

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #412

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

BCCF Annual General Meeting

A BCCF Annual General Meeting, the first since the pandemic began, will be held online on Sunday, July 11 between 3:00 and 5:00pm. We encourage you to sign up and attend the AGM: the executive for the coming year will be elected, and there will also be opportunity to voice concerns, comments, and ideas about how organized chess is run in BC. The BCCF is your federation – it is only as strong as those involved in it, your help is needed. Please note that anyone may attend, but voting is restricted to BCCF members (anyone who has played in a CFC-rated event in the last year, plus select TDs and organizers) aged fourteen or over.

If you wish to attend please register by sending an email to BCCF Secretary Berry de Groot at berrydgrt@gmail.com who will then forward a Zoom link.

Rusty Miller Memorial (June 19-20)

Back in [Bulletin #405](#) we reported on the passing of Russell “Rusty” Miller, a giant of the Pacific Northwest chess community. The 1st Rusty Miller Memorial tournament, intended as an ongoing annual event, was held online on the weekend of June 19-20. Originally scheduled as a six-round Swiss in two sections (time control 45 + 15), the tournament unfortunately coincided with the National Open in Las Vegas (see below), resulting in a disappointing turnout of only seven players. The reworked one-section, five-round Swiss was won by Indian IM Guha Mitrabha with 4.5/5 (four wins and a bye), not surprising given he held an 800-point rating advantage over the rest of the field. Aaron Nicoski placed second, while Selina Cheng, BC's Don Hack, and Jackson Speer tied for various class prizes. [Facebook report](#) [USCF ratings report](#)



Rusty and Kathy Miller

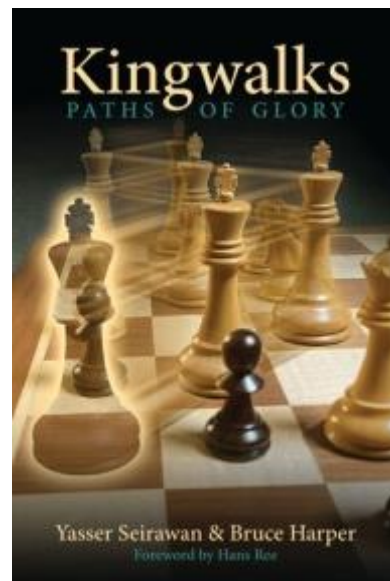
Las Vegas International Chess Festival (June 16-20)

With the waning of the pandemic and the lifting of health restrictions, live over-the-board has begun to return. The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco and the Seattle Chess Club have at least partially re-opened, and the International Chess Festival in Las Vegas returned on the weekend of June 16-20. Not held last year, the festival consists of various tournaments but it's flagship event is the National Open; COVID-19 measures were still in effect, such as mandatory masks and only one board per table, nevertheless there were nine-hundred and twenty-eight entries in seven sections. GMs Illia Nyzhnyk, Lazaro Bruzon Batista, and Emilio Cordova Daza and IMs Andrew Hong and Arthur Guo tied for first with 7.5/9 with Arthur taking the trophy on tiebreak. There appeared to be two Canadians participating – FM Anthony Atanasov from Ontario who scored 3.5 points in the Open, and from this province Ethan Su who finished with 2.5/7 in the U2300 Section. [Festival website](#) [USCF rating report](#)

Kingwalks by Yasser Seirawan and Bruce Harper

Five-time BC Champion FM Bruce Harper has been latterly largely absent from tournament chess, but this does not mean he has been inactive. After a long gestation he co-authored with GM Yasser Seirawan a three-volume collection of the games of Duncan Suttles, *Chess on the Edge*. His next book was *Bullet Chess: one minute to mate*, written in collaboration with GM Hikaru Nakamura. And now we have a third: *Kingwalks: paths of glory*, again in conjunction with Yasser Seirawan. From the publisher, [Russell Enterprises](#):

“Marching your king across the board – at times right through or into enemy lines – may be both exhilarating and terrifying. Chessplayers are fascinated by kingwalks, perhaps because of their inherent contradiction and even implausibility. The most important – and vulnerable – chess piece does something other than trying to remain safe. For sheer entertainment as well as instructive value, the kingwalk is transcendent!”



Hard copy publication is scheduled for August, but an electronic version is already available from [Forward Chess](#).

YOUNG PLAYERS DOMINATE THE 2021 KERES MEMORIAL by Paul Leblanc **Peter Yong Qiu is this year's champion**

This year's Keres was held on chess.com on the weekend of 22-23 May. Entries were limited to “about 100” because of the challenges of overseeing so many boards with only one tournament director. The tournament sold out quickly with fifty-one players in the Premier section and fifty-two in the U1400 section. Time control was game in 30 minutes with 15 second increments. Prizes were limited to trophies and chess lessons. It took about a month to get the tournament results finalized and submitted to the CFC for rating due to the customary fair play review conducted by chess.com. This is an unfortunate fact of life for online competitive chess.



Peter Yong Qiu



Mohammadsadra Zareei

This year's champion was Peter Yong Qiu of Surrey, BC with a perfect 6-0 score. Peter has been one of the most active players in BC in the past year with fifteen tournaments under his belt and a steadily increasing rating. His quick rating is now at the expert level. Also in the Premier section, Kane Pan of Burnaby captured the U1700 trophy.

The U1400 section was won by Mohammadsadra Zareei of Vancouver with a perfect 6-0 score. Mohammadsadra is new to chess this year and has been dominating the U1400 sections in recent events, winning the trophies at the Victoria Open and Grand Pacific Open. In fact, he has only one loss in twenty-three games. He is ready for stronger opposition and we hope to see him in the Premier section in his next tournament. [CFC Premier](#) [CFC U1400](#)

Top U900 player was Modith Aaron Mutyalapati of Toronto and top unrated player was Mark Rempel of Abbotsford. Three players (Manual Escandor, Ivan Zong, and Simar Thukral) won free chess lessons from FIDE Master and FIDE Trainer Alex Jardines. The lessons were donated by Don Hack.

The tournament director was Brendan Woodroff and the organizer was Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess with website assistance from Roger Patterson, also of Victoria Chess.

Huang, Patrick – Qiu, Peter Yong [D02] Keres mem 45th (online) chess.com (4.1), 23.05.2021
[Peter Yong Qiu]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 The London System. **2...Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5.c4** After White played c4, an idea occurred in my mind, and that is to take the knight on b1 and check the king with Bb4, so White can't castle anymore. **5...Bxb1 6.Qxb1 Bb4+ 7.Kd1** and **7...Bd6** to trade off the dark bishop. **8.Bg3 Bxg3 9.hxg3 h6** I played h6 to prevent some Ng5 ideas and to protect my h-pawn. **10.Bd3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 c5** To put pressure in the centre. **12.Kd2 Nbd2 13.Rd1 Qe7** To get out of the pin. **14.dxc5 Qxc5 15.Qd3 0-0** To protect my king and to bring my rook to the play. **16.Rac1**



16...Ne5 17.Qb3 Nxc4 18.Rxc4 Qe7 19.Rdc1 b6 To protect my b-pawn. 20.Nd4 Nd6 To protect c7. 21.e4 Nf6 22.Nc6 Qb7 23.f3 Nd7 My plan was to maneuver my knight to c5 to block off the open file but it backfired because White penetrated my position. 24.Ne7+ I missed this. 24...Kh8 25.Rc7 Qa6+ 26.Qc4 b5 27.Qc6 Nb6 The only good move in the position for Black. 28.Kf2 Rad8 To prepare to double up on the d-file. 29.Qc3 Rd7 30.Qb4



30...Re8 White has a sneaky tactic and that is 31.Ng6+ and Black is lost. 31.Rxd7 Nxd7 32.a3 Ne5 to bring my Knight to a more active square and threatening a nasty fork with 33...Nd3. 33.f4?? Allowing Nd3 winning the Queen. 33...Nd3+ 34.Ke3 Nxb4 35.axb4 Rxe7 Black is completely winning. 36.Rc3 Qb6+ 37.Kf3 Rc7 38.Rd3 Kh7 39.Kg4 f5+ 40.exf5 exf5+ 41.Kh3 Qg1 0-1

Zareei, Mohammadsadra – Thukral, Simar [C01] Keres mem 45th U1400 (online) chess.com (5.1), 23.05.2021

[Mohammadsadra Zareei]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 French Defence, Exchange Variation. 4.Nc3 It was better for White to keep the knight at b1 and play Nd2: 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Nbd2 Nbd7 9.c3 c6 The right way of developing for the pieces; 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.Ne2 Ne7= 4...Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bf4 6.Bg5 6...Bd6 7.Ne5 0-0 8.Bd3 Ng4 9.h3 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Re8 11.0-0



With the idea of Bxh7+! after Black plays Bxe5.
11...Bxe5 12.Bxh7+ Kh8 13.Bxe5 Rxe5 14.Bd3 Qh4
15.Qd2 Be6?! Closing the way for the rook. 16.f4!
 Starting a strong attack on the kingside. **16...Rh5**
17.Rae1



Now all the White pieces are activated and White is better. **17...Na6 18.Bg6!** Black has some problems with the rook on h5. **18...Rh6 19.f5 Bd7 19...fxg6**
20.fxe6 with a very good passed pawn for White.
20.Bxf7 And now White is a pawn up! **20...Rf8 21.Bg6 b5 22.Ne4** Activating the knight on g5 and attacking the Black king with all the pieces. **22...Kg8 23.Ng5 Qc4 24.Qe3 Qxc2 25.Rc1 Qxb2**



26.Rxc6!! Nb8 26...Bxc6 27.Qe6+ Kh8 28.Nf7+ Rxf7
 (28...Kg8 29.Nxh6+ Kh8 30.Qg8+ Rxf7) 27...Bxc6 28.Bf7+ Kh8 29.Qxf8# **27.Qe7! Rxf7**
29.Kh2 Nc6 30.Qxd7 Qe5+ 31.Kh1 Nd4 32.f6 Nf5
33.Rxf7+ Kh8 34.Rh7+ Kg8 35.f7+ Rxf7 36.Qxf7#
1-0

GONNASON CUP CENTENARY

This year marks one hundred years since the inauguration of the Gonnason Cup, the first trophy awarded for the Victoria City Championship:

Aaron Gonnason (November 25, 1865 - December 27, 1938) was born in Sweden. His family immigrated to America when he was six, where they mined coal and farmed in Kansas. In 1883 Aaron and his elder brother Benjamin departed for the more lucrative possibilities of the Pacific Northwest lumber industry; after a year in Seattle they settled in Victoria, where they found employment in a mill. In 1890 they joined with Joseph J. Lemon to start their own company, Capital Planing Mills (later Lemon, Gonnason and Co. Ltd.); Aaron rose to become president of the company, a position he held for many years. The company eventually ceased operations in 1958, Aaron and Benjamin having died within five days of each other twenty years earlier.

Aaron Gonnason was a competent club player, but was more important as a benefactor: he donated two trophies that bore his name. The first, given in 1921, was a cup for the Victoria city championship, our current subject. The second Gonnason Cup was donated in 1923 for a provincial team championship; the trophy was awarded to the winners of a team match between two clubs (cities), and was retained until a successful challenge by another club.

“Arrangements are underway to hold a chess tournament for the amateur championship of Victoria. Entries will close next Wednesday, January 25, and the affair will be held in the Chess Club rooms, Metropolis Hotel, Yates Street, and will be open to all outside players. The entry fee will be \$1.50, which will include the use of the club rooms for the two months during which play will be in progress.” [*Victoria Daily Times*, 18 January 1921]

“A. Gonnason, of the Lemon-Gonnason Lumber Company, has presented a handsome cup for competition in the local chess tournament. It will be contested for each year and if won by any contestant three years in succession ownership passes to the successful player.” [*Victoria Daily Times*, 11 February 1921; the latter stipulation was still generally applied in the 1950s]

And what do we know of the winners? William James Barker (1868-1941) was born in Pemberton, Ontario, but came to BC in 1913. A pharmacist by trade, he also won the overall BC Championship in 1923, 1924, 1926, and 1928. Based on the stipulation noted above Barker must have won the city championship again in 1931 and have been awarded the cup outright; it was donated back to the club by his niece after his death.





Victoria City
Amateur Chess
Championship

(rook)

presented by

A. Gonnason

March 1921



won by
W.J. Barker
A. Gonnason, 1922
L. Partington, 1923
W.J. Barker, 1924
L. Partington, 1925
L. Partington, 1926
W.J. Barker, 1927
F. Knowles, 1928
W.J. Barker, 1929
W.J. Barker, 1930

presented
to
the Victoria Chess Club
in memory of
J.W. Barker

[presumably a typo by the engraver]
by his niece
Mabel

Lawton Partington (1889-1980) was born in Oldham, England and emigrated to BC in 1911. He taught piano, and was at various times organist and choirmaster at Knox Presbyterian Church and Oak Bay United Church. Partington also won the city championship in 1936, but by then a [different trophy](#) was in use. F. Knowles remains, for the moment, a mystery. After lying disused for many years the Gonnason Cup is now presented to the winner of the Victoria Chess Club Championship (Roger Patterson for the past three years).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Coast to Coast Invitational Qualifiers

July 3 or 4

[Details](#)