

# BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #409

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](mailto:swright2@telus.net)); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

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## HERE AND THERE

### Online adventures

The [Tuesday Night Marathon](#) has been a tradition at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco for at least fifty years. Featuring tournament games played on consecutive Tuesdays, the series has now moved online and the [March Tuesday Night Marathon](#) (March 9-30) had seventy-seven entrants including FM Max Gedajlovic and Ivan Zong from this province. GM Gadir Guseinov (Azerbaijan) and IM Brian Escalante (Missouri) tied for first with 7.0/8, Max and Ivan scored 5.5 and 2.5 respectively. The time control was 35 + 2 (two games a night) and chess.com was the hosting platform (as it was for all the events mentioned here).

The Calgary Chess Club has also instituted a similar series of events but with four games a night on Wednesdays. The [Evgeny Bareev Online 10 3](#) was held March 10-31 and included FM Max Gedajlovic, Peter Yong Qiu, Andrew Yu Qiu, and Rohan Wessels among the field of forty-one. Max was clear first with 14.0/16 just ahead of Dustin Rogers and IMs Bitan Banerjee and Michael Barron; Peter scored 12 points, Andrew 8.0 (he did not play on one of the days) and Rohan 6.5.

Don Hack was a participant in the [April Seattle Chess Club Quads](#) (April 4) and won his section with 2.5/3. At the same time Andrew Martin was competing in the [DMV April Action Swiss](#) (April 4), scoring 50% in the Open Section.



On April 16-18 the [Washington Senior Championship](#) included three players from BC, Richard Ingram, Andrew Martin, and Don Hack. FM Ignacio Perez and Mary Kuhner were the joint winners with 4.0/5 but Richard was clear third only a half-point behind; Andrew scored 3.0, Don 2.0. And finally the latest [Apropos Adult Swiss](#) edition (#8, April 24-25) featured the same BC players as the previous tournament in the series – FM Tanraj Sohal, Richard Ingram, Andrew Martin, and Don Hack. Tanraj tied for first in the thirty-six player field with Cameron Thompson, each giving up only half a point (4.5/5).

**Gedajlovic, Max – Stearman, Josiah [D12] March Tuesday Night Marathon (online) chess.com (6), 23.03.2021**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Qb3 Qc7 9.Bd2 Be7 10.g3 0–0  
11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Rc1 Nc6 14.Bd3 Rad8 15.f4 Ne8 16.Kf2 g5 17.Qd1 f5 18.a3 Nf6  
19.Be2 gxf4 20.gxf4 Kf7 21.h4 Rh8 22.b4 a6 23.h5 Rh6 24.Bf3 Rdh8 25.Qe2 Qb8 26.Rcg1 Bd6  
27.Ke1 b5 28.Qg2 Qf8 29.Nxd5 Nxd5 30.Bxd5 Nxd4 31.exd4 exd5 32.Qxd5+ Re6+ 33.Kd1 Rhh6  
34.Rg5 Qc8 35.Rhg1 Bf8 36.Rxf5+ Kg8 37.Rg6 Rhxg6 38.hxg6 Bd6 39.Rf7 Rxg6 40.Rf6+ Kh7  
41.Rxg6 Kxg6 42.Qxd6+ Kf5 43.Qd5+ Kg4 44.Qg2+ Kh4 45.Be1+ 1–0

**Sohal, Tanraj S. – Whale, Nicholas [E98] Apropos Adult Swiss #8 (online) chess.com (4), 25.04.2021**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5  
11.Bd2 f4 12.Bg4 h5 13.Be6+ Kh7 14.f3 b6 15.b4 Nf6 16.Bxc8 Qxc8 17.c5 bxc5 18.bxc5 Qa6  
19.Qc2 Nd7 20.c6 Nb6 21.a4 Nc4 22.Kh1 Qa5 23.Nb1 Ne3 24.Bxa5 Nxc2 25.Ra2 Ne3 26.Rc1  
Rfb8 27.Bxc7 Rb3 28.Ra3 Rxa3 29.Nxa3 Nc8 30.Rb1 Bf8 31.Rb7 Kg8 32.Nb2 a6 33.Nbc4 Nd1  
34.Nb6 Nxb6 35.Bxb6 Nc3 36.c7 Nxa4 37.Rb8 1–0

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The COVID-19 rating incentive will also be extended until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Players who play a minimum of 10 CFC rated games between October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

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**2021 GRAND PACIFIC OPEN MOVES ONLINE by Paul Leblanc**  
**Four-way tie for first**

After thirteen consecutive years at the majestic Hotel Grand Pacific in the heart of Victoria, last year's GPO was cancelled as a result of the COVID pandemic. This year the event was re-born as an online tournament using chess.com and Zoom. The intention is to resume the over-the board version in 2022.

One hundred and thirty-six players took part in two sections, Premier and U1400. That number of players presented significant challenges for scheduling and Zoom video support and it was soon

apparent that the round times had to be spaced further apart than initially planned. Thanks to modern communication, we were able to keep the players informed and they adapted quite well. Thanks to all for their patience!



Zulfikar Sali; FM Tanraj Sohal; Jonathan Wu; Carina D'Souza (photo by Victoria Doknjas)

Four players tied for first place at 5.0-1.0: Zulfikar Sali of Victoria, FM Tanraj Sohal of Surrey, Jonathan Wu of Calgary, and Carina D'Souza of Toronto. All had identical results of four wins and two draws making the tie-break calculation for the trophy such a close call that Zulfikar and Tanraj were both awarded trophies. The U1700 Section also produced four winners, all at 4.5-1.5: Suren Ghazaryan of Surrey, Jingyun (Ryan) Yang of Richmond, Myron Loke of Vancouver, and Raymond Tangning Zhang of Burnaby. As with the Premier Section, the tie-break resulted in both Suren and Jingyun getting trophies.

The U1400 Section produced a clear winner, Kane Pan of Burnaby at 5.5-0.5 (right). Pan gave up a single draw to Jack Li of Burnaby in the last round to clinch first place. The U900 trophy went to Justin Jin of West Vancouver with a very impressive 5.0-1.0 score. Top unrated was Jaeden McLean of Surrey with a solid 3.5-1.5.

Twelve players qualified for the COVID incentive rating bonus and will have 200 points added to their Regular CFC rating.

The tournament was directed by Rekha Sagar of San Diego, California. Rekha became known to us through the BC vs. Washington match, hosted by Washington back in January. The organizer was Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess, with website support from Roger Patterson, also of Victoria Chess. The GPO was sponsored by Joyco Hospitality Services, a local Victoria company. The tournament was also a fund-raiser for the BC Chess Foundation, the investment arm of the BC Chess Federation. \$900 was raised. [Premier standings](#) [U1400 standings](#)



**McLaren, Brian – Wu, Jonathan [B12] Grand Pacific op 14th (online) chess.com (6.2), 11.04.2021**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.Be3 Nh6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nf3 Ng4 8.Bf4 Bxc5 9.0–0 Qb6 10.Qe2 Nxf2 11.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 12.Qxf2 Qxb2 13.c3 Qxa1 14.Bc1 Bd7 15.Qc2 Na5 16.Ba3 Nc4 17.Bxc4 dxc4 18.Nfd2 Bb5 19.Ne4 0–0–0 20.Nd6+ Rxd6 21.Bxd6 Rd8 22.h3 Bc6 23.Kh2 g6 24.Nd2 f5 25.Nxc4 Qf1 26.Na5 Be4 27.Qb2 Qf4+ 28.Kg1 Qe3+ 29.Kh2 f4 0–1

**D'Souza, Carina – Guo, YuHan (Veronica) [D02] Grand Pacific op 14th (online) chess.com (6.4), 11.04.2021**

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 Bd6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Qc7 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.Ne5 Nc6 9.f4 0–0 10.Bd3 b6 11.Qf3 Nd7 12.Qh3 h6 13.g4 Ndx5 14.dxe5 Qe7 15.g5 g6 16.Qxh6 d4 17.Ne4 f5 18.gxf6 Qh7 19.Qxh7+ Kxh7 20.Ng5+ Kh6 21.Be4 Bd7 22.Rg1 Rac8 23.exd4 cxd4 24.Bxc6 Rxc6 25.Rg3 Kh5 26.Kf2 Rc4 27.Rag1 Rxc3 28.bxc3 1–0

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**IN MEMORIAM DANIEL SCOONES** (6 July 1952 – 11 April 2021)

With a heavy heart we report that Dan Scoones has passed away at age sixty-eight after a short illness. A two-time BC Champion (1977 and 1984) and a National Master since 1984, Dan was a fixture on the Victoria chess scene (with a brief absence in Northern BC) from the mid-1960s until 2006 when he moved to Port Coquitlam. Winner of the BC Open in 1972 and 1982 and six-time winner of the Labour Day Open, Dan was also a writer of articles, annotations and tournament reports whose work appeared in numerous publications, including *En Passant*, *Counterplay*, *Northwest Chess* (of which he was the BC editor in the early 1980s), the *British Chess Magazine*, and this Bulletin. He was a contributor to Edward Winter's [Chess Notes](#) and for a time had his own blog, [Dadian Chess](#).



(photo by Jonathan Berry)

**Kate Scoones (Dan's sister)**

Dan was born in 1952 in Vancouver. During Dan's early life, the family lived on North Pender Island. Dan learned to play chess at the age of seven when our dad taught him the moves. Dan quickly outplayed our dad, who was often away working, so not a consistent opponent. The only other players on the island were two older gentlemen that Dan sometimes played with but again, he moved beyond them quickly. Just days before he passed away, Dan told me the story of how it was our grandmother who went to Victoria from Pender and bought Dan two chess books that became prized possessions. He would have been eight or nine. He marvelled at how Granny was able to choose the right books without knowing anything about the game. Dan studied these books and gained enough knowledge to really excel, eventually competing in his first tournament, the [BC Junior Championship](#) in 1964. [In those days U14 – Dan went on to win the same event in 1965 and 1966.]

## Paul Leblanc

I recently completed a project to document the history of chess on Vancouver Island from 1892 to 2021. Dan Scoones made his media debut in chess as early as 1964. By 1968 the Colonist's chess journalist, Mr. Ray Kerr, in noting that there was a new rising star in Victoria chess wrote "Daniel Scoones at age sixteen is the youngest member of the Victoria Chess Club, but he's already performing like a seasoned veteran. Competing in the recent club lightning chess tournament against a number of veterans, the youngster captured the top prize with a perfect 5-0 score." The club's co-champion, Mr. Ed Seedhouse was quoted in the article: "Scoones, who is improving rapidly, won his games with simple, accurate chess, taking advantage of his opponents' mistakes when they tried too hard to win." [Victoria *Daily Colonist*, 14 March 1968] Kerr, himself a master, featured Scoones in many of his weekly chess columns with headings such as "Victoria Chess Champs Crowded by New Man" or "Golden Boy Laughing Again." In 1977 when Scoones became BC Co-champion (tied with Gordon Taylor), Kerr's column was headed "A Champion Worth the Wait." Dan was a strong supporter of the Victoria Chess Club, and is listed as a founding member of the executive on the document establishing the modern version of the club as a BC Society in 1992.



Three-time BC Junior Champion, 1966

## Duncan Haines

I met Dan the first night I went into the Victoria Chess Club around 1970-71. When I walked in I saw a lot of really old men (LOL) and Dan, the only other young person there. A year later the Fischer boom occurred and suddenly there were many more juniors and we could be a bit rowdy. Dan and I hit it off immediately and we travelled to a number of tournaments together, either in his yellow Volvo or my Toyota. In 1973, during a practice session at his house, he said "You have to hear this new album I just bought." The album was *Dark Side of the Moon*; it was awesome, need I say more?

Dan was always friendly, fun, interesting and enjoyable to be around. Among other things I remember him being a TM practitioner, working on learning Russian and able to play the piano pretty well. I recall once playing two on two casual chess with Dan as my teammate. On my turn I moved a Knight from f3 to d2, targeting the c4 square. An easy move to make but Dan said to me, "I like playing with you, you think like I do." The fact that I still remember this says a lot about how much I appreciated what I took to be a compliment.

For one little anecdote about Dan's sense of humour, you have to know who George Plimpton was and how famous he became for competing as an amateur in pro-sports exhibition events from the late 1950's through the 1970's: George pitched against National League baseball players, sparred multiple rounds against world champion boxers, did preseason football practice in the NFL and then took snaps as QB in an exhibition game, played goalie for the Boston Bruins in an exhibition game, and played against pro golfers, bridge players and even took a part as a high wire circus

performer. So, but I am not sure in what year, a newspaper held a “write your own caption” contest and in the newspaper’s photo to be captioned, imagine a beyond intense chariot race out of either the 1959 or 2016 Ben-Hur movies. Two chariots are racing side by side and the drivers are looking at each other. Dan’s caption was “PLIMPTON , P...L...I...”. Dan’s was the winning entry and I think he appreciated that I understood his inspiration instantly. I thought it was hilarious and I used to have a copy of this “cartoon” but unfortunately lost it.

Because I dropped out of playing chess in 1978 I only saw Dan occasionally in the grocery store or at a local tournament if I went just to observe. When I started playing again in 2012 I saw Dan at several Vancouver tournaments he visited. It was great to talk to him there and he was very encouraging of my efforts to regain a bit of chess form.

## **Brian McLaren**

I first encountered Dan at a simultaneous exhibition given by Boris Spassky and Paul Keres in Nanaimo, BC in 1967. Keres played twenty-three players in a regular simul and Spassky played ten top players (including Dan) from Vancouver Island in a clock simul. Spassky's opponents included several masters and Dan stood out because of his youth. These two great GMs stopped in Nanaimo on their way to a fishing trip in Campbell River. They had just finished competing in the Winnipeg 1967 GM tournament (which was organized to celebrate Canada's centenary) and were being given a tour of Canada.

Sometime later, I was watching a TV show called *Reach For The Top*, which pitted teams of four from different high schools against each other. I was surprised to see Dan on the show from a Victoria team. Even more surprising was that he answered most of the questions. Over the years, we encountered each other at chess tournaments (we each had long breaks from chess) and chatted about various things. He was always interesting and in a positive mood. That might have been because of his practice of Transcendental Meditation. He started university at the age of sixteen and learned Russian (probably so that he could read Russian chess literature). He helped a number of people who were working on translations of Russian chess literature and is credited in a few of them.

It was only in the last few years that I got to know Dan well. We were both living in Greater Vancouver, retired and fond of chess. As I got to know him better I was amazed at the extent of his chess knowledge. It didn't matter what the chess topic was, he had information on it. We discussed many chess topics, e.g., we each made a list of who we thought were the twenty best chessplayers of all time (he had Fine high on his list and I had Rubinstein on mine); looking for games that appeared to be thrown to Botvinnik by other Russians at various tournaments; obscure lines of the Alekhin's Defence, etc.



1978

As a player, Dan was FM strength. If some of his results happened in today's laxer rules he would have been awarded the title. His playing strength was limited by one main factor – he was a perfectionist (to see that, check his articles and see if you can find a single mistake). His fear

wasn't of losing, it was of making a bad move. This would help him in a round robin of stronger players and hurt him in a weekend swiss.

His real passion for chess was books. At one Victoria tournament, years ago, we went for lunch between rounds. On the way back he said he wanted to stop at a bookstore. We went to the chess section and he knew exactly what was new and what was coming. Two thrift store stops later we made it back to the tournament (I was exhausted). He had a huge collection of old and new books (in both English and Russian), as well as periodicals. His collection wasn't a tsundoku (google it) though, he actually read them.

Dan was very active in a Facebook group called Chess Book Collectors. The group posts discussions, polls, reviews, photos, etc. about chess books. Knowing how long it takes to go through one book, I asked Dan how anyone could possibly read all these books. He jokingly replied that this was the collectors group, the chess book readers group was different. He was very helpful in the group and posted regularly. His posts were very well appreciated; when news of his passing was posted there were a large number of positive responses about him. A few examples:

- John Kato - I am going to miss him. He was helpful to me when I was looking for a book. He was kind and generous with his time. I wish his family my deepest condolences.
- Edward Rosenthal - This is sad news indeed. He seemed and was a valued person probably not just for this group but in "real life". I always enjoyed his posts here, as they were intelligence mixed with merit and knowledge.
- Cyrus Lakdawala - Oh no! He was such a nice man.
- Konstantin Pyryaev - I have a lot of pictures of Dan for the last decade. Reviewed them and figure out the fact - he always was surrounded by people and smile.

During the pandemic, Dan and I met regularly (two or three times per week) online with a small group of dedicated chess players. We looked at endgames, tactical problems, top GM games, etc. His contributions were always well informed, considerate and quite often humourous. After his passing, we used a session to have an on-line wake and many good stories about him came out. Here are a few tributes from the group:

- Jeffrey Street - For me, even only knowing Dan for the past few of years, the thing that stood out most, besides his deep understanding of chess, was his kindness and unshakable joy. His laughter was infectious. I often found myself chuckling at times on my drives home from our chess gatherings because of a funny story he shared. I was surprised that he once used a game that I had played at the New West Open for a study on pawn endings, and, though I lost the game, he managed to find a way to shine a positive light on some of my moves, noting that the time remaining on the clock was a likely reason the draw was not spotted. I'm really going to miss him.
- Chris Baird - I only met Dan a few times but he made a very strong impression on me for his encyclopedic recall and his distaste for imperfect moves. Sounds like he was a great guy and lived a rich life and I wish I had the chance to get to know him better.
- Paul McNichol - I remember Dan as gifted storyteller. Whenever he would start a story, his eyes would light up, and he would always have a smile that was infectious. Whenever he would finish a story, my belly would ache from laughter from his witty sense of humour. Dan had an incredible passion for life and chess!! He will be greatly missed.

Some other interesting facts I learned from Dan in the last few years:

- He was the chess consultant for a Tom Berenger movie, *The Watchtower*. His job was to provide a game and ensure that the moves were played correctly during filming. However, Tom Berenger found it difficult to make the moves and say his lines so Dan put on Tom's shirt and is the person actually making the moves while Tom is saying his lines.
- His wife was a folk singer and actually opened for Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee (two of my favourite blues musicians). His son is also a fine singer and musician (I have seen videos).
- One of his favourite chess moments was watching Paul Keres in a post mortem at Vancouver 1975.
- He was annoyed by the mispronunciation of the name of the fourth world chess champion (did I mention that he knew Russian and was a perfectionist?). The correct spelling is Alekhin. After the great Russian moved to France, it was translated to Alekhine so that the ending 'n' wasn't silent. Thus, in English it started being pronounced 'Alec Hine'. The correct pronunciation is something like 'Al YO kh een'. Still working on it, also struggling with Euwe (er weh).

To honour Dan, I am going to finally read my chess books, pronounce GM names correctly (he once told us how to pronounce Zvjagiantsev, but that is for more advanced students) and continue to share my love of chess with other chess players.



Scoones, Harry Moore and Jim Ferguson, winners of the 1999 Labour Day Open

### **Jonathan Berry: Chess with Peter Biyiasas and Dan Scoones**

Results of series of games between chess rivals do not always go as the ratings predict. A rating higher by 100 points indeed indicates a series advantage of about 5-3, but real life does not pay attention. Future GM Peter Biyiasas was higher rated than me, but his score over dozens of games was much better than the ratings predicted. Similarly, I was higher rated than Dan Scoones, but my score against him followed a similar pattern. In moments when we should have been learning

chess theory, it was tempting to muse what would happen if scores against certain players were reversed. For example, if I had beaten Biyiasas by the same score that he beat me, would I have become a GM? It is a stupid question to think about, because it boils down to positing that I was a better – or an entirely different – player. It asserts a fact not in evidence. It encourages one to think that one's victories are deserved but one's losses are due to bad luck. Pas du tout!

Dan and I played in fewer tournaments in the last thirty years, during which we contested two games. Dan and I drew in a BC Championship. Then in a less formal event, my kingside attack bogged down, he broke through on the queenside and mated me on the back rank. Is it possible to learn anything over a chess career? For your ob't serv't, perhaps not. But Dan's victory in our last-ever game could have been taken from the playbook of GM Peter Biyiasas. So yes, one may learn, and Dan did!

Dan was a cultured guy, but it wasn't all Beethoven. Over fifty years ago at a chess tournament in the Silver Threads Chess Club, we sang a Beatles tune. History does not record who sang lead and who sang harmony, but I suspect that I sang cacophony. At least, judging by the looks from chess players in the room. Don't worry, it wasn't *that* bad, it was between rounds. We even shared who we were thinking of as we sang "Nowhere Man."

Dan had a lively sense of humour. I remember him being especially amused by something a Russian-speaking chess player might have told him: "Что такое это турнир слабый конец?" which is funny when spoken in Russian. For it to be funny in English, it has to be written: "What is this thing, a weak-end chess tournament?" I will miss him. RIP.

## Bruce Harper

I was of course saddened when I learned that Dan Scoones was no longer with us. I knew him as a chess player and as a good friend – he was my best man at my wedding, so it goes without saying that I could say many personal things about him. I will leave that to others.

As a chess player, Dan was righteous, and was a good follower of the Soviet chess school (am I imagining that he read Russian?). By that I mean the Botvinnik version, not heretics like Bronstein and Tal. Dan strove to play correctly, so that the patriarch would approve, and while I had an impression that I had a fairly good score against him, I assumed this was because my definitely-non-Soviet style threw him off.

I have now gone through all my tournament games with Dan, and I did have a good score against him: five wins, five draws, and one loss. Since two of the draws were last round draws from advantageous positions, this sounds impressive, but it's not. Four of out the last five games were



AshleyChessGirl and the Mad Hatter in a Lewis Carroll themed event at Park Royal in 2017 (photo: Sophia Hague)

drawn, and as far as I'm concerned, Dan was a tough out. I was fortunate to get a lead on him early!

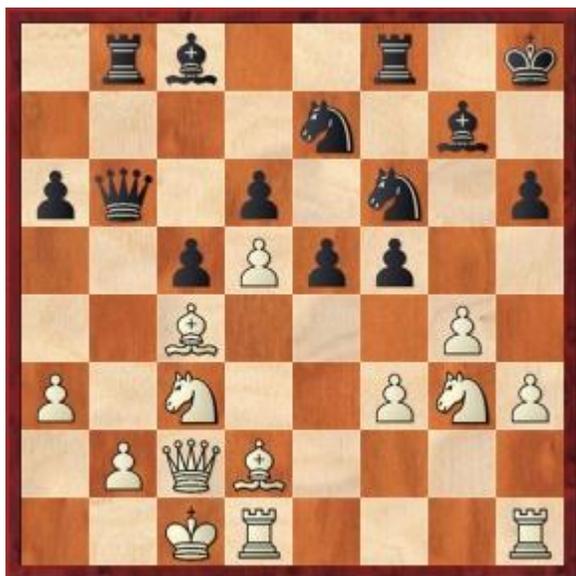
I was totally wrong in my recollection of the style issue, though. Almost every time I played Dan, I went into hyper-classical mode, which I think was because I didn't want to play what sometimes is referred to as "garbage" against him. Whatever success I had against Dan wasn't because I dragged him into weirdness that he couldn't handle – just the opposite! He made me play respectably. I guess I should thank him for that, and I certainly had lots of other opportunities to play garbage...

Probably the main exception to my approach to Dan is the following game, which was my only loss to him. In presenting it, I continue the tradition of honouring a colleague, but it is also the game I remember best, for reasons that will become clear. I think Dan would approve of me sharing this with you!

Dan was a great friend who truly loved chess.

**Scoones, Dan – Harper, Bruce [A42] Diamond Jubilee op 1st New Westminster (7), 29.12.1973**

**1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.g4 a6?! A Suttles specialty, which is actually just a small trick that doesn't accomplish much. Black soon falls into a passive position and suffers for a long time. 8.Bd3 c5 9.f3 f5 10.h3 Nf6 11.Qc2 0–0 12.Nge2** The engine rightly gives White a slight edge, but Black's next move is just bad. **12...Kh8? 13.exf5?! It's a mistake to imbalance the position like this, but only if Black responds correctly, and he doesn't. 13...gxf5 14.0–0–0 b5 15.Bg5 bxc4 16.Bxc4 Rb8 17.a3 Qb6 18.Ng3 h6?! 19.Bd2**



**19...f4?** The passage of time hasn't made me shudder any less at this move, which justifies White's entire approach to the position. **20.Nge4 Ne8?** This is an effort to apply Dvoretsky's principle of the "surplus piece" – only one White knight can occupy e4, so Black avoids exchanging the other White knight. This is pretty impressive, considering that I had never heard of Dvoretsky when this game was played, and for all I know he hadn't even come up with this idea. But let's not be too impressed - **20...Ne8?** is actually a very bad move, for a very concrete reason which neither player ever sees. **21.h4! Qd8**



**22.Kb1?** A mistake because there's a better move – 22.Ng5! Rather than litter the game with question marks, I will just point out that this is the engine's top recommendation for the next ten moves, so White could have won outright many times. Quibblers would say this makes the game flawed. You haven't seen anything yet. **22...Nc7 23.a4 Rb6 24.Ka1 Bb7 25.Bc1 Qd7 26.b3 Ra8 27.Bb2 Nb5 28.a5 Nd4 29.Rxd4 cxd4 30.axb6 dxc3 31.Nxc3 Rc8 32.Rd1 Qd8 33.Qf2 h5!? 34.Ne4 Qd7 35.Qg1 a5 36.Ba3?!** Black has been grovelling for the last fifteen moves or more, quite apart from White's missed opportunity with Ng5. But there was hope – White was getting short of time, and had about ten minutes to get to move 45. So I muddied the waters as best I could with a sacrifice.



**36...Rxc4!? 37.bxc4 Qa4 38.Kb2?! 38.Rd3!** was the right way to consolidate, but of course it's only natural to unpin the a3-bishop. **38...Qxc4 39.Qf1 Qxf1?!** It was better to keep the queens on, but I was trying to create a central pawn mass in order to unnerve White. **40.Rxf1 hgx4 41.Nxd6 Bxd5 42.b7 Bxb7 43.Nxb7 e4+** Black was counting on this discovered check, even though it really doesn't do much. My hope was that with only seconds left, White would panic, because of the surprise effect of a check from Black's long dormant g7-bishop. These hopes were dashed when Dan ignored the check and captured something (either 44.Bxe7 or 44.fxe4)! This sent me into shock. In a blitz game, White would lose, but in a tournament game, White just has to make another move. I believe



what happened was I immediately said "You're in check!" (I may have banged the clock to restart White's time - that sounds like something I would do), then Dan immediately retracted his illegal move and moved out of check. **44.Kc2?** Almost any other legal move is better! **44...exf3?** Amazingly, Black had 44...Nf5!, threatening 45...Ne3+, and the engine's evaluation of the position suddenly goes from +6 or so for White to ... 0.00! Despite having more than fifteen minutes left, White's illegal move had thrown me so much I couldn't think. It never occurred to me that it had thrown White just as much! **45.Bxe7 Bd4 46.Bc5 Be3 47.Kd3 Bxc5 48.Nxc5 g3 49.Ne4 1-0**

A just result? I didn't think so at the time, but let's face it – after the opening, Black was actually in the game for only a single move! Both before and after this chance opportunity (as Kasparov terms it), I was completely lost, and it would have been an injustice, if such a thing exists in chess, had Black escaped. A memorable game by any standard!

### Zuk, Robert D. – Scoones, Dan [C63] BC op Vancouver (7), 08.10.1973

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 f5 5.d3 d6 6.0–0 fxe4 7.dxe4 Nf6 8.Nbd2 0–0 9.b4 Bb6 10.Nc4 Bg4 11.Nxb6 axb6 12.Be2 Kh8 13.Nd2 Be6 14.a3 Ne7 15.Re1 Ng6 16.g3 Qd7 17.f3 Rf7 18.c4 Ne7 19.Nf1 Nc6 20.Bb2 Raf8 21.Qd3 Ng8 22.Rac1 Qe7 23.Qe3 h6 24.Red1 Nf6 25.Qd2 Nh7 26.Qe3 Ng5 27.Nd2 Bc8 28.c5 bxc5 29.bxc5 dxc5 30.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 31.Rxc5 Ne6 32.Rxc6 bxc6 33.Bxe5 Rd7 34.Bc4 Ng5 35.Be2 Rfd8 36.Bc3 Ne6 37.Bc4 Nd4 38.Rb1 Nb5 39.Bxb5 cxb5 40.Rb2 Rd3 41.Rc2 Rxc3 42.Rxc3 Rxd2 43.Rxc7 Be6 44.Rc5 Rb2 45.f4 Bg4 46.Rc3 Kg8 47.h4 Kf7 48.Rc7+ Kf8 49.Rc3 Ke7 50.Rc7+ Bd7 51.Rc3 Re2 52.e5 h5 53.Kf1 Ra2 54.Ke1 g6 55.Kd1 Bf5 56.Ke1 Rb2 57.Kf1 Ke6 58.Rc6+ Kd5 59.Rd6+ Kc5 60.Ra6 Kd5 61.Rd6+ Ke4 62.Rc6 Rb3 63.e6 Kf3 64.Kg1 Kxg3 65.Kf1 0–1

### Scoones, Dan – Vitko, Greg [B22] Spring op Portland, 04.1976

[Larry Ball]

**1.e4 c5 2.c3** Alapin's move. White wants to create a full pawn centre and prevent the exchange of his centre pawn for Black's wing pawn, however White's development is delayed. **2...Nf6** Black is playing Alekhine's Defence with the useful move of c5 vs. White's c3 that has been made. Another line is 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 and Black keeps the initiative in the centre. If White plays 3.e5 instead of 3.exd5 then Black gets into the French with e6. **3.e5 Nd5 4.d4** Another plan is 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Na3 d6 as used by Heidenfeld in a number of games in the 60s. **4...cxd4** Less convincing is 4...e6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Nc6 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Bd3 with a plus for White. Deserving attention is 4...d6. **5.Qxd4?!!** 5.Bc4 leads to a position of the Smith-Morra Gambit Declined. Better is 5.cxd4. **5...e6 6.Nf3** Also playable is 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.Qe4. **6...Nc6 7.Qe4 d6** Black can try 7...f5 8.exf6 Nxf6. **8.Nbd2 Qc7** Better is 8...dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Qxe5 Bd7 11.Nf3 Rc8 12.Bd3 Rc5 13.Be3 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Qc7 15.0–0 Be7 and Black has a very good position. **9.Nc4 dxe5 10.Ncxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxc3!?** 11...a6 followed by Bd6 needs to be played. **12.bxc3 Qxc3+ 13.Kd1**



**13...Qxa1?** Black is now lost! Greg has committed one of the sins of chess – attacking before his position was fully developed. 13...Bd6 is a better line to follow with these possible variations: a) 14.Bb5+ Ke7 15.Nc4Rd8; b) 14.Bb5+ Ke7 15.Nc6+ bxc6 16.Qxc6 Qxc6 17.Bxc6 Rb8–+; c) 14.Rb1 Qxe5 15.Bb5+ Ke7–+ **14.Bb5+ Ke7 15.Qb4+ Kf6 16.Ng4+ Kg6 17.Qe4+ Kh5 18.Nf6+ Qxf6 19.Be2+ 1–0**

**Scoones, Dan – Reeve, Jeff [A03] BC ch Vancouver (4), 22.05.1977**

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0–0 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.c3 0–0 8.Qc2 b6 9.e4 Bb7 10.e5 Nd7 11.d4 e6 12.Be3 c4 13.g4 Ne7 14.Bf2 Nb8 15.Bh4 Bc8 16.Bh3 Nbc6 17.Bf6 Bd7 18.Qf2 Re8 19.Qh4 b5 20.Nbd2 b4 21.Kh1 Rb8 22.Rg1 Qa5 23.Rac1 Qxa2 24.Bf1 Qxb2 25.Rg3 Qxc1 26.Rh3 h5 27.Bxg7 Kxg7 28.Qf6+ Kf8 29.Ng5 Nd8 30.Rxh5 gxh5 31.Qh6+ Kg8 32.Nh7 f5 33.exf6 Nf5 34.gxf5 Re7 35.fxe7 e5 36.Qg6+ Kh8 37.Nf6 1–0

**Scoones, Dan – Burke, Paul [D35] BC ch Vancouver (2.2), 20.04.1984**

*[Benjamin Kruger]*

Dan Scoones stated that the following game was his best of the tournament.

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0–0 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 c5?** 8...Nbd7 9.Nf3 c6 is normal. **9.dxc5! Bxc5 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.0–0 Bg4?** 11...Be6 is defending the d-pawn. **12.Be2! 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Nxd5 Qxb2 14.Rc1 Bd6** and this leaves White wondering what he got for liquidating as the black queen cannot be caught and Black has the queenside majority. **12...Be7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nxd5 Bxb2 15.Rb1 Ba3 16.Rb3 Bd6 17.Rxb7 Na5?** Black's chances lie in keeping as much harmony amongst his pieces to enable a further liquidation of pawns. This is inevitably true since straight-forward trades lead to an ending that would lose. **18.Rb2 Rb8 18...Be6** to rid oneself of the d5–knight. **19.Rd2 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Nc4 21.Rd4 Nb2?** 21...Ne5 **22.Qd2 Bc5 23.Rg4! h5?** 23...f5, yet Black is cruising for a bruising still.



**24.Rxg7+!!** A positional sac that has Black's forces unable to come to the defence being scattered. **24..Kxg7 25.Qc3+ f6 26.Qxc5 Qd7 27.Nf4 Nd3 28.Nxd3 Qxd3 29.Qxa7+ Kh6 30.Qc5 Qg6 31.h4 Rfc8** There is little to do. **32.Qd4 Rd8 33.Qf4+ Kg7 34.Kh2 Rdc8 35.Rd1 Rb2 36.Rd7+ Kh8 37.Bxh5** A good game for Dan! **1–0**

**Scoones, Dan – Fullbrook, Nigel [E90] BC ch Vancouver (7.4), 27.04.1984**

*[Robert Chow]*

**1.d4 d6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e4 c5 6.d5 0–0 7.h3 e6 8.Bd3 exd5 9.exd5** If 9.cxd5 then 9...b5. Previous games with this system worth study are: Botvinnik-Matulovic, Palma de Mallorca 1967 (1–0), Botvinnik-Kavalek, Beverwijk 1969 (1/2–1/2), and Polugaevsky-Kavalek, Solingen 1969 (1–0). **9...Na6** Perhaps not the best plan, the N is misplaced on c7. A completely different alternative was 9...Re8+ 10.Be3 Bh6 11.0–0 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Nbd7 (not 12...Rxe3 because of 13.Qd2 with a strong initiative). In the resulting position Black's firm grip on e5 balances White's play on the

f-file. **10.0-0 Nc7 11.a4 Rb8 12.Bf4 a6 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Rxb6** A well placed rook guarding pawns on a6 and d6 plus attacking one on b2. Strangely enough, this piece never moves again and Black's position begins to collapse when it is exchanged on the twenty-ninth move. **15.Ra2** Although White stands better he has to find a clear plan of action. The thematic b4 break seems difficult to engineer. **15...Bd7 16.Qd2 Re8 17.Re1 Qb8 18.Rb1** White should exchange rooks. **18...Re7 19.Qc2 Nce8 20.Nd2 Nh5 21.Bh2 f5 22.Nf3 Qd8 23.Rba1 Nc7 24.Ne2 Bh6 25.Rb1** In the last ten moves White has manoeuvred without any noticeable progress. Meanwhile Black has expanded with f5; his next task is to plant a N on e4. **25...Ne8 26.Kf1 Nef6** Black could have prevented White's following move by 26...Bc8. However, he should still be OK after it (with reasonable play). **27.b4!**



This thematic move is almost forced as Black is threatening to take the initiative with ...Ne4. Obviously bad for Black is 27...Rxb4 28.Rxb4 cxb4 29.Bxd6 winning. The crucial test of 27.b4 has to be 27...cxb4 28.c5 (28.Bxd6 loses to 28...Rxd6 29.c5 Rxd5 30.Bc4 Bb5) 28...dxc5 Here White has several choices: 1) 9.Rxa6?! Rxa6 30.Bxa6 now 30...Qb6 or 30...Ne4 with advantage to Black; 2) 29.Ne5?! Nxd5 30.Qxc5 Nhf6!, again advantage Black; 3) 29.Qxc5 Bb5 now either 30.Rxb4 or 30.d6 leads to enormous complications; 4) 29.d6 Re8 30.Qxc5 unclear. All in all, Black seems to be very much alive after 27...cxb4. Therefore, it is surprising that Nigel (considering his style) did not enter into the available tactical channels. As a matter of fact his play, starting with 27...Ne4, becomes highly suspect. (Possible time trouble?)

**27...Ne4? 28.bxc5 dxc5? 28...Nxc5** though giving up the d4-square to the White Ns was better. **29.Rxb6 Qxb6 30.Qb2 Qxb2 31.Rxb2** Now White has a clear advantage. **31...f4?** Trying to shutout the bishop on h2, but weakening his N on e4. **31...Nhf6**, recentralizing the other N was in order. **32.Rb7! Kf7??** Losing a piece. Surely the N must retreat to d6 or f6 though it is rather grim after **33.Ra7. 33.Bxe4 Rxe4 34.Rxd7+ Kf6 35.Rd6+ Ke7 36.Re6+ Rxe6 37.dxe6 Kxe6 38.g4 fxc3 39.fxc3 Nf6 40.Nc3 Nd7** Since White has made the time control Black should have spared himself the rest of the agony by resigning. **41.Ke2 Bg7 42.Kd3 h5 43.Bg1 Bf6 44.Nd5 Bd8 45.Be3 Kf5** Adjourned; resumed April 29, 1984. **46.Bf4** Sealed. **46...g5 47.Ne3+ Kg6 48.Ne5+ Nxe5+ 49.Bxe5 Ba5 50.g4 hxg4 51.hxc4 Bb4 52.Nc2 a5 53.Nxb4 cxb4 54.c5 Kf7 55.Kc4 Ke6 56.Bc7 1-0**

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