

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #435

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](mailto:swright2@telus.net)); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

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### HERE AND THERE

#### Reykjavik Open (March 29 – April 4)



(photos by Hallfríður Sigurðardóttir)

Held in the [Harpa](#) concert hall, this year's Reykjavík Open attracted a record number of participants, four hundred and one. Among them were one hundred and thirty titled players including thirty-four grandmasters. Despite these numbers the tournament was weaker than usual; there were no players above 2700, and the top seed was Ukrainian legend Vasyl Ivanchuk at 2664. Over half the participants were rated below 2000, making the event more attractive for average chess players. Seven Canadians made the journey to the Icelandic capital, including with BC connections IM Raymond Kaufman, Andrew Yu Qiu, Peter Yong Qiu, Xie Qiu, and WFM Alexandra Botez. The latter was one of a number of players, along with GM Simon Williams, WGM Dina Belenkaya, and WFM Anna Cramling, who streamed their games live via their own channels.

It was Swedish GM Nils Grandelius who, by virtue of winning his last three games, pulled ahead of the pack by a mere half point to claim sole first place with 7.5/9. Tied for second were GMs Mustafa Yilmaz (Turkiye), Abhijeet Gupta (India), Maxime Lagarde (France), Gabor Papp (Hungary), Matthieu Cornette (France), Tamas Banusz (Hungary), and Leon Livaic (Croatia). Ivanchuk was among the players tied for ninth through twenty-seventh place on 6.5 points. Top

Canadians were Raymond Kaufman and Alexis Langlois-Remillard with 5.0 points, followed by Andrew Yu Qiu and Alexandra Botez on 4.5 points, and Peter Yong Qiu and Xie Qiu a further half-point back. Greatest rating gain was achieved by Andrew Yu Qiu, 72 points.

[Tournament website](#) [Results](#)

**Kaufman, Raymond (2143) – Hjartarson, Johann (2478) [B06] Reykjavik op Reykjavik (1.27), 29.03.2023**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 a6 5.0–0 b5 6.Bb3 e6 7.a4 b4 8.a5 Nd7 9.Qe2 Ne7 10.Rd1 0–0 11.Nbd2 h6 12.Nf1 Bb7 13.Ng3 c5 14.Bf4 d5 15.Bd6 c4 16.Ba4 dxe4 17.Ne5 Nf6 18.Nxc4 Rc8 19.Bxb4 Nfd5 20.Bc5 Nf4 21.Qf1 Nf5 22.Nxf5 gxf5 23.Nd6 Rb8 24.Nxb7 Rxb7 25.g3 Qg5 26.Kh1 Nd5 27.Bxf8 Bxf8 28.Bb3 Nf6 29.Qxa6 Ng4 30.Qf1 e3 31.fxe3 Qxe3 32.Re1 Qxd4 33.Qf3 Rd7 34.a6 Bc5 35.c3 Qf2 36.Qxf2 Nxf2+ 37.Kg2 Rd2 38.Kf1 Ng4 39.Re2 Nxe2+ 40.Ke1 Nf3+ 41.Kf1 Nh2+ 42.Ke1 Nf3+ 43.Kf1 ½–½

**Qiu, Andrew Yu (1646) – Kee, Steve (1919) [B35] Reykjavik op Reykjavik (5.114), 01.04.2023**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0–0 8.Bc4 a6 9.Qd2 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.0–0–0 Qc7 12.g4 e6 13.h4 h5 14.Kb1 Rac8 15.Nxc6 dxc6 16.Bf4 e5 17.Bg5 Rfd8 18.Qg2 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 hxg4 20.fxg4 b4 21.h5 Nh7 22.hxg6 Nxg5 23.Qd2 Bf6 24.gxf7+ Kg7 25.Qh2 Rh8 26.Qxh8+ Kxh8 27.f8Q+ Kh7 28.Qg8+ 1–0

**Qiu, Peter Yong (1729) – Skou, Niels (2114) [C26] Reykjavik op Reykjavik (6.97), 01.04.2023**

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nge2 Nc6 6.d3 0–0 7.0–0 a6 8.h3 Be6 9.Kh2 Nd4 10.f4 exf4 11.gxf4 g6 12.Nxd4 Bxd4 13.Ne2 Bb6 14.f5 Bd7 15.Ng3 Bd4 16.c3 Be5 17.d4 Bxg3+ 18.Kxg3 Bb5 19.Rg1 Re8 20.Re1 Nh5+ 21.Kh2 Qh4 22.Bd2 Qg3+ 23.Kg1 Re7 24.Re3 Qh4 25.Re1 Qg3 26.Re3 Qh4 27.Qg4 Qf6 28.Ree1 Qg7 29.Re3 Rae8 30.Rae1 Nf6 31.Qg3 Nh5 32.Qg4 Bc6 33.R1e2 Nf6 34.Qh4 g5 35.Qe1 Nd7 36.Rg3 h6 37.h4 f6 38.hxg5 hxg5 39.Bh1 Kf7 40.Rh3 Rh8 41.Rxh8 Qxh8 42.Rh2 Qg7 43.Qe2 Kg8 44.Rh5 Bxe4 45.Bxe4 Qf7 46.Qh2 Qxh5 47.Qxh5 Rxe4 48.Kf2 1–0



**Striskova, Lucia (2002) – Qiu, Andrew Yu (1646) [B76] Reykjavik op Reykjavik (8.110), 03.04.2023**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0–0 9.g4 Be6 10.0–0–0 Rc8 11.h4 h5 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.gxh5 Nxh5 14.Bh3 Qd7 15.Bh6 Ne5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Nd5 Qa4 18.Nc3 Rxc3 19.Qxc3 Rxf3 20.Rd3 Nf4 21.Re3 Ne2+ 22.Rxe2 Rxc3 23.bxc3 Nc4 24.Bxe6 Qxa2 25.Bxc4 Qa1+ 0–1

## **UBC Rapid** (March 26)



(photo by Michael Lo)

Rated chess has a long history at UBC, but in recent years events such as the Intermat, BC Closed, Provincial Chess Challenge and BC Junior took place at UBC but have been organized by off-campus bodies. On March 26 the UBC Chess Club ran the first of what is hoped will become an annual event, a Rapid tournament. Held in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC and employing the almost ubiquitous format of six rounds at 15+10 in two sections, the event attracted just over one hundred entrants including a number of university students experiencing live competitive chess for the first time.

The highest-rated player in the Open Section was Leo Qu, winner of several recent rapid events, who seemed to be cruising after he beat Eduardo Moura in the fourth round, while Kate Jiang went from being a pawn-up against Brandon Zhu to the notorious bishop and rook versus bishop ending which she eventually lost. Leo and Brandon agreed to a short draw in round 5, leaving Leo in front by a half-point ahead of a following pack on 4.0 points. In the last round Kate dispatched Leo while Brandon and Eduardo also won, leaving the three of them tied for first with 5.0/6. The prize money was split equally between them but Kate took the plaque due to a better tiebreak. In the U1400 Section Ihor Boiko swept the field with a perfect 6.0/6, while Nathan Zhang, Chun Hei Hilary Lau, Forrest Zhu, Ryan Golchin, Jhen Maiquez, and Ehsan Hoseinzade tied for the remaining prizes with 5.0 points. Thanks to the UBC Chess Club (Oliver Gullery, Luke Pulfer and others) for the organizational aspects and chess2inspire for providing the equipment. [Open U1400](#)

## **Aurora Spring Open** (March 25-26)

We don't normally have the opportunity to report on Ontario events in these pages but on his way to Iceland BC co-champion IM Raymond Kaufman took part in the Aurora Spring Open, held at the Newmarket Old Town Hall on the weekend of March 25-26. The Master Section of the five-round Swiss included eight IMs and two players rated over 2500 but it was tenth-ranked CM Max Rusonik who was the surprise winner with 4.5/5 (Max took a third-round bye – there were three 90+30 games on the Saturday, a tiring schedule for anyone). Second were Daniel Xu and IM Olivier Kenta Chiku-Ratte; Raymond played four of the IMs and finished with 50%. [Crosstable](#)

**Reprintsev, Alexander (2279) – Kaufman, Raymond (2143)  
[B20] 2023 Aurora Spring op Master Newmarket (2.3),  
25.03.2023**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.g4 Bg7 5.g5 Nh5 6.Bxg7 Nxc7  
7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Nd5 h6 9.gxh6 Nh5 10.Qf3 e6 11.Ne3 Ne5  
12.Qd1 d5 13.exd5 Nf4 14.Nh3 Nxd5 15.Bg2 Rxh6 16.Qe2  
Qf6 17.Bxd5 Rxh3 18.0-0-0 Nc4 19.d4 Nxe3 20.Qb5+ Kf8  
21.Bxb7 Nxd1 22.Bxa8 Nxf2 23.Qxc5+ Kg7 24.Re1 Rxh2  
25.Kb1 Ba6 26.Qxa7 Nd3 27.Rd1 Qf2 28.Qc7 Nb4 29.Be4  
Rh4 30.a3 Rxe4 31.axb4 Re1 32.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 33.Kb2 Qxb4  
34.Qe5+ Kg8 35.c3 Qb5 36.Qc7 Qb7 37.Qc5 Qd5 38.Qb6  
Bd3 39.c4 Bxc4 40.bxc4 Qxc4 41.Qd6 Qd5 42.Qf4 Kg7  
43.Kc3 g5 44.Qg3 Qa5+ 45.Kc4 Kg6 46.Qb8 Qd5+ 47.Kc3  
Qf3+ 48.Kc4 Qe2+ 49.Kc3 Qe3+ 50.Kc4 Kf5 51.Qh8 f6  
52.Qh5 Qe4 53.Qh7+ Kf4 54.Qh2+ Kg4 55.Qg1+ Kh5  
56.Qh2+ Kg6 57.Qh8 e5 58.Qe8+ Kf5 0-1



**Esquimalt Rapid** (March 25) by Paul Leblanc

**Ian Cordon Sweeps Esquimalt Rapid 5-0; Event Attracts 44 Players**



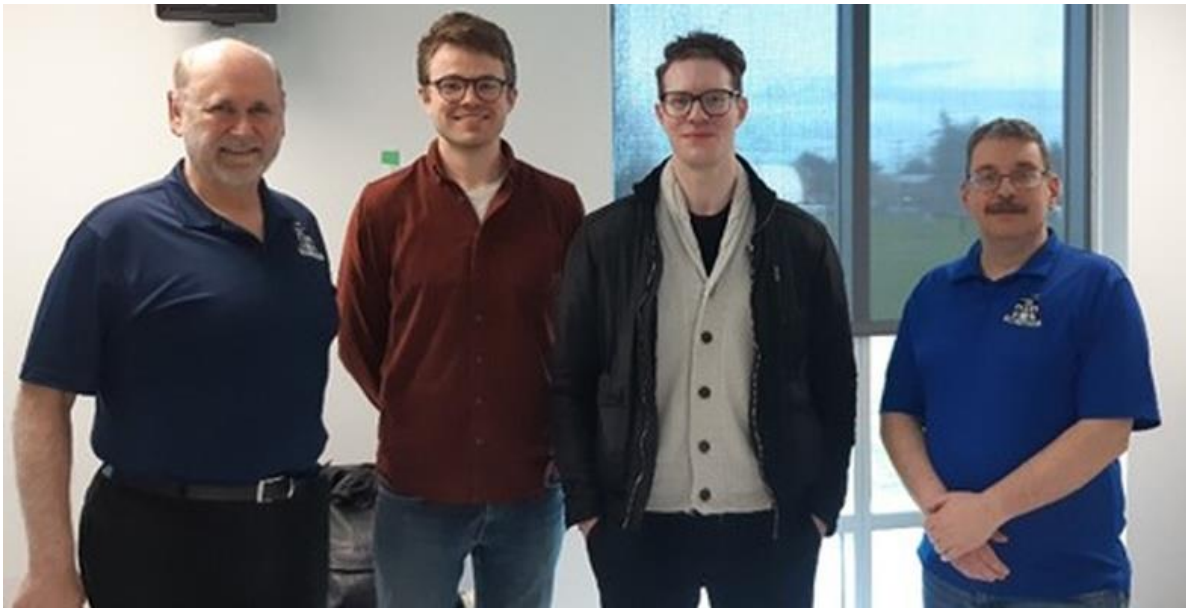
(photo by Marc Moisan)

The popularity of single-day Rapid tournaments has been growing lately. A glance at the coming events page of the BCCF website will show that someone can play in a CFC rated Rapid event on the mainland almost every weekend. On Saturday, March 25 the Victoria Chess Club held such an event at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre where the club has been meeting since last November. The turnout exceeded expectations and had to be moved from the usual chess club meeting room to a larger room at the facility. Doctor Ian Cordon breezed to a perfect score and was never in any difficulties. His style of play was precise and methodical as he dispatched one after the other of his opponents.



Organizer Paul Leblanc, winner Ian Cordon, TD Marc Moisan

The top U1200 prize was won by Karl Gruenwald with a very impressive score of 3.5-1.5 against much higher rated opposition. Top unrated player was Jelle Faber on 3.0-2.0. Prizes were Victoria Chess Club t-shirts and chess sets. All proceeds after expenses went toward replenishing the chess club finances. [Crosstable](#)



Jelle Faber and Karl Gruenwald

### **Fraser Valley Spring Break Events**

Chess tournaments, at least for non-professionals, are normally not held during daylight hours on weekdays. Yet during Spring Break the school populous does not have classes, so the [Fraser Valley Chess Academy](#) took the opportunity to organize two events during the recent March holiday, one rapid, the other regular. The [Fraser Valley Spring Rapid](#) took place on Thursday, March 16 as a six-round Swiss in one section at the Christian Life Assembly Church in Langley. Most of the fifty-two

participants were students but one adult master was present, Jorge Nunes Asencio, who unsurprisingly took the first prize after giving up a single last-round draw. Tied for second with 5.0 points were Zachary Liu, Peter Yong Qiu, Kai Wang, and Andrew Yu Qiu.



The [Fraser Valley Spring Classic](#) was held the following week, on March 21 and 23. The format was still a six-round Swiss in one section but the lengthened time control (55+5) necessitated the second day. Andrew Yu Qiu and Mark Linnick tied for first with 5.0 points each, a half point ahead of James Kerry, Zachary Liu, Peter Yong Qiu, and Henry Fan – the latter took the U1100 award. Other prize winners included Jofrel Landingin, Kai Zhang, and Justin Tian. Forty-two players took part.

### **1000GM LA Spring Splash** (March 17-21)

Continuing with their series of norm events, the [1000GM](#) organization hosted one such tournament at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport March 17-21. The recently updated FIDE title regulations make a norm achieved via a forty-player Swiss where the average rating is above 2000 highly desirable; the fifty-player Spring Splash met these requirements. Two Canadians participated, NM Neil Doknjas from this province and WFM Rachel Ruoxuan Chen, who was born in BC but who now lives in Los Angeles. Also from the Pacific Northwest was GM James Tarjan, winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Keres Memorial way back in 1976, who is still active in retirement. The overall winner was American GM John Burke who scored 7.0/9, closely followed by GM Christopher Yoo (USA) and IM Semen Khanin (Russia) on 6.5 points. Neil finished the event with 3.0 points, his sole win coming against Rachel in round five. Rachel did not finish the event. [Standings](#)



## **Doknjas, Neil (2052) – Chen, Rachel Ruoxuan (1943) [A19] 1000GM LA Spring Splash Los Angeles (5.22), 19.03.2023**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 c5 4.e5 Ng8 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qf4 Nge7 8.Qe4 Ng6 9.f4 d6 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Nf3 f5 12.Qc2 Nxf4 13.c5 Bb8 14.Be3 0–0 15.Rd1 Qe7 16.Bc4 Kh8 17.0–0 Nh5 18.a3 Nf6 19.b4 Ng4 20.Rfe1 Nxe3 21.Rxe3 a5 22.Nd5 Qe8 23.b5 Ne5 24.Nb6 Nxf3+ 25.Rxf3 Ra7 26.Rfd3 Qe7 27.Qf2 h6 28.Rd6 Kh7 29.Nxc8 Rxc8 30.Bxe6 Bxd6 31.Bxf5+ g6 32.cxd6 Qxd6 33.Bg4 Qc5 34.Bxc8 Qxf2+ 35.Kxf2 b6 36.Rd7+ Rxd7 37.Bxd7 Kg7 38.Ke3 Kf6 39.Kd4 Ke7 40.Bc6 Kd6 41.Bd5 1–0

### **Great Players of the Past: Duncan Suttles**

Among those providing chess material on YouTube is GM Benjamin Finegold, who has been producing an occasional series covering some of the great players from past eras. A recent lecture, taped before a live audience in Roswell, Georgia on February 27, covers three games by BC grandmaster and Canadian chess icon Duncan Suttles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IEBhUK3Xgk>

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### **BCYCC (March 18-19)**



(photo by Michael Lo)

Sponsored by [Penny Chess Club](#) and [Burnaby Junior Chess Club](#) and organized by [chess2inspire](#), this year's BCYCC was the first, OTB or online, since 2020. (It was three years and a week ago, March 14-15, 2020, that public health measures were introduced to combat the coronavirus outbreak and the previous tournament was cancelled.) Held at the Bonsor Recreational Complex in Burnaby, the two-day four or five round tournament attracted a record two hundred and thirty-one players in sections determined by age and gender (although some sections were combined for pairing purposes). Special thanks to Michael Lo, Lara Lo, Ryan Lo, Jeremy Hui and all the others who helped make the event a success. [Crosstables](#)

The top three in each section were as follows:

U8 Open

- 1 Daniel Zhu
- 2 Samuel Xu
- 3 Elliot McCallum

U16 Open

- 1 Kaiqi Qin
- 2 Kate Jiang
- 3 Ethan Su

U12 Girls

- 1 Caitlyn Wang
- 2 Joanne Wangluo
- 3 Sarah Lu

U10 Open

- 1 Jesse Law
- 2 Bowen Wu
- 3 Lucas Yao

U18 Open

- 1 Aiden Zhou
- 2 Henry Yang
- 3 Tao Xie

U14 Girls

- 1 Bella Yang
- 2 Hannah Xu
- 3 May Wangluo

U12 Open

- 1 Zachary Liu
- 2 William Jiang
- 3 Erwin Mok

U8 Girls

- 1 Mary Ortiz
- 2 Alexandra Laing
- 3 Rayna Li

U16 Girls

- 1 Gillian Mok
- 2 Joyce Zhang

U14 Open

- 1 Ryan Yang
- 2 Ethan Song
- 3 Johan Aljo

U10 Girls

- 1 Siobhan McCallum
- 2 Karen Chen
- 3 Sofia Vigurs

U18 Girls

- 1 Yawen Zheng
- 2 Bella Wang

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**PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE (April 2)**



The BC Chess Challenge Finals were held at the Marine Drive Ballroom at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Some one hundred and forty-one players competed in grade sections to determine the grade champions for this year and who will represent BC at the National Chess Challenge, coming up in Montreal on the Victoria Day weekend.



The following are the trophy winners for this year - congratulations to all!

Kindergarten – Bryan-Viet Tran, Rockwell Chan, Karson Lu  
Grade 1 – Elliot McCallum, Khai Le, Samuel Xu  
Grade 2 – Sky Cui, Moses Li, Tiffany-Trang Tran  
Grade 3 – Kai Zhang, David Song, Braylan Zhang  
Grade 4 – Bowen Wu, Chase Shu, Minh Vu  
Grade 5 – Zachary Liu, Panshul Mishra-Jaiman, Dasha Doroshenko  
Grade 6 – Justin Gao, Erwin Mok, William Jiang  
Grade 7 – Jordan Zhu, Lucas Li, Wesley Russell  
Grade 8 – Ethan Song, Ryan Yang, Emilian Holmgren  
Grade 9 – Gillian Mok, Aiden Leong, Robert McBain  
Grade 10 – Kate Jiang, Matthew He, Owen Yuen  
Grade 11 – Luka Spasojevic, Joshua Imoo, Edward Jeong  
Grade 12 – Kevin Low, Patrick Huang, Samuel Zheng



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

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## **BC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP** (February 19 and March 19)

Originally scheduled for the same time as the BC Closed last Thanksgiving, the intended six-player round robin shrank with declined invitations and withdrawals until only two players remained, then the four-game match had to be postponed when one of the participants developed COVID. It was eventually decided to hold the match as part of two other events, with two games each in the BC Open and BCYCC counting both towards the score of the individual players in those events and the Women's Championship. In the end only three games were needed, as Joyce Zhang won twice with black in the Sicilian Najdorf to win the match 2.5-0.5 over Gillian Mok and claim the Women's title. The match was closer than the score might indicate, with a long tense ending in the first game only decided by a blunder at the very end. (Gillian and Joyce compete in the same age group in YCCs, and despite losing the match it was Gillian who came out ahead in the U16 Girls section of the BCYCC.)

**Mok, Gillian (1695) – Zhang, Joyce (1750) [B92] BC wom ch Richmond/Burnaby (1),  
19.02.2023**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f4 Nc6 9.0–0 b5 10.Be3  
Bb7 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Na5 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.Bc4 Qc7 16.b3 0–0 17.Qh5 g6 18.Qf3  
Bf6 19.f5 e4 20.Qxe4 Rfe8 21.Qf3 Bxa1 22.Rxa1 Qe7 23.Re1 Qe4 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Qd1 Re5  
26.Bf2 Qf5 27.Rxe5 Qxe5 28.Bd4 Qe4 29.Bb6 Rf8 30.h3 Re8 31.Ba5 Re5 32.Qd3 Qxd3 33.Bxd3  
Bxd5 34.Bxb4 Rg5 35.g4 Re5 36.Bxd6 Re1+ 37.Kf2 Rh1 38.Bf1



38...Kf7 39.c4 Bb7 40.b4 h5 41.gxh5 gxh5 42.Bg3 h4  
43.Bxh4 Rh2+ 44.Ke3 Bc8 45.Bg3 Ra2 46.a5 Ra4  
47.Bd6 Bxh3 48.Bxh3 Ra3+ 49.Kd4 Rxh3 50.b5 Ke6  
51.Bb4 Kd7 52.bxa6 Kc6 53.a7 Rh8 54.Bc5 Rd8+  
55.Kc3 Kxc5 56.Kb3 Ra8 57.Ka4 Rxa7 58.a6 Rxa6+  
59.Kb3 Rb6+ 60.Kc3 Rb4 61.Kd3 Rxc4 0–1



Joyce Zhang and Gillian Mok

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **Fraser Valley Women and Senior Open**

Langley, April 15

[Details](#)

### **Intermat**

Richmond, April 15

[Details](#)

### **8<sup>th</sup> Stan Rogers Memorial**

Chilliwack, April 22

[Details](#)

### **BC Active Championship**

Richmond, April 22-23

[Details](#)

### **Fraser Valley Rapid 4**

Langley, April 29

[Details](#)

### **Okanagan Open**

Salmon Arm, May 5-7

[Details](#)

### **BC-Alberta Match**

Salmon Arm, May 5-7

[Details](#)

### **PCC Open**

Burnaby, May 15-16

[Details](#)

### **47<sup>th</sup> Paul Keres Memorial**

Richmond, May 20-22

[Details](#)

### **Lulu Island Rapid**

Richmond, May 27

[Details](#)

### **BC Provincial InterSchool**

Langley, May 27-28

[Details](#)

### **Greater Vancouver Tournament II**

Burnaby, June 3-4

[Details](#)

### **BC Senior Championship**

Surrey, June 9-11

[Details](#)

### **Fraser Valley Rapid 5**

Langley, June 10

[Details](#)