

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #452

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

WV Rapid (May 26)



The latest of Luc Poitras' West Vancouver Rapid events attracted a total of sixteen players. Yidong (Jason) Chen has only been playing competitive chess in these parts since January, but his results (and rating) have been improving almost with every event. This time Yidong placed first in the rapid with a perfect 7.0/7, two points ahead of Bhell Ortiz who was clear second. There was a tie for third place between Roman Jiganchine and Christian Castaneda. [Crosstable](#)

Washington Open (May 25-27)

The [Washington Open](#) falls on the American Memorial Day long weekend, always the week after our Victoria Day weekend. Some two hundred and seventy players entered the main event, including from this province Severo Caluza, Bindi Cheng, Don Hack, Aiden Leong, Ryan Leong, Elliot McCallum, Joanne Wangluo, Aiden Yin, and Andrew Yin. There were almost ninety players in the Premier Section and only six rounds but despite this there was a clear winner, relative newcomer from Krygyzstan Aziz Degenbaev who gave up a last-round draw to Daniel He in

scoring 5.5/6. IM Georgi Orlov was unable to attend the Keres Memorial this year due to contracting Covid, but was sufficiently recovered to split the second and third prizes with He, both scored 5.0 points. IM Bindi Cheng was among the seven who tied for fourth a further half-point back. Ryan Leong shared the U1900 prize for his 3.5/6. Apart from the main tournament there were numerous side events, and Bindi made up for lost time (he last played in the States in 2014) by at least tying for first in three of them. Despite taking a first-round bye he won the [Kasparov Rapid](#) (15+5) with 3.5/4, tied for first with Degenbaev in the Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz, Nakamura Open (3+3), and also tied for first with Nikash Vemparala in the Firouzja Bullet. Ryan Leong also got in on the action, sharing the U2000 prize in the blitz and placing top U1600 in the bullet. [Google doc](#) with all the results; photos and video can also be found on the Washington Chess Federation [Facebook](#) page.

1000GM Memorial Day Super Swiss (May 23-27)

While the Washington Open was taking place, some of our players went further south to participate in a 1000GM Super Swiss in San Francisco. A FIDE 'Super Swiss' consists of "at least twenty FIDE rated players, not from the host federation, from at least three different federations, at least ten of whom hold GM, IM, WGM, or WIM titles," making it easier to fulfill the foreigner requirements for a norm. In this case, of the fifty-nine players, twenty-four were from fifteen federations other than the U.S., and the tournament included nine GMs and twelve IMs. Eight Canadians took part: IMs Anthony Atanasov and Raja Panjwani with FM Zachary Dukic, and from BC IM Leon Piasetski, CMs Neil Doknjas, Ethan Song and Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, and Zachary (Hankun) Liu. The overall winner was Mongolian GM Tsegmed Batchuluun who scored 7.0/9, followed by GMs Joshua Sheng and David Brodsky (both USA) with 6.5. Top Canadian was Zachary Dukic with 5.5 points, while Anthony Atanasov, Leon Piasetski, and Neil Doknjas were on 50%. [Crosstable](#)

Cerveny, Martin (2367) – Song, Ethan (2208) [A14] 1000GM Memorial Day Super Swiss San Francisco (3.14), 24.05.2024

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.d3 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 a5 10.a3 c5 11.e3 Qc7 12.Rc1 Rad8 13.Qe2 Rfe8 14.h3 a4 15.bxa4 Qc6 16.a5 bxa5 17.Rb1 Qa6 18.e4 Nb6 19.Rfe1 Na4 20.Ba1 Nd7 21.cxd5 exd5 22.e5 Nf8 23.Qd1 Bc6 24.Qc2 Ne6 25.h4 Rc8 26.Bh3 Bd7 27.Kh2 Red8 28.Ng5 Bxg5 29.hxg5 Nd4 30.Qd1 Bxh3 31.Kxh3 Qxd3 32.Re3 Qc2 33.Bxd4 Qxd1 34.Rxd1 cxd4 35.Rb3 Nc5 36.Rb5 Nd3 37.Kg2 Rc2 38.Rb3 Nxe5 39.Nf1 Nc6 40.Nd2 Rc3 41.Rb6 Ne5 42.Nb1 Rd3 43.Re1 Nf3 44.Re7 Nxg5 45.Rd7 Re8 46.Rxd5 h6 47.Rxa5 Re1 48.Rab5 Rdd1 49.g4 Rg1+ 50.Kh2 Rxc4 51.Rb3 d3 52.Rd6 Rdg1 53.Rdx3 R4g2# 0–1

Doknjas, Neil (2229) – Atwell, Rose (2283) [B12] 1000GM Memorial Day Super Swiss San Francisco (5.14), 25.05.2024

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.0–0 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nge7 9.Bb5 a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.b4 Qb8 12.g4 Bg6 13.f4 Be4 14.Nd2 h5 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.c4 Qxb4 17.Qc2 hxg4 18.Rfb1 Qa5 19.Rb7 Rh3 20.Nb3 Qd8 21.Qxe4 Rc8 22.Bb6 Qd3 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24.Nc5 Ra3 25.Ne4 Nf5 26.Rd1 Rxa2 27.Nd6+ Bxd6 28.exd6 Nxd6 29.Rxd6 Rb2 30.c5 Rb1+ 31.Kg2 Rb2+ 32.Kg3 f5 33.Rxc7 Rb3+ 34.Kh4 Rh3+ 35.Kg5 g3 36.Rg8+ Ke7 37.Rxc8 gxh2 38.Bd8+ Kf7 39.Rd7+ Ke8 40.Ra7 Rh5+ 41.Kf6 Rh6+ 42.Ke5 1–0

Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) (2125) – Harish, Neeraj (2213) [B33] 1000GM Memorial Day Super Swiss San Francisco (7.21), 26.05.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c4 Ng6 10.h4 h5 11.g3 a6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.Be2 Bf5 14.Bxh5 Qc7 15.Be2 e4 16.Qa4+ Bd7 17.Qb3 f5 18.Be3 Ne5 19.Bb6 Qc8 20.0–0–0 0–0 21.Kb1 Bd8 22.Rc1 Be8 23.Bd4 Nd7 24.f4 Nc5 25.Qd1 Bf6 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Qd4 Qd8 28.b4 Nd7 29.g4 a5 30.g5 Rf8 31.a3 axb4 32.axb4 Qb6 33.Nb5 Qxd4 34.Nxd4 Ra4 35.Ne6 Rxb4+ 36.Kc2 Rf7 37.Rb1 Rxb1 38.Rxb1 Nf8 39.Rb6 Nxe6 40.dxe6 Rc7 41.Rxd6 Kf8 42.Rd5 g6 43.h5 gxh5 44.Rxf5+ Ke7 45.Re5 h4 46.f5 Kd6 47.Rxe4 Rc5 48.Bg4 Bc6 49.Rd4+ Ke5 50.Kc3 h3 51.Bxh3 b5 52.f6 b4+ 53.Kxb4 Kxd4 54.f7 Rxc4+ 55.Ka5 Ra4+ 56.Kb6 Ra8 57.Kxc6 1–0

9th Chilliwack Open/Stan Rogers Memorial (May 11)

Also known as the Chilliwack Open, the Stan Rogers Memorial (no, not the famous folk musician – the Stan Rogers in question was a prominent Chilliwack businessman and former federal Liberal Party riding president who was also a member of the Chilliwack Chess Club), has been held since 2014 except for two years during the pandemic. This year's edition, held at the Salvation Army Church, was won by Zachary Liu with a perfect 5.0/5, with Severyn Smykalo, Reece Harms, and Arnie Lucki sharing second. Top junior in the Open Section was Samuel Lu and top female Renee Young. First in the Junior Section was Fedora Gong with Keenan and Mekaiah Janzen second.



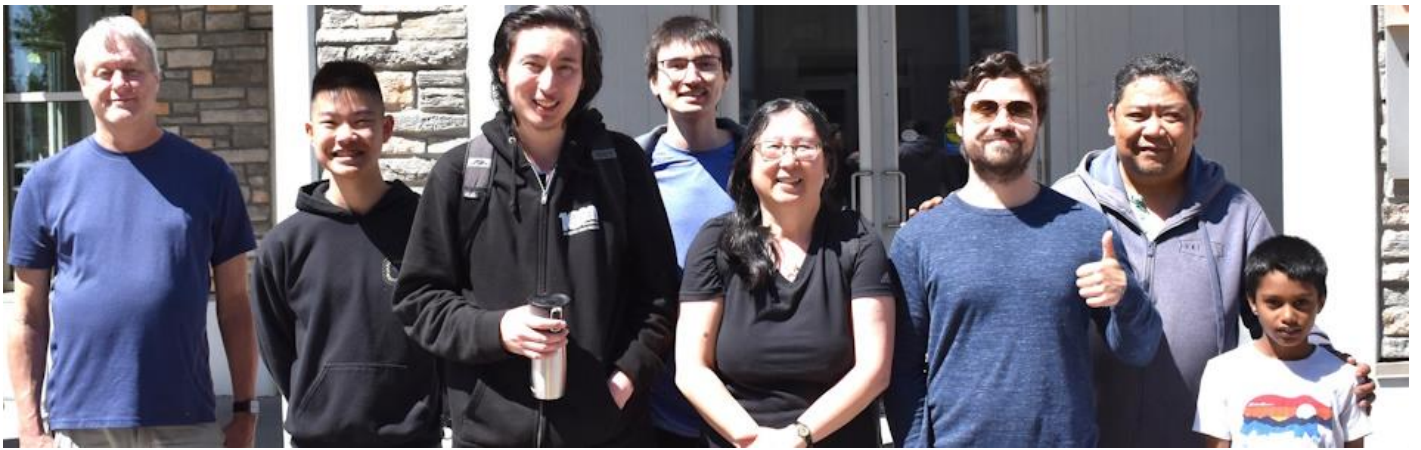
Zachary Liu (photo by [Neelesh Jain](#))

The previous winners:

2014 Matt Ehrenreich
2015 Gerry Neufahrt and Steve Kelso
2016 Mayo Fuentebella
2017 Matt Ehrenreich and Jorin Cowley
2018 Brian McLaren
2019 Mayo Fuentebella
2022 Ryan Yang
2023 Jose Prem

2024 Surrey Chess Festival (May 11) by Victoria Doknjas
(Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas)

The Organizing Team of [Juniors to Masters Chess Academy](#) (JtM) and [Vancity Chess](#) invited BC chess players to enjoy an outdoor chess party on Saturday, May 11. The 2024 Surrey Chess Festival at The Shops at Morgan Crossing featured a six-round Blitz Tournament and a Grandmaster Simultaneous Demonstration. Congratulations to FM John Doknjas who won first place in the Blitz Tournament with an undefeated score of 5.5/6 games! NM Neil Doknjas won second place with 5.0 points, and there was a three-way tie for third place with Joshua Imoo, Gerry Bonggao, and Barath Subramanian Suresh. (Blitz TDs: Brian Davidson, Tyler Sanderson)



Players and spectators also got to enjoy a rare treat in BC: a grandmaster simul. GM Gergely Szabo took on ten players and over the course of approximately two hours, he won all his simul games. As the simul players finished their games, they were given an opportunity to review their games with FM Joshua Doknjas.



Many passersby took advantage of the casual chess play offered throughout the day as well as taking selfies with the BC Chess Federation's version of the Stanley Cup, the BC Championship perpetual trophy. Thank you to our AMAZING Sponsors, [The Shops at Morgan Crossing](#), and our FANTASTIC Volunteer Crew! Stay tuned for more great chess events coming to Surrey, BC – the home of the 2025 Canadian Youth Chess Championship and the 2025 Canadian Open!

NATIONAL CHESS CHALLENGE (May 19-20)



Now in its thirty-fifth year, the 2024 National Chess Challenge took place at the Crandall University in Moncton, New Brunswick on the Victoria Day weekend. Last year the BC team made history by winning the event for the first time – how would they fare as defending champions?

The BC team, consisting this year of Jimmy Rao, Josiah Lo, Moses Li, Aiden Yin, Ethan Low, Nathan Yi-Hsin Yang, Ethan Li, Liam Tu, Joey Xu, Aiden Leong, Owen Yuen, and Luka Spasojevic (captain), was on paper weaker than last year with only one returning player and others choosing to play elsewhere, yet despite gloomy predictions the team placed second behind a resurgent Ontario:

1 Ontario 9 (88/108)

2 British Columbia 7.5 (73.5)

3 Alberta 7 (67)

4 Quebec 6.5 (77)

5 Nova Scotia 5 (55)

6 Manitoba 4 (42)

7 New Brunswick 3 (46.5)

8 Saskatchewan 2 (43.5)

9 Newfoundland and Labrador 1 (23.5)

10 Prince Edward Island 0 (24)

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 would only have been used for tiebreak purposes which this year wasn't necessary – had they been used for overall results the order of finish would have been Ontario, then Quebec, BC and Alberta. 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.

With one exception, in this year's final standings each pair of teams switched places in comparison with last year (BC first, Ontario second, Quebec third, etc.). The exception was Nova Scotia and Manitoba, who maintained their fifth and sixth place finishes. Ontario always has strength in depth and this year dominated the competition, giving up no more than 3.5 points in each of its victories. BC drew with Quebec in round two and defeated Alberta in round five but were unable to hold off the Ontario avalanche in the last round and thus place second. The other critical match in the last round was between Quebec and Alberta; Quebec was leading in the standings by half a match point but lost by the minimum 5.5-6.5 to be relegated to fourth place for the first time ever. Not

immediately obvious from the final standings is the good showing of the maritime provinces, notably Newfoundland and Labrador (who almost doubled their game points from last year) and New Brunswick.

In the individual board prizes BC garnered a total of seven trophies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Jimmy Rao 7/9 – second | 6 Nathan Yi-Hsin Yang 6 – third after playoffs |
| 2 Josiah Lo 6.5 – third | 10 Aiden Leong 8.5 – first |
| 3 Moses Li 6.5 – second after playoffs | 11 Owen Yuen 6 – third |
| 4 Aiden Yin 7 – second | |

Mention should be made of Joey Xu (grade 9) who tied for third place but placed fourth after playoffs. Congratulations to all and to the team as a whole, also to the parents, coaches and organizers without whom these competitions would not take place. Further details can be found at the event [website](#).

48th PAUL KERES MEMORIAL (May 18-20) Victoria Doknjas
(Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas)



Neil Doknjas and Gergely Szabo

The organizing team of Juniors to Masters Chess Academy (JtM) and Fraser Valley Chess Academy (FVCA) found a new location in Surrey, BC for the 48th Annual Keres Memorial at the Westfield Country Club. The tournament was held as per usual over the May long weekend, May 18-20, 2024. In fact, the month of May 2024 saw many exciting chess events in Surrey and the Fraser Valley area including the 2024 Surrey Chess Festival – and for good reason. On day one of the Keres Memorial came the official announcement that 2025 Canadian Youth Chess Championship (CYCC) and the 2025 Canadian Open will also be held in Surrey, BC at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford by the Organizing Team of Juniors to Masters Chess Academy and Vancity Chess. [JtM](#), [Vancity Chess](#), and [FVCA](#) want to showcase Surrey, BC and thus will be holding more exciting chess events leading up to the 2025 National events.

To hear more about our upcoming chess events and the latest news on the 2025 CYCC and Canadian Open, you can follow us at JtM's [Facebook](#) page, join Vancity Chess' [Discord](#) group, or consult the above web links.



This year's Keres Memorial attracted two hundred and four players, making it the third largest Keres Memorial of all time. Of the thirty-eight players in the Premier section, there were over ten masters, including the highest-rated player, Team Canada Head Coach GM Gergely Szabo, who travelled the furthest, coming from Romania. The last time a GM played in the Keres Memorial was in 2010 with GM Manuel Rivas Pastor. Also playing were last year's Keres Memorial Co-Champion and 2023 BC Champion, NM Neil Doknjas, and other former Keres Memorial Champions: IM Bindi Cheng, IM Raymond Kaufman, and NM Keith Mackinnon, as well as former BC Champion FM John Doknjas.

In the [Premier Section](#), after three rounds of play, only two players remained with perfect scores: Neil Doknjas and Austin Lin from WA. Neil came by way of a third-round win over Bindi; and Austin by way of a third-round win over Keith. Gergely and John drew their third-round game together which left them both half a point behind the two leaders. Neil and Austin's round four game ended in a draw which set up a four-way tie for first place going into round five, all with 3.5 points: Gergely vs. Austin and Neil vs. John. Gergely and Neil prevailed and were paired in the final round, both being one full point ahead of their closest competitors. Gergely Szabo and Neil Doknjas drew their final round game together, both going undefeated scoring 5.0/6 games to clinch top spot and win the 2024 Keres Memorial as Co-Champions -- each received \$1,100, and after tie-breaks, Neil won the first-place trophy. Bindi and Raymond tied for second/third place, winning \$330 each. Raymond wins the qualifying spot for the 2024 BC Championship.



Bindi Cheng



Raymond Kaufman

In the [U2000 Section's](#) final round, Daniel Wang had to overcome Kai Wang to win first place and \$750 with 5.5 points in games. There was a three-way tie for second place where each won \$283.33 and their respective trophies after tie-breaks: Samuel Lu (second U2000), Conrad Burgert (first U1800), Ameet Kumar Dalal (second U1800). In the [U1600 Section](#), tying for first place and winning \$312.50 each and their respective trophies after tie-breaks: Ilan Keshet (first U1600) and Andrew Martin (second U1600). Each winning \$108.33 and their respective trophies: Lucas Yao (first U1400), Youjia Ye (second U1400), and Pengsen Fang.

In the [U1300 Section](#), there was a three-way tie for first place, each winning \$183.33 and their respective trophies after tie-breaks: Karson Lu (first U1300), Alejandro Mercado Tejerina (second U1300), and Aadit Arya. Anush Sankaran won the U1100 first place trophy. In the [U900 Section](#), Alren Buhay won the U900 trophy and \$200. Both winning \$125 each and their respective trophies after tie-breaks: Hector Abad (second U900) and Felix Fang (third U900). All winning \$80 and the top unrated trophies: Beile Wang, Dyson Tegart, and Ishdeep Singh.

Umang Banatwala and Brian Davidson each scored a FIDE Arbiter norm, and Aniket Kathpal received an IA recommendation for National Arbiter. There were DGT boards with live broadcasts (some delay in transmission) of the top two boards in the Premier Section and the Top Board in the U2000, U1600, and U1300 Sections.

Normally at the end of a tournament, players and their families rush home after a long weekend of chess. But for this year's Keres, Umang Banatwala had a wonderful idea to have our BC chess community enjoy a time together to socialize and celebrate our prize winners. So, at the end of the tournament, close to one hundred people enjoyed the prize ceremony and buffet. Great idea and great time had by all!

We want to thank our generous sponsors: [Sport Surrey](#), [Victoria Chess](#), and [Zebra Robotics](#)



More photos can be found on the [Juniors to Masters Chess Academy's Facebook](#) page.

Szabo, Gergely Andras (2559) – Doknjas, John (2353) [A12] Keres mem 48th Surrey (3.1), 19.05.2024

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3 Bf5 4.Bb2 e6 5.Be2 h6 6.c4 c6 7.0–0 Nbd7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.d3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0–0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bf1 a5 13.a3 Bh7 14.Qc2 Bd6 15.Qc3 Ne5 16.Nd4 Qb6 17.N4f3 Qc7 18.h3 Rac8 19.Rec1 Ra8 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Qc2 Rec8 22.b4 a4 23.Nf3 Bxb2 24.Qxb2 Qd6 25.Qe5 Ne8 26.Qxd6 Nxd6 27.Nd4 Bf5 28.Rc3 Bd7 29.Rac1 Kf8 30.Be2 Ke7 31.f4 Nf5 32.Nxf5+ Bxf5 33.g4 Be6 34.d4 Bd7 35.Kf2 Kd6 36.Bf3 Re8 37.Rc5 b6 38.R5c3 g6 39.h4 Rg8 40.Rh1 Rac8 41.Rhc1 Rge8 42.Bd1 Ra8 43.Be2 Rec8 44.Kg3 Re8 45.Kf2 Rec8 46.Kg3 Re8 47.Rh1 Rg8 48.Kf2 Rac8 49.Bf3 Rce8 50.Rhc1 Rh8 51.Bd1 Ra8 52.Be2 Rhc8 53.Bf3 Re8 54.Rh1 ½–½

Doknjas, Neil (2363) – Cheng, Bindi (2443) [B80] Keres mem 48th Surrey (3.2), 19.05.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.g4 Nb6 10.a4 Nc4 11.Bxc4 bxc4 12.g5 Nd7 13.0–0–0 Bb7 14.h4 Qa5 15.h5 Nb6 16.g6 Nxa4 17.gxf7+ Kxf7

18.Nxa4 Qxa4 19.Qh2 c3 20.bxc3 Rc8 21.Rd3 Be7 22.Rg1 Qd7 23.e5 Rhe8 24.Bg5 Bf8 25.Qf4+ Kg8 26.Bf6 Qf7 27.exd6 Bxd6 28.Qh4 Be7 29.Bxe7 Rxe7 30.f4 Rf8 31.f5 Qf6 32.Qxf6 Rxf6 33.Nxe6 Rxf5 34.Rd8+ Kf7 35.Ng5+ Kf6 36.Rf8+ Ke5 37.Re1+ 1-0

Min, Ryan (1996) – Mohammed Qanee, Arpak Worya (2170) [A57] Keres mem 48th Surrey (3.8), 19.05.2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nd2 g6 5.e4 d6 6.cxb5 Bg7 7.Ngf3 0-0 8.Qc2 a6 9.a4 Bd7 10.Ra3 Bg4 11.Bc4 axb5 12.axb5 Nbd7 13.0-0 Nb6 14.h3 Bd7 15.b3 Ne8 16.Nb1 Nc7 17.Qe2 Rxa3 18.Nxa3 Qa8 19.Bb2 Bxb2 20.Qxb2 f5 21.Re1 fxe4 22.Rxe4 e5 23.dxe6 Qxe4 24.e7+ d5 25.Qh8+ 1-0

Kaufman, Raymond (2283) – Mackinnon, Keith (2319) [B40] Keres mem 48th Surrey (6.4), 20.05.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nbd2 d6 5.g3 g5 6.h3 Bg7 7.c3 h6 8.Qe2 Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Nc4 b5 11.axb5 axb5 12.Ne3 b4 13.Qc2 bxc3 14.bxc3 Qf6 15.e5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Bd2 Bb7 18.Qa4+ Kf8 19.Qa7 Ra8 20.Qxa8+ Bxa8 21.Rxa8+ Ke7 22.Ra7+ Kf6 23.f4 gxf4 24.gxf4 Qh5 25.Rg1 Qh4+ 26.Kd1 h5 27.c4 Rh7 28.Bc3+ e5 29.fxe5+ Ke6 30.Bg2 Bxe5 31.Bd5+ Kf6 32.Rf1+ Kg5 33.Bxe5 dxe5 34.Rg1+ Kf6 35.Ra6+ Ke7 36.Nf5+ 1-0

Beqo Annotates: my worst and best game in Keres Memorial 2024

Cheng, Bindi (2443) – Beqo, Besnik (2115) [D90] Keres mem 48th Surrey (2.2), 18.05.2024

This was my third Keres Memorial. The first one was in 2002 where I got lucky and shared the first place, and the second one was 2003. After twenty years of inactivity, I started playing chess again, but only in the tournaments held in Langley - Surrey area (where I live), and that is thanks to FVCA! This was the first time that I met IM Bindi Cheng in person. I had heard about him but did not know what he looked like. Bindi was genuinely nice and friendly! **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Qb3** This is different from the Russian variation, IM Orlov's main choice against the Grünfeld. By the way, I was curious to see if Orlov would win the tournament again this year but unfortunately, he did not show up. **5...Nb6 6.d4 Bg7 7.Bf4**



White's plan is to bring the rook to d1 and control the centre with e2-e4. I really like White setup and was surprised that I had not seen this line before; move 7 and I was already on my own! How am I going to attack the centre, where are my pieces going to be developed and especially my queen? Psychologically, I found this line very annoying. At first, I was thinking of playing 7...Be6 but I did not like my position after 8.d5 Nd5 9.Qb7 or 8...Bd5 9.Qc2 followed by 0-0-0 (Rd1) and e4. It turns out that 7...Be6 is the main line, it has been played by top GMs, and it's the engine's top choice. However, this is one of those lines that nowadays one must analyze with the engine and memorize it; following opening guidelines only, does not cut it. Argh, the engines! There were no such

strong engines over twenty years ago. I have helped many chess talents achieving their chess goals and crossing the 2000 ELO barrier without them. I am not saying that the engines are completely replacing the chess coaches, but it is getting there. In this tournament, 2000 ELO players were playing like 2300 ELO level over twenty years ago! No blunders and no obvious mistakes, how can you beat them? **7...0-0 8.Rd1 a5 9.e4 a4** I did not go for **9...Bg4 10.Be2 Bxf3 11.Bxf3** because I am old school and do not like giving the bishop pair without gaining something in return. Checking the position with the engine though I learned that after **11...Nc6 12.Nb5 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Bh6 a4 15.Qd3 e5 16.Bxf8 Qxf8** Black complete equalizes. **10.Qc2 c6?!** This was an inaccuracy, **10...Bg4** was best. After the game Bindi recommended **10...a3**, and he was right, but during the game I rejected it because of **11.Nb5**, besides, I thought that even after **11.b3** my pawn on **a3** would be a permanent weakness. **11.h3**



I was expecting **11.h4**. Of course, White did not go for a pawn with **11.Bxb8? Rxb8 12.Nxa4 Nxa4 13.Qxa4 Qb6**, because, despite being a pawn down, Black has a pleasant position. Bindi also confirmed it after the game by saying, "That is bad for me." **11...Be6** I decided to complete my development by placing the Bishop on **c4** and the Knight from **b8** to **b4** but starting with **11...Na6** was a better move order.

12.Be2 Na6 Perhaps it was better to develop the Knight on **d7**, i.e., **12...N8d7 13.0-0 Bc4 14.Bxc4 Nxc4 15. Ne2 (15.Nxa4 Rxa4 16.Qxa4 Nxb2 17.Qb4 Nd1 18.Rd1)**, however, White is better either way due to the strong centre. **13.0-0 Nb4 14.Qb1 Bc4 15.Bxc4 Nxc4 16.a3 Na6 17.Nxa4 Qa5 18.Qc2** I was not happy with the way this game turned out; I just wanted to finish it as soon as possible, cut my losses, and move on. Therefore, I blitzed out the rest of the moves and went to play some tennis. **18...e5?** Inaccuracy. Better was **18...b5** but after **19.Nc3 Rfd8 20.h4 Qb6 21.e5 Nc7 22.Ne4 Ne6 23.Be3 Qa6 24.Nfg5** White has a clear advantage anyway. **19.dxe5 Nxe5?** **19...b5** was better but it does not matter what I play, White has a decisive advantage. **20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Nb6 Rad8 23.Nd7 Rxd7 24.Rxd7 Nc5 25.Rdd1 Nxe4 26.Rfe1 f5 27.f3 Qc5+ 28.Qxc5 Nxc5 29.b4 Na4 30.Re7 Nb6 31.Rxb7 Nd5 32.b5 1-0**

Beqo, Besnik (2115) – Karthikeyan, Harishkumar (1974) [B51] Keres mem 48th Surrey (3.9), 19.05.2025

This is my best game in terms of statistics - 99% accuracy (0 inaccuracies, 0 mistakes, 0 blunders, 5 average centipawn loss). My opponent, a 2000 ELO level player, had an 87% accuracy (2 inaccuracies, 0 mistakes, 1 blunder and 25 average centipawn loss).

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.a4 a6 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.a5 Bg7



This position has happened in way too many games; the most significant one is the game between Prag and Wesley So in 31st Leon GM 2018: 8.d3 0-0 9.0-0 Nb8 10.e5 Ne8 11.Nd5 Nc6 12.Nb6 Rb8 13.Nxc8 Rxc8 14.e6 f6 15.Qe1 d5 16.Bb3 Qd6 17.Ra4 Nc7 18.Bf4 Ne5 19.Bxe5 fxe5 20.c4 e4 21.dxe4 d4 22.e5 Qc6 23.Ra3 Nxe6 24.Ba4 Qc7 25.Rb3 Nd8 26.Qe4 Qxa5 27.Bd7 Rb8 28.Qd5+ Kh8 29.Ng5 Qc7 30.f4 b5 31.Rh3 h6 32.Ne6 Nxe6 33.Bxe6 Rb6 34.Rg3 Rd8 Praggnanandhaa, R. [2529] - So, W. [2780], 0-1, 31st Leon GM 2018. I uncorked my home preparation **8.Bxf7+!** and the game is pretty much over. **8...Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kg8 10.Ne6 Qe8 11.Nc7 Qd8 12.Nxa8 b5 13.axb6 Bb7 14.Nc7 Nxb6 15.Ne6 Qd7 16.Nxg7 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.0-0 Kxg7 19.d4 c4 20.d5 Nxd5 21.f3 1-0** Not my proudest moment though

and I felt bad for my opponent. There was zero creativity on my end, it was just copy/paste engine's moves; that's the new chess. [The first recorded example of 8.Bxf7+ is the game Weiqi Zhou – Dariusz Szoen from the U14 Section of the WYCC in 2000 – Zhou placed third, ahead of Hikaru Nakamura, Pentala Harikrishna, Daniel Stellwagen, Lawrence Trent, Gawain Jones, and Leonid Gerzhoy, among others – ed.]

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

Lulu Island Summer Rapid and Blitz

Richmond, June 8

[Details](#)

Kelowna Open

Kelowna, June 15

[Details](#)

EMA Classical 1

Vancouver, June 15-16

[Details](#)

BC Senior Championship

Surrey, June 21-23

[Details](#)

BC Junior Chess Rapid

Burnaby, June 29

[Details](#)

BC-WA Match

Richmond, June 29-30

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 12

Langley July 6

[Details](#)

World Chess Day Rapid

Esquimalt, July 20

[Details](#)

World Chess Day Championship

Langley Township, July 20-21

[Details](#)

BC Day Open

New Westminster, August 1-5

[Details](#)