

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #451

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

BCCF Annual General Meeting (May 19)

This year's AGM will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, May 19, at the site of the Keres Memorial Chess Tournament at the Westfield Country Club at 7778 152 St, Surrey ([Map](#)). If you have items you'd like added to the agenda, please send to Paul Leblanc at pc-leblanc@shaw.ca.

FIDE World School Chess Championship “Peru 2024” (May 1-9)



This year's World School Chess Championships were held in the Constitutional Province of Callao, part of metropolitan Lima, Peru. First held in Halkidiki, Greece in 2005, the championships fill in the age group gaps left by the larger and more prestigious World Cadet/Youth Championships. That is, the latter are divided into sections based on even two-year age brackets (U08, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18), whereas the school championships employ the same two-year brackets but beginning with the odd ages (U07, U09, U11, U13, U15, U17). In both cases there are separate open and girls divisions, leaving the school event with a total of twelve sections. Canada has not often participated in the event, although Johnathan Han won the Open U13 Section in 2022 and BC's Elliot McCallum was U07 champion last year.

This year nine Canadians made the trip, including Elliot (now in the U09 category) and Karson Lu (U07) from this province, also Zhihan (Samuel) Xu (U09), who used to reside on the North Shore but has since moved to Florida. An early loss for Elliot meant it would be tough to repeat as champion, and losing a must-win game in the last round left him 10th on tiebreaks. Samuel and Karson also scored 6.5/9, leaving them 13th and 5th in their respective sections. Highest scoring Canadian was WFM Anni Guo (U15G) with 7.0 points who tied for second but placed 4th on tiebreaks. Other top-ten finishers were Navika Renganathan (5th in the U07G) and Derek Wang (7th in the U17) with 6.0 and 6.5 points respectively. [Standings](#) [tournament website](#)

The main event was held at a slow time control; on the rest day(!) participants also had the option of competing in the **International School Chess Festival Rapid/Blitz** (May 5). Here Karson Lu and Elliot McCallum won gold medals in the [U07](#) and [U09](#) sections respectively – congratulations!

Lulu Island Rapid and Blitz (May 4)



Eighty-one players entered the second annual [Lulu Island](#) Rapid tournament at the lounge of the Bethany Baptism Church in Richmond. Almost a quarter of those in the [Open Section](#) were rated above 2000, yet after four rounds it was Ryan Tomilin, rated 1455, who was tied with IM Vicente Lee Jr., a mere half-point off the lead. Ryan only scored a further half point but it was enough to boost his performance rating to 2182, second highest in the section. Vicente only gave up a single draw in claiming first place with 5.5/6, Jorge Nunez Asencio was second, and Yidong Chen, Severyn Smykalo, Bhell Ortiz, and Kate Jiang split third place. In the [U1400 Section](#) six rounds was not enough to establish a clear winner, and Khai Le, Gage Wardley, Barath Subramanian, and Tara Trush tied for first. The day ended with an (unrated) [Blitz](#) event, played over nine rounds. Jorge Nunez Asencio, Vicente Lee Jr., and Johan Aljo shared first, while Brandon Zhu, Yidong Chen, and Daniel Zhu tied for fourth.

Sardinia World Chess Festival (April 27 – May 4)

IM Leon Piasetski was among the several Canadians competing in the Sardinia World Chess Festival which took place in the town of Orosei. Held in three sections, the [Open A](#) included

twenty-three GMs and thirty-three IMs among the one hundred and sixty-six participants. There was a four-way tie for first between GMs Daniel Dardha (Belgium), Kirill Shevchenko (Romania), Volodar Murzin (FIDE), and Jorden van Foreest (Netherlands). Newly-minted IM Anthony Atanasov finished with 5.5 points, Leon had 3.0 points from seven games played. Taking part in the [Open B](#) were former BC residents WFM Alexandra Botez and her sister Andrea. Andrea scored 6.0 points in the ninety-nine player section for a modest rating gain; Alexandra, ranked fifth at the start, dominated the field for one of her best results ever, finishing first with 8.5/9, 1.5 points ahead of those tied for second.

Chateau Victoria Rapid (April 21) by Paul Leblanc

Peter Mingrone Sweeps 2024 Chateau Victoria Rapid Perfect 5.0-0.0 Score

Forty-four chess players convened in the well appointed Penwell Room at the Chateau Victoria Hotel on April 21 for a five-round CFC rated Rapid tournament. Going into the last round, three players were tied for first at 4.0-0.0. NM Roger Patterson held one of them, Matthew Freitag to a draw on board two, leaving the battle for first place between Peter Mingrone and Reza Sardari. In a topsy-turvy game played in extreme time pressure Reza appeared to be closing in on Peter's King but ran out of time at the critical juncture.



Peter Mingrone (left), Reza Sardari (right) in the decisive last round (photo by Paul Leblanc)

Matthew Freitag took clear second place (4.5 points) and also won the U1400 prize. Luke Spooner, visiting from Prince George tied with Eli Grant for the U1000 prize with 3.0 points. Top unrated was Robert Gustafson (2.5 points). [Standings](#)



Matthew Freitag. Eli Grant, Robert Gustafson (photos by Mike Beaulieu)

The tournament was organized by Paul Leblanc and Mike Beaulieu was the Tournament Director

BC Active Championship (April 20-21)

The BC Active Championship for 2024 was organizationally the same as last year, hosted by Vancity Chess and held at the Banquet Hall of the Thompson Community Centre in Richmond. Instead of the standard six-round, one day event the championship increased the number of rounds to eight, spread over two days. The twenty-nine player [Open Section](#) was weakened somewhat by a number of junior players participating in the INTERMAT the same weekend but still included six players rated over 2000, head by IMs Bindi Cheng, Vicente Lee Jr., and Raymond Kaufman and perennial contender CM Jorge Nunez Asencio. Three-time champion Raymond Kaufman had a bad outing, losing his first two games and leaving the event after the first day. It was top-ranked Bindi Cheng who finished at the top of the crosstable, taking first with 6.5 while in the process playing the next seven finishers. Jorge Nunez Asencio was clear second on 6.0 points, and Bhell Ortiz, Vicente Lee Jr., and Johan Aljo tied for third a further half-point back. Bhell and Johan both pushed their ratings considerably over the 2000 mark. Curiously the winning scores were also duplicated in the twenty-player [U1400 Section](#) where Ryder Hsu was first, Dane Sperling second, and Pengsen Fang, Aadit Arya, and Nikita Makogon tied for third.

INTERMAT (April 20)

This year it was Washington's turn to host the International Scholastic Match or INTERMAT, which took place at Microsoft's Building 99 in Redmond on April 20. The INTERMAT is a cross-border battle, annual since 1991, between school-aged children representing BC and Washington. The teams are comprised of two players each from grades 1-12 plus kindergarten, who play one game each with their corresponding numbers on the other team. Traditionally BC has scored heavily in the upper grades, Washington in the lower, but this generalization has been breaking down in recent years; a more important factor is the respective teams' difficulty in recruiting their best lineup when playing away from home (the match alternates between BC and Washington).



BC achieved a modest lead of 2 points after the first round (playing black on all boards) to the tune of 14.0-12.0, mainly as a result of a strong showing in the middle grades 5-8 where BC scored 5.5-2.5. Playing white in the second round BC was led by the players in Kindergarten and grade 1 who won all their games; BC finished with a comfortable 15.0-11.0 victory for a final score of 29.0-23.0. Somewhat surprisingly BC only won six of the mini-matches by grade (1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11), to Washington's five (2, 3, 5, 9, 12), with two ties (K and 4). The difference was that BC tended to have larger winning margins, 3.0-1.0 or 4.0-0.0 rather than 2.5-1.5.

In terms of individual results, BC's Maximillian Mueller and Aiden Leong swept their Washington grade 10 opponents, as did Kaiqi Qin and Kate Jiang in grade 11. Other BC players with a perfect score were Karson Lu (1), Zachary Liu (6), and Justin Xu (8), while Andrew Yin (4), Erwin Mok and Justin Gao (7), had plus scores. On the Washington side, Jason Yu and Eddie Chang beat their grade 12 opponents and Samarth Bharadwaj (3) and Ryan Min (9) also scored 2.0/2, while those with plus scores were Terrick Evin (2), Yuchen Zhou (4), and Odbayar Yondon (5). The match was organized by Michael Lo, Penny Pham, Paul Leblanc, and Stephen Wright on the BC side and the Josh Sinanan, Chouchan Airapetian, Rekha Sagar, and Valentin Razmov for Washington. The arbiters were Long Le and Jacob Mayer. [Match website](#); [previous results](#) Overall Washington is ahead in the number of match victories by 16 to 15 with two ties.

Mishra, Abhinav (1720) – Koo, Minjun (1676) [A80] Interimat 33rd Redmond (1.18), 20.04.2024

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.Qe2 Bb7 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.e4 e6 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Rfe1 Qg7 12.e5 Bd8 13.Rad1 g5 14.d5 g4 15.Nd2 exd5 16.e6 Bf6 17.Nb5 Na6 18.Bxf5 Bh4 19.Qe5 Qxe5 20.Rxe5 d6 21.Bxh7+ Kg7 22.Rh5 Bxf2+ 23.Kh1 Be3 24.Nb3 Rh8 25.Rf1 Raf8 26.Rhf5 Rxf5 27.Bxf5 g3 28.Bh3 Rxh3 0-1

Lu, Karson (913) – Wang, Harvey (1157) [D02] Interimat 33rd Redmond (2.3), 20.04.2024

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.c3 e6 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Bg3 Nc6 7.Bb5 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Qa4 Qd7 10.Ne5 Bxe5 11.Bxe5 Ng4 12.Bg3 e5 13.h3 Nf6 14.Bxe5 Ne8 15.Nd2 Nd6 16.0-0-0 Nb5 17.g4 Bg6 18.f3 Rfe8 19.Rhe1 f6 20.Bf4 Rab8 21.e4 dxe4 22.fxe4 Rb7 23.Nb3 Qe7 24.Nc5 Rb6 25.Qc4+ Bf7 26.d5 cxd5 27.exd5 Qd8 28.Ne6 Bxe6 29.dxe6 Qc8 30.e7+ Kh8 31.a4 g5 32.Bg3 Nxc3 33.Qxc3 Qa8 34.Kb1 Kg7 35.Qxc7 1-0

BC - ALBERTA MATCH (May 3-5) by Paul Leblanc, TD

Team BC Defeats Alberta 25.5 to 14.5 in Annual Match; IM Bindi Cheng and FM Grigoriy Morozov Lead the Way

The third annual [BC vs Alberta match](#) took place at the Comfort Inn in Salmon Arm over the weekend of 3-5 May, 2024. Team BC's average rating exceeded Alberta by over 200 points so the result was not surprising. Nevertheless, Alberta fought hard and collectively gained a few rating points overall.



Team BC. Back: IM Bindi Cheng, FM Grigoriy Morozov, Teodulfo (JoJo) Nones, Ashton Taylor, Front: Henry Yang, Matthew He, IM Raymond Kaufman, Tristan Taylor



Team Alberta. Back: FM Dale Haessel, Cristian Ivanescu, Jonathan Wu, Omid Malek. Front: Matthew Ivanescu, Tamir Bulga, Maxim Vasic, Erik Tam

Strong performances by IM Cheng (4.0-1.0) and FM Morozov (4.0-1.0) led Team BC. Top Alberta players were Dale Haessel (3.0-2.0) and Jonathan Wu (3.0-2.0).



Round 3 encounter between FM Grigoriy Morozov (left) and Omid Malek. Omid tied for first in this year's Grand Pacific Open. In the background is Ashton Taylor (left) vs FM Dale Haessel. To the far right is Jonathan Wu.

Morozov, Grigoriy (2420) – Wu, Jonathan (2057) [E92] BC-AB m 3rd Salmon Arm (1.2), 03.05.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 Re8 10.0–0–0 h6 11.Bd2 Na6 12.Ne1 Be6 13.f3 Nd7 14.Nc2 Bf8 15.h4 c6 16.g3 Nc7 17.h5 Kh7 18.f4 Bg7 19.Ne3 exf4 20.gxf4 Nc5 21.b4 Bxc3 22.hxg6+ fxg6 23.Bxc3 Nxe4 24.Rxh6+ Kg8 25.Be5 Na6 26.Rxg6+ Kf8 27.Bf3 Nf2 28.Rd2 Nh3 29.a3 Rac8 30.Rf6+ Kg8 31.Rg2+ Kh7 32.Be4+ 1–0

Wu, Jonathan (2057) – Nones II, Teodulfo (JoJo) (2334) [B27] BC-AB m 3rd Salmon Arm (3.4), 04.05.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.0–0 Bg7 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.Qxc3 0–0 11.Bf4 Qb6 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Rad1 d6 14.Bd4 f6 15.exd6 exd6 16.Rfe1 Kh8 17.h3 c5 18.b4 Bb7 19.bxc5 Rac8 20.cxd6 Qxd6 21.Qb3 Qc6 22.Re7 Rc7 23.Rde1 Qd6 24.R1e6 Qd8 25.Qe3 Rxe7 26.Rxe7 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Qd5 28.Rxa7 Rb8 29.Re7 h5 30.Bxf6 Rb1+ 31.Kg2 Qd1 32.Qh6+ 1–0

Malek, Omid (2209) – Cheng, Bindi (2447) [A45] BC-AB m 3rd Salmon Arm (5.1), 05.05.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 c5 4.f3 Qa5+ 5.c3 Nf6 6.d5 Qb6 7.e4 Qxb2 8.Nd2 Qxc3 9.Ne2 Qa5 10.Kf2 d6 11.Nc4 Qd8 12.Nc3 a6 13.a4 g6 14.Qd2 h5 15.h4 Nbd7 16.Rb1 Bg7 17.Be2 0–0 18.Be3 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nxb5 Ba6 21.Nba3 Qc7 22.Qc2 Rfb8 23.g4 Nb6 24.Nxb6 Rxb6 25.Rxb6 Qxb6 26.Nc4 Bxc4 27.Qxc4 hxg4 28.e5 g3+ 29.Kg2 Nh5 30.e6 f5 31.Bg5 Qb2 32.Rd1 Ra2 33.Rd2 Qxd2 34.Bxd2 Rxd2 35.Qb5 Rxe2+ 36.Kf1 Nf4 0–1

2024 OKANAGAN OPEN (Salmon Arm, May 3-5) by Paul Leblanc

Craig Bacon Dominates Field with 5.0-0.0 Score



Board One in the final round. Adrien Howard (left) vs Craig Bacon

Salmon Arm Chess Club President Craig Bacon mowed down the opposition to finish undefeated in the third annual [Okanagan Open](#). Going into the last round, both Craig and Adrien Howard of Kelowna had perfect 4.0-0.0 scores but Bacon, the higher rated player prevailed. Second with a solid 5.5 – 0.5 score was Heinz Bauschke, also of Kelowna.



Board Two in the final round. Stephen Forde (left) vs Heinz Bauschke

Three players tied for the top U1500 prize: Adrien Howard, Nathan Doiron and Richard Bridger. Two players tied for the top U1200 prize: Ryan McVeigh and Cole Toponce. The top unrated prize was also split between two players: Jordan Holmes and Alp Topcu. German exchange student Maike Haase won the top woman prize.

The tournament was held at the Comfort Inn in Salmon Arm and was attended by forty-four players, including a good turnout from the Okanagan area and quite a few visitors who enjoyed the beautiful locale. Many thanks to the Salmon Arm Chess Club for assistance with the organization. Local celebrity Wally Steinke of Vernon showed up to watch the final two rounds. Wally organized more than forty CFC-rated tournaments in the Okanagan during the “Golden Age” from the mid-1980s to 2008. Shown with an old friend TD Paul Leblanc of Victoria.



Bridger, Richard (1385) – Goodman, Kevin (1937) [A00] Okanagan op 3rd Salmon Arm, BC (3.1), 03.05.2024

1.g3 Nf6 2.b3 e5 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Bg2 Bc5 5.e3 d6 6.d3 Bg4 7.Ne2 Qd7 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nd2 a5 10.a3 0–0 11.g4 Bg6 12.Ng3 b6 13.Nf3 h5 14.Nh4 hxg4 15.Nxg6 fxg6 16.hxg4 Ne7 17.g5 Nh5 18.Bh3 Nf5 19.Nxf5 gxf5 20.Qxh5 g6 21.Qxg6+ Kh8 22.0–0–0 Rf7 23.d4 Rg8 24.Bxf5+ Rh7 25.Qf6+ 1–0

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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](#)