

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #424

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

Vancity Chess (June 12) by Tyler Sanderson



(Photo by Victoria Doknjas)

At Vancity Chess' first ever rapid tournament, we hit capacity with sixty-five players competing in two sections: Open and U1400. The open section was fierce, having strong players like IM Raymond Kaufman, all three Doknjas brothers, and NM Roman Jiganchine. In total, we gave away \$1100 in prizes and some medals.



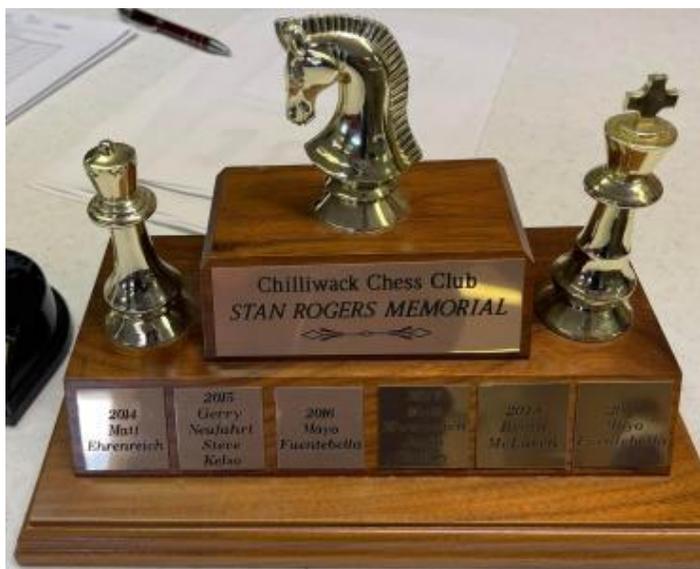
From left to right, the medal winners in the photo are: IM Raymond Kaufman, Jimson Dela Cruz, Zhengyu Chen, Achintyaa Sankar, Neil Doknjas, John Doknjas (Photo by Victoria Doknjas)

Ray Kaufman dominated the competition in the Open section with a clean 6.0/6 final score. In the U1400 section, Zhengyu Chen scored 5.5/6 and won first place with five solid wins and one draw in the last round. We hope this youngster continues to come out to our tournaments and take our prize money. Vancity Rapid 2 will be held on July 10 in Richmond, with details available on our website: vancitychess.ca. Our goal is to grow Vancouver chess as much as possible, and to get more people out playing over-the-board. We hope to see a similar turnout for our next tournament!

7th Stan Rogers Memorial/Chilliwack Open (May 28)



Delayed since 2019 because of the pandemic and held in honour of Stan Rogers who passed away in 2014 (no, not the famous folk musician – the Stan Rogers in question was a prominent Chilliwack businessman and former federal Liberal Party riding president who was also a member of the Chilliwack Chess Club), taking the top places in this year's seventh edition were two juniors. Ryan Yang came first with 5.5/6, giving up a draw to second-placed Zachary Liu. Mark Parpatt and Jorin Cowley shared third a full-point back. Twenty-two players participated. [Standings](#)



The previous winners:

- 2014 Matt Ehrenreich
- 2015 Gerry Neufahrt and Steve Kelso
- 2016 Mayo Fuentesbella
- 2017 Matt Ehrenreich and Jorin Cowley
- 2018 Brian McLaren
- 2019 Mayo Fuentesbella

[Chilliwack Chess Club](#)

Richmond Chess for Fun by Clement Cheng



We are a group of chess players ranging from beginners to advanced players. We meet every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Richmond Public Library (Minoru) to play chess. All players are welcome. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368265290270456>

Canadian Club Chess League

The Canadian Club Chess League, now in its second year, is an online team competition for Canadian clubs (although unaffiliated individuals can also form teams) held over the lichess platform. It begins on July 21 for ten consecutive Thursdays and this year includes a prize fund and the event will also be rated by the CFC. Interest clubs or individuals can find more information at <https://www.chesseducation.net/cccl>

The "C" word

Despite the switch from online chess back to in-person competition, unfortunately the spectre of cheating remains alive and well and periodically raises its ugly head. During the pandemic many players became involved in chess online; they are now starting to explore over-the-board tournaments, and perhaps are not as familiar with the rules as more seasoned players. One assumes it goes without saying, but to be absolutely clear this is article 11.3.1 of the FIDE Laws of Chess:

“During play the players are forbidden to use any notes, sources of information or advice, or analyse any game on another chessboard.”

Yet despite knowledge of this law and warnings of the consequences players still seek to obtain an unfair advantage over their opponents, usually by means of the ubiquitous cellphone. Such devices are banned from tournament halls, or at the very least players are not permitted to have access to them during play. Arbiters and other tournament staff are vigilant in making sure the laws are followed, and the consequences involve not just the loss of the game in question but expulsion

from the event and normally a suspension or ban from future tournaments. Sadly, in order to protect the integrity of the tournament experience for the vast majority of players such punishments have had to be meted out to a number of BC players recently; an individual has been suspended for a year for consulting a cellphone during play at the BC Open in February; another player was ejected from the (online) Provincial Chess Challenge and banned. If you are considering following in their footsteps ask yourself, is it really worth it to be banned from your pastime and become a pariah in the chess community?

PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE (May 29, June 5)

Despite the changing health regulations and return of (adult/mixed) in-person chess, the 2022 BC Chess Challenge was as with the previous two years held online via the Vancouver Chess School platform. Five regionals were conducted between November and May, with the provincials held on May 29 (Kindergarten to grade 4) and June 5 (grades 5-12). There were fewer participants than usual in the lower grades but more in the upper; the combined total was one hundred and nineteen players. The following are the trophy winners from the 2022 Provincials – congratulations to all!

Kindergarten – Alexandra Liang, Elliot McCallum, Samuel Xu
Grade 1 – Haoming Lian, Sky Cui, Leo Yan
Grade 2 – David Song, Kai Zhang, Youjia Ye
Grade 3 – Ethan Low, Leon Gong, Jesse Law
Grade 4 – Zachary Liu, Nicholas Wu, Nathan Yang
Grade 5 – Justin Gao, Ryan Golchin, Erwin Mok
Grade 6 – Wesley Russell, Jacky Luan, Justin Xu
Grade 7 – to be determined
Grade 8 – Nathan Wu, Gillian Mok, Aiden Leong
Grade 9 – Matthew He, Kate Jiang, Ryan Huang
Grade 10 – Jerry Wang, Tao Xie, Ellis Lomas
Grade 11 – Patrick Huang, Christopher Yu
Grade 12 – Andrew Hemstapat, Bill Wang

Many thanks to organizer Maxim Doroshenko, the arbiters, parents and players for making the event a success. Crosstables [K-4](#) [5-12](#)

NATIONAL CHESS CHALLENGE (June 11-12)

The thirty-third edition of this annual scholastic team event took place online over the lichess.org platform. The BC team, consisting of Haoming Lian, David Song, Ethan Low, Zachary Liu, Justin Gao, Wesley Russell, Ryan Jingyun Yang, Nathan Wu, Matthew He, Jerry Wang, Patrick Huang, and Andrew Hemstapat, normally places third behind the two traditional powerhouses, Ontario and Quebec, but unfortunately lost a close match to Alberta in the last round to finish fourth:

1 Quebec 8.5 (83.5/108)	6 New Brunswick 4 (46.5)
2 Ontario 8 (90)	7 Saskatchewan 4 (45.5)
3 Alberta 7 (77.5)	8 Manitoba 2 (33)
4 British Columbia 6.5 (79.5)	9 Newfoundland and Labrador 1 (16.5)
5 Nova Scotia 4 (52.5)	10 Prince Edward Island 0 (15.5)

Primary scoring was by match points (1, 0.5, or 0 for the whole team), meaning that it didn't matter if a team won by one or ten games, the points allotted were the same. Game points were only used for tiebreak purposes – had they been used for overall results the order of finish would have been Ontario, then Quebec and BC. First place was only decided in the last round when Quebec beat Ontario. BC did have the satisfaction of drawing 6.0-6.0 with Quebec, the only team in the competition to do so. Nova Scotia placed fifth on tiebreaks over New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, but perhaps the biggest surprise was the poor showing of the Manitoba team, placing eighth with only two match wins.

In the individual board prizes BC garnered a total of six trophies:

- 3 Ethan Low 7/9 – third
- 5 Justin Gao 7 – tied for second, third after playoffs
- 7 Ryan Yang 7.5 – second
- 10 Jerry Wang 7.5 – second
- 11 Patrick Huang 8.5 – tied for first, second after playoffs
- 12 Andrew Hemstapat 7 – third

Congratulations to all and to the team as a whole! Further details can be found at the event [website](#).

NELSON - SPOKANE TELEGRAPH MATCH, 1910

Chess players have always been quick to make use of the latest technology in the pursuit of their favourite pastime. Such was the case with the electric telegraph; a chess game was played over the wires soon after the first line was opened between Baltimore and Washington in 1844. Many such matches were played in the nineteenth century, but the golden age for telegraph chess was the beginning of the twentieth century, epitomized by the great series of annual matches between Great Britain and America that took place in the years 1895-1911. Telegraph games involving BC cities have already been discussed in these pages, most notably the 1895/97 matches between Victoria, Vancouver, and San Francisco (see [Bulletin #395](#)).

However, it was not just major centres that engaged in these competitions; the following passage from the October 1927 issue of the *Canadian Chess Review* has intrigued me for a number of years:

"Chess in Kootenay is not what it was twenty years ago. At that time there were clubs in Nelson, Rossland, and Trail, and intercity matches were common. Several matches were played by telegraph with the Spokane Chess Club. James R. Hunnex of Erie, BC, a former member of the London Chess Club, England, is always ready to take an opponent. He is one of the strongest players in the West. W.H. Aldridge, general manager of the smelter at Trail at that time, and now a power in Wall Street, was a strong player and a big help to the local clubs. The matches with Spokane were all-night affairs with sides of twenty players each."

The details of several such matches have come to light but we will concentrate on the first, held between Nelson and Spokane on the night of March 12/13, 1910. Unlike the large affairs mentioned in the quote this event was modest in scale, on six boards; the result was a 3.0-3.0 tie.

Board	Nelson	3	3	Spokane
1	James R. Hunnex	1	0	McLeod
2	R.C. Dickson	1	0	J.C. Bird Sr.
3	A. Pasch	0	1	A. Coolidge
4	J.D. Anderson	0	1	John Odson
5	H.W. Rust	0	1	John Orr
6	E.G. Smyth	1	0	A.M. Craven

The match began at 8 pm on the evening of Saturday, March 12, and lasted until 4 am the following morning, at which point there were three unfinished games which were submitted for adjudication. It should be noted that Anderson was in Spokane and played his opponent face to face - his was the first game to end, at 9:10 pm.



Left to right, seated: J.D. Anderson and J.C. Bird Sr.; standing: Alfred Coolidge, F.H. Palmer, W.H. Sims, A.D. Campbell, John Orr, A.M. Craven, and N.M. MacLeod. From the *Spokane Chronicle*, 24 January 1911. Given that Anderson is among the Spokane players one assumes the photo was taken at the time of the March 1910 match; alternately perhaps he was present in Spokane for one of the subsequent matches (May and December 1910, February 1911).

Descriptions of the individual games were given in the match report in the Nelson *Daily News*, and the games from the top two boards were subsequently published:

Hunnex, James Robert – MacLeod, Nicholas Menelaus [C01] Nelson - Spokane m, 12.03.1910

1.e4 d6 2.d4 e6 3.Bd3 g6 4.c3 Bg7 5.Be3 b6 6.Ne2 Bb7 7.Nd2 Nd7 8.0–0 Ne7 9.f4 d5 10.e5 0–0 11.Nf3 Nf5 12.Bf2 c5 13.Ng3 Bh6 14.Nxf5 exf5 15.Be3 Qe7 16.Qd2 c4 17.Bc2 a6 18.Rae1 Rfe8 19.g3 Nf8 20.Nh4 Ne6



21.Bxf5 Ng7 (21...gxf5 22.Nxf5 Qf8 23.Nxh6+ Qxh6
24.f5) 22.Bb1 f5 23.Qg2 Qe6 24.Qh3 Bc8 25.Bc2 Qc6
26.Ng2 1-0

Bird, John C., Sr. – Dickson, Robert Casimir [C64] Nelson - Spokane m, 12.03.1910

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.0-0 Nge7 5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 Bb6
10.Nc3 Bg4 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Ng5+ Ke8 13.Qxg4 Nxd4 14.Be3 Qd7 15.Qxd7+ Kxd7 16.Rad1
Nec6 17.Nd5 Ba7 18.Rd2 h6 19.Nh3 Rae8 20.f3 Rhf8 21.Bf2 Rxf3 22.Rxd4 Rxf2 23.Nxf2 Bxd4
24.Nc3 b4 25.Ncd1 Rxe4 26.Kh1 Re2 27.Nd3 Rd2 28.Nf4 Ne5 29.Nh5 Nd3 30.h3 Rxd1 0-1

The players: one has to be cautious in determining identities from census records and city directories, but it appears J.D. Anderson was a civil engineer and provincial land surveyor based in Trail, Harold W. Rust was an accountant from Nelson, and Dr. Edwin G. Smyth was a Nelson dentist. Nothing has come to light on A. Pasch. The other two Nelson players are better known: [James R. Hunnex](#) (1854-1938), druggist, justice of the peace and postmaster in Erie, had emigrated to Victoria in 1894 and played in the Victoria - San Francisco cable match in 1895. He subsequently moved to the Interior, and was honorary Vice President of the BCCF in 1916. It is reported he made a special study of the Evan's Gambit. Dickson is dealt with below, as is Hunnex's opponent MacLeod, a former Canadian champion (the above spelling is taken directly from the *Daily News*).

Robert Casimir Dickson (1863-1936) R. Casimir Dickson was born into one of Canada's best-known families (his grandfather was a senator), yet his life presents a strange mix of patriotism and unfulfilled potential. Born in Toronto, Dickson was educated at Upper Canada College and a German university; he entered but did not complete law studies. He joined the Governor-General's Body Guard cavalry regiment, one of the new military units formed as the British Army withdrew from Canada, and rose to the rank of lieutenant. In 1894 he joined the North-West Mounted Police, but was dismissed in 1895; the First Nations prisoner Almighty Voice escaped while Dickson was on duty and subsequently shot and killed NWMP Sergeant Colin Colebrook. Dickson then became involved in the construction of the CPR branch line from Crowsnest Pass to Nelson; he moved to Vancouver around 1911 and worked with the crown prosecutor's department at the court house. In December 1916 he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in France. Dickson must have had strong feelings about the war - the maximum age for men to volunteer was 45, yet his attestation papers show he lied about his age to be accepted (he gave his birth year as 1872).

Not much is known of Dickson as a chessplayer, but he was a member of the Vancouver Chess Club at the beginning of the Great War and was regarded as one of the stronger players.

Nicholas Menelaus MacLeod (1870-1965) Born in Quebec of Scottish ancestry, MacLeod matured early as a chessplayer: he won the Canadian championship in 1886 and 1888 and tied for first in 1887, only to lose the playoff to George Barry. The MacLeods were a chess playing family: Nicholas' father and brother also competed in the national championship. In 1889 he played in the New York International and finished last, but in his defence this was a twenty player double-round robin in which drawn games in the second cycle were replayed - some competitors ended up playing over forty games. The eventual top finishers were Chigorin, Weiss, Gunsberg, Blackburne, and Burn. At the end of the century MacLeod moved to Minnesota; he became state champion in 1899 and in 1901 won the 2nd Western Chess Association tournament, later renamed as the U.S. Open. He married in 1902 and the next year intended emigrating to Australia, but instead settled in Spokane where he ran a credit bureau. According to Jeremy Gaige (*Northwest Chess*, February 1983), "After 1901, MacLeod devoted less time to chess and more time to family and business," but at the least he was willing to play in this match with Nelson. My identification of McLeod [*sic*] with Nicholas MacLeod stems from his known residence in Spokane, his playing on board one, and the fact that the opening in the game was a double fianchetto. This, an early form of what we now call the hippopotamus, was Nicholas MacLeod's signature defence, and is named after MacLeod in contemporary chess columns (see *Canadian Chess Chat*, November 1966).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Canada Day Open

Richmond, July 1-3
[Details](#)

BC vs Washington Match

Richmond, July 1-3
[Details](#)

Vancity Rapid 2

Richmond, July 10
[Details](#)

BC Senior

Surrey, July 15-17
[Details](#)

BC Day Open

Richmond, July 30 – August 1
[Details](#)

Langley Open

Langley, September 3-5
[Details](#) (to come)