

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #450

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



BC Chess Federation

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### HERE AND THERE

#### **Ponte de Lima Open** (April 9-16)

Named after a bridge which spans the river Lima, the town of Ponte de Lima is situated in northwestern Portugal near the border with Spain. In the second week of April it hosted a chess festival, part of which was a small international open of thirty-six players. Among those participating were nine GMs, two WGMs and eleven IMs, including IM Leon Piasetski, FM Marcel Milat, and transplanted Canadian GM Kevin Spraggett. Despite losing in the second round to Iranian WGM Mobina Alinasab, top-ranked GM Nikita Petrov (Montenegro) scored 7.5/8 in his other games to finish first, a full point ahead of IM Yevgeniy Roshka (Ukraine) who placed second. Piasetski and Spraggett were among the nine players who tied for sixth place with 5.5 points; not the greatest result for Kevin, but he does turn seventy this coming November. Milat finished with 3.5 but only played seven rounds. [Standings](#)



Leon Piasetski

Marcel Milat

#### **Milat, Marcel (2169) – Bilych, Olexiy (2451) [D02] Ponte de Lima op (2.5), 10.04.2024**

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0–0 7.0–0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 a5 9.Bf4 c6 10.Rc1 h6 11.Nbd2 Nh5 12.Be3 f5 13.Ne1 g5 14.Ndf3 Bd6 15.Nd3 Qe8 16.Nfe5 f4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Qf7 20.g4 Ng7 21.c5 a4 22.Bb4 Ne8 23.a3 Nc7 24.b3 axb3 25.Qxb3 Bd7 26.Ba5 Nb5 27.Qb4 d4 28.Bf3 Qg7 29.a4 Nc3 30.Bc7 Ra7 31.Qxd4 Nd5 32.Bd6 Rfa8 33.Rcb1 Be8 34.Rb2 Bg6 35.Kg2 Qh7 36.Ra3 Bc2 37.Rba2 Bb1 38.Rb2 Bc2 39.Rba2 Bb1 40.Rb2 Bc2 ½–½

**Mannion, Stephen Richard (2159) – Piasetski, Leon David (2159) [B09] Ponte de Lima op (8.8), 15.04.2024**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.e5 dxe5 8.dxe5 Nh5 9.Be3 Nb4 10.Be4 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 c6 12.a3 Na6 13.0–0 f6 14.Bd3 Bh6 15.g3 Bg4 16.exf6 exf6 17.Ne4 Nc7 18.Bc5 Rfb8 19.Rde1 Bg7 20.Bc4+ Be6 21.Bxe6+ Nxe6 22.Bf2 b6 23.c3 Nd8 24.Rd1 Nf7 25.Nd4 Re8 26.Rfe1 f5 27.Ng5 Nxe5 28.fxe5 Bxd4 29.Bxd4 ½–½

**46<sup>th</sup> Canadian Junior** (April 10-14)

This year's Canadian Junior Championship ended up being a victim of circumstances. Normally the World Junior, for which the Canadian Junior is a qualifier, happens later in the year but instead for 2024 the tournament is scheduled for India in the first half of June. This left little time to make arrangements for the Canadian Junior, but the Excelsior Chess Club in Toronto organized a seven-round event in the second week of April, envisaging five sections and upto one hundred players. However, the Canadian Zonal tournaments ended the previous Easter weekend, also in Toronto, and for many potential players it appears another event so close to the Zonal was just not possible.

In the end the Junior attracted just forty-one players in three sections, Open Boys, Open Girls, and U1500. Notably there were four participants from BC, one from Alberta, while everyone else hailed from Ontario, the vast majority from the Toronto area. The fifteen-player Open Boys Section quickly turned into a two-way race between Edmonton's FM Tymur Keleberda and Vancouver's CM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang; they drew with each other in round four and won the rest of their games to tie for first, with Ryan taking the top spot on the narrowest of tiebreak edges. Third was Ryan Yunhui Zhong, a point and a half behind. Reece Harms (Abbotsford) and Andre Dossa (West Vancouver) both finished with 3.0 points but approached that score from different directions, Andre losing his first three games while Reece lost his last three. The only other BC player was Pengsen Fang in the U1500 Section who tied for fourth with 4.5 points; the winner was Umid Allahverdi (Toronto) on 6.5. [Standings](#)



Ryan Yang and Tymur Keleberda with Chief Arbiter Hal Bond

**Zhong, Ryan Yunhui (2137) – Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) (2275) [B31] CAN jun 46th Toronto (5.2), 13.04.2024**

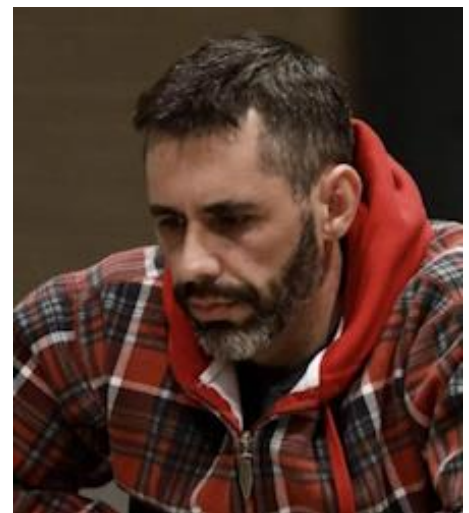
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0–0 Bg7 5.c3 a6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bg4 9.Be3 c5 10.Nbd2 cxd4 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Nf6 13.Qa4+ b5 14.Qxd4 Qxd4 15.Nxd4 g5 16.Bg3 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxd4 18.Rac1 0–0 19.Rc7 Bxb2 20.Rb1 Bg7 21.Nc5 Rfc8 22.h3 Bf5 23.Rd1 Rxc7 24.Bxc7 a5 25.Rd8+ Rxd8 26.Bxd8 Bb1 27.a4 bxa4 28.Nxa4 Bc2 29.Nb6 e6 30.Nc4 a4 31.Be7 Bd3 32.Na3 Kh7 33.g4 Kg6 34.Kg2 f5 35.f3 f4 36.Kf2 Kf7 37.Bb4 Bf8 38.Bxf8 Kxf8 39.Ke1 Kg7 40.Kd2 Bf1 41.Ke1 Bxh3 42.Kf2 h5 43.gxh5 Kh6 44.Ke2 Kxh5 45.Nb5 Bf5 46.Kd2 g4 47.fxg4+ Kxg4 48.Nc3 a3 0–1

**Surrey Junior Rapid 1** (April 13)

Continuing outreach into areas of the province that may not have previously experienced CFC-rated chess competitions, on April 13 the Fraser Valley Chess Academy in conjunction with the Cambridge Elementary School in Surrey held a Rapid tournament for Kindergarten to grade 7 students. Employing what has become the standard format for rapid events (six rounds of 15 + 10), the tournament attracted a total of sixty-four (a good chess number) players in two sections and certainly fulfilled its mandate of introducing students to competitive chess. In the twenty-two player [Open Section](#) only a third had CFC ratings, and perhaps unsurprisingly they congregated at the top of the crosstable. We don't have access to tiebreak results, but can say in terms of scores that three players won five games, Sion Park, Nathan Bie, and Shore Feng. The situation in the [U800 Section](#) was even more pronounced, with only two players out of forty-two participants having a rating. Here Donovan Lin was the clear winner with 5.5 points ahead of Anirudh Annal, Aleksey Goncharov, and Nicholas Zhang tied for second, all unrated.

**Fraser Valley Rapid #11** (April 6)

The latest Fraser Valley Rapid tournament repeated the standard winning formula of previous editions, six games of 15 + 10 in three sections at the Christian Life Assembly Church in Langley. Also the same, by the end of the six rounds, was a familiar face at the top of the [crosstable](#) – CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, who won yet another Rapid event. He drew in round three with Zachary Liu and won the rest of his games for a final tally of 5.5/6. Zachary was second, while Bhell Ortiz lost to both of them and finished third on 4.0 points. In the [U1400 Section](#) Daniel Zhu executed a perfect Swiss Gambit, losing his first game before sweeping the remainder – this turned out to be sufficient for clear first place. Second was Felix Fang a half-point back, while third on tiebreak among the six who scored 4.0 points was Barath Subramanian Suresh. And in the [U1000 Section](#) Ryan Ma put up six wins in a row to claim first place ahead of four players with 4.5 points; second after tiebreaks were applied was Daniel Filyushin and Seth Van Heerden third. [Fraser Valley Rapid 12](#) will be on July 6.



Jorge Nunez Asencio  
(photo by [Neelesh Jain](#))

## Canadian Championships/Zonals (March 27 – April 2)

This year's [Canadian Championships](#) were held in the hallowed halls of Hart House at the University of Toronto and since this year is also a Zonal year, competition was fiercer than usual as qualification to the World Cup and direct titles were at stake. A total of thirteen players from BC made the journey to Toronto for the Championships: FM John Doknjas, CM Neil Doknjas, Kate Jiang, IM Raymond Kaufman, IM Quang Long Le, NM Zachary (Hankun) Liu, Gillian Mok, WIM Penny Pham, IM Leon Piasetski, NM Ethan Song, Ashton Taylor, CM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, and Joyce Zhang. Neil and Joyce are our current champions and as such received funding from the BCCF towards their expenses. There were also another four BC players participating in the adjunct three-section Festival – Erwin Mok, Nathan Wu, Nicholas Wu, and Larry Yang (apologies if I overlooked anyone).



Last Round: in the centre John Doknjas, Ray Kaufman on the left (photo by [Victoria Doknjas](#))

The Open Zonal, sixty-four players in total, included two GMs and fourteen IMs, among whom were all three players who tied for first last year (IM Nikolay Noritsyn, IM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, and GM Bator Sambuev), yet it was IM Shiyam Thavandiran, tenth-ranked at the start, who ran away with the competition. Always in the leading group from the very beginning, Shiyam kept winning game after game while his closest rivals gradually fell back. By round six he was in the sole lead, which he increased by winning his last three games to finish with the remarkable score of 9.0/10 and a performance rating of 2715 (FIDE, his CFC performance was 2794). To emphasize the point Shiyam beat all three co-champions from last year. Tied for second on 7.0(!) points were FM Anthony Atanasov, IM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, IM Raja Panjwani, and GM Razvan Preotu. Best score by a BC player was FM John Doknjas with 6.0 points, while NM Ethan Song, IM Quang Long Le, and IM Raymond Kaufman finished with 5.5. As this was a Zonal the result should qualify Ethan for the CM title.

In contrast the Women's Zonal produced a tight race right down to the wire: WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet, WIM Svitlana Demchenko, and WIM Yunshan Li tied for first with 7.5/9, with the tiebreaks placing them respectively in that order. Alone in fourth place was WIM Penny Pham on 6.5 points, while Kate Jiang and Gillian Mok scored 5.5; they, along with Joyce Zhang, qualify for the WCM

title, although in some cases this is provisional upon reaching 1800 FIDE. There were forty-nine players in the section. In the adjunct Festival Nathan Wu and especially Erwin Mok had good results, both scored 4.0/7 in the Premier which was sufficient for Erwin to push his rating back over 2000. One final connection with this province: a key member of the organizational and arbiting teams was former BC junior Victor Zheng, now a student at the University of Toronto – we have only heard good reports of the way all the events were run and administered. [Standings](#)



Kate Jiang, Gillian Mok, and Joyce Zhang, WCMs (elect) (photo by Suzanne Chong)

**Noritsyn, Nikolay (2451) – Kaufman, Raymond (2153) [B90] CAN ch 88th Toronto (1.5), 27.03.2024**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.0–0 0–0 10.Kh1 b5 11.Qe1 Bb7 12.f5 b4 13.Ne2 d5 14.e5 Ne4 15.e6 gxf5 16.Ng5 fxe6 17.Qh4 Nxc5 18.Bxc5 Qd7 19.Nf4 Rf7 20.Rae1 Ne5 21.Qg3 Kh8 22.Qh3 Rg8 23.Qh5 d4 24.Bh4 Rff8 25.Re2 Bf6 26.Bg3 Rg5 27.Qh3 Rfg8 28.Rfe1 Nxd3 29.cxd3 e5 30.Rxe5 Bxe5 31.Rxe5 Qc7 32.Re1 Qc6 33.Ne6 R5g6 34.Be5+ Rf6 35.Bxf6+ exf6 36.Nf4 Qc2 37.Rg1 Qf2 38.Qh6 Rxc2 39.Nxc2 Bxc2+ 40.Rxc2 Qf1+ 41.Rg1 Qf3+ ½–½

**Chiku-Ratte, Olivier-Kenta (2335) – Doknjas, John (2190) [D85] CAN ch 88th Toronto (5.13), 30.03.2024**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 0–0 9.Be2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qxa2 12.0–0 Bg4 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 a5 15.Rxb7 Rd8 16.d5 a4 17.h3 Rd7 18.Rxb8+ Rxb8 19.hxg4 a3 20.Bg3 Rb4 21.d6 exd6 22.e5 Qb2 23.Qd5 Qxe2 24.Qa8+ Bf8 25.Re1 Qc2 26.Qxa3 Rb1 27.Rxb1 Qxb1+ 28.Kh2 dxe5 29.Qa8 e4 30.Ne5 Rd1 31.Bf4 Rh1+ 32.Kg3 Qb3+ 33.Be3 Qe6 34.Qb8 Qd6 35.Qe8 Qe7 36.Qb8 Qh4+ 37.Kf4 Qf6+ 38.Kxe4 Kg7 39.Bd4 Re1+ 40.Kd3 Bd6 41.Nf3 Rd1+ 42.Ke2 Rxd4 0–1

**Rodrigue-Lemieux, Shawn (2506) – Thavandiran, Shiyam (2347) [C07] CAN ch 88th Toronto (6.1), 30.03.2024**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.exd5 a6 7.N2f3 Qxd5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.0–0 Bd6 10.c4 Qc5 11.a3 b6 12.Re1 0–0 13.Bf1 Bb7 14.Bg5 Ne5 15.b4 Qc7 16.Rc1 Rad8 17.Qe2 Nxf3+ 18.Nxf3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Be5 21.c5 b5 22.a4 Rd4 23.axb5 axb5 24.Bxf6 Bxf6 25.Re4

Rxe4 26.Qxe4 Rb8 27.Rd1 g6 28.Rd6 Kg7 29.g3 h5 30.Bd3 h4 31.g4 Qa7 32.Bb1 Qa1 33.Rd7 Kg8 34.Kg2 Qe5 35.Qf3 Rd8 36.c6 Rxd7 37.cxd7 Kg7 38.Bd3 Be7 39.Qe4 Qb8 40.Qc6 Qf4 41.Qe4 h3+ 42.Kg1 h2+ 43.Kg2 h1Q+ 44.Kxh1 Qxf2 45.Bxb5 Bd6 46.Qe2 Qh4+ 47.Kg1 Bc7 48.Qe4 Bb6+ 49.Kg2 Qf2+ 50.Kh3 Bc7 0–1

**Terry, Joshua (2213) – Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) (2122) [D70] CAN ch 88th Toronto (7.18), 31.03.2024**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0–0 8.h4 Nc6 9.d5 Ne5 10.Qb3 e6 11.0–0–0 Qe7 12.Bg5 Bf6 13.f4 Ng4 14.Nh3 exd5 15.e5 Bxg5 16.hxg5 Be6 17.Qb5 c6 18.Qe2 Qc5 19.Kb1 d4 20.Ne4 Qd5 21.Nc3 Qc5 22.Ne4 Qd5 23.Nc3 Qa5 24.Rxd4 Rfd8 25.Qd2 Rxd4 26.Qxd4 c5 27.Qd1 Ne3 28.Qf3 Nbd5 29.Kc1 Rd8 30.Nf2 Nxc3 31.Qxe3 Nxa2+ 32.Kb1 Nb4 33.Bc4 Bxc4 34.Qa3 Ba2+ 35.Kc1 Qxa3 36.bxa3 Nd3+ 37.Nxd3 Rxd3 38.Kc2 c4 39.Re1 Bb3+ 40.Kb2 b5 41.g4 a5 42.f5 b4 43.e6 fxe6 44.axb4 axb4 45.Rxe6 Rd2+ 46.Kc1 c3 47.Re1 Ra2 48.Kb1 c2+ 49.Kc1 Ra1+ 0–1

**Noritsyn, Nikolay (2451) – Thavandiran, Shiyam (2347) [C02] CAN ch 88th Toronto (8.1), 01.04.2024**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.a3 c4 7.Nbd2 Na5 8.h4 h6 9.Rh3 Qc7 10.Rb1 0–0–0 11.b3 cxb3 12.Nxb3 Ba4 13.Nfd2 f6 14.Qg4 Nxb3 15.Nxb3 h5 16.Qe2 fxe5 17.dxe5 Bxb3 18.Rxb3 Bc5 19.Rg3 Nh6 20.Rg5 Rhf8 21.Be3 Rf7 22.Rxh5 Rdf8 23.f3 Nf5 24.Bxc5 Qxc5 25.Qf2 d4 26.Bd3 Qxe5+ 27.Be4 Qa5 28.Qd2 Qa4 29.Qb2 Nd6 30.Rb4 Qe8 31.Bg6



31...Rxf3 32.Bxe8 Rf1+ 33.Ke2 R8f2+ 34.Kd3 Rd1+ 0–1

**D'souza, Carina (1811) – Pham, Bich Ngoc (2206) [B09] CAN wom ch 21st Toronto (7.3), 01.04.2024**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Bd3 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.0–0 a6 9.h3 Qb6 10.Be3 Rd8 11.Na4 Qc7 12.Nxc5 b6 13.Na4 Nbd7 14.Qe1 Bb7 15.Nd2 b5 16.Nc3 b4 17.Na4 Bc6 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Bxc5 Nh5 20.Qf2 Bxb2 21.Rab1 Bc3 22.Nb3 Rdb8 23.Bd4 Bb5 24.f5 Qg3 25.fxg6 Qxf2+ 26.Rxf2 hxg6 27.Bxc3 bxc3 28.Rf3 Bxd3 29.Rxd3 Nf4 30.Rf3 e5 31.Kf2 Rb4 32.Rxc3 Rxe4 33.Nc1 Rd8 34.Kf3 Re1 35.Rc7 Ne2 36.Ra7 Nxc1 37.Rbb7 Rd4 38.Kf2 0–1

### **Foxwoods Open** (March 27-31)

Normally the [Foxwoods Open](#) in Connecticut is a prime destination for Canadian players but not so this year, given that the Canadian Zonals were taking place at the same time. However, one player from BC did make the trip, Aiden Leong – he scored 3.0/9 in the Open Section, pretty much as his rating would have predicted. The overall winner of the four hundred and fifty player, seven section event was American GM John Burke with 7.5/9.

### **Western Class Championship** (March 1-3)

Held in Irvine, CA, the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the [Western Class Championship](#) attracted just over four hundred players in seven sections. The Master Section saw a five-way tie for first between GMs Andrey Baryshpolets (Ukraine), Fidel Corrales Jimenez (USA), and Arman Mikaelyan (Armenia), IM Justin Sarkar (USA), and NM David Gasparyan, all scored 4.0/5 points. IM Raymond Kaufman finished with 50%.

### **Guingamp Open** (February 24 – March 1)

Last issue we reported on Elliot McCallum's involvement in the Graz International Open. Immediately following this event he travelled to France for the [Guingamp International Open](#). Located in Brittany, Guingamp is one of the smallest towns in Europe to possess a top-tier professional football team. The eighty-one players in the tournament ranged from 1067 (this was before FIDE raised the rating floor to 1400) to 2474 and included two GMs and four IMs. IM Yevgeniy Roshka (Ukraine) tied for first with GM Momchil Nikolov (Bulgaria), they both scored 7.5 points, while IM Harry Grieve (England) was just behind them. Elliot finished on plus two with 5.5 points – this was good (with the FIDE rating coefficient of K=40 for juniors) for a rating gain of 127 points. In fact, Elliot has gained 274 points in the last three months, this without the FIDE rating adjustment for U2000 players on March 1.

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### **VANCOUVER CHESS FESTIVAL #7** (April 13-14)

Repeating the pattern of previous events, VCF #7 combined three separate events: a two-day Classical tournament in three sections, a one-day Rapid, and the Provincial Chess Challenge finals, all held at the Ponderosa Ballroom on the Point Grey campus of UBC. The [Classical Open](#) featured two IMs but Raymond Kaufman lost to Minh Vu in the first round which left Bindi Cheng with a full point lead over the field after day one. On day two Bindi coasted home with two short draws to claim the first prize with 4.0/5, while the players he drew with, Raymond and Yidong Chen, split second/third. Bhell Ortiz was the clear winner of the [Classical U1800](#) on 4.5 points, half a point ahead of Weijia Huang, Zhengyu Chen, and Orven Ortiz who tied for second/third. And newcomer Bhawandeep Singh was the winner of the [Classical U1000](#), Vladimir Belousov was second, and Ruiqi Chen third. In total fifty-six players participated in the Classical sections.

In the forty-nine player [Rapid Section](#) was another IM, Vicente Lee Jr., but he gave up a draw in the last round to Ryan Leong which enabled Maximilian Mueller to tie with Vicente for first place; Ryan placed third. And the U1400 prizes were shared between Anush Sankaran, Frank Jutten, Don Chen, and Micah Chow.

## BC PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE (April 14)



The BC Chess Challenge Finals were held at the Ponderosa Ballroom at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Some one hundred and forty-three 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 Moncton on the Victoria Day weekend. The following are the trophy winners for this year - congratulations to all!

Kindergarten – Bowen Wang, Ethan Tian, Khang Le  
Grade 1 – Daniel Zhu, Jimmy Rao, Karson Lu  
Grade 2 – Khai Le, Josiah Lo, Leon Makogon  
Grade 3 – Moses Li, Gabriel Golliak, Sky Cui  
Grade 4 – Aiden Yin, Samuel Lu, Andrew Yin  
Grade 5 – Ethan Low, Minh Vu, Jesse Law  
Grade 6 – Nathan Yi-Hsin Yang, Jaydon Yuan, James Hong  
Grade 7 – Ethan Li, Chelsea Tang, Oliver Ye  
Grade 8 – Liam Tu, Daniel Dou, Jordan Zhu  
Grade 9 – Joey Xu, Adrian So, Emilian Holmgren  
Grade 10 – Aiden Leong, Robert McBain, Gillian Mok  
Grade 11 – Owen Yuen, Matthew He, Kaden Zhu  
Grade 12 – Luka Spasojevic, Aaron Lo, Michael Zhu

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

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## GRAND PACIFIC OPEN (March 29 – April 1) by Roger Patterson

The 17th annual Grand Pacific Open drew a respectable one hundred and sixty-five players from a wide range of provinces and states. Players came from Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Washington, Illinois..... even briefly one player from Japan although it turned out they thought they were registering for the VYCC held just before the main tournament. The Canadian Zonal was held



the same weekend and drew a far number of the stronger players who would otherwise likely played at the GPO.

Still, a number of previous GPO winners came - Hannigen Pitre (the very 1st!), Bindi Cheng (2nd annual), and Omid Malek (last year's winner on tiebreak). Some national junior champions showed up to terrorize the adults as well (Elliot McCallum, World U7 School Chess Champion, Ted Wang US grade 3 champion).



The competition was not very friendly to the top-rated players - all of the favourites got hit for a point in the early rounds. As a result, an unusually low score, 4.5/6, was all it took to place in the logjam tie for first. A four-way tie for first between Adam Adriaanse, Leo Qu, Malek Omid, and IM Bindi Cheng took most of the prize money with Adam winning the GPO champion trophy on tiebreak.



Leo Qu, Adrian Adriaanse, Omid Malek, and Bindi Cheng with Paul Leblanc

As for the BC Closed qualifying spot, at time of writing, it is not clear who wins that. Adriaanse would normally take the spot but they are relatively new to BC and may also be returning to Ontario

before the BC Closed takes space. The BC Closed qualifying rules have some ambiguities in them and we await a decision from the BCCF. If Adriaanse does not take it, the spot will fall to Leo Qu as Malek is Alberta based, and Cheng is already qualified by virtue of winning the BC Open.

As always, the popular midnight blitz was held with fifty-two players competing. Leo Qu took top place in that. The crosstable is at the bottom of this [page](#) just below the main event crosstables [which lists all the prize winners and contains more photos] and pgn file. Many thanks to our sponsors - the Hotel Grand Pacific, our TDs IA Stephen Wright and NA Marc Moisan and of course to the many volunteers who helped out in some way.

### **Mohammed Qanee, Arpak Worya (2080) – Cheng, Bindi (2471) [B87] Grand Pacific op 17th Victoria (2.1), 30.03.2024**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.Qe2 Be7 9.0–0 Qb6 10.Be3 Qb7 11.f3 0–0 12.Rad1 Nbd7 13.g4 Nc5 14.g5 Nfd7 15.h4 b4 16.Nb1 Nb6 17.Rf2 a5 18.c4 Nxb3 19.axb3 Bd7 20.Nd2 g6 21.Nc2 a4 22.Nxb4 axb3 23.Nd3 Rfc8 24.Rc1 Ra2 25.Rc3 Qc7 26.Bxb6 Qxb6 27.Rxb3 Qa7 28.Kg2 Bf8 29.Nb4 Ra4 30.Nc2 Bg7 31.Qd3 d5 32.cxd5 exd5 33.Ne3 Rd4 34.Qe2 Re8 35.Qf1 Qa2 36.Rb7 Bc8 37.Qb5 Rf8 38.Qb3 Qa8 39.Rb4 dxe4 40.Nxe4 Be6 41.Qa3 Qxa3 42.bxa3 Rd3 43.Ng4 Rxa3 44.Ngf6+ Kh8 45.Rfb2 Rd8 46.Rb8 Ra8 47.Rxa8 Rxa8 48.Kg3 Bf8 49.h5 gxh5 50.Rh2 Bf5 51.Rxh5 Bb4 52.Nxh7 Kg7 53.Nhf6 Ra2 54.Kf4 Bg6 55.Ne8+ Kg8 56.N4f6+ Kf8 57.Rh8+ Ke7 58.Nd5+ Ke6 59.Nxb4 Ra4 60.Nc7+ Kd7 61.Ncd5 1–0

### **Wu, Jonathan (2116) – Reeve, Jeff (2232) [B12] Grand Pacific op 17th Victoria (3.1), 30.03.2024**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Nf3 Qa5+ 8.Nbd2 Qa6 9.c4 Nh6 10.0–0 Nf5 11.b3 Be7 12.g3 Nd7 13.a4 0–0 14.Ba3 Bxa3 15.Rxa3 c5 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Qc2 dxc4 18.b4 Nd7 19.Nxc4 b5 20.Ne3 Nxe3 21.Rxe3 Qxa4 22.Qe4 Rae8 23.Ng5 g6 24.g4 hxg4 25.h5 Qa2 26.hxg6 f5 27.Qh1 Re7 28.Nh7 Rg7 29.Rd1 f4 30.Red3 Qe2 31.Nf6+ Nxf6 32.exf6 Rxf6 33.Rd7 Rf7 34.Rd8+ Rf8 35.Rxf8+ Kxf8 36.Qh8+ Rg8 37.Qh6+ Kf7 38.Rd7+ Ke8 39.f7+ Kxd7 40.fxg8 Q Qd1+ 41.Kh2 g3+ 42.fxg3 Qe2+ 43.Kh3 Qf1+ 44.Kh4 Qh1+ 45.Kg5 Qd5+ 46.Kg6 1–0



From round 1, **LM Viktors Pupols** versus **NCM Brandon Zhu**, after White's 81<sup>st</sup> move. There are legendary tales of Viktors playing extremely long games, breaking the backs of his opponents at 5 or 6 in the morning. Fortunately we now have different time controls, Viktors is not as young as he was (b. 1934 according to FIDE), and we have tablebases:

81...Kd7 (White is winning in 55 moves, but the 50-move rule would save Black; 81...Bxa5 would add another 10 moves to the winning procedure.) 82.Bf4 Nf6 83.Bc6+ Ke6 84.Nc4 Bf2 85.Bf3 Nd5 86.Bg4+ Kf6 87.Bd6 Nb6+ 88.Nxb6 Bxb6 and a draw was agreed.

## BCYCC (March 23-24)



Organized by [chess2inspire](#) and held at the Bonsor Recreational Complex in Burnaby, the two-day four or five round tournament attracted one hundred and ninety-four 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, Ryan Leong, An Yu, Ping Yu, the [Burnaby Junior Chess Club](#) and all the others who helped make the event a success. [Crosstables](#)

### U8 Open

- 1 Elliot McCallum
- 2 Leon Makogon
- 3 Evan Geng

### U10 Open

- 1 Moses Li
- 2 Youjia Ye
- 3 Lucas Yao

### U12 Open

- 1 Nicholas Wu
- 2 Nathan Yang
- 3 Bowen Wu

### U14 Open

- 1 Boyong Guo
- 2 Ryan Bole Yu
- 3 Christian Grecu

### U16 Open

- 1 Ryan Tomilin
- 2 Daniel Wang
- 3 Nathan Wu

### U18 Open

- 1 Ryan Yang
- 2 Reece Harms
- 3 Zachary Liu

### U8 Girls

- 1 Rayna Li
- 2 Evelyn Lou
- 3 Hannah Li

### U10 Girls

- 1 Sofia Vigurs
- 2 Anny Peng
- 3 Vicky Yin

### U12 Girls

- 1 Sophia Doroshenko
- 2 Karen Chen
- 3 Zoya Singh

### U14 Girls

- 1 Caitlin Wang
- 2 Jiaming Zhang
- 3 Tinyuet Zou

### U16 Girls

- 1 Joyce Zhang
- 2 Sherlynn Fung

### U18 Girls

- 1 Kate Jiang

## CANADIAN CHESS HALL OF FAME

Founded in 2000 by David Cohen, the Canadian Chess Hall of Fame experienced a period of stagnation during David's illness and passing but has since been placed on a firm footing going forward, with a committee consisting of Fred McKim, Hugh Brodie, Ian Findlay, Larry Bevand, and Stephen Wright and sponsorship from the Chess 'n' Math Association. There was one single inductee for 2023, long overdue, in the person of Kalev Pugi, who was recognized at the recent Canadian Zonals in Toronto by the presentation of his Hall of Fame plaque to his sons.



Kalev Pugi

Kalle, Andres, and Madis Pugi (photo by Victoria Doknjas)

### **Kalev Pugi (1925-1984)**

Born in Estonia, Pugi emigrated to Canada in 1947 and after working for a year as a lumberjack entered UBC, obtaining a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1952. He followed this with a master's degree in 1955 from Queen's University in Kingston. After graduating he worked for DuPont Canada in its Kingston and Maitland plants; at the time of his death Pugi was research manager of chemicals and fibres. "His extraordinary process and development achievements in nylon intermediate manufacturing and the continuous polymerisation of nylon were adopted worldwide by DuPont. Pugi demonstrated a highly original approach to research and development. As well as his great organisational and scientific skills, he had a special ability to inspire and challenge, and showed an exceptional degree of care and concern for people." In 1979 he was recognized for his work by the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering with its Award in Industrial Practice.

As a chess player Pugi's best result was probably winning the Queen's University Chess Club Championship, but his lasting influence was as an organizer, administrator, and teacher. The 1961 Canadian Championship in Brockville and the 1966 Canadian Open in Kingston were two major events he helped organize. Pugi was frequent President of the Eastern Ontario Chess Association and, most importantly, CFC President 1973-76 during a critical phase of the federation's growth. In the early 1970s the CFC was still a volunteer organization, with no business office, no magazine, not even a list of CFC members who numbered around 1,355. The CFC's annual income was

\$3,200 and its total assets around \$2,700. Kalev Pugi was appointed to investigate and make recommendations concerning the organizational growth and structure of the CFC. The result, the Pugi Report, laid out realistic goals and proposals: the CFC should open a business office and hire a part-time business manager who would publish a magazine every two months, collect memberships and issue membership cards, and calculate and publish the CFC ratings. The report was adopted and Pugi unanimously elected as President to oversee its implementation.

Pugi worked tirelessly to promote chess in Canada, thereby increasing the CFC membership and income. After a year of operation membership had increased 25%; during the second year membership increased to 2,800 and income to \$21,000. By the time he retired as President the CFC had expanded to the point of hiring a full-time business manager (Jonathan Berry), published its own magazine and sold chess equipment and books. In other words, Pugi managed the transition of the CFC from a purely volunteer group to a modern, professional organization. Berry summed up Pugi's contributions in his Annual Report in 1984:

“... especially worthy of mention is Kalev Pugi, who conceived the idea of a business office, worked out the details and brought it to realization some twelve years ago, The concept was difficult, the details sometimes frustrating and the road not always clear of obstacles. Although Pugi has never been more than a “B” class player, his determination and perseverance in carrying out his plan may be admired by all chess players in Canada.”

Pugi spent many years teaching chess to boys and girls on Saturday mornings at the Kingston YMCA. He was also a strong supporter of the Chess Foundation and encouraged people to make provision for the Foundation in their wills. These two interests coalesced in the Kalev Pugi Fund, initiated by a \$10,000 bequest (since added to) to provide annual grants to enable promising juniors to participate in international tournaments.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **BC Active Championship**

Richmond, April 20-21

[Details](#)

### **Chateau Victoria Rapid**

Victoria, April 21

[Details](#)

### **Chess in Pubs 5**

Langley, April 21

[Details](#)

### **BC – Alberta Match**

Salmon Arm, May 3-5

[Details](#)

### **Okanagan Open**

Salmon Arm, May 3-5

[Details](#)

### **Lulu Island Rapid and Blitz**

Richmond, May 4

[Details](#)

### **RCC Elite Championship #2**

Richmond, May 5

[Details](#)

### **GM Lecture – CYCC Preparation**

Zoom, May 7

[Details](#)

### **Surrey Chess Festival**

Surrey, May 11

[Details](#)

### **Stan Rogers Memorial**

Chilliwack, May 11

[Details](#)

### **Paul Keres Memorial**

Surrey, May 18-20

[Details](#)

### **WV Rapid**

West Vancouver, May 26

[Details](#)

### **BC Interschool Championship**

Langley Township, June 1-2

[Details](#)

### **Kelowna Open**

Kelowna, June 15

[Details](#)

### **BC Senior Championship**

Surrey, June 21-23

[Details](#)

### **BC-WA Match**

Richmond, June 29-30

[Details](#)

### **Fraser Valley Rapid 12**

Langley July 6

[Details](#)

### **World Chess Day Championship**

Langley Township, July 20-21

[Details](#)

### **BC Day Open**

New Westminster, August 1-5

[Details](#)