

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #408

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

Online adventures

The Seattle Chess Club has been physically closed to OTB events since the pandemic began but has switched to holding their regular tournaments online. The March edition of the monthly [Seattle Chess Club Quads](#) (March 7) included Richard Ingram and Don Hack; Richard had two draws in the quad (won by Mitrabhaa Guha) while Don scored 50% in the accompanying Swiss. Time control was 70+10 and chess.com the hosting platform. The following Sunday was the [Seattle Chess Club Tornado](#) (March 14); apart from Richard Ingram the twelve-player field featured Belarusian GM Aleksej Aleksandrov who drew and tied for first with two-time WA State Champion FM Ignacio Perez. Chess.com again hosted, the time control was 60+5. Finally the [Apropos Adult Swiss #7](#) (March 20-21) was held the following weekend and included the same four BC players who participated in the previous event: Tanraj Sohal, Richard Ingram, Andrew Martin, and Don Hack. Tanraj again tied for first, this time with Rohan Talukdar (Ontario) and Nicholas Whale (WA) (all finished with 4.0/5), while Richard drew with FM William Schill en route to scoring 3.0 points. Twenty-nine players took part in the five-round Swiss, hosted by the ubiquitous chess.com with a time control of 90+5.

Whale, Nicholas – Sohal, Tanraj [A01] Apropos Adult Swiss #7 (online) chess.com (3), 20.03.2021

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 e4 5.Ne2 d5 6.d4 Bd7 7.Nd2 Bd6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.h3 0–0 10.c4 Re8 11.Qc1 Nh5 12.g4 Nf6 13.Ba3 h6 14.Bxd6 cxd6 15.Qa3 Qc7 16.Nf4 g5 17.Ne2 Kg7 18.Rc1 Qb8 19.Ng3 Rh8 20.cxd5 cxd5 21.Nf5+ Bxf5 22.gxf5 Qd8 23.Qa6 Qd7 24.Ke2 Rad8 25.Rc6 Qxf5 26.Rxd6 Rxd6 27.Qxd6 Rc8 28.Kd1 Rc3 29.Qe5 Qc8 30.Ke2 Qa6+ 0–1

Schill, William – Ingram, Richard [B89] Apropos Adult Swiss #7 (online) chess.com (3), 20.03.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qe2 a6 9.0–0–0 Qc7 10.Bb3 0–0 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Rxd4 b5 13.g5 Nd7 14.Qh5 Rd8 15.Nd5 exd5 16.Bxd5 g6 17.Bxf7+ Kh8 18.Bxg6 Nf8 19.Bxh7 Nxh7 20.g6 Bf6 21.gxh7 Qxh7 22.Qxh7+ Kxh7 23.Rd5 Be6 24.Rh5+ Kg6 25.Rh6+ Kf7 26.Rg1 Rh8 27.Rxf6+ Kxf6 28.Bd4+ Ke7 29.Bxh8 Rxh8 30.Rg7+ Bf7 31.Rg2 Rh4 32.f3 Rf4 33.Rg3 Bh5 34.Kd2 Rxf3 35.Rxf3 Bxf3 36.Ke3 Bd1 37.c3 Ke6 38.Kd4 Bc2 39.h4 Bd1 40.b3 Be2 41.c4 bxc4 ½–½

Extention - Internet Rated Games and COVID-19 Rating Incentive

The CFC is extending the interim policy to accept internet events for Quick (Active) rating until October 1st, 2021. The COVID-19 rating incentive will also be extended until October 1st, 2021. Players who play a minimum of 10 CFC rated games between October 1st 2020 and October 1st, 2021 and who attain a Quick rating that is 200 points higher than their Regular rating will have their Regular rating increased by 200 points. The minimum time control for qualifying events is 25 minutes per player including increments. The total time is calculated based on a 60-move game; for example, 15 minutes per player plus a 10 second increment.

The COVID-19 rating incentive can only be earned once in a player's lifetime where pre-bonus rating exceeds 1200. Players with ratings under 1200 are eligible for up to three 200-point bonuses in their lifetime up to a maximum rating of 1400. Only paid-up CFC members are eligible for this incentive.

Players, TDs or organizers may forward applications to the CFC by e-mail. Otherwise, a review will be conducted and bonus points added at the end of the incentive period.

JONATHAN WU WINS 2021 BC OPEN by Paul Leblanc Upsets Favourite in Last Round

Last year's BC Open was the last live chess tournament before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to move to the internet to keep the lights on, so to speak. We have now gone a full year without over-the-board chess.

This year's BC Open was conducted on chess.com in two sections (Premier and U1400) over the weekend of 20-21 February. The tournament was limited to one hundred entries in order to allow sufficient supervision by our arbiter, Brendan Woodroff and the event was sold out two weeks beforehand. As it turned out we were able to squeeze in another five players, including our eventual winner who patiently sat on a wait-list until the last minute before being allocated a position.

One advantage of holding a chess tournament online is that players that would not normally travel a considerable distance for a weekend of chess could participate without leaving home. We had ten players from Ontario and one each from Alberta, Quebec and the U.S. Our "visitor" from Alberta, Jonathan Wu (right) swept the Premier section at 6.0-0.0. After a 5.0-0.0 start, Jonathan was paired against the highest rated player, Patrick Huang of Victoria, and for some time it looked like Wu's goose was cooked. However, he managed to survive a desperate position, down two exchanges and on the wrong side of a +9 assessment. A combination of untimely blunders by Huang and desperate time trouble allowed Wu to turn the tables for an upset win. Jonathan has been working very hard on improving his chess and is one of the most active players in Canada with twenty-nine CFC rated tournaments in the twelve months leading up to and including the BC Open. His name will be engraved on the Joseph Oszvald Cup which bears such



prestigious chess names as GMs Duncan Suttles, Peter Biyiasas and Yasser Seirawan. He has been coached by Roy Yearwood and Jovana Milosevic and is a regular player at the Calgary Junior Chess Centre and the Calgary Chess Club. In January 2020 Jonathan had risen to top rated U10 in Canada.

Jonathan provided some thoughts about his games:

I was really lucky this time. In Game one, I was winning until move 29, when I got greedy and took another pawn. I didn't see that black could pin my bishop after 30.Bxe6 and Re8 which was a huge blunder. I was up an exchange, and after this blunder I would have a rook for two minor pieces. After a few more moves, both of us were in time pressure and I was winning again, but I then I didn't see the winning moves. It was a chaotic game and I was pretty sure it was a draw up until move 90.

In game two, the position was symmetrical until my opponent tried to open up the board at the wrong time. After that his pawns were weak and he made another blunder that had a pretty nice combination of moves that won.

In game three, he doubled my pawns which wasn't supposed to be a big deal, because I could've got rid of it by trading it off, and then I would have a great position. Instead, it remained a weakness and that was annoying for me. I kept offering draws because I didn't think I could win this, but he kept declining it. After all of that, it became an endgame but he made an unsound pawn sacrifice that I could hold onto easily. Then he weakened another one of his pawns and I took it again. I sacrificed a bishop later in the game because of the "Pants" technique in Dvoretsky's endgame manual.

In game four, he found the biggest weakness against my Caro-Kann. He went into the exchange variation after I thought he was going to play the two knights, and then there was a line that I didn't know so much about. I should've tried to trade my dark-squared bishop with his and then it would be easier to transition into the middlegame. But he didn't choose the best way to exploit my position, and I was fine in the middlegame. It was a Carlsbad structure that was reversed, then I continued with a queenside minority attack and won a rook with my passed pawn.

In game five, I was losing very badly, but then he made a huge mistake that weakened his king. I took advantage of the fact that his rook was pinned and I was going to put pressure on it. He moved his king to a square where I checked him and took a pawn. I made a battery and he was failing to defend. But I got less than I expected, with only a two pawn advantage. It just looked like I could checkmate him or at least something bigger than two pawns.

For the last round, it was chaotic. I used my obscure opening against London, which failed horribly. He obtained a massive advantage but he gave back a 10-point advantage (the computer eval) but after that he was still winning. I was just very lucky. My coordination was very good, and he



should've gotten rid of one of my bishops or even simpler, trade off all of my pieces. In this tournament I was lucky in almost every game, especially the last one.

Huang, Patrick – Wu, Jonathan [A46] BC op (online) chess.com (6.1), 21.02.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c6 3.Nf3 Qb6 4.Nbd2 d6 5.h3 g6 6.e4 Bg7 7.Bd3 Nh5 8.Nc4 Qd8 9.Bh2 Nd7 10.e5 d5 11.Ne3 Bh6 12.Ng4 Bf8 13.e6 fxe6 14.Ng5 Ndf6 15.Ne5 Qa5+ 16.c3 Bd7 17.Ngf7 Rg8 18.g4 Ng7 19.Nh6 0–0–0 20.Nxg8 Nxg8 21.Qf3 Nh6 22.Qf4 g5 23.Qxg5 Ne8 24.Qf4 Nd6 25.0–0 Bg7 26.g5 Nh5 27.Bxf5 Nxf5 28.Nf7 e5 29.dxe5 e6 30.Nxd8 Qxd8



31.c4 Bf8 32.cxd5 cxd5 33.Rfd1 Bc6 34.Rac1 d4 35.f3 Qd5 36.Qe4 Qd7 37.Kf2 Kb8 38.Qf4 Qd5 39.b3 Bc5 40.Rd3 Bb5 41.Rcd1 Bxd3 42.Rxd3 Bb6 43.h4 Qc5 44.h5 Ne3 45.Rd2 d3 46.b4 Qc8



47.Kg3 Nf5+ 48.Kh3 Be3 49.Qe4 Bxd2 50.Qxd3 Bxg5 51.Bg1 Qc6 52.b5 Qd5 53.Qxd5 exd5 54.Kg4 Be3 55.Kxf5 Bxg1 56.e6 Bc5 57.Ke5 d4 58.Kd5 b6 59.Ke4 Kc7 60.f4 Kd6 61.f5 h6 62.a3 Ke7 63.a4 Kf6 64.Kd5 d3 65.a5 d2 66.a6 d1Q+ 67.Kc6 Qd6+ 68.Kb7 Qe7+ 69.Ka8 Qd8+ 70.Kxa7 Kxf5 71.Kb7 Kxe6 72.a7 Qd5+ 73.Ka6 Ke7 74.a8Q Qxa8# 0–1

[All the other games from the top ten boards can be found in the attached PGN file.]

Second place in the Premier section at 5.0-1.0 was Harvey King of Naramata, BC. Harvey recently moved to the Okanagan area from Saskatchewan where he works from home for the University of Regina. He is an expert player and a welcome addition to the BC chess scene. The U1700 trophy was won by Justin Gelinas of Sidney, BC on tie-break with Harleen Singh Jaspal of Vancouver. Justin won the unrated trophy in his first tournament, the 2021 Victoria Open.

In the U1400 section, Mohammadsadra Zareei of Vancouver (right) who had a very respectable performance rating of 1224 in his first tournament, the 2021 Victoria Open, managed to score a perfect 6.0-0.0 to win the section. He is thirteen years old, has been playing chess for over four years but only now has gotten interested in competitions. Mohammad said that chess is something which he always likes to play in any emotional state, or when he is bored. He is the top player in the Alexander Academy school chess club in Vancouver. Second place in the U1400 section was a three-way tie between Tan Le of Vancouver, Zachary Liu of Coquitlam and Leon Gong of Vancouver all at 5.0-1.0. Top U900 was Farzad Arianfar of Toronto at 4.0-2.0; top unrated was Eeshaan Asaikar of Montreal at 3.0-3.0.

Our hard-working TD was Brendan Woodroff of Chilliwack. The organizer was Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess with website assistance from Roger Patterson, also of Victoria Chess. [Standings](#)



FIRST BCCF MEETING AND CHAMPIONSHIP

On the Easter weekend in 1916 (Friday April 21 to Tuesday April 25) the BC Chess Federation was formed and the first championship held. The BCCF is therefore about to celebrate its one hundred and fifth birthday.

"The Vancouver Chess Club will hold a provincial championship tournament in its rooms, 41 Fairfield Building, during Easter week. The tournament will open on Friday, April 21, at 10 am. Play ceases at 2 pm. Evening, 5 pm till 10 pm. Saturday and Monday, the same hours as Friday. First prize – BC Chess Federation championship shield to be held for one year and gold medal. Second prize – \$5, in addition to which each and every player will receive 50¢ for every game won. The secretary must be in receipt of entries by Friday noon, April 21. The committee in charge has made arrangements for spectators to witness the games. Admission daily 25¢, or 50¢ for the three days. The ladies of the club have kindly offered to provide refreshments. It is proposed to hold the initial meeting of the BC Chess Federation at 2 pm on Good Friday. The election of office bearers, constitution and matters will be dealt with. All interested in the advancement of chess are invited to this meeting." [Daily World, Saturday April 8, 1916]

"The Entries:

H. Butler, Vancouver - A strong Kent county player, winner of the challenge cup at Tunbridge Wells. A newcomer to Vancouver chess.

[J.M. Ewing](#) - Began chess early, and was the youngest entrant in the Richardson cup competition playing for Edinburgh. Played in the Edinburgh team for three years without losing a game. Finished second in this year's Vancouver club tournament.

[C.F. Millar](#) - Member of the Toronto Chess Club, captain of Regina Saskatchewan Chess Association. Mr. Millar has done much for Canadian chess, being instrumental in founding the Regina club. Mr. Millar secured a draw with F.J. Marshall, champion of America on the PTO.

R.G. Stark - Played for Hampshire county, and in Hampshire league for Basingstoke. Played for Reading, and the London major league. Won this year's handicap tournament of the V.C.C. from scratch, on occasion of his visit last year, when he gave an exhibition of simultaneous chess.

A. Stevenson - Of the Glasgow Bohemian Chess Club, and played top board in the championship matches of Scotland with good results, winning the championship of the club in 1906 and 1907. A brilliant lightning tournament player.

B.A. Yates - Winner of this year's Vancouver tournament, and a very strong player, as the following record shows: played in county chess for Warwickshire and Stafford for seven years without the loss of a single game. A Birmingham chess club expert, winning various prizes in this extremely strong club.

Messrs. A. Tree of Alberni, and G. Thompson of New Westminster, complete the list of entries. We have not got their records at present." [Vancouver Sun, Wednesday April 19, 1916]

"At the first meeting of the B.C. Chess Federation held yesterday afternoon in the Vancouver Chess Club, the following officers were elected: Hon. Vice-president, Mr. Hunnex of Erie; Judge Howay of New Westminster; Mr. T. Piper of Victoria; Mr. C.F. Davie of Victoria, and Neil MacCallum of Grand Forks B.C.; President, Mr. E. Lacaille; Vice-president, Ewan Buchan; SecTreas., R.G. Stark." [Vancouver Sun, Saturday April 22, 1916]

"Mr. J.M. Ewing of Vancouver, one of the leading chess players on the Pacific Coast, is the first recognized champion of British Columbia. Going through the first annual tournament to be held under the auspices of the new British Columbia Federation, Mr. Ewing was successful in all of his matches, finishing with an unbeaten record. Messrs. B.A. Yates, H. Butler and R.G. Stark tied for second place with four and one-half points each. A. Stevenson was third with four points; F. Miller [sic] next with two and one-half points; A. Tree fifth with two points, and Mr. Thompson last without a victory to his credit. He was unable to play all his games. Mr. Ewing's win of five victories and two draws was particularly good when it is taken into consideration that he was up against some of the cleverest chess players in Western Canada, and his work fully entitles him to the position of British Columbia's chess champion. He captures the BC Chess Federation shield, to be held for one year, and a gold medal." [Vancouver Daily World, Wednesday April 26, 1916]

"Messrs. Ewing and Stevenson are Scottish players, whilst Yates, Butler, and Stark played for Warwickshire, Kent, and Hampshire, respectively. Mr. Millar is a Toronto player, and played considerably better chess than his score would indicate. Mr. Tree, of Alberta, only lacked book knowledge to prove a really dangerous opponent. Mr. Thompson was unable to complete his games and lost some by default. It is unfortunate that no Victoria representatives were able to play, but we hope to see them in next year's tournament. We have been hard hit by the war, several of our members having enlisted, but were fortunate in getting as strong an entry as we did, the big distances being against up country players entering." [R.G. Stark in *British Chess Magazine*, August 1916]



John M. Ewing

Stark, Robert G. – Ewing, John Morton [D32] BC ch Vancouver, 04.1916

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Nf3 d4 7.Nd5 Nf6 8.Nxf6+ Qxf6 9.g3 Bc5 10.Bg2 Nc6 11.0–0 Be6 12.b4 Bb6 13.c5 Bc7 14.Bb2 h5 15.Ne1 h4 16.Qd3 hxg3 17.fxg3 Qh6 18.Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Rf2 Bd5 20.Bc1 Qh3 21.e4 Be6 22.Nf3 f6 23.a4 a6 24.Ra3 Bd7 25.Qc4 Qe6 26.Qd3 Ke7 27.Nh4 Qg4 28.Rg2 Rab8 29.Rb3 Be6 30.Rb1 g5 31.Nf3 Bc4 32.Qxc4 Qxf3 33.Qe2 Qxe2 34.Rxe2 Rbd8 35.Rb3 Rd7 36.Rd3 ½–½

Stevenson, Archibald – Millar, Charles F. [C25] BC ch Vancouver, 22.04.1916

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4 Qf6 5.Nd5 Qxf2+ 6.Kd1 Kf8 7.Nh3 d6 8.Nxf2 Bxg4+ 9.Nxg4 Rc8 10.Rf1 h5 11.Nf2 Nce7 12.d3 Ng6 13.b4 Bd4 14.c3 Bxf2 15.Rxf2 f6 16.Ne3 Nh6 17.h3 c6 18.Be6 Re8 19.Bf5 Nf4 20.Kc2 g6 21.g3 Nxd3 22.Kxd3 gxf5 23.Nxf5 Nxf5 24.Rxf5 Ke7 25.Be3 b6 26.Raf1 Ref8 27.a4 c5 28.b5 Ke6 29.c4 Rf7 30.Bg5 Rhf8 31.Bh4 Ke7 32.g4 hxg4 33.hxg4 Ke6 34.g5 Rh7 35.Rxf6+ Rxf6 36.Rxf6+ Ke7 37.Rh6 Rg7 38.g6+ Ke6 39.Ke3 Rg8 40.g7+ Kf7 41.Rxd6 Rxe7 42.Rd7+ Kg6 43.Rxg7+ Kxg7 44.Bd8 "And wins." 1–0



Millar and Stevenson in 1951

Stevenson, Archibald – Tree, A. [C28] BC ch Vancouver, 04.1916

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.f4 exf4 6.Nf3 g5 7.0–0 d6 8.Qe1 Ne5 9.Bb3 c5 10.a3 Be6 11.Nd5 Bg7 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qc3 Nxd5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Qxc5 Bxb3 16.Qb5+ Qd7 17.Qxb3 0–0–0 18.Bd2 Kb8 19.Rae1 Qc7 20.Bc3 Rhe8 21.Kh1 f5 22.Qb5 a6 23.Qa4 Re7 24.Ba5 Qd7 25.Qb3 Rde8 26.Bb4 Re6 27.Bc3 h5 28.a4 h4 29.Qa2 g4 30.Bd2 Qc6 31.Qc4 Qxc4 32.dxc4 Bh6 33.Rd1 Rd8 34.Bc3 Kc7 35.Rd5 Bg7 36.Re1 Bf6 37.b4 Rxd5 38.cxd5 Re8 39.Bd2 Kd6 40.Bxf4 Kxd5 41.Be3 Kc4 42.b5 axb5 43.axb5 Kxb5 44.Rb1+ Kc6 45.Rb6+ Kd5 46.Rxf6 Rc8 47.Rxf5 Rxc2 48.Rg5 Re2 49.Bg1 Re4 50.Rg7 b5 51.Rb7 Kc4 52.Rh7 b4 53.Rc7+ Kd3 54.Rd7+ Kc2 55.Rc7+ Kb2 56.Rc5 b3 57.Rxe5 Rc4 58.Rc5 Kc3 59.Re5 b2 60.Re1 Kd2 61.Rf1 Rf4 62.Rb1 Kc2 63.Re1 b1Q 64.Rxb1 Kxb1 65.Be3 Rf1+ 66.Bg1 h3 67.g3 ½–½

Yates, Bertram Arthur – Stark, Robert G. [B40] BC ch Vancouver (7), 25.04.1916 [R.G. Stark]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Dr. Lasker played 3.Nc3 against Marshall [Cambridge Springs 1904], but I believe Capablanca favours this move, which comes in the Maroczy attack. **3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Bg5 dxc4 8.dxc5** 8.d5 looks stronger, Black's best line appearing to be 8...Qe7+ and Ne5. **8...Be6 9.Be3 Be7** Here Black should have anticipated White's Qa4 by himself playing Qa5. **10.Qa4 0–0 11.Bxc4 Bxc4 12.Qxc4 Rc8 13.b4 b6 14.Rd1 Qe8 15.0–0 bxc5 16.bxc5 Nd8 17.Rfe1 Ne6 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.Rxd5 Bf6 20.Bf4 Qc6 21.Bd6 Rfd8 22.Red1 Rd7 23.Ne5 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Nxc5** A bold venture. **25.Qg4! f5 26.Qg3 26.Qxf5** appears good enough.

26...Ne6 27.Qb3 Rxd5 White had bad luck in this oversight, as he was in the running for champion if the game at the next table was a draw; but just at this point Mr. Ewing won his game, and this obviously affected Mr. Yates's play. **0–1**

UPCOMING EVENTS

See also the listings at the [CFC](#) and [Northwest chess](#) websites.

Grand Pacific Open

10-11 April

[Details](#)