

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #297

Your editor welcomes any and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. 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 AGM (May 17)

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Chess Federation was held between rounds on the Sunday of the Keres Memorial. The minutes should be published on the website shortly, but your executive for this year includes:

President – Eugenio Alonso Campos	Vice-President (Island) – Mark Dutton
Secretary – Lyle Craver	Treasurer – Paul Leblanc
Bulletin Editor – Stephen Wright	Webmaster – Len Molden
Tournament Coordinator – Michael Lo	Members at Large – Valer Eugen Demian, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, Darren Bates, Curtis Lister, Joe Soliven, Brian Sullivan

Any concerns, questions, or ideas on how the federation can help promote chess in B.C., please contact the above persons via the [BCCF](#) website.

Llucmajor International Open (May 10-17)

After being sidelined by cataract surgery for several months, IM Leon Piasetski has returned to the European tournament circuit for a series of events. The first of these was an International Open in Llucmajor, situated on the Mediterranean island of Majorca. The two hundred-player field included twenty-two grandmasters but was won by Turkish IM Ogulcan Kanmazalp with 7.5/9, just clear of a group of six players on 7.0. Leon finished the event with plus one, 5.0/9. [Standings](#)

Vancouver Rapid Chess League (May 10)



The beginning of the final round

The third season of the Vancouver Rapid Chess League has come to a close. The championship is a team competition, with a regular season which this year began in September and ran until March, followed by playoffs. Each match consists of three rounds, where three members of one team play three members of the opposing team in a Scheveningen format (games against everyone on the other team). The time control is fifteen minutes with a ten second increment or approximately twenty-five minutes per player, allowing all three rounds to be played in a single evening.

This year ten teams entered the competition, and after the regular season the standings were as follows (game points followed by match points):

1 BCS	45	12	(Butch's Chess School)
2 UBC	42	12	
3 BC Juniors	40	11	
4 Kingchops	39.5	9	
5 Chigorin CC	36	8	
6 PoCo CC	35	6	
7 SFU	23	4	
8 TTT	21	4	(Tenacious Torre Team)
9 VCS-1	19	3	(Vancouver Chess School students)
10 VCS-2	14.5	1	(Vancouver Chess School students)

Individual trophies (for players who participated in at least four matches and played at least eight games in the regular season) were awarded to the player who scored the most points overall (Joe Roback, 15 points) and to the three players with the best percentages (Alisher Sanetullaev, 95.8%; Butch Villavieja, 86.7%; Brian McLaren, 83.3%).

After the regular season the top eight teams entered the knockout playoff phase, leading to a final showdown on May 10 between the defending champion BC Juniors and the regular season leaders BCS; after two rounds the teams were tied, but the BC Juniors eked out a minimal 2.0-1.0 victory in the last round and thus retained their champion status for another year.



Konstantin Pyryaev with the winning team: Uranchimeg Nyamdorj, Jeremy Hui, Ryan Lo, Tanraj Sohal, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj. Missing was Luke Pulfer

An individual blitz tournament held concurrently with the rapid finals was won by Uranchimeg Nyamdorj, second was Len Molden. For further information or if you wish to join the league for the upcoming 2015-16 season, please contact organizer [Konstantin Pyryaev](#). [League website](#); [photos](#)

School Team Championship (May 10)



The fifteenth edition of the B.C. School Team Chess Championship took place at its traditional home, St. George's Junior School, on May 10. Organized by Luc Poitras, the tournament attracted one hundred and twenty-five participants in twenty-seven teams representing eighteen schools. In the A Section the home team won the championship for the sixth time (they were previously winners in 2006-2010) with 17 points, ahead of Marlborough (Burnaby) and defending champions Erma Stephenson (Surrey). The B Section saw the top two places reversed, Marlborough emerging victorious over St. George's B, while St. John's (Vancouver) and Mulgrave (West Vancouver) tied for third. Report at the [West Coast Junior Chess](#) website.

The honour roll:

2001 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2002 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2003 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2004 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2005 Queen Mary
2006 St. George's Junior
2007 St. George's Junior
2008 St. George's Junior

2009 St. George's Junior
2010 St. George's Junior
2011 Lochiel U-Connect
2012 Lochiel U-Connect
2013 Erma Stephenson
2014 Erma Stephenson
2015 St. George's Junior

May Active (May 9)

The May edition of the monthly actives held at the Vancouver Chess School attracted a total of thirty-three players, twenty-three in the Open and ten in the Junior Section. The Open Section saw the return of Butch Villavieja to the winner's circle, smoking the opposition with a perfect 6.0/6. Alfred Pechisker placed second, losing only to Butch; Mayo Fuentesbella also lost to Butch but in addition drew with Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj and thus placed third. Nathaniel Knox was the top U1700, while Ethan Low, Ryan Leong, and An Yu shared the other U1700 prizes.



Butch Villavieja and T.D. Joe Roback

The Junior Section was also won with a perfect score, achieved in this case by Andrew Hemstapat. Anna Van and Andrew Xu were the other trophy winners, while David Liu, Bruce Zhang, Nicholas Yang, Dagan Meredith, and Richard Chen were awarded medals. Watch for the next active, coming up on June 21.



Alfred Pechisker with some of the junior active winners

PAUL KERES MEMORIAL (May 16-18)

This year marked the fortieth anniversary of the Keres Memorial, one of B.C.'s preeminent tournaments. It also marked the changing of the guard in a number of ways, beginning with the organizers. For the past five years the tournament has been organized by Roger Patterson and Paul Leblanc (Victoria Chess), and their sterling work saw the Keres return to a hotel site and increase its attendance from eighty-one in 2009 to a high of ninety-eight two years ago. Joe

Roback and Alfred Pechisker took over the reins this year, retaining the same basic parameters and despite some teething troubles one hundred and thirteen players entered the tournament, the highest turnout since 1990. Many of these were juniors, who have been a large percentage of most events in the past decade, but there were also a notable number of adult players returning to competitive chess after hiatuses (your editor really wanted to write hiati, but apparently not) of various lengths. One can only hope this trend continues. The hotel ballroom used as playing hall was full to capacity, but this is a good problem to have.

The thirty-two player Premier Section was competitive from the start, including as it did two IMs, three FMs and seven National Masters. Top-ranked Georgi Orlov, previous winner of twelve Keres Memorials, offered a draw in the first round to Joe Roback; Roback declined and went on to lose. Orlov was held to a draw by Harry Moore in round two while Jack Yoos also drew with Butch Villavieja. In round three Yoos drew with Alfred Pechisker and Oliver Schulte split the point with Tanraj Sohal, leaving reigning B.C. Champion Jason Cao with the only remaining perfect score. This streak ended in round four when he drew with Schulte, allowing Orlov and Villavieja to catch Cao on 3.5/4 by defeating Sohal and Raymond Kaufman respectively.



Round 5, board 1 (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

The decisive encounter between Orlov and Cao occurred in round five; Cao won and took sole possession of the lead as Pechisker beat Villavieja for clear second. Pechisker drew with Cao in the last round leaving Jason as the 2015 Keres champion. Jason was also the winner of a special \$150 prize for Top Junior, donated by Valer Eugen Demian (64 Fun Solutions). Orlov, Schulte, and Yoos all won to tie with Alfred for second/third place; Oliver Schulte qualified for the 2015 B.C. Closed Championship on tiebreak. The U2200 prize was split three ways, between Butch Villavieja, Joshua Doknjas, and Roger Patterson.

In the U2000 Section Joe Soliven and Michael Su gave up an early draw and loss respectively but were able to win when they had to in the last two rounds to take the first and second prizes; Jean-Paul du Plessis came third. George Kim led the U1600 throughout and won the first prize with 5.5/6. Anderson Yee and James Li tied for second/third, John David Moje and Kai Wang split the U1400 prize, and Boya Yang was the top unrated. Many thanks to organizers Joe Roback and

Alfred Pechisker, assistant T.D. Henry Chiu, Roger Patterson, Paul Leblanc, Victoria Jung-Doknjas, and all those who helped out in ways large and small. [Standings and games](#); [photos](#)



Jason Cao with the B.C. Championship trophy, flanked by Joe Roback and Alfred Pechisker (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

Orlov, Georgi - Moore, Harry [E69] Keres mem 40th Richmond (2.1), 16.05.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.h3 c6 9.e4 Re8 10.d5 cxd5 11.cxd5 Nc5 12.Qe2 a5 13.Nd2 b6 14.a4 Ba6 15.Nb5 Qd7 16.b3 Reb8 17.Ra3 Ne8 18.Nb1 Nc7 19.N1c3 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Qh5 Rf8 22.Nxc7 Qxc7 23.Nb5 Bxb5 24.axb5 Nd3 25.Be3 Rab8 26.Rd1 Nc5 27.Qh4 e4 28.Qh5 Rbe8 29.Bf1 Kh8 30.Bc4 Be5 31.Kh1 Qe7 32.Ra2 f4 33.gxf4 Bxf4 34.Rg1 Bxe3 35.fxe3 Rg8 36.Rag2 Rxc2 37.Rxc2 Rg8 38.Rxc8+ Kxc8 39.Qg4+ Kf7 40.Qf5+ 1/2-1/2

Kaufman, Raymond - Cao, Jason [E12] Keres mem 40th Richmond (3.2), 17.05.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Qc2 Be7 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Qxc7 Nd7 10.e3 Rc8 11.Qg3 0-0 12.Bd2 Qb3 13.Be2 Qxb2 14.Rd1 Nf6 15.0-0 Ne4 16.Qh3 Nxd2 17.Nxd2 h6 18.Bf3 Ba6 19.Rfe1 Bxa3 20.Ne4 Bb4 21.Rb1 Bxe1 22.Rxb2 Rc1 23.Bd1 Rxd1 24.Qg4 Rc1 25.h4 Bc3+ 26.Kh2 Bxb2 27.Nf6+ Kh8 28.Nd7 Rd8 29.Ne5 Kg8 30.Qf4 Rc7 31.g3 Ba3 32.h5 Bd6 33.Qh4 Rdc8 34.Ng4 Be7 35.Qh3 Bb7 0-1

Sohal, Tanraj - Orlov, Georgi [E10] Keres mem 40th Richmond (4.2), 17.05.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.a3 d6 5.Nc3 g6 6.e4 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Be3 Ng4 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bc1 f5 12.Bg5 Qd7 13.h3 Nf6 14.d5 Nd8 15.exf5 exf5 16.Be3 Nf7 17.Qd2 h6 18.Nd4 Qe7 19.Rae1 a6 20.Bf3 Qf8 21.Ne6 Bxe6 22.dxe6 Nd8 23.Nd5 Nxe6 24.Nxf6+ Qxf6 25.Bxb7 Rab8 26.Qd5 Kh7 27.Ba7 Rbd8 28.Bxa6 Re7 29.Be3 f4 30.Bc1 Nd4 31.Rxe7 Qxe7 32.Bb7 Qd7 33.c5 Rf8 34.c6 Qe7 35.f3 Ne2+ 36.Kh2 Ng3 37.Rd1 Rf5 38.Qd3 Qh4 39.Bc8 Re5 40.Bd2 Re2 41.Rg1 Nf1+ 42.Kh1 Ng3+ 43.Kh2 Nf1+ 44.Kh1 Qf2 45.Bc3 Bxc3 46.bxc3 Re1 47.Qd4 Ne3 48.Rxe1 Qxg2# 0-1

Orlov, Georgi - Cao, Jason [E15] Keres mem 40th Richmond (5.1), 18.05.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qa4 c5 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.0-0 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxg2 9.Kxg2 Qc8
10.Bf4 Be7 11.Nb5 Qc6+ 12.f3 0-0 13.N1c3 Rc8 14.Rfd1 Ne8 15.Rac1 d6 16.Qa3 Rd8 17.Ne4 a6
18.Nbxd6 f5 19.c5 fxe4 20.Qb3 Bxd6 21.Qxe6+ Kh8 22.cxd6 exf3+ 23.exf3 Qb5 24.b3 Nf6 25.a4
Qh5 26.h4 Nbd7 27.g4 Qg6 28.Qc4 b5 29.Qd4 bxa4 30.bxa4 Re8 31.Re1 Nxc4 32.fxg4 Qxg4+
33.Kf1 Rxe1+ 34.Kxe1 Re8+ 35.Kd2 Qe2+ 36.Kc3 Re4 37.Kb3 h6 38.Qa7 Qd3+ 39.Rc3 Qb1+
40.Ka3 Qb4+ 41.Ka2 Re2+ 0-1

Yoos, Jack - Sohal, Tanraj [C02] Keres mem 40th Richmond (5.4), 18.05.2015

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 Nh6 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bd7 9.Bc2 g6 10.Nc3
Nf5 11.Na4 Qc7 12.Bxf5 gxf5 13.Bg5 b5 14.Nc3 Qb6 15.0-0 Rg8 16.h4 Na5 17.Qd3 Nc4 18.Rab1
a5 19.Rfc1 b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.Ne2 Bb5 22.Qd1 h6 23.Bf4 Rg4 24.g3 Ra2 25.Qb3 Ra7 26.Re1
Kd7 27.Nc1 Ba4 28.Qd3 Bb5 29.Qd1 Ba4 30.b3 Na3 31.Rb2 Bb5 32.Qd2 Rc7 33.Ne2 Bxe2
34.Rxe2 Nb5 35.Re1 Nc3 36.Rc1 Qa6 37.Kg2 Rc6 38.Rcc2 Ne4 39.Rxc6 Qxc6 40.Qd3 Nc3
41.Rc2 Qb6 42.Qd2 Qa6 43.Qc1 Ne2 44.Rc7+ Kd8 45.Qc2 Nxf4+ 46.Kh2 Be7 47.gxf4 Rxf4
48.Kg3 Rg4+ 49.Kh2 Rf4 50.Kg3 Rg4+ 51.Kh2 Rf4 ½-½

Doknjas, John - Yoos, Jack [E94] Keres mem 40th Richmond (6.4), 18.05.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Na6 8.Be3 c6 9.d5 Ng4 10.Bg5 f6
11.Bd2 f5 12.Ne1 Nf6 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Rb1 c5 16.Nd3 Qe8 17.a3 b6 18.b4 Nc7 19.Rb2
Bd7 20.Qb3 Qc8 21.a4 Bg5 22.Bf3 Ne8 23.bxc5 bxc5 24.Qb7 Bd8 25.Qxc8 Bxc8 26.Rfb1 Ba5
27.Rb8 Rxb8 28.Rxb8 Bd7 29.Nb5 a6 30.Rxe8 Rxe8 31.Nxd6 Rb8 32.h3 Bc7 33.Nxc5 Bxd6
34.Nxd7 Rb7 35.c5 Rxd7 36.cxd6 Rxd6 37.Be2 fxe4 38.Bc4 Kf8 39.Kf1 Rb6 40.a5 Rb4 41.Bxa6
Ra4 42.Bb7 Rxa5 43.d6 Ra4 44.Ke2 Rd4 45.Ke3 Rxd6 46.Kxe4 Re6 47.f4 exf4+ 48.Kxf4 Ke7
49.h4 Rf6+ 50.Kg4 Ke6 51.g3 Ke5 52.Bg2 Kd4 53.Bh1 Ke3 54.Bd5 Kf2 55.Be4 Kg1 56.Kh3 Re6
57.Bb1 h5 58.Bd3 Rb6 0-1

CANADIAN CHESS CHALLENGE (May 17-18)

This annual national scholastic team event took place in Quebec City on the Victoria Day weekend. The B.C. team, consisting of Ethan Su, Jason Qian, Lucian Wu, Patrick Huang, Leo Qu, Ethan Low, Ryan Leong, Matthew Geng, Daniel Chen, Tony Cheng, Jeremy Hui, and Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, took its usual third place behind the two traditional powerhouses, Ontario and Quebec, after defeating Alberta 9.5-2.5 in the last round:

1 Ontario 95.5/108	6 Manitoba 49.5
2 Quebec 91	7 Saskatchewan 31.5
3 British Columbia 73.5	8 Newfoundland and Labrador 25.5
4 Alberta 59	9 Nova Scotia 32
5 New Brunswick 51.5	10 Prince Edward Island 31

[N.B., match points was the primary scoring method, hence the apparent mistakes in places seven to ten.]

B.C. was considerably behind the two front runners but comfortably ahead of Alberta, despite the fact the team was missing nine potentially stronger players who chose not to go. This is often a problem when the event is far away from home (see the Intermat below), but just imagine what could be accomplished by our strongest squad. Compare the results when the Chess Challenge was held in B.C. in 2011 – the team placed second only to Ontario.



In the individual board prizes B.C. garnered a total of five trophies:

- 4 Patrick Huang 8 – second
- 5 Leo Qu 6 – tied for third, third after playoffs
- 6 Ethan Low 8 – second
- 8 Matthew Geng 6 – third
- 11 Jeremy Hui 7 – tied for second, second after playoffs

Honourable mention should also be made of Ethan Su, Jason Qian, Lucian Wu, Daniel Chen, and Tony Cheng who all placed fourth or tied for fourth – in fact the worst placing of anyone on the team was fifth (out of ten). Congratulations to all! Further details can be found at the [event website](#), while there is also a [B.C. Team report](#) written by Ron Hui.

B.C. – WASHINGTON SCHOLASTIC MATCH (May 2)

Maxim Doroshenko writes:

On May 2, 2015 Team BC fought a tremendous battle against Team Washington in Bellevue. When the first round was almost finished with Team Washington ahead thirteen games against Team BC's nine wins, Team BC pulled out a miracle by winning the last four games and tied with Team Washington in this round. Even Team Washington's captain admitted it was a big surprise, taking into consideration Team Washington's significant rating advantage across most of the grades.

The second round started with exciting staggering wins on each side, then perhaps the fatigue of traveling crept up on the BC players. particularly the younger ones. We ended up losing to Team Washington ten points against their sixteen, with the final score of 23 to 29.

I am, however, very proud of Team BC's performance against one of the strongest Team Washington line ups. Not all the highest rated players from BC were able to attend this match, yet we had achieved an impressive result. Next year we will face Team Washington with confidence and will beat them in our hometown. Many thanks to all Team BC members for their amazing performance, and their parents' wonderful support. Also, many thanks to our host, Chess4Life, for organizing this event.



Team BC (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

The InterMat (INTERNational MATch) pits two representatives from each grade (including kindergarten) against their respective counterparts from the other side of the border. This year Washington had the stronger team on paper, since a number of the BC regulars were not available. In particular it was difficult to fill the grade 12 spots, perhaps because the InterMat unfortunately conflicts with one of the dates for writing SAT tests; Neil Doknjas (grade 4) and Daniel Du (grade 5) took up the challenge, while our grade 11 representatives, Nathaniel Knox and James Li, are both actually in grade 9. Typically B.C. has scored heavily in the upper grades, Washington in the lower. However, in the last few years these tendencies have diminished somewhat, as can be seen from the results by grade:

K	1.0-3.0	5	2.0-2.0	9	4.0-0.0
1	2.0-2.0	6	2.0-2.0	10	0.5-3.5
2	3.0-1.0	7	2.0-2.0	11	2.5-1.5
3	0.5-3.5	8	1.0-3.0	12	1.5-2.5
4	1.0-3.0				

In terms of individual results, Robin Yu and Nathan Shao, both significantly outrated, swept their grade 9 opponents. Other B.C. players with a perfect score were Andrew Xu (2) and Joshua Doknjas (7), while Luke Pulfer (6) and Nathaniel Knox (11) had plus scores. Between them Neil Doknjas and Daniel Du took 1.5 points from the grade 12 opponents. On the Washington side Roman Chivers (K), Owen Xuan (1), Jason Yu (3), Anthony He (4), Aaryan Deshpande (5), Roland Feng (8), Daniel He (10), and James Colasurdo (12) had perfect scores, while Erich Zhang (3), Naomi Bashkansky (6), and Samuel He (10) scored 1.5 in their individual matches.



Team Washington (photo by Victoria Jung-Doknjas)

Overall Washington retains an 13-10 lead in match victories with one tie; note neither team has ever managed to win in three consecutive years:

Year	Location	Victor	Year	Location	State
1991	White Rock	BC	2003	Burnaby	WA
1992	Mountlake terrace	WA	2004	Seattle	BC
1993	Burnaby	WA	2005	Burnaby	BC
1994	Mountlake Terrace	BC	2006	Bellevue	WA
1995	Burnaby	WA	2008	New Westminister	BC
1996	Shorewood	WA	2009	Bellevue	WA
1997	Burnaby	BC	2010	New Westminister	WA
1998	Shorewood	BC	2011	Bellevue	BC
1999	Burnaby	WA	2012	Richmond	tie
2000	Seattle	WA	2013	Bellevue	WA
2001	Burnaby	BC	2014	Vancouver	BC
2002	Seattle	WA	2015	Bellevue	WA

*the lack of a result for 2007 corresponds to moving the event from December to April/May within the school year

Detailed match [results](#)

Report by [Victoria Jung-Doknjas](#)

Information on earlier BC - WA matches can be found at the [B.C. Chess History](#) website

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Opponent - Harper, Bruce [B07] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

1.e4 (0:03:00) **1...g6** (0:03:00) **2.d4** (0:02:54) **2...Bg7** (0:02:59) **3.Nf3** (0:02:53) **3...d6** (0:02:59) **4.c3** (0:02:52) This quiet system is a favourite among a number of ICC denizens, both as White and Black. It has the virtue of being safe and predictable, up to a point, allowing fast play. **4...Nf6** (0:02:57) **5.Bd3** (0:02:51) **5...0-0** (0:02:57) **6.0-0** (0:02:50) **6...Nbd7** (0:02:56) **7.Re1** (0:02:38) **7...e5** (0:02:55)



8.dxe5?! (0:02:37) I think it's fair to question this move, because releasing the tension in the centre takes away the option of d4-d5, and also give's Black's d7-knight access to c5. This is not to say that Black stands better, but after 8.dxe5?! he really doesn't have any problems. **8...dxe5** (0:02:54) **9.Qc2** (0:02:37) **9...b6** (0:02:51) **10.b3** (0:02:34) **10...Bb7** (0:02:50) **11.Ba3** (0:02:33) **11...Re8** (0:02:49) **12.Nbd2** (0:02:33) **12...Bf8!?** (0:02:45) Why not? Black isn't under any pressure, so he may as well offer to trade his "bad" g7-bishop, which would become better were White to retreat his a3-bishop. **13.Bxf8** (0:02:31) **13...Kxf8** (0:02:44) **14.Rad1** (0:02:28) **14...Qe7** (0:02:43) **15.Bf1** (0:02:25)



White's plan appears to be to just sit on the position and rely on his higher rating and the Chess Gods to provide. There are three problems with this approach. The first is that Black has a slight lead on the clock, and playing passively and waiting doesn't work as well when your opponent has a time advantage. The second is that 3-minute ratings fluctuate wildly on ICC, so you may not actually be stronger than a lower-rated opponent. Finally, the Chess Gods are fickle and have an impish sense of humour, as we shall see. **15...Kg7** (0:02:41) **16.Nc4** (0:02:25) **16...Rad8** (0:02:39) **17.a4** (0:02:20) **17...a5** (0:02:37)



For the first time, the engine gives a tiny plus to Black. Fair enough - any dark-squared weaknesses in White's camp are only wisps of clouds on a distant horizon, but White is already entering the "be careful" zone. **8.Nfd2** (0:02:19) **18...Nc5** (0:02:32) **19.f3** (0:02:15)



Here is White's idea - to blunt Black's b7-bishop. But this involves putting another pawn on a light square, which inevitably weakens White's dark squares. But can such esoteric factors matter in a 3-minute game? **19...Rd7** (0:02:23) Black decides to simply double rooks on the open d-file. Principled play might be boring at times, but at least it's fast. **20.Nb1** (0:02:11) I was actually expecting this move - White seems intent on making the position as boring as possible by simplifying, trusting to the plan described in the note to move 15, above. **20...Red8** (0:02:21) **21.Rxd7** (0:02:10) **21...Rxd7** (0:02:20) **22.Rd1?** (0:02:09) But this is a blunder - the position turns out to contain one of Lasker's drops of poison... **22...Rxd1** (0:02:14) **23.Qxd1** (0:02:09)



Do you see it?

23...Ncxe4! (0:02:09)



Grabbing a pawn, because the knight can't be taken. But since White took the knight, I don't have to explain why... **24.fxe4?** (0:02:06) White took three seconds for this capture. I think he thought Black was making a positional sacrifice. He was, but it was White's position that was being sacrificed... **24...Qc5+!** (0:02:05) **25.Kh1** (0:01:15) **25...Nxe4** (0:02:03)



When this happens, the only thing you can do is to say "Aw, crap." and resign. Instead White, having thought (or sulked?) for 50 seconds on 25.Kh1, took another 45 seconds for his next move. **26.Qe2** (0:00:28) **26...Nf2+** (0:01:59) **27.Kg1** (0:00:28) **27...Nh3+** (0:01:58) **28.Kh1** (0:00:27) **28...Qg1#** (0:01:56)



White is checkmated! The best kind of smothered mate - Black doesn't have to give up his queen. Pretty nice, don't you think? Wasn't seeing 23...Ncxe4! clever? Yes and no. It wasn't so much that I "saw" the move, as I "remembered" it. In Volume One of *Chess on the Edge*, my exhaustive (and exhausting) book(s) on Canadian GM Duncan Suttles, Game 15 is Zuk-Suttles, Vancouver 1973. The game is in the chapter entitled "Positional Play", because Suttles won a 65-move ending. The game made a big impression at the time, because Zuk was a formidable and feared opponent, and grinding him out was just unheard of. The chess engine was less impressed.

Unknown to anyone at the time, Duncan could have won with the same trick that I used in this game. Except for the fact that a pair of Knights had been exchanged earlier on e5, and that White's b-pawn was on b2, not b3, the position was exactly the same! And I mean exactly:



Duncan missed the capture on e4 (which would have been with the b7-bishop. When I showed him this discovery, he laughed and agreed the move looked pretty strong. So credit where credit is due - thank you Bob (Zuk) and Duncan (Suttles), thank you me for writing the book and remembering the move, and thank you Fritz for seeing it! **0-1**

Zuk-Suttles, B.C. Open 1973, after White's twentieth move.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC Thursday Night Blitz (note the change of format)

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Henry Angus Building, University of British Columbia
Entry fee \$10+, depending on number of players and whether rated or not
Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca, or see <https://www.facebook.com/UBCChess>

Vancouver West Open #5

June 6-7, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

Peter Yee Memorial

June 13-14, Langley
[Details](#)

June Active

June 21, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

B.C. Senior Championship

June 26-28, Surrey
[Details](#)

7th Bowser Builders Supply Open

August 9, Bowser
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