

# BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #76

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Stephen Wright

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

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**KEEPING UP WITH TRADITION** by Jon Anderson

## **Pontoni Memorial, August 14, 2005, Roma Cafe, Commercial Drive**

The first Pontoni Memorial was held in 1986 in honour of noisy Italian eccentric Andre Pontoni. He was a terrible chessplayer, but he played with great "authority," if you know what I mean. A few of you may recall his little chess cafe on Commercial Drive in the late 1970s, The Checkmate Gallery. He'd also "hustled" art and morphed into a psychoanalyst after leaving the priesthood. Ok, it was a tortured history. See his autobiography *From the Confessional to the Couch* for more details.

The tourneys take place every year or two or three....depending on how long it takes them to hunt me down. It took them longer than normal this time.

The Pontoni is different from rated tournaments, and it's a tradition which keeps it going. Anyone can play without the necessity of joining chess federations or affiliates. Entry fees are cheap. This year they were \$10, the highest ever. Oh, and the prize money is always guaranteed and significantly more than what's taken in as entry fees. That's because the owners of the Roma are pretty cool guys and gladly contribute the lion's share of the guaranteed prizes.

Playing conditions are very different as well. They are noisy. Hey, they're held in Italian coffee bars! So there's not much we can do about that. Nor would we try. One must be willing to forego normal tournament tolerances because it's the Pontoni! It's a different breed of cat.

We've adopted quickplay (G/30) as our time control the last few years. That way we can play a 5-round Swiss in an afternoon. Of twelve players, half were rated 2000 or higher. Modest turnouts and quality players are another tradition.

Philip Kim put in a solid performance of three wins and two draws to claim the \$150 1st prize. Young Eduardo Tang secured the 2nd place prize of \$90 by drawing his last round game with Gerry Forbes. Forbes, multiple past winner, claimed the \$60 3rd prize.

I'd like to thank everyone who turned out to play or spectate. And thanks also for running my announcement via forum and email with very little notice. That's how this year's winner became aware of the tournament!

Took these last round photos with my crude cell phone of the prize winners. Thanks again, everyone. I had a blast. Let's do it again.



Philip Kim  
Edward Tang

Gerry Forbes and

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### **DAN SCOONES SIMUL**

A recent simultaneous display by Dan Scoones received coverage in the Globe and Mail:

#### **Chess enthusiasts learn a hard lesson from a true master**

By TOM HAWTHORN

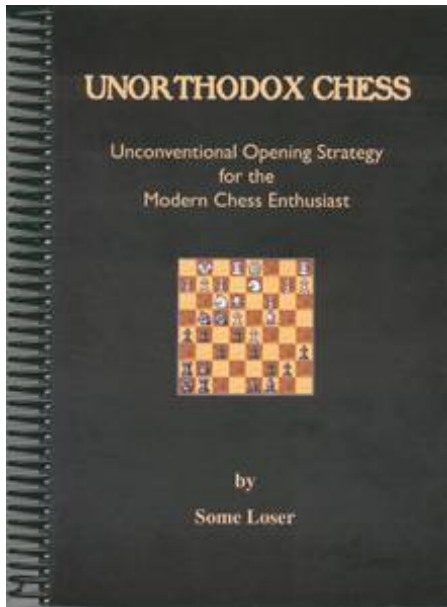
Special to The Globe and Mail

Wednesday, August 10, 2005, Page S1

(The online full text edition is only available to INSIDER Edition subscribers)

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## UNORTHODOX CHESS by Some Loser



Yes, you read it correctly - the author of this recently-released book is given as 'Some Loser.' It would be easy to dismiss such a work out of hand; however, I will try to present a more detailed opinion.

This monograph, measuring some 8 by 10 inches, consists of 369 pages, spiral bound with soft covers. It is produced by Trafford Publishers, an internet-based vanity publisher with offices in Victoria (B.C.), Crewe (England), and Drogheda (Ireland). The asking price is a hefty \$125 Canadian. Subtitled 'Unconventional Opening Strategy for the Modern Chess Enthusiast,' the book consists of three chapters: Conventional Opening Strategy, Passive Aggression, and Subterfuge.

Chapter One contains "some sample games and analyses of mainstream chess openings in which I'll present my favourite lines and pet variations, including valuable improvements and novelties, which can be reasonably well relied upon to yield satisfactory results if not mishandled." Turning to the first game one finds 1.e4 e5 2.c3 Nf6 3.f3; there are samples of standard openings (Giuoco Piano, Cochrane Gambit in the Petrov's, 2.c4 against the Sicilian), but the author goes on to examine literally every legal first move, including 1.a4 and 1.h4. Some of the improvements and novelties include playing 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Qe7! in the Petrov Defence (according to the author the normal 3...d6 is dubious as it is refuted by -- the Cochrane Gambit!), and 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.a3!?, which the author claims as a novelty but which was played by Gunsberg, Maroczy, Tarrasch, and Nimzowitsch, and is featured in *Secrets of Opening Surprises* by Jeroen Bosch.

In Chapter Two the author describes a style he terms passive aggression. This is the 'give a man enough rope' school of chess - "start off by playing extremely cautiously and conservatively so as to offer no advantages or tactical opportunities to your opponent, while being always on the alert for opportunities to take advantage of any mistakes or oversights on his part." He states this approach is commonly referred to as the Hedgehog or Hippopotamus, yet nowhere in the chapter do we find examples of the Hedgehog (itself a perfectly legitimate mainstream opening). Instead, the author advocates a particular formation, e.g., for White: 1.g3 2.f3 3.e3 4.d3 5.Nh3 6.Nf2 7.Bg2 8.O-O, followed by either 9.Re1 10.Nd2 11.Ne1 or 9.Qe2 10.Rd1 11.Nd2 12.Nf1. This can also be played in mirror image on the queenside, or with the Black pieces.

Chapter Three approaches "the limits of eccentricity," presenting opening moves designed to shock and/or goad the opponent into lashing out. These include simply developing and undeveloping the knights several times, the infamous 1.f3 2.Kf2, and the author's "ultimate deadly secret weapon," 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 d5!? (the 'Trojan Gambit').

In each chapter the author's method is to give a short prose introduction to the given subject, followed by numerous sample games, divided into sections for White and Black. In total I would estimate there are some two thousand games in the book, mostly given without annotation or with only a few symbols or brief notes; only occasionally is a position analyzed in detail. The only diagrams are on the first page of each chapter, there are none included elsewhere. No information is given about the games - names of players, ratings, events, dates, time controls, etc. are all missing. Given the quantity of the games and the type of formation espoused in chapter two I would guess many of them were played against computers or on the internet, but there's no way of knowing that. Some of the games are identifiable, and in six games from one tournament four of the game scores have been altered: a resignation instead being played out to mate, a drawn game changed to produce a win for one of the players, and two losses now resulting in two wins. Six games is obviously a very small sample from the two thousand-odd games given, but as white wins every game in the White Sections and black wins every game in the Black Sections (no draws at all!), I suspect this practice is fairly widespread.

The author has chosen to use a pseudonym; he presumably has his reasons for doing so which I respect. However, a writer's playing strength is an important criterion when considering a chess book, so I will reveal his peak rating was around 2100 (CFC), and his success was due more to his own defensive skill in bad positions rather than the inherent worth of the opening systems he recommends. The author has obviously put a lot of time and effort (and money!) into producing this book; a collection of annotated games and anecdotes by a local player might have been of interest, but unfortunately as an openings manual *Unorthodox Chess* is a travesty. For the same cash outlay one could purchase all *three* volumes of Bosch's *Secrets of Opening Surprises* series, and still have change left over.

Online information: <http://www.trafford.com/robots/04-2764.html>

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## LABOUR DAY OPEN

This year's Labour Day Open will shortly be upon us (see the tournament announcements below). As a preview, here is an overview of past events; this is a work in progress, as some sources are not currently available to me (or in some cases the information seems not to be available at all). As far as I can tell the tournament began in the early 1970s. More research is needed, but it appears that before that time the fall chess season was concentrated around club activities, while the interclub events, provincial championships, and larger Swisses generally took place in the spring and early summer. As a result the Labour Day weekend (also Thanksgiving) was not utilized as a tournament date until the 'Fischer boon' beginning in 1972.

Traditionally associated with Victoria (although it has also been held in Vancouver), the tournament has long been an Island qualifier for the B.C. Championship. Dan Scoones and Harry Moore have unsurprisingly been frequent winners, but a wide variety of other players have also won the event. 5-1 seems to be the standard winning score, with relatively few players achieving a better result. While sticking to the same weekend the tournament has not always been called the Labour Day Open - see the footnotes below.

	<b>Location</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Winner(s)</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>1971</b>	Not held - overlapped with Canadian Open			
<b>1972</b>	Victoria			
<b>1973</b>	Victoria	64	<b>Duncan Suttles</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1974</b>	Victoria	41	<b>Brian McLaren</b>	5.5- 0.5
<b>1975</b>	Vancouver	84	<b>Robert Chow, Elod Macskasy, Duncan Suttles, Jonathan Berry</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1976</b>				
<b>1977</b>	Vancouver	52	<b>Peter Biyiasas, Gordon Taylor, Paul Leblanc</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1978</b>				
<b>1979</b>	Vancouver	31	<b>Gordon Taylor, Ross Cameron</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1980</b>	Vancouver	40	<b>Bob Zuk</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1981</b>	Not held			
<b>1982</b>	Vancouver	22	<b>Paul Brown</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1983</b>	Victoria <sup>1</sup>	58	<b>Ray Fasano</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1984</b>	Victoria	30	<b>Dan Scoones</b>	6.0- 0.0
<b>1985</b>	Victoria <sup>2</sup>	50	<b>Jonathan Berry</b>	5.0- 1.0
<b>1986</b>	Victoria	35	<b>Harry Moore, Gary Basanta, Lionel Joyner</b>	4.5- 1.5
<b>1987</b>	Vancouver <sup>3</sup>	48	<b>Gary Basanta</b>	5.5- 0.5
<b>1988</b>	Victoria <sup>4</sup>	40	<b>Leon Piasetski</b>	5.0- 1.0

<b>1989</b>	Victoria	31	<b>Dan Scoones</b>	5.5-0.5
<b>1990</b>	Victoria <sup>5</sup>		<b>Jonathan Berry</b>	6.0-0.0
<b>1991</b>	Victoria	28	<b>Dan Scoones</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>1992</b>	Victoria	30	<b>Harry Moore</b>	5.5-0.5
<b>1993</b>	Victoria	42	<b>Ed Seedhouse, Ian Martinovsky</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>1994</b>	Victoria	30	<b>Saif Kanani, Howard Wu, Gerhard Neufahrt</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>1995</b>				
<b>1996</b>	Victoria	21	<b>Gary Basanta, Harry Moore</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>1997</b>	Victoria	29	<b>Harry Moore</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>1998</b>	Victoria	24	<b>Jim Ferguson, Harry Moore</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>1999</b>	Victoria	33	<b>Dan Scoones, Jim Ferguson, Harry Moore</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>2000</b>	Victoria	19	<b>Gerhard Neufahrt</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>2001</b>	Victoria	21	<b>Paul Leblanc, Howard Wu, Dan Scoones, Harry Moore</b>	4.5-1.5
<b>2002</b>	Victoria	34	<b>Jack Yoos</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>2003</b>	Victoria	31	<b>Harry Moore</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>2004</b>	Victoria	25	<b>Dan Scoones</b>	5.0-1.0
<b>2005</b>	Victoria			

<sup>1</sup> B.C. Open

<sup>2</sup> MacAdam Centennial

- <sup>3</sup> Vancouver Open  
<sup>4</sup> MacAdam Memorial  
<sup>5</sup> B.C. Open

Some selected games:

**Biyiasas,P - Kerr,R [B01] Labour Day op Victoria, 1972**

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 g6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Nc3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3  
9.Qxf3 Bxd4 10.c5 Bxe3 11.fxe3 N6d7 12.Qxb7 c6 13.0-0-0 0-0 14.Be2 Nxc5  
15.Qxa8 Qb6 16.Nd5 cxd5 17.Qxd5 Nc6 18.Kb1 Rb8 19.b3 e6 20.Qc4 Na5 21.Qc3  
Ne4 22.Qc2 Nf2 23.Rhf1 Nxd1 24.Bxd1 Qc6 25.Bf3 Qxc2+ 26.Kxc2 Rc8+ 27.Kb2 Kf8  
28.Rc1 Rxc1 29.Kxc1 e5 30.Kd2 Ke7 31.Kc3 Kd6 32.b4 Nc6 33.Bxc6 Kxc6 34.Kc4 f5  
35.b5+ Kb6 36.Kb4 f4 37.exf4 exf4 38.a4 g5 39.a5+ Kc7 40.Kc3 h5 41.Kd3 g4  
42.h4 Kd6 43.Ke4 f3 44.gxf3 gxf3 45.Kxf3 Kc5 46.Kf4 1-0

**Suttles,D - Haines,D [A00] Labour Day op Victoria (3), 02.09.1973**

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.d3 e6 4.Nd2 c5 5.e4 Nc6 6.Ne2 Be7 7.0-0 b6 8.h3 Bb7 9.f4 0-0  
10.g4 Ne8 11.g5 f6 12.h4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nd6 14.Nxd6 Bxd6 15.Ng3 Qd7 16.Bd2  
Rae8 17.Ne4 Bb8 18.Rf2 fxg5 19.hxg5 Nd4 20.Bh3 Nf5 21.Qg4 c4 22.Bc3 cxd3  
23.Nf6+ gxf6 24.gxf6+ Kf7 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.Qg5+ Kf7 27.Kh2 Rd8 28.Qh5+ Kg8  
29.Rg1+ Kh8 30.Bxf5 1-0

**Suttles,D - Chow,R [A36] Labour Day op Vancouver (4), 31.08.1975**

1.g3 c5 2.Bg2 Nc6 3.a3 g6 4.c4 Bg7 5.Nc3 d6 6.Rb1 a5 7.d3 e5 8.Nf3 Nge7 9.0-0 0-0  
10.Bd2 Rb8 11.h3 h6 12.Ne1 Be6 13.Kh2 d5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Qc1 Nd4 16.Bxd5  
Bxd5 17.Bxh6 Bc6 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qe3 Rh8 20.Ne4 f5 21.Ng5 Qf6 22.Ngf3 f4  
23.Qd2 Qe6 24.h4 Qg4 25.Rg1 Rbf8 26.Rg2 fxg3+ 27.fxg3 Bxf3 28.exf3 Rxf3  
29.Qd1 Rxh4+ 30.gxh4 Qf4+ 31.Kh1 Rf1+ 0-1

**Hill,A - Biyiasas,P [C87] Labour Day op Vancouver (4), 04.09.1977**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 d6 7.c3 0-0 8.d4 exd4  
9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.cxd4 b5 11.Bc2 c5 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.e5 dxe5 14.dxe5 Nd5 15.Be4  
Nxc3 16.Qxd8 Ne2+ 17.Kf1 Rfxd8 18.Bxb7 Ra7 19.Be4 Nd4 20.Be3 f6 21.exf6 Bxf6  
22.Rac1 c4 23.b3 Re7 24.f3 cxb3 25.Bxd4 Rxd4 26.axb3 a5 27.Rc8+ Kf7 28.Ra8 a4  
29.Bxh7 Rxe1+ 30.Kxe1 Be7 31.bxa4 bxa4 32.Bg8+ Kf6 33.Ke2 a3 34.g3 Rb4 35.h4  
Rb2+ 36.Ke3 Bc5+ 37.Ke4 Rd2 38.Ra6+ Ke7 39.g4 Rd4+ 40.Kf5 Rd8 41.Bc4 Rd4  
42.Bg8 Rd8 43.Bc4 Rd4 44.Be6 Rd3 45.f4 Rd4 46.Kg5 Re4 47.f5 Be3+ 48.Kh5 g6+  
49.fxg6 Rxe6 50.Rxa3 Kf8 51.Ra5 Re7 52.Rb5 Kg8 53.g5 Kg7 54.Rf5 Re4 55.Rf7+  
Kg8 56.Rb7 Bf4 57.Kh6 Be5 58.h5 Rb4 59.Re7 Bd6 60.Rg7+ Kh8 61.Rd7 Bf8+  
62.g7+ Bxg7+ 63.Rxg7 Rb6+ 64.Rg6 Rb8 65.Ra6 Rc8 66.g6 Kg8 67.Kg5 Rb8 68.Ra5  
Rc8 69.h6 Rb8 70.h7+ Kh8 71.Kh6 1-0

**Scoones,D - Cabanas,F [E05] Labour Day op Victoria (3), 01.09.1991**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 dxc4 7.Ne5 Nbd7 8.Nxc4 c5  
9.Nc3 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Bc5 11.Qd3 e5 12.Rd1 Qe7 13.Be3 Ng4 14.Bxc5 Nxc5 15.Qd6

Qxd6 16.Nxd6 Rb8 17.b4 Ne6 18.Nd5 Bd7 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Nxf7+ Rxf7 21.Rxd7 Rf6  
22.Nd5 1-0

### **Moore,H - Ferguson,J [A48] Labour Day op Victoria (6), 06.09.1999**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 Bg7 4.Bg5 0-0 5.Nbd2 d6 6.e4 Qe8 7.Bc4 e5 8.0-0 Nc6  
9.Re1 h6 10.Bh4 Nh5 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.d5 Ne7 13.Na5 Rb8 14.a4 Bf6 15.Bxf6 Nxf6  
16.h3 Bd7 17.Bf1 Nh5 18.g3 f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Bb5 Bxb5 21.axb5 Nf6 22.c4 Qh5  
23.Nh4 Qg5 24.Nb3 f4 25.Kg2 fxg3 26.fxg3 Kh8 27.Qd2 Qg7 28.Nd4 Nh5 29.Ra3 Rf6  
30.Ne6 Qg8 31.Rf3 Qh7 32.Qf2 Rxf3 33.Qxf3 Qc2+ 34.Re2 Qxc4 35.Kh2 Qxd5  
36.Ng6+ Kh7 37.Qf7+ 1-0

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Back-to-school Open**

Do you wish the relaxing days of summer would last a little longer? Well, join us the weekend after Labour Day for an UNRATED chess tournament at the Vancouver Bridge Centre! No anxiety about maintaining a rating, instead come and enjoy five competitive games, where the only things on the line are pride and a few cash prizes. Added bonus: no CFC membership required!

Dates: September 9 – 11, 2005

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

Rounds: 5

Times: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm; September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 am and 3 pm

Type: Regular Swiss

Time Controls: 30/90, SD/60

Byes: Rds. 1-4

Entry Fee: Adults \$30, Juniors/Seniors \$20

Prizes: Based on entries.

Registration: In advance or at site 5:15 – 5:45 pm

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](mailto:mail-for-katherine@telus.net)

Stephen Wright, 604-221-7148, e-mail: [swright2@telus.net](mailto:swright2@telus.net)

### **UBC Tuesday Night Swiss**

Date: Tuesdays - current cycle started August 16

Location: Room 417, Henry Angus Building, UBC

Format: 5-round Swiss

Time control: 2 hours sudden death

Time: 6:30 sharp

Entry fees: \$15 for adults, \$12 for juniors and UBC club members, \$10 under 1100 (excluding unrated)

TD info.: Aaron Cosenza, 604 327-4714, [xramis1@yahoo.ca](mailto:xramis1@yahoo.ca)



### **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](mailto:oszisakk@telus.net)

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

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

### **Labour Day Open**

Dates: September 3-5

Place: University of Victoria, HSD Bldg A260

Type: 6-round Swiss

Entry Fee: \$35.00, \$25.00 juniors

Entry Fees returned as prizes minus expenses.

TC: 40/2:00, Game /1:00

Rounds: Sat 10:00am and 4:00pm, Sunday 10:00am and 4:00pm, Monday 9:00 and ASAP

Contact: Lynn Stringer, 250 658-5207 or [lynnstringer@shaw.ca](mailto:lynnstringer@shaw.ca)