

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #448

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



BC Chess Federation

HERE AND THERE

7th Marcel Duchamp Cup (February 1-9)

One way to escape the blasts of winter is to head for the Southern Hemisphere, which is precisely the path chosen by IM Leon Piasetski and FM Marcel Milat (BC champion in 1999) when they competed in the [7th Marcel Duchamp Cup](#) held in Montevideo; the capital of Uruguay is also celebrating its three hundredth anniversary, although the precise year is the subject of controversy. The same players, along with Eduardo Moura, also participated in the preceding Floripa Open in Brazil (see report below), while Leon was part of the same two events last year.

The one hundred and thirty-one player field, including six GMs and five IMs, was topped by GM Georg Meier, formerly of Germany but now playing for Uruguay. Meier tied for first with Argentinian GM Leonardo Tristan, both scored 7.5/9; Leon scored 6.5 points and tied with six other players for sixth place. Marcel withdrew after four rounds with three wins and a loss – the latter was against Meier in round 3, in a strange parallel to Leon playing top-ranked GM Aryan Tari during round 3 of the Floripa Open.



Marcel Milat (Sitges 2022)

Meier, Georg (2616) – Milat, Marcel (2165) [E04] 7th Duchamp Cup Montevideo (3.1), 03.02.2024

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0–0 Nc6 5.d4 e6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Ne5 Bd7 8.Na3 cxd4 9.Naxc4 Be7 10.Bf4 0–0 11.Qb3 Nd5 12.Qxb7 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Ba4 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.b3 f6 16.bxa4 fxe5 17.Bxe5 Rf7 18.Bxd4 Bf6 19.Bxf6 Rxb7 20.Bxd8 Rxd8 21.Rab1 Re7 22.e3 Re4 23.Rb7 Rxa4 24.Rc1 Rc4 25.Rxc4 dxc4 26.Rc7 1–0

Carbone, Diego (2275) – Piasetski, Leon (2151) [E11] 7th Duchamp Cup Montevideo (8.6), 08.02.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nc3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ne4 8.Rc1 d5 9.Bg2 0–0 10.0–0 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 Rd8 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Rc1 Be8 14.a3 a5 15.e3 h6 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Rc5 Rd6 18.Ne1 Qd8 19.Nd3 Ne7 20.Rc3 a4 21.Bh3 Bb5 22.Nc5 Bc6 23.Bf1 Ra7 24.b4 axb3 25.Qxb3 Qa8

26.Nd3 Ba4 27.Qb4 Qd8 28.Qb2 Rb6 29.Qd2 c6 30.Nb4 Bb5 31.Bg2 Bc4 32.e4 Rb5 33.Nc2 Rb3
34.Ne3 Rxc3 35.Rxc3 b5 36.e5 Qa8 37.Nc2 Ra4 38.h4 Qa7 39.Qe3 Ba2 40.Bh3 Rc4 41.Nb4 Bb1
42.Qc1 Be4 43.Rxc4 bxc4 44.Qd1 c5 45.dxc5 Qxc5 46.Bf1 Ng6 47.Qa4 d4 48.Qe8+ Kh7 49.e6
fxe6 50.Qxe6 Ne5 51.Na6 Nf3+ 52.Kh1 Qd5 53.Qxd5 Bxd5 54.Nb4 Be4 55.Bg2 Kg6 56.Na2 Kf5
57.a4 g5 58.hxg5 hxg5 59.g4+ Kxg4 60.a5 Kf4 61.a6 g4 62.a7 g3 63.fxg3+ Kxg3 64.Nb4 Kf2
65.Nc2 d3 66.Nd4 d2 0-1

Fraser Valley Rapid #10 (February 3)



My, how time flies. The tenth edition of the Fraser Valley Rapids took place at their usual home, the Christian Life Assembly Church in Langley, on the first Saturday of February. Sixty-four players (a significant number for chess enthusiasts) participated in the tried-and-true formula of six Swiss games in three sections. The [Open Section](#) included an FM, two CMs and a NM but it was perennial challenger CM Jorge Nunez Asencio who took the first prize, beating his closest opposition John and Neil Doknjas along the way before agreeing to a short draw in the last round for 5.5/6. CM Neil was second a half-point back, while Johan Aljo placed third. In the [U1400](#) Rio Vilches came ahead of Nijat Ibrahimov on tiebreak (both scored 5.0 points), Sion Park was third. And the [U1000](#) Section saw another tie for first on 5.0 points, broken in favour of Jiarui Li, Hector Abad placed second, and Daniel Filyushin third. Watch for [Fraser Valley Rapid #11](#) on April 6.

Lulu Island Junior Winter Rapid (February 3)

Also occurring on the first Saturday in February was the Junior Winter Rapid, the latest in a series of events organized by Lulu Island Chess. Held in the lounge of the Bethany Baptist Church in Richmond, the tournament utilized the almost ubiquitous one-day Swiss format of six games at a time control of 15 + 10. There were a total of forty-seven entrants in two sections. Highest ranked in the [Open Section](#) was newly-minted NM Zachary Liu, but it was a rejuvenated Kate Jiang who swept the field, taking first prize with a perfect score. Three players tied for second with 4.5 points, Maximilian Mueller, Matthew He, and Justin Xu, and Joey Xu, Jasper Zhang, and Jesse Law claimed the U1500 prizes a half-point back. Joanne Wangluo, Ava Chen, and Jovan Yu placed respectively first, second, and third in the [U1000 Section](#), Martina Szeto, Daniel Asadi, and Ali Mohammadi Nevisi were the top U700, and Micah Sandberg-Smith top unrated.

Learn N' Play 2: Intermediary Development Challenge (January 28) by Andrew Yu Qiu

After an exciting tiebreak match between Anurav Kansal and Jacky Yu, we would like to congratulate Anurav Kansal for winning this [tournament](#), for the second time in a row! We would also like to congratulate Jacky Yu on his strong performance, winning four out of his five rounds but coming short in the end losing to Anurav in the tiebreak match. Lastly, congratulations to Kevin Wang for securing third place with 3.5 points out of 5.



In our second installment of the Learn N' Play series, many players learned how to notate, follow the touch-move rule, and they improved in general tournament chess etiquette. As we continue to progress with the players, we will slowly transition into a more competitive playing style. The Canadian Chess Society is planning more tournaments within the next month, so make sure to stay tuned on our website at canadianchesssociety.ca. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Scott and the Grandview Oxford Learning Centre. Without him, this tournament would not be possible.

10th Floripa Chess Festival (January 20-28) by Eduardo Moura

Every year at the end of January the Brazilian coastal city of Florianópolis - in southern Brazil - holds a large open tournament, the [Floripa Chess Open](#). The tournament has been going strong for ten years and this year it attracted the participation of 467 players from twenty different countries, including nine GMs, seventeen IMs, four WIMs, twenty-six FMs, two WFMs, thirteen CMs and four WCMs. Three Canadians took part in it: IM Leon Piasetski (who finished with 6.0 points), FM Marcel Milat (5.0 points), and yours truly (6.5 points). The tournament was played over the course of one full week with ten rounds and time control of 90 minutes per player plus 30 seconds increment per move.



GM Aryan Tari from Norway won the Floripa Open rather convincingly Eduardo Moura with 9.5 points. He won his first nine games and was definitely aiming for a Fischer-like result. However, in the final round he was held to a draw by FM Lucas Valle from Brazil in a topsy-turvy

game. GMs Pablo Salinas from Chile and Alex Fier from Brazil shared second and third places with 8.5 points. Two young Brazilian FMs scored IM norms: Lucas Valle (twenty-one years old) and Kaua Silva (eighteen years old). A selection of games from the tournament follows.

Tari, Aryan (2623) – Piasetski, Leon (2155) [B07] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (3.1), 22.01.2024



Leon Piasetski and Aryan Tari

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bf4 c6 5.Qd2 b5 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.Nf3 Nb6 8.h3 Bb7 9.0–0 Bg7 10.Bh6 0–0 11.e5 Nfd5 12.Ne4 f6 13.Rae1 a5 14.c3 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.exd6 exd6 17.Bf4 Nxf4 18.Qxf4 c5 19.dxc5 Bxe4 20.Qxe4 d5 21.Qe6+ Kh8 22.Nd4 Rc8 23.Qa6 Ra8 24.Qc6 Rc8 25.Qa4 Re8 26.Ne6 Qe7 27.Re2 Qa7 28.Rfe1 Bh6 29.Qd1 Qd7 30.Qd4 Bg7 31.b3 cxb3 32.axb3 Rc6 33.Qa4 1–0

Milat, Marcel (2213) – De Menezes, Ricardo Fagner Dias (1675) [E09] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (5.88), 23.01.2024

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.d4 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c6 8.Nbd2 b6 9.e4 dxc4 10.Nxc4 Bb7 11.Rd1 Rc8 12.Ne3 Re8 13.b3 Qc7 14.Bb2 Red8 15.Rac1 Qb8 16.Nd2 e5 17.Nf5 Bf8 18.Nc4 exd4 19.Rxd4 Bc5 20.e5 Bxd4 21.Bxd4 Nd5 22.Ncd6 Re8 23.Nxb7 Qxb7 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Ne7+ Rxe7 26.Qxc8+ Qxc8 27.Rxc8+ Nf8 28.f4 g6 29.Bb2 1–0

Moura, Eduardo Eugenio Chaves (2055) – Piccoli, Lucas Fonseca (2263) [B22] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (6.29), 24.01.2024

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 dxe5 8.Nxe5 e6 9.0–0 Be7 10.Nf3 0–0 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 b6 13.Bd3 Bb7 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Bd2 Bf6 16.h4 Na5 17.Ng5 g6 18.Qg4 Nc4 19.Bc1 Nd6 20.h5 Rxc3 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Qh4 Re8 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Nxe6+ Rxe6 25.Rxe6 Bg7 26.Bh6 Bxh6 27.Qh8# 1–0

Tari, Aryan (2623) – Fier, Alexandr (2549) [B30] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (7.1), 25.01.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0–0 Nge7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Ng6 7.Be3 Be7 8.c3 0–0 9.a4 Nxd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.e5 Nh4 12.Nc3 Nf5 13.Ne2 Nxe3 14.fxe3 f6 15.Qc2 Bd7 16.Bd3 f5 17.g3 Rc8 18.Qb3 Qb6 19.Qxb6 axb6 20.h4 Bb4 21.Nf4 Kf7 22.g4 g6 23.h5 Rg8 24.Kf2 g5 25.Ne2 Ke7 26.Ng3 f4 27.Ne2 f3 28.Ng1 h6 29.Nxf3 Ra8 30.b3 Rac8 31.Ke2 Rc3 32.Nd2 b5 33.a5 Rcc8 34.Rf6 Rh8 35.a6 bxa6 36.Rxa6 Ra8 37.Rxa8 Rxa8 38.Nf1 Rh8 39.Ng3 Bc3 40.Bc2 b4 41.Bd3 Bb2 42.Rg6 Kf7 43.Nf5 exf5 44.gxf5 Be8 45.Rb6 Ke7 46.f6+ Kd7 47.Bg6 Kc7 48.Re6 Bb5+ 49.Bd3 Bxd3+ 50.Kxd3 Rh7 51.Ra6 Kb7 52.e6 1–0

Piassetski, Leon (2155) – Marcolino, Antonio Claudio H. (1925) [E12] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (9.44), 27.01.2024

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.d4 e6 4.a3 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Nc3 Be7 7.g3 0–0 8.Bg2 Bb7 9.0–0 c5 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Re8 12.e3 h6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Ne5 cxd4 15.exd4 Bf8 16.Qb3 Rc8 17.Rfe1 Rc7 18.Bh3 Bc8 19.Bf1 Re6 20.Nb5 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 a5 22.Nc6 Qe8 23.Nc7 Qxc6 24.Rxc6 Rxc6 25.Nxd5 Nxd5 26.Qxd5 Rc1 27.Kg2 Rc7 28.Qb3 Bb7+ 29.f3 Rd7 30.Qxb6 1–0

Tari, Aryan (2623) – Do Valle Cardoso, Lucas (2392) [C65] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (10.1), 28.01.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.h3 Nd7 7.Be3 Bd6 8.Nc3 c5 9.Nd2 Nb8 10.0–0 Nc6 11.Ne2 0–0 12.Ng3 f6 13.a4 Be6 14.Nc4 Qd7 15.b3 Rad8 16.Qd2 Nd4 17.f3 Rf7 18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.Rae1 b6 20.f4 exf4 21.Bxf4 Qc6 22.Kh1 f5 23.Be5 Rdf8 24.Nh5 fxe4 25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.dxe4 h6 27.Bxg7 Rxg7 28.Qxh6 Nf5 29.Qf6 Ng3+ 30.Nxg3 Rxg3 31.Qd8+ Kg7 32.Rf1 Qd7 ½–½

Cuenca Jimenez, Jose Fernando (2514) – Silva, Kaua Marques (2142) [A45] Floripa op 10th Florianopolis (10.5), 28.01.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 b6 5.Nbd2 Be7 6.h3 0–0 7.c3 Bb7 8.Bd3 cxd4 9.exd4 d6 10.0–0 Nbd7 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bh2 Qc7 13.a4 a6 14.Nc4 Bf8 15.Ne3 Bc6 16.Nc2 Qb7 17.Nb4 Be4 18.Bxe4 Nxe4 19.d5 Ndf6 20.dxe6 fxe6 21.Nd4 e5 22.Nf5 a5 23.Nd3 Rad8 24.Qb3+ Kh8 25.Rad1 Qc6 26.Ne3 Nc5 27.Nxc5 Qxc5 28.Nd5 Nd7 29.Re4 Rc8 30.Ne3 Qc6 31.Rc4 Nc5 32.Qb5 Qxb5 33.axb5 Kg8 34.Nd5 Rb8 35.Kf1 Rb7 36.f3 a4 37.Bg1 Ra8 38.Ra1 Ra5 39.Rb4 Nd3 40.Raxa4 Nxb4 41.Rxb4 Ra1+ 42.Kf2 Rd1 43.c4 Ra7 44.Bh2 Be7 45.Rb3 Bh4+ 46.Ke3 Rh1 47.Nxb6 Rxh2 48.Nc8 Ra8 49.Nxd6 Be7 50.Ne4 Rxg2 51.b6 Rb8 52.Rb5 Rg6 53.Rxe5 Kf7 54.c5 Bxc5+ 55.Nxc5 Rxb6 56.b3 Rh6 57.Re4 Rxh3 58.Kf2 Rh2+ 59.Kg3 Rb2 60.Rc4 Rg6+ 61.Kf4 Rc6 62.Ke5 h5 63.b4 Rf6 64.Ne4 Rb6 65.Nd6+ Kg6 66.f4 R6xb4 67.f5+ Kh7 68.Rc7 Re2+ 69.Kd5 Rf4 70.Rf7 Kg8 71.Ra7 Rf1 72.Ra8+ Kh7 73.Kc4 Rc2+ 74.Kd3 Rd1+ 75.Kxc2 Rxd6 76.Rb8 Rd7 77.Rb6 Rd5 78.f6 g5 79.f7 Kg7 80.Rf6 Kf8 81.Kc3 g4 82.Kc4 Rg5 83.Kd3 g3 84.Rf1 h4 85.Ke3 h3 86.Kd4 0–1

Victoria Championship (January 20-21) by Paul Leblanc

The [Victoria Championship](#), which was inaugurated in 1916, took place at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney over the weekend of 20-21 January. Forty-eight players competed in a five-round single section event with three games on Saturday and two games on Sunday. Time control was game in 60 with 30 second increments. The purpose of the tournament was to determine the

Victoria Champion and players resident in the geographic area bounded by Sooke to Victoria to Sidney were eligible to win the championship and have their name engraved on the historic [Victoria Cup](#). The cup itself was donated by the Tourist Trade Development Association in 1935 and displays the names of the city champions since that time.



Since a number of Vancouver Island players not resident in Victoria expressed an interest in participating, it was decided to allow them to play under the condition that they were eligible for cash prizes but not the championship title nor the Victoria Cup. Hence the unusual result that Jason Williamson of Nanaimo captured first place and the \$400 cash prize with a score of 5.0-0.0 but Roger Patterson at 4.0-1.0 was declared the Victoria Champion for the fifth time. Patterson actually tied with Owen Murphy and Hailay Teklemariam (also 4.0-1.0) but had a better tie break calculation.



Final round: Mingrone - Patterson and Climenhaga – Williamson; CHEK TV cameraman

The top U1400 prize was shared by Emilian Holmgren, Nicolas Pennie, Taylor McLean, Rhyland Barker and Andrew Styffe (all at 3.0-2.0) and the top U1000 prize was split 4 ways between Carmelo Young, Ben Roberts, Dinesh Chanchalani and Laksh Chanchalani (2.0-3.0). Top unrated player was Eli Grant with a very respectable 3.5 points. The tournament was organized by Paul Leblanc and directed by National Arbiter Marc Moisan.

Patterson, Roger (1995) – Beaulieu, Michael (1764) [A38] Victoria ch Sidney (4.2), 21.01.2024

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.Nf3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 d6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 a6 9.e4 Nc6 10.Nc2 Rb8 11.Ne3 Be6 12.Bd2 b5 13.Ncd5 Ne5 14.cxb5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Rxb5 16.Bc3 Qc7 17.Qe2 Qa7 18.b4 Rc8 19.Rac1 Rbb8 20.Rfd1 Ned7 21.Bd4 Qa8 22.a3 Kf8 23.Rc6 Rxc6 24.dxc6 1–0

Climenhaga, Harold (1766) – Williamson, Jason (1937) [B33] Victoria ch Sidney (5.1), 21.01.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0–0 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.Be2 f5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Nce3 Be6 16.Bf3 Rc8 17.0–0 Kh8

18.Be4 Qe8 19.Qd3 g6 20.a4 Ne7 21.axb5 axb5 22.Ra6 Nf5 23.Rd1 Qf7 24.Bxf5 gxf5 25.Rxd6 f4
26.Nc2 Bf5 27.Qe2 Rce8 28.Ncb4 e4 29.Qd2 e3 30.Qd4+ Kg8 31.Nxf4 Re4 32.Qd5 exf2+ 33.Kf1
Bxf4 34.Qxf7+ Rxf7 35.Rd8+ Kg7 36.Nd5 Bg5 37.Rb8 Bg4 0-1

Tri-Cities Junior Rapid #1 (January 20)



The Fraser Valley Chess Academy, while based in Langley, has been holding tournaments in locations further afield. Specifically Port Coquitlam: FVCA held two blitz events for juniors at the Hope Lutheran Christian School last October, and now a rapid tournament in two sections on January 20, also for juniors. Forty-six players took part; Clement Lebron won the [Open Section](#) ahead of Matthew Martin and six players tied for third, while the [U1000 Section](#) saw a three-way tie for first between Matthew Hooper, Reid Umali, and Brady Wright. These events have done much to help rejuvenate the chess scene in the area: apart from the unrated Lower Mainland Chess Club Team Championship which Port Coquitlam won in the 2006/07 and 2007/08, there hasn't been a rated tournament in PoCo since 1992.

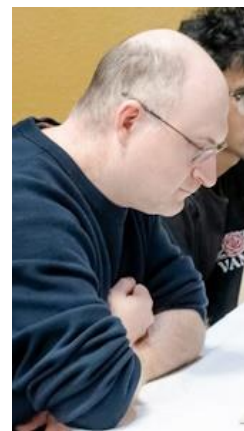
West Vancouver Rapid January (January 14)



The latest of Luc Poitras' monthly rapid events at the West Vancouver United Church took place on [January 14](#) and attracted seventeen players for seven games at 12 + 5. Top-ranked NM Roman Jiganchine gave up a single draw in winning the tournament with 6.5 points. A full point back was NM Mayo Fuentesbella, while in third place was newcomer Yidong (Jason) Chen. The next West Vancouver Rapid is scheduled for March 3.

Central Florida Chess Club Winter Open (January 5-7)

Based in Orlando, the [Central Florida Chess Club](#) also periodically hosts tournaments at the Holiday Inn Resort in adjacent Lake Buena Vista. One such event was the 2024 Winter Open which took place on the first weekend of the New Year. There were over two hundred entries with forty in the [Master/Expert Section](#) including from BC IM Raymond Kaufman. Despite the ten players in the section rated over 2200 Raymond took first place with 4.5/5, giving up a draw to top-rated Raghav Venkat in the second round. He also won the Best Game prize for his fourth-round victory over FM Corey Bryan Acor, and shared second place in the Saturday Night Blitz – a successful weekend!



How to Achieve National Master and National Arbiter Titles by Paul Leblanc, NA, President BCCF

I thought some of our bulletin readers might want to know the criteria for achieving these titles.

National Master (NM): This title is awarded by the CFC to players who have achieved a regular rating of at least 2200 and who have also achieved a performance rating of at least 2300 in three CFC events. Players may apply directly to the CFC but I am more than happy to receive them from players and shepherd them to the correct person at the CFC. The National Master title is granted for life and comes with a certificate suitable for framing.

National Arbiter (NA): This is the qualification needed to be arbiter for a FIDE rated event where title norms are not available. For events that are only CFC rated, the tournament director does not need to have this qualification. The title is awarded by the CFC and FIDE is notified.

The criteria for becoming a National Arbiter have varied somewhat over the years. At the most recent CFC AGM, our FIDE Representative, Victor Plotkin who screens applications for both NM and NA titles tabled the following criteria which was generally agreed:

Recommendations:

An NA applicant must have one of the following:

- a. 2 recommendations from IA/FAs based on tournament experience; or
- b. 1 recommendation from an IA/FA based on tournament experience plus an NA seminar with a test; or
- c. 1 recommendation from an IA/FA and recommendations from the Provincial president and an NA based on tournament experience: or
- d. an NA seminar with a test and recommendations from the Provincial President and an NA based on tournament experience.

Experience:

- a. At least 10 tournaments as an arbiter/organizer
- b. At least 20 tournaments as an arbiter/organizer/player

NM Neil Doknjas and Joyce Zhang to Represent BC at Canadian Zonal by Paul Leblanc

Good luck to Neil and Joyce at the upcoming Canadian Championships, to be held at Hart House at the University of Toronto March 27th to April 2nd. They won the right to represent BC at the BC Championships in October, 2023. The BCCF gives a \$500 travel grant to the BC Champion,

Women's Champion, Junior Champion and Senior Champion if they attend the nationals. We hope to increase this grant in the near future.

VANCOUVER CHESS FESTIVAL #5 (January 27-28)

Held as usual at the Ponderosa Ballroom on UBC's Vancouver campus, Vancouver Chess Festival #5 attracted eighty-six players, evenly split between the two-day and one-day formats. As the weekend also included Regional #2 of the BC Chess Challenge it was not possible to schedule a blitz tournament this time; the other major difference was the combining of the previous Rapid open and U1400 groups into one section, yet still retaining the U1400 awards as class prizes. The [Classical Open](#) saw the return to competitive chess of IM Bindi Cheng – his last rated event was the BC – Washington match in 2017. Bindi had a 240-point rating cushion over the rest of the field but Jingyun (Ryan) Yang wasn't phased, beating his titled opponent in round four to claim the first prize with 4.5/5. Bindi had to settle for second, while Brandon Zhu was third on 3.5 points. In the [Classical U1800](#) Section newcomer Yidong Chen placed in his second tournament in two weeks, this time scoring 4.5/5 to place first; Liam Tu and Bhell Ortiz tied for second a half-point back. And ties were the order of the day in the [U1000 Section](#), where Brayen Zhang and Alex Yu came first with 4.0 points each, while Zirui Ren and Xavier Zhang tied for third.

The combined [Rapid Section](#) included four players who would have qualified for the previous open section (i.e., 1400+). Unsurprisingly they finished at the top of the crosstable, with IM Vicente Lee Jr. giving up a last-round draw to finish first with 5.5 points, while Leo Qu and Aiden Leong shared second/third. Also with 5.0 points was Nijat Ibrahimov who claimed the first U1400 prize, while Jason Zhou and Rio Vilches tied for second a half point off the pace. Mark your calendars for [Vancouver Chess Festival #6](#) coming up on March 9-10.

Zhu, Brandon (2121) – Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) (2241) [B06] Vancouver Chess Festival 5 op Vancouver (5.1), 28.01.2024

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Qe2 0–0 6.0–0 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.c3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Bg5 Nd7 12.Bb5 f6 13.Bxd7 Qxd7 14.Bh4 f5 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qe2 fxe4 17.Nd2 c6 18.c4 cxd5 19.cxd5 Qf7 20.Nxe4 Qxd5 21.Rfd1 Qf7 22.Rxd6 Rac8 23.b3 Qf4 24.Rad1 Rc1 25.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 26.Rd1 Qc6 27.Rd6 Qc1+ 28.Rd1 Qc6 29.Rd6 ½–½

GREATER VANCOUVER CHESS TOURNAMENT #4 (January 20-21)

Another reoccurring event took place the week before VCF #5: this was the fourth Greater Vancouver Chess Tournament, like the rest organized by the [Penny Chess Club](#) and held at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby. A total of one hundred and eighty-eight players attended the proceedings, split as with GVCT3 into four sections. As before, there were three rounds of 50 +10 on the first day followed by two 90 + 30 games on the Sunday. The twenty-five player [Open Section](#) included two IMs, two CMs, and fourteen players over 2000 but it was the 'house' IM Quang Long Le who beat two of his closest rivals, IM Raymond Kaufman and NM Keith MacKinnon (co-BC champions in 2022) to place first with 4.5/5. CM Jorge Nunez Asencio had an off weekend, losing to both Ashton Taylor (who also drew with MacKinnon and Le, pushing his rating over 2200 for the first time) and Zachary Liu, who placed second on tiebreak ahead of Ethan Song and also garnered his final National Master title norm for his efforts. As with previous events, there were also

trophies for best boys and girls in each section by two-year age brackets; for the Open, these went to Nicholas Pei-Chang Wu, Johan Aljo, Aiden Leong, and Gillian Mok.



The [U1800 Section](#) was won by Boyong Guo with a perfect score, Orven Ortiz was second and tiebreaks were needed to determine Kosta Kalenteridis placed third. Junior trophies went to Elliot McCallum, Lucas Yao, Minh Vu Huy, Dennis Wang, Shaunavon Mu, and Dasha Doroshenko. Barath Subramanian Suresh won the [U1300 Section](#), also with a perfect score; seven players tied with 4.0 points but after tiebreaks Vincent Mu was second and Rio Vilches third. Evan Geng, Markus Li, Bingda (Brady) Li, Morgan Li, Kendrick Rojas, Sofia Vigurs, Karen Chen, and May Wangluo received trophies. And there was a four-way tie for first in the seventy-player [U800 Section](#), resolved in favour of Yunhao Tan, Nathan Bie, and Benjamin Yuan respectively. The fourth, Xavier Zhang, was the recipient of a junior trophy along with Gia Minh Nguyen, Aryav Alope, Tristan Patterson, Entong Tian, Adele Yang, Anny Peng, and Siyona Singh.

BEQO ANNOTATES: MY FIRST LOSS TO MAYO by Besnik Beqo

Fuentebella, Mayo (2103) – Beqo, Besnik (2010) [D80] Christmas Rapid op Langley (6.1), 24.12.2023

Mayo is a pleasant person and a strong player so it's always fun to play against him. We played the following game in the last round of the Fraser Valley Christmas Rapid 2023, a six round rapid tournament, with thirty-two participants, held at Fraser Valley Chess Academy. Before this game, I was leading the tournament with 5.0 out of 5, Mayo was second with 4.0 out of 5, and I had already secured the first place due to better tiebreaks. Therefore, I was more in a Christmas spirit than in a "fighting" spirit.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 g6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.e3 c5 The game started as an English Opening, Mayo's favourite, and transposed into a Grünfeld. **6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nxd5 Bg7** Black is a pawn down out of the opening but has the bishop pair as a compensation. **8.dxc5?! White** should continue the development, i.e., 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Be2 O-O 10.O-O e6 11.Nc3 cxd4 12.exd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Qc2 e5 as in the game Cifuentes - Sokolov, 1996. **8...Bxb2 9.Rb1 Bg7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Bd3 Na6 12.0-0 Nxc5 13.Bc2 b6 14.Qe2 e6 15.Nf4 Bb7 16.Rfd1 Qc7**



Both sides have completed the opening. Black has the bishop pair, a strong knight on c5 and White has two isolated pawns on the queenside. Black should have an advantage here. **17.Nd4!** This move is tricky, it provokes 17...e5 18.Nb5 Qe7 19.Nd5 and the position is unclear. **17...a6 18.Nf3 Ne4 19.Bxe4 Bxe4 20.Rbc1 Rfd8 21.Nd3 Rac8 22.c5** (next diagram) 22.c5 is not a good move but White has a difficult position and Mayo is trying to cause some confusion. In a Rapid game, a move like that might have some psychological effect. **22...Qb7?!** Inaccuracy. 22... bxc5 was best.



If 23.Nxc5 Rxd1 24.Qxd1 Bb2! 25.Rc4 Bd5 26.Rc2 Ba3 and Black wins a piece. If 23. Rc4 Qc6 24. Nfe5 Qd5 25. f4 Bxe5 26. Nf2 Qxd1 27. Nxd1 Bd3 28. Qe1 Bxc4 29. fxe5 Rb8 and Black is winning. If 23. Ng5 Bd3 24. Rd3 Rd3 25. Qd3 c4 and Black has a dangerous passed pawn. **23.cxb6 Qxb6 24.Nde5 Qb5?** I went for exchanging the Queens, but this was a mistake, even though my position is still better. Best was to exchange the Rooks 24...Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1 (25.Rxd1 Rc2) Rxc1 26.Qxc1 Qb7 **25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Qxb5 axb5 27.Nxf7!** That's why 24.... Qb5 was a mistake. I overlooked the fact that my Bishop on e4 was hanging, f7 was weak and Ng5 fork was possible. Black is still ok, but I got upset for missing such a simple tactic. **27...Ra8 28.N7g5**



28...Bxf3? The first move came to mind was 28.Bd5 and Black is still playing for a win. Somehow, I did not like 29. e4 and overlooked the fact that after 29.... Ba2 30.Ra1?? is a blunder because the Bishop on g7 guards the a1 square. Your emotions can get the best of you and at this point I kind of gave up calculating (even though I had way more time than Mayo on the clock) and gave the game away. **29.gxf3! Rxa2??** And this was my Christmas gift to Mayo! After 29...Bf6 Black is still in the game. For example, 30.Nxe6 Rxa2 or 30.Ne4 Be7 etc. **30.Rc8+ Bf8 31.Nxe6** and Black loses the Bishop and the game. **31...Kf7 32.Nxf8 b4 33.Nxh7 b3 34.Rb8 b2 35.Kg2 Ke6 36.Ng5+ Kd5 37.Ne4 Kc4 38.h4 Kd3 39.Kg3 Kc2 40.Kg4 b1Q 41.Rxb1 Kxb1 42.Nc3+ 1-0**

After the game, Mayo was happy and told me with a smile, "You were winning and this is the first time I win against you, you always beat me." I told Mayo, "Yes, I was still better even after blundering the pawn should I have played Bd5 but it's OK, this was my Christmas gift to you." We were both happy, we walked out of the tournament with \$200 each, and I got the medal and the certificate for the 1st place. It's nice to have friendly relationships with other chess players and winning or losing doesn't affect the friendship. Big thanks to Umang Banatwala, the owner of the Fraser Valley Chess Academy, for such a great contribution to chess in BC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the listings at the [CFC](#) and [Northwest chess](#) websites as well as the [BCCF](#)

BC Open

Burnaby, February 17-19

[Details](#)

Tri-Cities Junior Blitz #3

Port Coquitlam, February 21

[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival 6

UBC, February 24-25

[Details](#)

Chess in the Park

Esquimalt, March 2

[Details](#)

West Vancouver Rapid March

West Vancouver, March 3

[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival #6

UBC, March 9-10

[Details](#)

Salmon Arm Rapid

Salmon Arm, March 16

[Details](#)

BCYCC

Burnaby, March 23-24

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, March 29 – April 1

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid #11

Langley, April 6

[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival #7

UBC, April 13-14

[Details](#)

Tri-Cities Junior Blitz #3

Port Coquitlam, April 17

[Details](#)

BC Active Championship

Richmond, April 20-21

[Details](#)

RCC Elite Chess Championship #2

Richmond, May 5

[Details](#)

Okanagan Open

Salmon Arm, May 3-5

[Details](#)

BC – Alberta Match

Salmon Arm, May 3-5

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

Surrey, May 18-20

[Details](#)

BC Interschool Championship

Langley Township, June 1-2

[Details](#)

BC Senior Championship

Surrey, June 21-23

[Details](#)

World Chess Day Championship

Langley Township, July 20-21

[Details](#)