October with the Provincials finally occurring over three weekends in November and December. Despite the fact we are now in a different school year the sections were based on the students' grade in the 2019/2020 school year (to correspond to the pre-pandemic Regionals). The following are the trophy winners for the 2020 Provincials – congratulations to all!

Kindergarten – Youjia Ye, Kai Zhang, Jeffrey Deng   Preschool – Haoming Lian

Grade 1 – Ethan Low, Forrest Zhu, Steven Zhang

Grade 2 – Nicholas Wu, Panshul Jaiman, Henry Fan

Grade 3 – Justin Gao, Zhengyu Chen, William Jiang

Grade 4 – Wesley Russell, Ryanbole Yu, Agrima Jaiman

Grade 5 – Ryan Yang, Alexander Jin, Leonardo Zhou

Grade 6 – Aiden Leong, Gillian Mok, Bowen Wong

Grade 7 – Kate Jiang, Veronica Guo, Kaden Zhu

Grade 8 – Luka Spasojevic, Rafael Wang, Ryan Cheng

Grade 9 – Christopher Yu

Grade 10 – Rohan Wessels, Bill Wang, Antonia Bonnis

---

## DUNCAN SUTTLES AT SEVENTY-FIVE by Bruce Harper

[Duncan Suttles turns seventy-five on December 21; in his honour we present the following by Bruce Harper, first published in these pages fifteen years ago. Bruce has since co-authored *Chess on the Edge*, a three volume collection containing all of Suttles' games. And yes, it's still the "Year of the Rat", see [Bulletin #388](#) - ed.]

The Age of Heroes in chess has passed, extinguished by the instantaneous spread of chess fashion via ChessBase and the internet, remorseless analysis by Fritz and other chess "engines," over-analysis of openings and the general homogenization of chess styles. "New" ideas, most of which are old, are (re-)discovered by teams of seconds armed with computers, rather than by players thinking at the board. And, with rare exceptions, most grandmasters play in the same active, positional, dynamic, technically proficient, omnivorous style, which synthesizes all that has gone before them. It was not always so. In the 1950s and 1960s, Botvinnik played "correctly," Tal was winning with stunning combinations which people (not computers) refuted only days or weeks later, Petrosian's "anti-chess" drove people crazy, and no one knew what Fischer would do next, on or off the board. Canada was fortunate to have a local hero – Duncan Suttles, who turns a young sixty-five this month. Suttles won the Canadian



Championship in 1969, became a grandmaster in 1972 (Cold War politics denied him the title several years earlier) and represented Canada in the chess Olympiad many times. His chess style was distinctive and unique. Despite the inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible way Suttles played – or perhaps because of it – he inspired a host of followers and imitators, who tread in his footsteps with varying degrees of success. It is impossible to overstate the impact that Duncan had on BC, and later Canadian, chess. His critics have accused him of ruining Canadian chess for a generation (high praise indeed!), and I have been told that I would have become a GM had it not been for Suttles (I don't think I needed much help to avoid that fate, but thank you for saving me, Duncan – just in case!). Classical players detested his iconoclastic approach to the game, especially when they lost to him (which was often) or when they didn't understand it (which was almost always). Suttles' most famous trademark is probably the defence which begins with 1...g6. No one who understands this opening calls it anything but the "Rat" – the appalling and misleading name "Modern Defence" was an English creation. Suttles played many memorable games with the Rat, winning quite a few of them. While he was the first BC player to have played this opening, he has not been the last. Elod Macskasy, GM Peter Biyiasas, Jonathan Berry and I all played it, as did Seattle super-GM Yasser Seirawan and various players I have worked with, including former Canadian Junior Champion Tyler Johnson and, more recently, Lesley and Andrea Cheng, Lara Heppenstall and my daughter Laura. Even if you forget how to play chess, you never forget how to play the Rat! Current BC Champion Jack Yoos has also been experimenting with the dark side. My own experiences are interesting. When I was twelve I started playing in adult tournaments and learned about Duncan Suttles, then a rising chess star. I was so impressed that I started playing 1...g6, even though I had very little understanding of the ideas behind the opening. In my game scores, I initially described 1...g6 as the "Suttles Defence," or simply "Suttles." My results were not always good, although they probably were no better or worse than with other openings. Some of the games I lost were almost identical with later disasters which befell my students. But occasionally there was a game which more than made up for all the disasters:

**Vogler, Russ – Harper, Bruce [B06] Vancouver, 30.06.1968**

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.d5 Nf6? 5.e5 Ng8 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bb5+ Kf8** I would consider this a 13-year old's interpretation of Suttles' ideas. **8.Nc3 a6 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.Qe2 b5 11.h3 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nh6**



**13.Rg1 Ra7 14.e6 c4 15.Qe3 Rb7 16.Bf1 Nf5 17.Qe4 Qb6 18.Rg2 Bf6 19.Ne2 a5 20.c3 Na6 21.Kd1 Nc5 22.Qc2 [diagram]**

I still remember this as being one of the nicest positions I've ever had. **22...fxe6 23.dxe6 Nxe6 24.Qe4 Nc5 25.Be3 Nxe4 26.Bxb6 Nxc3+ 27.Nxc3 Rxb6 28.Nd5 Rc6 29.Re2 Ng3 30.Re1 Bxb2 31.Rb1 c3 32.Kc2 Nf5 33.Re4 b4 34.Rd1 Kf7 35.Ne3 Rhc8 36.Bc4+ Rxc4 37.Nxc4 Rxc4 38.Rxc4 Ne3+ 0-1**

For while there was something of a break, as I played less chess and even fewer Rats, describing the openings as "Yechh!!," "Sut," "S," and the more elaborate "Reti-Mutant." On October 24th, 1970, I had a notable disaster against Peter Biyiasas, the opening (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6) being described as "Thing," with a post-game note "(Never play again)." I held to this, playing various other openings, but this period of abstinence didn't last. On June 23rd, 1971, I fell off the wagon. I was clearly in denial, though, as I described the opening in the game as a "King's Indian Defence," although I later wrote "Rat" on the scoresheet, in a different pen, for the first time using the proper name for the opening. The game was a keeper, and can be considered another milestone in my fall from chess grace:

**Raymond, Harold – Harper, Bruce [A42] Peace Arch op Bellingham (3), 23.01.1971**

**1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Nge2 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.Be3 Nh6 8.f3 f5 9.b4 f4 10.Bf2 Nf7 11.Qb3 g5 12.c5 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Rc1 Bd7 15.a4 g4 16.Rc2 Ng5 17.Ng1 a6 18.a5 0-0 19.Bb6 Qe8 20.Bd3 Ng6 21.Bc7 Rf6 22.b5 Nh4 23.Kf2 Rc8 24.b6 Rg6**



White has badly misplayed his attack on the queenside, while Black has a dream position on the kingside. **25.Qb2 Bf8 26.Na2 Ba4 27.Rc3 gxf3 28.g3 Qd7 29.Nxf3 Nh3+ 30.Ke2 Qg4 31.Rf1 Nxf3 32.Rxf3 Ng1+ 33.Kf2 Nxf3 34.Be2** Now Black has mate in four, which I saw. What stuck in my mind ever since was the strange way so many pieces, including White's c3-rook and b3-queen, are in just the right places to make the mate work. **34...fxg3+ 35.Ke3 Bh6+ 36.Kd3 Ne1+ 37.Kc4 Qxe4# 0-1**

This game foreshadowed what was to coming, but maybe I didn't want to press my luck, as there followed few Rats, but many French Defences, Benko Gambits and other openings. But clearly my increasingly frequent blitz sessions with Duncan were having an effect, as February 21st, 1972, saw a Portland Attack (1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 2.d3 g6 4.g4!?) against Oszvald (a win), and on March 10th, 1972, another "Rat" against Hladek (also a win). By the time I got to the BC Championship in May 1972, it was all Rats and Pircs, with some success. The rest, as they say, is history. By the mid-1970s, Duncan and I were playing four- or five-hour blitz sessions several times a week, and his "strange," "bizarre" and "weird" style seemed quite normal to me. Decades later, at the Western Canadian Open [2004], I played five Rats/Pircs/King's Indians with Black (scoring 4 out of 5), as opposed to five different first moves with White (scoring 3 out of 5). Even Duncan's (somewhat apocryphal) inability to win with White seems to have had some influence on my play... Surprising as it may seem in today's world, where most aspiring young players have paid coaches and trainers, who follow a systematic and structure curriculum (the Soviet Union's greatest bequest to the world), neither I nor anyone else ever received a formal lesson from Duncan, nor was he ever paid for the knowledge he imparted to others. We just played chess. Even at the height of his fame, Duncan also played in local tournaments, when other top players would have refused to play or



demanded impossible appearance fees (in 1973, Duncan won the Canadian and U.S. Opens, then finished the summer by playing in – and winning – the Victoria Labour Day tournament). More recently, Duncan continues to donate his time and energy to fund-raising events. It is hard to find anything other than nice things to say about Grandmaster Duncan Suttles, who has shown us all how to stay young. But you might be wondering just what inspired us all to play 1...g6, refuse to develop our pieces when there were pawns to be moved, try to destroy enemy centres rather than create our own, and so on. In any good blitz session with Suttles, you were likely to see games like this:

**Rivera, Donato – Suttles, Duncan [A42] US op San Juan, 1965**

**1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.f3 f5 8.c5 Nf6 9.Bb5+ Kf7 10.h3 f4 11.Bf2 g5 12.Nge2 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Qb3 g4 15.0-0-0 g3 16.Be1 Ng6 17.Ng1 Nh4 18.Bf1**



Who's developed now? White's kingside pieces have returned to their original squares, and the pressure on g2 is annoying, but how can Black break through on the kingside? He can't, but he can open a second front. **18...a6 19.Kb1 b5 20.Nge2 Nd7 21.Nc1 Nc5 22.Qc2 Bd7 23.b4 Na4 24.Nb3 Nxc3+ 25.Bxc3 Qb6 26.Na5 Rhc8 27.Qd2 Ra7 28.Bb2 Bf6 29.Rc1 Rxc1+ 30.Bxc1 Bd8 31.Kc2 Rc7+ 32.Kd1 Rc8 33.Nb3 Qa7 34.Bd3 Bb6** One of Suttles' greatest strengths was his uncanny ability to find the best squares for all his pieces. **35.Re1 Bf2 36.Bf1 Bxe1 37.Qxe1**



White has started to set up his pieces for the next game, but he's so rattled he has his king and queen backwards. **37...Qg1 38.Qe2 Bxh3 0-1**

**Mihajlovic, Miodrag – Suttles, Duncan [A42] US op Chicago (7), 19.08.1973**

**1.d4 g6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.Nge2 Nh6 7.d5 Ne7 8.h3 f5 9.f3 f4 10.Bf2 0-0  
11.Nc1 g5 12.Nd3 c5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Qd2 Be6 15.b3 Nf7 16.Rd1 h5 17.Be2 Qc8 18.Rc1 Ng6  
19.Nb4 Rd8 20.Qc2 Qb7 21.a3 Bf8 22.Rb1 Kg7 23.c5 a5 24.Nba2 d5 25.Bd3 d4 26.Na4 Nh6  
27.Nc1 Qf7 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4**



With the centre settled, Black now begins a version of the "standard roll-up." **29...g4 30.hxg4 hxg4  
31.Ke2 Be7 32.Nb6 Ra7 33.Nb3 g3 34.Be1 Nh4 35.Kf1 Rh8 36.Na5**



**36...Ng4 37.fxg4 f3 38.Rxh4 Rxh4 39.Be2 fxe2+** Here White resigned. Black has a mate in four, in a spooky parallel to my game with Raymond: 40.Kxe2 Bxg4+ 41.Kd2 Bg5+ 42.Kd3 Qf1+, etc.



Who wouldn't want to play chess like this? Happy Birthday, Duncan – and may you have many more!

Postscript: ICC is always a good way to relax after working hard writing a chess article. Immediately after finishing this birthday tribute, I played the follow 3-minute game on ICC:

**Guest5788 - Kingwalker, ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club, 08.12.2005**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.a4 b4 7.Nd1 a5 8.c4 Nc6 9.Ne2 h6 10.Be3 e5 11.d5 Nce7 12.Rc1 f5 13.f3 Nf6 14.Qc2 f4 15.Bf2 g5 16.b3 h5 17.Nb2 Ng6 18.Nd3 g4 19.c5 Bd7 20.c6 Bc8 21.Nb2 Nh7 22.Nc4 Ng5 23.Ng1 Bf6 24.Be2 Kf7 25.fxg4 hxg4



26.Nd2 g3 27.hxg3 Rxh1 28.g4 Qh8 29.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 30.Bxf3 Qh2 31.Kd2 Bh4 0-1



Duncan Suttles and Bruce Harper playing bughouse with Valentina Goutor and Tyler Johnson, March 2002

---

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

See also the listings at the [CFC](#) and [Northwest chess](#) websites.

### **Victoria Open**

2-3 January 2021

[Details](#)

### **BC-WA Match**

16-17 January 2021

[Details](#)