

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #417

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

Lions Chess Club Blitz (November 14) by Joe Roback

			1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Lê, Quang Long	2420	*	2	2	1	2	2	9.0
2	Jover Font, Pau	2054	0	*	1	1	2	2	6.0
3	Phạm, Bích Ngọc	2235	0	1	*	2	1½	1	5.5
4	Roback, Joe	1982	1	1	0	*	1	2	5.0
5	Jiganchine, Roman	2212	0	0	½	1	*	1½	3.0
6	Arzumanyan, Aram	2020	0	0	1	0	½	*	1.5



This month was a smaller turnout but the highest average rating of any of our blitz tournaments so far. The format was a 3+2 double round robin where each player played black and white.

This tournament marked the rise of IM (Peter) Lê Quang Long (pictured) who is the brother of Lê Quang Liêm, Vietnam's super-GM. Peter placed clear first with 9.0/10 giving up a single game to Roback. Second place was captured by another new-comer Pau Jover, who had an impressive run against some former Lions Club champs. Special thanks to Aram for hosting the Lions Club site and providing the equipment. Future tournaments can accommodate up to twenty players. Check 'Chess in BC' on Facebook and the BCCF site for tournament details and updates.

Banff Open (November 12-14)

The fifth edition of the Banff Open, postponed from 2020 due to the pandemic, was held on the Remembrance Day weekend. There was an unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Jack Taylor Memorial (see below) but as it turned out both events achieved record attendances – apparently there is a hunger for over-the-board chess. The hundred and one player field in Banff included Max Gedajlovic, Keith MacKinnon, David Miller, Ethan Su, Charles Wu, and Nathan Wu from BC, also the first grandmaster in the event's history, Joel Benjamin, IMs Mark Plotkin, Mark Ginsberg, and David Cummings and other strong players. Second-ranked Mark Plotkin was held to a draw in the first round but won the rest of his games, including beating his father FM Victor in the last round, to claim clear first prize without having to resort to the Armageddon tiebreak game popular in previous editions of the tournament. Joel Benjamin finished second, a half point off the pace, after giving up two draws (one to Max Gedajlovic); Keith MacKinnon was part of the six-way tie for third with 4.5

points which also included Victor Plotkin, Gary Ng, Dale Haessel, David Cummings, and organizer Ian Findlay. Junior Nathan Wu, rated 1868, scored 3.0/5 against much higher-rated opposition to achieve a performance rating of 2351 and push his rating over 2000 for the first time. [Open Section U1800 Section FIDE report Facebook page](#)



Foreground: MacKinnon (left), Ginsburg (right)

Ginsburg, Mark – MacKinnon, Keith [A46] Banff op 5th (3.2), 13.11.2021

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3 Qd8 7.h4 Nd7 8.Qd2 c6 9.d5 e5 10.Bc4 Nf6 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.Nxe5+ Kg8 14.Nd3 d5 15.f3 dxe4 16.fxe4 Qd4 17.0–0–0 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Qxe4 19.Rhe1 Qd5 20.Qc3 Bg4 21.Nf4 Qxa2 22.Rd4 a5 23.Ng6 Bb4 24.Rxb4 axb4 25.Ne7+ Kf7 26.Rf1+ Kxe7 27.Qxg7+ Kd6 28.Qd4+ Qd5 29.Qxb4+ Kc7 30.c4 Ra1+ 0–1

Gedajlovic, Max – Benjamin, Joel [E16] Banff op 5th (4.3), 13.11.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2 Bb7 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.Qc2 d5 9.b3 Na6 10.Bb2 c5 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.Rac1 b5 14.Qb1 bxc4 15.bxc4 Qb6 16.Nd4 Qa6 17.N4b3 Na4 18.Bd4 Rfd8 19.Na5 ½–½

Wu, Nathan – Dukic, Zachary [D01] Banff op 5th (4.7), 13.11.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qd2 Bg7 5.Bh6 0–0 6.Bxg7 Kxg7 7.0–0–0 c5 8.e3 Nc6 9.dxc5 Qa5 10.Bb5 Rd8 11.f3 e5 12.Nge2 Be6 13.f4 d4 14.fxe5 dxc3 15.exf6+ Kg8 16.Qxc3 Qxb5 17.Nd4 Qc4 18.Qxc4 Bxc4 19.Nxc6 bxc6 20.Rd4 Rxd4 21.exd4 Re8 22.Rd1 g5 23.b3 Bd5 24.Rd2 h5 25.c4 Be6 26.d5 Bd7 27.b4 Re4 28.Rc2 Rd4 29.dxc6 Bxc6 30.b5 Be4 31.Rc3 Bxg2 32.c6 Kf8 33.c7 Bb7 34.c5 g4 35.b6 Bc8 36.bxa7 1–0

Online adventures

Three BC juniors participated in various sections of the EagleMinds October Grand Prix held on October 31: Zachary Liu scored 3.5/6 in the [Open](#) where the overall winner was GM Razvan Preotu, Aiden Leong had the same score in the [U1800 Section](#), while Azher Hossain won the

[U1600](#) with 4.5/5. Azher also competed in the [Thornhill Rapid 15](#) the previous weekend (October 24), achieving 3.5/5 in the thirty-three player field.

Joshua Doknjas at ChessBase

FM Joshua Doknjas has been producing periodic articles for the ChessBase website. His latest is a two-part report on the recent FIDE Grand Swiss in Riga, Latvia: [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

PNWCC FIDE Hybrid Matches (October 16, 17, 23)

The Pacific Northwest Chess Centre reopened in new facilities in Redmond, WA at the beginning of the summer and has continued apace with a busy schedule of events, both over-the-board and online. Given that international travel is still problematic in many places in the world, the PNWCC has also conducted a series of hybrid matches with teams from Eastern Europe, hybrid meaning that the games are played online but there is a supervising arbiter present at the players' physical locations. This greatly reduces the possibility of cheating, the bane of normal online play. Four of the matches, held on various weekends, were conducted against a team associated with the Serbian city of Pirot, near the border with Bulgaria and northwest of Sofia. Games were at 90 + 30 on the chess.com platform with two rounds each on Saturday and Sunday; team composition and numbers might vary from day to day.

The second and third matches, played October 16-17 and October 23-24 respectively, involved FM Max Gedajlovic playing for PNWCC with NA Joe Roback as local arbiter. For the former match (actually [#2](#)) the remaining PNWCC team members were based in San Francisco and were mostly NMs while the Pirot team included 4 IMs, a WGM and an FM. The PNWCC team was outrated but only lost by [12.0-14.0](#) points. In match [#3](#) the following week the PNWCC team included players from Vancouver, San Francisco, Remond, and Houston competing against a similar Pirot squad; this time the score was equal, [14.0-14.0](#). Individually Max lost his first game, then drew the remaining five.

Gedajlovic, Max – Milenkovic, Mladen [E16] PNWCC – Pirot Hybrid m #2 chess.com (2.1), 17.10.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 c5 6.d5 exd5 7.Nh4 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bg5 Re8 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Bxd5 Nc6 13.Qd2 Qc7 14.Bf4 Qb7 15.Bf3 b5 16.Rac1 Rac8 17.Be3 bxc4 18.Rxc4 Qa6 19.Rxc5 Qxa2 20.Bf4 Bf8 21.Rcc1 Bb4 22.Qc2 Ne7 23.Qb1 Qxb1 24.Rxb1 Ned5 25.Ng2 Nxf4 26.Nxf4 Rc2 27.Rfd1 Bd2 28.Nd3 g5 29.Kf1 g4 30.Bg2 Ba5 31.e3 Bd2 32.Ra1 a5 33.Ra4 Rb8 34.Rd4 Bb4 35.e4 Bc5 36.Ra4 Bb4 37.e5 Ne8 38.Nxb4 Rxb4 39.Rxb4 axb4 40.Rxd7 Nc7 41.Be4 Rc5 42.Rd4 b3 43.Bd3 h5 44.Bc4 Ne6 45.Bxe6 fxe6 46.Rb4 Rxe5 47.Rxb3 Kf7 48.Re3 Rc5 49.Re1 Rb5 50.Rb1 Rb3 51.Ke2 e5 52.Kd1 Ke6 53.Kc2 Rf3 54.Rf1 e4 55.Kd2 Ke5 56.b4 Rb3 57.Ra1 Rxb4 58.Ke3 Rb3+ 59.Ke2 ½-½

JtM National Talent Recruitment and Development Program

Juniors to Masters Chess Academy Inc. and the CFC have developed the above program for players ten years old and younger. This introductory program will focus on the development of young chess players. The program will begin in January 2022; funding is available for four players who will be selected based on their applications. See the [website](#) for further details.

BC WOMENS' CHAMPIONSHIP (November 20-21)

		1	2	3	4	
1	Pham, Bich Ngoc	2235	*	1	1	3.0
2	Jiang, Kate	1893	0	*	0	1.0
3	Guo, Yu Han (Veronica)	1788	0	1	*	1.0
4	Mok, Gillian	1721	0	0	1	1.0



From the left, Ngoc Pham, Veronica Guo, Gillian Mok, and Kate Jiang

After a gap of several years (and not just because of the pandemic) the BC Womens' Championship was held at the Richmond City Centre Community Centre on the weekend of November 20-21. The biggest change since the last championship in 2018 has been the arrival of WIM (Penny) Bich Ngoc Pham, who with her husband IM Quang Long Le moved to New Westminster from Europe about two years ago. She out-rated the remainder of the field by a considerable margin and unsurprisingly won the title with a perfect score; everyone else won and lost games to each other and all tied for second. Curiously, with the exception of a single white win by our new champion, black won every game.



Guo, Veronica – Pham, Bich Ngoc [A42] BC wom ch Richmond (1.1), 20.11.2021

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.d5 Nd4 6.Nge2 c5 7.dxc6 Nxc6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.h3 0–0 10.Ng3 Bd7 11.Be2 Rc8 12.Rc1 Ne8 13.Qd2 Nc7 14.Bg4 Ne6 15.h4 Ne5 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.b3 Ng4 18.h5 Qa5 19.Rh4 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 g5 21.Rh3 h6 22.Nge2 b5 23.cxb5 Bxb5 24.Qd2 Bxe2 25.Kxe2 g4 26.Rg3 Qxh5 27.Nd1 Be5 28.Rxc8 Rxc8 29.f4 Bf6 30.Nf2 Qb5+ 31.Nd3 h5 32.e5 Bg7 33.Re3 dxe5 34.Re4 exf4 35.Rb4 Qd5 36.Qxf4 Qxg2+ 37.Kd1 Qc2+ 38.Ke1 Bc3+ 39.Kf1 Rf8 40.Rb8 Qxd3+ 41.Kg2 Qf3+ 0–1

JACK TAYLOR MEMORIAL (November 13-14) by Roger Patterson

Well, chess tournaments have finally returned after a nearly two year-hiatus. The 36th annual Jack Taylor Memorial was one of several tournaments held across Canada on the weekend of November 13-14 and the first in BC since the 2020 BC Open. Notwithstanding the ongoing pandemic, it seems people are ready to play and the event drew ninety-five players, smashing the previous in person event record.

As you might imagine, planning for this year's event was not without drama. Normally, we would book the hotel roughly a year before as opposed to only four months out. Our usual venue had been sold to the city to use as a residence for homeless people. Finding a new place proved difficult and expensive - hence the change to a two-day event instead of having a round on Friday evening. Mixed reactions on that decision – it's convenient for out of town players who have difficulty making a Friday round but hard for players of a certain age to play three long games on Saturday.

And then there was the question of how many people would show up. Would people have just quit chess? Be gun shy about playing with COVID still around? Or would health regulations even permit the event to happen? Well, as it turned out people were more than ready to play after so long, the Netflix series *Queen's Gambit* inspired many new players to play in a tournament, and the health regulations tightened up, then loosened, and finally allowed the event to play under (almost) normal conditions.



Nothing quite like the sight of a tournament hall ready for action ...



... and during the event

The turnout of ninety-five players was a surprise. At this point, we are used to large numbers of juniors showing up but in fact the turn out was boosted mostly by new adult players, many of whom were fans of the Queen's Gambit series. A Beth Harmon boom for the 2020s ... Although new to the CFC and tournament chess, they were not newbies. Typically they were online regulars with online ratings from 1200 to 1800 so hardly beginners.

In the end, NM Jason Kenney had a fairly uneventful road to clear first with a perfect score of 5.0-0.0. His post tournament trip home was not nearly so uneventful as he made the decision to wait until Monday to drive the Malahat and take the Nanaimo ferry. With Monday's record breaking rainfall and extensive flooding, it's a decision he ... er ... regrets. Tied for second a full-point back were Eduardo Moura and Aiden Leong. Aiden was the big surprise here – he entered the tournament with the lowest possible rating to qualify for the Premier (1400) and came second!



Eduardo Moura and Jason Kenney in the last round ...

The U1600 section was larger than normal for a five-round event so a perfect score was necessary to win. Fred Giroux took top honors with 5.0 points while newly resident to BC Azher Hossain took clear second half a point back.



The organizer (R. Patterson) and second place U1600 Azher Hossain

Once again, this event was sponsored by the Jack Taylor Family, for which we are grateful.

Prize Winners:

Premier:

1st: Jason Kenney: \$500

2nd & Top U2000: Eduardo Moura, Aiden Leong: \$250 each

3rd-4th: Patrick Huang, Sloan Setiadikurnia: \$75 each

U1800: Isaac Trenton: \$200

U1600:

1st: Fred Giroux: \$250

2nd: Azher Hossain: \$150

U1300: Peter Mingrone, Sebastien Coste: \$125 each

[Previous winners](#)

Huang, Patrick – Kenney, Jason [D02] Jack Taylor mem 36th Victoria (4.1), 14.11.2021

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Nd2 e6 6.Ngf3 cxd4 7.exd4 Nh5 8.Be5 f6 9.Nh4 g6 10.Bg3 e5 11.dxe5 fxe5 12.Bb5 Bg7 13.Qe2 Nxc3 14.hxg3 0-0 15.0-0-0 a6 16.Bd3 Qf6 17.f4 e4 18.Bc2 Be6 19.Bb3 Rac8 20.Kb1 Na5 21.Qe3 b5 22.g4 Nc4 23.Bxc4 bxc4 24.f5 gxf5 25.gxf5 Bf7 26.g4 d4 27.Qxd4 Qxd4 28.cxd4 e3 29.f6 Bxf6 30.Ne4 Bxh4 31.Rxh4 Bg6 32.g5 Rce8 0-1

Leong, Aiden – Patterson, Roger [B45] Jack Taylor mem 36th Victoria (5.3), 14.11.2021
[Another example of the dangers of mixing playing and organizing]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5
10.Bd3 0–0 11.0–0 d4 12.Ne2 h6 13.h3 Qb6 14.b4 a6 15.Bf4 Rd8 16.Qd2 Nd5 17.Bxh6 gxh6
18.Qxh6 Nce7 19.Bh7+ Kh8 20.Bg6+ 1–0

FROM JUBILEE TO MEMORIAL



Facing the camera, Alan Hill and Peter Biyiasas at the Second Diamond Jubilee Open, 1974
(photo by Jonathan Berry)

In 1973 the BCCF organized a tournament to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the federation. Held in New Westminster on the five days between Christmas and New Year's (two rounds a day), the event attracted a total of sixty-three players including the then Canadian Champion, Peter Biyiasas. Curiously it appears the BCCF got the date of its anniversary wrong; all available contemporary sources indicate the federation was founded in 1916, so one wonders on what basis the earlier date was commemorated. Possibly there was confusion/conflation with the founding of the Vancouver Chess Club. The Diamond Jubilee Open was held annually for the next six years, attracting a maximum of sixty-four players in 1975 but by 1978 the attendance had dropped to just eighteen and the tournament was discontinued.

Six years later plans were made to resurrect the tournament at the Kerrisdale Community Centre in August 1984 and early adverts called the event the Diamond Jubilee Open. However, in September of 1974 Jack Taylor, former five-time BC Champion, had passed away at the age of sixty-seven (pictured). To honour his memory a trophy had been donated for the winner of the Diamond Jubilee Open, although when exactly this happened is not clear. By the time the Kerrisdale event took place the tournament name had been changed to the Jack Taylor Memorial, commemorating the dedicatee of the trophy. Tony Berrocoso, Gerry Forbes and Nigel Fullbrook tied for first in a field of thirty-two, but it was not until the tournament was transplanted to Victoria in 1987 under the care of Lynn Stringer that the Jack Taylor Memorial became the annual event we know today.





Not great quality, but this is the only photograph your editor has of the Diamond Jubilee Open trophy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BC-WA Match

January 14-16, 2022

[Details](#)

Richmond Open

January 14-16, 2022

[Details](#)

BC Open

February 19-21, 2022

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

April 15-18, 2022

[Details](#)