

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #419

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 [Washington Winter Classic](#) (December 26-27) was an eight-round Swiss event with a time control of 45 + 5 held on the chess.com platform. The overall winner was GM Aleksej Aleksandrov with 7.5/8 who finished just ahead of IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla; Richard Ingram scored 3.5 points in the Open Section. The Thornhill Chess Club welcomed the New Year with a [Rapid](#) event (January 9), a five-round Swiss at 15 + 10 on the lichess.org platform in which Azher Hossain scored 3.5/5. And Zachary Liu and Emilian Holmgren participated in the [EMC Online Rapid Open](#) (January 22), also five rounds of 15 + 10 on lichess; Zachary tied for second with 4.0 points.

31st North American Open (December 26-30)

Held live at Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas, this year's North American Open attracted four players from BC, Tony Dong, George Kosinski, Ethan Su, and Andrew Xu in various sections. The overall winners were GMs Awonder Liang and Vladimir Akopian with 7.5/9; Ethan Su (U2100) and Tony Dong (U1500) both scored 5.0/7 and split prizes with multiple other players, earning \$44.44 and \$90.91 respectively. [Standings](#)

Jun Bandong Memorial Blitz (December 30)

Congratulations to the winners for the 1st annual Jun Bandong Memorial Blitz Tournament!

Fantastic turn out and a super fun time!!! Thank you everyone for your support & generous donations! [Results](#)

1st - NM Mayo Fuentebella - mayo_fuentebella - \$100 & Championship trophy

2nd - NM Zulfikar Sali - Itlog_King - \$50

3rd - IM Raymond Kaufman - Backranksplitter - \$30

4th - Best senior award: Dave Chang - forbiddencheapos - \$30 (Sponsored by James Chan.)

Best under 2000 award: Euan Reid - euan_r - \$20



As the year winds down I wanted to end it on a very high note. This was always about the man of the hour, our beloved friend Jun Bandong. We miss you. We love you. Rest in paradise. We hope you're smiling at all of us as we played in your honour. Have an awesome 2022 year and beyond!

The [Blendz Chess Club](#) now has an online presence on lichess.org and is offering weekly and monthly events:

Free weekly Thursday blitz tournaments starting Thursday January 13

Swiss format: 5 +1

Rounds: 18 rounds

Time: 6-9pm

<https://lichess.org/swiss/FillQRhB>

Monthly master series prize tournament. It's modelled after Titled Tuesdays except it's open to all classes.

Sat. January 29

Arena format: 5 minutes

Start: 6-11pm

Entry Fee: \$5 + \$2 donation that goes into the next memorial tournament.

E-transfer: Will - bwcampbell17@yahoo.ca

Each paid patron will receive a password.

<https://lichess.org/tournament/goEpd8mF>

We hope to see everybody at the tournaments!

(Another) Extension - Internet Rated Games and COVID-19 Rating Incentive

The CFC is further extending the interim policy to accept internet events for Quick (Active) to April 1st, 2022. The COVID-19 rating incentive will also be extended until April 1st, 2022. Players who play a minimum of 10 CFC rated games between October 1st, 2020 and April 1st, 2022 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 is 25 minutes per player. 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 four 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.

BC CHESS EMERGES FROM THE DARKNESS by Paul Leblanc **Richmond Open Attracts 145 Players**

The first major chess tournament on the mainland in almost two years took place at the Airport Executive Hotel in Richmond on the weekend of 14-16 January. The Richmond Open was originally conceived as a side-event to the annual BC vs Washington match however the match was postponed due to border crossing difficulties and the Richmond Open became the main event.



2022 Richmond Open. Photo by Brendan Woodroff

The main concern of resuming over-the-board chess was, of course the rather harsh COVID safety protocols that needed to be observed including the directive that seated events at this type of venue were limited to 50% of the seated capacity of the room in use. Additionally, vaccination and continuous masking was required for all players. The difficult decision was made to require vaccination for children under 12 years of age. The Jack Taylor Memorial, held in Victoria last November, proved to be a useful template for running a tournament under current conditions.

The tournament would not have been possible without the help of many people. A few of them were our two wonderful tournament directors, Brendan Woodroff and Joe Soliven, and the volunteers who helped at check-in and vaccine screening (Jason Williamson, Don Hack, Aaron Holmgren, Norman Batisse and Tyler Cruz). We also had a great crew of volunteers to set up the room in record time before the first round. Thanks also to Michael Lo of Chess2Inspire for the loan of all the chess equipment.

Turning to the results, Paris Dorn who came from Edmonton specifically to play chess finished clear first in the premier section with 4.5 points over the five rounds to capture the \$500 first place prize. His key to success was a very long and stubborn defence to hold a draw in a difficult bishop and knight endgame against top-ranked Keith MacKinnon in round four.

The U1500 Section was the most popular section with sixty-one players including a significant contingent of “unrated” players who made the leap from online chess to over-the-board chess and did quite well. Four players tied for first place – Xander Naumenko, Will Beattie, Gideon Tang and Andrew Styffe, all with 4.5 points out of 5, each player winning \$250. The trophy went to Naumenko on tie-break.

The U1000 Section was a free-for-all with 84% of the field unrated but most with online chess experience. Liam Cummings and Ayran Mikaeili emerged on top with 4.5 points out of 5 and winning \$250 each. The trophy went to Cummings on tie-break.

The event was organized by Paul Leblanc with website support from Roger Patterson, both of Victoria Chess. [This report, standings, etc.](#)



The critical game on board one - Keith Mackinnon vs Paris Dorn

NCM VAS ROCKS THE PANDEMIC by Vaclav Sladek

Somewhere around 2019 I had given up on ICCF correspondence chess, my rating was at an all-time low (1730) and engine use depressed me. GM Nigel Short even penned an article saying the ICCF had no reason to exist in the internet age. But then, two things happened: the pandemic hit and the ICCF established lower level titles. That's all the excuse I needed to invest into a new home chess lab with the latest engines and databases. And just like that, Vas came out of retirement.

Fast forward to January, 2022, my ICCF rating is at 2160 and my shiny new norm towards the CCE (correspondence chess expert) title arrived just a few hours into the New Year. I've also discovered that, yes, you can have some fun playing ICCF games. Let's take a look.

Building a fortress



It's telling that *my opponent offered a draw* here, knowing that the result would eliminate him from the Canadian Championship final. The black rook controls the e-file and the last rank to keep white out; the sacrifice Rxh6 doesn't win either, and pushing c5 would create a dangerous b-pawn passer.

Be brave! Unbalance your positions once in a while by giving up the exchange and have more fun.

Sladek, Vaclav – Vasile, Constantin [B06] MT-VV Demian F (ROU) ICCF, 15.12.2020



Be brave! White gives up an exchange but he gets compensation. **40.Kc2 Ncd4+ 41.Nexd4 cxd4 42.Rd3 Nc5 43.Ra3 Nxd3 44.Kxd3 f6 45.b4 fxe5 46.fxe5 e6 47.Bd2 Rbd8 48.Ra6 Rf7 49.Ke4 d3 50.Rd6 Rdf8 51.Rxd3 Rc8 52.c5 Rf5 53. Rb3** Black resigned. 1-0

Sladek, Vaclav – Asi, Emmanuel [A53] Interzonal TT11 ICCF, 31.03.2021



21.bxa5 Bxd1 I didn't have to give up an exchange but who gets to have more fun here? With two bishops and advanced pawns, finishing this game was pure pleasure. **22.Bxd1 Ra8 23.Rb5 e4 24.Bc2 f5 25.g3 h6 26.Bd2 Rac8 27.Qb4 Rf7 28.Ba4 Kh7 29.Rb6 Qd8 30.Rxb7 Rxb7 31.Qxb7 Rxc5 32.Qe7 Rc8 33.Bc6 Qf8 34.d7 Rb8 35.Qxf8 Bxf8 36.a6 Be7 37.Bb7 e5 38.Be3 h5 39.h4 Kg7 40.Bb6 g5 41.hxg5 Bxg5 42.Bc7 Rf8 43.Bxe5+ Kf7 44.Bc8 e3 45.Kf1 Bd8 46.a7** 1-0

DEFENDING CAN BE UNPLEASANT by Nick Beqo

Playing in Defence is hard because any mistake can be fatal; whereas, making mistakes when attacking can lead to simply slowing down the attack. In order to meet an opponent's attack successfully the player that is defending needs to have the nerves of steel and should not relax for a single moment.

Ideally, if you play the openings correctly and do not create weaknesses in the Middlegame then you do not have to play in defence. In reality, that is not possible because nobody can play chess to perfection, including the world champions. Even if that was the case, there are talented tacticians out there, such as Morozevitch, Mamedyarov, Dubov, etc., that will create imbalance in your positions and will attack you on one side of the board or the other, or both.

There are also players that attack pre-maturely and you have to know how to actively defend against these so-called pseudo attacks. I know many local players that only like to attack, they will not hesitate to sacrifice pieces any time they get a chance, and they will confuse you with their type of play. Here are some of the defending tips that I give to my students when playing against opponents that are known to play attacking chess,

- Choose solid opening variations, not messy ones
- If playing with Black pieces castle after White does
- Try to close lines and go for trading pieces (not pawns)
- Stay calm and rely on accurate and detailed calculations

To be a successful defender you have to work on

1. Developing the sense of real danger because the main challenge when defending is to distinguish a real threat from an imaginary one; otherwise, the player defending might become confused and lose his head

2. Developing counterattacking skills. At the end of the day, Attack is the only way that brings victory in chess and that's why "the best defence is offence." A successful defender should find the right resources and the right moment to counterattack. One of the greatest defenders in the history of chess, Tigran Petrosian, was also a great tactician.

Here is a game of mine that I had to patiently defend for a very long time because I did not handle the opening correctly.

Harper, Bruce – Beqo, Besnik [B26] Keres mem 27th Vancouver (6.3), 20.05.2002

It was round 6 of Keres Memorial 2002. I was paired with Black pieces against Bruce Harper. We both had 4 points out of 5; I had three wins and had lost only one game to the Canadian Champion, Pascal Charbonneau. Bruce had three wins and two draws, one draw to Yoos and another unexpected draw to a 2079 ELO player. Here are [the standings](#)

This was the first time I was playing Mr. Harper and did not have time to prepare against him either, so I did not know what to expect. It turned out that he likes to play openings that do not follow the classical guidelines and the move order can get tricky.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 e6 7.Qd2 Nd4



I played the same piece twice in the opening because developing my other knight would allow White to exchange my fianchettoed Bishop, i.e. 7...Nge7 8.Bh6 Bxh6 9.Qxh6 Nd4 10.O-O-O Qa5 11.Kb1 Bd7 12.Nge2 Nec6 13.h4 O-O-O 14.h5 b5 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.e5! (Short,N – Movsesian,S Sarajevo 2000) I wanted to control the d4 square by centralizing my Knight but based on my opponent's next move I should have played 7...Rb8 and b5 right away, a standard plan in the Closed Sicilian. Failing to implement this plan at this exact moment lead to a position that I had to defend for the rest of the game. **8.Nd1 Rb8 9.c3 Nc6 10.Ne2 Ne5 11.f4 Ng4 12.Bg1 Qa5**



Another inaccuracy. Black has wasted many unnecessary tempi in the opening and as a result, White has a better position and is going to gain space advantage on the Kingside. **13.h3 N4f6 14.g4 Ne7 15.Bh2 Nd7 16.Ne3 b5 17.0-0 b4? 18.f5**



I should have stopped White from playing f5 by playing 17...f5 myself but it's too late now. **18...bxc3 19.bxc3 e5 20.g5 f6 21.h4 Nc6**



Another mistake but Black's position is passive and it's hard to find good moves. **22.Ng3 Ba6 23.Rf2** Immediately after the game, GM Suttles that was standing close to my table and followed the game almost the entire time, approached me and criticized this move as the main mistake in the game. I was surprised with that very deep evaluation from Mr. Suttles. Instead, he suggested 23.Nd5. As a matter of fact, even after 23.Rf2 White is still better, and my position was unpleasant. That was the first time that I met GM Suttles in person. He was very friendly and approachable. As he found the game interesting, Mr. Suttles sat down and analyzed the game with me for a long time. It was lunch time between the rounds, and we used all of it, until the next round was announced. It was an honor to analyse with GM Suttles and quite a learning experience too. I have worked with many other Grandmasters in the past, i.e. Tony Miles, Suat Atalik, briefly with Larry Christiansen, etc. but Suttles had a unique approach to the game. I asked him if he coached but unfortunately, he said that he does not do coaching. The game continued, **23...c4 24.dxc4 Qc5 25.Bh3 Nb6 26.Nd5 O-O 27.Nxb6 Rxb6 28.Qd5+ Qxd5 29.cxd5 Na5**



Even though a pawn down I was still patiently hanging in there waiting for my chances because I control the b-file, a positive attitude and this mental imagery and visualization.

30.Bf1 Bc4 31.Kh1 Rfb8 32.Bg1 Rb1 33.Rxb1 Rxb1 34.Kg2 a6 35.Bxc4 Nxc4 36.Nf1 Rc1



Through patience and persistence, and with a little “help” from my opponent as well, I finally managed to gain some activity and now I believe to have full compensation for the pawn. **37.fxg6 hxg6 38.gxf6 Bh6 39.f7+ Kf8 40.Rf6 Bf4 41.Ba7**



It was time for me to collect the c- and a-pawns with Rc3-c2-a2 but not sure why I decided to keep my rook on the open b-file; I guess I am not a pawn grabber. Either way the evaluation does not change much, it's still an unclear position. **41...Rb1 42.Rxg6 Kxf7 43.h5 Rb7 44.Bf2 Rb2 45.Ng3 Be3 46.Nh1**



My position is not better, but I have some initiative and found it funny to be able to drive my opponent's Knight to the h1 corner. **46...Rxa2 47.Kf3 Bf4 48.Ng3 Nd2+ 49.Kg4 Bxg3 50.Bxg3 Nxe4 1/2-1/2**

Having enough of this game and, being confident that no side is better, I offered draw and my opponent also having enough of this game accepted the draw offer although he felt that he had a better position. I beg to differ and even according to today's engines the position is evaluated as completely equal. In general, I am against draw offers and prefer the Sofia rules because I like endgames. This was one of the rare cases that I offered draw and was not in the

mood to continue playing because as I said I had enough of this game I did not see any chances for either side. Of course, I followed the FIDE rules, I offered draw only once and only after I played my move.

This game was different from the classical variations that are played by following opening guidelines; here are some of them that I give to my students,

- Control the center by occupying it with your pawns
- Develop King's pieces first, and then Queen's pieces
- Normally develop the Knights first and then the Bishops
- Avoid moving the same piece twice unless it's necessary
- Castle and connect the Rooks within about 15 - 20 moves
- Avoid early development of the Queen unless it's necessary
- Avoid unnecessary pawns' moves, the pawns cannot move back
- Learn openings by analyzing games of Grandmasters and your heroes

Unorthodox openings are not for everybody, unless you are Suttles. However, it's important not to underestimate them but to keep an open mind, use your creativity, and be prepared for a long game that requires lots of stamina.

Nick Beqo, [Chess 2000 ELO - Online Private Coaching](#)

(This article, along with the previous one on Preparation from the last Bulletin, may be found in Nick Beqo's new e-book on Kindle, [Chess Psychology](#))

2021 IN REVIEW

The end/beginning of the year is often a time for reflection and review of the events that occurred in the previous twelve months. With this in mind, here is a list of BC tournament winners for 2020, along with a few other highlights:

BC-WA match – 37.5-22.5 for BC

Victoria Open – Peter Yong Qiu

BC Open – Jonathan Wu

Grand Pacific Open – Zulfikar Sali, Tanraj Sohal, Jonathan Wu, Carina D'Souza

Intermat – 28.0-24.0 for WA

Vancouver Rapid Chess League – Chigorin Chess Club

Paul Keres Memorial – Peter Yong Qiu

BC Senior Championship – Dale Haessel

Dan Scoones Memorial – Kane Pan and Joe Soliven

BC Championship – John Doknjas

Jack Taylor Memorial – Jason Kenney

BC Womens' Championship – Bich Ngoc Pham

BC vs. New Brunswick Scholastic Match – 30.5-17.5 to BC

London Chess Classic Blitz #2 – Tanraj Sohal

Lions Chess Club Blitz Grand Prix – Aram Arzumanyan

Chigorin CC Online Invitational – Andrew Hemstapat

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BC Open

February 19-21, 2022

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

April 15-18, 2022

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

May 21-23, 2022

[Details](#)