

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #431

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.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

2nd Jun Bandong Memorial Blitz (December 17) by Joe Roback

Saturday, December 17th, 2022, from 12-3pm marked the second annual Jun Bandong Memorial tournament. The tournament was named after the passing of Jun Bandong, an elderly Filipino-Canadian insurance salesman and local coffee shop blitz chess hero who was much beloved by the Vancouver blitz community. There were several donors of the tournament who raised the \$200 prize pool. Special thanks to Joe Soliven, Konstantin Pyryaev, Joe Roback, and the “Blendz” (sic) Chess Club. The tournament was free to join and featured prizes. The format was a lichess blitz arena which a special scoring system. After 2 consecutive wins, the points jump from 2 to 4 points. In addition, a player can “berserk” a round by cutting their time in half before they play their first move. A beserked win modifies it from a 2 to 3-point score. A win streak jumps from 4 to 5 points.



All games, crosstables, and results can be found on the official lichess tournament page [here](#). The identities of the players will be kept anonymous, just like their profiles. However, congrats to our winners matbogis, Kaizen_Chess_Academy, and Finance04 for the top results. Finally, there were some accusations of fair play violations in the tournament. Particularly with matbogis who started with a provisional rating of 2500 which jumped quickly throughout the tournament and accumulated an impressive score. However, this user was an Indonesian IM who was invited by one of our organizers and didn't display his title in his username. Lichess and our organizers did not find sufficient evidence of cheating or player collusion.



Special thanks to our organizer, JD, for all your hard work organizing, promoting, networking, social media, and creating this club and its events. This has been a big year for the club which previously hosted a [simul with GM Jacob Aagaard](#) and a [charity simul with GM Pap G](#). If anyone is interested in joining the Blendz Chess Club or hearing about our events, you can find the club page [here](#).

4th Duchamp In Rio Festival (December 7-14)

Given how the weather has been lately, spending some time in the Southern Hemisphere might provide a welcome change. IM Leon Piasetski played in a couple of Argentinian events in October and has now participated in the fourth Duchamp In Rio International Festival, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in the second week of December. The tournament honoured the memory and achievements of conceptual artist and chess master Marcel Duchamp, who lived in Buenos Aires for nine months in 1918-1919 around the time when his interest transitioned from art to chess. Among the one hundred and twenty-five entrants to the event were eight GMs, including 2016 GPO co-winner Alexandr Fier and legends Ulf Andersson (Sweden) and Oleg Romanishin (Ukraine); another BC participant was Eduardo Moura who is of Brazilian heritage.

Alexandr Fier tied for first with Luis Galego, Darcy Lima, Felipe De Cresce El Debs, and Matheus Mendes Domingues Ribeiro (all Brazil except Galego (Portugal), all GMs except Ribeiro (CM)) on 7.0 points. A half-point back were another six players including GMs Romanishin, Salvador Alonso (Argentina), and Andre Diamant (Brazil) and Leon Piasetski. Ulf Andersson won all his games but took four zero-point byes for a total of 5.0 points; among many with the same score was Eduardo Moura. [Crosstable](#)

Rodi, Luis Ernesto (2303) – Moura, Eduardo Eugenio Chaves (2098) [B07] Duchamp In Rio Festival 4th Rio de Janeiro (3.8), 09.12.2022

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.f4 h6 6.Bh4 c6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Nxd5 cxd5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0–0–0 Bf5 11.Nf3 Rc8 12.a3 Na5 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.Ba4 b5 15.exd6 Qb6 16.dxe7+ Ke8 17.Qb4 bxa4 18.Qxa4+ Qc6 19.Qxc6+ Rxc6 20.Ne1 Nb3+ 21.Kb1 Nxd4 22.Rd2 Be4 23.Ka2 Nf5 24.Bf2 a5 25.c3 Kxe7 26.Nd3 Re8 27.Nc5 Kf8 28.Re1 Nd6 29.Ka1 Bxg2 30.Nd7+ Kg8 31.Rxe8+ Nxe8 32.Bb6 Bh3 33.Bxa5 Bxd7 34.Rxd5 Rd6 35.Rxd6 Nxd6 36.Bc7 Nb5 37.Bb8 Nxc3 38.bxc3 Bxc3+ 39.Kb1 Ba4 40.Bd6 f5 41.h4 Kf7 42.Bc5 Ke6 43.Bf8 h5 44.Bb4 Bxb4 45.axb4 Kd5 46.Kb2 0–1

Piasetski, Leon David (2198) – Von Buelow, Georg (2361) [B41] Duchamp In Rio Festival 4th Rio de Janeiro (7.5), 12.12.2022

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 b6 5.f3 e6 6.e4 d6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Be3 a6 9.Qd2 Be7 10.Be2 0–0 11.0–0 Qc7 12.Rfc1 Nbd7 13.Rab1 Rac8 14.b4 Qb8 15.Bf1 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Na4 Qa8 19.Nb3 Bc6 20.Nc3 Bc7 21.a4 Red8 22.a5 Qb8 23.b5 axb5 24.Nd4 Bb7 25.Ndx5 bxa5 26.Nxc7 Qxc7 27.Nb5 Qb8 28.Qxd6 Qa8 29.Qa3 Bc6 30.Na7 Rc7 31.Qxa5 Rcc8 32.Nxc8 Qxa5 33.Ne7+ Kh7 34.Nxc6 Qc7 35.Nxd8 Qxd8 36.c5 Ne5 37.c6 Ne8 38.c7 Nxc7 39.Bb6 Nd3 40.Bxd3 Qxd3 41.Bxc7 h4 42.h3 1–0

Piasetski, Leon David (2198) – Menna Barreto, Felipe Kubiaki (2322) [B07] Duchamp In Rio Festival 4th Rio de Janeiro (9.9), 14.12.2022

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.h3 Nf6 5.Bd3 0–0 6.0–0 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.c3 Nd7 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Nbd2 b6 12.Rfd1 Bb7 13.Ba6 Rad8 14.Bxb7 Qxb7 15.a4 Nde5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.a5 Rd7 18.axb6 axb6 19.Qb5 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Nc4 Rfd8 22.Rxd7 Qxd7 23.Qxd7 Rxd7 24.Nxb6 Rb7 25.Ra6 Nd3 26.g3 Nxb2 27.Bxc5 Rc7 28.Bb4 e6 29.Ra8+ Kf7 30.Nc8 Kg6 31.Nd6 Rd7 32.Re8 Nd3 33.Rxe6+ Kh5 34.Nxf5 1–0

Vancity Multi-Week Classical (December 4 and 11)



Given the success of the Vancity Chess rapid tournaments the next logical step was to organize a regular-rated event. Held on two consecutive Sundays at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, the six-round tournament featured a time control of 50 + 10, the minimum to qualify for regular rating but over twice as long as the 15 + 10 used for the rapids. The other difference was the use of three sections rather than two, which resulted in sections more equal in size and fewer rating mismatches. The Open Section included Jorge Nunez Asencio and Mayo Fuentebella but junior Zachary Liu beat both of them en route to a 5.5/6 score (in fact all three sections were won with the same score) and clear first; Jorge was second and Jose Kagaoan third. Juniors also swept the other two sections: Nathan Yang won the U1600 ahead of Zareei Mohammadsadra, Winston Huang, Aiden Lu, and Jackie Hao who tied for second a point back, while in the U1000 Pengsen Fang finished first, Kevin Wang was second and Sherlynn Fung third. And on December 4 John, Joshua, and Neil Doknjas were onsite to provide game analysis and offer a blitz challenge for charity, all donations benefitting the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau. Crosstables [Open](#) [U1600](#) [U1000](#)

Winter 1000GM Bay Area Norm inv (December 7-11)

For the third bulletin in a row FM Max Gedajlovic has achieved an IM norm, this his third and final. As previously noted, [1000GM](#) has organized many norm events as part of its stated goal to produce one thousand grandmasters. Their latest pair of tournaments, for GM and IM norm seekers, were ten-player round robins held in San José, California. Max played in the GM Norm section and faced murderers' row in the first three rounds (the required three grandmasters), scoring but a single draw. He made up for this in the next four rounds, scoring 3.5/4 for a plus one result after seven rounds. The IM norm was 5.0 points, meaning Max needed a single point from his last two games; two short draws followed and mission accomplished. (In fact by the last round nobody had anything to prove – all the games were drawn in eight moves or less.) The overall winner was IM Alexander Katz with 6.5/9, earning a GM norm in the process; Max tied for fourth behind GMs Vladimir Belous (Russia) and Titas Stremavivius (Lithuania).

With this norm and the other two from the 1000GM Hollywood Masters in October and the Fall 2022 Charlotte Chess Centre GM Norm Invitational C Max has the necessary three norms covering twenty-seven games. The minimum FIDE rating requirement of 2400 has also been achieved, meaning he will receive the International Master title after confirmation from the Qualification Commission and approval by an upcoming FIDE Council meeting – congratulations! Achieving three norms in three months is not a record but is still very impressive; Magnus Carlsen took seven months to score his three IM norms in 2003, but he was only twelve at the time ...

[Crosstable](#)

Narayanan, Samrug (2356) – Gedajlovic, Max (2398) [C76] 1000GM Winter Bay Area GM 2022 San Jose (4.2), 09.12.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.0-0 Bd7 6.c3 g6 7.d4 Bg7 8.Re1 h6 9.h3 Nge7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Nbd2 exd4 12.Nxd4 Ne5 13.Bc2 c5 14.N4f3 Qc7 15.a4 Be6 16.Qe2 Nxf3+ 17.Nxf3 d5 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Bc1 Rfe8 21.Qe4 Qe7 22.a5 Nf6 23.Qa4 Rxd1 24.Bxd1 Qc7 25.Bf4 Qc8 26.Bb3 c4 27.Bc2 Nd7 28.Qb4 Nc5 29.Bd6 Nd3 30.Bxd3 cxd3 31.Be5 Bd5 32.c4 Qxc4 33.Bd6 Qc6 34.Rxe8+ Qxe8 35.Ne1 Qe2 36.Bf4 Bc4 37.Nf3 Bb5 38.Qd6 Bc6 39.Nd2 Qe1+ 40.Nf1 Qe4 41.f3 Qd4+ 42.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 43.Kh2 g5 44.Bc1 Kg7 45.Ne3 Kg6 46.Kg1 f5 47.Kf1 f4 48.Nd1 Ba4 49.Nc3 Bc6 50.Nd1 Kf5 51.Bd2 Ke6 52.Ke1 Kd5 53.Bb4 Be3 54.Bd2 Kd4 55.Bc3+ Kc4 56.Bd2 Bd4 57.b4 Kb3 58.Kf1 Kc2 59.Ke1 Bb5 60.h4 Bd7 0-1

Gedajlovic, Max (2398) – Kunka, Harshid (2391) [B12] 1000GM Winter Bay Area GM 2022 San Jose (5.4), 09.12.2022

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Qa5+ 7.b4 Qxb4+ 8.Nd2 Qb5 9.c4 dxc4 10.Nxc4 e6 11.Rb1 Qa6 12.Nf3 Nd7



13.Bg5 b5 14.Ne3 Qa5+ 15.Ke2 Be7 16.Rhc1 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Ne7 18.a4 a6 19.Qe4 g6 20.Qf4 0–0
21.Ne4 Nf5 22.Nxf5 exf5 23.Nd6 Qxa4 24.Kf1 Qa2 25.Ra1 Qd5 26.Ra3 c5 27.Nxf5 Qe6 28.Rg3
cxd4 29.Rc6 Qxe5 30.Qg5 Kh8 31.Qh6+ Kg8 32.Rcxg6+ 1–0

**Gedajlovic, Max (2398) – Stearman, Josiah (2386) [A56] 1000GM Winter Bay Area GM 2022
San Jose (7.3), 10.12.2022**

[Max Gedajlovic]

1.d4 After a poor start to the tournament by scoring 0.5/3 against the three GMs, I had managed to get back to an even score with hard fought wins in rounds four and five followed by a solid draw in round six. This left me facing three strong 2400 players in the last three rounds, and needing to score 2.0/3. I was nervous facing Josiah as he has been a tough opponent for me in the past, but knew that scoring a win here would put me in a great position heading into the last day. **1...Nf6**
2.c4 a6!? A very early surprise, which I didn't react well to. I knew this move couldn't be good, but was worried about entering the sharp Benko gambit type positions that could arise after the coming c7–c5 and b7–b5 pushes against a better prepared opponent. **3.Nc3** The most principled move, White threatens to take the whole centre with e4. Practically this was a poor choice though as if White isn't willing to accept the b5 gambit, this knight will lose a tempo as Black expands on the queenside with b5–b4. **3.Nf3** was the safer call, and would have been a better choice for this game. Without White's knight on c3 Black's queenside play is rather lacklustre, and he's probably best advised to transpose into a Janowski QGD with 3...e6 and 4...d5. **3...c5 4.d5 b5 5.Qc2** I thought this move can't be bad as it supports pushing e4 and gives my knight a reasonable retreat square on d1. However more forcing options are required to punish Black's opening choice. **5.e4!?** If white doesn't want to accept the gambit, this idea, suggested by Varuzhan Akobian is a simple way to get a nice advantage. **5...b4 6.Na4 Nxe4?!** Black should play d6 **7.Bd3** White recovers his pawn on c5 with a lead in development and a big space advantage. Black's queenside advances look pretty silly with the c-pawn gone. **5...d6 6.e4 b4= 7.Nd1 g6 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.h3 9.f4!?** My opponent suggested this idea after the game and it makes a lot of sense to me. Now White can get castled and threaten to push e4–e5, forcing Black to clarify matters in the centre with e7–e6xd5.
9...a5 10.Rb1?! I can't really pinpoint one move I played that was particularly bad on its own, but it was all part of a misguided development scheme that left me worse. White needs to grab more space right away and play with more urgency for the strategic reasons I'll discuss on move 12.
10...e6 11.Nf3 0–0 12.0–0 a4=/+ A clear opening success for Black. It was around here where I started realizing the downside of my unambitious opening play. By not putting Black under any pressure in the centre, White allows Black to stay flexible with the pawn on e6. Black has the option of either taking on d5 and turning the position into a Benoni structure where he has real chances to attack on either side of the board, or blocking up the centre with e6–e5 and launching a massive King's Indian style attack on White's kingside. Because of this White needs to play cagey moves that prepare for either eventuality, whereas Black can wait for the opportune moment to commit to whichever plan he prefers. **13.Bg5** A risky placement for the bishop, but one with a clear strategic point. White is inviting Black to gain space on the kingside with h6 and g5. However, in doing so Black severely weakens the f5 square, which can easily be exploited by the d1 knight via e3 after either decision Black makes with the e-pawn. **13...h6 14.Bh4 g5** Black takes the "bait," but this can hardly be called a mistake, as it affords him very seriously play against the White kingside.
15.Bg3 Nh5 16.Bh2 exd5?! I was happy to see Black make a decision with this e-pawn as it made my future decisions easier. **16...Nf4!** Taking the knight looks terrible, but leaving it stay on f4 menacing White's position isn't a winning strategy either. Black is much better. **17.cxd5** Now my d1 knight has some life, as c4 and f5 are both juicy squares on its circuit. **17...Nf4** An annoying move to face, as I felt I was a tempo short to solve all my problems. However White has a beautiful

exchange sacrifice that dramatically improves the position. **18.Bc4?!** I didn't really want to waste a move like this, but thought I could bring my knight out to e3 to consolidate next move. 18.Bxf4? gxf4-/+ If White could have played Ne3 and Bxf4 in one move, this would be worth considering, but not with the knight stuck on d1 for all eternity; 18.Ne3!= What I wanted to play, but I couldn't quite make it work. 18...Nd7 Black's best. (18...Nxd3? This is what discouraged me in the game 19.Qxd3 Ba6 20.Qc2! White sacrifices the exchange, but to get it Black would need to part with his light-squared bishop. (20.Nc4? was what I thought I would have to play in the game, I really didn't want to walk into this pin and give up my knight's dreams of reaching f5. 20...Nd7-/+ 21.Qc2 (21.Bxd6?? Nb6-+) 21...Bxc4 22.Qxc4 Nb6 23.Qd3 c4 with the initiative) 20...Bxf1 21.Kxf1+/- White has the simple plan of putting his knights on f5 and c4, and d6 will fall eventually. White has more than enough compensation.) 19.Bb5 a3 20.bxa3 Rxa3 21.Rb3 unclear - Black still has scary ideas on both sides of the board, but White has successfully broken out of his first few ranks and has ideas of playing on the light squares and targetting the d6 pawn. **18...Qf6?!** Nothing could be more natural, Black brings his queen into the kingside attack and seems to threaten Nxf3+, destroying White's kingside. 18...Nd7! bringing more pieces into the attack is the way for Black to go. 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5-/+ Nothing collapses quite yet, but both Black's bishops are monsters and he has scary ideas of playing both on the kingside and the queenside. White's position looks miserable.



19.Ne3! I was extremely happy to find this idea. White allows Nxf3+ with the idea that he'll be able to grab the d6 pawn at the end of the line. The knight on e3 covers the critical squares on g2 and g4, allowing White to get away with this. 19.Nd2? Nd7-/+ Black's knight is coming into e5, and White is at a serious risk of getting mated. The knight on f3 can't afford to yield this ground. **19...Nxf3+!?** Black can't resist going for this attack, and here the game transitions from a strategic phase to an extremely sharp tactical position where both sides need to be very precise. **20.gxh3 Qxf3 21.Bxd6 Bxh3** Black goes for an interesting exchange sacrifice, this is the most uncompromising way to play the position, but it takes on quite some risk. 21...Re8 This is what I was most worried about in the game, Black saves the rook and threatens to take

on both h3 and e4. 22.Qd1! I was looking at similar ideas to this, but I would have been hard pressed to find this move, which according to the engine is the only one that holds the balance. 22...Qxh3 23.Re1 g4 24.Bg3 unclear; we are left with a wild position, that the engine of course calls 0.00. In practice though, I feel like White might have the slightly easier side of this. Black's kingside play seems contained, his pieces are underdeveloped, and White's central pawns desperately need to be blockaded. **22.Be2 Qf6 23.Bxf8** Giving the dark-squared bishop like this, and allowing Black to easily get at the kingside dark squares with Bxf8-d6 was a very scary decision, but I felt that grabbing the material and trying to defend gave me the best chance of going for the win. 23.Nc4 was perhaps a more practical way of playing, White prepares for the e5 push. By defending the bishop on d6, he can now play e5, with the idea of meeting Qf4 with e6!. 23...Bxf1 24.e5 Qf4 25.e6 b3! 26.axb3 axb3 27.Qxb3 Qe4 28.Bxf1 Qxb1 29.Bxf8 Ra1 30.Nd2 Qf5 is just one crazy sample line that could have followed. The position is balanced but hangs on a knife's edge, and one mistake for either side is likely fatal. **23...Bxf8 24.Rfe1** Greedy, but not bad. 24.Bg4 White could also give the exchange back right away, and in doing so make it hard for Black to develop

the d7 knight. 24...Bxf1 25.Rxf1 unclear. In the game I felt I'd be in some trouble on the dark squares here, but the engine screams equal. With both sides having very powerful opposite-coloured bishops, both players need to be very careful to avoid getting their king in trouble.

24...Qf4? Setting up for Bd6, but this is too slow. 24...Nd7! Black really needs to get this guy in. 25.Bg4 Bxg4 26.Nxg4 Qf4 27.Qe2 Bg7 Black has at least enough compensation on the dark squares, and probably more.



25.e5? I'm disappointed to give this move a question mark because I thought it was very important during the game, but it gives Black another chance for Nd7. 25.Nc4! This is the key idea, white controls black's dark squared bishop, and opens the way for white's queen to come to the defence of the kingside via d3. 25...Nd7? Now this is too slow. 26.Qd3 g4 27.Qe3+/- With Black's light-squared bishop stuck on h3, and the queens getting traded, I think White should be winning, but it still requires some work. **25...Qxe5?** Fortunately my opponent errs back, now the game is lost. 25...Nd7! Once again, this move held the balance. It's a really instructive lesson on the importance of piece development how throughout the game this move was so important, even while very sharp tactics were happening on the other side of the board. **26.Bg4!+-**

The point behind the pawn sacrifice, now all these lines are opened and Black is too underdeveloped to contain all the coming threats. **26...Bxg4 27.Nxg4 Qf4 27...Qxd5?? 28.Nf6+ 28.Re4 Qf3 28...Qf5 29.Nxh6+!** is a nice point, otherwise the pin on the rook would be annoying as White doesn't really want to trade queens. 29...Bxh6 30.Re8+ picks up the queen. **29.Rbe1 b3 30.axb3 axb3 31.Qc4 Nd7**



32.d6! The only winning move, White launches this pawn forward and clears d5 for his queen. **32...Qf5 32...Bxd6?** 33.Qd5 ends the game on the spot with the triple threat on the rook, the bishop and winning the queen with Re8+; 32...h5!? I'm happy my opponent didn't play this because I was pretty worried about it during the game. 33.Qd5! The only move that keeps White's winning advantage. 33...hxg4 34.Qxa8 (34.Qxg5+?? Bg7= Very annoyingly, White has nothing here, despite both Re8+ and Rxg4 being close.) 34...g3 35.R1e2 gxf2+ 36.Rxf2 Qd1+ 37.Kg2 Qxd6 I was gonna play this line in the game, and was happy to be vindicated by the engine, but converting this position with White seems like a nerve-wracking task I was not looking forward to. **33.Re8 Rxe8 34.Rxe8 Kh7 35.Re7!**

A nice point that ends the game on the spot, the rook can't be taken because the pawn queens. **35...Kg7 35...Bxe7 36.dxe7 Qb1+ (36...Nb6 37.Qe4** Not at all necessary, but I had this aesthetic move planned for this line.) **37.Kg2 Qe1** holds the pawn for a move, but not f7, so Black can resign. **36.Rxd7! Qxd7 37.Qc3+** The point, wherever Black's king goes walks into a knight fork, so he is forced to play f6. **37...f6**

38.Qxf6+ Kg8 39.Ne5 Bg7 40.Qg6 Qa7 41.d7 And Black resigned in view of the inevitable promotion. This was an incredibly nerve-wracking and fascinating game that I learned a ton about chess from studying and playing. With this win I got into a position to make my final IM norm, which I was able to clinch with two draws in the final rounds. I'm super grateful for the incredible 1000GM organization, who have put on several fantastic norm events throughout 2022, and without which I never would have been able to achieve this milestone this year. **1-0** [1000GM has a youtube channel where GM Akobian interviews the players about their games; the above game can be found in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvXDgdRR8Rk>, starting around 46:20]

Comox Chess Day (December 10)

A recently created chess club in Comox organized a chess day on December 10 in the Warrant Officer's and Sergeants Mess at CFB Comox. Organized by John Nguyen and directed by Marc Moisan, the chess day consisted of two tournaments, one blitz (game in 5 minutes), the other rapid (15 +10). Nine players participated in the blitz, a five-round Swiss in which players contested two games with each opponent. Daryl Hora gave up a single loss in coming first, John Nguyen was second, and Raymond Rulton and Samuel Petitclerc tied for third with 6.0 points. The rapid event was also a five-round Swiss but with single games between opponents; Jason Williamson, John Nguyen, and Daryl Hora all scored 4.0 points in tying for first. The Comox Chess Club can be contacted at comoxchessclub@gmail.com. Crosstables [Blitz](#) [Rapid](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 1 (December 3)



A recent addition to the Langley chess scene, Umang Banatwala has been the driving force behind the [Fraser Valley Chess Club](#) and now the first in a new series of tournaments, the Fraser Valley Rapid 1. Held at the Christian Life Assembly in Langley on December 3, this inaugural event attracted fifty-one players in two sections. The overall winner of the Open Section was Jorge Nunez Asencio who racked up five wins in a row before drawing his last game. A full point back was Brian McLaren, while tied for third were juniors Zachary Liu and Rojas Kendrick with Zachary getting the nod on tiebreak. Achintyaa Sankar won the U1400 Section with a perfect score, Stefan

Ungurean was second and Rishab Ganesh third on tiebreak, they tied with Maxim Sergheev on 5.0 points. Registration is already open for [Fraser Valley Rapid 2](#) on January 14, 2023. [Tournament website](#)

Vancity Rapid 6 (November 27)



The sixth edition of the Vancity Chess rapid tournaments took place at the Ponderosa Ballroom at UBC on November 27. The thirty-six player Open Section included IMs Raymond Kaufman and Vicente Lee Jr. along with Mayo Fuentebella, David Miller, and Arpak Qanee, but it was Leo Qu who ran roughshod over the field, claiming first prize with a 5.5/6 score which included wins against the two IMs. Leo is a former junior star who stopped playing from 2017 until earlier this year; he is now a student at UBC but has returned to the chess world with a vengeance. Tied for second were Kaufman and Miller. The U1400 Section had fifty-eight entrants but despite this all the prizes had clear winners – Henry Zhou was first with a perfect score, followed by Rio Vilches second and Sasikumar Kalyanasundaram third. Vancity's next rapid is on January 8 at UBC which will also institute a new [Rapid Chess League](#) (Grand Prix) for the year 2023. Crosstables [Open U1400](#)

Washington Class Championship (November 25-27)

Held on the American Thanksgiving weekend, this year's Washington Class Championship also included a number of side events – blitz, rapid, chess960, and puzzle-solving championships, as well as a scholastic event. As far as I am aware the only BC player in the main event was Severo (Juni) Caluza, who scored 2.5/6 in the "A" Section. However, another of the side events was the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss, held in tribute to Carol Kleist, long-time member of the Seattle Chess Club and wife of TD Fred Kleist, who passed away last May at the age of ninety-two. From the tournament advertising the exact definition of "adult" is unclear, but the thirteen-player event attracted four BC seniors, Don Hack, Paul Leblanc, Paul MacDonell, and Brian Sullivan, who were

presumably happy to avoid underrated juniors for the weekend. Paul Leblanc won his first five games to place himself a point ahead of the field going into the last round. Paul lost his final game but his closest pursuer Richard Lavoie took a half-point bye, leaving Paul in clear first, Richard second, and Henry Yan and Ralph Anthony tied for third. [Crosstable](#)



Paul Leblanc and Don Hack



Paul MacDonell and Brian Sullivan

Victoria Chess Club Rapid Fundraiser (November 26) by Paul Leblanc



Eighteen players participated in this event which raised over \$300 to help replenish the chess club's bank account after a long period of paying rent at our temporary location at the Monterey Recreation Centre. The community room at Uptown Mall is made available to local clubs and societies (the chess club is both) for a nominal fee. It can only be rented by any particular group once per month. The room was filled to capacity by our eighteen players. The only downside was exposure to the noise of shoppers parking cars and shuttling shopping carts to and from Walmart. Thank you to the players for enduring this inconvenience. This tournament featured players rated under 1400 or unrated. We hope to hold another event soon for higher-rated players.



Deep Patel vs Jimmy McLean

Deep Patel, playing in his first CFC-rated tournament won the Chess Club T-shirt with a perfect 5.0-0.0 score. I asked Deep for a few comments on his interest in chess:

“Back in 2011, I joined a coaching institute for my academic studies. The institute's owner is a chess player and used to coach chess on weekends. With no interest in chess, I started going over there as I was idle on weekends, and it was free for students. Little did I know that my interest in chess was about to change, and I started enjoying it. So, yes, I have been playing chess for almost 11 years; however, I took a break from chess to focus on my graduation. Hence, I was never able to get a FIDE rating. I think I'll start competing in chess tournaments again and get my FIDE rating like I got my first CFC rating in this tournament. The adrenaline rush is incredible when I play any chess tournaments. It doesn't matter if my opponent is higher-rated, lower-rated, or unrated, there's always so much learning in chess tournaments.”

Many thanks to our Tournament Director, Marc Moisan, National Arbiter who also generously agreed to substitute as a player when we had a last-minute withdrawal. [Crosstable](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Vancity Rapid January 2023

UBC, January 8, 2023

[Details](#)

16th Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 7-10, 2023

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 2

Langley, January 14, 2023

[Details](#)

Okanagan Open

Salmon Arm, May 5-7, 2023

[Details](#)

Greater Vancouver Chess Tournament

Burnaby, January 20-23, 2023

[Details](#)

BC-Alberta Match

Salmon Arm, May 5-7, 2023

[Details](#)

BC Open

Richmond, February 18-20, 2023

[Details](#)

47th Keres Memorial

Richmond, May 20-22, 2023

[Details](#)