

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #422

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

Outstanding Volunteer Award: Paul Leblanc

Paul Leblanc, an integral member of Victoria Chess, BCCF treasurer, and for ten years CFC ratings auditor, is normally one of BC's top organizers. Yet when the pandemic began in 2020 and live chess came to a halt, Paul went above and beyond the call of duty and continued to organize major events online; these included the BC Senior, BC Active, BC Open, Grand Pacific Open, Keres Memorial and most recently the Dan Scoones Memorial. In so doing he enabled the chess players of this province and beyond to continue with competitive chess during these difficult times, as well as providing financial support for the BCCF and the BC Chess Foundation. In recognition of his outstanding work the BCCF Executive voted to award Paul with a plaque as a token of our gratitude and thanks, presented to Paul by Victoria Doknjas at the Grand Pacific Open.



(photo by Victoria Doknjas)

BCCF Annual General Meeting (May 22)

The BCCF Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22 between the third and fourth rounds of the Keres Memorial, beginning around 2:30pm or thereabouts. We encourage you to come out and attend the AGM: the executive for the coming year will be elected, and there will also be opportunity to voice concerns, comments, and ideas about how organized chess is run in BC. The BCCF is your federation – it is only as strong as those involved in it, your help is needed. Please note that anyone may attend, but voting is restricted to BCCF members (anyone who has played in a CFC-rated event in the last year, plus select TDs and organizers) aged fourteen or over.

Vancity Chess

A group of chess enthusiasts has been meeting at the Vancouver Public Library's Central Branch since last December (Sundays, 9th floor, 11am to 5pm) and is now planning their first tournament for June 12 at UBC. For more information see <https://www.vancitychess.ca/>



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.

INTERMAT (April 23)



The Intermat, the scholastic team match between BC and Washington, has been an annual fixture in the junior calendar since 1991. However, for the past two years the pandemic forced the match online, and despite the lifting of restrictions it was decided to again hold the event online this year. Held over the facilities of chess.com on April 23, the match consisted of two rounds at a regular time control (90 + 30). Players signed a fair-play agreement and were also monitored during the games via Zoom conferencing software; the latter also allowed the use of separate breakout rooms for each team where the players could hang out and kibitz.

In terms of results the match was very similar to the one held two years ago, with Washington achieving an almost insurmountable 17.0-9.0 lead after the first round, identical to 2021. Traditionally Washington has scored heavily in the lower grades in these matches, whereas BC tends to do better in the upper grades. As usual the Washington team quickly piled up a sizable lead in the lower (K-4) and middle (5-8) grades, 7.5-2.5 and 5.5-2.5 respectively, but team BC was only able to achieve a tie in the upper grades (9-12). This was accomplished by Edward Cheng and Daniel Wang sweeping their grade 9 opponents, Washington's top-ranked player Anne-Marie

Velea beating BC's top-ranked player Patrick Huang in grade 11, and Ojas Kandhare and George King obtaining strategic draws.

In the second round the BC team playing white gamely fought back, achieving a more typical upper grades score of 6.5-1.5 on the way to a slim 14.0-12.0 victory but this was not sufficient to offset Washington's lead, the combined scores being 29.0 to 23.0 in Washington's favour. Overall Washington won five of the mini-matches by grade, BC also won five and there were three ties. The difference was that Washington's wins were by larger margins: in Kindergarten, grade 2 and grade 5 Washington white-washed BC by 4.0-0.0 scores in each case, these 12.0 points being an important part of Washington's victory.



In terms of individual results, Washington players who won both their games were Daniel D. Yun and Chen Yuan (both K), Ted Wang and Michael Lin (both grade 2), Michael Xiong (3), Lucas Liu (4), Yiding Lu and Alexander Yang (both 5), and Austin Liu (7); in addition Vidip Kona (3), Abhay Sankar (8), and Edward Cheng (9) achieved plus scores. On the BC side Haoming Lian (1), Azher Hossain (6), Andrew Yu Qiu (10), Sherry Tian (11), and Isaac Trenton (12) had perfect scores, while Sky Cui (1), and Peter Yong Qiu (10) had plus scores.

Thanks are due to team captains Chouchanik Airapetian and Valentin Razmov (Washington) and Michael Lo and Eric Gu (BC), TDs Josh Sinanan and Stephen Wright and to all the players and parents for participating under difficult circumstances and contributing to the continuation of this long-standing tradition. After thirty-one years the overall match score is 16-13 in Washington's favour with two ties. [Intermat page](#) [WCF Facebook page](#) [Earlier results](#)

Velea, Anne-Marie (2207) – Huang, Patrick (2217) [B06] Intermat 31st (online) chess.com (1.23), 23.04.2022

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.a3 Nd7 7.Be3 Bb7 8.Bd3 c5 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Bxc5 dxc5 11.e5 Bh6 12.g3 b4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.Ne4 Qb6 15.Qe2 a5 16.Qf2 Qc7 17.0–0 f5 18.Bb5+ Bc6 19.Qc5 Rc8 20.Nd4 Bxb5 21.Qxb5+ Qd7 22.Qxd7+ Kxd7 23.Nd2 e6 24.Rxa5 Rc7 25.Ra6 Bf8 26.N2b3 Nh6 27.Rd1 Ke7 28.Rxe6+ Kf7 29.Rf6+ Ke8 30.Ra1 Bg7 31.Ra8+ Ke7 32.Rxh8 Bxh8

33.Rb6 Ng4 34.Rxb4 g5 35.Nxf5+ Ke6 36.Nbd4+ Kd5 37.h3 gxf4 38.gxf4 Bxe5 39.fxe5 Nxe5 And White won. 1–0

Tian, Shi Yuan (Sherry) (2045) – Velea, Anne-Marie (2207) [E06] Intermat 31st (online) chess.com (2.23), 23.04.2022

The battle of the WFMs.

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.d4 c6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Nd2 Bb7 9.e4 a5 10.Re1 Na6 11.a3 Rc8 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.e5 Nd7 14.Bf1 Nc7 15.h4 Bc6 16.a4 Bb7 17.Nf3 Ba6 18.Nb5 Bxb5 19.axb5 Re8 20.Bf4 Nf8 21.h5 Qd7 22.h6 g6 23.Qa4 Red8 24.Rec1 Na8 25.Rc6 Rc7 26.Rac1 Rdc8 27.Bd2 Qe8 28.Kg2 Nd7 29.b4 axb4 30.Bxb4 Bxb4 31.Qxb4 Nb8 32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rxc7 Nxc7 34.Qd6 Na8 35.Nh2 Nd7 36.Ng4 Kh8 37.Kg1 f5 38.exf6 Qf7 39.Ne5 Nxe5 40.dxe5 Nc7 41.Qd8+ Ne8 42.Qxb6 1–0

Shinn, Jungmin (2126) – Singh, Aditya (1682) [A00] Intermat 31st (online) chess.com (2.26), 23.04.2022

1.f3 d5 2.Kf2 e5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Ne2 Nc6 5.g3 Be6 6.Bg2 h5 7.d4 h4 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Rf1 Qd7 10.Nf4 0–0–0 11.Nxe6 Qxe6 12.Nc3 Neg4+ 13.fxg4 Nxg4+ 14.Ke1 Nxe2 15.Qd3 Bd6 16.Rf5 Bxg3+ 17.Ke2 g6 18.Rxd5 Qg4+ 19.Kd2 Be1+ 20.Kxe1 Qxg2 21.e4 Nf3+ 22.Kd1 c6 23.Bf4 Qg1+ 24.Ke2 Qg2+ 25.Kd1 g5 26.Bd6 cxd5 27.Nb5 Qd2+ 0–1

GRAND PACIFIC OPEN (April 15-18) by Roger Patterson



(photo by Victoria Doknjas)

Well, another year under the belt with over the board chess slowly coming back to ...well... almost normal. As with our other OTB tournaments in the last few months, attendance has been huge driven by a host of new players. Early indications were for well over two hundred players to which we frantically arranged extra equipment and space. Registrations did slow down at the end but we still reached a record one hundred and eighty-three participants with players from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Washington despite the uncertainties with travel and the COVID pandemic. Owing to the pandemic, some of our usual side events were cancelled and it proved to be too difficult to bring in marquee players.

Notwithstanding the overall attendance, the Premier section was a bit smaller than usual. As with our other recent tournaments, the stronger players haven't fully come back to the board yet. Still, the section was highly competitive with a decided lack of draws among the top players. The final round even featured one of the old time classical gambits in the two knights variation on board 1. All of the favourites got taken out by somebody or the other at some point leading to a five-way tie for first going into the final round. When the dust settled after the last round, we had a three-way tie at 5.0 points between Amirsalar Javidfard from Quebec, Neil Doknjas, and FM John Doknjas. Amirsalar had the tougher event and was himself responsible for taking out Team Doknjas resulting in his win on tiebreak, taking the trophy and becoming the 2022 Grand Pacific Open champion. Neil has some other compensation though - it seems likely that he has gotten his last norm for the NM title. The rest of the field was a point back from this.



The winners: Paul Leblanc (organizer), John Doknjas, Neil Doknjas, Amidsalar Javidfard, Elliott Raymer (TD)

A strong performance was also put in by the Top Woman winner, Erin Bian of Washington. Despite finishing with a 50% score she likely finished with a 2150 or so performance rating, well above her pre-tournament rating, taking out FM Dale Haessel along the way.

Although some of our side events got cancelled due to COVID, the ever popular Midnight Blitz was held. Free entry to one and all with a \$200 prize fund. Sixty-five players took part with Team Doknjas both winning 5.0-0.0. You can find the crosstable and prizes [here](#).

Many thanks to all of our Sponsors, volunteers and our TDs.

Prize Winners: \$7000 plus Guaranteed Prize Fund

Premier

1st-3rd: Amirsalar Javid (trophy), Neil Doknjas (BC Closed qualifying spot), FM John Doknjas: \$667 each.

4th-5th: Andrew Hempstapat, FM Dale Haessel \$125 each
U2100: Leo Lin (Trophy), Tristan Taylor, NM Roger Patterson
Top Woman: Erin Bian, Kate Jiang; \$325 each.

U2000

1st: Zachary Liu (trophy) \$400
2nd-3rd, top U1800: Peter Qiu (trophy), Aiden Leong, Andrew Qiu; \$242 each
U1800
2nd: Akki Mackay \$150; 3rd: Chuyang Gu \$75;
Top Woman: Gillian Mok; \$175

U1700

1st: Timur Zaruev (trophy) \$200
Top Unrated: Tao Xie \$100
2nd: Tyler Sanderson (+U1400 trophy) \$150
3rd-6th: Trevor Yonkman, Tyler Cruz, Peter Mingrone \$19 each
U1400: Stephen Drake, Scott Gray, Peter Cheng; \$100 each
Top Woman
1st: Ingrid Del Prado \$100; 2nd: Zoe Francis \$75; 3rd: April Wang \$75

U1100

1st: Max Qian (trophy) \$125
2nd: Oscar Wu (U900 trophy) \$100
3rd-6th: Finn Nakayama, Julian Tang, Robert Senatorov (U900 trophy); \$25 each
Top Woman
1st-2nd: Ivory Daffurn, YiChen Sun; \$50 each; 3rd: Irena Dacur-Romano \$25
Top Upset: Scott Kouri (591 points) \$50

Organizers: Victoria Chess (Brian Raymer, Paul Leblanc, Roger Patterson)

TDs: Head TD: Elliot Raymer NA; Asst. TD: Nigel Hanrahan NA

[Crosstables this report with additional photos](#)

Doknjas, John (2314) – Javidfard, AmirSalar (2197) [B41] Grand Pacific op 15th Victoria (3.1), 16.04.2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qd3 Nc6 8.Nxc6 dxc6 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8
10.e5 Ne4 11.a3 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Nc5 13.Bg5+ Ke8 14.0-0-0 Nd7 15.f4 f6 16.Bh4 a5 17.Be2 a4
18.Rd6 Ke7 19.Rhd1 Ra5 20.g4 h6 21.Kb2 g5 22.exf6+ Nxf6 23.Bg3 gxf4 24.Bxf4 e5 25.g5 Ng4
26.Bg3 hxg5 27.Rg6 Ne3 28.Rd2 Be6 29.Rxg5 Kf6 30.h4 Bxc4 31.Bf2 Rb5+ 32.Kc1 Rb3 33.Bxe3
Rxc3+ 34.Kd1 Bb3+ 35.Ke1 Rxe3 36.Kf2 Rh3 37.Rd6+ Ke7 38.Rdg6 R8xh4 39.Rxe5+ Kf7 40.Rd6
Bd5 41.Rd7+ Kf6 42.Re8 Rh2+ 43.Ke1 b6 44.Re3 R4h3 45.Rde7 Rxe3 46.Rxe3 Kf5 47.Kd1 Kf4
48.Rc3 b5 49.Bd3 Ke5 50.Bc2 Rf2 51.Kc1 Rf3 52.Rxf3 Bxf3 53.Kb2 Kd4 54.Bg6 c5 55.Be8 Be2
56.Kc2 Bd3+ 57.Kd2 c4 58.Kc1 c3 59.Bd7 b4 60.Bxa4 bxa3 61.Bb3 Bc4 0-1

Doknjas, Neil (2241) – Lin, Leo (2083) [B90] Grand Pacific op 15th Victoria (5.4), 17.04.2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 h5 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Bf5 12.Be2 Nd7 13.0–0 Rc8 14.c4 0–0 15.Na5 Qc7 16.b4 Bf6 17.Rac1 b6 18.Nc6 Rfe8 19.a4 h4 20.a5 bxa5 21.Nxa5 Bd8 22.Nc6 Nb6 23.Ra1 Qb7 24.c5 Nxd5 25.Bxa6 Qxc6 26.b5 Qc7 27.Qxd5 Be6 28.Qc6 Rb8 29.Qxe8+ 1–0

Doknjas, John (2314) – Haessel, Dave (2238) [C58] Grand Pacific op 15th Victoria (6.1), 18.04.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Nd5 9.h4 Nf4 10.Bf1 h6 11.Nf3 Bd6 12.d3 Bg4 13.g3 Bb4+ 14.c3 Qd5 15.Nbd2 Nxd3+ 16.Bxd3 Qxd3 17.cxb4 e4 18.Ne5 1–0

CANADIAN ZONALS (April 13-18)

In December of 2018 the CFC Directors approved a bid from Aris Marghetis to hold the next four Canadian Championships in Kingston, Ontario. The first of these duly took place at Easter 2019, but then the pandemic struck. An online qualification event was held last year; this year saw the return to an in-person championship, the second in the planned series of four. Held like the 2019 event at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, as before the Championship served as the centrepiece for a chess festival, with additional sections for those rated below 2200. 2022 is also a Zonal year, meaning there were qualification spots for the World Cup available along with the chance to obtain direct titles.



Yuanchen Zhang

Maili-Jade Ouellet

Keith MacKinnon

Yu Han (Veronica) Guo

(all photos by John Upper)

Twenty-eight players participated in the Championship Section, including former champions GM Bator Sambuev and IM Nikolay Noritsyn and a further five IMs, but the eventual winner was none of these. Ranked seventh at the beginning of the event, it was FM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux who led or was tied for first throughout, and by the end of the seventh round held a 1.0 point lead over the rest of the field. Noritsyn had suffered a surprise loss in round two to eighth-ranked FM Yuanchen Zhang and after two further losses was not in contention; Sambuev had suffered his first

loss in round seven to the same Zhang. In rounds eight and nine Rodrigue-Lemieux drew both his games but Zhang won both his to tie with Rodrigue-Lemieux on 7.0 points. Despite Rodrigue-Lemieux beating Zhang back in round three Zhang had the better tiebreak (Buchholz) and was declared champion but both received direct IM titles. Sambuev, IM Raja Panjwani, and Zachary Dukic all scored 6.0/9 but placed third, fourth, and fifth respectively; Dukic received the FM title, Adam Dorrance the CM title. BC was represented by Keith MacKinnon who had a sub-par event but finished with 2.5/3 for a final score of 3.5 points.

The fourteen-player Women's Championship was dominated by defending champion WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet who crushed the field, taking first place with a perfect 9.0/9. Second on 7.5 points was WIM Svitlana Demchenko while third a further two points back was BC's Yu Han (Veronica) Guo, who upset the other titled player in the field, former BC resident WFM Alexandra Botez, in the first round. Botez finished fourth with 5.0 points. Veronica is conditionally awarded the WFM title which will be finalized when she achieves a FIDE rating of 1900. Congratulations!

Crosstables [Open Women's further John Upper photos](#)

Zhang, Yuanchen (2330) – Noritsyn, Nikolay (2512) [D37] CAN ch Kingston (2.1), 14.04.2022

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 h6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Bg3 0–0 7.e3 b6 8.Rc1 c5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Ne5 Bb7 11.Be2 Na6 12.0–0 Nc7 13.Bf3 Re8 14.Qb3 c4 15.Qc2 b5 16.Rfe1 b4 17.Na4 Rb8 18.Nc5 Ne6 19.Nxb7 Rxb7 20.Bh4 Ng5 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Qf5 b3 23.axb3 Rxb3 24.Bxd5 Bxe5 25.Bxc4 Bxh2+ 26.Kxh2 Rxb2 27.Kg1 g4 28.g3 Rd2 29.Re2 Rxe2 30.Bxe2 g6 31.Qf4 Kg7 32.Qc7 a5 33.Bb5 Rh8 34.Qb7 Qd5 35.Qxd5 Nxd5 36.Rc5 Nb4 37.Bc4 Ra8 38.Rc7 a4 39.Rxf7+ Kh6 40.Rb7 Nc2 41.Rb2 Ne1 42.Kf1 Nf3 43.Ke2 Ng1+ 44.Kd3 Rf8 45.Be6 Kh5 46.Rb5+ Kh6 47.Rb2 Kg5 48.d5 Nf3 49.Rb4 Ra8 50.Rxg4+ Kf6 51.Kc2 a3 52.Kb1 a2+ 53.Ka1 Nd2 54.Rf4+ Ke5 55.Rb4 Ra3 56.f4+ Kd6 57.e4 Kc5 58.Rb2 Nb3+ 59.Rxb3 Rxb3 60.d6 Rd3 61.d7



61...Kc6 62.g4 Kc7 63.f5 gxf5 64.exf5 Ra3 65.g5 Rg3 66.g6 Rg2 67.Bf7 Kxd7 68.f6 Kd6 69.g7 Ke5 70.Bg6 Rxc6 71.f7 Rxc7 72.f8Q Rg2 73.Qb8+ Kf5 74.Qb7 Rg4 75.Kxa2 Rg3 76.Qd5+ Kf4 77.Kb2 Re3 78.Kc2 Re5 79.Qd6 Kf5 80.Kd3 Re6 81.Qd5+ Re5 82.Qf7+ Kg5 83.Kd4 Ra5 84.Qe7+ Kg4 85.Qd7+ Kh5 86.Ke4 Ra1 87.Qh7+ 1–0

Zhang, Yuanchen (2330) – Sambuev, Bator (2502) [A40] CAN ch Kingston (7.2), 17.04.2022

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Bd2 Qe7 4.Nc3 f5 5.e3 b6 6.Nge2 Nf6 7.Qc2 0–0 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Nxc3 Bb7 10.0–0–0 d5 11.f3 c5 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.dxc5 Nd7 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.c6 Nc5 16.Bb4 Bxc6 17.Bxc5

bxc5 18.Bc4 Rab8 19.Rd2 Bd5 20.Rhd1 Rb6 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Rxd5 Qxe3+ 23.Qd2 Qe7 24.Re1 Qf6 25.Rxc5 h6 26.Kb1 Rfb8 27.Rc2 Kh7 28.Re3 Rd8 29.Rd3 Rdb8 30.Qc3 Qg6 31.Qd4 R8b7 32.Qd5 Re7 33.Ka2 Rbe6 34.Rc8 Qf6 35.Rd2 Qg5 36.Rd8 Qf4 37.g3 Qg5 38.Rf8 Kg6 39.h4



1–0 [39...Qh5 40.g4 fxc4 41.Qd3+]

Dukic, Zachary (2226) – Sambuev, Bator (2502) [C16] CAN ch Kingston (8.3), 17.04.2022

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.h4 Qd7 6.h5 h6 7.Qg4 Bf8 8.b4 Ne7 9.b5 a6 10.Nf3 axb5 11.Nxb5 Ba6 12.a4 Nf5 13.Rb1 Nc6 14.Qf4 Na5 15.g4 Ne7 16.Rh3 g5 17.Qf6 Rh7 18.Nxg5 hxg5 19.Bxg5 Ng8 20.Qf4 Be7 21.Bd3 Rh8 22.h6 Bxb5 23.Bxb5 c6 24.Bd3 Qd8 25.Bxe7 Nxe7 26.Qf6 Rf8 27.h7 Kd7 28.Qg7 c5 29.c3 cxd4 30.cxd4 Nc4 31.Rf3 Qe8 32.Bxc4 dxc4 33.Rxb6 Kc7 34.Rb5 Ng6 35.Rc5+ Kd7 36.Rxc4 Ra7 37.Rfc3 Qa8 38.Rc6 Nh8 39.d5 exd5 40.e6+ Ke7 41.Qg5+ f6 42.Qg7+ Nf7 43.exf7 1–0

MacKinnon, Keith (2198) – Barron, Michael (2108) [A85] CAN ch Kingston (9.11), 18.04.2022

1.c4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d4 d6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.Qc2 g6 6.h4 Bg7 7.0–0–0 0–0 8.Nh3 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.e4 h6 11.exf5 hxg5 12.hxg5 gxf5 13.c5 Nh7 14.Kb1 Nxg5 15.Nxg5 Qxg5 16.Bc4+ Rf7 17.Nd5 Nf8 18.Nxc7 Rb8 19.Qb3 Qe7 20.Nd5 Qxc5 21.Nf6+ Bxf6 22.Bxf7+ Kg7 23.Bg8 Qe7 24.Qg3+ Ng6 25.Rh7+ Kxg8 26.Qxg6+ 1–0

Botez, Alexandra (2020) – Guo, Yu Han (1444) [E07] CAN ch w Kingston (1.23), 13.04.2022

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0–0–0 0–0 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.b3 b6 9.a4 Bb4 10.Bb2 a5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Rc1 Ba6 13.Na2 Rc8 14.Nxb4 axb4 15.Ng5 Re8 16.Re1 h6 17.Nh3 g5 18.Qd2 Qe7 19.e3 Ne4 20.Qd1 f5 21.f3 Nd6 22.Qd2 g4 23.fxc4 fxc4 24.Nf2 h5 25.e4 Qf7 26.exd5 cxd5 27.Qg5+ Kh7 28.Bxd5 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Qg6 30.Qxg6+ Kxg6 31.Kg2 Nf6 32.Rc6 Re1 33.Bc4 Nxc4 34.bxc4 Bb7 35.d5 Bxc6 36.dxc6 Ne8 37.Nd3 Re2+ 38.Kf1 Rd2 39.Nf4+ Kf5 40.Bh8 Nc7 41.Ne2 Ke4 42.Bf6 Rd6 43.Be7 Rxc6 44.Bxb4 Rxc4 45.Be1 Nd5 46.a5 b5 47.Bf2 Ra4 48.Bb6 b4 49.Ke1 Ne3 50.Nd4 Ra1+ 51.Ke2 Ra2+ 52.Ke1 Nc2+ 53.Nxc2 Rxc2 54.a6 Ra2 55.a7 Kd3 0–1

Demchenko, Svitlana (2079) – Ouellet, Maili-Jade (2179) [B10] CAN ch w Kingston (4.21), 15.04.2022

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Ne5 Nf6 5.d4 g6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.c3 0–0 8.0–0 Nc6 9.f4 Bf5 10.Bxf5 gxf5 11.Nd2 e6 12.Rf3 Ne7 13.Rh3 Ng6 14.Nf1 Qc7 15.Ng3 Rfe8 16.Be3 Rac8 17.Qe2 Nf8 18.Kh1 Re7 19.Rg1 Ne4 20.Nh5 f6 21.Nd3 Ng6 22.g4 Nd6 23.g5 fxe5 24.Rxg5 Ne4 25.Rg2 Qc4 26.a3 Rf8 27.Bf2 Rff7 28.Qe1 Kf8 29.Bh4 Rc7 30.Ne5 Bxe5 31.fxe5 Ke8 32.Bf6 Kd7 33.Rf3 Kc6 34.h4 b6 35.Ng7 Nf8 36.h5 Kb7 37.Qh4 Qa4 38.Rf1 Qc6 39.h6 Ka6 40.Rf3 Qd7 41.Nh5 Qa4 42.Rf1 Qb5 43.Rfg1 Qd3 44.Nf4 Qf3 45.Kh2 Rc8 46.Bg7 Rc6 47.Rc2 Nd7 48.Nh5 f4 49.Qg4 Qd3 50.Qe2 Qxe2+ 51.Rxe2 Rf5 52.Nf6 Ndx6 53.exf6 f3 54.Rxe4 dxe4 55.f7 Rxf7 56.Kg3 e3 57.Be5 f2 0–1

DUNCAN HAINES ANNOTATES

Macskasy, Elod (2247) – Haines, Duncan (1820) [D30] Last Chance Open Vancouver (1), 29.03.1975

[Haines, Duncan]

Catalan then, Catalan now. When I opened BCCF Bulletin 420, two things combined to bring back a pleasant memory. First was the picture of Dr. Elod Macskasy beside Duncan Suttles and second was the game Orlov – Ivkov, Keres Memorial 2000, which featured a Catalan. For any aspiring chess player, as I was at age 21 in 1975, your first tournament win against a master is not to be forgotten. In those days, tournaments were not divided into sections, so in typical Swiss top half versus bottom half, I found myself paired with Dr. Macskasy in round 1 of the Last Chance Open held at Vancouver's UBC from March 29-31, 1975. Time control 40/90.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 By playing 3.g3, one can say White avoids the Nimzo and Queen's Indian and invites a Catalan. **3...d5** And a Catalan appears. The Catalan is justifiably popular as it remains an excellent opening choice for White and in depth analysis is readily available in books and videos. However, in 1975, outside of basic opening books, all we had was *Modern Chess Openings*, the Larry Evans edition, known as MCO–10. Evans describes the Catalan as an ultra-positional combining of features of the Reti Opening and the Queen's Gambit with the basic strategy being an attack on d5. Evans also points out the remarkable number of transpositions which can lead to a Catalan. I have always remembered Evans' summation of the 4.Nf3 line, "The most White can get is pressure along the h1–a8 diagonal, often striking at airy nothing." O-kay... **3...Bb4+** This check is a popular alternative for Black. In *New in Chess* 2013–5 Dmitry Andreikin provides notes to his game versus Vladimir Kramnik at the Tal Memorial, Moscow 2013. He describes 3... Bb4+ as not very principled but reliable. **4.Bd2 Bxd2+ 5.Qxd2 (5.Nxd2** Andreikin notes that if White recaptures with the knight he intended a different Black pawn center. **5...d6!?** **6.Ngf3 0–0 7.Bg2 Qe7 8.0–0 e5=)** **5...d5** Andreikin "It is very important to solve the problem of the c8 bishop." **6.Bg2 0–0 7.Nf3** Kramnik – Andreikin 0–1 42; **3...c5** Black has choices too... **4.Bg2 dxc4** The Open Catalan. In the above mentioned Orlov – Ivkov game, Black maintained his pawn on d5 for a few more moves, which is a reasonable choice as well. White's loss had nothing to do with the opening and in fact he achieved an excellent position. A game well worth a close look. **5.Nf3 Nc6** In 1975, Fischer influence was predominant so 1.e4 was by far the most common White choice. I seldom faced 1.d4 so why I happened to have noticed (and remembered!) an obscure footnote on page 270 of the Catalan section of MCO–10 is unknowable today. **6.0–0** The MCO–10 footnote reads: (b) Not 6.0–0 Rb8! and black is better, Bondarevsky – Kevits, USSR v USA, 1946. **6.Qa4** is the most common move. **6...Rb8**



However, the passing of 50 years and the arrival of computers rated 3300+ changed the evaluation of the Kevits game. Once again Dimitry Andreikin, this time from the White side, gives us his insight re 6...Rb8 in NIC 2013–7. "This line has a dubious reputation and statistics for black go with it. The move 6...a6 is safer and more popular." However, that assessment may be a little harsh since Caruana was willing to play it in the 2018 Berlin Candidates tournament. Also, Andreikin points out where his opponent could have improved. **7.a4** 7.Nc3 b5 8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Nd7 10.Qd4!?

(10.Qc2 Ju Wenjun – Tan Zhonghi Women's World Championship 2018 1–0 27) 10...b4?! D. Andreikin – Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son, Tromso 2013 1–0 37; 7.e3 Be7 8.Nfd2 e5 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.dxe5 Ng4 11.Nxc4

Be6 S. Mamedyarov – F. Caruana, Berlin Candidates 2018 1/2–1/2 58. The Catalan was often played in this 2018 event. **7...a6** On my own now. **8.Re1** Played after nine minutes of thought. **8.a5** **8...Be7** **9.e4** **0–0=/+** Computer evaluation. **10.Qc2** Another nine minute think. **10.a5!** **10...Nxd4** It took six minutes for me to decide to take the pawn. It seemed simpler than 10...b5, my other choice. **11.Nxd4 Qxd4**



12.Rd1 Qa7 **13.Qxc4 Bc5** **14.Rf1** If White has to do this then something has gone very wrong. **14.Rd2** doesn't look much better but is the computer choice. **14...e5** Black's moves just come naturally. **15.Nc3 Be6** **16.Qe2 h6** **17.h3 b6** My plan was to expand on the queenside without allowing a5 by White. Looking at it now my first thought is to just defend the d5 square with Rfd8, plant my bishop on d4 and get my queen back in the game on c5. [17...Rfd8 18.a5 Bd4] **18.Kh2 c6** **19.f4 b5** After the game, Dr. Macskasy kindly agreed to look at the game with me. What I remember from our post-mortem was him questioning my slow plan involving four little pawn moves in a row and his frustration at not being able to work up any attack. **20.axb5 cxb5** **21.Nd5 Bxd5** **22.exd5 e4!**



Looking at this today I am kind of impressed... But there was no alternative since 22...exf4 just helps White. **23.Qc2 Rfe8—+ 24.Bd2 Rbd8 25.Rac1 Rxd5 26.Bc3 Bd4 27.g4 Bxc3 28.Qxc3 Rd3 29.Qc6 Qd7**



30.Qxa6 Rd2 It would have been fitting to play 30...e3 and have White's bishop striking at "airy nothing" after all. **31.b4 Nxc4+! 32.Kg1 Ne3 33.f5 Rxc2+ 34.Kh1 Qd2** Sometimes luck in the opening can go a long way. **0-1**

CHESS IS A LABYRINTH by Michael K. Bateman, in memory of my good friend Dan Scoones RIP

Chess is a labyrinth of forking paths
 Of rooms without doors and reasons
 Unquenchable
 Of mirrors and reflections uncountable
 A Bishop pin a Knight fork
 The King goes from empty room
 To empty room sobbing

Finding no respite
The Queen is dead
I should have castled long ago
The castles roam uneasily
Holding on to files of no importance
I have no plans
At least none that matter
I must resign
I must resign.



Dan Scoones passed away 11 April last year (photo by Jonathan Berry)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Okanagan Open

Salmon Arm, May 6-8

[Details](#)

BC vs Alberta Match

Salmon Arm, May 6-8

[Details](#)

JtM Zonal Games Presentation

May 14

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

Richmond, May 21-23

[Details](#)

Chilliwack Open (Stan Rogers Memorial)

Chilliwack, May 28

[Details](#)

JtM Zonal Games Presentation

May 28

[Details](#)

Vancity Rapid 1

UBC, June 12

[Details](#)

Canada Day Open

Richmond, July 1-3

[Details](#)

BC vs Washington Match

Richmond, July 1-3

[Details](#)

BC Senior

Surrey, July 15-17

[Details](#)