

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #74

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Stephen Wright

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

WORLD YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2005 WYCC is currently underway in Belfort, France. This 11-round Swiss by age group (under 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18, in both boys and girls categories) has attracted 1122 players from around the world, including twenty-eight participants from Canada. Of these twenty-eight, eight are from B.C.: Fanhao Meng and Lucas Davies (U18B), Tiffany Tang (U16G), Noam Davies and Vlad Gaciu (U14B), Chelsea Ruitter (U12G), and Alexandra Botez and Erika Ruitter (U10G). Good luck to all! Results, currently for the first three rounds, are available through the official sites, or www.chess.bc.ca or pages.infinit.net/archamse/WYCC2005.htm.

The official website (www.belfort-echecs.com) was overwhelmed for a few days, but is currently up and running; an alternative is [www.echecs.asso.fr/\(Quiuf4binynjxpidzpz1f455\)/Default.aspx](http://www.echecs.asso.fr/(Quiuf4binynjxpidzpz1f455)/Default.aspx), the website of the French Chess Federation. The organizers are providing games from the top twenty boards or so of each section, usually late on the same day as the round in question. So far four B.C. games are available, but unfortunately playing on the top twenty boards means meeting the toughest opposition, so the results have not been favourable for B.C.:

Milman,L - Davies,L [B14] WYCC U18B Belfort (1.11), 19.07.2005

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qc2 Nc6 9.Bd3 Be7 10.a3 Bf6 11.0-0 g6 12.Bh6 Nce7 13.Rfe1 Bd7 14.Ne4 Nf5 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.Bg5 Qg7 17.Bxf5 gxf5 18.Qxf5 Kf8 19.Qh3 h6 20.Bd2 Ne7 21.Ne5 Bc6 22.Rac1 Kg8 23.Nxc6 bxc6 24.Rxc6 Qxd4 25.Rexe6 fxe6 26.Qxe6+ Kf8 27.Bb4 1-0

Owens,M - Botez,A [A87] WYCC U10G Belfort (1.17), 19.07.2005

1.d4 f5 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 d6 6.b4 0-0 7.Bb2 c6 8.0-0 Ne4 9.Nbd2 d5 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Qb3 e6 12.Nxe4 fxe4 13.Ne5 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Bd7 15.a4 Nc6 16.a5 Rc8 17.Rac1 Qe7 18.Bc3 a6 19.f3 exf3 20.Bxf3 Na7 21.Bd4 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rc8 23.Rxc8+ Nxc8 24.Bc5 Qe8 25.Qe3 Ne7 26.Qg5 Nc6 27.h4 Qf7 28.Bg4 Qg7 29.Bd6 h5 30.Bh3 Kh7 31.Qf4 Kg8 ½-½

Meng,F - Amin,B [C77] WYCC U18B Belfort (2.18), 20.07.2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.0-0 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.a4 b4 10.Re1 Rb8 11.Nbd2 Na5 12.Ba2 c5 13.Nc4 Nxc4 14.Bxc4 bxc3 15.bxc3 Qa5 16.Bd2 Bg4 17.h3 Bh5 18.g4 Bg6 19.Qc2 Nd7 20.Reb1 Rxb1+ 21.Rxb1 Nb6 22.Qb3 Bd8

23.Bg5 Nxc4 24.Qxc4 Bxg5 25.Nxg5 h5 26.Nf3 hxg4 27.hxg4 Qd8 28.Qd5 Qf6
29.Nh2 Qf4 30.c4 Rd8 31.Rb6 Kh7 32.Kg2 f6 33.Rxa6 Rb8 34.Rxd6 Rb1 35.Rd8 Qc1
36.Qg8+ Kh6 37.Rd7 Qg1+ 38.Kf3 Qh1+ 39.Ke3 Re1+ 40.Kd2 Rd1+ 41.Ke3 Qe1+
42.Kf3 Rxd3+ 43.Kg2 Qxe4+ 44.f3 Qe2+ 45.Kh3 Rd1 46.Qh8+ Bh7 47.g5+ Kg6
48.gxf6 gxf6 49.a5 Kg5 50.Qe8 Bf5+ 51.Kg3 Qe1+ 0-1

Davies,N - Huschenbeth,N [C64] WYCC U14B Belfort (2.20), 20.07.2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.0-0 Qf6 5.c3 Nge7 6.d4 exd4 7.Bg5 Qg6 8.Bxe7
Nxe7 9.cxd4 Bb6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Qd3 d6 12.Rfe1 Qg4 13.Rad1 c6 14.Bc4 Ng6 15.h3
Qh5 16.Ne2 d5 17.exd5 cxd5 18.Bb3 Be6 19.Qe3 Qf5 20.Ng3 Qf4 21.Qxf4 Nxf4
22.Ne2 Nxe2+ 23.Rxe2 h6 24.Ne5 Rfc8 25.Nd3 g5 26.Nb4 Rd8 27.Nc2 Rac8 28.g4
Kg7 29.Ne3 Kg6 30.Bc2+ Kf6 31.Bb3 Kg6 32.Bc2+ Kf6 33.Bb3 a6 34.Kg2 Ba7
35.Rc2 Rxc2 36.Nxc2 Ke7 37.Ne3 Kd6 38.Kf3 b5 39.Ke2 a5 40.a3 Rb8 41.Kd3 a4
42.Bc2 Bd7 43.b4 axb3 44.Bxb3 Be6 45.Rc1 Bb6 46.a4 bxa4 47.Bxa4 Bxd4 48.Rc6+
Ke5 49.Bc2 Bxe3 50.fxe3 f5 51.gxf5 Bxf5+ 52.Kc3 Rc8 0-1

CANADIAN OPEN

The 2005 Canadian Open just wrapped up in Edmonton, and by all accounts it was one of the best Canadian Opens ever! Over two hundred players took part, including super GMs Ivanchuk, Shirov, and Bologan, India's entire National team, and a contingent of B.C. players. First place was split between five players: Ivanchuk, Shirov, Bologan, Canada's own Mark Bluvshtein (who won a sensational miniature against Shirov) and Indian IM Chowdhury scored 8-2, good for \$1650 each. B.C.'s big winner was Alfred Pechisker who tied for the under-2200 prize. More details and results can be found at www.edmontonchess.org/CdnOpen2005/. Vas Sladek provided a number of photos which are now on the BCCF website (www.chess.bc.ca), while other photos, including shots of Jack Yoos and Travis Lane enjoying the Edmonton nightlife, are on the Saskatoon Chess Club website (scc.saskchess.com/modules.php?name=gallery and scc.saskchess.com/modules.php?name=cdn_open)

Here are comments about the tournament from two of the B.C. participants:

from Laszlo Tegzes:

I think it was a great tournament! The presence of the super GMs (Bologan, Shirov, Ivanchuk) made the event very special. And to their credit, they also played out their games (no short draws) and it was exciting to follow the battles live. The game of the tournament for me was the Shabalov - Bologan match, which lasted six and a half hours and ended with Bologan winning a very complicated endgame. (Shabalov had two queens on the board for at least twenty-five moves against Bologan's queen, knight and bishop!)

The highlight for B.C. players was the performance of Alfred Pechisker, who had a really strong tournament and ended up winning the under 2200 category (in a two-way tie).

from Vas Sladek:

I managed to turn this year's Canadian Open in Edmonton into a great chess vacation. WestJet got me to Edmonton in roughly eighty minutes and on time, and my humble but budget-friendly youth hostel accommodations in Old Strathcona were fine. The daily walk to the Delta Centre Suites hotel downtown would take over forty minutes.

My tournament got off to a strange start with a rated forfeit in round one and a bittersweet match with super-GM Vassily Ivanchuk in round two; I was glad to play him but I didn't get to play much! Everything ended well in round ten with a draw against WIM B. Thipsay, a few FIDE ELO points and a free one-year ICC extension. The Indian team was fun to watch. They all looked cool and relaxed and well prepared. IM Kidambi made a GM norm. When my games finished early I would walk to the movie theatre conveniently located on the same floor. When my games finished late I would take in the various endgames, for example, IM Charbonneau-WGM Ghate and FM Yoos-Pechisker.

The master simuls were hard to pass up at \$10 each. I got to play GM Bologan and IM Krush, missing moves that would get me close to equality in both games. Seeing little Louie Jiang debating a position with GM Bologan was funny. The organizers did a great job. My only complaint would be the small green and white paper boards. Most of the DGT XL chess clocks were supplied to the Alberta Chess Association by Chess First! Enterprises! It was nice to see them in action. I didn't get all of the details but in exchange for volunteer work at a casino, ACA members get access to some sort of government fund which makes them, I quote, "filthy rich!" Hmmm.



B.C. takes on the world: Chucky vs. Vas

Ivanchuk,V - Sladek,V [B42] CAN op Edmonton (2.1), 10.07.2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Qe2 d6 8.c4 Be7
9.Nc3 Nbd7 10.f4 h5 11.Bd2 b6 12.b4 Bb7 13.f5 e5 14.Nb3 a5 15.a3 axb4 16.axb4
Rxa1 17.Nxa1 Qb8 18.Nc2 Qa8 19.Ra1 Qb8 20.Na3 Bc6 21.Nab5 h4 22.Be3 Nh5
23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 Nf4 25.Bxf4 exf4 26.f6 gxf6 27.Ra8 1-0

No other B.C. games are currently available, although apparently all the games of the tournament will appear in a tournament book. In the meantime, here are a few games by the "big three:"

Ivanchuk,V - Charbonneau,P [A09] CAN op Edmonton (4), 12.07.2005

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Qa4+ Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.g3 Nd5 6.Qxc4 Ndb4 7.Qb3 Be6 8.Qa4 Bd7 9.Qd1 Bf5 10.d3 Bg4 11.a3 Bxf3 12.exf3 Nd5 13.Bg2 e6 14.f4 Nb6 15.0-0 Be7 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Qb3 0-0 18.Rfd1 Rfd8 19.Rac1 Rab8 20.Bxc6 bxc6 21.Qc2 a5 22.Rd2 Nd5 23.Na4 g5 24.fgx5 Nxe3 25.fxe3 Bxg5 26.Kf2 e5 27.Re1 f5 28.Qc4+ Qd5 29.Rc1 Kh8 30.h4 Bxe3+ 31.Kxe3 f4+ 32.gxf4 exf4+ 33.Kf2 Qe5 34.Re1 Qf6 35.Kf1 Rd4 36.Qc3 Rbd8 37.Rg2 Qxh4 38.Qxd4+ 1-0

Shabalov,A - Bologan,V [C67] CAN op Edmonton (5), 13.07.2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.dxe5 Nxb5 7.c4 d6 8.e6 Bxe6 9.cxb5 Ne5 10.Nd4 Bd7 11.f4 Ng6 12.Qf3 Be7 13.Qxb7 0-0 14.Nc3 Bf6 15.Be3 Re8 16.Qf3 a6 17.a4 Nh4 18.Qf2 axb5 19.axb5 Rb8 20.Rfe1 Bxd4 21.Bxd4 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Nf5 23.Ba7 Rc8 24.Bf2 h5 25.Qe2 h4 26.h3 Rb8 27.Qd3 Be6 28.Ra7 Ra8 29.Ra6 Rb8 30.Ra7 d5 31.Bc5 Ra8 32.Ra6 Rc8 33.Ne2 Qf6 34.Qc3 Qg6 35.Qd3 Re8 36.Kh2 f6 37.Bf2 Bf7 38.Ra7 Qh5 39.Ng1 Nd6 40.Rxc7 Bg6 41.f5 Ne4 42.Qxd5+ Bf7 43.Qd7 Nxf2 44.b6 g5 45.b7 g4 46.Nf3 gxf3 47.Rc8 fxx2 48.Rxe8+ Bxe8 49.Qd5+ Kh7 50.Qxx2 Nxx3 51.b8Q Ng5 52.Qf4 h3 53.Qgf1 Bf7 54.Qd3 Qh6 55.b4 Qf8 56.Qh4+ Kg8 57.b5 Qa8 58.Qf2 Ne4 59.Qg1+ Ng5 60.Qf2 Qb8+ 61.Kg1 Qe5 62.Qfe2 Qc5+ 63.Qee3 Qb4 64.b6 Qb2 65.Qde2 Qb1+ 66.Kh2 Qb4 67.Qc2 Qd6+ 68.Kg1 Qb4 69.Qc8+ Kh7 70.Qc7 Qb1+ 71.Qcc1 Qa2 72.Qg3 Kg7 73.Qcc3 h2+ 74.Qxx2 Qb1+ 75.Kg2 Bd5+ 76.Kf2 Qa2+ 0-1

Bologan,V - Shirov,A [B84] CAN op Edmonton (6), 14.07.2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Qc7 8.Qd2 b5 9.f3 Nbd7 10.a3 h5 11.0-0-0 Rb8 12.Bxb5 axb5 13.Ndxb5 Qb7 14.Qxd6 Be7 15.Bf4 e5 16.Bxe5 Qxb5 17.Nxb5 Rxb5 18.Qc6 Rc5 19.Qa8 Nxe5 20.b4 Rc4 21.Qa5 Nc6 22.Qb5 Be6 23.Rd5 Rc3 24.Kd2 Nxd5 25.exd5 Bf6 26.dxe6 fxe6 27.Rd1 h4 28.Kc1 0-0 29.Qa6 Nd4 30.Rxd4 Bxd4 31.Qxe6+ Rf7 32.a4 Re3 33.Qc4 Bc3 34.Kb1 Bf6 35.a5 Rc3 36.Qd5 Ra3 37.Kc1 g6 38.c4 Kg7 39.c5 Re7 40.Kd2 Bc3+ 41.Kd3 Bxb4+ 42.Kc4 Bc3 43.c6 Bf6 44.Kb4 Ra1 45.Qd6 Rb1+ 46.Kc4 g5 47.g3 Re3 48.Qd7+ Kg6 49.Qd2 Rc3+ 50.Kd5 Rb5+ 51.Kd6 Rbc5 52.Qa2 Rxc6+ 53.Kd7 Rc7+ 54.Kd6 R3c6+ 55.Kd5 Rc2 56.Qb1 Kf5 57.g4+ Kg6 58.Kd6 Kg7 59.Qb5 Be7+ 60.Ke6 R2c6+ 0-1

Shabalov,A - Shirov,A [C02] CAN op Edmonton (8), 16.07.2005

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Nge7 7.Na3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Nc2 Qb6 10.0-0 Na5 11.g4 Ne7 12.Nfe1 Bb5 13.Nd3 h5 14.gxx5 Nf5 15.Be3 Nc6 16.a4 Bc4 17.b4 Qd8 18.Bg4 Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qg5 20.h3 Rxx5 21.Qf3 0-0-0 22.Qxf7 Rxx3 23.Qxe6+ Kb8 24.Rxf8 Rg3+ 25.Kf2 Rxx4 26.Qd6+ Ka8 27.Rxd8+ Nxd8 28.Qd7 Rg2+ 29.Ke1 Qg3+ 30.Kd1 Qf3+ 0-1

Shirov,A - Bluvshstein,M [C42] CAN op Edmonton (9), 17.07.2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Qc2 Na6 10.a3 Bg4 11.Ne5 Bf5 12.b4 f6 13.Nf3 Qe8 14.b5 Qh5 15.bxa6 Bg4 16.Re1 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qxh2+ 18.Kf1 f5 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.fxe4 fxe4 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Be3 Bg3 23.Ra2 Rf3 0-1

Sladek, V - Escandor,M [D25] CAN op Edmonton (9), 16.07.2005

[Sladek,Vaclav]

45...Kg5



White can take a perpetual with Nh7+ and Nf6+ but he has a winning blow. Can you find it? **46.Rxd5!** The rook is untouchable: do you see why? **46...Rh8 47.f4+ gxf3 48.Ne4+ Kh5 49.Kxh3 f5 50.exf6+ Qxd5 51.g4+ Kg6 52.Nc3+ Kxf6 53.Nxd5+ exd5** And White won. **1-0**

INTERNET SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

An initiative of the World Chess Network, this online championship was conducted in two age groups (5-9 and 10-16) and four elimination rounds from April to July, 2005. The eight qualifiers in each category then participated in knock-out finals, held over-the-board in Las Vegas on the weekend of July 9-10. Four Canadians made it to the finals: Daniel Kazmaier (Alberta) in the 10-16 category, and Christopher Knox (Ontario) and our own Alexandra Botez and Donovan Zhao in the 5-9 category.



Kazmaier ended up winning his category, earning \$2000 US in the process, while Knox, Botez, and Zhao finished fourth, sixth, and eighth respectively in the 5-9 category. Congratulations to Alexandra and Donovan for getting to the finals of this prestigious competition!

Further details:

<http://wcn.tentonhammer.com/index.php?module=ContentExpress&file=index&func=display&ceid=1&meid=39>

2005 MACSKASY MEMORIAL

This event is being held to honour the late Dr. Elod Macskasy, a UBC mathematics professor who was for many years B.C.'s premier player and a role model, friend and mentor of many of B.C.'s top players. The event will be held in the building in which he worked. Elod left us in 1990.

Dates: July 30-August 1, 2005 (Saturday, Sunday, Monday)

Location: Mathematics Building, 1984 Mathematics Road, V6T 1Z2, University of British Columbia.

Format: A series of 6-player round robins, CFC and FIDE rated, depending on registrants. Groupings will be determined by the higher of a player's FIDE or CFC rating at the date of that player's entry. For players who have neither FIDE nor CFC ratings, the tournament organizers will assign a notional rating based on the best information available as to that player's strength.

The top six rated players will play in the first group, the next six in the second group, and so on, subject to the qualification that the tournament organizers reserve the right to adjust the ranking of the players for the second and lower groups in order to ensure, if possible, that each group contains four FIDE-rated players so that the remaining two players in those groups will be able to obtain FIDE ratings. However, no player's ranking shall be adjusted by more than 50 rating points to achieve this goal.

Time Controls: 40/120, SD/60

Rounds: 5 (10 / 4 ; 10 / 4 ; 10)

Prizes: Group 1: \$200 (*first*); \$100 (*second*); Group 2: \$150 (*first*); \$75 (*second*).
Remaining groups: \$100 (*first*); *free entry to the 2006 Macskasy Memorial (second)*.

Entry Fee: \$35, \$25 for junior, seniors, and FIDE-rated players without titles, free for FIDE-titled players and 2005 WYCC competitors.

Registration: contact Bruce Harper, Stephen Wright, or Ben Daswani:
bruce54321@shaw.ca , swright2@2telus.net , bndaswani@dccnet.com

Deadline: All entries must be **received** by Monday, July 25, 2005, 12:00 midnight. Because the round robin groupings must be made prior to the event, **registrations received after this deadline will not be accepted.**

TD: Stephen Wright

Organizer: British Columbia Chess Federation

Miscellaneous: CFC rated, top groups also FIDE-rated, depending on registrants.

Contacts Jay Zhao wco2004@shaw.ca , Ben Daswani bndaswani@dccnet.com

ELOD MACSKASY (April 17, 1919 - January 21, 1990)

We here complete our series on Dr. Macskasy with three memorial articles, first published in the April 1990 edition of *En Passant*.

Nathan Divinsky:

Elod Macskasy was a gentle and generous soul who thoroughly enjoyed many aspects of life, and who preserved an impish sense of humour throughout his 70 years. He had absolutely no poison in him: envy, greed, and the other classical vices were simply unknown to him. When he beat you at chess, he almost apologized, and explained your loss away because of a hasty move or an unexpected quirk in the position.

Macskasy was mathematician, teacher, stamp collector, football pools expert, horse racing handicapper, penny stock expert, bridge player, and gourmet, as well as a chess master. He loved to talk politics, medicine and human nature. He was not perfect. As a dreamer who seldom went to sleep before 3:00 am, he was often late for appointments. He always promised to write but seldom finished a project. But he never took himself too seriously and saw the humour in people and their foibles. He was especially amused by the petty jealousies of academia, the politicking and intense passions aroused over trivialities. He agreed with the observation that campus passions and feuds were intense because the stakes were so small.

Macskasy was very Hungarian - happy to be one and proud of Hungarian achievement. He knew and was influenced by Grandmaster Geza Maroczy and the famous bridge master Robert Darvas.



Remembering the Doc by Gordon Taylor

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the recent death of Dr. Elod Macskasy. I'm sure my feelings are shared by just about every chessplayer who played in British Columbia in the past thirty-odd years, for Dr. Macskasy, or simply the Doc as he was better known, had evolved into one of B.C.'s chess legends. The Doc emigrated (fled ?) to Canada in 1956 from his native Hungary following the Soviet invasion of that year. I can't say if he felt he had to flee, he probably just thought it a good idea at the time. He soon settled in Vancouver and even worked for a time at a White Spot restaurant (or so he once told me, but it becomes difficult to separate the man from the legend). Then he applied for a teaching position at U.B.C. The interviewer asked him what he could teach, and the Doc answered, "Anything!" He was soon giving lectures in mathematics and was still going strong when I left B.C. in 1984.

Dr. Macskasy was born in what is now Romania - Transylvania - where they're having all that unrest now as the Hungarian minority seeks to reassert their national identity. When he was young he studied in Budapest (also playing a lot of chess, I dare say), but he had other interests and competed as a swimmer at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. During the war he fought in the Hungarian army against the Russians and was captured and held in a prisoner of war camp. Survival was tenuous. As he later described it, "You could take a shit, and then it would blow away!" After the war he completed his studies, played chess and built up a fabulous stamp collection.

His arrival in Vancouver was a tremendous boon to chess in B.C. Together with Nathan Divinsky, he took over the magazine *Canadian Chess Chat*, then the official organ of the CFC. The first issue I've seen having them as joint editors, in the 6"x9" format, is dated December, 1959. In 1958 the Doc had won the Canadian Open held in Winnipeg. He competed in many Canadian Closed Championships, his best finish perhaps being in 1963 when he placed 3rd behind Yanofsky and Vranesic. That Closed was held in Winnipeg and B.C.'s two representatives were Macskasy and the young Duncan Suttles, then 17 years old. Suttles finished in a tie with Kalotay in 8th-9th place. Two years later in Vancouver Yanofsky won again, Joyner was 2nd, Suttles 3rd and the Doc 4th. It wasn't a very representative championship but it did show that the pupil was surpassing his teacher. Perhaps it's not my place to speak of the Doc's influence on Suttles' chess development. It's hard to measure these things, but I feel it was vast. And later Biyiasas also developed into a Grandmaster, largely due to the influence and tutelage of the Doc and Suttles (and his own hard work of course). You see, the Doc had played a lot of serious chess in Europe. When he fled Hungary he wasn't able to bring much with him apart from his family and stamp collection. But he did bring the professional attitude, and he spread it around.

My own friendship with the Doc began in 1974 when I arrived from Saskatchewan. He beat me in our first meeting at the Diamond Jubilee at Christmas of that year. I got my revenge at the Last Chance in late March, 1975 and then he went back in front, winning the following game from the 1975 B.C. Closed:

Taylor,G - Macskasy,E [A94] BC ch Vancouver, 05.1975

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 0-0 8.Ba3 Bxa3 9.Nxa3 Bd7 10.Nc2 Be8 11.Nce1 Nbd7 12.Nd3 Bh5 13.Nfe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Nd7 15.Nd3 Qf6 16.Nf4 Bf7! Tesuji, though I was too young to know this at the time! **17.h4 dxc4 18.bxc4 e5!** Black's opening problems are now behind him. **19.dxe5 Nxe5 20.c5 Rfd8 21.Qc2 b5 22.cxb6 axb6 23.a4 Rac8 24.e4 fxe4 25.Bxe4 g6 26.Rad1 Kg7 27.Rfe1 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Re8 29.Bg2 Nc4 30.Rd7?!** The beginning of a bad plan. Now I gradually get outplayed as my pieces lose their coordination. **Re1+ 31.Kh2 Ne5 32.Rc7?! Qd6 33.Rb7 Kh6 34.Rxb6 Qd7 35.Bh3 Qd4 36.Rb2? Nf3+ 37.Kg2 Bd5 38.Nxd5 Qxd5 39.Bc8 Nd4+!** A good example of the professional approach. It is true that 39...Nxf4+ leads to mate, but as the Doc explained, in time trouble you should just take the Q, and then your opponent must resign! **40.Kh2 Nxc2 0-1**

Soon after this the Doc registered one of his finest results by tying for 2nd-4th at the 1975 Vancouver International, now best remembered as the last event Paul Keres played in (and won). Now it may be said that the Doc collected a few favours at this tournament as his draws with Forintos, Bilek and Keres were all rather short, and his last round draw with Suttles somewhat mysterious, but he was full value for the money with his wins over Walter Browne and his long time Seattle rivals 'Dirty' Jim McCormick and Victors Pupols. The Doc made an IM norm with this result, but lacked the time and energy to further pursue the title.



When I left Vancouver in 1984 the Doc was just about to retire from U.B.C. I think he wanted to devote more time to his stamp collection, play in the occasional chess tournament, and maybe spend the odd day at the race track (he did very well betting the ponies!). It's sad that he wasn't able to further enjoy his retirement years, but his memory will last a long, long time. Receiving a trophy as Canadian Speed Chess Champion from John G. Prentice, Brockville 1961

A Personal Remembrance by Jonathan Berry

The Canadian chess community was saddened to hear of the death, suddenly, of Dr. Elod Macskasy (the Hungarian name is pronounced something like MUCH-cash-ee) on January 21, 1990. Elod Macskasy was born 7 April 1919 in Arad, now part of Romania. 'The Doc,' as he was affectionately called (in third person only) by chess players, emigrated to Canada after the Hungarian Revolution. Upon arriving, he had what was arguably his best tournament result, winning the Canadian Open at

Winnipeg. He became an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. There he greatly influenced future GM Duncan Suttles, becoming almost a second father, and also future GM Peter Biyiasas. He won a large number of tournaments in B.C., Washington and Oregon, and represented Canada with distinction at several Olympiads. He never gained the IM title, but his 16 victories in individual games with GMs (including Smyslov) is a mark that many would envy. Among his other interests were philately, equestrian, and speculative investing. As a young man he had been a championship swimmer. After his retirement from teaching, he appeared to some eyes to be getting younger, and he still occasionally played in tournaments. He will be missed.

It is well-known that Dr. Macskasy had a great influence on the chess careers of GMs Duncan Suttles and Peter Biyiasas. Hardly any body, however, knows that he had a decisive influence on my life. Dr. Macskasy's background and nature often made him regard laws as guide lines only, subject to higher ideals. In chess, that meant he placed sportsmanship above strict observance of the rules. For example, in an important tournament game, which was held at the Macskasy home, my flag fell as I was about to make the time control move. I immediately stopped and recorded a win for him, but he tried to convince me that I hadn't really lost and that the game should continue. In that, he was unsuccessful. The local circle of young players was very strict about rules. Another facet of his optimistic nature revealed itself in chess. He would have been even more successful, except that, in some games, his pieces would be on their way to the best squares, but would never arrive there.

In 1974, the B.C. provincial championship collapsed when six of the eight finalists withdrew from the tournament following a ruling by the highest officials of the B.C. Chess Federation (BCCF). The details are unimportant now, but I was the spokesman for the 'strict' group which withdrew, while Dr. Macskasy, who had been a party to the dispute, was one of the two indefatigable competitors. A couple of weeks later, Dr. Macskasy invited me out of lunch and suggested that I run for the position of the BCCF official whose actions I had criticized the most harshly. Dr. Macskasy was an optimist, so he would never put it that way, but something like 'I think you would do a good job in that position.' As an impressionable youth of 20, I heeded that voice of gentle authority. True, nobody else wanted the position. But the experience gained there led to my making chess a career. It all started in a Hungarian restaurant on 4th Avenue in Vancouver. Otherwise, I would have been teaching English in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. But that's not a chess story.

MORPHY NUMBERS: A B.C. PERSPECTIVE

"Six degrees of separation" is the popular name of a theory which proposes that everyone on the earth is connected with everyone else through a series of at most five intermediate acquaintances. First suggested in 1929 by the Hungarian writer Frigyes Karinthy, the theory came into prominence with the postal experiments of psychologist Stanley Milgram ("the small-world problem") in the late 1960s. The phrase "six degrees of separation" was popularized through the play and film of the same name by John Guare in the early 1990s; this in turn led to the trivia game *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon*, in which players have to demonstrate a link between a given actor and Kevin Bacon through the least number of shared film appearances. For example, Elvis Presley appeared in *Change of Habit* (1969) with

Edward Asner, and Asner was in *JFK* (1991) with Kevin Bacon. Therefore Asner and Presley would have Bacon numbers of 1 and 2 respectively. Anyone appearing with Presley in another film would have a Bacon number of 3, assuming there wasn't a shorter link. In similar fashion, concert pianists are fond of pointing out their pedagogical lineage (if they have a worthwhile one), e.g., current pianist Craig Liebtraaten studied with Gyorgy Sebok, who studied with Béla Bartók, who studied with István Thomán, who studied with Franz Liszt, who studied with Karl Czerny, who studied with Ludwig van Beethoven.

Well, as you may have guessed by now, the six degrees of separation theory has recently been applied to chess. Historian Taylor Kingston, on a break from his more profound researches, has written "Your Morphy Number Is Up" (currently available in the skittles room at www.chesscafe.com, although it will soon find its way to the archives at the same site). Taking the legendary American player Paul Morphy as the centre of the chessic universe, Kingston links other players to Morphy through games contested between the intermediaries. He uses a rather liberal interpretation of the term 'games' (including simultaneous displays, offhand games, consultation games, etc.) so as to include as many 'average' players as possible. Starting from Morphy, Kingston gives the prominent members of each Morphy number group (those who personally played Morphy have a Morphy number of 1, those who played a MN1 are MN2, and so on). His own MN is 5, as follows: "in 1965 I played in a simultaneous exhibition against GM Arthur Bisguier. At New York 1948-49 Bisguier played former world champion Max Euwe, who at Piestyan 1922 played German master Siegbert Tarrasch, who at Frankfurt 1887 played Louis Paulsen, who at New York 1857 played Morphy."

Here are a few of Kingston's representative members; for more details see his article - in fact, if you've gotten this far, you should probably read his article before continuing.

MN0: Paul Morphy (1837-1884)

MN1: Adolf Anderssen (1818-1879) , Rev. John Owen (1827-1901), Henry Bird (1830-1908), Louis Paulsen (1833-1891)

MN2: Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900), Joseph Blackburne (1841-1924), Amos Burn (1848-1925), Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908), Isidor Gunsberg (1854-1930), Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941), Geza Maróczy (1870-1951), Harry Pillsbury (1872-1906)

MN3: Frank Marshall (1877-1944), Edward Lasker (1885-1981), Efim Bogolyubov (1889-1952), Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946), Fedor Bohatirchuk (1892-1984), Friedrich Sämisch (1896-1975), Max Euwe (1901-1981), George Koltanowski (1903-2000), Herman Steiner (1905-1955), Sammy Reshevsky (1911-1992), Mikhail Botvinnik (1911-1993), Arnold Denker (1914-2005), Paul Keres (1916-1975)

MN4: Svetozar Gligoric (1923), Abe Yanofsky (1925-2000), Pal Benko (1928), Arthur Bisguier (1929), Boris Spassky (1937), Yasser Seirawan (1960)

The number of players increases exponentially with each new generation, therefore I have only given those individuals who likely have an influence on B.C. Morphy numbers; only two Canadians appear - Yanofsky, who is in Kingston's original list, and Bohatirchuk, who qualifies as a MN3 via playing Emanuel Lasker (MN2).

So how do B.C. players measure up in terms of Morphy numbers? An obvious start is those who have played any of the above. This would include the following:

MN3:

Thomas Piper (1857-1938) played Blackburne and Gunsberg
Hebert Burrell (1870-1956) played Blackburne
Dave Creemer (1902-1953) played Em. Lasker and Maróczy

MN4:

Jack Taylor (1907-1974) played Koltanowski
Elod Macskasy (1919-1990) played Keres
Miervaldis Jursevskis (1921) played Bohatirchuk, Bogolyubov, Sämisch ...
Nathan Divinsky (1925) played Bohatirchuk
Duncan Suttles (1945) played Reshevsky, Botvinnik, Keres ...
Bob Zuk (1947) played Keres
Peter Biyiasas (1950) played Keres
Jonathan Berry (1953) played Keres
Bruce Harper (1954) played Keres

MN5:

Gary Basanta (1968) played Bisguier
Jack Yoos (1969) played Tukmakov, who played Reshevsky

Of course, this is based purely upon printed results - there may be quicker links which I am not aware of. In the realm of conjecture one can speculate about the many early immigrants to B.C., of whom we know next to nothing about their opponents. For example, Thomas Piper is officially MN3, but likely he is MN2 - it seems probable that he would have played the likes of Owen or Bird before leaving England in the mid 1880s. The same could be said of Bertram Yates (1868-1953), Walter de Havilland (1872-1968), or John Ewing (1889-1952) - we simply do not know who they might have played in offhand or simultaneous games. (See <http://www3.telus.net/public/swright2/homepage.html> for more information on these individuals). Continuing such speculation, it is possible Macskasy played offhand games with Maróczy (they knew each other - see Divinsky's article above), giving Macskasy a MN of 3. Or Jack Taylor might have played offhand games with Thomas Piper when they met in Victoria in 1929, thus possibly lowering Taylor's MN to 3.

Another source of potential links is through simultaneous displays, although the possibility of tracing such links is very slight - we usually are not given a complete list of participants in a simul. Important Canadian simuls were given by Steinitz, Em. Lasker, Maróczy, and Pillsbury (all MN2), while Henry Bird (MN1) visited Montreal in the 1860s. In B.C. simuls were given by Marshall, Euwe, Koltanowski, Steiner, Reshevsky, and Keres (all MN3), also by Yanofsky, Bisguier, and Spassky (all MN4) - this list does not include simuls by the local players mentioned above.

My own MN is 5, through at least two different routes:

Wright - Jursevskis - Bogolyubov - Tarrasch - Paulsen - Morphy, and
Wright - Berry - Keres - Maróczy - Owen - Morphy

So what's your Morphy number? It might not help you win your next tournament, but a small thrill can result from the knowledge that you are linked with the likes of Tarrasch and Emanuel Lasker ...

[Postscript: twenty years ago in Ontario there was a rather bizarre character by the name of William Klarner, a.k.a. Billy Oxygen. He managed to beat Kevin Spraggett in one of Peter Stockhausen's Belleville tournaments, and thereafter was fond of making the following assertion: "I beat Spraggett, and Spraggett beat Ivanov, and Ivanov beat Karpov, so I'm better than Karpov!"]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Little Mountain Saturday Morning Swiss

Dates: Five Saturdays (Starting on June 25)

Place: Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, 3981 Main Street, Vancouver, BC (near 25th Ave.)

Rounds: 5

Type: Swiss or Accelerated Swiss if needed

Round Times: 10:15 AM

Rating Details: CFC regular rated but CFC membership not required

Time Controls: 90 minutes + 30 seconds increment per move (FIDE)

Entry Fee: 15.00 dollars with CFC membership & 20.00 without CFC membership

Prizes: Based on Entries + Special Prizes courtesy of Chess First Enterprises.

Participation Prize: 10% of total entries per tournament will be given in a random draw to a player that attends all the rounds.

Registration: 10:00 AM or in advance by email: lazmitia@sfu.ca or xramis1@yahoo.ca If you register early by e-mail you will be not receive a BYE in the first round.

Byes: (1/2) point bye when requested in advance. (1) point bye if player attends another tournament that is announced in the BCCF website (counts toward the participation prize).

Organizers:

Eduardo Azmitia: e-mail: lazmitia@sfu.ca Aaron Cosenza

xramis1@yahoo.ca **Miscellaneous:** If possible bring your own equipment. Please support our sponsors: Chess First! Enterprises <http://www.northshorechess.com/>

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House <http://www.lmnhs.bc.ca/>

Please visit the following site for updates and more details

<http://www3.telus.net/chessvancouver/>

North West Chess Club Active Tournament

Date: August 20th, 2005, 10am-5pm.

Location: Mollie Nye House, 940 Lynn Valley Road, North Vancouver (This the Chess Club's new location).

Entry fees: \$20.00

Prizes: 50% of entry fees.

Registration: e-mail oszisakk@telus.net

The games are 25 minutes each side; five round Swiss.

Organizer: Joe Oszvald 604-980-4249 (evenings)

Macskasy Memorial

Dates: July 30 - August 1

Place: UBC

Type: round robins

Labour Day Open

Dates: September 3-5

Place: University of Victoria

Type: 6-round Swiss