

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #111

Happy New Year!

Your editor welcomes welcome and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. players. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue.

To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF webpage (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

[Back issues of the Bulletin are available on the above webpage.]

RECENT EVENTS

December Active Tournament

Won by organizer Luc Poitras with 5.5/6 - further details at <http://chess.bc.ca> and <http://www.wcjc.blogspot.com/>.

Skagit ChessFest

On December 16 Tanraj Sohal took part in the Skagit ChessFest in Washington, and placed first in the grade 4-6 division with 4.5/5 points (he also won his category last year). Rating report: <http://whsca.org/skagit.html>

North American Open

Seven B.C. players, mostly juniors, made the trek to Las Vegas for the North American Open: Dragoljub Milicevic, Richard Huang, Vlad Gaciu, Severo Caluza, Stefan Trandafir, Changhe Li, and Jack Cheng. The only one to win a prize was former B.C. Champion Dragoljub Milicevic, whose (reentrant) 5/7 was good enough for a nine-way tie for fifth in the U2200 Section. North American Open results: <http://www.chesstour.com/nao06r.htm>

LESSONS FROM GM SLUGFEST, PART 4 by Jonathan Berry

After the third round game, Clint Ballard congratulated me and pointed out that despite starting with two losses, if I won the rest of my games, I could win the tournament with 10 BAPs. I thanked him for his kindness and sense of humour. But in fact he was 100% correct, and we will see how close I came to fulfilling his prescription. The nearby strip mall had a pretty good Thai restaurant. With the third round not going to the time control, there was time for a leisurely lunch. When I returned to the site, the pairing

against young IM Josh Friedel of San Francisco led me to think about preparation. I took about an hour to look at an alternative to my normal 3...g6, but decided just before the game that I didn't really like the resulting positions. Or I chickened out. Take your pick.

Friedel, J - Berry, J [C60] GM Slugfest Chess4Life Center (4), 14.10.2006

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Bg5! Be7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 Possibly this is my biggest contribution to chess opening theory. Of the 103 games from this position in Chess Assistant Hugebase, the earliest is Jean Hebert - Jonathan Berry, Canada Zonal 1978, a draw -- although it will not surprise me if there is an earlier game. Qxe7 weighs in at 44%, compared with 37% for the older Ng8xe7. **7.0-0 Nf6 8.e5** Surprisingly, this scores only 39%. Those who go with the percentages will prefer 8.Bxc6, as GM Thomas Luther played against me. I believe that Black can equalize also in that case, but with scant winning chances. **8...Nh5** In 1978 I played 8...Nd5 9.c4 (after the game, Hebert thought that 9.c3 would give an advantage) Nf4. I played Nh5 against Kevin Spraggett in 1986, so I also appear to be the originator of that move. The game continued 9.c3 d6 and was soon drawn. The Nh5 move was inspired by a game of Victor Kortchnoi. The N at h5 defends the kingside dark squares almost as well as a fianchettoed bishop. **9.Bxc6 dxc6 10.Qxd4 0-0 11.Nc3 Bf5?!** The book move is 11...Rd8, but I prefer 11...f6 12.Rad1 fxe5 and it looks to me that Black has equalized already. Yeah, OK, White has the Exchange Lopez endgame with a qualitative kingside majority, but the bishop is better than a knight, as in the Berlin Defence. **12.Qe3** A subtle and high-class move, as one might expect from a young guy with two GM norms, but better was: 12.h3! Bxc2 (12...Rfd8 13.Qe3 Ng7 14.g4 Be6 15.Qh6 Ne8 16.Ng5 f6 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.Rae1+-) 13.Qd2! (13.g4 Rfd8!+-) 13...Bf5 14.g4 Rad8 15.Qh6 Bxg4 16.hxg4 Qb4 17.Nh2 Nf4 18.Rae1+/- **12...f6 13.h3**



13...fxe5? I guess I let my emotions rule here, as I thought that White had spent entirely too little time on 13.h3, and that my sacrificial attack should have been worth at least 15 minutes and a few grimaces. There was nothing wrong with 13...Ng7 14.g4 Be6. **14.g4 Nf4 15.gxf5 Nxh3+ 16.Kh2 Rxf5 17.Kxh3 Raf8**



Up to this juncture, our analyses coincided. Both Friedel and I concluded that, once Black sacrifices a knight, he has to throw the second knight on the pyre. **18.Nh2?** The correct move, as I saw, was 18.Ng1! Rh5+ 19.Kg2 Rf4 (19...Qh4 20.Nh3+-) 20.Nce2+-.

However, by the time I worked this out, I had already played 13...fxe5?! Friedel, on the other hand, thought that Black was great after 18.Ng1, but after the game we were unable to reconstruct his variation. The third path, which both of us spent more time on, was 18.Kg2 Rxf3 19.Qxf3 Rxf3 20.Kxf3 and here I thought that Black's marauding queen would provide enough compensation (20...Qf8+ (20...Qb4 21.Ne4) 21.Ke2 Qb4) but in the

postmortem, Friedel displayed a dangerous plan for White: protect all the queenside pawns, slowly migrate the king to the queenside (it might end up living at a2 or b2) and in the meantime Black cannot queen any pawns. If the h-pawn advances, even as far as h2, it just presents another target for White's three mobile pieces. That plan held sway in the postmortem. **18...Rh5+ 19.Kg2 Qh4 20.Rh1?**



Of course, this was what White planned, but it contains a truck-sized hole. Do you see it? I confess that I did not see it until after move 18. My opponent was astounded that he had missed it. The only move was to give back a knight: 20.Rg1 Qxh2+ 21.Kf1=. **20...Rxf2+! 21.Qxf2 Qh3+** Black mates quickly: 0-3 BAP. The game caused a bit of a sensation and was the early favourite for game of the round. It was also bandied about as a possibility for game of the tournament, besides first prize the only cash prize on offer. So after a horrible first day, I was back to a respectable score, to a modicum of health, and in the hunt for a prize. **0-1**

2007 B.C. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

For those who have an interest in playing in the B.C. championship, these are the current regulations that apply to the 2007 edition:

1. The 2007 B.C. Championship will be an 8-player round robin, held on the Easter weekend.
2. The following players qualify for the Championship:

- a. The 2006 B.C. Champion(s).
 - b. The 2006 B.C. Junior Champion.
 - c. The highest finisher in each qualifying tournament who has not already qualified for the Championship and who has had a regular CFC rating of 2000 or higher since January 1, 2006.
 - d. The remaining qualifying spots will be filled from the last CFC rating list to be published at least six weeks before the Championship. To qualify by rating, a player must have played in at least one regular-rated tournament since January 1, 2006, excluding the 2006 B.C. Championship.
 - e. If a player who has qualified through criteria 2.a.-d. is unable or unwilling to play in the Championship, additional players would be taken from the rating list as set out in 2.d.
3. All participants in the Championship must have resided in B.C. for at least six months prior to the start of the Championship.
 4. Each participant from outside the region where the Championship is held will receive travel expenses, to a maximum of \$100 per participant.
 5. The following prizes will be provided by the BCCF:
 - a. First place: \$300.
 - b. Second place: \$200.
 - c. Third place: \$100.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Events

Jan 7 Island Junior Open #4, University of Victoria
Feb 4 Island Junior Open #5, University of Victoria

UBC Tuesday Night Swiss

Date: Tuesdays

Location: Room 211, Student Union Building, UBC

Format: 5-round Swiss

Time control: 2 hours sudden death

Time: 6:30 pm sharp

Entry fees: \$20 for adults, \$15 for juniors and UBC club members

TD info.: Aaron Cosenza, 604 327-4714, xramis1@yahoo.ca

January Active Chess Tournament (G/30)

Schedule: 6 rounds. One or two sections depending on the number of participants.

Date/Location: On Saturday January 6th at the Bridge Center, 2776 East Broadway, Vancouver.

Entry: Fee \$15. For expert or former expert: \$12. For master \$10.

All money back in prizes minus minimum cost of rent.

Registration: 10:30am. Games start at 11:00am and finish around 5:00pm.

You don't need to be a CFC member.

Bring your own chess set and clock

TD Luc Poitras info: queluc@lynx.net

2007 BC Correspondence Chess Championship

Start: January 15, 2007

Type: round robin

Mode: all games are played on the ICCF webserver (no e-mails, no postcards!)

EF: \$25

Prizes: 1st software prize from chessfirst.com

Registration: Vas Sladek, vas@chessfirst.com, 604-562-3736

Notes: BC residents ONLY and CCCA membership required \$30/year

Simultaneous exhibition against BC co-champion Howard Wu

6:45, Jan. 22 at the Victoria Chess Club.

Entry Fee \$5 (\$2 for club members) (club table fees for the night are included in this).

www.victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com

Vancouver January Open

Dates: January 26 - 28, 2007

Place: Vancouver Bridge Centre, 2776 East Broadway (at Kaslo), Vancouver

Rounds: 5

Times: January 26th, 6 pm; January 27th and 28th, 10 am and 2:30 pm

Type: Regular Swiss

Time Controls: game/90 with a 30 second increment (digital), or game/120 (analog)

Byes: Rds. 1-4

Entry Fee: Adults \$30, Juniors/Seniors \$20 (non-CFC members add \$10 for tournament membership)

Prizes: \$\$BEN

Registration: In advance or at site 5:30 – 5:50 pm, January 26th

Tournament Director: Stephen Wright

Miscellaneous: One or two sections, depending upon numbers

For more information please contact the organizers:

Katherine Davies 604-266-5842 e-mail: mail-for-katherine@telus.net

Stephen Wright: 604-221-7148 e-mail: swright2@telus.net

North Shore Open

Site: Mollie Nye House 940 Lynn Valley Road North Vancouver BC

Date: February 3-4, 2007

Format: 4 Round Swiss

Time control: 90 minutes with a 30 second increments

Entry fee: \$25 for Adults; \$17 for Juniors and Seniors. Make cheques out for the club's name.

Registration: Online at oszisakk@telus.net and by mail. West Vancouver Chess Club, 651 West 14th St. North Vancouver BC V7M 1R3

Rounds: Saturday: 1st 10am; 2nd ASAP 3rd ASAP. 4th Sunday: 3:30pm .

Prizes: \$200 for first with 20 entries.

Organizer and TD: Joe Oszvald

Info: oszisakk@telus.net

Please bring digital clocks and sets!

Kelowna Winterfest 2007

Date: Saturday and Sunday February 17-18th, 2007

Location: Best Western Inn - Kelowna, 2402 Hwy 97 North, Kelowna, BC, 1-888-860-1212

<http://www.bestwesterninnkelowna.com/>

Type: 5 Round Swiss

Registration: On site 8-9 am Saturday.

Rounds: Sat. 9 am, 2 pm, 7 pm; Sun. 10 am, ASAP.

Time Control: 30 moves / 90 minutes then Sudden Death / 60 minutes

Entry Fees: \$35.00, \$30.00 senior, \$ 25.00 junior.

Byes: 1/2 point byes available by request except for final round

Prizes: \$100.00 1st and \$ 50.00 second; further prizes TBD.

Contact: Grant Rice TD and Organizer, 250-979-0009, ridebike@okanagan.net