

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #421

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

Two BC players participated in a recent online tournament hosted by the Thornhill Chess Club. Zachary Liu and Azher Hossain scored 3.5 and 2.5 points respectively in the [Thornhill Spring Rapid](#) (March 20).

Juniors to Masters Ukraine Fundraiser Event (March 13) by Victoria Doknjas and GM Gergely Szabo



The Juniors to Masters Ukraine Fundraiser Event was held on March 13, 2022 on Lichess (1-hour Blitz Arena). Thank you to all forty-four players (and some non-players) who donated \$2,540 via our fundraiser, and combined with the Canadian government's pledge to match donations to the Canadian Red Cross: Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, our contributions resulted in \$5,080!

Great to see several titled players joined in on our JtM Ukraine Fundraiser Event, including GM Gergely Szabo, GM Levente Vajda, WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet, IM George-Catalin Ardelean, IM Mihnea Costachi, IM Teodor Anton, WIM Svitlana Demchenko, FM Joshua Doknjas, FM John Doknjas, FM Nicholas Vettese, NM Marc Cazalais, NCM Neil Doknjas, and NCM Chris Felix – thank you!

Thank you also to all the up and coming star players: Rachel, Noah, Andy, Wesley, Nathan, Harrison, Joshua I., Michael, Zachary C., Eamon, Victoria, Anirud, Jonathan, Erik, Shiva, Denisa-Andreea, Roger, Victor, Pepi, Andrew, Peter, Joydeep, Mark, Bradley, Raaj, Mike, Athan, Jacob, David, Zachary L., and Edward.

We also appreciate WIM Svitlana, GM Gergely, IM Mihnea, Paul, Fred, Christina, Bob, Don, NM Vlad, NM Stephen, NM Roger, NM Josh, IM Georgi, Doknjas Chess, CFC, BCCF, Maritime Chess

Club, Victoria Chess Club, WA Chess Federation, and many others who helped to promote this event via social media, and on their websites, bulletins, and to their chess contacts.

Congratulations to IM Mihnea Costachi, FM Joshua Doknjas, and GM Gergely Szabo for their top three placings! Special shout out to GM Levente Vajda (1 point out of top three), and IM George-Catalin Ardelean and FM Nicholas (both 2 points out of top three)!

We hope everyone had a FUN time and all the while supporting this important cause.

Extension - Internet Rated Games and COVID-19 Rating Incentive

The ratings incentives have been extended (again) to July 1, 2022. The updated policy is as follows:

The CFC is extending to July 1, 2022 the interim policy to accept internet events for Quick (Active).

The COVID-19 rating incentive will also be extended until July 1, 2022. Players who play a minimum of 10 CFC rated games between October 1st, 2020 and July 1, 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.

BRITISH COLUMBIA – NOVA SCOTIA SCHOLASTIC MATCH (March 5)



Using the format of the Intermat as a model (two students per grade competing against their opposite numbers but switching opponents for the second game), last December a scholastic team representing BC engaged in an online match with New Brunswick; exactly three months later a similar match took place, this time with a team from Nova Scotia. The teams were determined through qualifying events run by the CMA associates in each province, the Vancouver Chess School (Maxim Doroshenko) for BC and the Nova Scotia Scholastic Chess Association (Chris

Felix, President). The two-round match took place on the VCS platform on March 5, relatively early for BC and relatively late for NB to allow for the four hour time difference. The time control was 25 + 5. The internet gods decreed the VCS system would crash about ten minutes into the match, but after the servers were rebooted and the pairings reset the games came off without any further hitches.

In round one (with BC playing black on all boards) BC built up a commanding score to lead by 18.5-5.5 at the half. In the second round, despite playing black the NB team held its own for the first dozen games to finish (5.0-6.0 for NB) before BC pulled ahead to a round two score of 14.0-10.0 and an overall score after the two rounds of 32.5-15.5 for BC.

In terms of individual results, BC players who won both their games were Haoming Lian (grade 1), YouJia Ye and Jeffrey Deng (both grade 2), Jesse Law (3), Owen Zheng (6), Alexander Jin and Peter Brown (both 7), Ryan Huang (9), Edward Jeong (10), and Ellis Lomas (11), while Panshul Mishra-Jaiman (4), Bowen Wong (8), and Raymond Zhang (9) had a plus scores. On the NS side Calix Marchand (5) and Jerjis Kapra (12) had perfect scores, while David Wang (4) and Andy Wang (8) had plus scores. Thanks are due the team captains and officials and to all the players and parents for participating under difficult circumstances especially the Nova Scotia volunteers Jeanine Fillmore, Farhana Kanth, Samuel Heran, and Xiankai Wang. Hopefully we can make the match an annual event. [Results](#)

PATRICK HUANG CAPTURES 2022 VICTORIA CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP by Paul Leblanc

The Victoria Championship has a very long history with names on the Victoria Cup dating back to 1936. [Actually it originated two decades earlier, see below.] One more name was added on the weekend of March 5-6 as Patrick Huang finished clear first with 5.5 out of 6, giving up only half a point to Ian Cordon who finished second with 5.0 out of 6. Top U1600 was Trevor Yonkman with a very solid 4.5 points and top U1200 was Alexander Webb with 3.0 points. Twenty-three local players met at the Hotel Grand Pacific in a six-round tournament to contest the championship. [CFC standings](#)



Patrick Huang cradles the Victoria Cup. TD Marc Moisan left, organizer Paul Leblanc right



U1600 winner Trevor Yonkman



U1200 winner Alexander Webb



Amir Afshar vs Stephen Drake (left), Matthew Freitag vs Phil Allan (right)

Patterson, Roger – Huang, Patrick [A10] Victoria ch Victoria (6.1), 06.03.2022

1.c4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Be2 Be7 6.0–0 0–0 7.b3 d5 8.Bb2 c5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Qd3 a6 13.Rfd1 c4 14.bxc4 dxc4 15.Qb1 b5 16.a3 Qa5 17.Qa1 Qb6 18.Ne5 Rfd8 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.d5 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Rxd5 22.Rxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxg7 Qg6 0–1

1916 VICTORIA CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

As mentioned above the current perpetual trophy for the Victoria championship is the Victoria Cup, a history of which was given in [Bulletin #405](#). There was one other perpetual trophy before that, the Gonnason Cup, which was first awarded in 1921 and whose centenary we celebrated last year (see [Bulletin #412](#)). However, the first competition for the chess championship of the city of Victoria was held five years before that trophy came into circulation, as announced in the *Victoria Daily Times* newspaper of 29 December 1915:

The Chess Amateur League, of which C.F. Davie, of this city, is the secretary, is arranging a tournament to take place some time in January next to determine the amateur chess championship of the city of Victoria. Contestants will be limited to bona fide residents of the city and suburbs, and also to bona fide amateurs. It is the intention of the league to hold a tournament in each year, the winner thereof becoming entitled to challenge the champion of the previous year. There being at present no recognized amateur champion, the winner of the forthcoming tournament will be styled the “amateur chess champion of the city of Victoria,” and will be obliged to respond to the challenge of the winner of the tournament in the following year. A suitable medal will be awarded to each holder of the championship, to be purchased from the entrance fees. In view, however, of the money donations which are at present expected from the public for patriotic and other causes, the management of the league has decided to impose no entrance fees until after the war, the contests in the meantime being free. Entries for the first annual tournament, which will take place next January at a date to be announced later, may now be sent into the secretary, C.F. Davie, room 203 Pemberton building, Fort street, who will be pleased to give all information as to the details of the forthcoming tournament.

The Chess Amateur League was an English correspondence chess league to which Davie belonged and was secretary. In April 1916 he formed a Canadian Branch of the league, which ran various tournaments for both American and Canadian players. Davie's connection with the league did not last long: he allowed the CACL (Canadian Branch) to be part of the merger which led to the formation of the Correspondence Chess League of America in 1917. He withdrew from any role in the new organization, on the grounds that since there were so few players in Western Canada, control would be better exercised from further east. Despite this short tenure, he inaugurated the first Canadian correspondence championship (won by R.W. Worsley of Yorkton, Saskatchewan), as recognized and continued now by the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association.

Why the Victoria championship was organized by a correspondence organization is not entirely clear, given that there had been various chess clubs in Victoria since 1892, although the dividing line between over-the-board and correspondence play was much less significant at that time than it was to become later. Notable also is the designation of the championship as being for amateurs; for comparison, see the discussion of professional vs. amateur when Thomas Piper (incidentally a teacher of Davie) challenged Magnus Smith for the Canadian championship in 1899 ([Bulletin #158](#))

The tournament duly commenced on Tuesday, 18 January 1916 with nine entrants: Hugh Allan, W.J. Barker, C.F. Davie, C.H. Gibbs, P.F. James, R.W. Mackenzie, A.A. Mercer, L. Partington, and A. Scobie. Playing sessions were held weekday evenings from 8 to 11pm at the Pemberton Building room 203, the law offices of C.F. Davie. The double round robin ended on 1 February with Barker and Davie tied for first with 14.0/16, far ahead of the third-placed Gibbs on 11.0 points. The final standings only list seven players, implying that Mackenzie and Partington withdrew sometime before the end of the competition. It was decided that the tie should be broken by a match:

The match between Mr. C.F. Davie and Mr. W.J. Barker to determine the amateur chess championship of the City of Victoria will commence at 8 pm on Wednesday, the 22nd instant (i.e., 22 March) at Room 203 Pemberton Building. Play will be at the rate of not less than twenty moves per hour, chess timing clocks being utilized for the purpose. This will be the first occasion that timing clocks will have been used for a chess match in Victoria. The winner of the first three games (draws not counting) wins the match and the title of Amateur Chess Champion of the City of Victoria. Mr. T.H. Piper has kindly consented to officiate as umpire. [Victoria *Daily Colonist*, 12 March 1916]

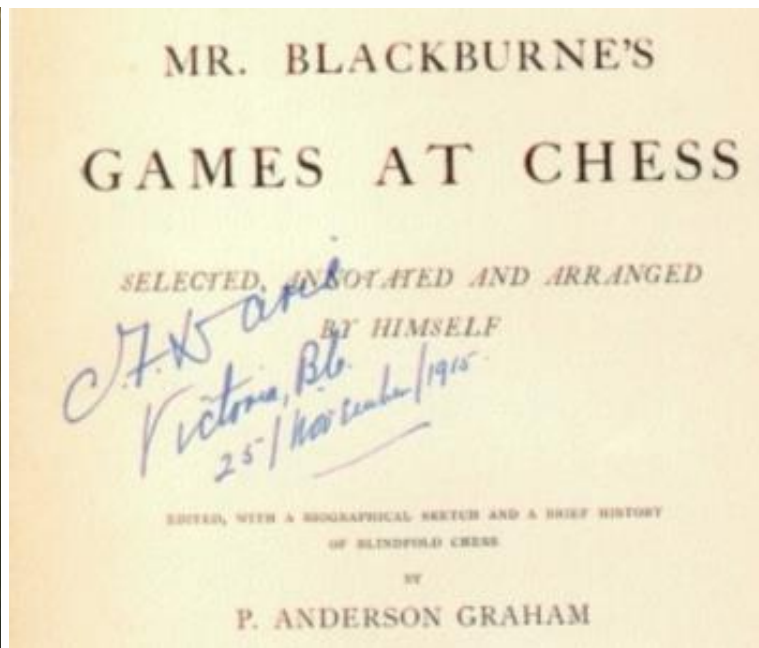
The match finished quickly as Davie won the requisite three games without giving up any points in return and claimed the championship.

Mr T.H. Piper, who acted as umpire in the recently contested match between Mr. Davie and Mr. Barker to decide the tie for the city championship, has been good enough to contribute the following comments upon the play.

In the first two games of this match, both players were labouring on the side of caution, with the consequence that there were few mistakes and nothing brilliant.... The third and final game (a Bird opening, 1.f4 d5) produced produced the best chess of the contest, and was a relief from the somewhat dull play of the preceding games. In this opening, Mr. Davie was evidently upon familiar ground, his play throughout being characterized by snap and vigour. Against the combined onslaught of Q, K Kt, and Q B, Black's game early went to pieces and on his sixteenth move he only succeeded in avoiding mate by giving up a piece; he was still, however, hotly pressed, and, shortly afterwards, lost still another piece. Mr. Barker might here have gracefully resigned, but he struggled along with an irretrievable game until the forty-fifth move, when his opponent announced mate in four. Whilst watching the game I was impressed with the value of the advice, "always make your move deliberately, unhesitatingly, and with decision; without hurry, vacillation, or regret; let the thought fully precede the act, for without stability in thought and certainty in expression you can never do your best; the wavering player goes to the wall." [Unattributed, but taken from *The Principles of Chess in Theory and Practice* by James Mason] That both winner and loser acted on the foregoing is evidenced that by the fact that no appeal on any point was made to the umpire, and there was no fingering of pieces or hovering of hands over the board, as is so often the case the amateur play. Both players are to be congratulated upon the happy manner in which the contest was decided. [*Daily Colonist*, 2 April 1916]

Cyril Francis Davie (1882-1950) was born in Victoria, into one of the province's most important political families: his father, Alexander E.B. Davie, was B.C. premier 1887-1889, while his uncle Theodore held the same office during the years 1892-1895. Davie studied law at Ottawa University and was called to the bar in BC in 1907. In 1924 he entered politics, serving as the Conservative MLA for Cowichan-Newcastle until 1933; for the last three years of this term he was also Speaker

of the House. From 1929 to 1931 Davie chaired a royal commission on health insurance and maternity benefits, and became a strong advocate for state health insurance. After 1933 he retired to private law practice in Duncan. Davie was the author of *Common Law and Statutory Amendment in Relation to Contributory Negligence in Canada*, as well as a prolific contributor to the *Canadian Bar Review*. This literary bent was also evident in Davie's chess activities: he wrote a chess column in the *Victoria Daily Colonist* from 1916 until his political career forced him to hand over the reins to Thomas Piper, and was also a contributor to the *British Chess Magazine*.



Left: Davie. Right: Davie's signature on the title page of his copy of *Mr. Blackburne's Games of Chess*, subsequently owned by Nathan Divinsky

William James Barker (1868-1941) was born in Pemberton, Ontario, but came to BC in 1913. A pharmacist by trade, he subsequently won the BC Championship in 1923, 1924, 1926, and 1928.

Allan, Hugh – Mercer, A.A. [C40] Victoria ch Victoria, 01.1916

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 d4 4.Na4 Nc6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Ng5 Be6 7.Qd2 Bb4 8.c3 dxc3 9.Nxc3 Nd4 10.a3 Ba5 11.a4 Nb3 12.Qe2 Nxa1 13.Bd2 Nc2+ 0-1

Davie, Cyril Francis – Scobie, A. [C33] Victoria ch Victoria, 01.1916

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nc3 exf4 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.0-0 d5 7.Nxd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c3 Bc5+ 10.d4 Bd6 11.Ne5 c6 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.Nxf7 1-0

Gibbs, Charles H. – Mercer, A.A. [C34] Victoria ch Victoria, 01.1916

Charles H. Gibbs was the district manager for the Computing Scale Co. of Canada Ltd. The following year the company was consolidated with three others under the name International Business Machines, subsequently IBM.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 d6 5.d4 g5 6.0–0 Na5 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Nxg5+ Ke8 9.Qh5+ Ke7 10.Qf7# 1–0

Mackenzie, R.W. – Gibbs, Charles H. [A03] Victoria ch Victoria, 01.1916

[Cyril Francis Davie]

1.f4 Bird's opening, which Mr. Mackenzie handled in first class style, but unfortunately overlooked a mate on his 20th move. [Apparently a popular move in Victoria at the time (see the next game) – a few years later there was even a Bird's Opening thematic tournament at the Victoria Chess Club.]

1...d5 The usual response to this opening. **2.Nf3 Bf5** Not the proper place for the queen's bishop in this opening. It should be developed at b7. **3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 Nh6** Not a good post for the knight, as it is liable to be driven home with loss of time by g4 followed by g5. **5.b3 Bc5** Be7 is better, as played by Morphy. **6.Bb2 0–0 7.0–0 f6 8.Qe1 Bxd3 9.cxd3 Nf5 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.a3** Waste of time. With Nd1 and then to f2, the black knight could have done no harm at b4 and then could have been driven back with loss of time by a3. **11...d4 12.Nd1 Re8 13.e4 Nh6 14.Qg3** A prominent feature of this attack is Qg3. **14...Qd6 15.Nf2**



Mr. Mackenzie has now developed his game faultlessly, in accordance with the late Mr. Bird's idea. **15...e5 16.f5** Well played, shutting out Black's pieces from interfering with the attack. **16...Kh8 17.Ng4 Nxg4 18.Qxg4 Rg8 19.Nh4 Qe7** This rendered mate possible in two moves. **20.Qh5 20.Ng6+ hxg6 21.Qh4#**; in overlooking the mate, Mr. Mackenzie missed the opportunity of securing a brilliant win. **20...g6 21.Nxg6+ Rxg6 22.fxg6 Rg8 23.Rxf6** The Black queen cannot, of course, take the rook, on account of Qxh7# **23...Qg7 24.Raf1 Nd8 25.R1f3 Be7 26.Rh3 h6 27.Qxh6+ Qxh6 28.Rxh6+ Kg7 29.Rh7+ Kxf6 30.Rh5 Rxg6 31.Rf5+ Ke6**

Having escaped the mate, Mr. Gibbs played the remainder of the game with great vigour, and with his extra piece won after about twenty more moves. **0–1**

Davie, Cyril Francis – Barker, William James [A03] Victoria ch playoff Victoria (3), 03.1916

[Thomas H. Piper]

1.f4 d5 2.e3 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bd3 An awkward enough looking move, but, in view of the intended immobility of the d-pawn, the move answers well in this opening. **4...c5 5.b3 Nc6 6.Bb2 Bd7 7.0–0 Nb4** A violation of minor principles, which decree that no piece shall be moved twice in the opening before all the remainder shall have been developed. **8.Nc3** Following Mr. Bird's practice of allowing the exchange of the immobile bishop, with the gain of a tempo. **8...Nxd3 9.cxd3 Bc6 10.Ne2 Be7 11.Qe1 0–0 12.Qg3 Nh5** Black has defended well, but he now makes a weak move, which his opponent takes instant advantage of. **13.Qh3 g6 14.g4 Ng7 15.Qh6 Bf6 16.Ng5 Re8** The only move to stop the mate which would follow were Black's dark-squared bishop to capture either bishop or knight. **17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18.Qh8+ Ke7 19.Bxf6+ Kxf6 20.Nh7+ Ke7 21.Qxg7 Rg8 22.Qf6+**

Ke8 23.Qe5 Ke7 24.Qg5+ Kd6 25.Qxd8+ Raxd8 26.Nf6 Rh8 27.g5 Kc7 28.Rac1 b6 29.b4 cxb4
This, of course, loses another piece right off and a pawn into the bargain. **30.Nd4 Kb7 31.Nxc6**
And White won after a few more moves. [*British Chess Magazine*, June 1916] **1–0**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 15-18

[Details](#)

Okanagan Open

Salmon Arm, May 6-8

[Details](#)

BC vs Alberta Match

Salmon Arm, May 6-8

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

Richmond, May 21-23

[Details](#)