

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #339

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

Full Cupboard Chess Festival (June 10)



(photo by Victoria Jung Doknjas)

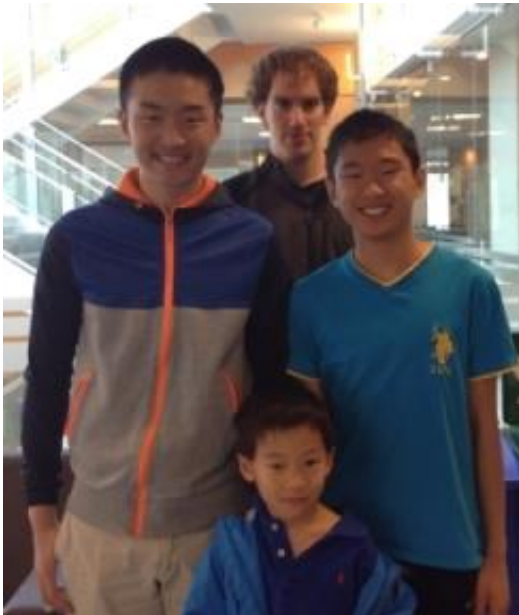
The Full Cupboard is a community outreach program of Envision Financial Credit Union, designed to raise funds, food, and awareness for local food banks. On June 10 at their Sunshine Hills branch Envision Financial teamed up with BC Chess Workshops to present a fundraiser in aid of this program. Five prominent junior players, John, Joshua, and Neil Doknjas, Jason Cao, and Patrick Huang, were on hand to participate in various chess activities with the community, including blitz and simuls. Around \$600 was raised in support of the Surrey Food Bank, and if you wish to contribute donations are still being accepted to the program on an ongoing basis.

[BC Chess Workshops](#) [Full Cupboard Program](#)

June Active (June 3)

The June edition of the VCS monthly actives attracted thirty-one participants, the biggest turnout so far this year. The fifteen-player Open Section included three rated over 2000; top-ranked Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj has won many of these events but this time had an off-day, losing to Brian Yang and Andrew Hemstapat. This allowed Andrew, who only drew with Brandon Zhu, to take clear first with 5.5/6; Brandon was second, having also drawn with Davaa. Ethan Song was top U1600 (in fact, despite being rated only 1315 he was clear third overall) and Jonathan Steif won the second

U1600 prize. Brian Yang, rated 1329, must have gained much from his recent inclusion in Team BC at the National Chess Challenge – he beat three players rated over 400 points higher than himself, and only lost to the top three finishers.



The Junior Section also showed that on some days ratings don't mean a whole lot, especially when dealing with young, improving players. Kate Jiang was only ranked sixth in the sixteen-player field but was the overall winner with 4.5/5 and took home the U1000 trophy. Patrick Wang and Tony Li were the recipients of the U1300 and U1000 trophies respectively, and medals were awarded to Alex Yu, Gillian Mok, Rohan Wessels, and Justin Jin. Thanks to organizer Maxim Doroshenko and host site Columbia College; next will be the [July Active](#) on July 22. June Active [standings](#)

Washington Open (May 27-29)

The Pacific Northwest has a chess doubleheader at the end of May: for us in Canada the Keres Memorial takes place on the Victoria Day weekend, while south of the border the Washington Open is always held one week later on the American Memorial Day weekend. This year for some reason the number of BC participants in the Washington Open was considerably smaller than usual. Sherry Tian and Patrick Huang scored 3.5 and 3.0 points respectively in the Open, while Ethan Su scored 50% in the Reserve Section. The overall winner was Georgi Orlov, playing in the tournament for the first time since 2014; apparently the Keres served him well as a warm-up as he swept the field with perfect 6.0/6. [USCF crosstables](#)

Chicago Open (May 25-29)

Further afield Severo Caluza was an entrant in the Chicago Open – he scored 50% in the U1900 Section. GM Sam Sevian was the outright winner of the Open with 7.5/9. [Tournament website](#)

THE CHEAPO ARTIST by Brian McLaren

Way back when, the common expression for a simple, obvious tactic was "cheapo." The implication was that it was not a masterful conception. I don't know where the expression came from, everyone just used it. The implication was that someone would play a strategically fine game and then his opponent (who just couldn't keep up) would resort to obvious, simple tactical devices. If the strategical master overlooked one of them he would be "cheapoed." A player who relied on these tactics was a "cheapo artist." I am not sure what the current equivalent expression is... "tactical oversight," "calculation error," "swindle," "hidden resource," "covfefe," etc.?

Let's face it, outside of winning a tournament or beating a strong player in a well-played strategical game the most satisfying result is pulling off a cheapo in a dead-lost position. And the icing on the cake is when your opponent responds with a Level 7 Meltdown. Everyone has heard stories of people resigning by sweeping all the pieces off the board and storming out of the room (there used to be a BC player who did this regularly). However, the gold standard to which all cheapo artists strive is the fabled meltdown by Nimzovich after he cost himself first prize by losing to the much weaker Sämisch in the last round. Nimzovich (reputedly) climbed onto a table and announced to everyone "Why must I lose to this idiot?"

Having played in many tournaments and achieved many lost positions, I have had the opportunity to conduct a few cheapos. To my satisfaction, there have been a few meltdowns.

A few years back I played in a small tournament in northern Italy (in a little village called Liscate – about 20 kms. east of Milan). It was near the end of a long trip and the tournament (which I had pre-entered months before) wasn't really interesting me (the location was boring, the organizers were stodgy and I wasn't playing very well). By the last round I had had enough... however rather than withdrawing I decided to just blitz through my game. After about 20 moves (with Black) I had used about 5-10 minutes while my opponent had used up most of his time and was in very serious time trouble. He had carefully built up a much better position while I was just playing blitz responses. However, as his time troubles got worse so did his moves and his anxiety. In this position, (after he had already blown his advantage but still had his centre pawns):



We blitzed out **21.Rhf1 Qa6 22.Rf2 Bd6 23.Nd3 de 24.fe Bxg3 25.hg Rxf2 26.Nxf2 Qc4**



27.Nd3?? Rxd4.... bad chess but the reaction was memorable.

After playing this move, I looked at the adjoining game while watching my opponent with peripheral vision. He was taking a drink from his water bottle when he realized he had been "cheapoed." His face went from serene calmness to "I am going to kill anything that comes near me." Then the water bottle hit the table with such force that everyone in the tournament hall turned to look. Then a few whispered curses, then a very loud piece move followed by a clock hit that would have destroyed many lesser timepieces. The rest of the game continued with these effects, in addition to frenetic pacing while glaring at the board.

Everyone in the tournament hall was keeping a wary eye in our direction. One of the tournament directors (the biggest one) came over and stood beside his chair. I sat there telling myself "don't make eye contact and don't laugh." When he eventually resigned I expected my scoresheet to be ripped to shreds but he did temporarily regain his composure. He shook my hand although he didn't congratulate me on my fine play.

At another tournament in Europe, this time in Lille – a beautiful city in northern France at a very enjoyable tournament (the site was fantastic and the organizers/players were delightful) I "achieved" this position in the opening (after the classic mistake of assessing the candidate moves and then impulsively playing one that I had already rejected – losing the last pawn in front of my king):



Note: this photo was taken by a non-chessplayer at the worst juncture of the game for me.

It is hard to explain why I let his queen onto that commanding square, however ironically it is the same square on which his king stumbled into a forced mate – 56 moves later:



White to move and mate

It was one of the few games remaining and a small crowd was watching my execution (why do people prefer these games over interesting struggles?). After my opponent (a French IM with a Spanish name) stumbled into the mate, he stood up, grabbed his scoresheet and began walking in small circles saying "po, po, po, po" (which is either "poor" with his Spanish accent or maybe something worse) to the bemusement of the assembled spectators. My next opponent even asked me how I won, because when he left I was totally and absolutely lost.

A little closer to home (and with the roles reversed) was in my game vs. Joshua Doknjas. I was winning the game positionally and was coasting to victory when this happened:



38. Kh2?? Rxd3 and Black went on to win. It is always easier to watch someone else have a meltdown rather than remember your own actions. I am reasonably certain that I didn't make any tabletop speeches about my opponent's intelligence (Joshua is a very good player). Probably I stormed out just waiting for someone to ask me how my game went.

A recent game, which made me think of the aforementioned ones, happened at the Keres Memorial. True to form, I was in a lost position after 12 moves. My opponent had achieved a winning position through incisive play. I was looking for tactical solutions and noticed one feature of the position whereby I would win only with my opponent's cooperation (akin to a helpmate). In this position:



My opponent played **20.h6??** and had to resign three moves later (**20...g5 21.Bxa6 Qxa6 22.Qc7 Rc8**).

While his response was not spectacular it still had a subtle satisfaction to it... he quickly stood up, ripped the carbon copy of the scoresheet off (sounded like a bullet being fired) and threw the copy onto the table. I swear he was out the door before the copy hit the table (sort of like the Roadrunner disappearing before Wile E. Coyote hits the dirt).

While most meltdowns are amusing (and the accomplished cheapo artist knows how to maintain their composure) I am still seeking the holy grail of cheapos... my opponent announcing to one and all "How could I conceivably lose to this idiot?"

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Harper, Bruce - Opponent [B10] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

This game was played against a fairly tough opponent and features one of those nice sequences where good moves just kept coming on their own.

1.g3 [0:03:00] **1...d5** [0:03:00] **2.Bg2** [0:03:00] **2...Nf6** [0:02:59] **3.d3** [0:02:59] **3...e5** [0:02:57]
4.Nf3 [0:02:57] **4...Nbd7** [0:02:54] **5.0-0** [0:02:56] **5...Bd6** [0:02:53] **6.Nbd2** [0:02:55] **6...0-0**
[0:02:52] **7.e4** [0:02:55] **7...c6** [0:02:51]



A very common position these days, reachable by a variety of move orders. White's problem is that he wants to induce ...d5-d4, because Black's minor pieces aren't well placed once the centre is closed, but the moves White has to make to bring this about (Re1, b3, Bb2) also don't work well once Black plays ...d4. So both players might end up with a bad position. **8.b3** [0:02:54] **8...Re8** [0:02:49] **9.Bb2** [0:02:53] **9...Qc7** [0:02:48] **10.Re1** [0:02:53]



10...a5 [0:02:46] Black maintains the tension, although it's around here that he should close the position with ...d5-d4. **11.a4** [0:02:51] **11...b6?!** [0:02:43] Black forgets that, in deciding not to close the position, he gives his opponent a chance to open the position. **12.d4!?** [0:02:48] White's pieces are well placed after pawn exchanges in the centre. **12...Bb7** [0:02:35] **13.exd5** [0:02:44] **13...cxd5** [0:02:34] **14.dxe5** [0:02:42] **14...Nxe5** [0:02:33] **15.Nd4** [0:02:39]



White's d4-knight gives him the advantage, as it eyes both b5 and f5, attacking Black's d6-bishop.
15...Bb4?! [0:02:21] A standard response, trying to interfere with White's minor pieces. White should now play 16.Nb5!, but instead I invited complications, which turned out to work after Black made a mistake. **16.c3!?** [0:02:32] **16...Nd3?! [0:01:56]** This move is tempting because it looks good, but I think it actually is a mistake. **17.Rxe8+ [0:02:12]** **17...Rxe8 [0:01:56]** **18.cxb4 [0:02:01]** **18...Nxb2 [0:01:55]** **19.Qb1 [0:01:58]**



Here is White's idea - Black's b2-knight is trapped. But Black has a natural and strong reply. **19...Qc3 [0:01:41]** **20.N2f3 [0:01:40]**



Now Black's problem becomes clearer. His b2-knight is a good example of the general principle that knights are poorly placed on "knight two" (b2, g2, b7 and g7). It can't escape with 20...Nd3, because of 21.Nb5!, and 20...Ba6 fails to 21.b5 Bc8 22.Ra2 Nd3 23.Ne2!, winning the exchange, because Black's queen has no square from which it protects Black's d3-knight. I suspect all this subtlety was lost on Black, because he immediately captured on b4, preparing ...Bb7-a6. **20...axb4? [0:01:39]** **21.Ra2! [0:01:32]** **21...Nd3 [0:01:33]** **22.Rc2! [0:01:29]**



Trapping Black's queen! **22...Ne1** [0:01:06] **23.Rxc3**
[0:01:22] Black resigns. **1-0**

THE RULES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

Every four years FIDE has the opportunity to modify, revise, or otherwise amend the Laws of Chess, and 2017 is such a year. A new version of the [Laws of Chess](#) comes into effect on July 1; many of the changes are cosmetic, but here are some of the more substantial changes which players and arbiters should be aware of:

5.2.3 The game is drawn upon agreement between the two players during the game, **provided both players have made at least one move**. This immediately ends the game.

7.3 If a game has **started** with colours reversed then, **if less than 10 moves have been made by both players, it shall be discontinued and a new game played with the correct colours. After 10 moves or more, the game shall continue.**

7.5.1 **An illegal move is completed once the player has pressed his clock.**

7.5.2 If the player has moved a pawn to the furthest distant rank, pressed the clock, but not replaced the pawn with a new piece, the move is illegal. [Not new, but relevant.]

7.7.1 **If a player uses two hands to make a single move (in case of castling, capturing or promotion), it shall be considered as an illegal move.**

7.8.1. **If the player presses the clock without making a move, it shall be considered as an illegal move.**

11.11 **Both players must assist the arbiter in any situation requiring reconstruction of the game, including draw claims.**

11.12 **Checking three times occurrence of the position or 50 moves claim is a duty of the players, under supervision of the arbiter.**

VANCOUVER – WINNIPEG TELEGRAPH MATCH 1927

Ninety years ago, teams from Vancouver and Winnipeg engaged in a telegraph match on January 1st, 1927. The two cities had contested a previous match just over two years earlier (December 13, 1924), with the Vancouver squad victorious by a 7-3 score (see [Bulletin #41](#)). That match had involved a team chosen by the Winnipeg and District Chess League; information is scant, but it appears the Vancouver team had been requesting a second match, whereas the Winnipeg League was unwilling or unable to provide one. The second match went ahead on New Year's Day, 1927, but with a Winnipeg team apparently not authorized by the league. This elicited the following sharply-worded comments in the *Manitoba Free Press* chess column of that day:

"We cannot imagine that the private telegraph match that is scheduled to take place today will give Vancouver much satisfaction, as they have been anxious to play a Winnipeg team under the direction of the District League the same as they did two years ago. The team as drawn up to play today has only one player in it that played them before, and does not include the city champion or runners-up, and only one player amongst the first seven of the contestants in last year's Northwest tournament. Considering this, it will be poor satisfaction to win from such a team and a disgrace if it so happened that the British Columbia team should lose." This tone is in stark contrast to the words offered by the Winnipeg secretary after the 1924 match: "We offer no excuses. We were properly beaten and met our Waterloo. In the meantime we have gained, I trust, some valuable information regarding the chessmanship of the Vancouver Club and found out what a lot of good fellows they are."

In the event Vancouver was again victorious, although by a smaller percentage score:

	Vancouver	7.5	4.5	Winnipeg
1	H. Butler	½	½	Herbert H. Burrell
2	R.A. Scott	½	½	E.S. Lancashire
3	Archibald Stevenson	1	0	Prof. Cross
4	Charles F. Millar	1	0	J. Windmeyer
5	H. Jenkins	½	½	J.H. Irwin
6	F. Calhoun	1	0	Prof. Garfinkle
7	J. Nickel	0	1	Frank Atnikov
8	V. Colle	½	½	N.H. Wallbank
9	A. Hammond	½	½	A.W. Luyendyk
10	J. Alexander	1	0	T.F. Speedy
11	John M. Taylor	½	½	J. Kushine
12	O.A. Hawes	½	½	F. Djecobenes

"Members of the Vancouver Chess Club again demonstrated their prowess at the royal game when they defeated the Wednesday Night Club of Winnipeg in a telegraph team match New Year's Day. The score was 7 1/2 to 4 1/2. The twelve players representing the local club were seated in *The Province* sports room and were in direct telegraphic communication with the studio in which the Winnipeg team was playing. Play was continued for ten hours, after which three boards, 2, 9 and 10, were still in progress. Draws were agreed upon on boards 2 and 9, while a win was conceded Alexander on board 10. Prior to the commencement of play ex-President J.A. Murchison presented prizes to the winners of last year's tournaments." [*Vancouver Daily Province*, January 9, 1927]

The Vancouver team was composed entirely of members of the Vancouver Chess Club, whereas in 1924 the team had also included three players from the North Vancouver Club. Notable is Vancouver's board 11 player: this is the first appearance of Jack Taylor's name in print. (The following year he was described as "a promising young player" when he won an intermediate event at the club.) On the Winnipeg side both Burrell and Atnikov immigrated to Vancouver in later life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BC Senior Championship

June 16-18, Victoria

[Details](#)

Woodpushers' Challenge

June 25, Burnaby

[Details](#)

July Active

July 22, Columbia College

[Details](#)

[Details](#)

August Active

August 12, Columbia College

[Details](#)

9th Bowser Builders Tournament

August 13, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

[Details](#)

Semiahmoo Open

August 5-7, Surrey