

# BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #411

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.

Stephen Wright

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## HERE AND THERE

### BCCF Annual General Meeting

Normally the BCCF AGM is held between the Sunday rounds of the Paul Keres Memorial tournament on the Victoria Day weekend, but last year the Keres was cancelled and the AGM postponed. It has now been decided to hold an Annual (OK, not quite annual) General Meeting online on Sunday July 11 between 3 and 5pm; further details will appear in the next Bulletin.

### Online adventures

The [May](#) edition of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute [Tuesday Night Marathon](#) (May 11-25) saw Azerbaijani GM Gadir Guseinov take first place with 5.5/6 – indeed, Guseinov has at least tied for first in every single TNM since last November. FM Max Gedajlovic and Ivan Zong continued their participation in these events, scoring 3.0 and 4.0 points in their respective sections (Max did not play the last Tuesday, see below). A total of sixty players were involved. This TNM will be the last online version, for the June edition the Mechanics' Institute will be returning to in-person chess, but a Thursday Night Marathon will remain online – [details](#).

This year's [Washington Open](#) (May 29-31), held in its usual slot on the American Memorial Day long weekend, attracted seventy-one players to the main event (there were also chess960, G/10, and blitz events over the weekend). The overall winners were GM Aleksandr Lenderman (New York), IM Mitrabha Guha (India), and FM Rohan Talukdar (Windsor, Ontario) who tied for first with 5.0/6. From this province Richard Ingram and Don Hack scored 2.0 and 3.0 points respectively. The time control was G/100 with a 30 second increment. [Photos](#)

### 2021 FIDE World Cup

Scheduled for Sochi, Russia starting on July 10, the FIDE World Cup is a knockout event which determines several of the participants in the next Candidates Tournament. Some players are seeded into the World Cup, others qualify by rating, but the majority earn entry via zonal or continental tournaments. Due to the continuing pandemic FIDE has for the first time in its history allowed these latter events to be conducted online or using a hybrid format.

### Americas Continental Knockout (May 22-29)

Normally the continental qualifiers are run as Swisses; perhaps in order to reduce the number of games and attendant fair play concerns this year's Americas Continental was organized as eight

separate knockouts, each group consisting of fourteen or fifteen players. (Sixteen would be standard, but the highest rated player(s) in each group were seeded directly into the quarterfinal stage.) Each match began with two regular games at a time control of 120 + 30; if the score was level two playoff games followed at 10 + 3, then if needed a final Armageddon game at 5/4 + 2 seconds after move 60. The tournament was conducted using the hybrid format, that is games were played online but player(s) were monitored by an arbiter at their physical location.

Joe Roback writes: Several Canadians competed in the qualification stage of the World Cup including GM Bator Sambuev (2514 FIDE), IM Mark Plotkin (2430 FIDE), and local Vancouver entry FM Max Gedajlovic (2270 FIDE). The tournament featured players from North and South America and comprised a knockout format to determine eight qualifying players. The local Vancouver contingent was hosted at an office space at Vancouver's World Trade Centre beside Canada Place in downtown Vancouver. This was a FIDE event and included very strict security and monitoring such as a metal detector, constant in-person surveillance and escorting to bathrooms, no pens or electronics, two cameras with consistent Zoom video and audio feed. Arbiters included Joe Roback - LCA (Local Chief Arbiter) and Mavaddat Javid - LTA (Local Technical Assistant). Special thanks to Eric Gedajlovic for all your time and hard work organizing this event.

**Duarte, Leonardo – Gedajlovic, Max [D02] American World Cup qual KO (hybrid) torneolo (1.2), 22.05.2021**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nd2 d5 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Ngf3 cxd4 7.exd4 Nh5 8.Bg3 Nxc3 9.hxc3 g6 10.Bd3 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Qd6 13.Qe2 f6 14.b4 Bd7 15.b5 Ne7 16.c4 Rae8 17.Nb3 dxc4 18.Bxc4 Nd5 19.Nc5 Bc8 20.Qb2 b6 21.Ne4 Qe7 22.a4 Rd8 23.Qb3 Rfe8 24.a5 g5 25.axb6 axb6 26.Ra8 Bb7 27.Ra7 Qc7 28.Nc3 Nxc3 29.Qxc3 Kh8 30.Qb3 Qb8 31.Qa2 Bc8 32.Rf7 Qd6 33.g4



Here Black was able to take advantage of Black's last move. IM Duarte was likely trying to create a battery on the seventh rank but Max was able to trap Black's rook, win the exchange, and eventually, the game which advanced him to round 2.

33...Bd7 34.Rxd7 [Actually the rook is perfectly safe, the only piece that can attack it is the king but Kg8 invites tactics on e6, e.g., 34.Qb3 Kg8 35.Rxd7 Rxd7 36.Rxe6 – ed.] 34...Qxd7 35.Bxe6 Qxb5 36.d5 Qa5 37.Qb3 Qc5 38.Rb1 Rd6 39.Nd2 Rxe6 40.dxe6 Rxd2 41.Qxb6 Qxb6 42.Rxb6 Rd8 43.e7 Re8 44.Rd6 Kg8 0-1

[Editor: playing in [Group 4](#), Max beat the Argentinian IM Leonardo Duarte 2.0-0.0 in the first round

but lost to the group's highest-ranked player in the quarter-finals, 2600-rated GM Cristobal Henriquez Villagra of Chile, by the score of 0.5-1.5 – Henriquez Villagra went on to win the group. Most of the other Canadians were eliminated at the quarter-final stage with the exception of GM Bator Sambuev in [Group 7](#). Bator had a semi-final match with Cuban GM Yusnel Bacallao Alonso which went down to the wire: Bator won the first regular game but lost the second, then did the same in the blitz playoff. Which left a final [Armageddon](#) game; Bator achieved a completely winning position with white but heartbreakingly lost on time on move 56, just four moves before a 2-second increment would have kicked in. The hosting platform was [Torneo](#), through which all the games are available.]

### Online Canadian Qualifier (May 31 – June 4)

Hard on the heels of the Americas Continental came a second opportunity for Canadians to qualify for the World Cup, the [Online Canadian Qualifier \(Zonal\)](#). Organized on short notice by Aris Marghetis, the qualifier was held in two sections, a twelve-player open (eligibility determined by FIDE rating) and eight-player womens' (average of CFC and FIDE ratings), although in the end there were only five entries for the latter. Both sections were held on the Internet Chess Club platform with a time control of 25 + 10; two of the participants were playing from BC, FM Max Gedajlovic and WIM Bich (Penny) Ngoc Pham.

31 May - 4 June 2021		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	
1	<b>Preotu, Razvan</b>	2487	*	1	½	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	<b>8.5</b>
2	<b>Bareev, Evgeny</b>	2638	0	*	0	1	1	½	1	1	½	1	½	<b>7.5</b>
3	<b>Thavandiran, Shiyam</b>	2420	½	1	*	0	1	1	½	0	½	½	½	<b>6.5</b>
4	<b>Panjwani, Raja</b>	2448	0	0	1	*	1	1	1	½	½	0	1	<b>6.5</b>
5	<b>Gedajlovic, Max</b>	2270	1	0	0	0	*	½	0	1	1	1	1	<b>6.5</b>
6	<b>Talukdar, Rohan</b>	2341	0	½	0	0	½	*	1	½	1	1	1	<b>6.5</b>
7	<b>Kleinman, Michael</b>	2387	1	0	½	0	1	0	*	½	½	1	1	<b>5.5</b>
8	<b>Bellissimo, Joseph F.</b>	2203	0	0	1	½	0	½	½	*	0	½	1	<b>5.0</b>
9	<b>Plotkin, Mark</b>	2430	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	1	*	0	1	<b>5.0</b>
10	<b>Chen, Max</b>	1997	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	½	1	*	1	<b>5.0</b>
11	<b>Rusonik, Max</b>	2047	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>Plotkin, Victor</b>	2367	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1.5</b>

The open section featured two grandmasters, Razvan Preotu and Evgeny Bareev, who unsurprisingly finished at the top of the crosstable with 8.5 and 7.5 points respectively. Max (our Max, there were two others playing) was ranked ninth but a strong finish resulted in a tie for third place with Shiyam Thavandiran, Raja Panjwani and Rohan Talukdar, placing fifth on tiebreak. This

unfortunately left him out of the top four who played off for the World Cup qualifying spots, won by Preotu and Bareev.



**Plotkin, Mark – Gedajlovic, Max (2270) [E16] Online Canadian Qualifier icc (10.5), 03.06.2021**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 g6 6.0–0 Bg7 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qd3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 0–0 10.e4 d6 11.Bg5 Qe8 12.h4 e5 13.Rae1 Nc6 14.h5 Ba6 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.d5 Na5 17.Nd2 Qa4 18.f4 exf4 19.Rxf4 Nxc4 20.Bf1 Nxd2 21.Qxd2 Bxf1 22.Rexf1 Qc4 23.Bf6 Bxf6 24.Rxf6 Rae8 25.Qg5 Qxe4 26.R1f4 Re5 27.Qh6 Qe3+ 28.Kg2 Qd2+ 29.Kh3 Rh5+ 30.Qxh5 gxh5 31.c4 Kg7 32.Kh4 Qh2+ 0–1

**Gedajlovic, Max – Preotu, Razvan [D85] Online Canadian Qualifier icc (11.2), 03.06.2021**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.h3 0–0 9.Be3 Qa5 10.Bd2 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qa3 12.Be2 Nc6 13.d5 Ne5 14.0–0 Bd7 15.Rb1 Qxa2 16.Bg5 Ba4 17.Qe1 Bc2 18.Rxb7 Bxe4 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Rxe7 Qxd5 21.Bf3 f5 22.Bxe4 fxe4 23.Qb4 a5 24.Qa4 Bd6 25.Qd7 Rfd8 26.Rg7+ Kf8 27.Bxd8 Rxd8 28.Rf7+ Kg8 29.Qxd8+ Kxf7 30.Qh8 h5 31.Rb1 Bb4 32.Rc1 Bc5 33.Qh7+ Kf6 34.Qc7 Bd6 35.Qd8+ Kf5 36.g4+ hxg4 37.Qd7+ Kf6 38.Qxg4 a4 39.Rd1 Qe5 40.f4 Qc5+ 41.Kh1 e3 42.Qh4+ Kg7 43.Qg4 Kf6 44.f5 Qc6+ 45.Kg1 gxf5 46.Qd4+ Ke6 47.Qxe3+ Qe4 48.Qh6+ Kf7 49.Rxd6 Qe1+ 50.Kg2 Qe2+ 51.Kg3 Qe1+ 52.Kf3 Qf1+ 53.Ke3 Qe1+ 54.Kd3 Qb1+ 55.Ke2 Qe4+ 56.Kf2 Qc2+ 57.Rd2 Qc5+ 58.Qe3 1–0

2-4 June 2021		1	2	3	4	5		
1	<b>Zhou, Qiyu</b>	2229	* *	1 ½	1 1	1 1	1 1	<b>7.5</b>
2	<b>Demchenko, Svitlana</b>	2071	0 ½	**	1 0	1 1	1 1	<b>5.5</b>
3	<b>Tsukerman, Julia</b>	1523	0 0	0 1	**	1 ½	½ ½	<b>3.5</b>
4	<b>Pham, Bich Ngoc</b>	2235	0 0	0 0	0 ½	**	1 1	<b>2.5</b>
5	<b>D'souza, Carina</b>	1302	0 0	0 0	½ ½	0 0	**	<b>1.0</b>

The double round robin womens' section was dominated by WGM Qiyu Zhou who gave up but a single draw in taking first; WIM Svitlana Demchenko kept pace for a while but eventually finished in second place, 2.0 points behind. Both qualify for the World Cup. Penny just didn't have a good

event and lost several positions where she was winning or stood better. (N.B., the ratings given are FIDE and in the case of Julia and Carina do not represent their true playing strength.)

**D'Souza, Carina – Pham, Bich Ngoc [E71] Online Canadian Qualifier wom icc (8.2), 04.06.2021**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0–0 6.Be3 Nc6 7.g4 e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Be2 c5 10.Nf3 Ne8 11.Nd2 f5 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nde4 Nf6 15.Bg5 Qd7 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bd3 Bh4 18.Qh5 Bg6 19.Qg4 Nf3+ 20.Ke2 Nd4+ 21.Ke1 Qe7 22.Rf1 Kh8 23.Kd2 Rf4 24.Qg2 Rg8 25.Qh1 Bh5 26.Rae1 Bf3 27.Qh2 Rg2 28.Qxf4 exf4 29.Nxc5 Qf7 30.Ne6 Bxf2 31.Nxd4 Be3# 0–1

**Vancouver Rapid Chess League**

The ongoing pandemic and BC health regulations in place since last November necessitated a number of changes to the 2020-2021 Vancouver Rapid Chess League. The number of teams was reduced to six with only two making the playoffs; the regular season was held December to May, one round per month (and a different day of the week each round). Games were conducted on the lichess.org platform in the arena format (play as many games as possible in a set time period, in this case two hours): rather than the usual team matches the players competed as individuals with the top scorers contributing to their team total. The time control was 10 + 1. The Chigorin Chess Club team quickly built up commanding lead, likely to the point of dissuading lower place teams who no longer had a chance of making the playoffs from competing. By the end of the regular season they had double the number of points of the second placed Mavericks:

	Top three	Top two
1 Chigorin Chess Club	179	135
2 Mavericks	76	68
3 Caissa	51	48
4 SFU Chess Club	47	35
5 UBC Chess Club	37	30
6 Vancouver Rapid	10	10

For the playoff on May 30 between the two top teams the league returned to in-person chess, making use of the outdoor chess tables at David Lloyd George Elementary School in Vancouver. Substantially outgunned, the Mavericks did manage two draws in the first round but ultimately lost 8.0-1.0. Thus the Chigorin Chess Club retained the title it had previously won in 2015-16, 2016-17 and last year.



Richard Ingram, the only player to participate in every round of the regular season, was named the Most Valuable Player. Special thanks to league coordinator Konstantin Pyryaev, who incidentally recently completed the requirements as a [FIDE School Instructor](#) – congratulations! [Full results](#)



The winning team: Ivan Petrov, Andrew Hemstapat, Richard Ingram, Roman Jiganchine

### **Fischer-Taimanov Thematic Blitz** (May 28-29)

Alongside the regular season of the rapid chess league was a series of informal blitz events culminating at the end of May in this year's version of the Fischer-Taimanov Thematic Tournament. Begun by Konstantin Pyryaev in 2016 to commemorate the 1971 Candidates Match between Bobby Fischer and Mark Taimanov in Vancouver, this annual event has evolved from a Scheveningen format to an individual blitz tournament, this year played over two evenings on lichess.org using the arena format. An integral part of these competitions has been the use of a limited number of openings, matching the selection used in the original match. On May 28 all the games began from the position after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3. Nc3, reflecting Fischer's use of the King's Indian or Grünfeld Defence against Taimanov's 1.d4, while on Sunday 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 was the opening du jour, Taimanov's eponymous response to Fischer's 1.e4. The respective daily winners were Grigorii Morozov and Andrew Hemstapat, both members of the Chigorin Chess Club. [Links](#) (scroll down)

### **Canadian Youth Chess Championship**

CFC Youth Coordinator Christina Tao has announced an online CYCC will take place on July 3 which will serve as a qualifying event for the FIDE Online World Cadets and Youth Rapid World Cup, to be held 1-20 August 2021. [Further details](#)

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### **2021 PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE** (May 30, June 6)

The 2020 BC Chess Challenge was interrupted by the pandemic last March, resulting in regional postponements until the fall and the provincials in November/December, both held online; the National Chess Challenge was cancelled. With the experience gained this year we were able to hit

the ground running, so to speak; four regionals were conducted between January and April, with the provincials held on 30 May (Kindergarten to grade 3) and 6 June (grades 4-12), all online via the Vancouver Chess School platform. There were fewer participants than usual in the lower grades but more in the upper; the combined total was one hundred and twelve players. The following are the trophy winners from the 2021 Provincials – congratulations to all!

Kindergarten – Haoming Lian, Wesley Hsu  
Grade 1 – Kai Zhang, Youjia Ye, Lucas Yao  
Grade 2 – Leon Gong, Bowen Wu, Jasper Zhang  
Grade 3 – Nathan Yang, Nicholas Wu, Panshul Jaiman  
Grade 4 – Ivan Zong, Ryan Golchin, Erwin Mok  
Grade 5 – Ryanbole Yu, Anthony Li, Dennis Wang  
Grade 6 – Ryan Yang, Leonardo Zhou, Dean Huang  
Grade 7 – Nathan Wu, Gillian Mok, Bowen Wong  
Grade 8 – Veronica Guo, Kaiqi Qin, Owen Yuen  
Grade 9 – Tao Xie, Luka Spasojevic, Edward Jeong  
Grade 10 – Patrick Huang, Christopher Yu, Markus Frigaard  
Grade 11 – Bill Wang, Jalen Huang, Rohan Wessels  
Grade 12 – Victor Zheng

Many thanks to organizer Maxim Doroshenko, the arbiters, parents and players for making the event a success. In 2021 there will be an online National Chess Challenge, scheduled for the weekend of 26-27 June; BC will be represented by our provincial grade champions. [Crosstables](#)

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## **THE BISHOP IN THE ROOM: CHEATING** by Brian McLaren

Yes, there is cheating in chess. With the latest chess engines, a trained chimp can beat a Grandmaster (online). Even Grandmasters have been caught cheating (the hall of shame includes Igor Rausis, Gaioz Nigalidze, Sebastian Feller, and Tigran L. Petrosian). Chess.com catches about 500 cheaters a day (2019 figures) and this has included over 250 titled players, many of whom who have admitted it and apologized.

What defines cheating in chess? It can range from using computer assistance on every move (online) to visiting the washroom for a quick peek at an opening book (OTB). All of it is wrong and strongly infuriating to the majority of chess players.

I know of two incidents of cheating in BC OTB chess. This is not definite proof so I will not disclose names (to protect the guilty) and will leave the decision up to you:

1. A former BC Champion told me the story of someone he played in a junior tournament. His opponent would frequently leave the playing hall with his backpack... even when it was his move (after first looking to see what move the champ played). When he returned to the hall, he would instantly play a move. The champ had a difficult time drawing this game even though his rating was about 500 points higher. This couldn't be more obvious. Of note, I saw this alleged cheater in an OTB tournament several years ago and observed him constantly leaving the playing hall with his trusty backpack.

2. Even more insidious was a probable cheater that won a fairly strong tournament years ago. I sat next to him one round and, as he was having such good results, I decided to keep an eye on his game and was very impressed by his play; in a Ruy Lopez he patiently built up positional pressure and gradually overwhelmed his 2000+ opponent. My thought was that he had been doing some serious study and had really improved his game. Afterwards I was talking to an experienced tournament player who was there as a spectator. He was convinced that the person was cheating as he had observed him constantly visiting the washroom and also passing something back and forth with another person. At the time, I just laughed and treated it as a conspiracy theory. In retrospect, with today's knowledge of cheating, it is obvious what was happening. I think this alleged cheater does not play anymore... maybe he has moved on to stock manipulation.

With tournaments being limited to online events lately it has opened the door for more cheating. Many players won't play in online tournaments because of perceived cheating. Here are the ways I anticipated people could cheat:

1. Run a chess engine in a separate window... this wouldn't be caught by a Zoom view of the player
2. Have a smartphone or tablet with an engine... once again, this could be carefully positioned
3. Have a friend following the game (while running a chess engine) and be in contact with the player through a chat app or window
4. Simply have handwritten notes on openings somewhere they could see them

Note: for the Keres, a Zoom window was not required during the game so someone could have had a team of six grandmasters there advising them... or one chess engine.

These methods all seem hard to catch; there would probably have to be two Zoom views or an arbiter in the room and the opportunity of spontaneous remote control of the PC by the arbiter. None of this is feasible for a local tournament.

Then I found out about another type of online cheating that is available – chess move calculators. These can be embedded into the chess interface and link directly to a chess engine. One example is Chess-Bot: here is a link to a [video](#) of how it works. Basically, Chess-Bot will place a red frame around the square of the best move when it is the cheater's turn. The cheater only has to figure out which piece to put there. This is just one of numerous programs like this. Chess.com, however, can catch these cheaters. Here are some very informative videos from that site outlining their [Fair Play policy](#).

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that every time you lose to a weaker opponent, or encounter someone punching way above their weight, that they are cheating. I have been accused numerous times of using an engine online. When I point out some of their poor moves that led to their defeat, a stream of profanity quite often comes back (some people are braver when it is anonymous). Many people submit complaints to chess.com about cheating and only a small percentage are proven by their anti-cheating algorithms. When someone's account is closed it is a serious breach.

Several BC players from recent tournaments have recently had their accounts closed due to chess.com's Fair Play policy. While these players still have the opportunity to appeal I think that



chess.com has very good anti-cheating measures and it is good that contraventions are being addressed.

Why do people cheat online? Money? Rating? Ego? The cheaters will have to answer that one (an anonymous article by an admitted cheater would be very interesting). As someone who has derived years of enjoyment from the intricacies of chess, I don't completely understand the allure of cheating. There can't be any self-satisfaction at having played a good game or of learning anything.

The closest motivation for cheating I can see is treating chess like a video game and getting a new high score. In context of video games for those of you who do not indulge it is accepted to 'cheat'. There are hidden items in video games that are uncovered if the player does a certain move (or series of moves at a certain time). These 'cheats' are widely available on the internet and, presumably, accepted by the video gaming community. Could it be that some cheaters don't see the difference between playing chess and playing a video game? If so, I hope they are reading this.

What can we do to counter cheating? First, awareness. It is important for everyone to be aware of how people are cheating. Second, don't jump to conclusions... not everyone who beats you is cheating, so be careful with accusations. The real cheaters will eventually be caught (hopefully) or move on to more lucrative criminal activities as they surely can't be getting any enjoyment from 'playing' chess.

Finally, if you are cheating in any form and reading this, please reconsider. It does matter to people who spend hours learning tricky rook endings and are really annoyed by losing to trained chimps.

### Comments from an Organizer

Brian McLaren has raised an issue that presents a mortal threat to our game, particularly the version of chess that takes place online. In live chess we are usually able to post the results and award prizes within minutes of the end of the last round. Now that the Coronavirus has forced us into online tournaments, the post-game ritual of fair play review can take weeks including investigation of complaints (some upheld, many rejected) and waiting for clearance from the host website's anti-cheating software. Frequently, events are rated out of sequence because of differing complexities and length of the fair play review process.

I believe the number of players who are egregious cheaters (for example using a chess engine for most or all of their moves) is quite small, perhaps one or two percent. There is possibly another two or three percent who rationalize looking at notes or a chess book as not really cheating. To the latter category I say this is plain dishonest. To the former category I say it is contemptuous.

What is there to gain by taking the risk of being branded a pariah? The Chess Federation of Canada will not accept online events for Regular rating unless there is an arbiter present at every playing site. Is a temporary boost to one's Quick rating worth the risk? There are no cash prizes, at least in our BC tournaments, so no ill-gotten gains available there.

Finally, a word on spurious cheating complaints. Each complaint causes considerable delay and angst because all are taken seriously but my experience has been that the majority of complaints are dismissed by the fair play review. Please be judicious when considering whether a complaint is warranted. Be a good sport. After all, gens una sumus.

Paul Leblanc, Victoria Chess

## 1971 FISCHER-TAIMANOV CANDIDATES MATCH



The most famous photo of the match, by Ken Oakes: game six after Black's 13<sup>th</sup> move

Fifty years ago, between 16 May and 2 June, Vancouver hosted one of the highest-level chess competitions ever to take place in BC, the Fischer – Taimanov quarter-final candidates match. Controversy often followed Fischer in the wake of his demands over playing conditions, and this match was no exception. He originally wanted no spectators present, but: "The match was scheduled to be played at the UBC Graduate Centre, but on the 12th the Russians vetoed it. Besides disagreeing with the no spectators rule of Fischer, Taimanov felt claustrophobic in the 20' x 35' room: 'I can't breathe...'



Fischer and Taimanov check out the equipment under the watchful eye of arbiter Bozidar Kazic

Discussions between the USSR, the USA, and the CFC went on until midnight. On the 13th the factions toured UBC, searching for another spot. One was almost found at the Centre's library, but Classics dean McGregor vetoed this. This prompted a flood of anti-UBC, anti-CFC, anti-Canadian rhetoric from Kotov, who declared that Canada was a poor country, for chess especially. 'Spain, yes, Belgrade, yes. But Canada, no, no.' After Fischer rejected Taimanov's proposal of the Education faculty auditorium, the SUB theatre was agreed upon. For Fischer, this meant spectators; for the Russians, the only victory they won in the match. 'Let's play,' said Fischer, 'I'm willing to play anywhere.'" [*Northwest Chess*, June 1971]

Fischer's subsequent 6-0 demolition of Taimanov is now the stuff of legend, but the games were a lot closer than the final score indicates. As Fischer himself said, "The 6-0 result was too much. The battle was more difficult than the final score would indicate. Taimanov had a won position in the third game, where 11.Qb3 was a very important innovation, and he stood better in the first and fifth. It's easier to be a gentleman when you win than when you lose, and so I congratulate Taimanov."

Taimanov's play was marred by several blunders, brought on through a combination of Fischer's intense will to win and the pressure of being the first Soviet road-block on Fischer's path to the world championship. Taimanov complained of suffering from high blood pressure, but as Harry Golombek noted, "Fischer's play is calculated to give any opponent high blood pressure." Bozidar Kazic was the chief arbiter, Elod Macskasy his assistant. BC Champion Peter Biyiasas operated the onstage demo board, while Ken Morton performed similar duties with a second demo board.

The ending of the fourth game has since acquired classic status and appears in many endgame texts (analyzed by Roman Jiganchine on [youtube](#), where video analysis of all the games by [Danny King](#) can also be found).

### **Fischer, Robert - Taimanov, Mark [B47] Candidates 1/4-fin Vancouver (4), 25.05.1971**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qc7 5.Nc3 e6 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Bf4 d6 11.Qd2 h6 12.Rad1 e5 13.Be3 Bg4 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.f3 Be6 16.f4 Rd8 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 e4 19.Rfe1 Rxd5 20.Rxe4+ Kd8 21.Qe2 Rxd1+ 22.Qxd1+ Qd7 23.Qxd7+ Kxd7 24.Re5 b6 25.Bf1 a5 26.Bc4 Rf8 27.Kg2 Kd6 28.Kf3 Nd7 29.Re3 Nb8 30.Rd3+ Kc7 31.c3 Nc6 32.Re3 Kd6 33.a4 Ne7 34.h3 Nc6 35.h4 h5 36.Rd3+ Kc7 37.Rd5 f5 38.Rd2 Rf6 39.Re2 Kd7 40.Re3 g6 41.Bb5 Rd6 (Sealed) 42.Ke2 Kd8 43.Rd3 Kc7 44.Rxd6 Kxd6 45.Kd3



45...Ne7 46.Be8 Kd5 47.Bf7+ Kd6 48.Kc4 Kc6 49.Be8+ Kb7 50.Kb5 Nc8 51.Bc6+ Kc7 52.Bd5 Ne7 53.Bf7 Kb7 54.Bb3 Ka7 55.Bd1 Kb7 56.Bf3+ Kc7 57.Ka6 Ng8 58.Bd5 Ne7 59.Bc4 Nc6 60.Bf7 Ne7 61.Be8 Kd8 62.Bxg6 Nxc6 63.Kxb6 Kd7 64.Kxc5 Ne7 65.b4 axb4 66.cxb4 Nc8 67.a5 Nd6 68.b5 Ne4+ 69.Kb6 Kc8 70.Kc6 Kb8 71.b6 1-0 (All the Fischer-Taimanov games are in the attached PGN file.)

We don't normally deal with merchandise in this bulletin but two new publications dealing with the Fischer-Taimanov match are well worth considering:

Mark Taimanov, [\*I was a Victim of Bobby Fischer\*](#) (Quality Chess)

Jan Timman, [\*The Unstoppable American: Bobby Fischer's Road to Reykjavik\*](#) (New In Chess)

Konstantin Pyryaev's 2016 [telephone interview](#) with Taimanov, included in the first volume above.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

### **BC Senior and Adult Championships**

25-27 June

[Details](#)