

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #395

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

Fischer – Taimanov Thematic (May 29, 31)



(detail of photo by Ken Oakes)

Since 2016 a commemorative tournament has been held annually to honour the anniversary of the Fischer – Taimanov Candidates' Quarterfinal match, held at the Student Union Building on the campus of the University of British Columbia from 16 May to 2 June 1971. The brainchild of Konstantin Pyryaev, the event has evolved from a team competition to an individual blitz tournament, but one consistent element is the use of a limited number of openings. In the original six-game match Taimanov always responded to Fischer's 1.e4 with the Sicilian Defence, whereas Fischer replied to Taimanov's 1.d4 twice with the King's Indian and once with the Grünfeld. This year these same openings were stipulated as the event was held on two separate days, one for each opening move. The lichess platform was used, specifically the [arena](#) tournament format – this is slightly idiosyncratic in terms of scoring, pairings, and time options, but did allow for the openings to be specified. Roman Jiganchine won the [King's Indian/Grünfeld section](#) on May 29 with 5.5/6, while Andrew Hemstapat was victorious in the [Sicilian portion](#) on May 31 (5.5/8).

Washington Open (May 23-25)

In this time of pandemic the Washington Chess Federation has switched a number of its events online and such was the case with the Washington Open, held as usual on the American Memorial

Day long weekend. The format was the same, a six-round Swiss with a long time control (somewhat shorter than usual at 120 minutes with a 10 second increment), entry fee was \$60/\$70 with a \$3,500 prize fund based on one hundred paid entries. Games were conducted over the chess.com platform and all players had to sign a fair play agreement and were monitored via Zoom video conferencing software. The tournament attracted one hundred and thirty-six entrants, down from two hundred plus last year, but the online format allowed the participation of some who normally would not make the physical journey to Washington State, such as grandmasters Aleksandr Lenderman (America) and Maxim Lugovskoy (Russia). Four players from this province took part, Tanraj Sohal, Patrick Huang, and Veronica Guo in the Open Section and Don Hack in the U1600.



The overall winner was IM Georgi Orlov who defended his home turf by defeating Lenderman in the fifth round en route to a final score of 5.5/6. However this requires qualification; one of the darker aspects of online play is the increased possibilities for receiving assistance during games, and two players were ejected from the Washington Open for cheating and their game results overturned. One of these beat Orlov in the first round and Patrick Huang in the fourth, thus the tournament standings are considered unofficial until these and other games are reviewed. Patrick and Tanraj scored 4.5 points each and tied for sixth. After the last round there was also an adjunct blitz event, won by Lenderman; Tanraj finished with 7.5/11. [Facebook report](#) with links

Huang, Patrick – Whale, Nicholas [A45] WA op (online) chess.com (5), 25.05.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.h4 c5 6.Nb5 Na6 7.c3 c4 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 Bd7 10.Rxa6 bxa6 11.Nc7+ Kf8 12.Nxa8 Qxa8 13.Bxa6 Qc6 14.Qa1 Ne4 15.Ne2 f6 16.c4 Qb6 17.0–0 Nd2 18.c5 Qxb3 19.Rd1 Nc4 20.Rb1 Qc2 21.Bxc4 dxc4 22.Rb2 Qd3 23.Qxa7 c3 24.Nxc3 Qxc3 25.Rb8+ Kf7 26.Rxh8 Bxh8 27.Qxd7 Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Qxf2 29.Bg3 Qxe3 30.c6 f5 31.Qd5+ Qe6 32.Qxe6+ Kxe6 33.d5+ 1–0

Sohal, Tanraj – Shubin, Daniel [D53] WA op (online) chess.com (6), 25.05.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.Nf3 0–0 7.Qb3 c6 8.Rd1 Qb6 9.Qxb6 axb6 10.e3 Nd7 11.a3 Re8 12.Be2 dxc4 13.Bxc4 e5 14.Ne4 exd4 15.Nxf6+ Nxf6 16.Nxd4 Bg4 17.f3 Bh5

18.Kf2 Rad8 19.Nf5 Bg6 20.Nd6 Re7 21.Nxb7 Rb8 22.Nd6 Rd7 23.Bb3 b5 24.e4 c5 25.Ke2 c4
26.Bc2 Kf8 27.Rd2 Rbd8 28.Rhd1 Ke7 29.Nxb5 Rxd2+ 30.Rxd2 Rb8 31.a4 Nd7 32.Ke3 f6 33.Kd4
Ne5 34.Kc3 Be8 35.Nc7 Bc6 36.Nd5+ Ke6 37.b4 cxb3 38.Bxb3 Bxd5 39.Rxd5 Ke7 40.f4 Nc6
41.Bc4 Nb4 42.Rb5 Rxb5 43.axb5 1-0

Juniors to Masters Charity Chess Tournament (June 7)

Looking for a way to enjoy some chess while supporting the fight against Covid-19? [Juniors to Masters](#) have organized a five-round active fundraising tournament on chess.com for June 7, entry being by donation to a Covid-19 related charity chosen by the player. The event is open, all juniors or adults are welcome to play. [Details](#)

Cancellations

As pandemic-related health restrictions continue more and more over-the-board tournaments are being cancelled or postponed. The survival of the CYCC and Canadian Open had been in doubt for some time but now it is official – both tournaments, scheduled for Mississauga in early July, have been cancelled. Additionally the World Youth Chess Championships in September, one of the events for which the CYCC is a qualifier, has been [postponed](#).

Online events

Alternately tournaments are moving online; such is the case with the annual Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational, which will be held via chess.com on June 20/21. Normally players have to qualify for the event, but this year the tournament is open to all girls born after 1 January 2001. [Details](#)



In response to the coronavirus pandemic FIDE have spearheaded an initiative, named **Checkmate Coronavirus**, involving a month-long series of online tournaments with free entry and prizes awarded by raffle: "Supporting the efforts of all national governments and people all over the world, the International Chess Federation, FIDE, has decided to promote an online international chess

initiative to provide a creative outlet to those who have to spend long hours at home. Additionally, we promote the ideals of unity and solidarity which must be manifested in such challenging times.”

Further details can be found on the [checkmatecoronavirus](http://checkmatecoronavirus.com) website; obviously players are encouraged to enter any event anywhere in the world, but in these parts the next few Saturday blitz tournaments run by the Lions Chess Club will be part of the series.

Vancouver 1975

Last issue we marked the anniversary of the Vancouver 1975 tournament and included six games from the event. It was your editor's intent to include all the remaining available games in the associated PGN file but this did not happen, thus we are including them in the file for this issue.

ROOK ENDING FAILURES (2) by Duncan Haines

Doknjas, Neil (1761) – Haines, Duncan (1756) [B13] Keres mem (4), 17.05.2015



Game 4, played in May 2015. It is obvious Black is losing but that I have even achieved this position is a success after a poor opening. The main lesson in this endgame is how easy it is to turn a winning position into one that isn't. **23...Rd8 24.a4 Rd2 25.Rb1 Rc2 26.Kg2 Kg7 27.Kg3 Kg6 28.f4 Kf5 29.Kf3**



29...c5 It sucks being two pawns down and having no useful moves. Immediately after I played c5 I realized White can now free his rook. Still, there was little better to do. **30.h4 30.Rd1** is what I expected: **30...Rxb2 31.Rd5+ Kg6 32.Rxc5+–** and I was ready to resign here to stop the torture. **30...Kg6 31.Kg3 31.a5 Kh5 32.a6+– 31...a6 32.Kf3 Kg7 33.f5 Kf8**



There is no point to my king moves, I'm just dead lost.
34.a5 Kg7 35.Kg3 c4 36.f3 Rd2 37.b3?!



I was hoping for this; while my position is still bad at least I am rid of one weak pawn and now White has some potentially weak pawns. **37.Kf4 Rd5 38.Ra1 Rd2 39.Ra4 Rxb2 40.Rxc4 Rb5 41.Ra4+- 37...cxb3 38.Rxb3 Rd5**



I remain lost but... (38...Ra2 39.c4 Rxa5 40.Kf4+-)
39.Kg4? But with one dubious move soon followed by one bad move White is no longer winning. The h-pawn really can't go anywhere and should be left as a decoy while White's king supports the advance of the c-pawn.
 39.Kf4 Rxa5 40.c4 transposes to the previous note.
39...Rxa5 40.h5 40.c4 Rc5 41.Rb4 (41.Rc3 a5 42.Kf4 a4 43.Ke4 a3 44.Kd4 Ra5 45.Rc1 Rxf5) 41...a5 42.Ra4 White doesn't have much.; 40.Kf4 Re5 41.c4 a5 **40...Ra4+** I knew I was no longer lost, and was feeling good about it but... 40...Rc5= **41.Rb4**



41...Rxb4+?? But I relaxed... How long did it take me to make this terrible move and how many times did I check the "count"? It still pains me to admit, maybe less than a minute and one time. Inexcusable, since even a casual glance says Black is going to be way behind in the race. More hubris as in the previous game? Or after a long fight a tired old brain just blows a gasket? Maybe, see the next game for a repeat! **41...Ra3 42.Rc4 a5= 42.cxb4** A few more meaningless moves were made before I resigned, thoroughly disgusted with myself. **1-0**



Fuentebella, Mayo (2299) – Haines, Duncan (1897)
[A35] BC sen (3), 23.06.2018

Game 5 was played in June 2018. For this game I thought I would show the transition to the rook endgame because there is an important lesson here; masters make mistakes too! **21.gxf3 Rab8** White is close to, if not winning. **22.Rd1 f6 23.Kf1?!** Gives away much of White's advantage. **23.Rd7** Natural and strong. **23...Rf7 24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.Bb4!** Black should not survive this. **23...Rf7 24.Rdd6 Re8 25.Ke2 f5 26.Re6 Rfe7?! 26...Rxe6** was a little better. **27.Rxe6 Rd7 27.Rxe7 Rxe7 28.c5 e4 29.Bxg7 exf3+ 30.Kxf3 Kxg7 31.c6?!** There was no need to rush with this. White should advance his queenside pawns and wait for a better moment to play c6. **31.a4 Kf7 32.a5] 31...bxc6**



32.Rxc6?! Doesn't it seem more natural to take the a-pawn in order to get a passed pawn right away? **32...Ra7** Much happier than I was ten moves ago, I plan to play a5 next and knew I was no worse. Naturally, the ever logical computer just plays a5 right away. **33.Ke3 33.b4 Rb7 34.a3 (34.Rc4 g5=) 34...a5= 33...a5 34.Kd3 Kh6 35.Rc4 Kg5 36.Ke3 Rb7 37.Kf3 Rb5 38.Kg3 Rd5 39.f3 Rb5 40.Rc7 f4+ 41.Kh3 Rd5** Ready to trade my h-pawn for White's a-pawn but certainly h6 was an alternative. **42.Rb7 42.Rxh7 Rd3 43.Kg2 Rd2+= 42...h5 43.a4**



43...Rd3 43...Kf5 followed by g5 was a good alternative. Note that I don't need to defend my a-pawn if I can trade it for White's b-pawn. 43...Kf5 44.Rb5, for example. 44...Ke5 45.Kh4 Rxb5 46.axb5 Kd6=
44.Rb5+ Kh6 45.Kg2 Rd2+ Again g5 was also fine, to activate Black's pawns, but I wanted to see if White, rated 400 points above me, would accept some kind of perpetual. **46.Kg1 Rd1+ 47.Kf2 Rd2+ 48.Ke1** [next diagram] Seems the answer is no... For the last sixteen moves or so both sides have been making reasonable moves. I have used more time but the decisions have not been difficult. In my discussions of these rook endgames, clock or situation management are mentioned several times and here is an example.



The point of my previous play has been to only give up my a-pawn for one of White's queenside pawns. Now I have the chance to get a passed pawn of my own but White would get connected passers; a completely different situation. However, calculating the resulting position was too much for my abilities and I burned through a significant amount of time. Situationally, I could have just taken the pawn and let my far superior opponent figure it out. Or else I just continue refusing White connected passers, asking White how he is going to make progress. Hindsight is great but the point is, the decision should have been made much more quickly. **48...Rd3** 48...Rxb2 49.Rxa5 Rb2 50.Rb5 h4 51.Rb8 g5=
49.Ke2 Re3+ 50.Kf2 Rd3 50...g5 Playing g5 here would probably have made things easier for me. **51.h4 Re3 52.b4 axb4 53.Rxb4 g5**



I momentarily thought this was a mistake after I realized he has a check but it is a good move. Getting short of time, my mind was starting to fog up and I was worrying that things were slipping away from me because White now gets a passed f-pawn and I was no longer quite so sure I was equal. So earlier, when I was suggesting I should have played g5 it was with the idea of, if necessary, trading off White's f- and h-pawns for my three pawns. Then the Vancura position could arise. Wikipedia has a very good section on this ending; well worth a close look. **54.Rb6+ Kg7 55.hxg5 Ra3 56.Rb4** 56.Ra6 Ra2+ 57.Kf1 Kh7 58.a5 Kg7 59.Rf6 Rxa5 60.Rxf4 Kg6=
56...Kg6 56...Ra2+ is a "relatively" easy draw when you are fresh and your brain is not wiped out. 57.Ke1 Ra1+ 58.Kd2 h4 59.Kc3 (59.Rxf4? h3-+) 59...Ra3+ 60.Kd4 Kg6=

57.Rxf4 Kxg5 58.Kg3 Ra1 59.Rb4 At this point, just about any reasonable rook move maintains the balance but instead, with time ticking away, I once again, just like game 4, blow a brain gasket and miscalculate badly. **59...h4+??**



I thought he would lose his rook if he took. **60.Rxh4** He doesn't so, totally bummed out, I resigned. Was my blunder induced by the overall stress of a long game? Or was it just time pressure stress? Who knows, one fool can ask more questions than seven wise men can answer... For me, it was nevertheless a very interesting endgame and I am happy to have experienced it. **1-0**

Pitre, Hanneign (1912) – Haines, Duncan (2003) [C00] GPO Victoria (6), 22.04.2019

Game 6 was played in April 2019. Tactics test! Do not look ahead at my comments below if you are interested in evaluating your calculation skills. White has just played 34.Rg5 so I was looking at Rxb3, Kf8 and Ke6. Which is best? Time wasn't a factor here, I still had over 40 minutes on my clock.



34...Kf8 34...Ke6 35.Rxg7 Rxb3 36.Ke3 Rxb2 37.Kxd3 Rxh2 38.Rg5=; 34...Rxb3 35.h4 (35.Rxg7 Rxb2+ 36.Ke3 (36.Ke1 Rxh2—+) 36...Rxh2—+ So what happened? Why didn't I play 34...Rxb3 despite it being my first choice? I had the nagging feeling during the game that there was



something there and I really disliked playing 34...Kf8 because it seemed so passive. Unfortunately, only upon entering the game in my computer and its first "thought" was 36.Ke1 over the "obvious" 36.Ke3 did it dawn on me that after 36. Ke3 Rxh2 black has the lethal threat of d2. That gives the critical tempo needed to collect all of White's pawns and end up with a winning position. Quite clear when you see it but isn't it always that way? Late in the game conditions lower your abilities? Maybe from a clock management viewpoint I should have just gone over and over these lines because I had lots of time? Maybe I was too fearful of White's passed h pawns? Maybe by spending more time those fears could have been dispelled? Things to mull over... So, White played 34.Rf5—g5 which we now know is a losing move.

What should he have done instead?) 35...Rxb2+ 36.Ke1 Kf8!—+ (36...Re2—+ Just switches the move order.) **35.Ke3 Rxb3 36.Rf5 Ke7 37.h6 d2+** At this point, seeing nothing decisive, I decided to force a draw. 37...d4+ 38.Kd2 Rxb2+ 39.Kxd3 g6 40.Rf1 Rxh2 41.Kxd4 Just isn't enough. **38.Kxd2 Rxb2+ 39.Kd3 Rxh2 40.hxg7 Rg2 41.Rf6 Rxg7 42.Kd4 ½—½**

Moore, Harry (2171) – Haines, Duncan (2003) [B10] GPO 2019 Victoria (3), 20.04.2019

This game was played in April 2019. Due to a good/lucky result in my previous tournament, my rating had vaulted over 2000 so I had to play in the Premier section. This was a step too far for my abilities, especially since I hadn't played at all for six months. So, after two losses in my first two games I wanted to stop the bleeding. However, my round three pairing was with Harry Moore, two-time BC Champion, who I hadn't played since we were juniors.



I couldn't resist putting in pictures of Harry and me enjoying a beer during the 1977 Washington Open in Seattle (with Paul Brown and Gordon Campbell).



41...Kf6 The game had progressed fairly quickly to this point and we both had plenty of time. I felt the position was pretty equal. **42.Ra7 Ne5 43.Bb7 Nc4 44.Bc6 Ne5 45.Rc7** White decides not to seek a repetition. **45...Nxc6** While I have a very good knight, I quickly decided to trade it off. It was readily apparent that all I needed to do was put my rook behind White's c-pawn and leave my king on f6 and no progress can be made. **46.bxc6 Rb1+ 47.Kg2 Rc1 48.Kf3**



48...e5? Why the question mark? Because, despite the objective evaluation of = for the position, as far as I am concerned this is a losing move for the game. I knew at move 45 that all I had to do was shuffle my rook on the c-file to demonstrate my understanding of the position and wait for the draw offer. Bleeding stopped; go for lunch. So you are asking, what was I thinking and why did I advance my e-pawn? In the previous 6 games, there are reasonable explanations for what happened but in this game I have no insight to offer. Why did I dismiss what I "knew" and proceed to make "active" moves? Directly after the game it was a mystery to me and a year later I am no closer to an explanation. **48...Rc2=** Naturally, any rook move along the c-file is just dead equal. **49.Ke4 Ke6 50.Kf3 f5**



Around here I started using a lot of time examining the idea of walking my king over to pick up the c-pawn. Seriously... And what would that accomplish? And what happened to "Stopping the Bleeding"? Somehow, the ability for rational thought has left me. **51.Rc8 Rc3+ 52.Kg2 Kf6** Now I burned more time giving up on the previous idea. **53.Kf1 e4 54.Ke2 Kg7 55.Kd2 Rc4 56.Ke3 Rc3+** **56...Kf6=** Should have been a no-brainer but by now I am really short of time. **57.Kd4 [diagram at left] 57...Rc1** Sure, the computer says Rc2 is still equal but I am down to seconds and I have to grab my rook and put it somewhere. OMG, what a horror! **58.Ke5 Rc2 59.Rc7+ Kh8 60.Kf6 1-0**

As soon as we shook hands Harry was pointing out that all I had to do at move 48 was nothing, which I already knew! Any lesson here, or is this just the kind of nonsense of which only I am capable? Chess is a very humbling game and after looking closely at seven of my rook endgame failures, I was feeling down. Then I saw the pivotal game 10, A. Goryachkina – J. Wenjun 2020 Women's World Championship, various games from the recent Tata Steel Challengers and a host of games from last year's World Cup where GM's needlessly lost or failed to win their rook endings and I felt much better because I was not alone with my poor play! I hope fellow chess players enjoyed and maybe learned a little from this examination of "What was I thinking?" Comments are welcome at duncanhaines@shaw.ca

A TALE OF THREE CITIES: THE 1895/97 PACIFIC CABLE MATCHES

Today, 31 May 2020, is one hundred and twenty-five years to the day since the great Victoria – San Francisco cable match put the Victoria Chess Club firmly on the chess map:

San Francisco vs. Victoria

The year was 1895. The chess world was buzzing about the international cable match between the Manhattan Chess Club and a team in London, England, which took place on March 9. One interested observer was Mr. W. Christie, manager of the C.P.R. Telegraph Co. in Victoria, B.C. Deciding that this would be an excellent way to advertise his company, he offered the Victoria Chess Club free use of the telegraph for a match with San Francisco players. After negotiations an agreement was reached to play a two-game match, with a team of players in consultation on each board; the match subsequently took place on the night of 31 May - 1 June 1895.

The Players

Foremost among the Victoria team were two Englishmen, Thomas H. Piper (1857-1938) and James R. Hunnex (1854-1938); their arrival in 1894 had led to an upswing in the fortunes of the Victoria Chess Club. Piper had once beaten the English champion Joseph Blackburne, and could fairly claim to be the strongest player on the West coast; in 1896 he defeated Joseph Babson, the former president of the Montréal Chess Club, in a match by the score of 7-2. Hunnex played in a few events in 1895 but thereafter seems to have retired from competitive chess, although he was an honorary Vice-president of the B.C. Chess Federation in 1916.

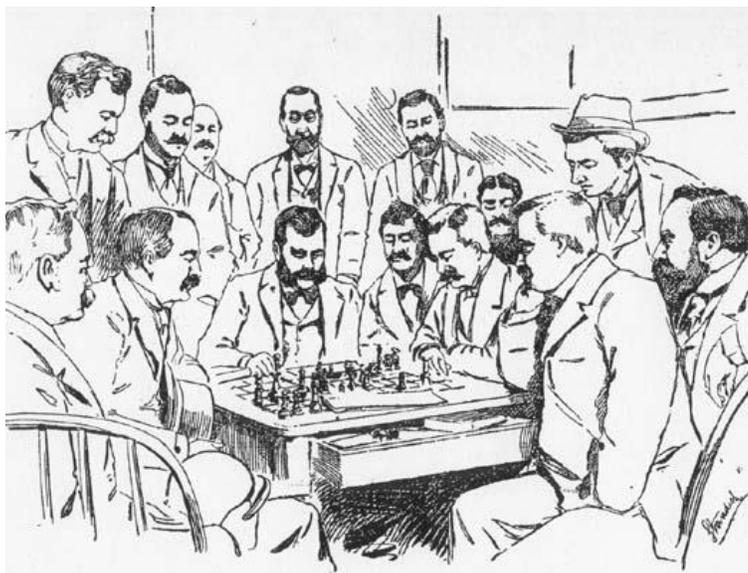
Three of the other Victoria players were from the same family: Peter J.A. Schwengers (1844?-1898) and his sons Conrad (1874-1954) and Bernhard (1880-1946). Peter Schwengers had immigrated to Victoria from Prussia in 1887, and had scored a victory over Louis Paulsen at Düsseldorf 1863. Neither of his sons had much impact on the chess world, but Bernhard later became Canadian singles tennis champion in 1911-1912.

Originally from Sweden, Aaron Gonnason (1865-1938) was a prominent personage in Victoria chess circles for many years. He donated at least two trophies bearing his name, one for the Victoria city championship (which he himself won in 1922), the other for an intercity provincial team championship. And the last member of the team was English-born Dr. Griffith Hands (1837?-1924), a class 2 player at the Victoria club.

The San Francisco players were all members of the Mechanics' Institute; the best known was sometime San Francisco and State champion Dr. Walter R. Lovegrove (1869-1956).

Propaganda

The San Franciscans regarded their city as the chess centre of the Pacific and assumed that the unknown Canadians would put up scant resistance. This over-confident view was expounded by the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "Lovegrove or Quiroga may strike terror into the heart of the north by some brilliant combination beyond the scope of the ordinary mortal, but within the reach of genius." By contrast, the Victorians were quietly confident in their English stars: "It is safe to predict that Victoria will not take second honors in the match, and though our American cousins are jubilant over an anticipated easy triumph, a surprise may be in store for them." One of the players remarked that "I'm not afraid of San Francisco, but of the man from New York," a reference to Wilhelm Steinitz and his recently published *Modern Chess Instruction Part 2*, accessible to the San Francisco players but apparently not yet available in Victoria - even a hundred years ago players were concerned about keeping up with the latest theory!



The San Francisco players in consultation

San Francisco (W. Lovegrove, A. Howe, V. Quiroga) – Victoria (T. Piper, C. Schwengers, Dr. Hands) [C14] Telegraph match, 31.05.1895

[Thomas H. Piper]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.e5 Be7 7.Qg4 0–0 8.Bd3 c5 9.Qh3 h6 10.Nf3 Better was 10.f4 followed by 0–0–0. **10...Nc6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.0–0** Against the spirit of the opening which calls for 0–0–0 and a rapid advance of the King's pawns. **12...f5** Closing an important diagonal and freeing Black's game. **13.a3 a6 14.b4** Objectionable on general principles as it leaves the queenside weak. **14...Ba7 15.Rae1 Bd7 16.Re2 Rc8** Giving Black a clear superiority. Compare the previous note. **17.Nb1 b5** Paralysing White's queenside. **18.Kh1 Ne7 19.Ng1** Imitating his Grace of York who "marched his army up a hill, then marched it down again." **19...Bc6** A forcible reply to White's last move; the two bishops threaten to rake the board. **20.f4 d4 21.Qh4** A tacit confession of failure in the attack. **21...Nd5 22.Qxd8 Rfxd8 23.Nd2 Ne3** The most potent square the knight could occupy. **24.Rc1 g5** Which rudely shoves the White egg off the wall.

Vain were now the efforts of "all the King's horses and all the King's men." **25.fxg5 hxg5 26.Nh3 g4** Tempting the White knight to enter the Cretan maze at g5 whence he would never emerge. **27.Nf4 Kf7 28.Nf1 Nd5 29.Nxd5 Bxd5 30.Kg1 Rc3 31.Ra1 Be4 32.a4 Bxd3 33.cxd3 Rd7 34.axb5 axb5 35.Ng3** Threatening Nxf5. **35...Ke7 36.Rea2 Bb8 37.Ne2 Rxd3 38.Nf4 Re3 39.Rd2 Bxe5 40.Nd3 Bd6 41.Ra6 e5 42.g3 e4** White gracefully resigned. The Bradford attack has it is true been played in first-class tournaments, but the continuation selected by White at their 10th move was decidedly inferior; besides "quod licet jovi, non licet bovi" [what is permitted to Jupiter is not permitted to the ox]. **0-1**

Victoria (J. Hunnax, A. Gonnason, P. Schwengers, B. Williams) – San Francisco (R. Kendrick, Dr. Marshall, G. Hallwegen, E. Yerworth) [D07] Telegraph match, 31.05.1895
[Thomas H. Piper]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 If Black takes the offered pawn he cannot maintain it as in the King's Gambit, e.g., 2...dxc4 3.e3 b5 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.Qf3, winning a piece. **3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Nc6** This is a violation of the basic principle of the close game, which enjoins an advance of the c-pawn before playing the knight. **5.e3 Be7 6.Be2** We prefer 6.c5; if Black attempts to break the chain of pawns by 6...b6, White answers 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Qa4 Nb8 9.c6 Bc8 10.Ne5, and White has a splendidly developed game. He should castle kingside and attempt to break through on the queenside. **6...b6 7.0-0** The last move of the Black allies gave White the chance to open a strong attack, herewith: 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Qa4 Nb8 10.Ne5 [The published annotations give here 10.Kt to Kt (10.Ng1) which appears to be a misprint, 10.Ne5 is more to the point - SW] 10...Bxb5 11.Qxb5+, with a powerful attack. **7...0-0 8.b3 Bb7 9.Bb2 a6 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Bd3 Bd6 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Bf5 Ra8 14.Ne2 Ne7 15.Bd3 Ne4 16.Bxe4** Two bishops are stronger than two knights or than bishop and knight, therefore we disapprove of this exchange and would advise 16.Nd2, and if 16...f5 (if Black plays 16...Nf5 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Bb1 Qh4 19.Ng3 we like White's game) 17.f3 with the superior game. **16...dxe4 17.Nd2 Ng6 18.Nc4 f5 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.g3 Rad8 21.Qc2 Rd7 22.Rfd1 Rfd8 23.Nc3 Ne7 24.Qe2 Qh6 25.Rd2 Nc6 26.Rcd1 Kh8 27.a3 Rd6 28.Nb1 Ne7 29.Nc3 Nd5 30.Nxd5 Bxd5 31.Rc1 c6 32.Rc3 b5 33.Rc5 Qg5 34.Qd1 Rh6 35.Qc2 Qg4 36.f4** Black threatened 36...f4, f3 and Qh3; if however White plays 37.exf4, then 37...Qh3. **36...exf3 37.Rf2 Re6 38.Qc3 Rde8 39.Rxd5 cxd5 40.Rc2 f4 41.exf4 Re1+ 42.Kf2 R1e2+ 0-1**

Piper cited the lack of adequate preparation time and the absence of several of Victoria's stronger players as reasons for the defeat on board 2, but no doubt a major factor was sheer fatigue; despite a theoretical time limit of ten minutes a move, the games started at 6:30 on a Friday evening and did not end until 6:44 and 7:15 respectively the following Saturday morning.

San Francisco vs. Vancouver

The San Francisco players were eager for a rematch at the earliest opportunity, but this was not possible for the Victorians due to the holiday season. Into the breach stepped Vancouver, where the original match had been followed with great interest. Not to be outdone by their Island neighbours, players from Vancouver arranged to play a similar match with San Francisco, which took place on the night of 14-15 June 1895. Unfortunately the Vancouver players were considerably weaker than their Victoria counterparts; this, coupled with the fact that the San Francisco players were unlikely to underestimate their opposition a second time, led to easy victory for the Americans in both games. [The M. Smith mentioned in the headers below was Magnus Smith, who subsequently moved to Winnipeg and won the Canadian Championship three times; presumably he had not yet attained his full strength, or his partners overruled him.]



J.C. Keith



Dr. Duncan Bell-Irving

San Francisco (Kendrick, Dane, Franklin) – Vancouver (Hoffar, Crickmay, Hooper, Dr. Bell-Irving) [C01] Telegraph match, 14.06.1895

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0–0 0–0 7.b3 b6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Re1 Nbd7 10.Bb5 Re8 11.Bc6 Rb8 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Rxe8+ Qxe8 14.Nc3 Bb7 15.Bxb7 Rxb7 16.Nxd5 Bd8 17.Qd3 c6 18.Re1 Qf8 19.Qa6 Rb8 20.Qxa7 cxd5 21.Qxd7 Bf6 22.Qxd5 h6 23.a4 Qb4 24.Qe4 Rd8 25.Rd1 Kf8 26.h3 Re8 27.Qh7 Qc3 28.d5 Be5 29.d6 Bxd6 30.Rxd6 Qc7 31.Rd1 f6 32.Nh4
As Piper wrote in the *Province*: "We do not think the game calls for notes. The student cannot fail to be struck with the very superior skill of the White practitioners." **1–0**

Vancouver (J. Keith, M. Smith, Proctor, Grant) – San Francisco (Dr. Lovegrove, Howe, Quiroga, Samuels) [C44] Telegraph match, 14.06.1895

[Thomas H. Piper]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.0–0 d6 6.c3 Bg4 7.Be2 Cook's *Synopsis* gives 7.Qb3 Bxf3 8.Bxf7+ Kf8 9.Bxg8 Rxg8 10.gxf3 g5 11.Qd5 Qd7 12.b4 Bb6 13.Bb2 d3 and Black is considered to have the better game. **7...dxc3 8.Nxc3 Nge7 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Nxe2 h6 11.Nf3 0–0 12.b3 f5** Why not Bb2 and Qd3, and develop the queen rook, whose fate reminds us of "dejected Marianne's at the moated grange." [Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, also referenced in Tennyson's *Mariana* - which source Piper had in mind is unclear.] **13.Ng3 fxe4 14.Nxe4 Bb6 15.Ng3 Qd7 16.h3 Rf7 17.a3 Raf8 18.Kh2 Ng6 19.Ra2 Nf4 20.Bxf4 Rxf4 21.Re2 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4 23.f3 Qf7 24.Rfe1 Be5 25.Re4 c6 26.Rxe5 dxe5 27.Rxe5 Re8 28.Re4 Rfxe4 29.Nxe4 Qc7+ 30.Kh1 Rd8 31.Qc2 Qd7 32.Qc4+ Qd5 33.Qb4 b6 34.Qe7 Qd7 35.Qh4 Qd1+ 36.Kh2 Rf8 37.Qe7 Qxb3 38.Qxa7 c5 39.Qa6 Rd8 40.Qa7 Qe6 41.Qa4 Qe5+ 42.Kh1 b5 43.Qc2 c4 44.Qc1 Kh8 45.Kg1 Rd3 0–1**

Jubilant at their victory, the San Franciscans wanted more than ever to rectify their initial setback, and sent a belligerent telegram to Victoria: "You ought never to let it remain a tie. Either be the Star Club or else surrender. Lovegrove says he would like to have another whack at Piper, but will have to wait till Victoria has trained up for the Stars of the West." Piper responded in tongue in cheek

fashion: "Stars of the West is good, and we 'pale our ineffectual fire.' [Shakespeare, *Hamlet*] We acknowledge ourselves to be but, as it were, a rushlight burning dimly in the presence of a luminary emitting an utterly dazzling and overpowering effulgence." Eventually arrangements were made for a rematch on three boards to be played 1 November 1895, but at the last minute San Francisco found the date unacceptable and the match was postponed.

San Francisco vs. Victoria - The Return Match

The rematch did finally take place, on New Year's Day 1897. It was agreed to play one game, beginning at 7 pm with a time limit of ten moves per hour. Each city had timekeepers who kept track of the elapsed time for both teams: C.A. Lombard and Thomas Lawrie for Victoria, Dr. Benjamin Marshall for San Francisco. Playing for Victoria were Thomas H. Piper, W.C. Chapman, Major B. Williams, and Dr. Griffith Hands. To facilitate transmission a direct cable was run into the Driard Hotel, the Victoria site of the match, where numerous spectators also gathered to follow the game on their own boards. The San Francisco players, Walter S. Franklin, Oscar Samuels, Rodney Kendricks, and Valentine Huber, were all members of the Mechanics' Institute, and all except Kendricks were champions of the MI chess club in various years. The C.P.R. Telegraph Co. and the Pacific Postal Telegraph Co. gave the clubs free use of their wires for the occasion; the chief operators were W. Christie and Tom Martin respectively. The day before the match the *Victoria Daily Colonist* noted "In San Francisco the match is exciting especial interest, a young 'prodigy' having lately appeared in the Bay City, who it is predicted, will before many years eclipse Pillsbury himself. The California club is confident of success, and pins its faith on the youthful champion." Presumably this reference is to Franklin, a medical student who when he won the MI club championship in May 1896 was "not yet 18 years of age."



Team Victoria: C. Schwengers, B. Williams, T.H. Piper, W. Chapman, C.A. Lombard (timekeeper)
Image courtesy of Special Collections and Rare Books, University of British Columbia (spam 9031)

San Francisco (W. Franklin, O. Samuels, R. Kendrick, V. Huber) – Victoria (T. Piper, W. Chapman, B. Williams, Dr. Hands) [C67] Telegraph match, 01.01.1897

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0–0 Nxe4 5.d4 Be7 6.d5 Nd6 7.Be2 e4 8.dxc6 exf3 9.cxd7+ Bxd7 10.Bxf3 0–0 11.Bf4 Be6 12.Nc3 c6 13.Re1 Re8 14.Bg4 Nf5 15.Qf3 Nd4 16.Qh3 Bxg4

17.Qxg4 Qc8 "Victoria missed a good chance to secure an advantage at the seventeenth move, by not capturing White's pawn with the knight. Victoria evidently scented a trap in this taking move, and such it was intended to be by White, but careful analysis has since shown that this would have been a sound move on the part of Black and given the Northerners a superior game." - from the *San Francisco Examiner*, quoted in the *Victoria Daily Colonist* of January 7, 1897. **18.Qxc8 Raxc8 19.Rad1 Ne6 20.Bg3 Bb4 21.Re3 Rcd8 22.Kf1 Rxd1+ 23.Nxd1 Rd8 24.Rd3 Rxd3 25.cxd3 f6 26.f3 Kf7 27.a3 Bc5 28.Bf2 Ke7 29.Bxc5+ Nxc5 30.Ke2 Ke6 31.Ke3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$**

"Although they did not win the match and by it the championship of the Pacific Coast, on New Year's Day, the Victoria Chess Club by that important contest supplied an advertisement of the city that is worth very considerable.... People who have thought of Victoria as little more than a frontier town cannot but find their opinion changing and their respect for British Columbia's Capital increased when they find that it has a chess club superior to any other in Canada and second to none on the Pacific coast. Such matches as that of New Year's Day go far to remove the impression--drawn from the pictures on the cans of salmon, which are perhaps the greatest advertisers this province has ever had--that British Columbia is a land of sea and siwash and salmon." [Ibid.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Juniors to Masters Charity Tournament

June 7, chess.com

[Details](#)

Online BC Senior Championship

June 12-14, chess.com

[Details](#)

Vernon Open

July 3-5, Vernon

[Details](#)