

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #438

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

Munich Pfingst Open (May 31 – June 6)

Newly-minted IM Max Gedajlovic participated in the First Munich Pfingst (Pentecost) Open along with fellow Canadians Mike Ivanov and Geordie Derraugh. The one hundred and sixty-two player field includes twelve grandmasters and nineteen international masters, topped by Alexey Sarana, Anton Demchenko, Alexander Motylev, and Baadur Jobava. After six rounds Sarana is leading the field with 5.5 points, a half-point in front of seven players tied for second. Geordie has 4.0 points, Mike a half-point less, and Max has withdrawn after scoring a win, a loss, and four draws.

[Standings](#)

Gedajlovic, Max (2436) – Kessler, Jan (2091) [D24] Munich Pfingst op 1st Munich (1.16), 31.05.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0–0 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Bf4 0–0 10.Re1 Nd7 11.Qe2 Nf6 12.Ne5 c5 13.dxc5 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bf6 15.Qf3 Qa5 16.Bxd5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qxb7 Qxc5 19.Rac1 Rad8 20.Qb4 Qxb4 21.cxb4 Bxa2 22.Nc6 Rd7 23.Be5 Bxe5 24.Rxe5 Be6 25.Ra1 Rc8 26.b5 a6 27.f4 axb5 28.f5 Rdc7 29.fxe6 Rxc6 30.e7 Re6 31.Rd1 Rxe7 32.Rxe7 g6 33.Rb7 Kg7 34.Rf1 Rf8 35.Rxb5 h6 36.Rb7 Kg8 37.g3 Kg7 38.Kg2 Kg8 39.h4 Kg7 40.Kh3 Kg8 41.h5 g5 42.Rf6 Kg7 43.Rg6+ Kh7 44.Kg4 1–0

Washington Open (May 27-29)

Held on the American Memorial Day weekend immediately after our Victoria Day weekend, the Washington Open is the chessic double header following the Keres Memorial. There were few who played in both events, but one common element was American IM Georgi Orlov, who tied for first in the Keres and also achieved the same feat in Redmond – in the latter case his fellow winners were Kyle Haining, Samuel He, and Ryan W. Porter (all scored 5.0 points). Among the eight players who tied for fifth a half-point back was Jingyun (Ryan) Yang; other Canadians participating included Zachary Liu, Trevor Soare, Jarvis Ou, and Don Hack. [Crosstables](#)

BC InterSchool Junior Championship (May 27-28)

The latest tournament held under the auspices of the [Fraser Valley Chess Academy](#) was actually three events in one, all hosted at H.D. Stafford Middle School in Langley, with the junior participants competing for both individual and school prizes. [Section A](#), consisting of those in grades 1-5, was a six-round rapid event on the Saturday with a time control of 15 + 10. Despite there being ninety-five entrants there were clear winners for first and second, Lucas Yao and Rex

Yu, who scored 6.0 and 5.5 points respectively. Tied for third were Henry Fan, Kai Zhongkai Zhang, Augustus Chow, Samuel Xu, and Huy Minh Vu. Those in grades 6-9 were in [Section B](#) and contested six games at a regular time control of 55 + 5, spread over both days of the weekend. Here there was a five-way tie for the top places in the eighty-player field between Tony Wang, Ryan Bole Yu, Zhejin Chen, Arnav Gautam, and Nikita Makogon. [Section C](#) comprised thirty-six players in grades 10-12 who competed in a twelve-round Blitz tournament (3 + 2) on the final Sunday. Matthew He and Peter Yong Qiu shared top honours with 11.0/12, a point ahead of Srush Mohammad who was third.

Lulu Island Rapid (May 27)



Founded by Ryan Leong and dedicated to promoting chess in Richmond, [Lulu Island Chess](#) held its inaugural Rapid Tournament at Bethany Baptist Church in Richmond on May 27. Employing the almost ubiquitous format of a six-round Swiss at 15 + 10 and two sections (Open and U1400), this first annual event attracted seventy-three enthusiasts despite competing attractions elsewhere (see above). The thirty-seven player [Open Section](#) included some of the 'usual suspects' but this time it was NM Mayo Fuentebella who came out on top with 5.5 points, just ahead of Leo Qu and Ethan Su (tied for second) and CM Jorge Nunez Asencio (clear fourth). The winner of the thirty-six player [U1400 Section](#), Narek Bobloyan, also scored 5.5 points, Rochelle Gumpal was second and Gerry Bonggao, Jhen Maiquez, and Rojas Kennedy tied for third. Watch for the [SFU Summer Open and Blitz](#) coming up on June 24.

Ontario Open (May 20-22)

One BC player who did not play in this year's Keres Memorial was Jingyun (Ryan) Yang – instead he was a participant in the Ontario Open at the R.A. Centre in Ottawa. The thirty-two player Open Section included three GMs, Canada's Bator Sambuev plus Luis Manuel Perez Rodriguez and Reynaldo Vera from Cuba, but despite all these Elo points it was twelfth-ranked FM Johnathan Han who was the clear winner with 5.0/6. Second was Perez and FM Victor Plotkin on 4.5; Ryan tied for seventh with 3.5 points, drawing with Perez and splitting his games with the two IMs he faced, Jason Liang (USA) and Alexander Reprintsev (Ukraine). [Standings](#)

Reprintsev, Alexander (2364) – Yang ,Jingyun (Ryan) (2213) [B02] ON op Ottawa (2.6), 20.05.2023

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 Ne4 4.Nf3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 e6 8.Bd2 Nd7 9.Qg3 c6 10.0–0–0 Nc5 11.Be3 Ne4 12.Qf4 Qa5 13.Kb1 Ba3 14.Rd4 g5 15.Qg4 h5 16.Qd1 Nxc3+ 17.bxc3 c5 18.Bc1 Qb6+ 19.Rb4 cxb4 20.Be3 Qc6 21.c4 dxc4 22.Bxg5 Rg8 23.Bf6 Rc8 24.Be2 b3 25.axb3 cxb3 26.c4 Qa4 27.Qd2 Bb4 28.Qb2 Bc3 29.Qxc3 Qa2+ 30.Kc1 Qxe2 31.Kb1 Qa2+ 32.Kc1 0–1

American Continental (May 15-23)

2023 American Continental Championship which took place in Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic ended after eleven rounds with a clear individual winner: GM Georg Meier, formerly of Germany but now affiliated with Uruguay, finished at the top of the field of one hundred and fifty-eight players with 9.0 points, a half-point ahead of GMs Carlos Daniel Albornoz Cabrera (Cuba) and Fidel Corrales Jimenez (USA). Seven players tied for fourth on 8.0 points topped by US IM Josiah Stearman; he, along with Meier, Corrales, and IM Gianmarco Leiva (Peru) qualify for the 2023 World Cup to be held in Baku this summer. (Albornoz Cabrera was already qualified.) Of the three Canadian participants only IM Raymond Kaufman completed the tournament, scoring 6.0 points. IMs Raja Panjwani and Leon Piasetski left the event after eight and nine rounds, finishing with 4.5 and 5.0 points respectively. [Crosstable](#)

Arenas, David (2426) – Kaufman, Raymond (2158) [D80] American Continental 16th Juan Dolio (5.16), 18.05.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.Ne2 0–0 8.Nc3 Qd8 9.Be2 c5 10.d5 e6 11.e4 exd5 12.exd5 Re8 13.0–0 a6 14.Be3 Qd6 15.Bf3 Bf5 16.Rc1 Nd7 17.g4 Bxc3 18.Rxc3 Be4 19.Bxe4 Rxe4 20.f3 Re7 21.Bf2 Rae8 22.Bg3 Qf6 23.d6 Re2 24.Rc2 Rxc2 25.Qxc2 Re3 26.Qa4 Qe6 27.Rf2 Re1+ 28.Kg2 Nb6 29.Qa5 Nc4 30.Qd8+ Kg7 31.Bf4 Ne3+ 32.Kh3 h5 33.Qg5 Nd5 34.Rd2 hxg4+ 35.Kh4 Nf6 36.fxg4 Rg1 37.Bg3 Kh7 38.Re2 Qxe2 39.Qxf6 Qe6 40.Qe7 Rd1 41.Be5 Rd5 42.Bf4 Rd4 43.Qxe6 fxe6 44.Kg5 Kg8 45.Be5 Kf7 46.h4 Rd5 47.Kf4 g5+ 48.hxg5 Kg6 49.a4 b5 50.axb5 axb5 51.b3 b4 52.Ke4 0–1

Munoz Santana, Jose Lisandro (2404) – Piasetski, Leon David (2216) [B07] American Continental 16th Juan Dolio (8.19), 20.05.2023

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0–0 Be7 8.Kh1 0–0 9.Ne2 exd4 10.Nfxd4 Nc5 11.Ng3 Bg4 12.Be2 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Rfe8 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Nb3 Bf8 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Qd3 b5 18.Bc3 Nh5 19.Nf5 Qc4 20.g4 Nf6 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Rfe1 d5 23.Qxc4 dxc4 24.Rad1 Rad8 25.Ng3 Be7 26.Kg2 Kf8 27.Kf3 a5 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Ke2 Bc5 30.Rd1 Rxd1 31.Kxd1 Be3 32.Nh5 Ke7 33.Ke2 Bc1 34.b3 cxb3 35.cxb3 Bb2 36.Kd3 Kd6 37.h4 Kc5 38.g5 fxg5 39.hxg5 Kb4 40.Kc2 Ka3 41.Kb1 Bd4 42.f5 c5 43.Nf4 Be3 44.g6 fxg6 45.fxg6 hxg6 46.Nxg6 c4 47.bxc4 bxc4 48.e5 c3 49.e6 Bg5 50.e7 Bxe7 51.Nxe7 c2+ 52.Kxc2 ½–½

President's Message

I'm very pleased to have been elected President of the BCCF at this year's AGM, held during the Keres Memorial Tournament. I learned leadership during my military career and one of the important ingredients to success is to surround yourself with the most talented people. In that regard I want to acknowledge the newly elected BCCF Executive which is comprised of people

who are doing tremendous hands-on work to make competitive chess available to all of us – more so than any time in our history. We are a team who gets along very well and has the single objective of making competitive chess popular and fun for all.

The BCCF Executive includes Past President Stephen Wright, Treasurer Murray Chu of VanCity Chess, Secretary Umang Banatwala of Fraser Valley Chess, Vice President Tyler Sanderson of VanCity Chess, Tournament Coordinator Michael Lo of Chess2Inspire, Chess Clubs Coordinator Rob Swartz, and Publicity Coordinator Alina Calota as well as eight members at large who will supplement the executive whenever needed.

I place a high priority on junior chess and am delighted to welcome WIM Penny Pham of Penny's Chess School as our new Junior Coordinator, a position that has been vacant for several years. She will be supported by a large Junior Committee of enthusiastic volunteers including another outstanding junior chess organizer Michael Lo.



One of my priorities is to increase funding for the provincial championships (BC Closed, BC Women's, BC Junior and BC Senior) and to help with the travel costs for our champions to attend national championships. The increased attendance at BC tournaments has meant that the BCCF has sufficient revenue to do this. I highly value our website and bulletin and am grateful that Scott Morgan and Stephen Wright are continuing as webmaster and bulletin editor.

I want very much to hear from our members. Please feel free to approach me or any member of our executive in person or by e-mail. Contact information is on the BCCF website. Have a great chess day! Paul Leblanc

2023-2024 BCCF Executive:

President	Paul Leblanc*	Member at Large	Lyle Craver*
Past President	Stephen Wright	Member at Large	Joe Roback
Vice-President	Tyler Sanderson*	Member at Large	Marc Moisan*
Treasurer	Murray Chu*	Member at Large	Ryan Leong*
Secretary	Umang Banatwala*	Member at Large	Brandon Zhu
Tournament Coord.	Michael Lo*	Member at Large	Eric Gu*
Junior Coordinator	Penny Pham*	Member at Large	Don Hack*
Clubs Coordinator	Rob Swartz	Member at Large	Victoria Jung-Doknjas*
Publicity Coord.	Alina Calota*		
Webmaster	Scott Morgan		
Bulletin Editor	Stephen Wright		

Those marked with an * are also CFC Voting Members, as is Russell Mejia

47TH PAUL KERES MEMORIAL by Roger Patterson

Another year, another Keres Memorial – the 47th annual – as BC's longest running event [Open event: the BC Closed has been around since 1916]. This year's event saw 251 players – not a record but quite respectable. This was the first occasion we had committed to renting the full ballroom at the Executive Plaza so it's good the attendance numbers held up :-). Previous occasions when the full ballroom was used were the result of special deals because of hotel renovation or securing the full space at the last minute due to some special circumstances. This was also the first year that that we increased the number of sections to five in order to handle the higher number of participants.



Before and during....



So, another year, another Keres with IM Georgi Orlov at the top of the crosstable, sharing first with NM Neil Doknjas. I'd like to tell you Georgi's path to first place was a smooth march to victory but it wasn't. Georgi played with a very aggressive tactical style in almost all of the games and some of those games look decidedly iffy. The game between the co-winners looks like a strong attacking

sequence for Orlov that just didn't quite work and consequently settling for a draw. Neil was much more traditionally solid and is steadily rising the rating ranks to join his brothers as Team Doknjas.



IM Georgi Orlov and NM Neil Doknjas (photos by Victoria Doknjas)

Last year's co-winners, NM Keith MacKinnon and CM Jorge Nunez Asencio also played but were unable to keep up the pace to the top.

The event also produced a five-queen game. Games in which four queens appear on the board through promotion are fairly rare and usually the situation doesn't last long with either someone getting mated or the extra queens being traded. Five queens are rarer still and there are a few examples of six queens. In the fifth round, **Fuentebella - Qu** reached this position after move **64.h8=Q a1=Q**:



White is winning but remarkably, there is no immediate mating attack or simple queen trade. The win appears to be just making another queen! The game continued **65.Qxd8 Qaxc3+ 66.Nf6 Ka6 67.Q8a8+ Kb5 68.d7** (so slow!) **68...Kb4 69.d8=Q** Reaching our five-queen position. Mate is not far. **69...b5 70.Qda5** mate.

The BCCF made two surprise presentations in round three - awards for outstanding support of chess in BC - to two long time BCCF Executive members who were stepping down. Stephen Wright (NM, IA), a fixture in BC Chess as a TD, the bulletin editor, and seven(!) consecutive terms as BCCF President (plus two more in the past) is stepping down as President although he will still be bulletin editor and otherwise heavily involved still in BC chess. The other, Roger Patterson (NM), (author of this report), is stepping down from many years on the executive including five as President as well as pulling back from tournament organizing. As President, he instituted the current BCCF per tournament membership system and oversaw the reorganization of the BCCF investment foundation, and is known as part of Victoria Chess which is responsible for revitalizing the tournament scene in BC after a dark period in the mid 2000s.



Past, Future, and Present BCCF Presidents Roger Patterson, Paul Leblanc, Stephen Wright (photo Victoria Doknjas)

The award is deeply appreciated by myself. With reference to the Keres, I can remember as a young player in Alberta, hearing about the Vancouver 1975 event and subsequent Keres Memorials and being jealous that Vancouverites could play in such an event. At the time, it was just too far away for me. I never thought I would be responsible for organizing so many editions of the Keres for as many years as I have.

As always, it takes a lot of people to make an event like this happen. Many thanks to my compatriot in Victoria Chess Paul Leblanc, our head TD Stephen Wright and assistant TD Russell Mejia, equipment supply from VanCity Chess, and an enormous number of volunteers. This [report](#) with crosstables, a full list of all prizewinners and more photos.

[Editor: I don't remember when I first became aware of the Keres, but I was still living in Ontario when I acquired a copy of the February 1995 issue of *Counterplay* magazine (yes, BC had its own chess magazine in those days). The front and back cover were given over to Paul Keres and advertising for the upcoming twentieth Paul Keres Memorial. I was an admirer of those players who

BC'S CHESS MAGAZINE

COUNTERplay

FEBRUARY 1995 VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1 \$2.50

ПОЧТА СССР 1991
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ПАВЛЬ КЕРЕС
Paul Keres

20th Annual Paul Keres Memorial Tournament

Widely regarded as the strongest player who never achieved a World Championship Crown, Paul Keres, born 1916, was known as a formidable attacking player. Combining a keen sense of tactics with tremendous strategic and positional insight, Paul Keres established himself among the world chess elite. Keres won the Vancouver International 1972 - the last tournament he would ever win - in great style. He died shortly thereafter. This tournament is named in his honour and this year is the 20th Anniversary of not only his death but his tournament. We humbly invite your participation.

May 19 - May 22, 1995
at the
Sandman
HOTEL & SPA
180 W. GEORGIA ST. VANCOUVER, B.C. CANADA
TEL: (604) 681-3311 FAX: (604) 681-8000

Entry fee this year is \$100 on site. FIDE rated players receive free entry unless they wish to cash prize. Entry fee is reduced to \$65 if 1) you register early, payable before March 31, 1995; or 2) You are a former OTC member who will be remaining at the site and your membership has lapsed for one year or more. 18 years and under entry fee is \$75. No other discounts.

U.S. PLAYERS: Your U.S. Dollar is worth over \$1.25 CANADIAN. Temporary tournament memberships are available. Visit beautiful British Columbia. Enjoy the scenery, the sights and the culture.

The Sandman Hotel offers an \$80 per night room rate at special rate occupancy. Register your intention to book in early with the organizers of this event. Avoid the risk of not getting a room. The Sandman is located in the heart of Vancouver. A swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and a panoramic view of Downtown Vancouver are just a few of the facilities you get during the Sandman.

Junior Tournament: A junior tournament for young chess players will be held in conjunction with the Paul Keres Memorial. Entry fee is \$15. A full round arena with 3 rounds on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Time control is G/40. Tophite and gift certificates as prizes. The ideal introduction for the young chess player to more serious competition. Hosted by OTC. Sponsored will play a simultaneous exhibition against the junior participants in this tournament.

Lectures: WGM Elina Danielian will be lecturing on Sunday, May 20. IM Karel Ostry will be lecturing on Sunday, May 21. Both lectures are on hour long and free to tournament players.

Other amenities: Included in your tournament package (the full Keres, not the limited) is a free breakfast on 2 days of the tournament. Snacks, drinks, fresh newspapers, tournament orange juice and coffee to start your day!

Door prizes: Large 1800cc Chrysler Chess Clock signed by Boris Spassky, FIDE Digital Clock, Lasker Time Control, Standard Tournament Langer.

OTC membership required. Send cheque or M.O. for advanced registration to: BCCF, Box 135448, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3Z8 CANADA.
Wilson Young, (604) 696-8888. Leave only your name and phone number with area code. Will return call promptly. We can also be contacted via Internet email at "wyoung@telus.net".

\$8000
UNCOLLECTED PRIZE FUND RAISED
ON 170 AIRFARE ENTRIES

1st Overall \$1000
2nd \$650, 3rd \$400
1st < 2400 \$575, 2nd < 2400 \$375
1st < 2200 \$575, 2nd < 2200 \$375
1st < 2000 \$575, 2nd < 2000 \$375
1st < 1800 \$575, 2nd < 1800 \$375
1st < 1600 \$575, 2nd < 1600 \$375
1st < 1400 \$575, 2nd < 1400 \$375
1st Unrated \$375

OPEN SECTION: 7 ROUNDS, UNDER 2000 + UNDER 1600: 8 ROUNDS
Registration Open Section at 6:00 PM, Friday, May 19, 1995.
Registration for < 2000 + < 1600 at 8:00 AM, Saturday, May 20, 1995.
Rounds Start 1 Hour After Beginning of Registration. Time Control: 40/2 5/1.
Rounds: Open Section 7PM THEN 10AM 9PM DAILY. Other Sections 10AM 9PM DAILY. SPEED TOURNAMENT FRIDAY 7PM.

THIS MONTH: CANADIAN CLOSED CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, GERRY FORBES AND VALER DEMIAN WRITE. NOTES ON THE FORTHCOMING 20TH ANNIVERSARY PAUL KERES MEMORIAL.

STAMP COUNTRY ONLY STRIKES

Lynn Steinger
4984 Georgia Park
Victoria, BC
V8T 2B9

retained their abilities to an advanced age, such as Lasker, Smyslov, and Korchnoi, and this included Keres. Playing in such an exotic frontier location as Vancouver (in comparison to London, Ontario) seemed a fantasy, yet shortly afterwards it became a reality and the rest, as they say, is history. I was forcibly reminded just before this year's tournament that I had played Georgi Orlov in the last round of the 1998 edition, twenty-five years ago – time flies...]

Orlov, Georgi (2494) – Doknjas, Neil (2243) [D24] Keres mem 47th Richmond (3.1), 21.05.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e3 a6 6.a4 b6 7.Bxc4 Bb7 8.0–0 Bb4 9.Qe2 0–0 10.Bd3 c5 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.e4 Qc7 13.e5 Nfd7 14.Bf4 f6 15.Ne4 Nc6 16.Neg5 fxg5 17.Bxh7+ Kh8 18.Nxg5 Rxf4 19.Qh5 Qxe5 20.Bf5+ ½–½

Nunez Asencio, Jorge (2333) – Orlov, Georgi (2494) [D35] Keres mem 47th Richmond (4.1), 21.05.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 Bb4 7.Rc1 c5 8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.Qd4 Qe7 10.a3 Ba5 11.Nd2 Ne6 12.Qa4+ Bd7 13.Qxa5 Nxf4 14.e3 d4 15.Nb5 dxe3 16.Nc7+ Kf8 17.Nxa8 e2 18.Nf3 Bc6 19.Ne5 exf1Q+ 20.Kxf1 Bxg2+ 21.Kg1 b6 22.Rc8+ Ne8 23.Qb5 Bh3 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Qb4+ Qe7 26.Qxf4 f6 27.Qf3 Qxe5 28.Qxh3 Ke7 29.Qf3 Qg5+ 30.Kf1 Rc8 31.h4 Rc1+ 32.Ke2 Qb5+ 33.Ke3 Qb3+ 0–1

Doknjas, Neil (2243) – Su, Ethan (2104) [B45] Keres mem 47th Richmond (6.2), 22.05.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bf4 d6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Nd5 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Bd3 Be7 11.Qg4 dxe5 12.Bxe5 Bf6 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.0–0–0 Ke7 17.Rhe1 Rac8 18.Qb4+ Qd6 19.Qb7+ Rc7 20.Qxd5 Qxh2 21.Qd4 Rhc8 22.c3 Qh6+ 23.Re3 Qg5 24.Qd6+ Ke8 25.Kb1 Qc5 26.Qd3 h5 27.Qh7 Ke7 28.Re4 Qg5 29.Rde1 Rc6 30.Ra4 Qxg2 31.Rxa7+ R8c7 32.Rxc7+ Rxc7 33.Qf5 h4 34.Qf4 Qg6+ 35.Ka1 Rb7 36.Rd1 e5 37.Qa4 Qh5

38.Qa3+ Ke6 39.Qa6+ Kf5 40.Qd3+ Ke6 41.f3 Ra7 42.f4 exf4 43.Qd6+ Kf5 44.Rd5+ Kg4 45.Rxh5 Kxh5 46.Qc5+ Kg4 47.Qxa7 Kf3 48.Qg1 Ke2 49.Qg2+ Ke3 50.a4 f3 51.Qf1 h3 52.a5 h2 53.a6 f2 54.a7 1-0

NATIONAL CHESS CHALLENGE



The team with Suzanne Chong (event provincial coordinator) and Ratko Spasojevic (event arbiter)

The thirty-fourth edition of this annual scholastic team event took place in Montreal, in-person for the first time since 2019. The BC team, consisting this year of Elliot McCallum, Sky Cui, Kai Zhang, Bowen Wu, Zachary Liu, Justin Gao, Jordan Zhu, Ethan Song, Gillian Mok, Kate Jiang, Luka Spasojevic, and Kevin Low (captain/coach), normally places third behind the two traditional powerhouses, Ontario and Quebec. Last year we slipped to fourth, but this year was different:

1 British Columbia 8.5 (84.5/108)
2 Ontario 8 (85)
3 Quebec 7.5 (86)
4 Alberta 6 (72)
5 Nova Scotia 4.5 (53)

6 Manitoba 4.5 (51)
7 Saskatchewan 3 (43)
8 New Brunswick 2 (35)
9 Prince Edward Island 1 (18)
10 Newfoundland and Labrador 0 (12.5)

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 Quebec, then Ontario and BC. Though a round robin pairings for the event are not drawn by lot but are based on the previous year's final standings, designed to build the tension by pairing the closest competitors together in the final rounds.

Despite BC's subpar result last year we had drawn with Quebec; this year BC was paired with Quebec in round five and gained a crucial match point by the minimum score of 6.5-5.5. In round seven BC drew with the strong Ontario squad, leaving BC ahead by 0.5 points going into the last round and Ontario needing to beat Quebec to tie for first and potentially win the competition on tiebreak (BC had not improved their chances by 'only' beating Alberta 7.0-5.0). As the various

results came in Ontario and Quebec remained neck and neck until the final game on board eleven was scored a draw and the BC team breathed a collective sigh of relief.

This win for Team BC is their first in the history of the event, also the first time the competition has been won by someone other than Ontario or Quebec. A tremendous achievement by all! In the individual board prizes BC garnered a total of eight trophies:

- 1 Elliot McCallum 9/9 – first
- 2 Sky Cui 7.5/9 – tied for second, second after playoffs
- 3 Kai Zhang 7 – tied for second, second after playoffs
- 4 Bowen Wu 7 – tied for second, second after playoffs
- 5 Zachary Liu 7.5 – second
- 7 Jordan Zhu 7.5 – second
- 8 Ethan Song 8.5 – first
- 12 Kevin Low 7.5 – second

Mention should be made of Justin Gao (grade 6) who was in a three-way tie for third place but placed fourth after playoffs. Congratulations to all and to the team as a whole! Further details can be found at the event [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BC Senior Championship

Surrey, June 9-11
[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 5

Langley, June 10
[Details](#)

Vancity Rapid June

Richmond, June 17
[Details](#)

Chess in Pubs (no minors)

Langley, June 21
[Details](#)

SFU Summer Open

Burnaby, June 24-25
[Details](#)

St-Jean Baptiste Rapid

Esquimalt, June 24
[Details](#)

Canada Day Open

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

BC-WA Match

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

Summer Classical Open and Blitz

Langley, July 27-29
[Details](#)

Lynn Stringer Memorial

Sidney, August 19-20
[Details](#)