

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #349

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

11th Figueira da Foz Open (October 29 – November 5)



(photo by Carlos Dias – Leon is on the far right)

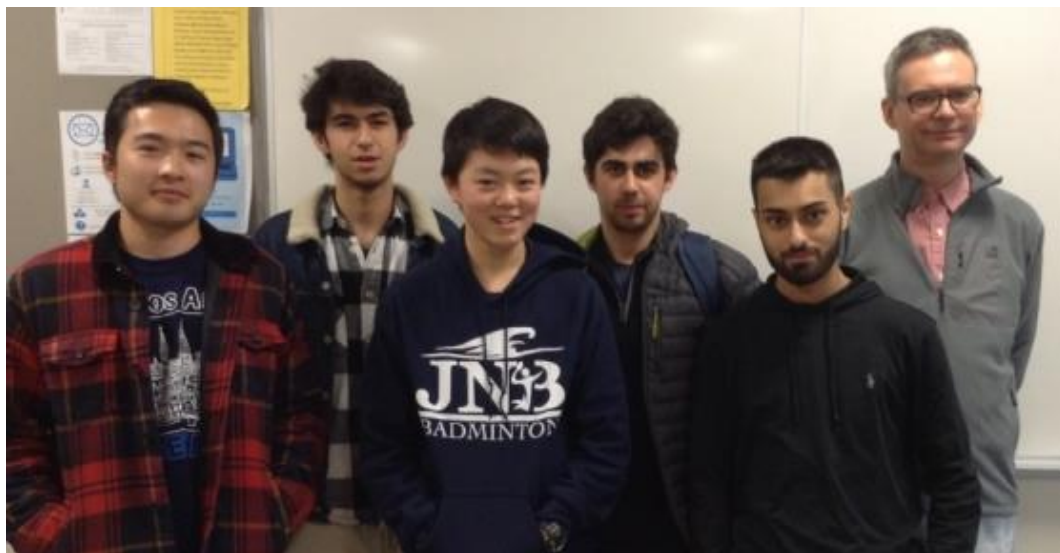
Leon Piasetski is back in Europe; he participated in the 11th edition of the Figueira da Foz Open in Portugal, just as he did the last two years. Also in the fifty-five player field was expatriate Canadian Kevin Spraggett, a long-time Portuguese resident. After nine rounds the overall winner was Polish GM Krzysztof Jakubowski with 7.0 points, a half-point ahead of a group of five players tied for second which included Kevin Spraggett. Leon's total included a half-point bye and a forfeit, but he won his last three games to finish with 5.5 points, tied for twelfth. [Standings](#) One that got away:

Piasetski, Leon David - Del Rio de Angelis, Salvador Gabriel [C00] Figueira da Foz op 11th (2.3), 30.10.2017

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.d3 c5 6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.e4 b6 8.Re1 Bb7 9.c3 Qc7 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nc4 0-0 12.a4 Rad8 13.Qe2 Ba6 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 Rd7 16.Rad1 Bb7 17.h4 Nce7 18.h5 h6 19.Bc1 Qd8 20.Ne5 Rc7 21.d4 cxd4 22.Rxd4 Nf5 23.Rdd1 Qa8 24.c4 Nf6 25.Bxb7 Qxb7 26.Bf4 Rcc8 27.g4 Ne7 28.g5 hxg5 29.Bxg5 Nf5 30.Bxf6 gxf6 31.Nd7 Kh8 32.Nxf8 Rxf8 33.Qe4 Qc7 34.Rd3 Rg8+ 35.Kh1 Qc5 36.Rf3 Rg5 37.Rg1 Rxf5+ 38.Kg2 Nd6 39.Qa8+ Kh7 40.Rg3 Rg5 41.Qf3 Qe5 42.Kf1 Qxb2 43.Rxg5 Qc1+ 44.Kg2 Qxg5+ 45.Kf1 Qc1+ 46.Kg2 Qg5+ 47.Kf1 Qc1+ 1/2-1/2

October Active (October 21)

The October Active repeated the narrative of recent editions of this event: leading contenders, far ahead of the rest of the field by rating, whose individual game(s) decide first place. In this case the contenders were Tanraj Sohal and Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj; in the September edition Tanraj obtained his margin of victory by winning their round four game, but this time Davaa came out on top, taking the first prize with 5.0/5 while Tanraj had to be content with second. Richard Ingram and Tristan Taylor split the U1700 prizes; newcomer Mohanjot Singh was top U1500, while Brian Yang and Tristan's brother Ashton shared the second U1500 prize.



In the Junior Section Gillian Mok was the overall winner and received the U1300 trophy. Mohanjot's brother Sahib lost only one game (to Gillian) and was awarded the U600 Trophy, while the U1000 went to Alex Zou. Three points was sufficient to secure a medal, and these went to Rohan Wessels, Mihailo Mistic, Jeremy Liang, and Winston Huang. There were thirty-one overall entries at the tournament site, Columbia College at Terminal and Main; the organizer was Maxim Doroshenko. The Next event is [November 18](#). [Standings](#)



2018 BC vs Washington Match to Take Place in Victoria

Washington Chess Federation President Josh Sinanan has confirmed that Washington will send two teams of five players to Victoria to compete against the top BC players on the weekend of 12-14 January, 2018. It will be a Scheveningen match, where each of the five team members will play five games against the opposing team.

This year, BC Team A was able to come from behind to tie the match 12.5–12.5 when Bindi Cheng squeezed a win out of tiny Anthony He in the very last game. Washington Team B, however, edged out BC Team B 13-12. The event will also feature a repeat of the Vancouver vs Victoria match. In 2016, Vancouver carried the match and Victoria came out ahead in 2017.

Invitations for Team BC will be mailed out by Paul Leblanc soon. Inquiries can be sent to pc-leblanc@shaw.ca.

The event will take place in the lovely Topaz Room at the Victoria Comfort Inn and Suites, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria. There is a special room rate for chess players.

The Victoria Open, a five-round Swiss event will take place at the same time and place. This popular event attracted forty-five players last year. Details are on the BCCF website.



2017 BC vs Washington Match participants

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Opponent - Harper,B [B06] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

I didn't play very precisely in this game, but I did make an interesting positional sacrifice that turned out to be sound, and what's better than that?

1.e4 [0:03:00] **1...g6** [0:03:00] **2.f4** [0:02:59]



2...Bg7?! [0:02:59] This slightly careless move shows I wasn't really on the ball this game - 2...d5! right away is more exact (if that's the way Black wants to play). Black's f8-bishop doesn't want to go to g7 after 2...d5 3.e5. **3.Nf3 [0:02:58] 3...d5 [0:02:59]** Black decides to try to make this work anyway. **4.e5 [0:02:55] 4...h5 [0:02:58] 5.c3 [0:02:52] 5...c5 [0:02:56] 6.Na3 [0:02:51] 6...Bg4 [0:02:53] 7.Be2 [0:02:50]**



7...Bxf3?! [0:02:51] This quick exchange struck me as risky during the game, and the engine agrees. Since White gets two bishops and has a lead in development, this is hardly surprising. Fortunately White plays too complacently and misses his opportunity. **8.Bxf3 [0:02:49] 8...e6 [0:02:51]**



9.Qb3! is very uncomfortable for Black, and the simpler 9.Nb5 Bf8 (White's lead in development grows!) 10.c4 is good as well. **9.d3?! [0:02:47] 9...Nc6 [0:02:49] 10.Nc2?! [0:02:46] 10...Nge7 [0:02:48]** Now the danger has passed. But the question remains - can Black come up with a plan with no White pawn on d4 to attack? **11.0-0 [0:02:45] 11...Nf5 [0:02:47] 12.g3 [0:02:42]**



12...g5!? [0:02:33] Here's what Black comes up with. I was still annoyed at my second move, so I decided to try to make use of Black's g7-bishop by putting pressure on White's e5-pawn. Needless to say, this is a sharp way of handling the position, but the engine approves. **13.Bxh5!**? [0:02:16] Played after 26 seconds' thought. Objectively 13.Bxh5! is not a bad move, but it sharpens the position even more, because White opens the h-file for Black's h8-rook. White sees tactical possibilities as well, so the position has suddenly become complicated. **13...gxf4** [0:02:25] **14.g4?** [0:02:11] The first of several mistakes (for both sides). 14.Bxf4 was right. **14...Qh4?** [0:02:12] And here Black should play 14...Bxe5!, because 15.gxf5 is met by 15...Qg5+. **15.Bxf4** [0:01:38] **15...Nxe5** [0:01:57]



16.Qe2 [0:01:19] Natural and strong - if Black's e5-knight moves, his e6-pawn hangs because of the pin along the h5-e8 diagonal. Black has seen this, and planned on sacrificing the exchange with his next move. **16...Rxe5!** [0:01:50] **17.gxh5** [0:01:16] **17...Ng4** [0:01:43]



Black's sacrifice is imaginative, but not really sound, because until Black can bring his a8-rook into the game, he can't generate any real threats against White's king, while White has threats of his own. But this is a 3-minute game, and with just over a minute left, White falters. **18.Ne1?** [0:01:01] Too passive. 18.Ne3! was right, exchanging one of Black's knights. **18...0-0-0** [0:01:40] **19.Ng2** [0:00:50] **19...Qxh5** [0:01:37] **20.Rae1** [0:00:44] **20...Rh8** [0:01:30]



Now the situation is quite different - Black's king is relatively safe and his rook has joined in the attack. White must play very carefully, but instead, after a few seconds' though, he plays what might almost be termed a waiting move. **21.a3?** [0:00:41] **21...e5!?** [0:01:17] Strong, but 21...d4!, threatening 22...e5, was even better. **22.Ne3** [0:00:20] The only move, although since it took White 24 seconds to find it, time is now a critical factor. **22...Nfxe3?!** [0:00:36] After a long thought. I felt here had to be something convincing here, and there was: 22...exf4! 23. Nxc4 Ng3! (the move I missed), because if 24.hxg3? Qh1+ 25.Kf2 Rh2+! 26.Nxh2 Qxh2+ 27.Kf3 Qxg3 is mate. **23.Bxe3** [0:00:18] **23...f5** [0:00:35] 23...Qg6 immediately was more exact. **24.Bxc5** [0:00:15] **24...Qg6** [0:00:26]



25.Qf3 [0:00:03] It's not easy meeting the threat of discovered check with only 15 seconds left on your clock. Knowing this, I thought that it would be even harder meeting the threat of discovered check with only 3 seconds left, so I deliberately maintained the threat. **25...f4!** [0:00:24] **26.Qxd5?** [0:00:01] **26...Ne3+** [0:00:21] White forfeits on time. **0-1**

THE RULES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' (AGAIN)

Normally FIDE has the opportunity to revise and alter the Laws of Chess every four years, and the last time that happened was on July 1 of this year (see [Bulletin #339](#) for a summary). However, some confusion arose from the new articles relating to illegal moves, so this section has been re-written and comes into force on January 1, 2018. One major change will also be instituted at the same time. Currently one illegal move is sufficient to lose the game if the time control is rapid or blitz; as of January 1 this is being changed to two illegal moves, to make the rule consistent over all time controls (currently the two illegal moves only applies to standard games). See 7.5.5 below for the penalties; the only difference will be in a blitz game the time penalty is one minute, not two (**B.2 The penalties mentioned in Articles 7 and 9 of the Competition Rules shall be one minute instead of two minutes.**).

The new section on illegal moves is given below – see the FIDE website for the full [Laws of Chess](#).

7.5.1 An illegal move is completed once the player has pressed his clock. If during a game it is found that an illegal move has been completed, the position immediately before the irregularity shall be reinstated. If the position immediately before the irregularity cannot be determined, the game shall continue from the last identifiable position prior to the irregularity. Articles 4.3 and 4.7 apply to the move replacing the illegal move. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position.

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. The pawn shall be replaced by a queen of the same colour as the pawn.

7.5.3 If the player presses the clock without making a move, it shall be considered and penalized as if an illegal move.

7.5.4 If a player uses two hands to make a single move (for example in case of castling, capturing or promotion) and pressed the clock, it shall be considered and penalized as if an illegal move.

7.5.5 After the action taken under Article 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.3 or 7.5.4 for the first completed illegal move by a player, the arbiter shall give two minutes extra time to his opponent; for the second completed illegal move by the same player the arbiter shall declare the game lost by this player. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves.

BC CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

There have been a total of five trophies which have served as emblems of chess supremacy in this province. The current trophy has been in use since 1956, and the individual plaques on it only go back to 1944. But the first BC Championship was in 1916, so what trophies were used before the current one?

The first trophy was the Bowser Shield, which was awarded at the first competition in 1916. The Premier at the time was [William John Bowser](#) (1867-1933), so presumably he paid for the trophy or it was named in his honour. The winner also received a small gold medal. By 1923 Ewing had won the championship six times and in recognition the Shield was presented to him on a permanent basis, although the exact circumstances as described in a report on the 1924 competition seem a little murky:

The winner, Mr. Barker, gains a gold medal to commemorate his victory in the 1924 tournament, and also has the custody of the Bowser Shield for one year, after which it will be returned to Mr. J.M. Ewing of North Vancouver. Mr. Ewing's series of wins in past years entitles him to keep the trophy permanently, though it had, according to the conditions of its gift, to be played for once again after being permanently won by him last year. [*Daily Colonist*, 22 April 1924]

To provide a permanent replacement for the Bowser Shield, in 1925 Ewing donated the Ewing Cup, won that year by Max Enke. Despite the previous arrangement with Ewing, it was common practice at the time that if a player won a championship three years in a row, they were given permanent possession of the trophy. This feat was accomplished by Charles Millar in 1933, and he

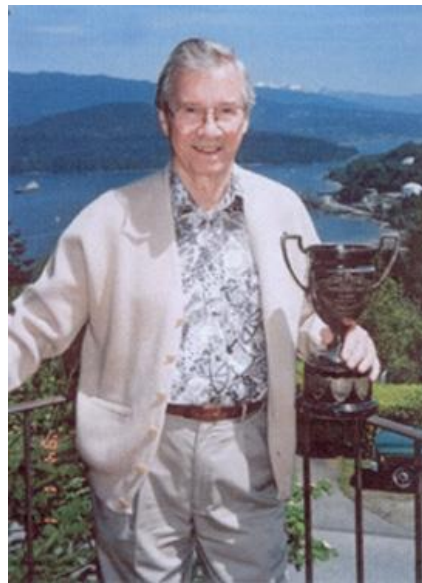
offered the Millar Cup in exchange. The Millar Cup was permanently won by Leo Duval in 1943, and its replacement was undertaken by Chris Spencer (1868-1953, President of [David Spencer Ltd.](#), which operated a chain of department stores on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland until they were sold to the Eaton Company in 1948). Miervaldis Jursevskis was given the Chris Spencer Cup in 1956, at which point the present trophy came into use; the plaques from the Chris Spencer Cup (i.e., 1944 -1956) were copied onto it, which is why the current trophy is younger than the earliest events it commemorates.



Ewing Cup



Chris Spencer



Jursevskis with Chris Spencer Cup

In 1957 the new piece of hardware was referred to as the Ed Percy Trophy, Edmund Percy (1902-1987) being a Vancouver jeweller. Presumably he donated or was otherwise responsible for the trophy, although any other connection to chess remains hidden.

The next potential permanent winner of the trophy was Dr. Macskasy in 1960, but by then the policy had been discontinued, as noted in the Minutes of a BCCF Council meeting on 30 May 1956:

Mr. Prentice drew attention to the fact that the BCCF was now short of trophies due to three players having gained permanent possession of their trophies. His offer to furnish one of the trophies was accepted with thanks. Mr. McCharles moved that: "In future, trophies be made perpetual, and miniatures given to winners each year, to keep." Duly seconded and carried.

The Ed Percy trophy has remained in use ever since, although around 1994 a bottom tier was added to the base because there was insufficient room for new plaques on the original base. The Chris Spencer Cup remained in the possession of Miervaldis Jursevskis, but the fate of the other previous trophies is unknown.



Ed Percy Trophy



Jack Taylor's 1929 gold medal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vancouver Rapid Chess League

Monthly until May 2018, Columbia College

[Details](#)

BC Junior Championships

November 11-13, Lansdowne Centre

[Details](#)

Jack Taylor Memorial

November 17-19, Victoria

[Details](#)

November Active

November 18, Columbia College

[Details](#)

Kelowna Winter Active

December 2, Kelowna

[Details](#)

Nanaimo Winter Open

December 8-10, Nanaimo

[Details](#)

Victoria Open

January 12-14, 2018, Victoria

[Details](#)

BC Open

February 10-12, 2018, Richmond

[Details](#)